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 donations. School buses are key to supporting access to education for Ukrainian children. If you are based in the European Union, you should contact the National EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) focal point: UCPM focal points in EU countries

You may also contact the EU Commission Representation in the country who can provide you with additional information.

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 your national UCPM focal point. The offer will be reviewed by the ERCC and the Ukrainian authorities. The Ukrainian authorities can decide whether to accept the offer or not.

Your offer should include the following information, for each bus:

1. The year of first registration,
2. The number of seats,
3. Current mileage (kilométrage) and
4. Photos of each bus.

If accepted, the national UCPM focal point in your country will support you in the steps to take for arranging transport via the UCPM. This could include that you arrange transport yourself if convenient, that the national authority can provide a solution, or that the ERCC transport broker can provide a solution. No matter which transport solution you use, the national UCPM focal point and the ERCC will cooperate closely with you and help deliver the buses.

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

The ERCC will get that information for you. Once you make the offer officially, the ERCC will reach out to the authorities of Ukraine. If they accept your offer, they will also confirm the consignee (the official person who will receive the donation) to the ERCC. The ERCC will work closely with you and the national UCPM focal point to make arrangements.

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

The national UCPM focal point and the ERCC 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 UCPM since February 2022 and are accustomed to handling incoming donations of aid from the EU Member States.

5. Can I benefit from financial support with transport to Ukraine?

Through the UCPM, the transport of donated school buses can be covered by the Union budget, provided that the buses are offered formally to Ukraine through the UCPM by the national Civil Protection authority (UCPM focal point) in the Member States. Donations from the private sector would also be facilitated by the national UCPM focal point. This system has been used in various other sectors to provide support to Ukraine and has proven to work well.

The existing EU logistics hub in Poland 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 Union 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.

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.

Your offer should include the following information, for each bus:

1. The year of first registration,
2. The number of seats,
3. Current mileage (kilométrage) and
4. Photos of each bus.

7. There is a large-scale war in Ukraine. Who will make sure that the buses I donate will reach those in need?

Donating buses to Ukraine through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism is a very smart decision. Facilitating this kind of offer via the Mechanism provides a donating country with efficient, coordinated and trustful way of donation. A donation is accepted by the respective governmental institution, 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 should indeed advertise their role and contribution. The European Commission will also communicate on its social media channels about donations.

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.

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. The national UCPM focal point and the ERCC will still support your offer, if accepted by Ukraine.

11. Who is my contact for questions?

The national UCPM focal point will be your main contact. The ERCC will provide support as well for questions related to transport and delivery of the buses.

The European Commission Representation in your country can help you get in touch with the appropriate contact.

List of EU Representations in EU Member States
Offering **buses to Ukraine** via the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)**

1. **Public entity wishes to donate buses**
   - Get in touch with your national UCPM focal point

2. **Private company wishes to donate buses**
   - Inform European Commission Representation and ask for National UCPM focal point

3. **National UCPM focal point**
   - Is the UCPM national focal point able to support?
     - Yes
       - Officially offers via UCPM
     - No/Don’t know
       - ERCC collects details of the offer and approaches the UCPM national focal point to channel the offer via UCPM

4. **UCPM Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)**
   - Send Offer-including bus specifications & photos

5. **Ukraine national authorities**
Transporting **buses to Ukraine** via the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)**

- **Offer accepted**
  - Does the donor have their own transport solution?
    - Yes
      - ERCC collects details of the offer & shares them with UCPM logistics hub (Poland)
    - No
      - ERCC liaises with Ukraine authorities for consignee & delivery details
  - Delivered to UCPM logistics hub
    - National UCPM focal point – or the ERCC transport broker
      - collects the buses at point of origin and transports them to the UCPM logistics hub in Poland
  - Offer delivered
    - UCPM hub authorities to coordinate the delivery to Ukraine

- The ERCC ensures information flow and common operational picture with all relevant stakeholders.