



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

August 28 – September 3

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International support

28.08

- **Pope Francis** called the *Russians* "the descendants of the great Russia of saints, rulers, the great Russia of Peter I, Catherine II, that empire — great, educated, great culture and great humanity" and urged them not to abandon this legacy. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine stated that with such imperialist propaganda, the Kremlin justifies the killing of Ukrainians and the destruction of Ukraine.
- After the end of the war, **the military from the EU may be dislocated in Ukraine**. This was said by the Head of the EU military committee Robert Brieger to Die Welt. He thinks it would be reasonable if EU military servants supported Ukraine in demining, training on modern weapons, and development of defense strategies. This is the "realistic" option, the general emphasized. He added, that the **EU will train 30 000 Ukrainian soldiers this year**. "This is two times more than was planned at the beginning" - Brieger noted.
- This week in Kyiv the **second ambassadors' meeting** will take place, where the implementation of the **Ukrainian peace formula** will be discussed. Above 70 participants are expected, which is more than at the first meeting in Jeddah on August 6. There the representatives of more than 40 states were present from Europe, Middle East and Asia, Africa, North and South America, and the UN officials.

29.08

- **South Korea** announced **financial aid for Ukraine** in the amount of 520 billion won (\$ 394 million) next year, which is 8 times more, than this year. It comes out of the project of the country's 2024 budget, according to Reuters. The aid package includes 130 billion won for **reconstruction**, 260 billion for **humanitarian aid**, and 130 more won will be allocated through international organizations.
- The USA announced a new **financial aid package** for Ukraine of \$250 million. It includes artillery shells of 155 mm and 105 mm, ammunition for HIMARS, AIM-9M air defense missiles, Javelin anti-tank portable systems, demining equipment, medical evacuation vehicles, charges for clearing minefields, etc. The package separately provides for the technique spare parts and specialists' training.

30.08

- **Romania and the Netherlands** have approved the creation of a training center for F-16 pilots and maintenance of their aircraft. The base will be located on the territory of Romania. The American company Lockheed Martin – the manufacturer of these aircraft - will be involved in its work. Now the pilots' training has started in the UK and Denmark.

30.08

- **Germany** has transferred another **military aid package** to Ukraine. There are 10 Leopard 1A5 tanks, 16 unmanned intelligence complexes Vector, 4 HX81 tank transporters, and more than 13 million ammunition for small arms.
- The EU member states may approve the creation of a **separate Ukrainian aid Fund**, from which the military aid for Kyiv for the nearest years will be financed. This was informed by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Defense Policy Josep Borrell. He suggests setting an annual budget for the fund in the amount of **5 million euros** for the period of 2024 to 2027.

31.08

- The British **defense company BAE Systems** has opened an **office in Ukraine**. It will produce L119 howitzers of 105 mm caliber here. The Ukrainian military is already familiar with the production of BAE Systems – that is artillery M777 and L119, M109 self-propelled guns, CV-90 and Bradley infantry fighting vehicles, as well as Challenger tanks.

01.09

- The Pentagon has signed a contract of \$192 million on the indefinite delivery of **middle-range missiles "air-air"** (AMRAAM) for Ukraine. The transfer must be finished by November 29, 2024.
- The group of 200 Ukrainian tankers has **completed training on M1 Abrams**, writes Politico with reference to the sources. As expected, the first 10 tanks of the 31 promised will arrive in Ukraine in the middle of September. All machines are already in Germany, where they are undergoing a final repair.

02.09

- For the first time the US will send Ukraine **armor-piercing depleted uranium ammunition**, according to Reuters. These shells will be, in particular, in the new military aid package for Ukraine, which will be announced next week. As expected, it can cost up to \$375 million. The precise cost and content are being clarified so far.



Military positions

- In the Volyn and Polissia directions, the operational situation has not changed significantly.
- In the Chernihiv and Kharkiv directions, the enemy carried out airstrikes, mortar, and artillery attacks on the settlements of Chernihiv, Sumy, and Kharkiv Oblasts.
- In the Lyman direction, the enemy conducted unsuccessful offensive actions in the Novoiehorivka area of the Luhansk Oblast. He carried out airstrikes and artillery shelling of settlements in the Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts.
- In the direction of Bakhmut, more than 15 settlements were hit by enemy artillery fire. In the Avdiivka direction, the enemy carried out unsuccessful offensive actions in the area east of Severne, Donetsk Oblast.
- In the Marinka direction, the enemy conducted unsuccessful offensive actions in the area south of Krasnohorivka and Novomykhailivka, Donetsk Oblast. In the Shakhtarsk direction, the enemy carried out airstrikes and shelled more than 10 settlements with artillery.
- In the Zaporizhzhia direction, the enemy launched airstrikes and artillery fire.
- More than 10 settlements came under enemy fire in the Kherson direction. The probability of missile and air strikes on the entire territory of Ukraine remains high.

28.08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar confirmed the liberation of Robotyne village in the Zaporizhzhia Oblast. She also reported that the Defense Forces are advancing towards Novoprokopivka and Ocheretuvate, Polohy district. ➤ The Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine informed, in Enerhodar, a kamikaze drone attacked the improvised barracks of the Russian Guard unit Akhmat-1. The operation was carried out this morning by the local resistance movement. The number of killed and wounded occupiers is being specified. ➤ According to the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, Russia currently has about 585 long-range missiles in stock. Of them: 270 Iskanders, 140 Kalibres, approximately 100 strategic cruise missiles Kh-101/555/55, 75 aeroballistic Kinzhals.
29.08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine: The Defense Forces of Ukraine are successful in the Novodanylivka-Verbove direction of the Zaporizhzhia Oblast, and are getting entrenched at the achieved boundaries. ➤ The troops of the Russian Federation found themselves in a trap - they cannot retreat from Bakhmut, Deputy Minister of Defense Hanna Maliar reported. She added that in the area of Klishchivka, Kurdiuvivka, and Andriivka, Ukrainian troops are advancing and making progress. ➤ <i>"Ukrainian forces have penetrated the first layer of minefields, tank traps, trenches and bunkers installed by the Russians since they invaded, military analysts say, potentially creating new strategic opportunities"</i>, The New York Times. ➤ During the occupation, the Russian army set up an echeloned defense line in Robotyne in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, so the liberation of the village lasted for almost three months, Ruslan Movchan, the first deputy head of Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration said. ➤ Forbes informed, Ukraine lost only 5 of 71 Leopard 2 tanks during the summer counteroffensive. At least 10 more such tanks were damaged and are being repaired. According to Forbes, it is quite possible that almost every crew member of the five destroyed tanks, 20 people in total, managed to leave their tanks before they burned or exploded. ➤ Ukraine expects to manufacture and purchase 200,000 drones in a year, says Yuri Shchychol, head of the State Intelligence Service. According to him, of the 40 billion hryvnias allocated in July for the production of drones, 25 billion have already been spent. They have been spent on the production of 22,000 strike drones, approximately 15,000 of which have already been transferred to the Armed Forces. He added that, in addition to the large expenditure of strike drones, the Armed Forces lose 40-45 reconnaissance drones on average per day.
30.08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The representative of the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine Andrii Yusov confirmed the destruction of 4 Il-76 transport planes during the night attack on Pskov. Currently, they are investigating how many planes are still damaged. ➤ According to Radio Svoboda, Russia probably did not sink the ships near the Crimean bridge but fixed them at a depth of 2-4 meters. The news site published high-resolution satellite images of the Planet service. "It is possible that these barges will be used as a basis for barricading against Ukrainian naval drones," the report says. A day earlier, OSINT analyst H.I. Sutton shared satellite images on Twitter (X) showing the Russian occupiers creating water obstacles on the western approaches to the bridge in response to surface drone attacks. ➤ The Security Service of Ukraine carried out the attack on the airfield in Kursk in cooperation with the Russian Volunteer Corps (RVC), writes the press service of the RVC. <i>"Having again crossed the porous border without obstacles, on the night of August 27, we struck a military object with drones: the airfield with Putin's vultures. All the intended targets were destroyed,"</i> the message says. It is reported that elements of the anti-aircraft defense covering the planes were also hit. ➤ The General Staff: Ukrainian troops are advancing in the Bakhmut and Melitopol directions. There are successes in the areas of Novodanylivka, Novoprokopivka, Mala Tokmachka, and Verbove where the troops are entrenched on new frontiers. To the south of Bakhmut, the troops continue their offensive.

Losses of the Russian army from 28.08.2023 to 03.09.2023	
Liquidated personnel	3840
Tanks	80
IFVs	95
Artillery systems / MLRS	179/11
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	4
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	66
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	248
Special equipment	33



Military positions

31.08

- The Russian media Verstka reports, Ukrainians have destroyed or damaged at least 24 Russian aircraft on the territory of Russia, Belarus and occupied Crimea. Journalists calculated that during the year and a half of the large-scale war, the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine had attacked Russian air bases 9 times.
- Since the beginning of the year, over 190 drone attacks have been carried out on the territory of the Russian Federation and the temporarily occupied Crimea. This is reported by the BBC. It is noted that the latest strikes, which were aimed at, at least, six Russian regions, are the most massive in 2023.
- Ukraine needs about 160 F-16 fighters to have a powerful air force that will stop Russia from dominating the airspace. This was stated by President Volodymyr Zelenskyi in an interview with the Portuguese TV channel RTP.
- Zelenskyi said that Ukraine successfully hit an enemy target with a long-range weapon of its own production. It hit at a distance of more than 700 kilometers.
- Kyrylo Budanov confirmed that Russia delivered the first nuclear warheads to Belarus, but the results of training with nuclear simulators at the Iskander complexes showed unpreparedness for the use of such weapons.

01.09

- A representative of the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine Andrii Yusov said that as a result of a nighttime UAV attack in the suburbs of Moscow, a fire broke out at a factory where Russians produce electronics for missiles.
- The Kyodo agency, citing Maxar satellite images, reports that the Russian Federation has removed numerous S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems from the territory of the disputed Kuril Archipelago Iturup and Kunashir Islands near the coast of Japan. There is an assumption that the Russian Federation plans to transfer them closer to the border with Ukraine.
- The Russian Wagner PMC will stage provocations on the western border in Belarus. Though without weapons, the threat to Ukraine from that side is minimal, the head of the Main Directorate of Intelligence Kyrylo Budanov says.
- Over the past 72 hours, the US has noted "significant progress" in the counteroffensive of Ukrainian forces in the south of the Zaporizhzhia Oblast. This was reported by The Guardian referring to the statement of the Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council of the White House, John Kirby.

02.09

- More than 15 combat clashes took place on the front line during the day.
- During the day, the aviation of the defense forces made 9 strikes on the areas of concentration of personnel, weapons, and military equipment and 2 strikes on the enemy's anti-aircraft missile systems.
- During the day, units of missile troops and artillery hit 5 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons, and military equipment, 12 artillery pieces in firing positions, 2 ammunition warehouses, 2 control points, and 1 anti-aircraft missile system of the enemy.
- The Russians are now saving missiles in order to carry out massive strikes in the winter, the spokeswoman of Operational Command South Natalia Humeniuk says. According to her, Russia will attack energy facilities, because they are still its priority targets.
- The Russian Federation keeps on its efforts to stop the counteroffensive of Ukrainian troops in the south and risks dividing its forces, British intelligence reports. As noted, Ukrainian troops in the Melitopol direction reached the main line of defense of the Russians. The occupiers are continuing their offensive in the Kupiansk area. The Russians seek to force the Armed Forces to split their forces between the Melitopol and Kupiansk directions.
- Over the last day, the enemy lost 289 people in the Tavria direction (77 killed, 208 wounded, 4 captured). Oleksandr Tarnavskiy, the commander of the operational-strategic grouping of troops Tavria, announced this. 32 units of military equipment and 5 enemy ammunition warehouses were destroyed.
- In an interview with The Observer, Oleksandr Tarnavskiy noted that Ukrainian troops decisively broke through the first line of defense near Zaporizhzhia and now expect faster success, as they will put pressure on the weaker second line. Tarnavskiy estimated that Russia devoted 60% of its time and resources to building the first line of defense and only 20% each to the second and third lines, as Moscow did not expect Ukrainian forces to advance further.

Losses of the Russian army from 28.08.2023 to 03.09.2023

Liquidated personnel	3840
Tanks	80
IFVs	95
Artillery systems / MLRS	179/11
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	4
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	66
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	248
Special equipment	33

✓ During the past week, Russians launched **52 missiles and 383 air strikes** and carried out over **385 attacks from multiple rocket launchers**.

Attack on the night of August 30

Overnight, Ukrainian Air Defense Forces shot down all 28 Russian X-101/X-555/X-55 cruise missiles and 15 of 16 Shahed drones.

- As a result of falling debris in Kyiv, two people were killed, and three others were injured. In the Kyiv oblast, three people were injured by the falling debris, and residential buildings were damaged.
- In the Zhytomyr oblast, the debris of a downed drone partially damaged an infrastructure facility and a railroad track.

Kyiv and Kyiv oblast

On the night of August 27, Ukrainian Air Defense Forces were operating in the Kyiv oblast. The debris of downed missiles damaged ten private houses, and two people were injured.

Poltava oblast

On the night of August 28, Russians attacked the village of Hoholeve in Poltava oblast, hitting an industrial facility. The shelling killed four people and injured five others.

Donetsk oblast

Russians continue terrorizing the oblast, shelling remote settlements and along the entire front line. On August 29, Russians launched a rocket attack on Rivne of the Myrnohrad community, damaging 12 houses and destroying a hangar. On the night of August 31, the occupiers shelled the Sloviansk community, killing one person and damaging the building of an enterprise in Myrne.

In the Volnovakha sector, Vuhledar, Bohoiavlenska, Prechystivka, Maksymivka, Komar, Velyka Novosilka, Vuhledar communities, Shevchenko, Shakhtarske, Novoukrainka, Bahatyr, Velyka Novosilka came under fire. Residential buildings and a shop were damaged.

In the Donetsk sector, Avdiivka, Kurakhove, Hrodivka, Selydove, Marinka, Novohrodivka, Ocheretyne communities, Hostre, Halytsynivka, Dalnie, Dachne, Kurakhivka, Kurakhove, Zavitne, Novooleksandrivka, Memryk, Krasnohorivka are affected. Residential buildings, a gymnasium, and a cultural building were damaged.

In the Horlivka sector, Kostiantynivka, Shakhove, Toretsk, Chasiv Yar, Soledar, Illinivka communities, Bilokuzmynivka, Kostiantynivka, New York (Niu York), Toretsk, Rozdolivka, Vasiukivka, Fedorivka, Poltavka, Pivnichne, Petrivka, Shcherbynivka, Dovha Balka came under fire. Residential buildings, high-rise buildings, a non-residential building, a mine building, an office building, and infrastructure facilities were damaged.

In the Lysychansk sector, Yampil, Lyman, Zvanivka communities, Siversk, Lyman, Zarichne, and Pereizne are affected. Private houses were damaged. There are wounded or dead in all directions.

Kherson and Kherson oblast

On August 27, Russians shelled a village in the Tiahynka community. A woman was killed, and another person was wounded. On the same day, Russia also shelled Kherson. A woman died on the street, and a seriously wounded man was hospitalized. On August 28, the Russians attacked Sadove, causing a shell to hit a house. One person died, and another was wounded. On August 29, Russians shelled Olhivka, where one person was injured. On September 1, Russians fired mortars at Kherson once again. A private house was hit, and a man was killed. On September 2, the Russians shelled Kherson again, damaging houses and a power line. Two people received shrapnel wounds. On the same day, Russia attacked Odradokamianka with guided aerial bombs. A 43-year-old man was killed, and one other wounded.

Kharkiv and Kharkiv oblast

On August 27, as a result of multiple rocket launcher attacks on the village of Odnorobivka in the Zolochiv community, a 39-year-old woman was killed. On August 29, as a result of the morning shelling of Kupiansk, a security guard of an enterprise was killed, and another man was wounded. The Russians damaged the buildings of the meat processing plant, an apartment building, and a private household. On the night of August 31, the Russians struck at Shyivivka. The shelling damaged power lines and a gas pipe.

Dnipropetrovsk oblast

On August 28, as a result of a drone attack in Nikopol, four people were injured. Also, an administrative building was damaged. In addition, the Russians attacked the Marhanets community.

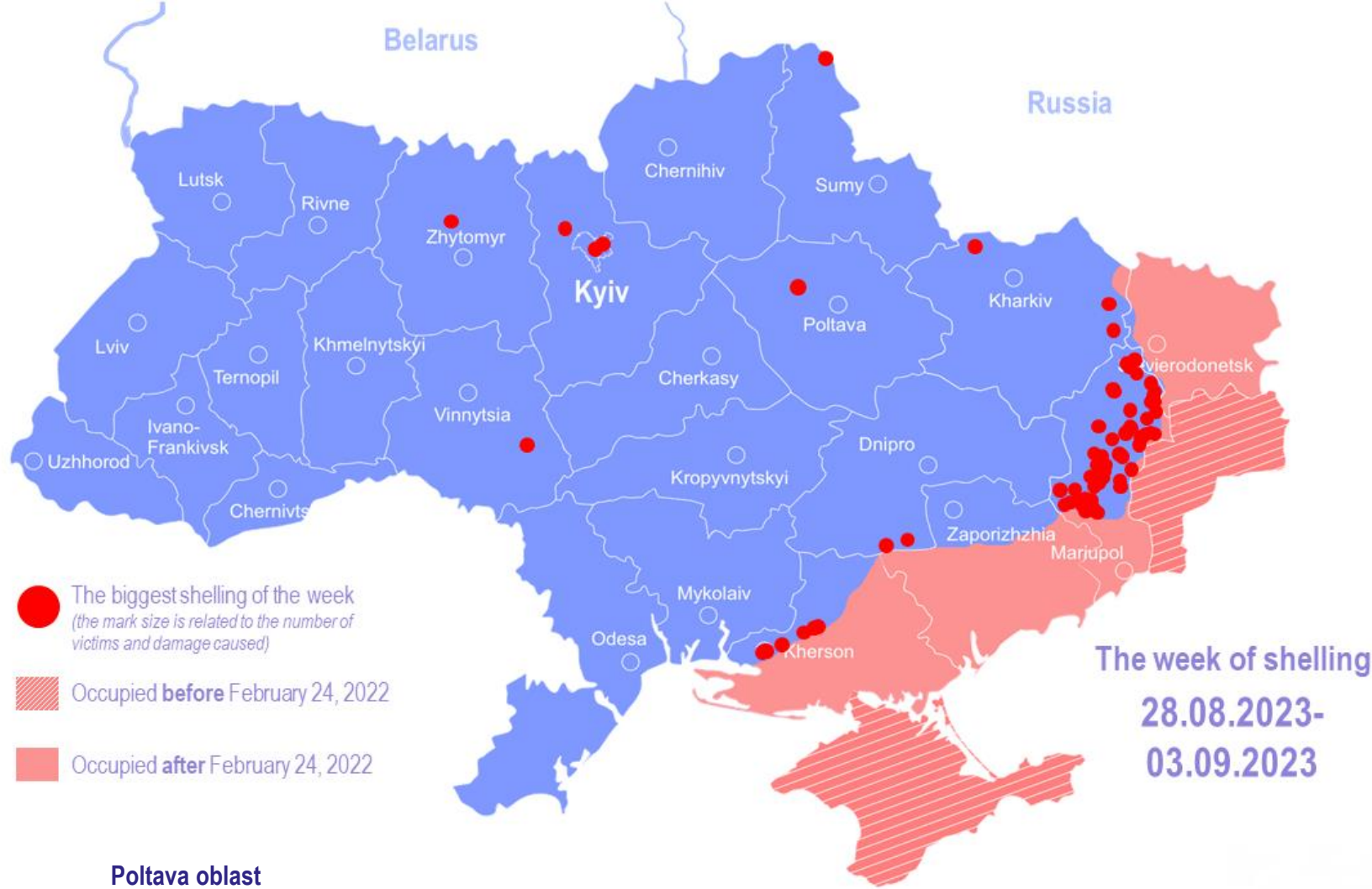
Sumy oblast

On September 2, in the border town of Serebryna-Buda, Russians shot at a Sumyoblenerho vehicle: two employees were injured, and a power line and the enterprise were damaged. A 32-year-old policeman was killed. He and his colleagues came under fire while recording the aftermath of the previous strikes.

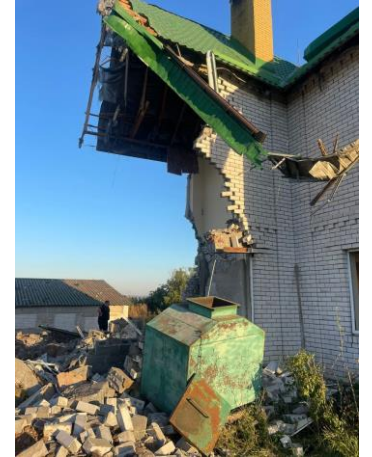
Vinnytsia oblast

On the night of September 1, Russians hit a private enterprise in Vinnytsia oblast with a Kalibr missile. Three people were injured.

This week shelling and strikes



Donetsk oblast



Poltava oblast



Humanitarian crisis

28.08

➤ Today marks the **500th day** since the defenders of Mariupol were taken prisoner by Russia. The relatives of the Mariupol border guards and Territorial Defense Forces soldiers gathered on Maidan Nezalezhnosti in Kyiv. They held a peaceful demonstration, calling on people not to forget about their loved ones who are **still in Russian captivity**.

29.08

➤ Ukraine has **returned the bodies of 84 more deceased defenders**, as reported by the Ministry of Reintegration.
 ➤ The government has allocated “unprecedented **funding**” for **rapid reconstruction** – more than 43 billion UAH (\$1,127,129,750.00 USD) from the Fund for the Liquidation of the Consequences of Armed Aggression. The funds will be used for the **urgent repair of energy facilities, supporting affected communities, building water pipelines in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast**, schools, hospitals, and shelters. Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal announced this, stating, “*These are the funds of the European Investment Bank that we are allocating to the budgets of city, village, and town communities in the territories controlled by Ukraine.*”
 ➤ The Russian occupation administration is opening **mobilization centers in Crimea**, particularly on the central waterfront in Alushta. This information was reported by the Representative Office of the President in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The occupiers plan to mobilize up to 30,000 people and summon up to 10,000 recruits.

30.08

➤ Russians are actively **bringing migrant workers from Russia to the temporarily occupied territories**. They are facing a labor shortage in the region because locals are refusing to cooperate with the Russians, according to the Center for National Resistance. Additionally, it is noted that due to a number of factors, the socio-economic situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk Oblast is deteriorating rapidly. Most industrial facilities are either not operating or have shifted to 4-day work weeks. Meanwhile, wage arrears are increasing.
 ➤ In Kharkiv, some children will attend school classes in person, but these **classes will be held at underground stations** instead of schools. The mayor of the city, Igor Terekhov, announced this on Telegram. According to him, as of yesterday, 60 such classes for 1,003 children have already been formed in Kharkiv.

31.08

➤ Ukrainian children are showing a **loss of knowledge** as the war and the COVID-19 pandemic that preceded it disrupt the educational process. This was stated by Regina De Dominicis, UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia.
 ➤ In 2022, **Russia stole and exported almost 6 million tons of grain** from the occupied territories of Ukraine, according to a US report. The stolen grain was transported by cargo ships to ports in Syria, Israel, Iran, Georgia, and Lebanon. However, the US is not sure whether the buyers of the Russian cargo knew about the Ukrainian origin of the grain.

31.08

➤ **Forced evacuation of children has been announced in five settlements of Zaporizhzhia Oblast**, as reported by the Ministry of Reintegration. It is planned to evacuate 54 children and 67 family members accompanying them. The settlements in question are Huliaipole, Stepnohivsk, Preobrazhenka, Yegorivka, and Novopavlivka. In addition to children, the mandatory evacuation will also apply to people with limited mobility.
 ➤ In Ukraine, the Russian army has already **damaged 1,624 cultural infrastructure facilities** during the war, almost a third of which have been completely destroyed (591 buildings), according to the Ministry of Culture.

01.09

➤ For more than a year, the **government grant program eRobota** has seen the Ukrainian government invest UAH 4.7 billion (\$123,197,903) in the development of **small and medium-sized enterprises**. This was announced by the First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, Yulia Svyrydenko. A prerequisite for receiving the grant is the creation of new jobs. “*These are investments not only in business revitalization – new companies have been opened, existing ones have increased production and are developing other areas – but also more than 20,000 new jobs for Ukrainians in these companies,*” Svyrydenko said.
 ➤ **Eleven children** aged 2 to 16, who were illegally detained by Russians in the temporarily occupied territories of Kherson Oblast, have **returned** to the territory controlled by Ukraine.
 ➤ Ukraine currently **has too few Russian prisoners to conduct an exchange** and release Ukrainian soldiers, said Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, 2,598 Ukrainian soldiers have been returned from Russian captivity. It is unknown how many occupants Ukraine has given up in return. A total of **48 exchanges have taken place**.
 ➤ Lubinets also said that it is **difficult for Ukraine to return its captured civilians**. “*Why? There are no international conventions. There is no algorithm for returning through the exchange procedure, for example, as for prisoners of war. There is no such desire to engage in this process as with Ukrainian children. The situation with civilian hostages is the worst,*” the ombudsman said.
 ➤ Two more ships left the Pivdennyi port in Odesa for Turkey. Bulk carriers with cast iron and iron ore concentrate had been in this port before the start of the full-scale Russian invasion and have been blocked there since then.

