



Strengthening Europe's agrisector: EU–Ukraine synergies

Date: April 21, 2026, 14:30-17:30 (CET)

Venue: UCAB EU Office, Rond Point Schuman 2–4 (KREAB), II floor

Europe's agricultural policy is entering a strategic phase in which competitiveness, resilience, preparedness, strategic autonomy and enlargement can no longer be treated as separate agendas. In this context, the key question is not simply how the EU will absorb Ukraine, but how Ukraine's accession can strengthen the enlarged Union itself. Properly integrated, Ukraine can reinforce the EU agri-food sector through stronger strategic agri-security, a better-balanced common market, greater external competitiveness, a more robust bioeconomy and stronger crisis preparedness.

At the same time, these synergies will not materialise automatically. Unlocking them requires a major investment effort. Ukraine's agricultural sector must adapt to EU rules while also investing in modernisation, compliance, logistics, processing, energy resilience and new value chains. This is not only a Ukrainian adjustment challenge. It is also a European investment case: a question of how to mobilise public and private capital so that Ukraine's adaptation and reconstruction strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of the wider European agri-food economy.

The event will therefore focus not only on the strategic rationale for EU–Ukraine agrifood synergies, but also on the investment needs and financial conditions required to make them real. This includes the role of regulatory alignment as an investment signal, de-risking instruments for agriculture and logistics in wartime and early recovery conditions, and the adaptation of EU and IFI financial tools to the needs of the agri-food sector.

The discussion will examine concrete examples of how EU–Ukraine synergies can generate value for Europe, including plant proteins for feed and livestock-related sectors, biomethane and biofuel feedstocks, circular bioeconomy pathways, resilient logistics, and selected processing segments. The key policy question is how to move from potential complementarities to bankable projects and scalable cross-border value chains.

In practical terms, the event will address four interlinked dimensions:

- EU legislative alignment and sector modernisation as a competitiveness and investment agenda for Ukrainian agriculture;
- Risk-sharing and de-risking mechanisms needed to support agricultural production, processing and long-range logistics under wartime and post-war conditions;
- Adaptation of the EU financial toolbox, including the Ukraine Facility Pillar II and IFI instruments, to the realities of agricultural recovery, reconstruction and market integration;
- Practical cases where targeted investment could unlock EU–Ukraine synergies and strengthen the competitiveness of the wider European agrifood sector.

The event will take place on the eve of the Ukraine–EU Business Summit (22–23 April 2026) in Brussels and is intended to contribute a focused agri-food perspective to the wider discussion on competitiveness, reconstruction and investment.



Agenda

14:30 – 15:00	Registration, coffee
Event moderator	Nazar Bobitski , Director, UCAB EU Office
15:00 – 15:30	Welcome speech Taras Kachka , Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine for European and Euroatlantic integration Oleh Khomenko , executive director, UCAB
15:30 – 15:40	Strengthening Europe's Agrisector: EU-Ukraine Synergies <i>Presentation of concept paper</i> Oleksandra Avramenko , UCAB
15:40 – 16:00	Presentation of research study Vasyl Hovhera , Principal, corporate advisory, EBRD (TBC)
16:00 – 17:20	Panel discussion: From synergies to bankable projects: what investment framework is needed to unlock EU-Ukraine agrifood integration? Participants: - Lukáš Veselý , Deputy Head of Unit, Reconstruction & Accession, Ukraine Service, DG ENEST, European Commission - Richard Baudin , Global Head of Specialty Risk Consulting, Ukraine Lead, Marsh - Yulia Bereshchenko , Executive Director, Sustainable Business Development, and Investor Relations, Astarta - Mykhailo Bno-Airian , Vice President, Director, Global Public Affairs, MHP Moderator: Vasyl Hovhera , Principal, corporate advisory, EBRD (TBC)
17:20 – 17:30	Alex Lissitsa , President, UCAB Concluding remarks
17:30 – 19:00	Networking cocktail