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## Western NIS Enterprise Fund announces Relocated Enterprises Support Program

**May 9, 2022** – Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF) announces a new Ukrainian Relocated Enterprises Support Program. At the pilot phase of the Program, WNISEF has joined the martial law business support initiative of the Lviv Regional Military Administration (LRMA) and will double the amount of non-refundable financial assistance for businesses that relocate to the Lviv region.

*“Since the start of the full-scale Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, WNISEF kept on supporting SMEs in Ukraine. Ensuring the active operation of businesses, especially those that were forced to relocate to the western regions due to the threat of hostilities, is the key to economic recovery through job gains and tax payment, which is crucial for the functioning of the country during the war. Therefore, we are very pleased to contribute to the LRMA Business Support Program during martial law term,” said **Petro Kocherhan, WNISEF Relocated Business Support Program Coordinator.***

As part of the program, WNISEF will provide up to \$500,000 in non-refundable financial assistance to SMEs that have moved their operations from the war zone to the Lviv region. The program has minimized bureaucratic procedures, and for the very fact of formal re-registration of business activities in the Lviv region, the military administration and WNISEF will allocate separately 100,000 UAH of non-refundable financial assistance. Encouraging businesses to renew operations, WNISEF and LRMA pledged to double this amount to 200,000 UAH if SME creates 20 new jobs. The process of registration and selection of participants will be carried out by the LRMA Department of Economic Policy, which decision is the only requirement for SME to receive an additional grant from WNISEF.

More than a hundred relocated enterprises have already moved to the Lviv region, more than 50 of them have gone into action, mainly in the mechanical engineering, consumer industry and metalworking sectors.

A number of relocated enterprises have already applied for this Program. As part of it, the Lviv Regional Military Administration plans to create more than 2.5 thousand new jobs in the region.

We encourage SMEs eligible for this Program to apply directly to the military administration. Moreover, WNISEF will consider further support for enterprises that will take part in the Program, including expertise, consulting, support at the international exhibitions, etc.

We believe that the rapid renewal of business operations will boost the recovery and growth of the Ukrainian economy.

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*Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF) is a \$150 million regional fund, a pioneer in Ukraine and Moldova with over 25 years of successful experience in investing in small and medium-sized companies. WNISEF was funded by the U.S. government via the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Since its inception, WNISEF’s cumulative investments total over \$186 million to 130 companies employing 26,000 people and made it possible to unlock \$2,2 billion for companies in Ukraine and Moldova. In 2015 WNISEF has launched a \$35 million legacy program focused on export promotion, local economic development, impact investing and economic leadership. WNISEF is funding innovative, high-impact, reform focused programs, aiming to transform lives of the ordinary people in Ukraine and Moldova.. [www.wnisef.org](http://www.wnisef.org).*

