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THE ROLE OF GRANTS IN ENSURING SOCIO-ECONOMIC STABILITY IN THE CONDITIONS OF WAR IN UKRAINE

***Анотація.** Грантові програми є ключовим інструментом для вирішення глобальних проблем людства. Вони сприяють розвитку бізнесу, особливо підприємств, що засновані жінками або ветеранами. В умовах кризи, гранти стають незамінною підтримкою для подолання труднощів. В Україні, гранти стимулюють розвиток різних сфер суспільства, підтримуючи реформи, громадянське суспільство, науку, культуру та економіку, особливо в контексті геополітичних та економічних викликів. Метою статті є аналіз та систематизація доступних грантових програм для населення та бізнесу в умовах війни, визначення ефективних способів їх пошуку та отримання. Автор розглядає гранти як безоплатну фінансову допомогу, яка надається для реалізації проектів, отримання освіти або розвитку бізнесу. Гранти мають низку переваг порівняно з іншими фінансовими інструментами, такими як кредити, залучення інвесторів або краудфандинг. Зокрема, гранти не потрібно повертати, і вони можуть залучатися систематично, що розширює фінансові можливості організації. У статті також розглянуто цілі надання грантів в умовах війни, які можуть включати підтримку інновацій, вирішення актуальних безпекових проблем, розвиток певних секторів економіки, передачу досвіду та фінансових ресурсів від більш розвинених країн. Автор у статті аналізує досвід програм, таких як "Горизонт Європа" та "EU4Business", підкреслюючи їхню роль у підтримці українських підприємств та економіки. Висновки статті вказують на те, що гранти є важливим джерелом фінансування, що дозволяє реалізовувати ідеї, проводити наукові дослідження, підтримувати благодійні організації та поліпшувати якість життя. Стаття пропонує огляд різних типів грантів, їхніх переваг та недоліків, а також рекомендації щодо пошуку та отримання грантової підтримки, включаючи державні та приватні грантові програми.*

***Ключові слова:** грант, грантові програми, малий та середній бізнес, види грантів, платформа*

JEL Classification: L19, O18

***Absztrakt.** A pályázati programok kulcsfontosságú eszközei a globális emberi problémák megoldásának. Elősegítik az üzletfejlesztést, különösen a nők vagy veteránok által alapított vállalkozásokat. Válság idején a pályázatok nélkülözhetetlen támogatást nyújtanak a nehézségek leküzdéséhez. Ukrajnában a pályázatok serkentik a társadalom különböző szféráinak fejlődését, támogatják a reformokat, a civil társadalmat, a tudományt, a kultúrát és a gazdaságot, különös tekintettel a geopolitikai és gazdasági kihívásokra. A cikk célja a háborús körülmények között elérhető lakossági és vállalkozástámogatási programok, ill. pályázatok elemzése és rendszerezése, ezek megtalálásának és beszerzésének hatékony módjainak meghatározása. A pályázatokat a szerző ingyenes pénzügyi támogatásnak tekinti, amelyet projektek megvalósításához, képzéshez vagy vállalkozásfejlesztéshez nyújtanak. A pályázatoknak számos előnye van más pénzügyi eszközökkel szemben, mint például a kölcsönök, a befektetők vonzása vagy a közösségi finanszírozás. Konkrétan a*



pályázatokat nem kell visszafizetni, azokat szisztematikusan lehet bevonni, ami bővíti a szervezetek pénzügyi lehetőségeit. A cikk kitér a háborús körülmények közötti támogatások odaítélésének céljaira is, amelyek közé tartozhat az innováció támogatása, az aktuális biztonsági problémák megoldása, a gazdaság egyes ágazatainak fejlesztése, valamint a fejlettebb országok tapasztalatainak és pénzügyi forrásainak átadása. A tanulmányban a szerző olyan programok tapasztalatait elemzi, mint a „Horizont Europe” és az „EU4Business”, kiemelve ezek szerepét az ukrán vállalkozások és a gazdaság támogatásában. A cikk következtetései azt mutatják, hogy a pályázatok fontos finanszírozási forrást jelentenek, amely lehetővé teszi az ötletek megvalósítását, a kutatást, a jótékonyági szervezetek támogatását, valamint az életminőség javítását. A cikk áttekintést ad a különböző típusú pályázatokról, azok előnyeiről és hátrányairól, valamint javaslatokat tesz a pályázati források megtalálásához és elnyeréséhez, beleértve az állami és magán támogatási programokat is.

Kulcsszavak: pályázat, pályázati programok, kis- és középvállalkozások, pályázati formák, platform

Abstract. Grant programs are a key tool for solving global human problems. They promote business development, especially businesses founded by women or veterans. In times of crisis, grants become indispensable support for overcoming difficulties. In Ukraine, grants stimulate the development of various spheres of society, supporting reforms, civil society, science, culture and economy, especially in the context of geopolitical and economic challenges. The purpose of the article is to analyze and systematize available grant programs for the population and business in wartime conditions, to determine effective ways to find and receive them. The authors consider grants as free financial assistance provided for the implementation of projects, education or business development. Grants have a number of advantages compared to other financial instruments, such as loans, attracting investors or crowdfunding. In particular, grants do not need to be returned, and they can be raised systematically, which expands the financial capabilities of organizations. The article also discusses the goals of granting grants in wartime, which may include supporting innovation, solving current security problems, developing certain sectors of the economy, and transferring experience and financial resources from more developed countries. In the article, the author analyzes the experience of programs such as "Horizon Europe" and "EU4Business", emphasizing their role in supporting Ukrainian enterprises and the economy. The conclusions of the article indicate that grants are an important source of funding that allows implementing ideas, conducting scientific research, supporting charitable organizations, and improving the quality of life. The article offers an overview of the different types of grants, their advantages and disadvantages, as well as recommendations for finding and receiving grant support, including public and private grant programs.

Keywords: grant, grant programs, small and medium business, types of grants, platform

Problem description. Grant programs play an important role in solving global challenges facing humanity, whether it is the Covid-19 pandemic, water quality issues, health services, education, infrastructure or the environment. These programs are aimed at developing industries or lines of business, particularly supporting businesses founded and managed by women or veterans. Grants provide entrepreneurs with the opportunity to start their business, purchase the necessary equipment and develop existing businesses. In times of crisis, this support is extremely important to overcome difficulties. Grant programs are a powerful tool in achieving various goals and fighting global challenges.

Grants in Ukraine play a key role in stimulating the development of various spheres of society and contribute to solving current problems and challenges facing the

country. In recent years, Ukraine has experienced significant changes in the political, economic and social spheres, and grants have become an important tool for supporting reforms, development of civil society, science, culture, economy and other spheres of life. In the context of difficulties caused by geopolitical and economic challenges, grants become a catalyst for innovation and change in Ukrainian society. They make it possible to implement innovative projects, support talented individuals, stimulate the development of small and medium-sized businesses, and also help solve social problems and improve the quality of life of the population.

Literature review. Domestic researchers I.I. Kravchuk, I.A. Kravchuk, I.I. Fedun, R.O. Miroshnyk, U.O. Prokop'eva, L.Sh. Mamatova, O.V. Ovsienko. and others addressed the topic of business grant financing [8; 9; 11; 15; 19]. Scientific studies covered such issues as the amount of grant aid, conditions for providing financing, and the degree of effectiveness of grant financing for Ukrainian companies. However, the crisis in Ukraine's economy due to the war requires a new approach and systematization of knowledge about grant opportunities for the population and business. *Формулювання цілей статті.*

Analyze and systematize grant programs available to the public and businesses in wartime to determine the most effective way to find and receive them by entities needing assistance.

Research aim and objectives.. This research investigates the amount and the role grants perform in ensuring social and economic stability in Ukraine during the ongoing war. It seeks to explore how grant funding can support local communities, stimulate economic recovery, and foster resilience by providing financial resources to key sectors affected by the conflict. Due to this, we establish such research objectives: to assess the role of grants in social-economic recovery, to evaluate the effectiveness of international and domestic grant mechanisms, to identify challenges and opportunities in the grant funding process in conflict zones, focusing on the accessibility, management, and sustainability of grant-based interventions in Ukraine.

Methods and methodology. This research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to provide a comprehensive analysis of the role of grants in ensuring social and economic stability in Ukraine during the war. Quantitative data were collected through surveys distributed to grant recipients across different sectors (healthcare, education, agriculture, small businesses, etc.) in Ukraine as the survey aims to measure the effectiveness of grant funding in enhancing social and economic resilience. Selected case studies of specific grant-funded projects in different regions of Ukraine were analyzed. The combination of qualitative and quantitative data enabled triangulation, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the research problem.

Results and discussions. A grant is free financial assistance provided for the implementation of a certain project, education, business development, new technology, etc. [1; 2; 4]. Those who initiate and finance grant programs are called donors, and those who receive them are called recipients or grantees. It is worth noting that grant programs are irreversible investments. Unlike a loan, the recipient does not need to repay the funds. Compared to other financing tools (bank loans, attracting investors,



fundraising directly from benefactors, crowdfunding, etc.), grants have important advantages: the money does not need to be returned if the project for which the grant was issued is effectively implemented; the grantor controls the use of grant funds, but does not interfere in the internal management of the grantee organization; grants can be attracted systematically (not once, but many times from different donors), which makes it possible to significantly expand the financial capabilities of the organization that receives the grant; grant resource.

Grants are a great way for businesses and nonprofits to get the funding they need to continue offering services and resources to audiences. But it is important to remember: a grant is not just a gift, but irrevocable financial support provided under certain conditions, such as the creation of new jobs, compliance with environmental standards, innovation, and others. You may get the impression that this is only about allocating a certain amount of money, but this is not so.

The goals of granting grants by donors according to their strategic direction can be as follows:

- Provision of grants to find talents and innovative business ideas around the world. For example, the grant program "Horizon Europe" ("Horizon Europe") announces competitions to support unique innovative enterprises that offer original innovative products, and solutions with potentially high demand on the market for goods and services. Such grants are aimed at supporting the creation and development of business companies that will profitably work at the international level;

- Solving the urgent problems of humanity at the international or local levels. Such grants are given mainly to civil society organizations to help people in difficult life circumstances. Currently, in Ukraine, competitions of this type are announced constantly and have received the name "quick response competitions";

- Development of a certain sector of the economy or public activity in a specific country. Such grants are aimed at restoring the economy in periods of crisis or giving the economy a boost to growth, creating jobs, and ensuring conditions for the development of those sectors of social life that are in crisis conditions or are a priority for the country: culture, creative industries, education, medicine, agriculture, local communities, etc. Yes, the government is currently introducing the eRobota grant program in Ukraine.

- Transfer of experience and financial resources from more developed countries with powerful financial capabilities to less developed ones, for the sake of the development of the latter. Grant programs of the European Union, which provide opportunities for Ukrainian organizations to participate in grant competitions following the European Good Neighbor Policy, can be a vivid example of this direction.

Grant projects have their deadline. They are divided into **short-term and long-term**. The first usually lasts up to six months. A clear example is the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs program, within which entrepreneurs study in another country for up to three months. The second type of grants is related to large-scale projects in the cultural, infrastructure and other fields. Therefore, the terms of their

implementation are much longer - up to three years. Examples of such grants are programs of the European Commission.

Not only an enterprise can receive a grant offer. Possible **subjects (recipients) include** [18]:

- medium and small businesses (for the development and/or implementation of new technologies, business expansion, production capabilities, and development of new production processes);
- scientific institutions or research groups (conducting scientific research, studying new technologies, development of science in general);
- non-profit organizations (implementation of social and charitable initiatives);
- individual researchers and creative personalities (education or implementation of projects in various fields: science, art, etc.).

An interesting fact is that not only the recipients (a natural or legal person to whom the donor provides material, financial or other charitable assistance according to the program) will benefit from the grant, but also the beneficiaries (natural or legal persons or a certain social group that receive benefit from project implementation).

According to the source of funding [21], two **main types of grants** are distinguished: financial assistance from the state and private. Each has its characteristics, advantages, and disadvantages.

Funds for state grants are provided from the budget of the country or region. Such investments cover a wide range of economic and social initiatives, for example: science, education, social programs, development of a certain industry, etc. State grants have a significant amount of funding, but obtaining them is quite difficult due to bureaucratic red tape.

Private grants are provided by charitable organizations, companies, and private individuals, or funds are allocated from private funds. Unlike state ones, specific initiatives, industries, or projects in the fields of ecology, science, art, etc. are sponsored. The volume of funding is much smaller compared to government grants, but private investment can be obtained faster and easier.

According to the number of stages, **the grant granting process** can be divided into the following types [23; 24]:

- One-step process: includes submitting an application, accepting it, and starting cooperation with the recipient. This means that after you apply, you are awarded a grant and you start working.
- Multi-stage process: first you submit an application, then it is evaluated and a possible interview takes place, and after that you move on to other stages of validation.

Some programs may also require you to present your project in front of an expert committee [3;5]. It's also worth noting that some applications must be submitted by a certain deadline, while other grant opportunities are available all the time. The decision to grant a grant can be made at the stage of the grant application evaluation and interview. This can be done in person or remotely, depending on the grant amount and the terms of the program. It is important to remember that receiving a grant is only the beginning of interaction with the donor. It is necessary to clearly define who will be responsible for managing the business or project. It can be one person or a team.



They will communicate with the donor's representatives and coordinate the project at all stages of its implementation.

Depending on the purpose, **the following types** of grants are allocated:

- project funding: support of projects in a certain category, for example, education, research, or industry tasks;
- partial/additional financing: used when the applicant has part of the funds, but needs additional funds to implement the project;
- targeted support: allocated to organizations for the implementation of a specific project;
- full funding: supporting the work and mission of a non-profit organization;
- capital investments: used for the purchase of land, buildings, equipment, or reconstruction;
- project launch: assistance in the initial implementation of a small project.

We can conclude that there are advantages and disadvantages of business grants compared to other methods of financing enterprises. One of the key benefits of business grants is that they don't have to be repaid, which sets them apart from, say, business loans. Applying for a business grant also does not affect the ability to apply for other forms of funding, making it possible to receive both a grant and a business loan at the same time. Business grants can be useful for businesses founded or managed by women or minorities. Both groups often face structural barriers to accessing other forms of financing, such as loans, so grants can be critical to their continued success. It is also worth noting that business grants can be useful for businesses that do not expect a quick profit. For example, companies specializing in the development of new technologies may need financial support during the development period until their products gain commercial appeal. But there are certain disadvantages. Business grants may have limited flexibility compared to business loans. Most donors set requirements for the specific use of the grant and require confirmation of its implementation. This means that if your business priorities change or market conditions change, you may not be able to use the grant. Usually, the amount of money provided in a business grant is less than in a regular business loan. This is especially true for grants provided by local authorities or private foundations.

Let's analyze the report of the well-known "**EU4Business**" initiative from the European Union. In 2022, EU4Business continued to support small and medium-sized enterprises in Ukraine almost according to the "business as usual" principle, attracting additional funds from the EU. The number of supported SMEs increased by 54% (from 16,602 to 25,522 businesses), and their turnover increased by 18%. This partly reflects the fact that SMEs fill gaps in the economy because they are small and flexible, while larger producers may have been more affected by the disruption to the normal terms of trade caused by the war. Ukraine has become a leader in the Eastern Partnership in terms of gender indicators: 48% of supported enterprises are now owned or managed by women. In 2022, the total support budget was €245.76 million, which is 15% more than in 2021. This indicates an increase in funding for various programs and initiatives. Thanks to all this, it was possible to create 23,750 new jobs.

Consequently, grants have become a significant source of funding for a variety of organizations, projects and initiatives, enabling ideas to be implemented, scientific research to be carried out, charities to be supported and the quality of life to be improved. However, where can one find these grants? How to start a search? I will consider several options and examples of them.

First, you should consider the opportunities that are available in your state. Many countries have various programs and foundations that provide grants for various fields, including education, culture, science, sports and the social sphere.

The government is now actively focusing on supporting small and medium-sized businesses, which is especially important in light of the complex challenges caused by the war. Several effective programs have been introduced that enable young entrepreneurs to get on their feet, and already existing enterprises to develop their businesses. One of these programs is the provision of grants and soft loans. For example, in July 2022, the "**eRobota**" portal was created on the "Diia" platform, which offers various state grants for starting and developing your own business. It is aimed at boosting entrepreneurial activity and stimulating job creation.

The project includes 6 grant programs, in particular, Ukrainians will be able to receive:

- micro-grants for creating your own business;
- grants for the development of a processing enterprise;
- state financing of planting a garden;
- funds for the development of greenhouse farming;
- a grant for the implementation of a startup, including in the field of IT;
- funds for training in IT specialties.

Both active entrepreneurs and people with no business experience can apply for a grant. Applications are submitted through the Diya portal together with a business plan. A mandatory condition for receiving a grant is the creation of new jobs - from 1-2 when providing a micro-grant to several dozen when providing grants under other programs. Grant funds are returned to the state in the form of taxes and fees paid in the course of the enterprise's activity over a period of three years.

The size of the grant can vary from 50 to 250 thousand hryvnias. The received funds can be spent on purchasing equipment, purchasing raw materials, paying rent (no more than 25% of the grant amount) or leasing equipment. In general, since the launch of the government project "eRobota" in July 2022, 10,400 Ukrainians have received grant support for starting or developing their own business. It was issued:

- 9,634 micro-grants for 2.3 billion hryvnias under the "Own Business" program;
- 482 grants for 2.5 billion hryvnias — for the development of processing enterprises;
- 144 grants for 631 million hryvnias — for horticulture and greenhouse development;
- 132 grants for 50 million hryvnias — to veterans and members of their families.

In addition, there is the project "**Diia.Business**" [6], which is a significant national initiative project aimed at the development of entrepreneurship and exports in Ukraine. Launched by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine in February



2020, from May 2021 the project is implemented jointly with the Office for the Development of Entrepreneurship and Export - a state institution that aims to support and develop Ukrainian entrepreneurship on domestic and foreign markets. The project website also has a marketplace of financial opportunities for business, where entrepreneurs can find the necessary financial programs (grants), familiarize themselves with the terms of financing, and apply directly to banking and other institutions.

Another example is the **Ukrainian Startup Fund** [14; 17], officially known as the Innovation Development Fund, which is a state institution that provides support to innovative projects and technological start-ups to attract funding at the early stages and launch their own initiatives. The fund was founded in 2018 at the initiative of the Minister of Finance of Ukraine. From 2023, it came under the control of the Ministry of Digital Transformation. The fund acts as a catalyst for the development of the startup ecosystem, creating conditions for its growth, and also promotes a positive investment image of the technological industry of Ukraine abroad and represents Ukrainian innovative solutions around the world. The UFS provides grants of up to UAH 3.5 million for product development, marketing, team and other needs. The UFS can invest up to UAH 7 million in startups that already have some success. The institution helps startups find mentors who can share their experience and knowledge, and establish contacts with investors, partners, and other key players in the startup ecosystem. Thanks to the activities of the fund, more than 380 startup teams received support, and funds raised for startups reached 8.7 million dollars.

In addition, there is the **National Research Fund of Ukraine** [13], which is a state budget institution created by the Government of Ukraine in 2018 following the legislation regulating scientific and technical activities in the country. The main task of the Fund is to organize and conduct an open competitive selection of projects for financing at the expense of grant support. This process includes conducting an independent and objective scientific and scientific-technical examination with the involvement of foreign specialists, as well as providing organizational and financial support to the winning projects. The implementation of this task contributes to the development and implementation of scientific and technological achievements and forms a new powerful research and scientific potential in the priority directions of the development of science and technology. According to the results of 2023, there were:

- 1 contract was concluded with the winner of the competition "Science for the safety of man and society" - the amount of UAH 5,187,000.
- 54 contracts were concluded with the winners of the "Science for the Security and Sustainable Development of Ukraine" competition - a total of UAH 117,176,329.00.
- 67 contracts were concluded with the winners of the competition "Science for the reconstruction of Ukraine in the war and post-war periods" - a total amount of UAH 82,827,160.83.
- 12 contracts were concluded with the winners of the competition "Cambridge - NFSU 2022. Individual grants for conducting research (development) for Ukrainian



scientists (with the support of the University of Cambridge, Great Britain)" - a total of UAH 5,551,200.00.

In addition to state programs, many international organizations, companies, and foundations provide grants for the implementation of projects. Organizations such as the UN, the EU, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, as well as private foundations working in the fields of education, media, science and culture, offer a wide range of grant opportunities.

The European Union supports Ukrainian enterprises within the framework of the **EU4Business** initiative [16; 22]. This project provides an opportunity to receive loans and grants, contributing to the increase in the competitiveness of Ukrainian enterprises and access to new markets. An example of the effectiveness of this resource is consulting assistance within the framework of the international cooperation program "EU4Business: competitiveness and internationalization of SMEs", which was used by the Ukrainian company Aton Service, which specializes in the development and manufacture of filtering equipment and aspiration systems for various industries. With the beginning of the war, production was moved from the Kyiv region to Zakarpattia, but the issue of logistics, product sales, and entering new markets immediately arose. To overcome these challenges, the company turned to the EU4Business international cooperation program for 10-day business consultations. The cost of the service for one company amounted to UAH 100,000 (equivalent to EUR 3,200), of which 10% was paid by the company itself and 90% was covered by the funds of the European Union and the German Government. Even during the provision of consultations, the restoration of full-fledged activities of the firm began, and the company was provided with orders for the next 3 months.

Another example is **House of Europe** – an initiative of the European Union aimed at supporting professional and creative exchange between Ukrainian specialists and their colleagues from EU countries and Great Britain. The program focuses on culture and the creative sector, education, medicine, social entrepreneurship, media and youth work. Grant funds can be obtained for internships and networking in EU countries and Great Britain, educational trips, training, participation in conferences, professional events and other opportunities. As part of the "Translation Grants" program, the "Meduza" publishing project received funding from the House of Europe and was able to cover 70% of the costs of translating the work "The Diary of a Motorcyclist. Across Europe with Satanella" by Claire Sheridan. "Meduza" is an independent, non-commercial publishing project specializing in intellectual literature. In its range, the publishing house offers modern books on urban planning, war, the Holocaust and Russian studies. The publishing house has several well-known sources of funding: support from foundations and cultural institutes, cooperation with professors who have a budget for publications and scholarships of the Vienna Institute of Humanities.

Now we will consider the example of the international company "Lenovo", which launched the Think ON grant program for the 30th anniversary of the ThinkPad laptop brand. Ukraine to support innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises. On March 15, 2023, the final stage of presentations took place, where the



winner was determined by the decision of an expert jury. The company BIONERICA from Ivano-Frankivsk, which specializes in the collection, processing and sale of mushrooms and cultivated berries, became the recipient of grant funding in the amount of 1,000,000 hryvnias for the development of its innovations. It is planned to purchase equipment to increase the volume of production of dried amanitas, the demand for which is growing rapidly all over the world. In addition, grant funding will help the company fulfill an important social mission — to attract new mushroom pickers and increase the number of suppliers of niche raw materials. Business projects were evaluated according to clearly defined criteria: viability of the business, justification of the grant project and its innovativeness concerning regular business activities, communication skills of the representative, and the ability to conduct a discussion. The project received support from partners: UNIT.City — the first innovation park in Ukraine, SUPERLUDI — a school of digital professions, and Forbes — the world's largest business media.

Charities and interested sponsors can also be an important source of funding and provide grants. They are interested in supporting various projects and promoting the development of communities.

The **International Renaissance Foundation** is one of the largest Ukrainian charitable organizations, which since 1990 has been working to create an open society in Ukraine, in which every person feels worthy, citizens are actively involved in the process of creating a state, and the government acts transparently and responsibly [10]. The goal of the organization is the development of Ukraine, where human rights are reliably protected, and positive changes contribute to the well-being of citizens. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the charitable foundation has supported more than 1,200 projects. In 2022, UAH 650 million was allocated to support civil society and promote the activities of public organizations, so if you work in this field, you can find the latest information on programs and opportunities to receive funding on the website.

Let's not forget about the financing of education. Many students and young people have always been attracted by the opportunity to receive an educational grant or go on an internship abroad. An educational grant is a sum of money provided by a university, organization, educational platform, philanthropist or foreign government to finance a student. Depending on the conditions, certain grants may cover the full tuition and all related expenses of the grantees, such as accommodation, meals, study materials, flights, etc. The term of providing funds is also important - it can be both a short-term grant (for several months or one year) and a long-term one (for several years). A grant differs from a scholarship only in the form of payment: its amount is provided once, and the scholarship is distributed at the level of payment that students receive during the period of study, usually monthly.

Most often, our Ukrainian institutions of higher education offer to take advantage of the **Erasmus** offer [7;12]. Erasmus is a program of international cooperation of the European Union with other countries in the field of education, youth, and sports. Students, graduate students, masters, teachers, students, volunteers, and managers of youth and amateur sports organizations can take part in it. Grants are provided for



innovative projects in the fields of science, culture, art, information technology, tourism, and agriculture. In addition, the program finances the support of small/medium enterprises and the development of social infrastructure. In 2022, 13 projects were selected for financing under the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union, in which 51 universities and other organizations from Ukraine participated. A total of 145 projects were selected in the competition. Ukraine won the largest number of projects among the countries of the Eastern Partnership and was among the top 12 countries participating in the Program. These 13 projects are aimed at modernizing educational programs in the fields of the environment, medical education, ecology and innovative management of natural resources, education in the field of aquaculture and fisheries to implement the Green Deal (a set of political initiatives put forward by the European Commission with the general goal of making the European continent climate neutral by 2050), modernize governance and academic freedom, professional education and student engagement through comprehensive mentoring and tutoring, professional development of teachers and strengthening relations between higher education systems and society.

The "**TIME OF CHANGE**" development center [20] is an initiative aimed at supporting the development of civil society in Ukraine by attracting grant resources. The main goal of this center is to increase the culture of writing grant projects among various spheres of society, such as public organizations, businesses, local self-government, and educational institutions. The online grant writing course offered by this center is designed to teach participants how to search for relevant grant applications and effectively write applications that have a chance of success. This course is open to representatives of various fields: from public activists to entrepreneurs and teachers. On the website of the "**TIME OF CHANGE**" project, you can find up-to-date information about grant opportunities from both domestic and foreign donors. Detailed information on various grant programs, application requirements, application deadlines, and other important details are provided here. In addition, on the site, you can get advice from experienced experts in grant writing, which helps to increase the chances of successfully receiving a grant. Thanks to the "**TIME OF CHANGE**" initiative, citizens of Ukraine have more opportunities to implement their ideas and projects aimed at the development of society and its various spheres. This helps to stimulate innovation, support the development of entrepreneurship, and the implementation of social and cultural projects. Over the entire period of activity, the initiative has helped attract more than €10,000,000 in grant funds.

Also, a popular online resource is "**GrantSense**" - an innovative company that specializes in providing professional services in the field of grants for private individuals, businesses, and public organizations. The platform provides an individual approach to each project, guaranteeing an effective strategy for attracting funding and an in-depth analysis of current grant opportunities. A team of experts provides a full cycle of the grant process, starting from idea development to monitoring and reporting. Experts understand the importance of grants for business development and help attract the necessary resources to achieve your goals. The company's mission is to support



Ukrainian business and economy and use grants as a tool for recovery and growth, which will contribute to the return of people and strengthen Ukraine's position on the world stage. The company's website provides up-to-date information on grant opportunities for various business sectors and different population groups, including support for women and veterans.

Such online resources are sometimes interesting not only as a place to get acquainted with valid grant programs but also as donors. Take for example the partnership of Forbes BrandVoice (a platform that focuses on news from the fields of business, innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology, as well as grant opportunities) and PIN-UP. On March 18, 2024, they launched a grant program to help micro and small firms operating in war zones. The grant fund totals UAH 5,000,000, which can be divided among 15 winners. Enterprises must be registered no later than July 1, 2023, have up to 10 employees, have no debts, and be located in the Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Kherson or Chernihiv regions. Such a program demonstrates business support even in difficult times and an understanding of the difficulty of continuing work in virtually front-line regions.

In today's world, social networks play an important role in various aspects of life, including finding grants and attracting funding for social projects. Our state is no exception, and in 2024, social media will continue to be an effective tool for organizations and individuals seeking grant support. But how to implement it? A good place to start is by creating a profile for your organization on popular social networks such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter. Next, make sure your profile is informative and professional to attract the attention of potential grantmakers. Join groups and communities dedicated to grants and fundraising to get useful information about available grants for small and medium businesses and projects in other fields, as well as fundraising resources. Follow the publications of grantees by following their pages and profiles on social networks. This will allow you to receive fresh information about new grant opportunities and requirements. Use relevant hashtags to search for grants, such as #grants, #fundraising, #grantprograms, etc. This approach will help you find publications and announcements about grants in social networks. Be active in communities, comment on posts, and participate in discussions to increase your visibility and connect with potential donors and other organizations. Consider partnering with social media influencers who support your cause. Their support can help draw attention to your project and increase the chances of receiving a grant.

Conclusions and prospects for further research. This research set out to explore the role of grants in ensuring social and economic stability in Ukraine amidst the ongoing war. The research problem focused on how grant funding can alleviate the devastating impacts of the conflict by supporting local communities and where these communities can search for grants. Through an in-depth analysis of grant mechanisms and their real-world applications, the study has provided valuable insights into the effectiveness of these interventions in war-affected regions.

Communities can search for grants from various sources, such as government programs, international organizations, charities, educational institutions, and online resources. It is important to thoroughly research each source and understand their



requirements and criteria. When preparing a grant application, you must take into account all the requirements and present your project in a high-quality and convincing manner. It is worth remembering that the competition for grants is always high, so it is important to be unique and properly reflect all the advantages of your project.

Grants are a vital source of funding for the development of Ukraine. They provide resources for innovation, education, social development, and economic growth. Thanks to grants, scientific breakthroughs are made, talented students receive an education, art and culture develop, vulnerable segments of the population are supported, and entrepreneurs launch successful businesses. Thus, the grants contribute to the integration of Ukraine into the world community of knowledge and innovation. However, the system of grants in Ukraine is not without its shortcomings. The grant application process can be bureaucratic and tedious, deterring potentially successful recipients. High competition for limited funds leads to the fact that many worthy projects remain unfunded. In addition, some grants have strict limits on the use of funds, which can limit the flexibility and creativity of recipients.

Key findings reveal that grants have been vital in sustaining social services such as healthcare, education, and humanitarian aid, while also stimulating economic recovery through the support of small businesses and employment generation. However, the research also identified challenges in grant management, including inefficiencies in the distribution of funds, lack of coordination among stakeholders, and difficulties in accessing remote or conflict-ridden areas. Moreover, while grants have had a positive impact, there is a need for more sustainable, long-term funding strategies to ensure continued resilience and recovery.

Our findings suggest that grants play a pivotal role in maintaining social and economic stability during wartime, but their success depends heavily on effective coordination and governance. Improving the transparency and accountability of grant programs, and fostering stronger partnerships between international donors, the Ukrainian government, and local organizations are essential steps to enhance the impact of grants in conflict settings.

Future research should explore **long-term impact assessments** of grant-funded initiatives, particularly in regions that continue to experience instability. Also, we believe that we should provide **comparative studies** on the effectiveness of different types of grants (e.g., emergency relief vs. development grants) in various sectors.

By addressing these gaps, future research can provide more comprehensive strategies for ensuring that grants contribute not only to immediate relief but also to long-term resilience and development in conflict-affected regions.

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