



ICC-Ukraine Progress Report

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During the first two months of 2022, ICC-UA Network members continued to work closely together and in collaboration with the national coordinator to implement the intercultural policy approach as a means to realize the benefits of diversity in their communities. Significant efforts were made in implementing the ICC Anti-rumours (ARS) approach in 2021, with the support of the ICC grant for ICC-UA network activities. In particular, key rumors and prejudices towards cultural diversity were mapped and classified, webinars on the ARS methodology were conducted, alternative narratives were designed in relation to the identified rumors and published by each participating city, ARS visions of success for each city were developed, a cross-network ARS communication campaign and analysis of the impact of the ARS approach launch in Ukraine were carried out. In 2022, ICC-UA member cities focused primarily on scaling up the implementation of the ARS policy in their communities and regions.

The first meeting of the ICCUA local coordinators was held on 16 February, 2022 with the aim of discussing priorities, planning annual activities of the ICC-Ukraine network, and identifying new opportunities and avenues for effective implementation of members' intercultural strategies, taking into account the geopolitical situation in Ukraine. It was noted at the meeting that the geopolitical situation added a considerable degree of uncertainty to the daily life and functioning of the cities and their administrations, making long-term planning more challenging.

As a result of this meeting, a biannual ICC-UA 2022 action plan containing a number of joint pan-Ukrainian intercultural initiatives was prepared, based on the activity input from the local coordinators, and submitted to the ICC Secretariat. In February 2022, the ICC-UA national coordinator also prepared and submitted a proposal for a 2022 ICC-UA network's activities support grant according to the following priorities identified:

- continue the implementation of the Antirumour approach, as the initiative requires a long-term investment to:
 - mobilize wider audiences through Antirumour campaigns in all ICC-Ukraine cities,
 - identify and train Antirumour agents, carry out sufficient number of ARS workshops and seminars locally,
 - gain support to expand the ARS movement launched in Ukraine in 2021 to the regional and national levels,

- to ensure that the ICC Antirumour methodology is well understood and mastered by local Antirumour teams.
- Continue to promote minority rights and the diversity of languages, including those of Roma and indigenous people;
- Ensure proper structure, process and quality of reporting on the ICC Index by members of the Ukrainian network through the use of ICC capacity building tools;
- Create more opportunities for cross-cultural mixing, direct communication and dialogue, organization of ICC events and initiatives, while highlighting the benefits of cultural diversity for urban communities;
- Ensure the visibility of the network's activities and to promote the mission and values of the ICC Programme of the Council of Europe.

The local ICC-UA coordinators expressed their willingness to work more in partnership with ICC cities from the EU or other Council of Europe member states, in order to promote democratic values and principles in a more effective and practical way and to counteract information wars and fake news.

A number of cities, including Odessa, Lutsk, Pavlograd, Sumy and Melitopol, carried out some inspiring ICC initiatives in the first two months of 2022, the reports, FB or Twitter posts about which were also shared with the Global Network.

- ***On January 22, the city of Pavlohrad*** organized an online event "Unity Microphone" to commemorate the historic reunion of Ukraine with the participation of ICC-Ukraine cities.
- ***On February 3, the city of Lutsk*** officially published the ICC Strategy of the City of Lutsk as part of the development program of the local authority for 2022-2025.
- ***On February 21***, in commemoration of ***the World Mother Language Day***, a few events were organized throughout the ICC-Ukraine network, taking into account the priorities of the network for 2022 and recognizing linguistic diversity as a means of inclusion. The most important ones took place in the cities of ***Sumy*** and ***Melitopol***, aiming to promote the richness and value of different languages and cultures, to cultivate the appreciation of the mother tongue as a "primary resource of every individual" and valuable heritage of every nation living in Ukraine, and to form positive attitudes towards linguistic diversity. A relevant news article was also published.
- ***The city of Odessa*** prepared an Antirumour Brochure in English that contains some unique alternative narratives from the city.

In general, ICCUA cities have been regularly conducting their ICC Index analyses and were keen to stay abreast of the most recent updates, requirements or changes. Therefore, 10 March was agreed as the date for a one-day online training session on the ICCUA Index to be delivered by the national coordinator. Three of the six members of the ICCUA network were

planning to conduct their ICC Index analysis in 2022.

ICC-UA network's 2022 activity plans were unprecedentedly interrupted by the violent aggression of Ukraine by its neighbor on 24 February 2022. None of the local city coordinators or mayors have left their communities, despite numerous threats and kidnappings. Almost half of ICC-UA cities are occupied today, but the local administrations continue to provide local services, channel humanitarian aid, save the infrastructure of the cities to the extent possible, as many means of transportation and communication are being destroyed by the aggressor, thus saving the lives of their people, their communities, their country, and having faith in victory.

The ICC-UA cities remain in continuous contact with the national coordinator providing information on their main humanitarian and other needs in order to seek support from the ICC Global and the international community as a whole. Striving to provide maximum support to ICCUA and other Ukrainian cities in these difficult times, the ICCUA national coordinator has been actively involved in many relevant activities initiated by the Council of Europe, the ICC Programme or other international initiatives, including the international marathon "[Local Governments Unite for Welfare and Peace](#)" dedicated to discussing the emergency situation in Ukraine and offering advice and support to Ukrainian local authorities; [Intercultural Cities' #Stand With Ukraine initiative](#); [Cities4Cities](#), an online platform for Ukrainian and other European cities, created to match the demands and needs of Ukrainian cities with the capacities, know-how and supply of other European cities and to provide direct city-to-city support addressing the daily challenges of the population.