

# Післявоєнна відбудова України Ukraine's Post War Reconstruction

Звіт про мозковий штурм  
Національна Конференція з Планування 2022  
NPC22 Brainstorming Session Report

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**З глибокою повагою  
до України  
Слава Україні**

With deep respect to Ukraine

Glory to Ukraine

Photo by Daria Volkova, Kyiv, Ukraine

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# Introduction

On May 2, 2022, the APA International Division hosted the session, Brainstorming Ukraine's Post War Reconstruction, at the APA National Planning Conference 2022 in San Diego.

The session was proposed and developed in less than a week before the conference. Much effort was made to include Ukrainian and East European speakers virtually, however, that did not succeed because of the conference's restrictions.

This report includes a summary compilation of the session discussion and the written comments from contributors and session participants resulting in this initial report. Follow on actions and additional reports are planned for in the foreseeable future to effectuate the sessions intent.

The content of the session is rearranged for clarity purposes.



# The Context

## Impact of the War

The following impacts are expected as the result of the war:

- Population. Millions of the population have been, and continue to be, displaced. The major international destination for Ukrainian refugees is Poland. Internally, Ukrainians are immigrating from the eastern region to the western region to avoid the direct impact of the war.
- Housing. Destroyed and damaged residential units and community facilities.
- Public infrastructure. Destroyed and damaged roads, railways, transit facilities, schools, hospitals, power, and heating supply, food supply, water supply, and social service facilities.
- Economy and social fabric. Destroyed and damaged private business; the loss of education and employment opportunities; and diminished government and military capabilities.
- The damage to Chornobyl and Zaporizhzhya nuclear plants – a radiation threat to other European countries. A proximate \$135 million worth of monitoring equipment has been stolen from Chornobyl by Russian invaders.

## Current Humanitarian Assistance in Ukraine

Humanitarian projects are underway in Ukraine. They include providing cash to people who have been internally displaced, providing basic humanitarian needs - shelters, food, and water, and providing remote education opportunities for displaced Ukrainian children.

## Local Government Structure

Ukrainian cities are managed by their local governments, which consist of the Mayor and the City Council. The city council forms executive bodies, such as the Executive Committee, departments, administrations, and divisions. The Mayor of the largest city, within an administrative area (Oblast) is also the chief executive of the Oblast.

## International Actors

International organizations will play an important role in Ukraine's reconstruction. Those actors are 1) Government Organizations (GOs); such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU); 2) International Financial Institutions, such as World Bank, European Investment Bank (EIB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and International Finance Corporation (IFC); 3) Humanitarian, professional, faith-based Non-government Organizations (NGOs); and 4) Corporations and consultants in the private sector.

Recently, the World Bank has developed a three-phase approach to support Ukraine: 1) Relief, 2) Recovery and (3) Resilience. Phase 1 Relief is 6-8 months after the war, focusing on recovering essential infrastructures. Phase 2 Recovery is to revive macro-fiscal capacity relative to housing and cities and to strengthen the agriculture and business sectors.

## Suburbs and Railway Network

Many suburbs in the eastern part of Ukraine are less damaged than the central city in the same region. Building interim housing and improving the infrastructure in the suburbs can provide an effective buffering during the urban reconstruction period, to allow people living in the suburbs to work in the city. Ukraine has a good railway network, which could be used for commuting between cities and suburbs.

NPC22 Session: Brainstorming Ukraine Post-War Reconstruction, Convention Center, San Diego, CA. USA





# The Blueprint for Reconstruction

## The Principles

*Reconstruction should rapidly restore critical infrastructures while taking time to develop well-thought-out plans to reflect the best future.*

*Reconstruction should bring Ukraine to the front of industry practice, particularly in sustainability, resilience, and economy. One way of doing it is to build to the EU standards.*

*Reconstruction efforts should be multidiscipline, including social services, education, planning, architecture, engineering, and economic development.*

*Reconstruction should Ukrainian-led. It should reflect the vision of communities. Foreign planners shall be sensitive to and respect Ukrainian culture, history, and local interests. Their role is to help Ukrainian communities identify their best interests and ways to achieve those interests, rather than imposing their ideas on local residents.*

## The Essentials

### Managing the Aftermath

- Assess the losses and immediate humanitarian needs.
- Dispose and recycle debris and materials from damaged and demolished structures.
- Identify environmental issues and remediation strategies.

### Restore and Upgrade Critical Infrastructure

Rapidly restore critical facilities and economies, so people are willing and able to return to their home communities to live and work. Housing and jobs are the two most critical factors.

Critical infrastructure is the physical and cyber systems and assets that are so vital that their incapacity or destruction would have a debilitating impact on physical or economic security or public health and safety. They are interrelated. Coordination is essential in rebuilding the critical infrastructure system. Building redundancy for critical infrastructure is important.

**Utilities:** water, sewer, heat, electricity, and internet.

**Roads:** arterials and local streets, accommodating pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit, and vehicles. Facilities should also have the capacity for E-bike and E-buses.

**Railway:** repair and upgrade railways to EU standards and explore opportunities for high-speed train connections.

**Airfield and ports:** repair and upgrade ports, especially those that are key to transport supplies and resources.

**Housing:** for returning refugees and displaced population.

## **Restore and Upgrade Economy**

- Build infrastructure and adopt policies to advance the economy and productivity for global competitiveness - with a goal to leap flog the economy.
- Enhance agricultural sector with advanced machinery. Build processing and storage facilities with more advanced and sustainable systems. Restore animal husbandry to regenerate the food supply.
- Restore basic supply chains including clothing, diapers, formula, medical supplies, school supplies, and automotive supply chain.
- Build on the strengths of Ukrainian's high-tech skills; provide job training and promote local business.

## **Government Reform**

A successful reconstruction requires proactive government reform to minimize corruption and promote transparent governance and judicial independence. Government reform could help Ukraine's accession to the EU, which could significantly benefit Ukraine's rebuild.

## Important Elements in Planning

### War-Related

- Plan for possible military attacks in the future, including tactical nuclear strikes. This includes disability accessible bomb shelters in public buildings and street features protecting defenders during urban warfare.
- Build back the cultural assets to help heal the social fabric. Working with the community to decide what to preserve, demolish and rebuild. Through pictures and written stories, recreate places people have loved. Value people's memories.
- Create opportunities to help traumatized children and people suffering from post-traumatic stress. Work with professionals to identify ways to improve mental health through community design.

### The Opportunities

- Densify population and development, and implement robust transit service.
- Training and hiring local residents for reconstruction-related works.
- Plan for tourism.
- Ukrainian people have a great sense of unity and their spirits are high. It provides opportunities for real public engagement.
- Create planning committees of current residents and refugees to start visioning procedures
- Identify and develop bankable projects, leveraging resources from international finance institutions.
- Effectively use modern technologies in planning, including digital tools to poll, survey, and give local people opportunities to participate in the planning process.
- Meet the needs of underserved communities and follow the principles of equitable development.
- Be realistic about financial resources. Reconstruction plans should be financially constrained, based on forecasts of resources that will be ultimately available.
- Support women who are both rebuilding their country and raising families.
- Build public places where people are safe together, especially teenagers.
- Make fundamental planning concepts more accessible to residents and provide

instruction on participating in the planning process.

- Involve key institutions in planning, such as churches, schools, universities, museums, and local businesses. Facilitate communication among stakeholders.

## The Challenges

- Attracting people to return to their home communities and accommodating them soonest by providing jobs, housing, water, food, and critical social services such as schools, daycare, and hospitals.
- Managing the influx of funds and other resources from GOs and NGOs in a productive and transparent way.
- Coordinating the infrastructure rebuilding process.
- Minimize corruption and build public trust in reconstruction fund oversight.
- Minimize disinformation.
- Avoid administrative overlap and unnecessary bureaucracy.
- Figuring out the scale of the population to rebuild for, because of the shifting population.

(Left to Right) Krishna Shrivastava, Kellie Dziedzic, Tim Van Epp, Irene Navis. Preparing for NPC22 Session. Marriott Marquis, San Diego, CA, USA. May 2, 2022.



## Things to Avoid

- Do not Americanize Ukraine.
- Avoid the competition to get attention for the help provided.
- Don't try to turn the reconstruction planning into a progressive wish list.
- Do not over-reliance on external investment that could draw economic growth away from Ukrainian residents (economic colonialism) and lack sustainability. Instead, promoting internal economic development.

Lviv, Ukraine. Source: Depositphotos





# What Planners Can Do

## Things American Planners Can Do

American planners, schools of planning, and planning firms can do the following things to help Ukrainians before and after the war:

1. Supporting GOs and NGOs - funding agencies - in drafting Request for Information (RFI) for reconstruction projects in Ukraine, recommending the scope of work and how things should be done. Firms and companies should be watching GOs and NGOs for business forecasts and RFIs.
2. Providing contract works to Ukrainian architects, engineers, and planners who are in Ukraine.
3. Providing employment opportunities to Ukrainian refugees, helping them learn new skills which could contribute to the reconstruction of Ukraine in the future.
4. Accepting and providing financial assistance to Ukrainian students to the planning schools in the United States.
5. Providing direct assistance to Ukrainian planning and designing agencies to collaborate with local communities, including developing toolkits for community-led planning in Ukraine.
6. Organizing a Ukraine rebuilding summit.
7. Collaborating among professional organizations to leverage knowledge sharing.
  - *The International Division and other divisions/interest groups and state chapters in the APA.*
  - *The APA and related professional organizations in the US, such as the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Society of Landscape Architects (ALSA), and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).*
  - *The APA and planning institutes in other countries, such as the (UK) Royal*

*Town Planning Institute (RTPI), European Council of Spatial Planners (ECSP), Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP), Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP), Planning Institute of Australia (PIA), and especially the Ukraine Union of Architects (which houses the planners in Ukraine).*

- *The APA and global planning groups, including the Global Planners Network (GPN), International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), Planners without Borders (based in France), and Planners Beyond Boundaries (a new organization suggested by RTPI).*
- *The APA and relevant planning and rebuilding organizations in Ukraine, e.g. the Ukraine Union of Architects (which houses Ukrainian planners), and more informal organizations or networks being formed that include both Ukrainian and international planners.*

## **RTPI's Response**

The Royal Town Planning Institute (UK) has established the “Planners Beyond Boundaries” program in response to the Ukraine situation. The program provides four types of assistance to Ukrainians: Respond, Welcome, Study, and Rebuild.

More information is at  
<https://www.rtpi.org.uk/about-the-rtpi/planners-beyond-boundaries/>.

## **GPN and WUF11**

A key next step for APA to achieve these collaborations is via the next GPN meeting which is set to be held in Katowice, Poland, in late June in conjunction with UN Habitat's World Urban Forum 11. It appears that WUF11 may already be evolving to focus mainly on the Ukraine crisis as well. The APA Leadership is encouraged to send a high-level delegation to both the WUF11 and associated GPN meetings. Alternative organizational concepts, such as the Planners Beyond Boundaries suggested by RTPI, could be addressed at that time. We should work together with the other planning associations (national and international) to locate and engage members of relevant Ukrainian planning and rebuilding organizations, both government and private, and formal and informal, at the WUF11 meeting.

## Planner's Guidelines

To help rebuild Ukrainian communities in a better way, American planners could provide some guidelines for Ukrainian planners. It would be best that those guidelines be available before or immediately after the war. Some topics about the guidance include:

- Assessing the damage and prioritizing the needs of local communities.
- Selecting appropriate locations for temporary housing, with consideration of leveraging the existing transportation network, regional development balance, and short-term and long-term economic development.
- Designing and building temporary housing units which could be converted into permanent housing or for other purposes.
- Disposing and recycling debris and materials from demolished structures, including buildings, roads, and bridges.
- Planning should include coordination of site selection of construction worker camps, construction equipment and supply depots, and demolition and construction debris recycling facilities with interim suburban housing, employment centers, and public transit.
- Integrating resilience and sustainability as a part of the reconstruction process.
- Developing strategies to create jobs and an environment that is attractive to public and private investment.

## International Community Effort

- Relieve Ukraine from existing public/private debt.
- Provide grants to Ukrainians to return to their communities
- Provide experts to train Ukrainian labor forces for job opportunities.
- Provide international tax breaks for private investment in Ukraine.
- Provide education opportunities to refugees and establish networking opportunities for displaced residents.
- Hold Ukraine rebuilding planning and design competitions among university planning schools and professional planning associations.



Uzhgorod, Ukraine: 11 March, 2022 - Refugees from different cities of Ukraine in the gym of one of the schools in Uzhgorod, Transcarpathian region. Photo by Fotoreserg

## Others

### Some Other Questions and Thoughts

- How can American planners help remotely?
- How will Ukrainians accept American planning ideas and practice?
- Who owns the land? How do property rights and land tenure work in Ukraine?
- How to use confiscated Russian assets to rebuild Ukraine?
- At best APA can be a conduit, but individual members will be successful whereas APA cannot.
- Establish a national Ukrainian planners reconstruction advisory task force. APA could be part of the task force.

## Useful References

- NY rising community reconstruction program model
- Lessons of reconciliation from Rwanda and South Africa
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides good resources for building resilient communities through prevention, preparation, and response to disasters;
- The mini-manual for the urban defender, a guide to the strategies and tactics of defending a city, by John Spencer.

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