



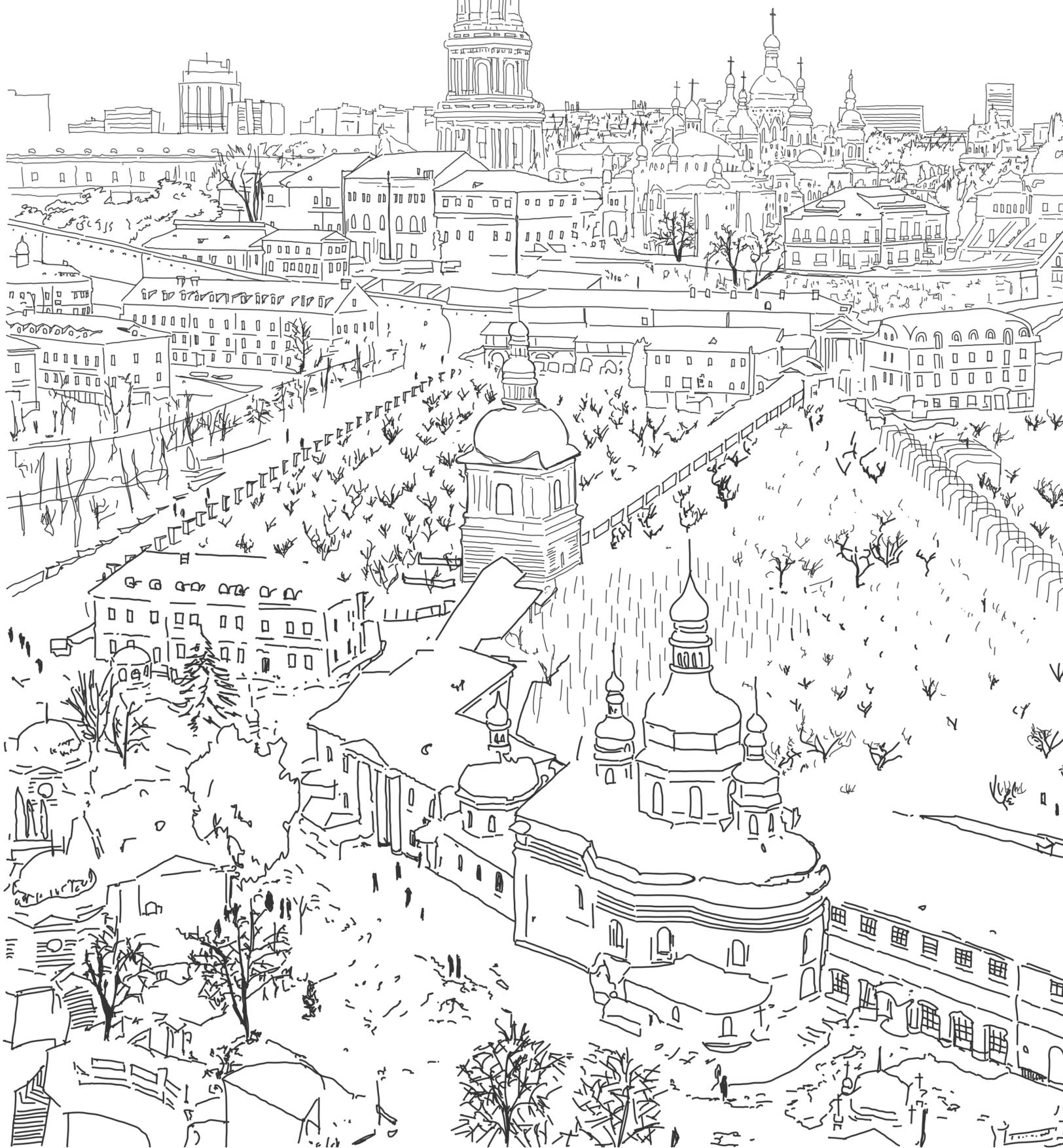
INTERPLAN



American Planning Association
International Division
Creating Great Communities for All

2022 UKRAINE SPECIAL ISSUE -VOLUME I

A Publication of the International Division of the American Planning Association



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Jing Zhang



I didn't know that a war was going to start when I booked my flight. No, I didn't have tickets to Ukraine. I wished I did. Nothing makes you feel more like a dilettante than preparing for a Caribbean vacation while others are trying to stave off the end of the world.

When I was taking humanitarian affairs classes in grad school, my professor had a whole lecture talking about the mental health needs of humanitarian professionals. Most large humanitarian organizations require their workers to take a vacation every three months if they are in a conflict zone, and even more if they are serving in an area with active fighting. While I have not worked in the humanitarian realm for years, it is important to remind myself that even the most heroic amongst us need regular breaks. It had been almost three years since my last vacation. I should probably not admit this as Chair of the International Division, but it had also been ten years since my last international flight. I really was overdue.

And I am grateful for Belize. I am grateful for the iron-red soil that reminded me of my home in Burkina. I am grateful for the nurse sharks that decided to hang out with me when I dove into their home. I am grateful for the musician who noticed me checking out the bass player during his performance and proudly brought the instrument over to me to fool around with over the show. I am grateful for the Mayan tour guide who entered the profession because he saw explaining his heritage to tourists as his opportunity to keep his culture alive. And I am grateful to return healthy and safe and ready to reengage with our work.

As we move forward, we are coordinating efforts to assist Ukraine through our already established Humanitarian Planning Committee. We are fortunate to have a number of passionate Division members supporting this effort. The mission of the



Michael Kolber, AICP, is a senior planner for the City of Trenton, NJ. He worked for the NJ Departments of Environmental Protection and Community Affairs and served overseas as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Burkina Faso and as a Monitoring Specialist for the International Rescue Committee in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Domestically, Mr. Kolber served as a volunteer in the United Way of Greater Union County and the Manhattan Borough President's Office. Michael has an M.S. in Urban Planning from Columbia University.

Humanitarian Planning Committee is to advance the role of planning in humanitarian crises and to show how planners can be critical in improving the lives of both people living in conflict zones and those who have been displaced. In this case, we are focused on supporting Ukrainian planners who are partnering with us. As always, the people with the most knowledge and understanding of communities are those who are from there; it is our job to help them achieve their vision.

The International Division hosted a brainstorming session on “Ukraine's Post War Reconstruction” at this year’s National Planning Conference. This session was led by Krishna Shrivastava, Irene Navis, Tim Van Epp, and Kellie Dziedzic. A report was written by Jing Zhang based on this session and is being shared on our website. We are working with two incredible Ukrainian planners, Oleksandr Dovbnia and Gala Korniyenko, who are helping us guide our work and ensure that we are keeping Ukrainians at the forefront of our work. Gitta Pap have provided crucial insights and support to this effort, and Lyndsey Deaton is helping to coordinate all of this as the coordinator of the Humanitarian Planning Committee.

While this work continues, we must not lose sight of the fact that Ukraine is far from the only country in the world suffering from conflict. The war in Ukraine has frequently pushed Syria, Yemen, and other places that are in severe crisis out of the news. I am routinely devastated seeing images of attacks and displacement camps in the Burkinabé communities that I once called home. I would like to invite all planners who would like to learn more about how planning can make an impact on communities in crisis to join a meeting of the Humanitarian Planning Committee.

Planners who are interested in the work of the Humanitarian Planning Committee should visit its website at international.planning.org/community/humanitarian/.

The Division is also maintaining a webpage specifically focusing on Ukraine at international.planning.org/community/ukraine/.

My Experiences in Ukraine and Eastern Europe

By Tim Van Epp, FAICP, Immediate Past Chair, International Division

Project Experience in Ukraine and Vicinity

Early in my international career in environmental consulting, in the 1990s, I had the privilege of managing and supporting the \$87 million USAID Environmental Policy & Technology Project (EPT) for the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union. As a long-time staff member of CH2M Hill, the Project's prime contractor, my duties included leading home office support to Ukraine and providing regular technical inputs and visits to our Kyiv regional office and Donetsk project office. In the Donbass region, including Donetsk and Mariupol, and in collaboration with the Donetsk Oblast environmental agency, I provided training, capacity building, and demonstration projects on environmental and waste management for the 65 most polluting industrial facilities in Donetsk, Ukraine. The EPT project also operated in Kharkiv and Lviv.

I left CH2M in 1997 and formed my own firm: Eurasia Environmental Associates, LLC. In the following years I completed four more projects in Ukraine:

- *For World Bank, we provided technical advice, training, and demonstration project design in an attempt to adapt the EU Directive for Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control to the Ukrainian context.*
- *For World Bank, we provided project management and environmental expertise in evaluating the technical, environmental, economic and financial feasibility of six proposed pollution prevention and control projects at three separate industrial facilities. These included a coalbed methane enterprise and two coke chemical manufacturing facilities that would be funded by the World Bank's Donetsk Pollution Prevention and Abatement Facility.*
- *For US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), we conducted a Desk Study of the proposed Yalta, Ukraine Solid Waste Management Project.*
- *For USTDA, we conducted another Desk Study of the proposed World Bank Azov-Black Sea Biodiversity Conservation Project in Ukraine.*

Over the years I have completed other projects in the New Independent States (also known as the Commonwealth of Independent States, or CIS), including two in Russia, one in Georgia, five in Kazakhstan, one in Tajikistan, one in Uzbekistan, and four regional projects covering the Central Asian Republics. In addition, Eurasia Environmental Associates, LLC has completed over a dozen projects in the former Soviet bloc countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans. I worked with USAID, USTDA, and World Bank, as well as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Union, and private companies using US Export-Import Bank financing.

Anecdotes and Lessons Learned in Ukraine

For a mid-career (and somewhat naïve) environmental professional doing some of his first international development work, this was a challenging transition with many lessons learned along the way. The amazing experiences provided a treasure trove of memories to recall and stories to tell later in life. Here are a few:

- **All parties appeared to be cooperating and working toward mutual goals.** We worked closely with the appropriate national and oblast environmental agencies (oblast is similar to the state level of government in the USA), but meetings and access to data were also facilitated by former intelligence officials. In Donetsk, we were aware of the large Russian population because of its proximity to the border with southern Russia. But the region also imported a sub-population of Russian managers and engineers to run some of the largest coal mines, coking facilities, and iron and steel plants in the world. It was also evident that the local mafia was heavily invested and intertwined in many aspects of Donetsk life. As I learned from local colleagues, this even included repaving the streets.
- **Aiding “Transition Economy Countries” is different from aiding “Developing Countries”.** There is a big difference! The officials and technical people we worked with in Ukraine and throughout the NIS were well-educated and technically proficient. Our feeling at the time was that they needed more support in project management procedures than anything else. Also, contrary to my expectations, presenting a project

for public input and support could attract a large crowd of very vocal and well-informed local citizens, many of them with technical expertise. Consequently, USAID was relatively quick to “graduate” NIS countries in general from environmental aid.



Learn to read Cyrillic, you fool! I learned the hard way that a knowledge of the language can pay off. Mr. Naive arrived at Kyiv airport with a visa written entirely in Cyrillic. Assuming everything was in order, I presented my documents but was directed to get back on the plane and return to Bonn to get a proper entry visa! I thought I had a double-entry visa that was still valid for one more visit. If I could read it, I would have known it was only a single-visit visa. To make matters worse, the Presidents of our respective countries were not on good terms at the time, so no flexibility was shown for getting a visa upon arrival. One more adventure resulting from my Cyrillic illiteracy: we filled our rental car with the wrong kind of gas at a Polish self-serve filling station! In the middle of the night between Warsaw and Poznan, my chemical engineer colleague had to siphon out biofuel and replace it with regular gas so we could get to the hotel.

- **People in Ukraine are the best!** We were treated with respect and hospitality everywhere we worked in Ukraine. Although I don’t support communism, I found it very informative how their “sharing economy” operated on a very individual and personal level in the transition context at that time. This raises a question: was this an expression of political economy provided top-down during Soviet times, or was this bottom-up and more culturally generated?

Further, does this represent the Ukrainian culture, Russian culture, or a hybrid of the two? No matter the origin, you are seeing that sharing culture and economy on TV now. Based on my experience, Ukrainians’ pride in their country and its unique culture and history is very real.

Exhortations to Action Helping Ukraine

To our APA International Division members and other readers, especially planners from or working in Ukraine or other Eastern European or NIS countries, please feel free to write back with your own observations. Also, note that the Division is developing a working group to identify ways the Division can help out in Ukraine in the near- and longer term. Please let us know if you’re interested and share any ideas you may have.

For one example, the Division is collaborating with the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning in support of the US State Department’s Hubert Humphrey Fellows Program (also known as the Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies, or SPURS). The SPURS program sends around a dozen promising, mid-career planners from overseas to study for a year at MIT. One of the ways the Division is supporting the SPURS program is by matching individual Division members to mentor individual Fellows. This year, in addition to mentoring a planner from Vietnam, I am supporting and advising a planner from Ukraine who took a year off from his duties as the planner for the city of Kharkiv to study at MIT. I am hoping I can help him in the early stages of his planning for the rebuilding of Kharkiv based on my experience working through international development projects in Ukraine. ■

Edited by Andy Cross

How to Learn Ukrainian on Duolingo effectively with the free version

By Jing Zhang, AICP, Vice chair of Communications, International Division

- Start small, focusing on developing the habit of learning first.
- Study the tips of each skill; it helps you master the lessons sooner.
- Repeat what you heard in each exercise, if your learning environment allows.
- Make notes of what you learned. Review your notes.
- Find friends of similar interest in the app or IRL. Learning a language is a journey.

For a free account, you have five hearts. Each time you make a mistake, you lose one heart. A heart takes 4 hours to recover. (You can have unlimited hearts, among other benefits, if you upgrade to Super Duolingo). Here are ways to remain free while still enjoying limited hearts.

- Practice to earn hearts when you lose one.
- Using Duolingo on your computer. The web version is in sync with the app but it does not hurt your hearts if you make mistake.
- Take a break and take it easy. Your hearts will be back before you know it.



I have been learning multiple languages for over 20 years. I consider Duolingo is the single best way to learn languages on your own. The lessons are carefully designed, both in content and graphic. Duolingo is not to set you up for subscription; it is truly to help you enjoy learning languages and connect with the world.

Join our Ukrainian language study group, if you are interested. Contact: jing@planning.dev

Just Walking the Streets of Your City

- Post War Reconstruction of Ukraine

By Gitta Pap, Ph.D

Landing in Budapest

I landed in Budapest on May 16th where I found no obvious sign of the Ukrainian-Russian war. I was not sure what to expect, and I was prepared for a hectic scene from a neighboring country to Ukraine. I was able to lodge as usual and get from the airport to the hotel without any delay, or stress. Restaurants, shops, and streets were displaying the usual, relatively “calm and normal” scene that have greeted me in the past two decades. Given the short time I had available before my next flight to Romania I walked the streets, and I was vigilant for signs of the war. My footpath from the fully restored Budapest State Opera House to the Western Railway Metro Station did not have any signs of refugee crisis, nor did I see people being abandoned as refugees.

As I was walking, I recalled Hungarian newsbites about citizen involvement at metro stations and

railway stations. Many refugees were arriving to the Western Railway and Metro Station where citizens and authorities were receiving and helping them. In the metro station I started seeing the first informational signs for Ukrainian refugees through smart signage which were directing arriving refugees to a nearby yellow informational tent. The yellow refugee helping tent had a sign in Hungarian “We cannot accept more clothing donations.”

I continued my walk around the Western Railway Station, and explored recent additions to the area. While I was sitting at a nearby coffee shop, I saw some visitors who seemed to be Ukrainian refugees asking for help from the people in the yellow tent. A family of four, that seemed to be a mother with two children, and a man, were talking to the individuals (likely volunteers) and were able to get what seemed to be board games, and toys for the children.

The scene was calm and there were no signs of chaos or disorientation, not in the subway or on the surface.



Figure 1 Transportation hub and the yellow informational tents for Ukrainian refugees in front of the Nyugati Pályaudvar (Western Railway Station), Budapest, 2022. Photo by Gitta Pap.

There are several charities, and citizen led initiatives who have been providing help along the border, and in the capital. One of them, a Facebook group called “Segítségnyújtás (Ukrajna, Kárpátalja) Допомога українцям” has been providing help including food, shelter, work, and information. Due to limitations to time, I could not see the Eastern Metro and Railway Station (Keleti Pályaudvar). However, there seemed to be help and information available for those who seek it.

The Next Day

The next day, I continued my journey to Romania by air. Here, for the second time, everything was peaceful and “the usual everyday scenery” awaited me. There was no sign of the Ukrainian war in terms of chaos, or disorganization. I have landed in Marosvásárhely (Romanian: Tîrgu-Mureş). The region is quite off of the main routes of international attention of visitors, thus refugees. I did not spend

time in the city, but I continued my journey to a more remote region of Transylvania (Romania). In general, I have not seen smart signages for refugees, or tents in the region. Likely, there is no need for them due to its remoteness. Information for refugees is shared through social media. Local governments, citizens and charity organizations have been reported to be helping out with donations, food, and shelter; e.g., like the city of Tîrgu-Mureş has been relying on state-provided funds and citizens to help refugees with lodging and food. According to Antal (2022) the state provided fund is enough for lunch, and for lodging, while breakfast, and dinner are provided through citizen donations.

People's Concern

Cities are calm and still. However, this calmness is deceptive. After spending nearly two weeks with the local community, it became evident that there is a general concern as prices have escalated.

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One walking in the city, and engaging with local residents, will be reminded of the disappointment, concerns, and diverse points of views of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.

While people are concerned, they are also busy living their own life which is quite hard here, with low minimum wage of about \$ 580/month (about \$ 7000/year). To place it into perspective, Romania, and Hungary, based on their minimum wage, are Group 3 countries in the European Union. Group 3 countries have a minimum wage between \$ 350-850/month. In contrast, Group 1 countries like Ireland, Germany and France range from \$1700-1875/month. Group 2 countries include Spain and Slovenia with about \$1180-1230. Luxembourg is a Group 1 country with an outlying \$ 2570/month. Some countries have no national minimum wage (Eurostat 2022, values are rounded, and converted to dollar value from euro). In general, people are getting ready for inflated prices, but the war still seems remote for many.

Some Reflections

What I noticed during my short stay in both countries is that certain media and political commentaries, figures, etc. seem to be consciously dividing people in both countries. However, at the end of the day, both countries are helping, along with citizens and organizations. I am not seeking to judge, or evaluate their work. I always find that the least help is tremendous for the one who needs it, and criticizing does not help anyone, those who are helping, or the ones being helped (owing to ethnic, racial, and historic divides of the larger Eastern-European and Western European region).

Outsiders are relying on political figures, media, and social media to stay informed. Verbal, written and imagery reports keep us informed. These reports seek ways to connect us to what it is like in war-torn Ukraine. The short answer is that most of

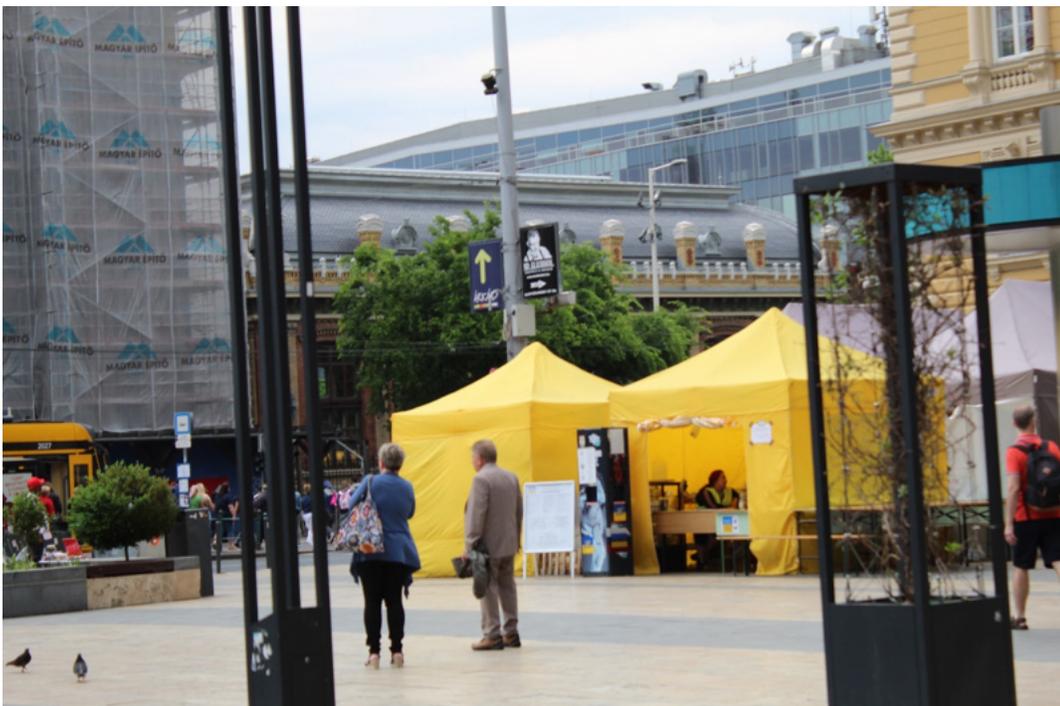


Figure 2 Yellow informational tents for Ukrainian refugees in front of the Nyugati Pályaudvar (Western Railway Station), Budapest, 2022. Photo by GP.

us cannot even imagine this reality. However, we may find alternative “connectors” through urban landscapes that allow us to connect more deeply to those who struggle. Urban landscapes were the most efficient connectors for me. Socialist urban landscapes have many similarities across diverse cultures and countries. Anyone who has grown up in such an environment (like me) is likely unable not think, “Oh My God! This could be us!” It took no effort for me. Walking on the streets of Romanian socialist and post-socialist urban landscapes, one can easily envision the ruins, and the immense losses of Ukrainian cities like Mariupol. I believe, the next step for many planners would be “How can we help now, and how can cities rebuild themselves?” The answer is not easy, and I am not planning to give an answer, rather provide some insights without the aim of being comprehensive.

Reconstruction and Planning

President Zelensky in his May 29th speech addressed Ukrainians. Some highlights of his speech from the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine’s official website:

“The post-war reconstruction of Kharkiv and the Kharkiv region was discussed very objectively with the local authorities. We must use only advanced

ideas, only modern technologies in reconstruction. In particular, security technologies. And the best offers from our partners. Kharkiv and all other cities and communities in our country affected by the war must be reconstructed to have the most modern look in Europe...

As a result of the Russian strikes at Severodonetsk, the entire critical infrastructure of the city has already been destroyed. 90% of houses are damaged. More than two-thirds of the city's housing stock has been completely destroyed. There is no mobile connection. Constant shelling.”

(Ministry of Defense of Ukraine 2022, 8th and 16th paragraph)

According to President Zelensky, Ukrainian cities and communities need to be reconstructed after the war resulting in modern looking cities, and the use of the most advanced ideas. Obviously, international planners may become partners and provide recommendations. I was asking myself: What can the international community of planners do to aid with such an objective? How can planners help with linking knowledge to action in the public domain (Friedmann 1987)? Personally, I find inspiration from Libby Porter (2010). Porter in her book “Unlearning the Colonial Cultures of Planning” (2010) pressed that planning is a “cultural artifact” of colonialism and it needs to be historicized. She further asks the

Historically, Ukraine and its neighboring countries, can be “grouped” at least two ways:

A complex and tumultuous regional history that translates into regional level heterogeneity

Socialism, the breaking from socialism, democratization, and struggles to build a democratic society.

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question “If planning is a producer of place, what does it claim is worth producing and how is this particular view of the world continually mediated and reconstituted?” (p.16). While Porter asked the question for a different planning context (Australian planning system, and planning with Indigenous communities) her question remains relevant for post-war Ukraine.

Planning is not a universal profession (Porter 2010); however, it is a universal human act. Planning involves decision-making that is also a universal human behavior. Planning and decision-making processes, as components of professional practice, need to be historicized, and understood in their own historical context. What was planning like in Ukraine? What should be avoided and made better? Planning history is a relevant and needed tool that international planners can use to help Ukraine to avoid well documented and known pitfalls through rebuilding efforts. Planners need to ask, “how space was produced throughout the history and at what cost,” to avoid repeated failures and injustice to groups of people (i.e., socialist housing estates, eradication of village communities, assimilation efforts if any, and socialist planned ethnic homogenization efforts).

International planners need to provide the most advanced ideas, but not just in terms of technology and security, but in terms of environmental and social sciences. Advanced ideas need to reflect acceptance of the cultural and ethnic diversity of the larger Eastern-European region, the cultural heritage of the many groups who are defining Ukraine. Why? Because Ukraine is a democratic country. Planning, in the public domain should be rooted in democratic processes where planners plan for communities, and not for individuals, or for exclusive groups. This would mean that national

identities would need to embrace the regional heterogeneity of the many ethnic groups. Ethnic groups need to embrace the reality of the Ukrainian majority. In this rather ideal setting, both groups would become equal stakeholders. However, this is a universal challenge around the world (e.g., Hungary and Romania) and not exclusive to Ukraine. It is a very hard task for planners. Innes and Booher (2018) gave me inspiration. To plan with complexity, Innes and Booher argued for achieving a “collaborative rationality.” This can be achieved through authentic dialogues and recognizing that stakeholders have (1) diversity of interests, but also, they do share common interest, that they called (2) interdependency of interests. To achieve a “collaborative” rationality over individual, or group’s rationality, equal representation of interests and inclusion of all stakeholders is needed. Through a structured process, where the planners are a key facilitator, a resolution, or “community vision” can be achieved (i.e., Who is my city in post war Ukraine, and what is it like?). The task is challenging, and can be easily flawed. Still, it provides a way for creating modern cities, and for applying the most advanced [planning theory] ideas.

Finally, when we converse about the post-war rebuilding of Ukraine, we need to see that “rebuilding” is maybe an inadequate term. One needs to ask, “where is the region coming from and where is it headed?” The physical built infrastructure bear signs of the socialist era like real estate housing projects, with iconic transformed urban landscapes. These urban landscapes have signs of historic injustice and the cruelty of the socialist era. Rapid, and cookie-cutter rebuilding should be avoided. Planning and building of new Ukrainian urban landscapes should be done with care, sensitivity and understanding of local culture, heritage in a way that respects the wish of the entire community. Local



The post-war Ukraine will never be Western Europe, nor remain to be what we may perceive as “post-socialist Eastern European.”



Kolozsvár (Hungarian) Cluj Napoca (Romanian) a multiethnic city transformed during the regime of Ceaușescu Communist Dictator. We see socialist estate housing projects in the back and recent (post socialist) growth in the front. Image: Ghiță Bizău from Pixabay.



Ukraine is a modern state with a professional and intellectual legacy that equals the rest of the developed world. Thus, the need is through cautious application of “knowledge.”

and regional ecological processes should guide development over profitability of investment.

In conclusion: the international community will provide perspectives and knowledge in forms of most advanced ideas, but the task of rebuilding, need to be made by Ukrainians. We should not be mistaken through seeing the “familiarity of landscapes” (i.e., post socialist), or values (European, Judeo-Christian Western heritage) and think we are on a “home-base,” because post-war Ukraine will never be Western Europe, nor remain to be what we may perceive as “post-socialist Eastern European.” Each has its own planning scholarship, planning theory, planning history, and methodological approach to planning. Most planners should be prepared to be on an entire new media. There are a few reasons for this.

1. First, people are still more likely to define their national and ethnic identity through historic land attachment, the bloodshed of their ancestors, their rich cultural heritage that is millennia old, than through more globalized ideas (i.e., a global urban community, a city like New York). In addition to this point, while many urban Ukrainian cities are diverse, they are still less heterogeneous in contrast to the US cities, or Western European cities (think of the flux of immigrants and their respective heritage).
2. Second, people in Ukraine are still more connected to their faith and religion than in many Western European countries [US is quite religious]. In Ukraine, non-secular planning and decision-making processes may intertwine with the secular ones that are not common or are constitutional in the U.S.
3. Third, there has been no precedent in the 21st century to what is happening now in Ukraine; and post-war Ukraine will likely become its own “realm.” In this “realm,” Ukraine must lead a regional development that has broken free from “socialist” and “post-socialist” tags of the West; and at the same time be able to occupy a leading role in future democratic conversations.
4. Fourth, the will of the people in Ukraine is likely to be the strongest and most unified in Europe. Ukrainian national identity is tremendously tested, and the war may lead to new forms of shared identity. Overall, the war strengthened Ukrainians and their identity, meanwhile in many European countries there is an “identity crisis.”

It is my view that Ukraine is a modern state with a professional and intellectual legacy that equals the rest of the developed world. Thus, the need is through cautious application of “knowledge.” Discussions need to be facilitated with authorities, developers, stakeholders, and local planners to

Rapid, and cookie-cutter rebuilding should be avoided. Planning and building of new Ukrainian urban landscapes should be done with care, sensitivity and understanding of local culture, heritage in a way that respects the wish of the entire community.

recognize and avoid “old planning mistakes.” Failed planning examples of the West [and East] should be avoided because they will likely happen again. Old mistakes are always reapplied through rapid rebuilding efforts in parts of the “less developed world.” Essential ecological, environmental, and social dimensions of proposed projects need to be considered next to economic return, profitmaking, technology, and security. ■ *Edited by Tim Van Epp*

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Some Opinions from Articles and Reports

by Jing Zhang, AICP, Vice chair of Communications, International Division

I do not have any experience working with reconstruction after disasters. The catastrophic impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine made me want to learn more about post-war reconstruction. So, I read some articles.

Those articles are:

Rebuilding back better. What will it cost to rebuild Ukraine? - The Economist, April 16th, 2022 Edition

A Blueprint for the Reconstruction of Ukraine - The Centre for Economic Policy Research, London. 2022

Rebuilding Ukraine after the War - Center for Strategic & International Studies Washington, DC, 2022

Rebuilding Cities After War - Melissa Salyk-Virk, New America. Washington, DC, 2019

I summarized some major opinions expressed by those articles. They do not necessarily reflect my opinions.

Foremost, reconstruction provides an opportunity to make Ukraine's economy more modern and competitive. Ukrainians and those who intend to help Ukrainians can learn from the successes and failures of post-war reconstruction (the Marshall Plan, the reunification of Germany, reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan) and recovery from natural disasters. If well planned and carried through, reconstruction could ensure a brighter and stronger future for Ukraine.

In general, there are three phases in reconstruction: 1) emergency response to humanitarian catastrophe; 2) restoration of critical infrastructure and services to revive the basic functions of the economy and the government; 3) laying foundations for rapid, sustained growth trajectory.

Ukraine has many strengths, including its strong sense of common purpose and unity, and its high

level of economic development and proximity to the EU. There are also two primary challenges. First, government reform is needed to reduce corruption and align its regulatory framework with a strong democracy. Second, much of the money needed to rebuild will have to come from outside, including Western governments, international organizations, and private investors.

Some keys to a successful rebuild include:

- A timely accession of Ukraine to the European Union: EU integration is essential to create incentives for Ukraine to align its regulations to EU standards and to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).
- A stand-alone EU-authorized agency with significant autonomy to coordinate and manage aid and reconstruction programs;

- Foreign aid that focuses on grants rather than loans: aid should be rapid but conditional (reasonable conditionality, such as accountability, measurable milestones, etc.) in line with the best practices of EU transparency
- Ukraine owns its reconstruction programs: Aid programs should be aligned with the ultimate objectives of Ukraine. Ukraine should be able to sustain projects funded by reconstruction aid after the aid is withdrawn.

There are some planning-related ideas:

- Ukraine should develop a five-year umbrella plan for reconstruction, to cover financial and engineering requirements, coordinate cluster programs, and prioritize and facilitate the allocation of resources.
- The central government should assemble local government requests and make priority recommendations before passing them on to the aid agency.
- Local communities have a better sense of what they need, such as childcare, schools, roads,

and medical facilities. Coordination across local governments is needed when it comes to road building, electrification, etc.

- A high priority should be the provision of temporary housing, followed by investments in housing stock and social infrastructure so people can return.
- Foreign firms should be encouraged to employ Ukrainians to raise local incomes and to utilize local knowledge to improve the quality of deliveries.
- Best building practices and community development practices should be used. New infrastructure and investments, such as building with zero-carbon principles and relying minimally on fossil fuels, can advance Ukraine's development. Build the principle of a zero-carbon future with minimal reliance on fossil fuels.
- High-speed trains should replace damaged railways to increase transportation capacity to export Ukrainian goods to the EU.

In 2019, John Spencer, the Chair of Urban Warfare Studies at the Modern War Institute, had an interesting thought about cities after the Iraq war.

"If you can kill a city, that means you thought it was alive beforehand. Still, how do you define what a live city is? Cities are organisms and should be treated as such. They're more than just locations on a map; they're places where generations and civilizations (often) chose to be. If people have lived in a place for decades or even centuries, then there's something that has drawn people to it—a purpose. In order to kill it, that purpose needs to be removed."

To bring a city back to life, the purpose that has been drawing people to the city needs to be restored. ■

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