

NATO declares Ukraine ‘enhanced opportunities partner’

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By: RT  
12/06/2020



NATO declared Kiev one of the major contributors to the Alliance cause outside of the military bloc itself, adding Ukraine to the list of *“Enhanced Opportunities Partners”* – nations that were granted access to the NATO Partnership Interoperability Initiative (PII). Launched in 2014, the program is aimed at *“deepening connections built up between NATO and its partner forces.”*

Under the PII, nations that *“made significant contributions to NATO-led operations and missions”* get access to political consultation with NATO members, interoperability programmes and exercises and information sharing. Ukraine made it to the list since it *“provided troops to Allied operations, including in Afghanistan and Kosovo, as well as to the NATO Response Force and NATO exercises,”* NATO said in a statement.

Kiev becomes the sixth partner on the list that so far includes Australia, Finland, Georgia, Jordan and Sweden.

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