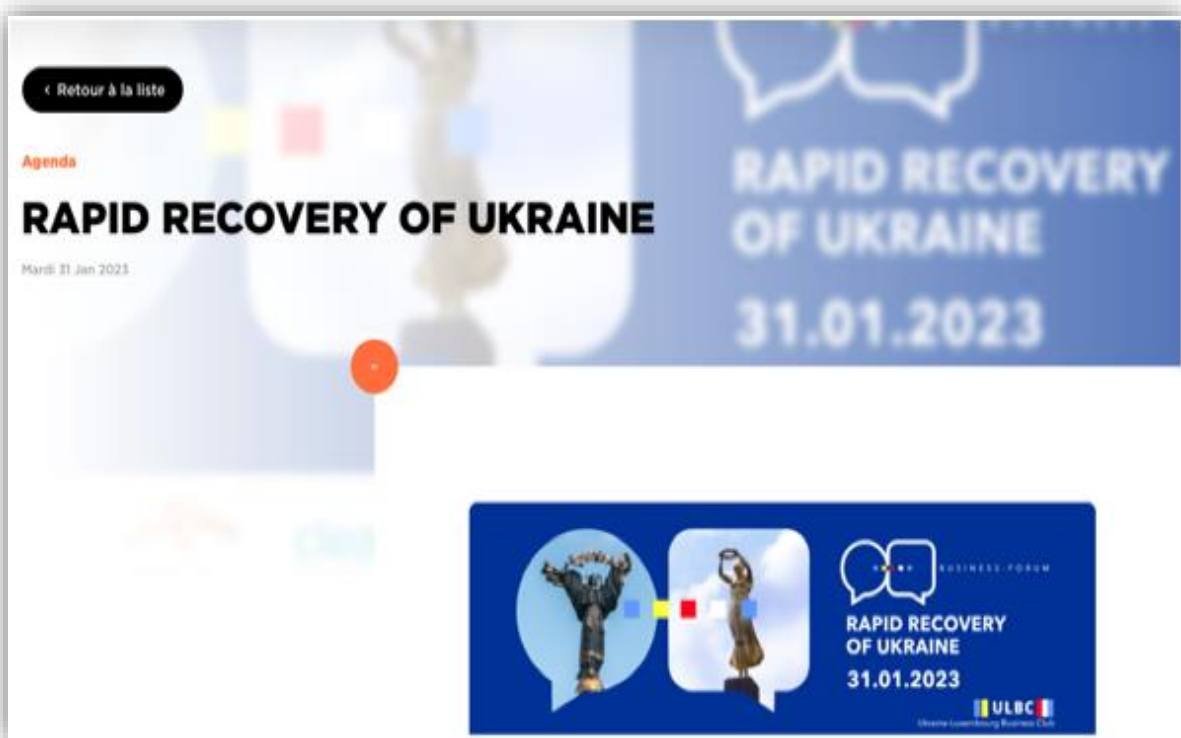




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2023 Periodic Activity Report Intercultural Cities Network of Ukraine January - April 2023



The opinions expressed in this document are the responsibility of the author Dr. Kseniya Rubicondo, Coordinator of the Intercultural Cities Network of Ukraine and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe. This document is published as it was submitted to the secretariat.

Summary

Within the first few months of the year, members of Ukrainian Intercultural Cities Network continued working together to address intercultural, social and economic challenges in their communities and regions, demonstrating their strong commitment to human values and intercultural policy principles under any circumstances. A milestone event of this period was the forum "Rapid Recovery of Ukraine" organized by the government of Luxembourg in January 2023, which brought together representatives of 50 Ukrainian cities - including ICCUA members - and Ukrainian government officials, local communities' and state representatives from Luxembourg, NGOs, business and financial sectors, as well as international organizations such as the European Investment Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Commission and others.

Network coordination and activities

Discussions were held by the national ICCUA coordinator with Canadian, Italian, Norwegian and Polish members of the ICC Global with the prospects to trigger partnership or solidarity actions. Contacts were also made with the Ukrainian Embassy in Oslo and the Luxembourg-Ukraine Foundation in Luxembourg.

As a consequence, much needed and tangible support was provided by the ICC City of Montreal and the ICC City of Lublin by securing resources for the purchase and delivery of electric generators to the Ukrainian ICC cities of Pavlohrad, Sumy, Lutsk, Odessa and Vinnytsia. "Resistance points" were created in public libraries and cultural centres in these cities, providing small heated spaces to welcome city residents and displaced persons during the winter months to warm up, drink a cup of tea, chat, and charge their phones.



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A big Thank You from ICC Lutsk 🇺🇦 to @LABRRRL_Montreal 🇨🇦, @bobwhite_88, Anastasiia Mykolenko, & #ICC_Ukraine coordinator for the power generator that enabled a heating point in our city library! Despite the distance we feel your powerful energy of light and care! 🙌 @CoE_Antidiscr



Another member of the ICC Global, the City of Stavanger, Norway, continued its support of the ICC Ukrainian network by providing financial assistance to local communities' projects that focus on addressing the challenges their increasingly diverse populations are facing due to the current situation in Ukraine.

In order to launch the Y2023 process, national ICCUA coordinator surveyed ICC-Ukraine network members in January to find out their most pressing needs and asked them to submit draft project ideas in Ukrainian that could help them meet those needs. As a result, a set of new project proposals was collected - with an exception of the City of Melitopol whose ICC team requested more time due to relocation to the Zaporizhzhia region - from ICCUA cities for implementation in 2023 with support from Stavanger:

- “Art-installations in city public space” project (Lutsk) for children and youth to involve them in art making, as a method of therapy and stabilization. Art installations to be created by local and IDP youth and exhibited in open space of the city popularizing cultural heritage of the national minorities and IDPs residing in Lutsk.
- "Points of kindness and care" (Pavlohrad): a city-wide project for young people involving minority and IDPs, to be implemented within the city's library network: thematic readings, game and art therapy courses, musical discoveries.
- “My inner resources” – psychological and professional skills training for youth including national minorities (Vinnytsia).
- “Interculturalism in public space” – face-to-face and on-line meetings (Sumy) in a series of intercultural events organized by the city as part of its "Re-building Intercultural City" initiative launched last year.
- “Cultural Diplomacy” project (Odesa) harnessing the creative potential of different cultures and art to respond to the evolving needs of the city's residents and odesites abroad.

The first [Annual ICC-Ukraine local coordinators](#) meeting was held on 10 March 2023, the contents and agenda of which was shared with the ICC team Strasbourg. During the meeting, the details and perspectives of the implementation of the projects that qualify for Stavanger’s support and their results delivery were discussed in detail, relevant issues were addressed, questions answered. See the meeting agenda attached.

Cooperation with Luxembourg-Ukraine Foundation and the government of Luxembourg resulted in bringing together 50 Ukrainian cities and Ukrainian state government officials, and almost ten times more of the representatives of Luxembourgish communities, representatives of non-government, business and financial sector, as well as those of the state government of Luxembourg and international organizations for a two-day forum “Rapid

Recovery of Ukraine” hosted jointly by Luxembourgish government and businesses in Luxembourg. Mayors of Ukrainian ICC cities contributed to the panel discussions as well as had an opportunity to meet with their EU counterparts in person to pave the way for the future of Ukraine within the framework of [Ukraine’s National Recovery Plan](#).

The work of the national ICCUA coordinator is also ongoing with the ICC city of Lublin, in particular, on creating the opportunity to bring young people from ICCUA cities to the Youth Summit in Poland in 2023.

Furthermore, thanks to the ICC Cities Programme support, one of the ICCUA members, the city of Vinnytsia, joined the international Placemaking Europe initiative this year and took part in presence and on-line in [Placemaking Europe’s event in Amsterdam in March 2023](#). ICC Vinnytsia team of architects is now working on the concept of a placemaking project to be launched in one of the city’s marginalized areas. Its presentation to the ICCUA network is planned for the summer 2023 in an on-line event.

Both the members of the ICCUA network and the national coordinator cooperate with the Association of Ukrainian Cities on a regular basis, building on the well-established relationships that have been formed through the ICCUA cities' membership in the Association. As an example, the representatives of the ICCUA cities and the national

coordinator were invited, together with the heads of AUC regional offices, to participate in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities under the auspices of the President of Ukraine, the key message of which was "Our resilience lies in our quick recovery".



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On March 4, together with members of the Association of Ukrainian Cities, heads of regional offices, ICCUA coordinator took part in Congress of Local & Regional Authorities under the President of Ukraine. The key message: "Our resilience is in our quick recovery"
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The national ICCUA coordinator also assisted the ICC Team Strasbourg in reviewing the translation of the Model Framework for Intercultural Integration Strategy at national level to Ukrainian (CDADI 2021/6), one of the crucial documents for the implementation of the Council of Europe’s Action Plan 2023-2026 in Ukraine, and in particular to the consolidation of democratic and integration processes in the country, focusing on the challenges faced by the local authorities in different regions of Ukraine in the current context.

Communication

During this period, the ICCUA network ensured its visibility and media presence by regularly sharing news and updates with the Council of Europe Intercultural Cities Programme (incl. for newsletter and website), as well as via social media, ICCUA member-cities' official webpages, ICCUA social media accounts using the ICC programme common branding and following guidance from the ICC Unit.

The members of the ICCUA network remain in constant contact with the national coordinator and with one another, despite their current location.

Next steps

The Ukrainian ICC cities continue their work on the development and implementation of new intercultural initiatives focused on the current needs of their increasingly diverse communities, that include cities' natives, IDPs, and national minority representatives.

In this light, the network members will work on the implementation of the ICC projects supported by the city of Stavanger, Norway, and pursue their collaborative efforts with other international partners. The network is also planning an online event in summer 2023, where a Ukrainian Placemaking Europe member, the ICC city of Vinnytsia, will share its experience and concept of a project to be launched in one of the marginalized areas of the city with ICCUA network members.



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**Meeting of ICC-Ukraine Local Coordinators
10 March 2023, 9.30 – 11.30 (CET)**

On-line

Moderated by the national coordinator

AGENDA

- 9.30 - 9.35** **Opening of the meeting & objectives**
➤ *ICC-Ukraine national coordinator*
- 9.35 - 10.00** **Updates on the situation in Ukrainian ICC Cities, *Local Coordinators***
➤ *The City of Lutsk*
➤ *The City of Melitopol*
➤ *The City of Odesa*
➤ *The City of Pavlohrad*
➤ *The City of Sumy*
➤ *The City of Vinnytsia*
- 10.00 – 10.15** **Summary of the work implemented by the ICCUA cities in 2022 based on**
[2022 ICCUA Annual Report](#)
- 10.15 – 11.15** **Planning for the future:**
- *Outline of the activities and objectives of the ICC Programme in 2023*
- *ICCUA priorities and challenges for the year 2023*
- *Participation of the ICCUA members in Placemaking Europe initiative*
- *Exploring the possibilities for future cooperation between ICCUA and ICC Global members and other bodies to trigger partnership and support actions and opportunities for exchanges taking into account the current situation in Ukraine: Lublin (PL) youth summit, collaboration with Stavanger (NO), Association of UA Cities, and others.*
- *Good practice identification and reporting*
- *Setting the date of the next ICCUA Network meeting*
- 11.15– 11.30** **Summary & Conclusions**

