

School Buses for Ukraine: An EU Solidarity Campaign

Frequently asked questions

1. I am a private company/public service who would like to offer buses to Ukraine. Who can I contact?

Thank you for your interest in this campaign. School buses are key to supporting access to education for Ukrainian children. [The Emergency Response Coordination Centre](#) (ERCC) at the European Commission is working closely with the authorities in Ukraine and has a dedicated team to help you.

If you are based in the European Union, you should prepare the details of your offer using the [excel table provided](#) and send it to EU-BUSES-UKRAINE@ec.europa.eu.

In the table, please note the *Explanations* tab for further guidance.

The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) will pass your offer to the authorities in Ukraine. The authorities in Ukraine (in this case the Ministry of Education) will make the final decision on whether they can accept the offer or not.

2. I have buses to donate. When do we start transport?

Firstly, donors will need to provide the technical specifications of the offered buses to the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) as described in point 1 above (EU-BUSES-UKRAINE@ec.europa.eu). The offer will be reviewed by the ERCC and the Ukrainian authorities. The Ukrainian authorities will decide whether to accept the offer or not, based on the specifications of the buses offered.

If accepted, the ERCC team will support you in the steps to take including logistical arrangements.

3. How do I know where to send the buses?

The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) will get that information for you. Once you make the offer officially, the ERCC will reach out to the authorities of Ukraine. If Ukraine accepts your offer, they will also confirm the consignee (the official person who will receive the donation) to the ERCC.

4. What kind of customs procedures will I have to deal with?

The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) at the European Commission (EU-BUSES-UKRAINE@ec.europa.eu) will be able to provide you with the necessary information and support you in the process on your offer is accepted by Ukraine. There is a well-established system in place. The Ukrainian authorities have been working closely with the ERCC since February 2022 and are accustomed to handling incoming donations of aid from the EU Member States.

5. Is there financial support available with transport to Ukraine?

There is a possibility that the transport costs of donated buses from the point of origin in the EU to Ukraine can be covered by the EU budget under [the EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#) (UCPM). **Note that funding can only be paid out to the national UCPM focal point in the EU Member State.** For this funding to apply to your donation, the national UCPM focal point in your country needs to come on board and support your donation with administrative and logistical arrangements. The European Commission will support the process if needed and facilitate contact with your national authorities but it remains at the discretion of the national UCPM focal point to support your donation depending on their own availability.

Donations from the private sector can also be facilitated by the national UCPM focal point if they are available. This system has been used in various other sectors to provide support to Ukraine and has proven to work well.

There is an existing EU logistics hub in Poland that was established together with the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). This logistics hub can be used to facilitate bus transfers to Ukraine via road or rail and allow for 100% UCPM financing. The UCPM cannot finance the cost of the buses, which need to be donated pro bono. It is important to note that the EU budget can only reimburse transport costs directly to the National Civil Protection authority. The offering private company or public entity cannot apply to get transport costs reimbursed from the European Commission.

6. What are the specifications of the buses?

A bus is considered as a large motor vehicle designed primarily for carrying passengers. It has to be fully and immediately capable of driving with active motor and is not in any wrecked, discarded, abandoned, or work in-progress condition. It could be new or second hand but it has to be technically checked, safe and considered functional for its use before it is donated. The vehicle has to be manufactured to drive it on the right-hand side of the road, so the steering wheel is on the left.

Interested donors should prepare the details of your offer using the [excel table provided](#) and send it to EU-BUSES-UKRAINE@ec.europa.eu.

7. Who will make sure that the buses I donate will reach those in need?

Donating buses to Ukraine through this EU campaign is a very smart decision. [The Emergency Response Coordination Centre](#) (ERCC) at the European Commission has been working very closely with Ukrainian authorities since February 2022 to deliver much needed aid. Facilitating this kind of offer via the ERCC provides a donor with efficient, coordinated and trustful way of donation. The donation is accepted by the respective governmental institution (in this case, the Ministry of Education), which provides the information of the consignee (who is going to receive a donation). In this way the Ukrainian authorities guarantee the receipt of a donation and its needed use. Buses are needed to ensure the safe transport to and from school of children across the country and to organise rapid evacuations in case of need. The target group includes both primary and high schools.

8. Will the name of my company/public entity be communicated? Can I post about this donation on social media?

Donors are encouraged to advertise their role and contribution. The European Commission will also communicate on its social media channels about the campaign.

9. I have some buses which could be repaired and donated to Ukraine. Can I get support?

Any bus offered should be in a good state of repair. It has to be technically checked, safe and considered functional for its use before it is donated.

Interested donors should prepare the details of your offer using the [excel table provided](#) and send it to EU-BUSES-UKRAINE@ec.europa.eu.

10. When should the buses be ready to be delivered?

This specific campaign is calling for the donation of as many buses as possible in the first quarter of 2023. However, if your donation comes later, it will still be very welcome as long as the need is there.

11. Who is my contact for questions?

[The Emergency Response Coordination Centre](#) (ERCC) at the European Commission has a dedicated team to help you. You may reach us at EU-BUSES-UKRAINE@ec.europa.eu.

