



CHERNIHIV REGION: BUSINESS & INVESTMENT LANDSCAPE



Chernihiv Region | 2026

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1 OVERVIEW

The Chernihiv region is a border and predominantly rural region of northern Ukraine with a diversified economic structure and significant natural, human, and infrastructural assets.

Despite the challenges caused by the full-scale war, the region continues to function as an important agricultural, industrial, and logistics area, demonstrating a high level of resilience and adaptability.

This catalogue presents an overview of the region's business sectors, investment potential, and partnership opportunities, with information presented at an aggregated level in line with a responsible and risk-aware approach.

It is designed to support informed dialogue with international donors, financial partners, and private investors interested in economic cooperation, municipal and regional partnerships, and long-term sustainable development in the Chernihiv region.

The economic profile of the Chernihiv region is shaped by a strong agri-food sector, forestry and bioeconomy, manufacturing and processing industries, energy infrastructure, and a growing network of small and medium-sized enterprises. The region combines traditional economic activities with emerging opportunities linked to the green transition, innovation, and smart specialisation.

The Chernihiv region offers a practical platform for pilot projects, blended finance initiatives, and public-private cooperation models that support recovery, economic diversification, and the resilience of local economies.

2 WHY CHERNIHIV REGION? STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES

The Chernihiv region offers a combination of strategic location, resource availability, and institutional capacity that creates favourable conditions for business development, economic cooperation, and investment partnerships.

Natural and Resource Base

The Chernihiv region is characterized by extensive agricultural land, significant forest coverage, and abundant water resources. These assets provide a strong foundation for agri-food production, forestry, bio-based industries, renewable energy, and green economy projects.

Economic Diversity and SME Presence

The regional economy is diversified, with a strong presence of small and medium-sized enterprises across agriculture, processing, manufacturing, logistics, and services. This structure enhances flexibility and adaptability, while supporting localized value chains and partnership-based growth.

Human Capital and Local Capacity

The region benefits from a skilled workforce with experience in traditional industries, processing, and technical professions. Local authorities and communities demonstrate growing capacity in project development, international cooperation, and implementation of partner-supported initiatives.

Resilience-Oriented Development Approach

Operating in a complex security environment, the Chernihiv region has developed practical experience in risk management, continuity of operations, and recovery planning. This experience strengthens its attractiveness for partners interested in resilient investment models and scalable pilot projects.

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ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF THE REGION

The economic structure of the Chernihiv region is largely shaped by resource-based and processing-oriented activities, with a diversified mix of large enterprises and small and medium-sized businesses across key sectors, and increasing attention to localized value creation.

Agriculture and agri-food processing form the backbone of the regional economy, supported by extensive agricultural land, traditional farming practices, and emerging processing capacities. The sector increasingly shifts toward value-added production, diversification of outputs, and integration of processing stages closer to primary production.

Forestry and wood-based industries represent another key component of the regional economy. Forest resources support timber processing, bio-based products, and related manufacturing activities, creating opportunities for integrated production chains and sustainable resource use.

Manufacturing and industrial processing in the region are primarily oriented toward food processing, construction materials, light manufacturing, and selected industrial goods. These activities are typically organized around small and medium-sized enterprises, which contribute to flexibility, adaptability, and resilience of the regional economy.

Energy-related activities, including conventional and renewable energy solutions, play a supporting role in the regional economic structure, particularly in relation to industrial operations, public infrastructure, and emerging green economy initiatives.

Overall, the economic structure of the Chernihiv region reflects a gradual transition from raw material supply toward processing, manufacturing, and full-cycle production models. This transition reduces dependency on long-distance logistics, strengthens local value chains, and creates a foundation for sustainable economic cooperation and investment partnerships.

Building on its strategic advantages, the Chernihiv region offers several clear entry points for cooperation with international donors, financial institutions, and municipal partners.

4 ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTNERS

4.1 For International Donors & International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

The Chernihiv region offers a practical and risk-aware platform for international donors and international financial institutions seeking to support recovery-oriented economic development, resilience, and sustainable local economies in Ukraine.

The region combines a diversified economic base, strong local institutional capacity, and hands-on experience in operating under complex conditions. This creates favourable conditions for pilot initiatives, blended finance instruments, and scalable solutions aligned with international recovery and development priorities.

Key features for donor and IFI engagement include:

- 1 → Readiness for pilot and phased investments, allowing risk-managed entry through technical assistance, grants, and blended finance mechanisms.
- 2 → Strong alignment with recovery, resilience, and green transition priorities, particularly in agri-food processing, energy efficiency, bioeconomy, and industrial modernisation.
- 3 → Opportunities for blended finance and risk-sharing, combining donor support, concessional financing, guarantees, and private capital.
- 4 → Local institutional counterparts capable of supporting project preparation, coordination, and implementation in cooperation with international partners.
- 5 → Replication potential, enabling successful pilots to be scaled across municipalities and sectors within the region and beyond.

The Chernihiv region is particularly suitable for donor-supported programmes that integrate investment with technical assistance, capacity building, and institutional strengthening, ensuring long-term sustainability and measurable development impact.

4.2 For EU Municipal and Regional Partners

The Chernihiv region is open to practical, peer-to-peer cooperation with municipalities and regions from the European Union, based on shared challenges, mutual learning, and joint implementation of recovery and development initiatives.

Cooperation is envisioned as municipal-to-municipal and region-to-region partnerships, focused on concrete themes and achievable pilot actions rather than abstract cooperation frameworks.

Priority areas for municipal cooperation include:

- 1 → Energy efficiency, decentralised energy solutions, and municipal utilities, including heating, public buildings, and infrastructure modernisation.
- 2 → Support to local economies and SMEs, value chains, and business support ecosystems at the municipal level.
- 3 → Post-crisis recovery and resilience planning, including risk-aware service delivery and continuity of operations.
- 4 → Green transition and circular approaches in waste management, energy use, and resource efficiency.
- 5 → Exchange of expertise, joint pilots, and technical cooperation, supported by EU programmes and donor instruments.

The region offers an environment where EU municipal partners can engage through step-by-step cooperation: starting with dialogue and thematic matching, progressing to joint pilot projects, and scaling successful approaches through EU and international funding mechanisms.

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PRIORITY BUSINESS SECTORS

The Chernihiv region's business landscape is shaped by several priority sectors that offer practical entry points for cooperation, investment, and pilot initiatives focused on value creation, processing, and resilient production systems.



Agri-Food Production and Processing

Agri-food production remains a core sector of the regional economy, supported by extensive agricultural land and established farming practices. Current development trends emphasize value-added processing, food manufacturing, and integration of production stages closer to primary agriculture, creating opportunities for full-cycle agri-food operations.



Forestry, Wood Processing, and Bioeconomy

Forestry and wood-based industries play an important role in the regional economy. Forest resources support timber processing, bio-based materials, and related manufacturing activities. The sector offers potential for sustainable forestry management, deeper processing, and circular bioeconomy solutions.



Manufacturing and Industrial Processing

Manufacturing activities in the region include food processing, construction materials, light manufacturing, and selected industrial products. Investment opportunities focus on modernization, expansion of processing capacity, and development of integrated production systems that reduce reliance on external supply chains.



Energy and Green Transition

The energy sector supports industrial activity and public infrastructure, with increasing attention to energy efficiency, renewable energy solutions, and cogeneration.

Opportunities include modernization of energy systems, decentralized energy generation, combined heat and power (CHP) solutions, and integration of energy infrastructure into industrial and municipal projects.



Materials, Construction, and Industrial Inputs

The availability of natural and industrial inputs creates opportunities in construction materials and related industries. The sector supports regional reconstruction needs while enabling production models oriented toward domestic demand and long-term economic sustainability.

Creative, Cultural, and Related Service Industries

Creative and cultural activities contribute to local economic diversification and place-based development. Opportunities include cultural production, creative services, and tourism-related value chains, implemented in formats compatible with local context and sustainable development goals.

6 SMART SPECIALISATION AND INNOVATION POTENTIAL

The smart specialisation approach in the Chernihiv region is oriented toward strengthening existing economic sectors through innovation, modernization, and deeper value creation rather than the development of isolated high-tech niches. Innovation is viewed as a practical tool for increasing efficiency, sustainability, and resilience across traditional industries.

Agri-Food Innovation and Processing Technologies

Innovation in the agri-food sector focuses on modern processing technologies, food safety, storage, and logistics optimization within localized value chains. Priority areas include technological upgrading of processing facilities, product diversification, and integration of digital solutions into agricultural and food production processes.

Bioeconomy and Resource-Based Innovation

The region's forest and agricultural resources create a foundation for bioeconomy-related innovation, including bio-based materials, bioenergy solutions, and circular production models. Innovation efforts emphasize efficient resource use, waste reduction, and integration of by-products into full-cycle production systems.

Industrial Modernisation and Process Innovation

Innovation potential in manufacturing is linked to modernization of equipment, energy efficiency improvements, automation, and process optimisation. These innovations support productivity growth and enable industrial enterprises to adapt to changing market and operational conditions.

Energy Innovation and Decentralised Solutions

Smart specialisation in energy includes energy efficiency technologies, renewable energy integration, and cogeneration solutions adapted to industrial and municipal needs. Decentralised energy systems support production stability, cost efficiency, and reduced dependency on external supply chains.

Digital Solutions as an Enabling Layer

Digital technologies are applied as cross-cutting tools supporting production management, quality control, energy monitoring, and public service delivery. Rather than a standalone sector, digitalisation enhances innovation capacity across agri-food, manufacturing, energy, and municipal services.

7 INVESTMENT AND PARTNERSHIP MODELS

The Chernihiv region approaches investment and partnership development through flexible, risk-aware, and cooperation-based models adapted to the current operating context. The region prioritizes partnerships that combine public, private, and international resources to support sustainable economic development, resilience, and long-term value creation.

Public–Private Partnerships (PPP)

Public–private partnerships are considered a key mechanism for implementing infrastructure, energy, and industrial projects. PPP models support shared risk allocation, long-term planning, and efficient use of public assets, particularly in sectors related to production infrastructure, energy systems, and municipal services.

Blended Finance and Risk–Sharing Models

Given the current operating environment, blended finance approaches play an important role in enabling investment. These models combine grants, concessional financing, guarantees, and private capital to reduce investment risks and unlock projects that may not be feasible through purely commercial financing.

Donor–Business–Municipal Cooperation

The region actively supports cooperation formats that bring together local authorities, businesses, and international partners. Such models are particularly relevant for pilot projects, industrial modernization, energy efficiency, and full-cycle production initiatives aligned with regional development priorities.

These cooperation formats may also involve civil society organizations in advisory, implementation, or monitoring roles, contributing to transparency, community engagement, and the sustainability of investment initiatives.

Pilot Projects and Scalable Solutions

Pilot projects serve as a practical entry point for cooperation, allowing partners to test technologies, business models, and operational approaches at a manageable scale. Successful pilots can be scaled up across sectors and territories, creating replicable solutions for regional development.

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Investment initiatives are often complemented by technical assistance and capacity-building components. These include project preparation, feasibility studies, institutional strengthening, and skills development, ensuring that investments are sustainable and supported by local capacity.

Institutional Coordination and Project Facilitation

The region emphasizes coordinated project facilitation through designated institutional counterparts that support partner engagement, project alignment with regional strategies, and communication throughout the project lifecycle. This approach helps ensure transparency, continuity, and effective implementation.

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INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSETS

The Chernihiv region's infrastructure and industrial assets provide a functional foundation for production-oriented activities, investment projects, and municipal cooperation, while operating within a risk-aware and adaptive context.

Industrial and Production Infrastructure

The region has a network of existing industrial and production facilities that support agriculture, processing industries, manufacturing, and construction-related activities. These assets include production sites, storage capacities, and supporting infrastructure suitable for modernization, repurposing, and integration into full-cycle production models.

Energy Infrastructure and Utilities

Energy and utility systems support industrial operations, public services, and municipal infrastructure across the region. Opportunities for cooperation focus on modernization, energy efficiency improvements, decentralized energy solutions, and cogeneration systems that enhance reliability and reduce operational costs for production and public facilities.

Transport and Connectivity (Operational Context)

Transport infrastructure supports internal connectivity and access to domestic and external markets, while current conditions require adaptive logistics solutions. Investment and partnership opportunities are oriented toward improving efficiency, reliability, and flexibility of transport and supply systems serving production-oriented activities, rather than large-scale transit functions.

Land and Industrial Assets (Aggregated Overview)

The region offers land and industrial assets suitable for investment and development. These assets may support industrial projects, processing facilities, energy solutions, and municipal infrastructure initiatives aligned with regional development priorities.

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HUMAN CAPITAL AND WORKFORCE CAPACITY

Human capital is a key enabling factor for economic activity and investment in the Chernihiv region. The region benefits from a workforce with experience in agriculture, processing industries, manufacturing, energy, and technical professions, reflecting its resource-based and industrial economic structure.

Workforce Profile and Skills Base

The regional workforce includes specialists with practical skills relevant to agri-food processing, forestry and wood-based industries, construction, energy, and light manufacturing. This skills base supports production-oriented activities and provides a foundation for further modernization and technological upgrading.

Education, Training, and Skills Development

Educational and vocational institutions in the region contribute to workforce development through technical training and professional education aligned with regional economic needs. Ongoing efforts focus on reskilling and upskilling to support modern production processes, energy efficiency, and the adoption of new technologies.

Adaptability and Workforce Resilience

Experience gained in operating under changing economic and operational conditions has strengthened workforce adaptability and problem-solving capacity. This adaptability supports the implementation of new production models, including integrated and full-cycle production systems that require flexibility across multiple stages of the value chain.

Human Capital in Investment and Partnership Projects

Human capital development is closely linked to investment and partnership initiatives. Projects in manufacturing, processing, energy, and municipal infrastructure often combine capital investment with training, skills development, and capacity-building components to ensure sustainable operation and long-term impact.

10 OPERATING ENVIRONMENT AND RISK AWARENESS

The operating environment in the Chernihiv region is shaped by a complex and evolving context, which has strengthened the region's focus on risk-aware planning and adaptive project management. Economic activity and investment initiatives are implemented with careful consideration of operational, regulatory, and security-related factors.

Risk Awareness and Management

Regional authorities and partners apply risk-aware approaches to project planning and implementation, including phased development, flexible project design, and contingency planning. These practices support continuity of operations and protect investments in dynamic conditions.

Adaptive Project Implementation

Projects are designed to allow for adjustment over time, enabling partners to respond to changing conditions without compromising long-term objectives. Pilot initiatives, modular solutions, and staged investments are used to manage uncertainty and scale successful approaches.

Institutional Coordination and Continuity

Institutional coordination supports continuity of public services and project implementation. Clear communication channels and cooperation mechanisms between public authorities and partners help ensure stability, transparency, and effective decision-making.

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INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND POSSIBLE PATHWAYS FOR COOPERATION

The Chernihiv region provides institutional support to facilitate cooperation with international partners, investors, and development actors throughout the project lifecycle. Regional and local authorities act as coordination points, ensuring alignment of initiatives with regional development priorities and existing strategic frameworks.

Institutional Coordination and Partner Engagement

Designated institutional counterparts support partner engagement by facilitating communication, coordinating across public entities, and assisting with project alignment at regional and municipal levels. This approach helps ensure clarity of roles, continuity of cooperation, and effective decision-making.

Project Preparation and Facilitation

Institutional support includes assistance with project identification, preliminary scoping, and coordination of project preparation activities. This may involve support for feasibility assessments, alignment with funding instruments, and integration of technical assistance components where appropriate.

From Dialogue to Implementation

The region encourages a step-by-step approach to cooperation, beginning with structured dialogue and progressing toward pilot initiatives, investment projects, or partnership agreements. This phased approach allows partners to assess opportunities, manage risks, and build trust prior to scaling cooperation.

Next Steps for Partners

Interested partners are invited to engage in exploratory discussions to identify areas of mutual interest and potential cooperation formats. Subsequent steps may include joint concept development, pilot project design, or integration into existing investment and partnership frameworks supporting sustainable regional development.

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