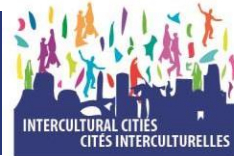




INTERCULTURAL CITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING WALLS



Meeting of ICC-Ukraine Local Coordinators

26 July 2022, 10.00 – 12.30 (Kyiv)

Online



The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.

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AGENDA

10.00 - 10.10 **Opening of the meeting & Objectives**

10.10 - 11.00 **Updates on the situation in Ukrainian ICC Cities**

- *The City of Lutsk*
- *The City of Melitopol*
- *The City of Odessa*
- *The City of Pavlohrad*
- *The City of Sumy*
- *The City of Vinnytsia*

11.00 – 11.30 **Overview of ICC activities in the cities-members of the ICCUA: challenges, progress & unresolved issues**

11.30 – 12.00 **Planning for the future: events & cooperation**

- *Identifying current needs of ICC-UA cities and the ways to address them*
- *Exploring the possibilities for future cooperation between the ICC-UA and other ICC member cities to trigger partnership, support, solidarity actions and occasions for exchanges in particular in relation to the challenges arising from the current situation in Ukraine*
- *Identification and approval of the date of the next ICC-UA meeting*

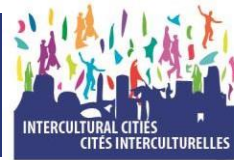
12.00– 12.15 **ICC Business & Discussion**

- *ICC requirements regarding the ICC/CoE logo use in online and other publications*
- *Upcoming ICC study visit to Spain and the "Communication and Media Training for Mayors: Promoting Intercultural Narratives in Difficult Times"*

12.15– 12.30 **Summary & Conclusions**



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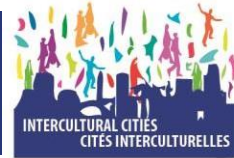
Opening & Objectives

The national coordinator opened the third meeting in 2022 of the Ukrainian ICC Network by welcoming the participants and conveying words of support for the network members, especially in light of the latest attacks on civilians in the cities of Vinnytsia and Odessa. The agenda was introduced, and the meeting moved on to its first item, namely the cities' updates on the current situation in Ukraine and, particularly, in their territories.

For five months already, Ukraine and its people have been courageously defending their homeland, their values and freedom. As Russian forces continue their offensive in eastern Ukraine, the ICC cities of Pavlohrad and Sumy, located close to the Russian border, find themselves in close proximity to the front line. Internally displaced persons continue to arrive in these cities in large numbers. In Pavlohrad, they are primarily people from the Donbas region, in Sumy – people from smaller towns and villages bordering the Russian Federation. For the most part, these displaced individuals are elderly, women and children. They tend to stay in Pavlohrad or Sumy as they represent the most vulnerable part of the population that cannot afford financially or physically to travel further west. Local administrations in these cities are constantly striving to find additional shelter, food, and medical supplies to provide at least a basic level of service to those displaced, which makes these cities considerably under-resourced. Ukrainian municipalities do not have any state funding. Some of them receive support from donor organizations, sister cities abroad and partner cities, which helps, at least to some extent, to remedy the situation.

Many who arrived in Pavlohrad suffer from war trauma and need psychological support. This issue is particularly critical for young children under the age of 14. After a relevant consultation with the ICC-UA national coordinator, the city of Pavlohrad organized an art therapy event in April 2022 that turned into a local project. The idea is to create a mobile group that would carry out regular workshops, playgrounds and communication classes for children in the resettlement areas of the displaced people in and around Pavlohrad. Having received training in intercultural competence - as part of an ICC-supported intercity project between Melitopol (Ukraine) and Ballarat (Australia) in 2020 - a group of city librarians took the lead in implementing the idea.

Simultaneously, the ICC-UA national coordinator reached out to the intercultural city of Stavanger (Norway) for assistance. The city officials reacted promptly. Within a few weeks, Stavanger provided tangible support to Pavlohrad that enabled the launch of the “Heart to Heart” initiative: the necessary equipment and materials were purchased - laptop, speakers, books,



paper, pencils, paints and other materials - and made available to the librarians so that they could start their work immediately.

According to the Mayor of Melitopol, in 5 months of occupation the standard of living in the city was set back 30 years. The Mayor presented a brief summary of facts that confirms his statement. Yet, "Melitopol is a young city - it is only 237 years old - and it has many plans for the future." The Melitopol city administration continues to function outside of its usual location, as 70% of Melitopolers left the city.

The Vinnytsia and Odessa were recently subjected to heavy cruise missile [attacks](#) from a Russian submarine in the Black Sea. Despite these cruelties, the cities continue to unwaveringly support and welcome displaced people from other parts of Ukraine by providing them with the basics: food, shelter, medical services and psychological help.

Lutsk strives to welcome not only internally displaced people but also businesses from the occupied territories of Ukraine. Numerous cultural and artistic initiatives have been also planned by the city administration to provide post-traumatic psychological support to displaced families and children.

In general, the administrations of the ICC-UA cities are functioning in their entirety, almost nobody has left their city in these troubled times. Some city officials have chosen to join the battlefield. During the meeting, the participants learned that one of their fellow ICC-UA coordinators has joined the armed forces of Ukraine and is defending her country on the front line. Participants sent her a note of their admiration and support.

Examples of inter-ethnic and intercultural support of the people in the ICC-UA cities are many: the Muslim religious community "Rakhma" in Lutsk continuously works to provide humanitarian aid and food to the city population and internally displaced, the Jewish community in Sumy and the Bulgarian community in Melitopol helped representatives of their and other minority groups to leave the city through green corridors, the inhabitants of Sumy provided special assistance to the Roma community, and interfaith prayers continue to be held in all ICC-UA member cities, regardless of the circumstances.



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Activity Overview

As noted above, the City of Stavanger, Norway, provided support to the ICC-UA network members in May-June 2022. This was achieved through a proactive approach taken by the ICC-UA national and local ICC coordinator of Stavanger. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the ICC-UA national coordinator has been gathering information on the needs of Ukrainian ICC members and sharing it with the international ICC network. The city of Stavanger was the first to respond with concrete action: the needs of all ICC-UA cities were analysed and tangible financial support was provided.

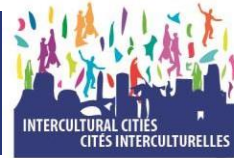
So far, the support funds have reached two of cities in the network. In the meantime, ICC-UA members were asked to inform the network of their current needs so that a series of new/up-to-date projects/initiatives can be reviewed for support from the city of Stavanger. Regardless of the difficulties encountered, the local coordinators from ICC Ukraine expressed their fullhearted thank you to the ICC city of Stavanger for its understanding of the situation in Ukraine and for its support.

Two ICC-UA cities that received support from ICC Stavanger are Odessa and Pavlohrad. A brief description of how this support was used in Pavlohrad is provided at the beginning of this report. As for Odessa, the city's municipal theatre launched music initiative a [“Creative Force”](#) in May 2022, organizing open-air concerts for displaced persons, volunteers, medical personnel, military personnel, and the city's population. The information about these events was shared on ICC-UA and the Intercultural Cities social media.

As it was the case in the previous meetings of the local ICC-UA coordinators, during this meeting the participants voiced their desire to collaborate directly with the members of the international ICC network, i.e. the ICC cities in the EU or other member states of the Council of Europe. The national coordinator continues to convey this message to the ICC programme and its members in her email communications and during relevant meetings (e.g. during the meeting of national coordinators of Intercultural Cities programme; in an extraordinary meeting of ICC members on March 4, 2022; in the [“Local governments unite for welfare and peace”](#): online marathon exchanges between Ukrainian local leaders and international counterparts; during the Forum [“Intercultural policy: conflict and displacement”](#) organised by the Mexico-Czech Republic friendship group of the Chamber of Deputies of the Mexican Congress).



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Planning for the Future

The participants discussed more specifically the possibilities of future cooperation with the international ICC network members in order to develop a partnership, to trigger actions of support and solidarity and to create opportunities for exchange, especially regarding the challenges arising from the current situation in Ukraine. The participants agreed on the following: to design concrete projects/initiatives in ICC-UA cities in close consultation with the national coordinator and - with her and ICC programme's support - present them to potential partners: members of the Intercultural Cities network, international organizations and partners.

The national coordinator presented her concept of a new pan-ICC-UA initiative to document examples of intercultural interaction (positive and negative) in member cities during the period of conflict, and to identify and apply the intercultural approach to these situations, in particular using the intercultural competence and ICC Antirumours methodology. A question and answer and a quick brainstorming session followed the presentation. The coordinators appreciated the opportunity to work together on a joint project regardless of the current circumstances. Some of them asked questions about the content, type, language and format of the examples to be collected. It was agreed that the examples will be submitted for review to the national coordinator in electronic form in Ukrainian prior to their publication on social media.

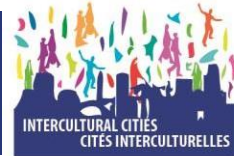
An interactive online event will be held on September 20 2022 where ICC-UA coordinators and other city representatives will review and discuss the stories collected, issues identified, and consider practical solutions.

ICC Business

The ICC-UA coordinator reminded the cities-members about the ICC/CoE requirements regarding the use of ICC/CoE logo in on-line and other publications. Previously shared information on the upcoming ICC study visit to Spain and the "Communication and Media Training for Mayors: Promoting Intercultural Narratives in Difficult Times", 27-28 October 2022 in Strasbourg, France, was discussed. The national coordinator encouraged cities to apply and take an active part in these initiatives.



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Conclusions

The national coordinator presented the summaries and conclusions of the meeting. At the end, the participants agreed that:

- ICC-UA members will track and submit to the national coordinator examples of intercultural interaction (positive or negative) in their cities;
- They will inform and discuss with the national coordinator, bilaterally, how they could use ICC methodology and expertise to address these situations more effectively;
- An online event to review the collected narratives and issues identified will be held on September 20, 2022;
- ICC-UA members will continue to work on designing concrete projects/initiatives in their cities, in close collaboration with the national coordinator, in order to present them to potential partners, members of ICC Global, and international organizations;
- The city of Pavlohrad and the ICC-UA national coordinator will work bilaterally on the design of an interculturally oriented art therapy workshop for internally displaced families and children, which could be replicated in a few locations in the city in order to provide psychological relief and help them cope with the stress and challenges of the current situation.