

# Strategies for tomorrow's city

Ukraine is pursuing integrated urban development to ensure a sustainably better quality of life.



## The challenge: towns and cities without a compass

The Ukrainian Government has launched numerous reforms since 2014 with the aim of strengthening decentralisation and local self-government in the country. As a result of these reforms, towns and cities now have more responsibility and better resources, but often municipal services and infrastructure still fall short of people's expectations.

A major problem is the lack of a national urban development framework to provide guidance for ministries and municipal administrations. This applies, for example, to legal requirements that do not meet European standards, such as building standards, or gender considerations that accommodate men's and women's different needs and user behaviour.

<b>Project name:</b>	Integrated Urban Development in Ukraine II
<b>Commissioned by:</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
<b>Implemented by:</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
<b>Lead executing agency:</b>	Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine
<b>Project area:</b>	Vinnitsia, Chernivtsi, Poltava, Lviv, Zhytomyr, Kharkiv, Melitopol, Mykolaiv and the Kyiv district of Podil
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Urban planning in Zhytomyr: the city authorities, historians, architects and local people are working together on a design for Castle Hill Park

Effective funding programmes and a common set of guiding principles developed in dialogue with the different institutions are also needed.

To address this, the Ukrainian Government committed to the principles of the Leipzig Charter in 2016. This charter, which was adopted in 2007 and renamed the New Leipzig Charter after being updated in 2020, sets out principles for sustainable urban development in Europe. It promotes an integrated urban planning approach that takes social, economic and environmental aspects into consideration and stresses the importance of public participation and local empowerment. The aim is to create liveable, resilient, and inclusive towns and cities that are equipped to tackle challenges such as climate change and social inequality. Ukraine needs support in implementing the principles of the Leipzig Charter nationwide.

## Our approach: promoting sustainable urban development

With its Integrated Urban Development in Ukraine II project, GIZ is supporting Ukraine in achieving a sustainable improvement in the quality of life in towns and cities. Commissioning parties are the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

Integrated urban development takes a holistic approach to planning and designing urban spaces; it links up and coordinates different areas such as architecture, transport, the environment, the economy and social affairs. We work with representatives of the municipal administrations, civil society, national institutions, and national and international experts to improve the enabling environment for a successful integrated urban development policy in Ukraine.

Part of our work involves supporting the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine in producing a national urban development policy. We are also supporting the government in aligning its planning, building and reconstruction regulations with EU standards, as part of Ukraine's preparations for EU accession.

In addition to this, we are advising Ukrainian municipalities on integrated urban development strategies, on reconstruction and urban renewal, sustainable mobility, climate justice and civil protection. We are supporting the employees of municipal administrations with practice-based training on subjects such as urban mobility and housing internally displaced people. Communities use a municipal learning network to share their experience, draw attention to successful solutions and feed them into the national policymaking process.



City of the future: integrated urban planning takes social, economic and environmental aspects into account

## Our results: integrated strategies for Ukrainian towns and cities

- With our support, the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine has drawn up five draft laws, guidelines and strategies on subjects such as integrated urban planning, digitalisation of building standards, and accessibility. These drafts have been submitted to the relevant government institutions with the aim of refining the national framework for integrated urban development.
- Integrated urban development strategies have been devised for the towns and cities of Poltava, Chernivtsi, Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Lviv and Kyiv's Podil district. A strategy for the reconstruction of Melitopol was also drawn up. Sustainable mobility plans and transport models have been developed on the basis of these strategies.
- Six integrated urban development projects focusing on urban mobility and housing internally displaced people have been implemented in Poltava, Chernivtsi, Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr and Lviv.
- An urban recovery bureau has been set up to roll out a practice-based programme that concentrates on tools, plans and strategies for urban reconstruction. Each partner city has the opportunity to seek expert advice on a particular topic.
- In cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), we provide advisory support on developing pilot projects to implement the reconstruction master plans for Kharkiv and Mykolaiv and link them up to sources of international financing.
- The learning network set up to facilitate communication between different towns and cities on integrated urban development has been expanded. Working groups meet regularly to discuss issues such as urban mobility, restoration of critical infrastructure and integration of internally displaced people.



### 'Space for everyone'

**Olena Zelenska**, First Lady of Ukraine, at a presentation of guidelines for accessible design for urban planners, architects and municipalities in 2023.

*'The task of architects and developers is to create spaces for people – for people with prosthetics or wheelchair users, for people with visual impairments or learning disabilities, for the elderly, for mothers with children, for all of us. The point is: obstacles are of no use to anyone. We all have to learn to see the person first and foremost and think about how we can make life easier for them.'*

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