



Where opportunities lives



Trostanets city
council | Yuriy Bova,
Sumy region, | Mayor of
Ukraine | Trostyanets city
hromada

Resilience and the
European future of
Trostyanets municipality
Humanitarian and
Investment Prospectus

2026

Today we have already demonstrated that restoration is not only about rebuilding buildings. It is the path to a qualitatively new level of life for community! We have become an example for the country and a convincing signal for foreign donors: aid brings tangible changes.



"IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT REBUILDING EVERYTHING AS IT WAS BEFORE, BUT BETTER, MORE EFFICIENTLY"

**Yuriy Bova,
Mayor of Trostyanets**

The full-scale Russian invasion in 2022 was a point of no returning for many Ukrainian municipalities. For Trostyanets municipality, the invasion turned into a month of occupation, destroyed homes, devastated infrastructure, and multimillion-dollar damage. But at the same time, these trials made our community stronger, more united, and more ambitious.

Today, 3.5 years after those terrible events, the Trostyanets demonstrates a unique example of how, even after large-scale destruction, it is possible not only to recover, but also to develop and open up new prospects.

In spring 2022 in a result of military operations, about 1,000 objects were damaged and destroyed: 59 municipal property objects, hundreds of private homes were destroyed, 3 high-rise buildings and 12 private

houses were completely destroyed.

The municipal enterprises were actually paralyzed. Town institutions were not able to work, there was a lack of equipment, businesses lost production capacity, hundreds of families were left without housing.

But the war did not break the people of our town. On the contrary, this situation made them to unite and look for new opportunities for recovery.

The team of Trostyanets Town Council learned quickly to respond to the challenges of wartime, prepare high-quality grant applications, and prove the innovativeness of their ideas. In just 3.5 years, more than 30 large-scale projects have been implemented in cooperation with international donors and Ukrainian partners, the most valuable of which are:

- NEFCO – the procedure for the reconstruction of sewage treatment plants in the city has been initiated for the amount of UAH 177 million
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH – construction of a Modular extension solution for hospital, purchase of medical equipment for UAH 50 million
- USAID Project "Hoverla" (USA) – 13 units of municipal transport for the amount of UAH 37.3 million
- Charitable Foundation "Blagomai" and PrJSC "Mondelez Ukraine" – equipment for the hospital and shelters in schools for UAH 30 million
- Poltava Mining and Processing Plant – municipal transport, office equipment for the amount of UAH 16.2 million
- Polskie Centrum Pomocy Międzynarodowej (PCPM) and the Taiwan representative office in Poland – municipal equipment for institutions, utility companies and community institutions – UAH 4.6 million
- Greenpeace – solar power plant and heat pumps for a multi-storey building on the street. Blagovishchenska, 53 – 10.6 million UAH
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH – thermal modernization of the infectious disease department of Trostyanets town hospital – 8.5 million UAH
- OpenDoorUkraine, "Danish Refugee Council", LLC "Kernel" – repairing of a school in Soldatske – 7.3 million UAH
- International Rescue Committee (IRS) – modular Paramedic and midwifery station, vehicles and medical equipment for the Central Emergency Medical Service – 7.2 million UAH





- Danish Refugee Council – repairing of roofs of 6 residential buildings – 7 million UAH
- People in Need (Czech Republic) – repairing of the roof of Lyceum No. 3 worth 5.3 million UAH
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH – solar station on the building of the "Trostyanets Town Hospital", 63 kW, – worth 4.4 million UAH, panels for solar stations 97 kW, 132 thousand UAH
- JAFS (Japan) – repairing of the surgical block – 4.3 million UAH
- Eastern Europe Foundation – creation of the Unbreakable Hub – UAH 4.3 million
- Polish Center for International Assistance (PCPM) and the Taiwanese representative office in Poland – video surveillance within the framework of the Safe Community project – UAH 4 million

- Siemens Caring Hands (Germany) – C-arch device worth UAH 3.8 million
- AICM (France-Ukraine) – medical assistance for UAH 3.5 million
- Medair – community medicine support programs for UAH 3.4 million
- Voices of Children Foundation – Korobka Youth Center – UAH 2.9 million
- Swiss Confederation – 45 kW solar station at the children's department of the KNP "Trostyanets Town Hospital" – 2.7 million UAH
- IOM (International Organization for Migration) – investments in the amount of 2.4 million UAH
- Engagement Global (Germany) in cooperation with the partner city of Montabaur – 30 kW solar power station worth 2 million UAH
- GIZ (Germany) with the support of the partner city of Montabaur – 2 solar

stations of 40 kW for kindergartens "Kazka" and "Romashka", worth 2.2 million UAH

- U-LEAD with Europe – municipal transport and tools – 2 million UAH
- NUMO project and "SOS Children's Towns" Ukraine – youth space in the Sugar Mill neighborhood – 1.8 million UAH
- The United Nations Development Program within the framework of the Mayors for Economic Growth program – creation of a Business Support Center – UAH 1.6 million
- OpenDoorUkraine and CF Vastenactie – restoration of a first-aid post in the village of Stanova – UAH 1.5 million
- DOCCU NGO within the framework of the Education Cannot Wait program in cooperation with the international non-governmental organization Finn Church Aid Ukraine – repairing of a shelter in Lyceum No. 1 for UAH 1.4 million
- Kremer Kautschuk Kunststoff, BIOHAUS-Stiftung, Greenpeace Deutschland – panels for solar stations, 118 kW – UAH 0.6 million

The important contribution was also made by a long-time friend and partner of our town – the German Sibilla Strike-Zimmermann – the great-great-granddaughter of Leopold Koenig, and her husband Hans. This family provided support in the restoration and repairing of departments of the Trostyanets Town Hospital, in the renovation of libraries, and a minibus for transporting children was also purchased. The total amount of provided assistance is 10.4 million hryvnias.

The state also plays an important role in the restoration of our community. This is the result of the hard work of Trostyanets town mayor Yuriy Bova and the entire town council team, the availability of quality projects, and the active participation of the community, thanks to which the state leadership can hear us, see us, and respond to our problems.

In particular, the following state programs were implemented in Trostyanets:

- ◆ 200 million UAH – reconstruction of the H-12 highway, which passes through the Trostyanets community
- ◆ 107.3 million UAH – construction and arrangement of centers for IDPs (Neskuchne – 91.4 million UAH, Zavodska 1 – 4.6 million UAH, Keniga 7 – 2.7 million UAH, Soldatske villages – 6.9 million UAH, Martynivka – 2.7 million UAH, Dernove – 3.6 million UAH)

- ◆ 86 million UAH were received by 395 families within the framework of the e-Reconstruction program, including 54 million UAH – for 45 destroyed objects, 32 million UAH – for 350 families whose housing was damaged
- ◆ 72.7 million UAH – restoration of "Trostyanets Town Hospital" (repairing of the polyclinic, thermal modernization of the inpatient, polyclinic, and children's buildings)
- ◆ 60.5 million UAH – repairs of war-damaged high-rise buildings on Blagovishchenska Street, 53 and Neskuchanka Street, 9
- ◆ 15 million UAH transferred from the Sumy Regional Military Administration for building materials for owners of damaged housing

Thus, Trostyanets has attracted 391.3 million hryvnias from international and Ukrainian partners, and 541.5 million hryvnias from the state – for the reconstruction of damaged facilities and compensation to residents for destroyed housing, totally approximately 933 million hryvnias.

Trostyanets hromada is becoming an example of high-quality reconstruction and resilience. Financial support from the state and international partners has given us the chance to restore the housing stock, equip premises for the accommodation of displaced persons, create modern medical institutions, launch the educational process, revive and develop the municipal sphere.

Today we have already demonstrated that restoration is not only about rebuilding buildings. It is the path to a qualitatively new level of life for community! We have become an example for the country and a convincing signal for foreign donors: aid brings tangible changes.

Trostyanyets City Hromada

Population: 27 831

Total area: 78 866 hectares

Transport links:

- Highway N12: Sumy – Poltava – Olexandria (Hlukhiv – Kharkiv)
- Railway line: Kyiv – Sumy – Kharkiv

Location: Southern Sumy region, 60 km from Sumy city

Borders with: Kharkiv, Chernihiv, and Poltava regions

Administrative structure: 38 settlements, 12 village districts, with Trostyanyets as the administrative center

Land Resources

Total area: 78 865.85 hectares

Agricultural land: 40 432.87 hectares

Water bodies: 211.5 hectares

Forests: 29 961 hectares

Protected areas (reserves, sanctuaries, arboretums): 5 183.5 hectares

Trostyanyets hromada

Sumy
region

Ukraine

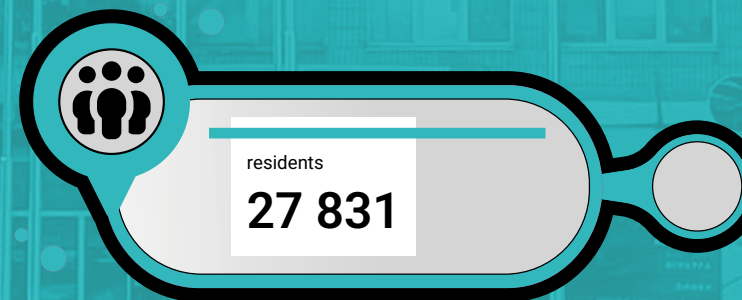
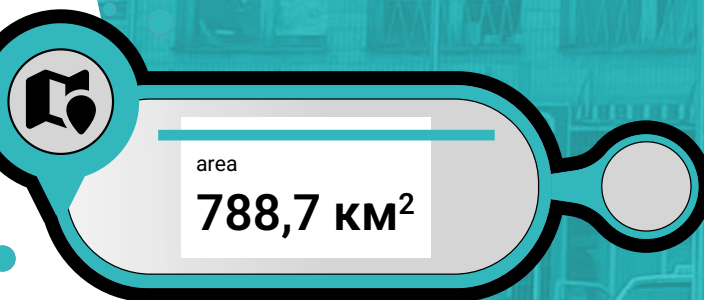
SUMY

Trostyanyets



KHARKIV

POLTAVA



By 2050, Trostyanyets will be a self-sufficient, innovative, and green hub – a comfortable place to live, work, and visit.

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Yuriy Bova, Mayor of Trostyanets

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Part #1

Occupation

(February-March 2022)

'THIS IS TRUE BARBARITY': LIFE AND DEATH UNDER RUSSIAN OCCUPATION



Trostanets, in Ukraine's northeast, was supposed to be a mere speed bump for the Russian military, which occupied it for roughly 30 days before the Ukrainian military retook it on March 26.

The town of Trostanets was occupied by Russian forces for a month before the Ukrainian military liberated it. Residents described weeks of hunger and horror.

TROSTANETS, Ukraine — The last three Russian soldiers in this Ukrainian town are in the morgue, their uniforms bloodied and torn. The first one's face is frozen in pain. The second has his wooden pipe in his lap. The third is stuffed in his sleeping bag.

These dead are not all that was left behind in Trostanets, a strategically located town in the country's northeast, where Russian forces fled several days ago in the face of an orchestrated Ukrainian assault. A monthlong Russian occupation reduced much of the town to rubble, a decimated landscape of mangled tank hulks, snapped trees and rattled but resilient survivors.

There are also stories, impossible to verify, highlighting the kind of hate left in an occupation's wake and sharing a common thread of brutality: children held at knife point; an old woman forced to drink alcohol as her occupiers watched and laughed; whispers of rape and forced disappearances; and an old

man found toothless, beaten in a ditch and defecated on.

"Oh, God, how I wanted to spit on them or hit them," said Yevdokiya Koneva, 57, her voice steely as she pushed her aging bicycle toward the center of town on Friday.

Ukrainian forces are now gaining ground, as more than a month into the war Russian forces are pulling back from their positions north of Kyiv, even as Ukrainian soldiers are making progress here in the northeast. This area was supposed to be little more than a speed bump for a sprawling military campaign that would quickly take the country's capital and leave the east in Russian hands.

Instead, a combination of logistics issues, low morale and poor planning among Russian forces allowed an emboldened Ukrainian military to go on the offensive along multiple axes, grinding down the occupying forces and splintering their front lines.

The Ukrainian victory in Trostanets came on March 26

— what residents call "Liberation Day" — and is an example of how disadvantaged and smaller Ukrainian units have launched successful counterattacks.

It also shows how the Russian military's inability to win a quick victory — in which it would "liberate" a friendly population — left its soldiers in a position that they were vastly unprepared for: holding an occupied town with an unwelcoming local populace.

"We didn't want this dreadful 'liberation,'" said Nina Ivanivna Panchenko, 64, who was walking in the rain after collecting a package of humanitarian aid. "Just let them never come here again."

Interviews with more than a dozen residents of Trostanets, a modest town of about 19,000 situated in a bowl of rolling hills roughly 20 miles from the Russian border, paint a stark picture of struggle and



The bodies of three Russian soldiers at the hospital's morgue.

fear during the Russian occupation. The unrelenting violence from both Ukrainian and Russian forces fighting to retake and hold the town raged for weeks and drove people into basements or anywhere they could find shelter.

On Friday, dazed residents walked through the destroyed town, sorting through the debris as some power was restored for the first time in weeks. Viktor Panov, a railway worker, was helping to clear the shrapnel-shattered train station of unexploded shells, grenades and other scattered explosives. Other men cannibalized destroyed Russian armored vehicles for parts or working machinery.

"I can't wrap my head around how this war with tanks and missiles is possible," said Olena Volkova, 57, the head doctor at the hospital and the deputy head of the town council. "Against who? The peaceful civilians?"

"This is true barbarity," she said.

The war began in Trostanets on Feb. 24, the day the Russians launched their invasion of Ukraine. The town quickly became a thoroughfare for advancing Russian tank columns as they punched farther west, part of their northeastern offensive toward Kyiv, the capital. Thousands of armored vehicles rolled through, breaking

highway guard rails and chewing up roads.

"As the Russians drove in, for the first two days, our guys fought back well, so long as they had heavy weapons," said Mr. Panov, 37. "After they ran out of those, they were left only with rifles."

Farther west, the offensive blitz toward Kyiv soon encountered fierce Ukrainian resistance, stopping the Russians short of the capital, meaning that soldiers



Clearing away an unexploded shell.



A monthlong Russian occupation reduced much of the town to rubble.



Charred stuffed toys in a child's bedroom in a building that was destroyed in a bombing.



An operating room at the Trostyanets hospital.

would have to occupy Trostyanets rather than just move through it. Roughly 800 troops fanned out, constructing a dozen or so checkpoints that cut the town into a grid of isolated neighborhoods.

Residents say they rarely tried to move through the Russian positions, though they described the occupying soldiers as amiable enough in the first days of the occupation, and more confused than anything.

"The first brigade of Russian forces that came in were more or less tolerable," Dr. Volkova

said. "They said, 'OK, we will help you.'"

That help, Dr. Volkova explained, was just allowing them to pull corpses off the streets. She added that roughly 20 people had been killed during the occupation and the ensuing fighting – 10 had suffered gunshot wounds.

On a few occasions, the Russian troops opened "green corridors" for civilians to leave the town, though that was when some people – mostly younger, military-age men – were abducted.

Live Updates: Russia-Ukraine War

Rocket strike hits a largely evacuated neighborhood in Kharkiv, killing at least two.

The U.S. lays out its new program to accept 100,000 Ukrainian refugees.

The U.S. is set to provide Ukraine with an additional \$500 million in emergency funding.

Early in the occupation, Trostyanets's police officers took off their uniforms and blended into the populace. Those who were in Ukraine's Territorial Defense, the equivalent of the National Guard, slipped out to the town's periphery and worked as partisans – documenting Russian troop

movement and reporting it to the Ukrainian military.

Others remained in the town, quietly moving to help residents where they could, even as Russian soldiers hunted them. "We were here during the whole time of occupation, working to the best of our abilities," explained the police chief, Volodymyr Bogachyov, 53.

As the days and weeks went by, food became scarce and any good will from the soldiers vanished, too. Residents boiled snow for water and lived off what they had stored from their small gardens. Russian soldiers, without a proper logistics pipeline, began looting people's

homes, shops and even the local chocolate factory. One butcher spray painted "ALREADY LOOTED" on his shop so the soldiers would not break in. On another store, another deterrence: "EVERYTHING IS TAKEN, NOTHING LEFT."

By mid-March, the Russian soldiers were rotated out of the town and replaced by separatist fighters who were brought in from the southeast.

It was then, residents said, that atrocities began to mount.

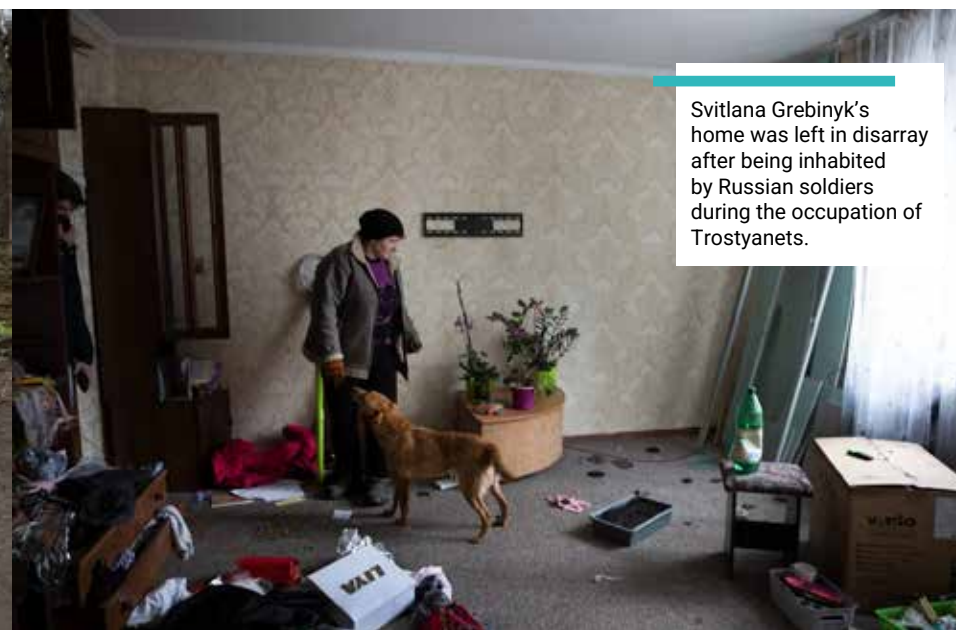
"They were brash and angry," Dr. Volkova said. "We could not

negotiate with them about anything. They would not give us any green corridors, they searched the apartments, took away the phones, abducted people – they took them away, mostly young men, and we still don't know where these people are."

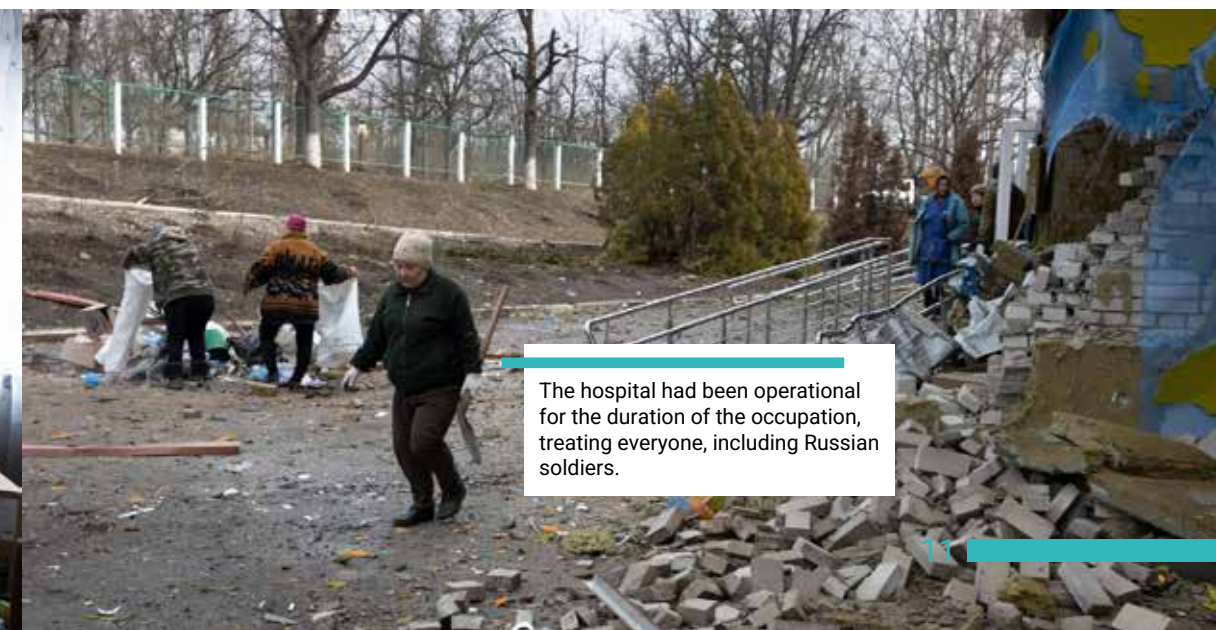
As of Friday, the town's police had received 15 reports of missing people.



The Ukrainian Army recovering a disabled T-72 Russian tank.



Svitlana Grebinyk's home was left in disarray after being inhabited by Russian soldiers during the occupation of Trostyanets.



The hospital had been operational for the duration of the occupation, treating everyone, including Russian soldiers.



The train station and cars were heavily damaged.

In the morgue, beside the three dead Russian soldiers, Dr. Volkova pointed to a body bag in the corner of the room. "This person was tortured to death," she said. "His hands and legs are tied up with sticky tape, his teeth are missing and almost all of his face is gone. It's unknown what they wanted from him."

Outside the town, Ukraine's 93rd Mechanized Brigade, a unit of experienced veterans who had seen combat off and on in the country's separatist regions for the past seven years, slowly moved into position. Then, on March 23, they attacked with a bombardment of artillery fire.

The next day, the town's hospital was shelled. It is not entirely clear who hit the building, but local residents accuse the Russians of firing into the structure. The hospital had been operational for the duration of the occupation, treating everyone, including Russian soldiers. During the shelling, only one doctor and one nurse were still working there, and they moved into the basement with patients.

"In the morning, we went away on foot with the last two women still remaining in the

maternity ward, one pregnant and one that had just given birth," said Xenia Gritsaienko, 45, a midwife who had returned to work on Friday to clean up the ward. Tank shells had gone through the walls, shredding baby posters and lighting at least one room on fire. "It was the cry from the bottom of the soul."



Men in the town have cannibalized destroyed Russian armored vehicles for parts or working machinery.

The Russian forces fled on the night of the 25th. Their demolished artillery position in the train station square showed signs of an undersupplied and ad hoc force. Fortifications included ammunition crates loaded with sand and thick candy bar wrappers bundled in rolls and used to shore up shattered windows instead of sandbags. Uniforms lay in soaked puddles. Russian supply documents blew aimlessly in the wind.

A nearby monument that commemorates the World War II victory to retake the town, affixed with an aging Soviet

tank, was damaged, but not destroyed. It had survived one more battle.

By Friday afternoon, Mr. Bogachyov, the police chief, was sorting through reports of townspeople who had collaborated with the former occupiers, as well as trying to address continued looting. Yet no one had issues siphoning fuel from the abandoned Russian tanks dotting the roads.

"The info is such as, 'This person was talking or drinking

vodka with the Russians,' and, 'This person pointed to them where is the home of the person they were looking for,'" he said.

"There is no information on collaborations such as our citizens taking arms along with the occupants or treating their own citizens with violence," Mr. Bogachyov said, acknowledging that it was hard to tell if he was contending with Russian spies or just neighborly grudges.



The Russian forces fled on the night of the 25th.

The morning rain had burned off by the afternoon. The long lines around humanitarian aid distribution points dissipated. A garbage truck meandered by, loaded to the brim with war detritus and Russian Army rations. A few people took selfies in front of the last Russian piece of self-propelled artillery that was still recognizable.

Galyna Mitsaii, 65, an employee of the local seed and gardening supplies shop near the train station, slowly restocked her shelves, pleased at how the day's weather had turned out.

"We will sow, we will grow, we will live," she said, crying.



A UKRAINIAN MAYOR LOOKS AT LIFE AFTER LIBERATION

A man rides his bike past a destroyed Russian tank in Trostyanets, Ukraine. Photographer: Chris McGrath/Getty Images Europe

The small town of Trostyanets survived 31 days of Russian occupation. "My task now is to show the horrors of this war," says its mayor.

Taras Kaidan, Feargus O'Sullivan and Mariana Matveichuk

Before Russian tanks crashed into Trostyanets in the first days of their invasion, the small northeastern

Ukrainian town 20 miles from the Russia-Ukraine border was known mostly for its cluster of historic monuments, its chocolate factory and the innovative development strategies of its progressive mayor, Yuri Bova. Now the town is

scarcely recognizable: Buildings have been shelled and looted, roads are mined, and the surviving population — 20,000 residents lived here before the war began — is reeling from 31 days of Russian occupation.

After the initial Russian advance into Ukraine stalled, Trostyanets became a staging area for hundreds of troops and their equipment. The number of civilians killed during the occupation is still unclear. Targeted by Russian authorities, Bova and other city leaders took shelter in a nearby village. Now that the Russians have departed and the theater of the war in Ukraine has shifted to the southeast, the mayor is taking on the task of helping the town back onto its feet. With most infrastructure damaged or destroyed and residents still traumatized and lacking services, that's a mammoth undertaking. Bloomberg CityLab talked to Mayor Bova about life during the occupation, and what the recovery and rebuilding process could look like; the conversation has been edited and condensed.

On the first day, I was told by phone that Russian soldiers had broken into my house, drove a tank into the yard, knocked out the door and smashed the whole house. When I got there and my wife saw a photo of our home, she started crying. Everything was turned upside down, shot, destroyed. They smashed office equipment and TVs and tore up pictures.

Since then, a significant part of my life has disappeared, and a new countdown has begun. Life is now divided into two periods: before and after the war. Before the Russian invasion, our main task was to develop innovations and solutions for community advancement. Now the key question is our city's survival.

The worst thing about the occupation was the killing of civilians and the destruction of public buildings like hospitals and libraries for no reason. People here have been building things up for centuries, only to see them collapse under Russian shelling and bombardment. We gave our souls to what we did. We invested our resources. When everything instantly collapses, it leaves a devastating impression.

Life during the occupation was unreal. People didn't go to work, as all the administrative buildings were occupied by 400 to 500 Russian soldiers and about 100 military vehicles. Citizens were afraid to walk, as Russians could shoot them for no reason. They forbade burying people in the cemetery, deliberately placing their tanks there instead. People spent weeks in basements. Some of them witnessed their property

being destroyed. They were forced to dig graves for their loved ones in backyards. In many cases, living people had to share their living space with dead relatives and friends for days. Can you imagine children having to live like this next to their deceased parents?

Considering my active pro-Ukrainian stance, working in the city under occupation would have meant a direct threat to my life. I rejected the idea of any cooperation with the enemy. I knew Russians would hunt my head, as well as those of other activists. And that's precisely what happened: On the second day after entering the city, the occupiers looked for these people. Therefore, I managed the city remotely. At the same time, I did not go far and sometimes succeeded in coming for a brief secret visit.

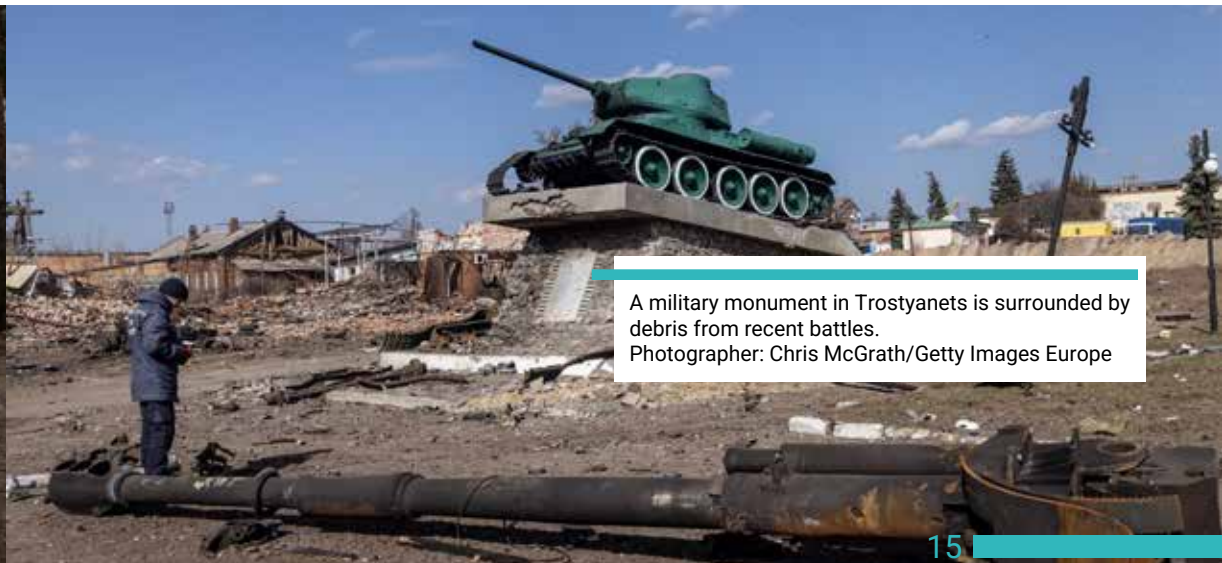
Personally, my entire 17 years of work as a mayor disappeared right before my eyes. It is unbelievable. The city used to set a specific tone in Ukraine for reforms, the promotion of democratic values, ideas and projects. Speaking at international events, I always emphasized how crucial it is to build a stable Ukraine in the east and northeast, to ensure the country's security. This has



Ammunition boxes are stacked in a window of the central train station in Trostyanets, which was used as a Russian base for several weeks. Photographer: Chris McGrath/Getty Images Europe



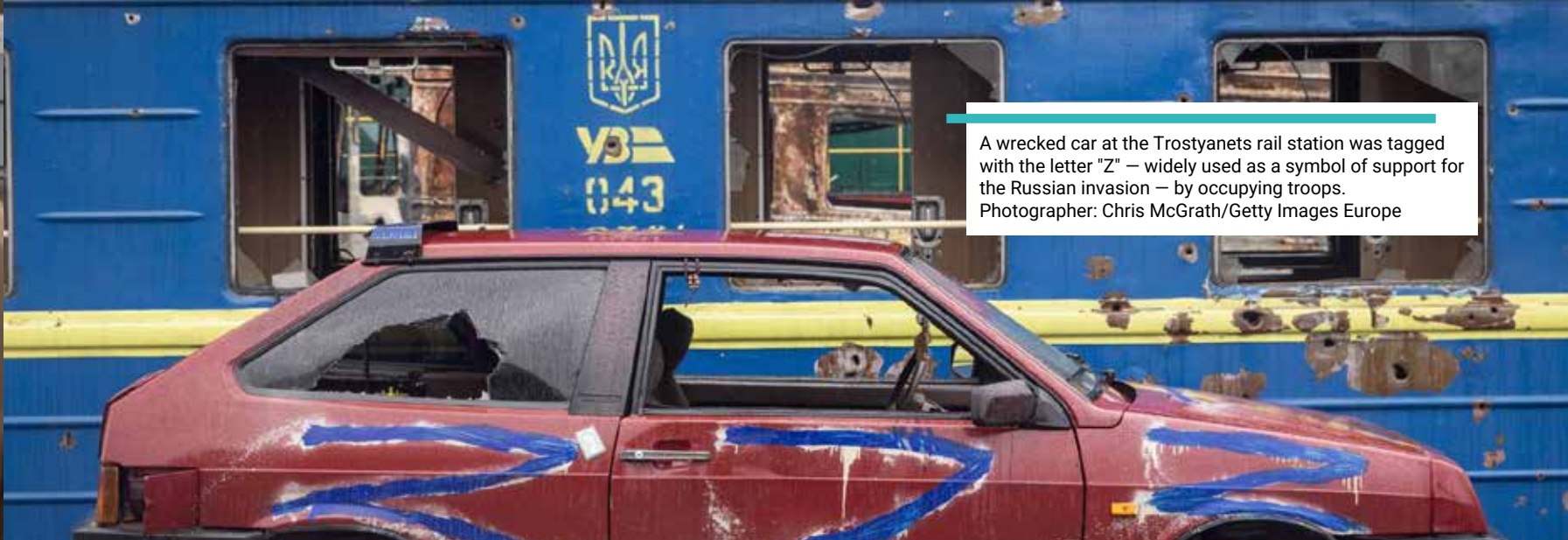
Fresh graves of civilians in a residential area of Trostyanets. Photographer: Chris McGrath/Getty Images Europe



A military monument in Trostyanets is surrounded by debris from recent battles. Photographer: Chris McGrath/Getty Images Europe



Food aid is distributed at a humanitarian aid station in Trostyanets.
Photographer: Chris McGrath/Getty Images Europe



A wrecked car at the Trostyanets rail station was tagged with the letter "Z" – widely used as a symbol of support for the Russian invasion – by occupying troops.
Photographer: Chris McGrath/Getty Images Europe

become even more relevant now. For one month, people were held hostage. My task now is to show the horrors of this war and what the occupiers were doing here.

Trostyanets is in ruins. The hospital is out of order. It wasn't destroyed, but it was shelled by Russian tanks and sustained heavy damage, with broken windows and walls and destroyed equipment. We used to have almost 400 staffers there before the war, but only 20 people are left. We can't actually provide care with that small a staff, so doctors from other cities have to travel to help us, which firstly isn't safe enough and secondly doesn't solve the need for daily service. We believe our staff will feel safe enough to return once we have repaired the windows, restored heating, and provided treatment for the most urgent cases.

Next comes the power grid, which was almost completely destroyed. Since the fourth day of the war, all settlements near Trostyanets were left without electricity and water and cut off from the city. The citizens spent one month in the dark, without heating, almost without food – we had almost no delivery all month as evacuation corridors were not provided. We will need humanitarian aid for at

least a month. Today, when people have electricity in their homes, it feels like a feast.

To help with the situation, we receive help from international partners and various places in western and central Ukraine. We also ask everyone we can contact through social networks, by phone, or any other way. We have been able to set up a network of humanitarian centers where groceries and essential goods we receive are distributed to people every day. The most important thing is to deliver aid to people who can't come to these humanitarian centers on their own.

There is no public transit in Trostyanets itself – all the city buses were destroyed. Because almost everything was stolen or destroyed, we use volunteers and private initiative to deliver necessary aid. We have been able to restore some services; garbage is being collected and the water supply system

has started to work, somehow. But it will take a long time to restore full public services.

This is difficult because all our computer equipment was stolen by Russians, making administrative services very slow. Employees have assembled several computers from some spare parts, which makes it possible to type letters to send to charity organizations, but nothing more. Moreover, the whole database – salary calculations, accounting documentation, city council reports – has been shattered and turned upside down. We are trying to restore some payments through the treasury and banking system, but it's not easy, as we have lost equipment, access and passwords. Difficult times are coming to Trostyanets – financially, morally and technically.

My working day now runs from 6 to midnight, usually without even time for a tea break. I receive hundreds of calls from people who need help, are looking for relatives, or are themselves offering the city help. I am also coordinating the work of city council members who have decided to stay in this area – together we're now helping restore

the city's economy and work with the military to ensure community safety.

I am in constant movement, constant tension. Instead of blooming roses, I see destroyed objects, ruined infrastructure, people in a state of semi-shock, sappers removing mines, or the military taking out equipment or ammunition. This is nonstop, intense and sometimes dangerous work. I wear a bulletproof vest all day long, although I want to take it off all the time.

As for the future, our ability to go back to the pre-war state depends on how quickly we can return the city to regular working conditions. We need to give new housing to people whose homes have been destroyed, but now we don't have the resources – they are staying with friends and acquaintances. They need to return to everyday life.

If we don't do that immediately, people who have left Trostyanets may stay in western Ukraine, Poland or the Czech Republic forever. Businesspeople may decide that it's not worth working

here anymore. We need to give confidence to people that everything will work out. Investors, entrepreneurs and citizens need to see a confidently recovering community, and the mayor and city councils activities need to build that confidence.

If we manage to do that, I am sure both investors and citizens will return and rebuild the city. The task of the whole civilized world is to help them with this. Today, Ukraine is defending democracy for the world as a whole.



Residents of Trostyanets survey a destroyed Russian tank close to the central train station.
Photographer: Chris McGrath/Getty Images Europe

'BARBARIANS': RUSSIAN TROOPS

LEAVE GRISLY MARK ON

TOWN OF TROSTYANETS



An apartment block in Trostyanets occupied by Russian troops and damaged by the Ukrainian army when it retook the town.



The view from Trostyanets train station, which was used as a military position by Russian soldiers

On a two-day visit, the Guardian found evidence of summary executions, torture and looting

By Shaun Walker in Trostyanets. Photographs by Anastasia Taylor-Lind

The tanks rolled into Trostyanets, a sleepy town 20 miles from the Russia-Ukraine border, in the first hours of the invasion. Russian troops fanned out across the town, occupying a number of buildings: the forestry agency headquarters, the railway station and a chocolate factory.

Their top general set up his office in room 23 at the local

administration building, where the council's accountants used to sit. His bottle of single malt is still on the desk, the butts of his slim cigarettes perched on the edge of an ashtray. He slept on a single bed stolen from a nearby hotel.

His men lived one floor below. They appear to have slept, eaten and defecated in the same rooms, and some of them may have died there too, judging by the bloodied Russian uniforms littering the floor.

Thirty days after they arrived, amid a fierce Ukrainian counteroffensive, the Russians left Trostyanets in a convoy of tanks, other armour, trucks full of loot and numerous stolen vehicles they had daubed with Z signs, the symbol of their invading force.

The carnage they left behind will be remembered by the residents of this quaint, historical spa town of 20,000 residents for the rest of their lives, and is yet another indictment of the results of

Russia's unwanted "liberation" mission in Ukraine.

In the square outside the train station, there is now a grim panorama of several mangled tanks, the whitened carcass of a self-propelled howitzer and a shot-up yellow bus with blood smeared on the seats. Hundreds of green ammunition boxes and casings remain, evidence of the shells and Grad missiles the Russians fired from Trostyanets into neighbouring towns. Surviving buildings have been daubed with pro-Russian slogans, and crude insults about the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

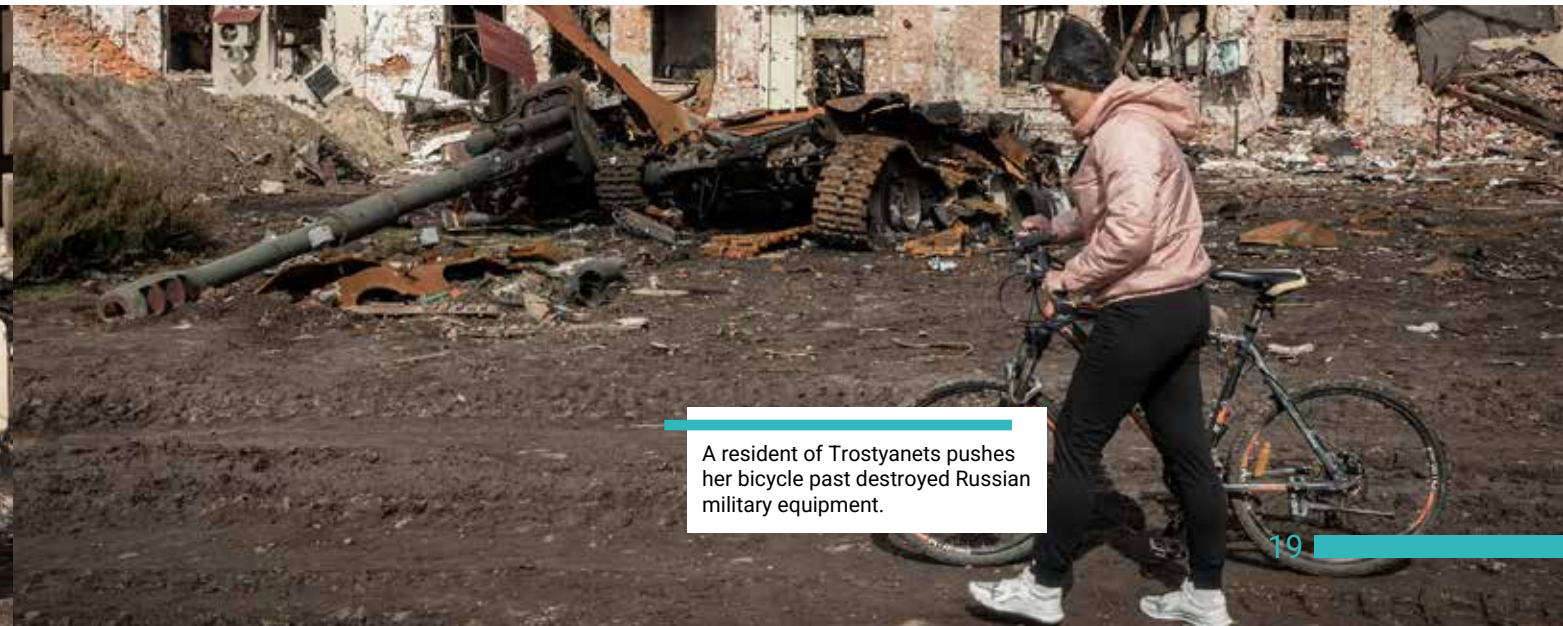
On a two-day visit to the town, the Guardian found evidence of summary executions, torture and systematic looting during the month of occupation, but it will take a long time to catalogue all the crimes the Russians committed in places like Trostyanets.

For now, the long and difficult clean-up is under way. Ukrainian sappers have removed mines and tripwires from the cemetery, the train station and even the chocolate museum, housed in an elegant villa where the composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky once stayed. Electricity returned for the first time in weeks on Sunday. The first passenger train since the invasion

arrived at the wrecked station on Monday. But the streets are still littered with the twisted remains of Russian armoured vehicles, and there is nothing to buy because everything has been looted.

Over the weekend, residents wheeled bicycles to the points across town where parcels of food aid were available: cartons of eggs, jars of pickled cucumbers and plastic bags bulging with potatoes, sent by volunteer groups in other parts of Ukraine. In the orderly but irritable queue to receive them, people embraced acquaintances who they were happy to see still alive, and swapped horror stories from the past month.

A car with the letter Z, a symbol of support for the Russian invasion of Ukraine, near the train station in Trostyanets, occupied by the Russian army and heavily damaged by the Ukrainian army when it recently retook the town.



A resident of Trostyanets pushes her bicycle past destroyed Russian military equipment.



Trotskyanets residents queue to receive food aid.



Destroyed Russian military equipment in Trostyanets



The mayor of Trostyanets, Yuriy Bova, in his office in the town administrative building, which was occupied by Russian troops

Spotting a journalist, ever more people joined in, shouting over each other. "They smashed my place up." "They stole everything, even my underwear." "They killed a guy on my street." "The fuckers stole my laptop and my aftershave." A symphony of stories, some of them personal, some of them second-hand, all of them awful.

This is a place where a decade ago, people had mostly good things to say about Russia, which is just a short drive away and where many people have friends and family. Now they competed to heap insults on the neighbours that had brought

misery upon them. "Barbarians!" "Pigs!" "Bastards!"

Yuriy Bova, the mayor of Trostyanets, said it was too early to give a reliable estimate of how many civilians the Russians had killed. It was "definitely more than 50, but probably not hundreds", he said.

Bova now struts about town in fatigues, a pistol tucked into the front of his body armour. At the time of the invasion, however, he cut a very different figure.

The idea of a Russian invasion had seemed fanciful to him, he admitted. Nonetheless, as the crescendo of US intelligence

warnings continued, he called a meeting of those who would like to join a territorial defence force.

About 100 people turned up. There are no military installations in Trostyanets, and between them, they had a few hunting rifles, a couple of pistols and a few policemen with Kalashnikovs. They agreed to ask Kyiv for weapons.



But it was already too late. Three nights later, the invasion began. By breakfast time, a huge column of Russian armour was already on the outskirts of the town. Bova sent a group of foresters to cut down trees along the entrance road, which won them a few hours, and in mid-morning he called another meeting of the territorial defence unit.

"Trying to fight against tanks with a few rifles would have meant certain death, so I took the decision that we would become partisans," said Bova. People had a few minutes to decide whether they would stay or go. The mayor and his deputies left

town, retreating to neighbouring villages.

When Ukrainian forces blew up a bridge to the south of Trostyanets, it stalled Russia's advance plans, and the town became a hub of Russian servicemen and armour.

Local residents retreated to their basements and waited to see what would happen. Some of the first interactions with the occupiers were relatively painless, residents reported.

"We were scared of them, but after a while we started pitying them. They had dirty faces, they stank and they looked completely lost," said Yana Lugovets, who spent a

month sleeping in the basement with her husband, daughter and friends.

She said a soldier who had come to search the house where they were staying left without completing the task, his eyes filled with shame as her daughter cried out in fear at the intruder.

Daria Sasina, 26, who ran a beauty salon near the train station, said when she went to check on it and found seven Russian soldiers had broken in and were sleeping there, they were initially apologetic.



Members of the territorial defence survey destroyed Russian equipment in Bilka



Daria Sasina in her beauty salon in Trostyanets, which was looted by Russian soldiers



Electricians work to restore power to Trostyanets



Ludmyla Savchenko, whose husband Mykola was killed by Russian soldiers.



Police officers observe heavily damaged buildings in Trostyanets

"I started crying, I was in hysterics. There was a young soldier, and he calmed me down. He said: 'Listen, I'm sorry. We didn't know it would be like this.'"

Many people recalled similar polite exchanges, or flickers of shame in the eyes of the intruders, but any interaction with the occupiers involved enduring a game of Russian roulette. A few days later, when Sasina, her husband and father went on a risky mission across town to deliver bread to a

96-year-old great aunt, a group of Russian soldiers sprang onto the street behind them and pointed their weapons at them.

"There were 20 of them, and they started shouting: 'Run, bitches!' We ran through the mud as fast as we could, our legs were freezing and soaked and we were terrified. They started shooting in the air. We could hear them laughing, they thought it was hilarious."

When Sasina went back to check on her small salon the day after the Russians had left, she found they had stolen thousands of dollars worth of expensive hair dyes, shampoos and nail polishes,

the hairdryers, all the cutting equipment, a sofa, all the chairs, several lightbulbs and the art on the walls. An air conditioning unit was left dangling down from the wall, its cables having proved stronger than the desire to steal it.

In return, the Russians had left clumps of their own shaved hair on the floor, and piles of faeces in the neighbouring grocery shop. Somewhere in Russia, the wives and girlfriends of soldiers will presumably soon receive gifts of high-end beauty products. For Sasina, she does not know how she will afford to rebuild her salon.

"Everything I worked to build has been destroyed," she said.

The mayor has been criticised by some for his decision to flee, but Bova insists it was the only sensible option. Flicking through photographs on his phone from the occupation days, he showed how people had sent him information about Russian deployments, including from one brave local who managed to fly a drone over their positions.

"People told us where they're sleeping, where they're eating, where their hardware is," said Bova.

As the Ukrainian army called in strikes on the Russian positions, the Russians became more and more angry.

An expletive-laden audio recording released by the Ukrainian security services purportedly shows a Russian general ordering a missile strike on civilian targets after receiving incoming fire from a nearby village. "Wipe the whole place from the Earth from the eastern side to the west," he says.

As they came under fire more frequently, the Russians cut mobile reception in the town, and went house to house, demanding to examine people's telephones for compromising information. A handwritten note found amid the mess of the soldiers' quarters in the train station lists the names of possible enemies to hunt down, with extremely vague identifiers, such as "drives a white off-road vehicle".

In Bilka, a quiet, windswept hamlet just outside Trostyanets, where the Russians based more than 200 vehicles, at least two people were executed. Alexander Kulybaba, a pig farmer who protested against the takeover of his barn, was shot on the spot on 2 March, the day the Russians arrived in the village.

Mykola Savchenko, a kindly electrician with a handlebar moustache, who together with his wife, Ludmyla, had six foster children, went out on the first morning to find somewhere to charge his and his wife's mobile phones because the electricity was already down.

"I'm just popping out for five minutes," he told her. He never came back.

Ludmyla stood outside her home weeping on Monday, holding a stamped death report from the police that explained in neat handwriting that her husband had been "brutally tortured and then killed with a shot to the heart and one to the head". An inspection found broken bones in his fingers and arms.

"I didn't say anything to the children, because they are small and they still don't understand everything. Every day they waited for their dad to come home, but he never did. Yesterday, I said to them: 'Sit down, I will explain everything,'" she said.

The youngest of her six children is four, the eldest 11. They stood alongside her, lined up like nesting dolls, silent and confused.

Ludmyla insisted her husband had not been active in the resistance to the Russians, but many locals were. On a nearby street, a farmer explained how he hid his smartphone in the dirt inside the pig enclosure, and carried round an old brick phone as a decoy to show to Russian soldiers if asked. Then, in the darkness of night, he would dig up his real phone, scurry to the one spot where he knew there was still reception, and send the new



Members of the territorial defence visit the grave of Alexander Kulybaba, a pig farmer killed by Russian soldiers in Bilka village, near Trostyanets



Nadezhda Bakran, a nurse at the hospital in Trostyanets



Members of the territorial defence unit survey Russian positions at Alexander Kulybaba's pig farm

locations of Russian hardware to a relative in the Ukrainian army.

"Then they sent in the Bayraktars and fucked them up," he said with a cackle, referring to the Turkish-made drones that Ukraine has used with deadly effect against Russian columns. "The Russians are dogs, they are subhumans, they are locusts," he said.

The boiling fury felt towards the Russians in villages such as Bilka, where people speak a mishmash of Ukrainian and Russian and previously felt far removed from geopolitical concerns, will be a lasting consequence of Vladimir Putin's grim decision to invade.

Along with the anger, there is confusion and disappointment about the attitudes of ordinary Russians. Nadezhda Bakran, 73, a nurse in the local hospital, cowered in the hospital's basement together with her patients, as a Russian tank took potshots at the building, which is now empty and wrecked. Her nearby apartment block has also been reduced to a skeleton,

with all the windows blown out and serious structural damage.

But when she called her best friend in Moscow, with whom she has been on holiday almost every year since they met in Crimea 43 years ago, she heard only sceptical derision and accusations.

"I tried to explain it to her, but she doesn't believe me. She believes her television. I said: 'Your people are destroying my town'. She said: 'You caused this war

yourself'... We were friends, what we had was even closer than just friendship, and she doesn't believe me. I don't understand."

For many, this sense of betrayal from their friends and family has hit almost as hard as the material losses.

Sasina, the beauty-salon owner, listed the losses her family had taken from a month of Russian occupation: her house

was destroyed, her beauty salon looted, her mother's toy shop also looted, her friend's car stolen, daubed with Zs and then smashed up. Her brother now walks on crutches after his car was shot at on the first day at a checkpoint and a bullet lodged in his lower back. Russian soldiers even shot her grandmother's cat during a house inspection, she said.

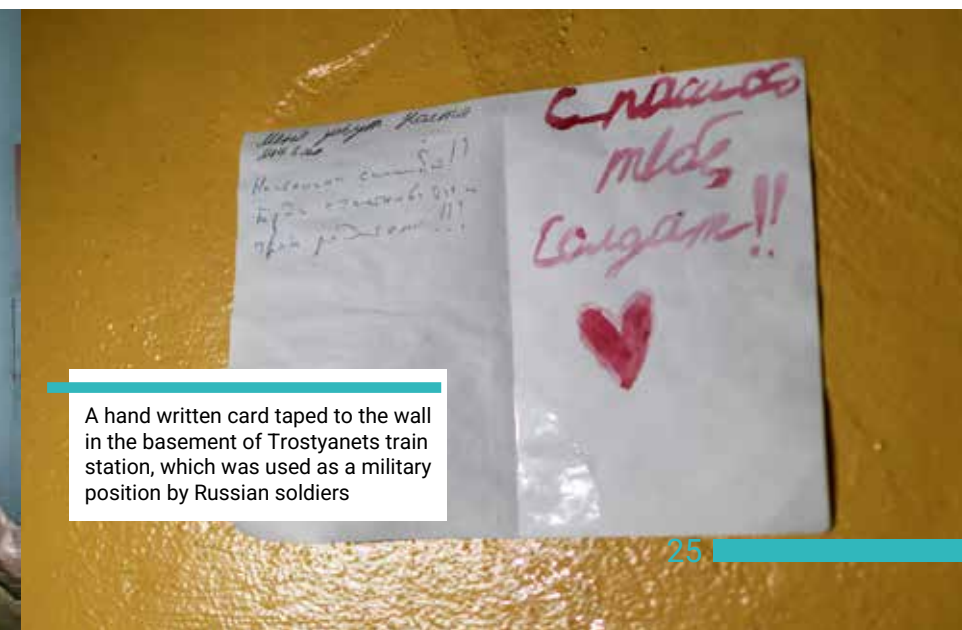
When Sasina called her aunt, who lives outside Moscow and had visited her in Trostyanets most summers, to inform her of the horrors unfolding, her

aunt told her she was talking nonsense. "She said it's not possible, she said probably the soldiers are Ukrainians dressed up as Russians. She has stopped speaking to me now," Sasina said, shaking her head in disbelief.

The Russian soldiers who made it out of Trostyanets alive may never speak about the anger they witnessed and the carnage they caused, as they return to a country where their operation in Ukraine has been referred to by state propaganda as a heroic mission to save their



The town administrative building in Trostyanets



A hand written card taped to the wall in the basement of Trostyanets train station, which was used as a military position by Russian soldiers

neighbour from the clutches of radicals and neo-Nazis.

Russian television viewers may never see the ugly truth of the cost of their army's unwanted intervention, although many Russian families will now be mourning lost sons and brothers. The yellowed bodies of three Russian soldiers lie unclaimed and unrefrigerated in the Trostyanets hospital morgue. A Ukrainian soldier involved in retaking the town estimated that up to 300 may have died here.

In the basement of the train station, weak torchlight reveals an improvised field hospital where the Russians treated their wounded. Silver padding had been placed over two desks to create makeshift operating tables. The floor was littered with tablets and other medical supplies. A medical drip remained, fastened to a coat stand.

On the wall in the corridor outside was perhaps the most jarring sight in all Trostyanets. Children's drawings brought from Russia were taped to the wall, gifts from schoolchildren in honour of Army Day, the day before Russia's invasion. The cards were decorated with pretty, colourful flowers and messages of support written in spidery youthful handwriting.

One was signed by Sasha P, first grade, and came with drawings in crayon and a printed message.

It read: "Thank you, soldier, for making sure I live under a peaceful sky."



Part #2

From hostilities to Recovery



"We want not just to rebuild, but to modernize what the russians destroyed." — Mayor Yuriy Bova



FROM HOSTILITIES TO RECOVERY

Trostyanets

The city of Trostyanets is characterized by two important central spaces that shape the urban structure.

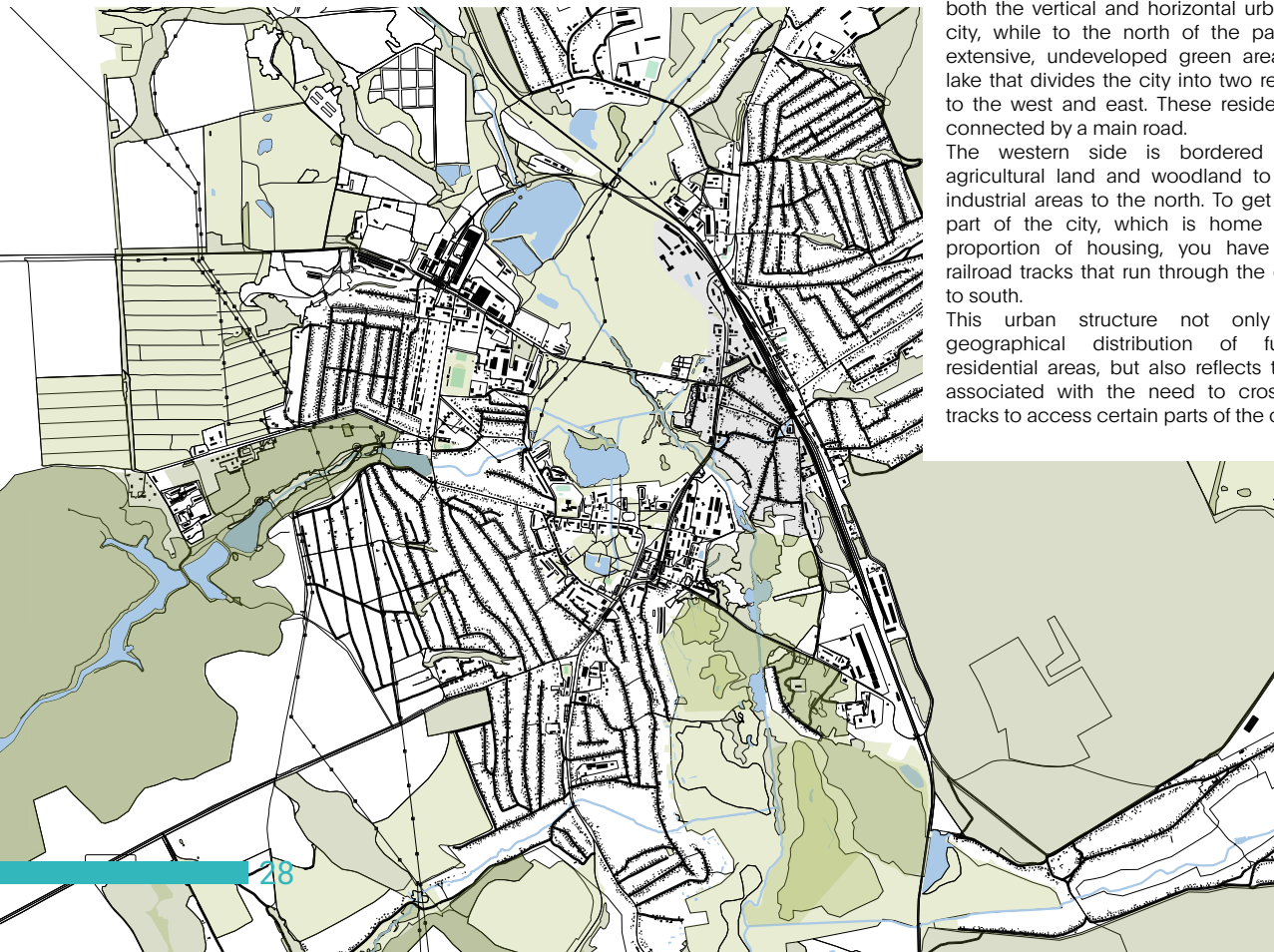
The first city center is located in the immediate neighborhood of the railroad tracks and extends northward along the city's connecting axes.

The second center is formed by a large park surrounded by public facilities such as schools and municipal buildings.

A main street surrounds this park and connects both the vertical and horizontal urban axes of the city, while to the north of the park there is an extensive, undeveloped green area with a large lake that divides the city into two residential areas to the west and east. These residential areas are connected by a main road.

The western side is bordered by extensive agricultural land and woodland to the west and industrial areas to the north. To get to the eastern part of the city, which is home to the largest proportion of housing, you have to cross the railroad tracks that run through the city from north to south.

This urban structure not only shapes the geographical distribution of functions and residential areas, but also reflects the challenges associated with the need to cross the railroad tracks to access certain parts of the city.



From Destruction to Renewal

On March 25, 2022, the Armed Forces of Ukraine liberated Trostyanets after weeks of fierce fighting. Local residents played a crucial role, providing intelligence, resisting occupation, and supporting the army.

The occupation left **1,550 buildings damaged or destroyed**, 49 residents killed, and losses exceeding **\$100 million**. Yet within two years, schools, kindergartens, and major factories resumed operations, and the population even grew thanks to IDPs.

Comprehensive Reconstruction

In early 2023, Trostyanets became one of **six pilot cities** in Ukraine's state program for comprehensive reconstruction under the "Build Back Better" principle.

Projects include:

- Restoration of housing (Blagovishchanska St. 53, Neskuchanska St. 9).
- Reconstruction of the hospital, polyclinic, and Station Square.
- Modernization of stormwater and sewage networks.
- New pedestrian crossings, parking, and transport hubs.

Medical infrastructure is being rebuilt with state and international support (including GIZ modular outpatient clinic worth €1M).





Business Resilience

Despite the war, **not a single enterprise left Trostyanets.**

Mondelēz International factory, badly damaged in March 2022, was fully restored by May 2024.

- Investments: \$20M (\$12M completed, \$8M planned).
- Employees: 580+ back at work.
- Products resumed: Milka, Korona, Barney, Oreo.
- Over \$1M invested in local social projects.

Kraft Jacobs also resumed work, employing 250 people.

SMEs are supported through grants and local government initiatives.

International Partnerships

In the past three years, Trostyanets has partnered with **130+ international organizations** – from volunteers to global development agencies.

Mayor Bova personally wrote **300+ appeals**, securing funds and support for cultural, educational, and infrastructure projects.

As he notes:

"We must not wait for the war to end to rebuild. The enemy wants us to stop, but we continue every day."

Trostyanets City Hromada

Population: 27,831

Total area: 78,866 hectares

Transport links:

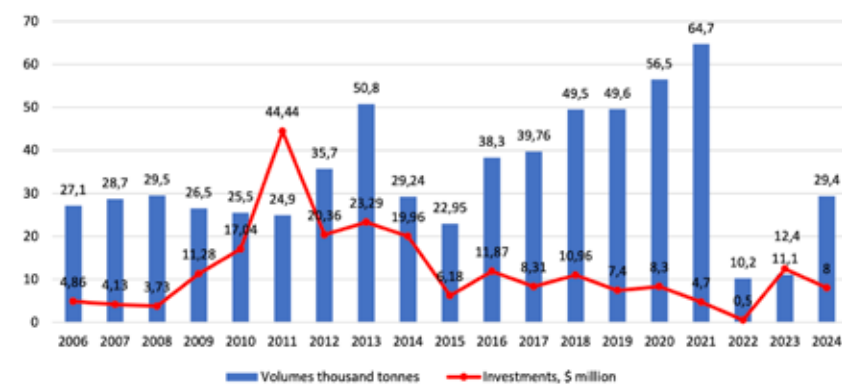
- Highway N12: Sumy – Poltava – Olexandria (Hlukhiv – Kharkiv)
- Railway line: Kyiv – Sumy – Kharkiv

Location: Southern Sumy region, 60 km from Sumy city

Borders with: Kharkiv, Chernihiv, and Poltava regions

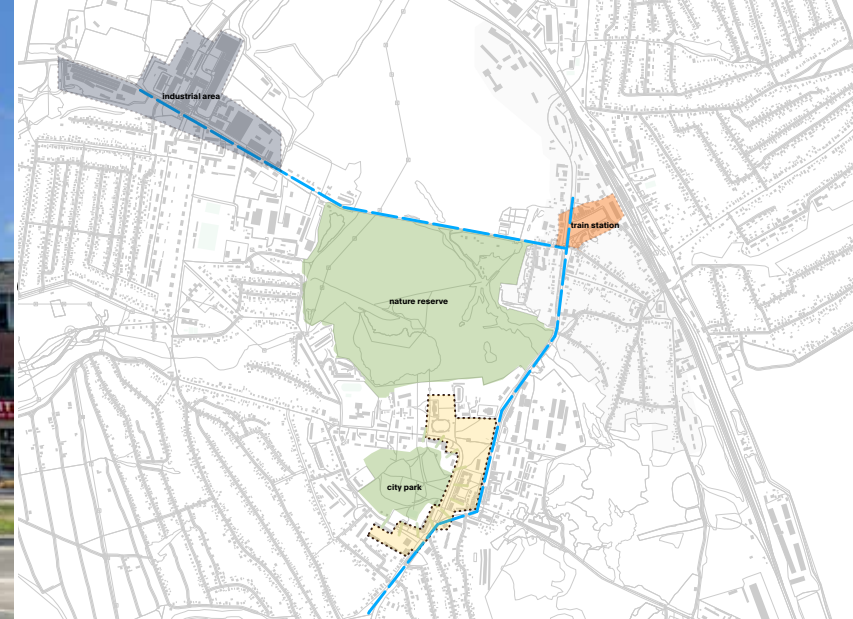
Administrative structure: 38 settlements, 12 village districts, with Trostyanets as the administrative center

Production volumes and capital investments of PJSC "Mondelēz Ukraine" in 2005-2024



- In 2023-2024, more than \$20 million was invested in the plant's renovation.
- Already in 2023, the production volume amounted to \$54 million.





Land Resources

Total area: 78,865.85 hectares

Agricultural land: 40,432.87 hectares

Water bodies: 211.5 hectares

Forests: 29,961 hectares

Protected areas (reserves, sanctuaries, arboretums): 5,183.5 hectares

Renewable Energy

In 2020–2023, LLC Global Green Energy Solar I built a 5.7 MW solar power plant on a 9-hectare site, investing \$5.7 million.

Trostanets has **8 more land plots** designated for renewable energy (total 150 hectares, ranging from 6 to 36.2 hectares).

Lease term: up to 49 years.

Annual rent: **\$400 per hectare.**

Business Opportunities

Wood Processing

Forest area: ~30,000 hectares

➤ 21,392 ha hardwood (oak, ash)

➤ 5,271 ha coniferous

➤ 2,743 ha softwood

Total annual stock: **71,904 m³**

Restoring the destroyed 2-hectare wood processing plant would allow monthly processing of **495 m³** of roundwood.

Fish Farming

60 water bodies with a combined surface area of **315 hectares** (0.5–34.1 ha each).

Lease term: 7–49 years.

Annual rent: **\$40 per hectare.**

Horticulture

13 land plots totaling **116.1 hectares** (1.2–30.3 ha).

Lease term: 7–49 years.

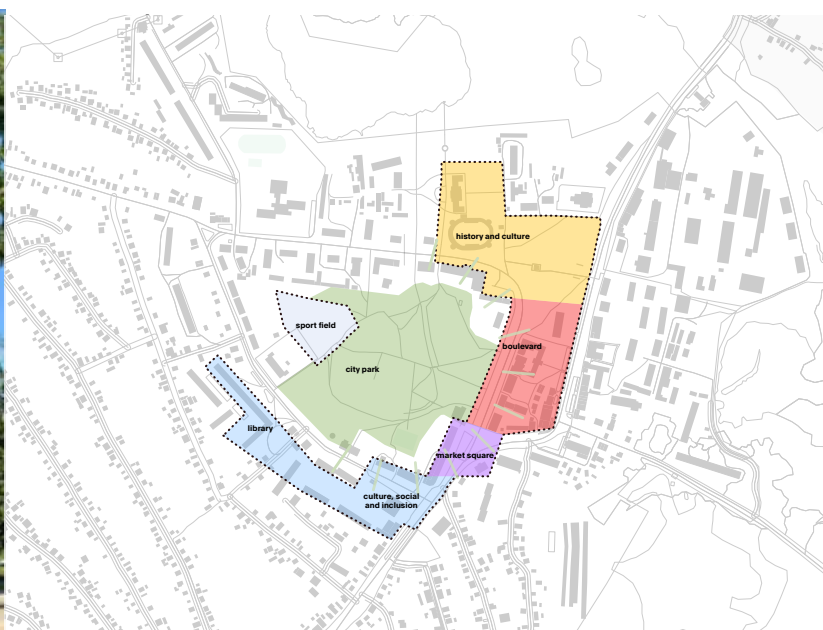
Annual rent: **\$80 per hectare.**

Livestock Development

98.2 hectares available (0.5–16.1 ha).

Lease term: 7–49 years.

Annual rent: **\$80 per hectare.**





Drinking Water Production

A mineral water source in Krynychne village meets regulatory standards and has healing properties.

Available: 3.9563 ha land plot for building a production plant, plus municipal non-residential buildings (194.1, 282.6, and 104.1 m²) available for lease or privatization.

Recreation & Tourism

6 land plots totaling **42.8 hectares** (1.5–13.1 ha) along the clean **Vorskla River**.

Intended for recreation centers and hotels.

Lease term: up to 49 years.

Annual rent: **\$487 per hectare**.

Vision 2050: 25-Year Development Strategy

Main Vision:

By 2050, Trostyanets will be a self-sufficient, innovative, and green hub – a comfortable place to live, work, and visit.

Economic Hub & Innovation:

- 3,200+ new jobs from the Industrial Park, export-oriented businesses, and investments.

Quality of Life & Human Capital:

- 11,600+ residents in new housing.
- Outflow of skilled professionals halted.

- Modern schools, kindergartens, and public spaces built.

Tourism & Sports:

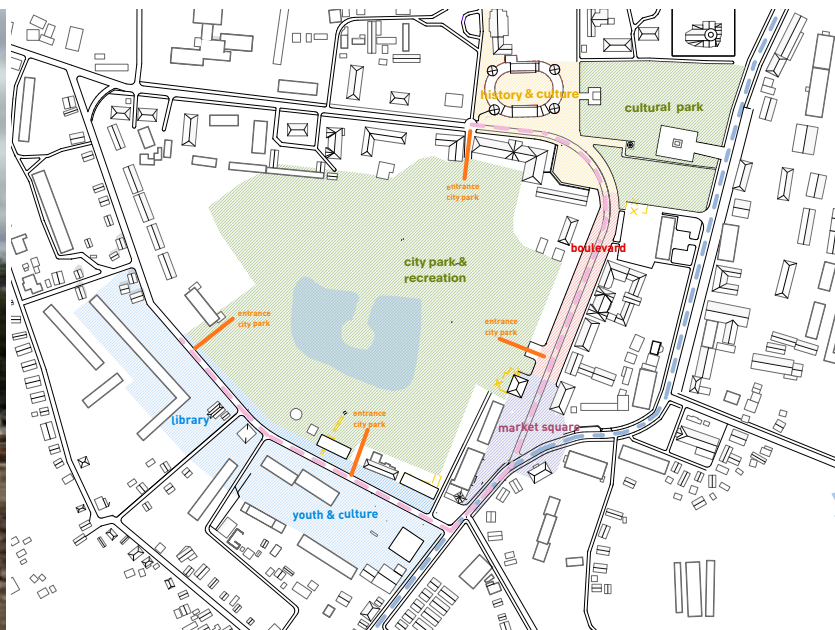
- Trostyanets as a national eco-tourism and sports center.
- Biathlon complex among the world's best, hosting international events.
- Arboretum ranked among the top 10 global eco-parks.

Sustainability & Energy Efficiency:

- Energy independence through solar power.
- Green building principles and eco-friendly infrastructure.



Construction work during the reconstruction on Railway Square in Trostyanets city (Sumy region), October 2025.



Martin Jäger, German Ambassador to Ukraine, during a visit to Modular Hospital Expansions (MHE) in Trostyanets on December, 2024.

NEW BALANCE: EUROPEAN EXPERTS HAVE DEVELOPED A MASTER PLAN FOR TROSTYANETS



The city of Trostyanets, which was severely affected in the first months of large-scale Russian aggression, has been steadily recovering and transforming into a vibrant cultural and commercial center of the Sumy region since the summer of 2022.

In 2023, a new Master Plan for the Trostyanets municipality was developed by **Clean Energy Solutions GesmbH (Austria)**, **iC consulenten (Ukraine)**, **tbw research (Austria)**, and **Modul5 (Austria)**, with the support of independent experts Peter

Blaschke, Hannes Horvat, and Madis Maddison.

The work on the Master Plan lasted about eight months, and its public presentation took place on April 19, 2023. The document is designed to guide the city's development and support investment planning in Trostyanets.

The Master Plan seeks to rebuild the city, heavily damaged by Russian aggression, following a new philosophy based on the principles of sustainable development. It introduces new spatial zoning, the transformation of green areas, and the creation

of centers for education, sports, and recreation. Strategies for attracting small and medium-sized businesses have been outlined, forming the foundation for the city's future economic stability.

Experts also laid out a roadmap toward energy independence, a modern waste recycling system, improved water supply and wastewater disposal, reconstruction of buildings, and several other essential priorities.

The **"New Balance Trostyanets" Master Plan** aims not only to foster sustainable urban growth but also to attract investments. The

BASE LINE

Supported by GIZ

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2030 (AS OF 2019)

- Food production and food processing
- Forestry, Wood processing
- Development of small and medium enterprises
- Tourism, Cultural Events, Sport events
- Agriculture

Supported by GoM

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN (AS OF 2021)
TOPICS: ENERGY, TRANSPORT, WATER/WASTE WATER, WASTE, ETC.

RESULTS

VISION... AS DEVELOPED IN 2019

Trostyanets city amalgamated community is the leader of chocolate and biscuit production in Europe, with a developed export-oriented cluster of food, woodworking and agriculture.

Safe, environmentally friendly, energy-efficient community with comfortable living conditions, recovery and rest.

Tourist, ecological and youth centre of innovative cultural, educational and sports spaces with developed infrastructure.

Gender-oriented community of friendly governance and active responsible citizens.

INTERVIEWING - FIRST RESULTS:

Is it comfortable to live in Trostyanets?

- 99% of responders answered „yes“

What is your favourite place for spending time in the city:

- 80% responded City Central Park

What would be your ideas for international investors to improve the city? What do you miss?

- Sport centres
- Shopping and entertaining centre
- Water pool
- Skate park
- Infrastructure for handicapped people
- Coffee Shops and cafe
- Waste Treatment Plant
- Co-working areas
- Colleges with modern specialities

New Balance Trostyanets



CORE STRATEGY SPATIAL ZONING

Develop an urban platform through higher usage density.

- Higher buildings with urban gardening
- Conversion of industrial zones into mixed-use quarters
- Concentration of public uses
- Integration of sports, festivals and events
- Diversify usage of green zone

- Urban Factory for Creative Ideas (Co-working / Hub)
- TOWN PLAZA
- City Market ("Naschmarkt" style) / Farmers or handmade products market
- Encounter zone for mixed traffic (car, bike and pedestrian)

NEW BALANCE TROSTIANETS

TEAM

iC Ukraine Team management Olena Rybak		CES Team Management Andreas Hebl	
Project Management Iryna Omelianenko			
Urban Planning / Marketing Josef Lueger	Sustainable Urban Development Trends and Visions Hannes Horvath	Environment and Social Management Albrecht Malcherek	Gender / Equality Olena Rybak
Building and Structures Leonid Bakal	Energy Generation and Distribution / etc. Daniel Fleischmann	Energy Efficiency Zlatko Bacelic	Water/Waste water Madis Maddison
Building modelling and EA support Iryna Sukhodub	Energy Generation and Efficiency Valentin Kapferer	Energy Generation and Efficiency Iryna Ocherețana	Transport & Waste Valeriy Vyshniakov

POOL OF LOCAL EXPERTS

POOL OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

planners relied on the Municipal Development Strategy until 2030, prepared in 2019 with the support of the German GIZ, while also offering a detailed vision that addresses the destruction caused by the Russian invasion.

What Exactly Do the Experts Recommend?

The authors of the Master Plan believe that the demographic outlook for Trostyanets is positive. Despite its proximity

to the Russian border, not only are former residents expected to return, but new residents – including internally displaced people – are also likely to settle in the city. Over the next 30 years, the municipality's population is projected to grow by 4%.

Field research conducted by urban planners revealed that the vast majority of residents (99%) consider Trostyanets a comfortable city to live in. The most popular leisure destination is the Central City Park, while

the historic city center – with landmarks such as the Round Courtyard and the Trostyanets Museum and Exhibition Complex – remains the city's cultural magnet.

At the same time, residents note the lack of sports facilities, shopping and entertainment centers, a skate park, street cafés with coworking spaces, and new educational institutions. A modern waste processing plant is also identified as a key need.

One of the central ideas of the plan is the concept of **"mobility**

and equal opportunities", which will better connect neighborhoods to the city center and make the center itself more inclusive. Urban planners recommend reorganizing the central quarter to strengthen its commercial role. Among the most important solutions is the creation of a pedestrian-friendly market for farm products and folk crafts. To make this space visually open and inviting, the authors suggest drawing on greenhouse-style architecture for its pavilions.

The plan also proposes pedestrianizing the areas around the city administration building and the new multifunctional complex "House of the Future." In addition, it recommends holding an architectural competition for the design of an open public space in the city center, which would include modern playgrounds for children of all ages and well-equipped recreation areas. A unified design code for street furniture and navigation is also suggested.

Separate sections of the Master Plan address the restoration of sports infrastructure, modernization of street lighting, construction of new residential buildings, and the alignment of urban networks with EU directives. Investment needs have been calculated for each area.



GREEN ZONES

- Stable framework of green zones (respond to climate change)
 - city cooling
 - city ventilation
 - urban ecology
 - veins for sports, leisure and tourism
- Create buildable ground
- Encounter zone



MOBILITY

Create stroke veins for:

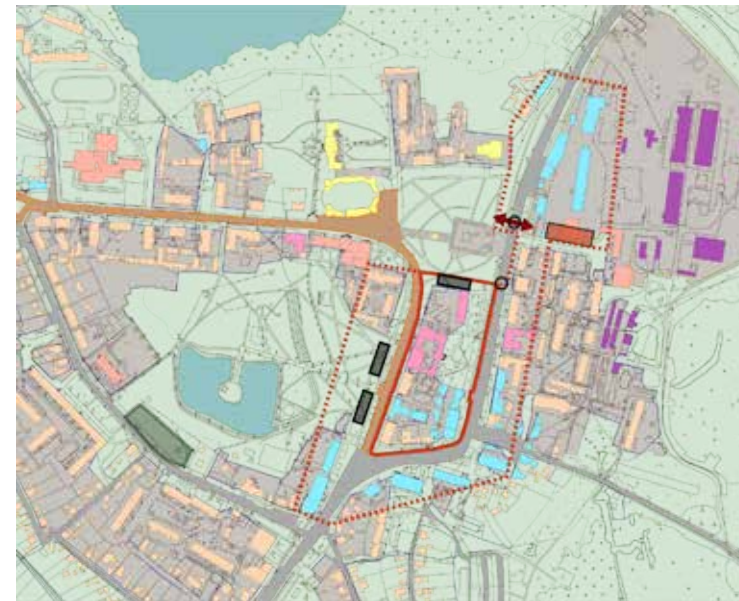
- Motorized traffic
- Pedestrian traffic
- Bicycle highway
- Public transport

And liveable space for citizens to meet and live together

Legend:

- Main road
- Pedestrian and bicycle highway
- Encounter zone
- Public transport station
- Strong vein for sports and leisure time

THE COMMERCIAL HEART

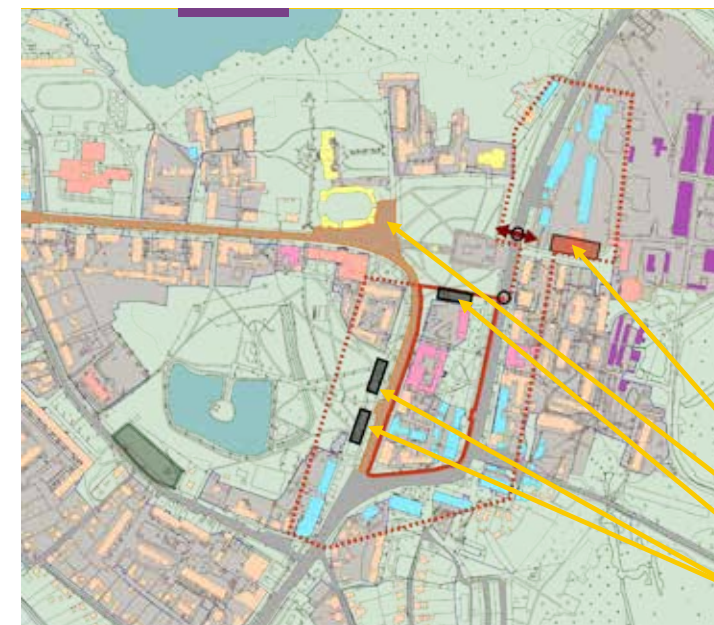


1st Step: Cooperative planning process for the detailisation of the urban concept, including the spatial transitions to the Playground, Cultural Heart and Urban Factory for Creative Ideas (Co-working / Hub).

The dominant uses are administration, retail and gastronomy.

We recommend the complete reorganization of the central quarter for the development of a shopping mall that opens up to a market square and a town square.

The marketplace is bounded on the west by two signal buildings. These mark the entrance to the Playground. A Farmers or handmade products market uses the street, a encounter zone, and offers the products of farmers and self-suppliers.



THE COMMERCIAL HEART

A car-free city square will be marked by the city administration and a multifunctional new building, the "House of the future".

The public transport station is moved to the House of the future, where an overpass optimizes the connection across the main traffic axis to the eastern part of the city.

The interventions City Farm with kitchen and store, the training confectionery, as well as the House of the Future are explained in the further section.

Urban Factory for Creative Ideas (Co-working / Hub)
 Encounter Zone. Accessible by car only for residents and suppliers / Pedestrian area "Alley of peace"
 "House of the future"
 City Market (Naschmarkt style) / Farmers or handmade products market

THE PLAYGROUND IN CENTRAL TROSTIANETS



1st Step: Design competition for the open space "Playground in Central Trostianets" incl. interface to the new buildings City farm and training confectionery.

Dominant uses are play and fun areas for children from 0 to 15 years.

We recommend an overall concept that proposes selective improvements in furniture, equipment and routing and, above all, specifies the access from the Commercial Heart.

The signal buildings the Farmers or handmade products market with kitchen and store as well as the training confectionery with pastry store mark the access and on the other side the market place.

The design of the new buildings should be light and transparent. Reference images are greenhouses made of steel and glass. They open to both sides.

City Planning

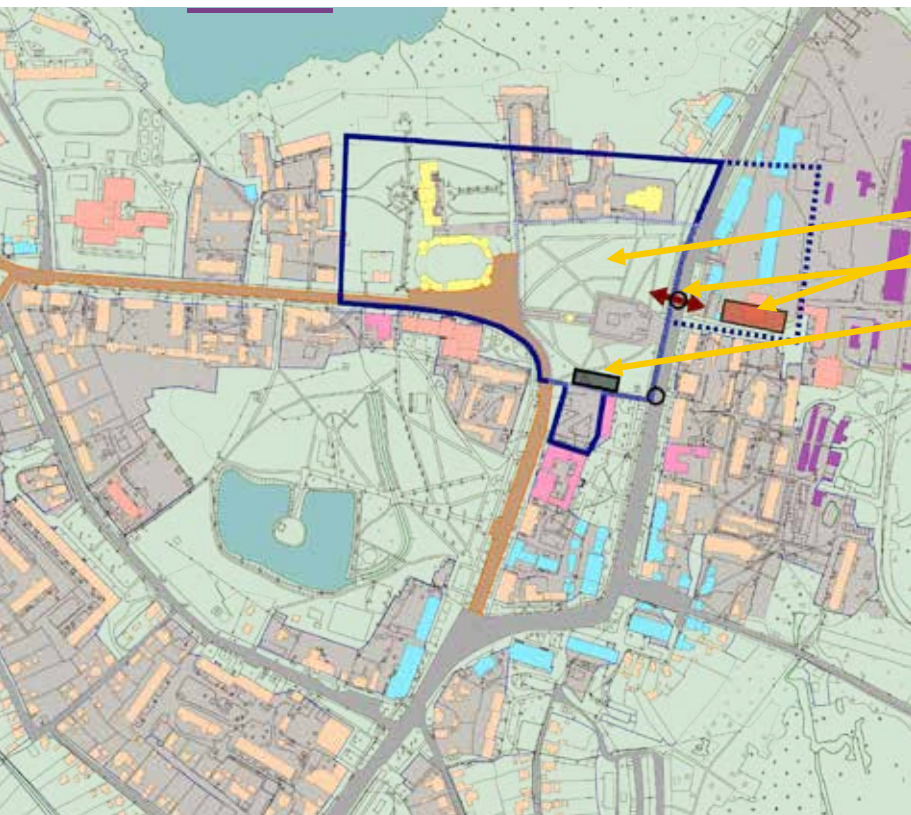
Although Trostyanets is many kilometers away, the city has provided a comprehensive picture of its neighborhoods through feedback, data, and city walk videos.

The destruction and disruption caused by the war require us to look to the future and adapt city structures. Today, the key challenges for modern cities include adapting to climate change, preserving and promoting diverse functions in city centers, ensuring mobility for residents and businesses, and reviving urban production.

The Master Plan responds to these pressures with the guiding idea of building a **resilient and self-determined city**.

Guiding Goals of the Master Plan

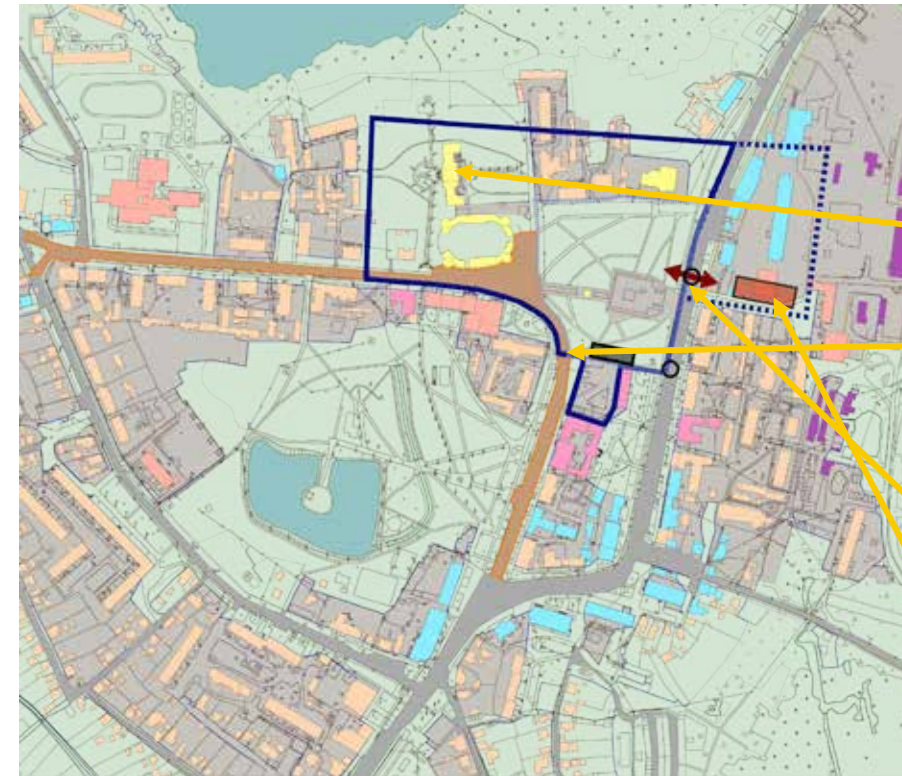
- The city will grow through sustainably operating leading businesses and as a livable full-service provider in health, education, and commerce.
- Trostyanets' spatial development will prioritize **"inside" over "outside."**
- The concept of **"equal opportunity mobility"** will connect neighborhoods to the downtown.
- The Master Plan values what already exists and develops it into a vibrant center through bold interventions.



THE CULTURAL HEART

Town Plaza
Urban Factory for Creative Ideas (Hub)
Public transport transition
House of the Future

Trostyanets cultural heart is open on all sides with a core for inspiration and high quality of stay. The plaza is to be developed into a 3rd Place, in that a multi-use plaza with urban furniture and spatial enclosure will encourage active use. People will meet, read, listen to and make music here in the future. The design respects the existing buildings and embraces the central axis. A competition will decide on the framing of the plaza. Additional pathways connect the plaza to the Promenade and Urban Factory (Hub).



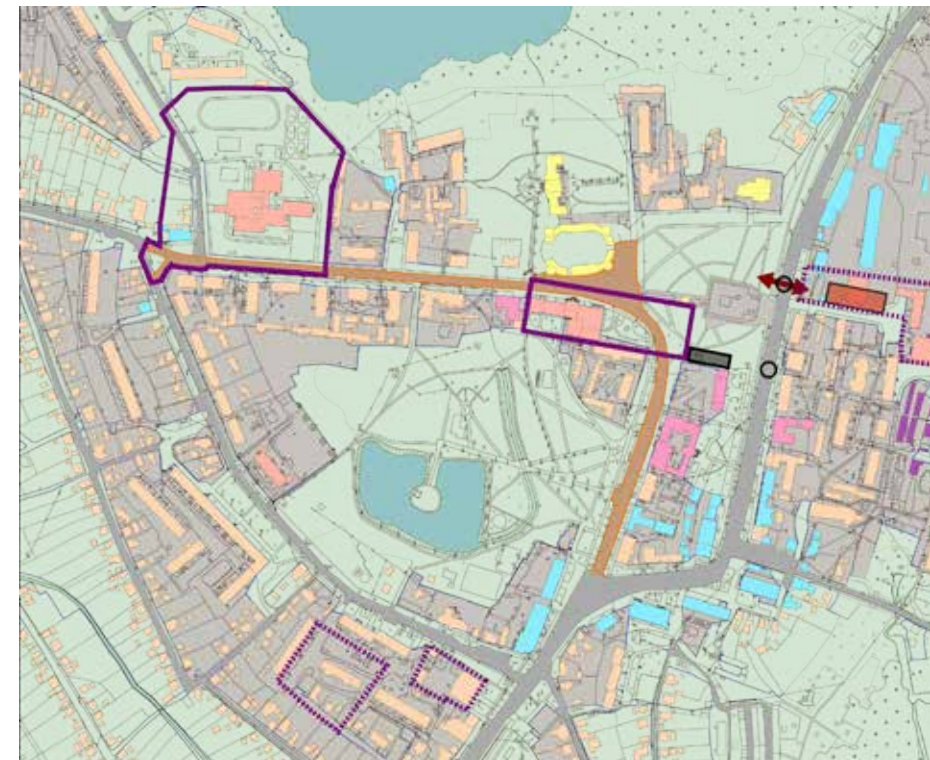
THE CULTURAL HEART

The **museum** will be further developed into the **House of Memories** by incorporating the events and fates of the war.

The other end of the quarter is marked by the **House of the Future**. Joy and liveliness are promoted here, traumatic memories are transformed into confidence. Low-threshold art of styling oneself, expressing oneself and form and music can unfold in a house open to use.

The **public transport station** with an **overpass** strengthen the connection with the city.

The **Urban Factory** is an anchor use adjacent to the industrial park. Economic opportunities are created in the workshops for craft techniques.



THE EDUCATIONAL HEART

The educational institutions in the centre are connected by an encounter zone. The school route leads to the new station public transport and revitalizes the adjacent city quarters.

In the future, the educational facilities are to be forced and if possible be expanded.

THE SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT HEART



1st Step:
Creation of a detailed concept for the year-round use of a multifunctional arena. (for concerts and sports)

Four heart functions of the city is located on the city terrace. To the north, the site slopes down to a central green space. This is the site of a nationally significant **entertainment and sports arena**.

Standing and seating terraces are oriented towards **the stage**. Towards the city, medium-sized events with 5-10,000 visitors can be held here. Concerts with up to 50,000 visitors and more can be staged to the north.

Infrastructures for sports and hotels can be built along the main road in the future.

ENTRANCE TO THE PLAYGROUND IN CENTRAL TROSTIANETS, REFERENCES



THE SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT HEART



The entrance to the stadium leads across the street via a **wooden construction**. In summer, this construction can be used for cyclists and pedestrians to change sides without danger. Optionally, a **wooden city tower** could become a landmark for the city.

- Wooden city tower
- Entrance to the stadium
- Sports stadium
- Festival area
- Seating terrace

Objectives of the Document

- To guide the city's development, promotion, and investment attraction.
- To identify the spatial vision and the steps needed for its realization.
- To translate interventions into concrete cost estimates.

Core Strategic Vision

The city center of Trostyanets is envisioned as a lively, multifunctional hub for both the city and the wider region. It will concentrate commerce, administration, culture, education, and leisure. Life in its streets, new squares, and buildings will remain active throughout the day.

The city center – the **heart of Trostyanets** – has a radius of about 600 meters. The Master Plan describes its key "veins" and functional spaces:

- **The Commercial Heart**
- **Playground Central Trostyanets**
- **The Cultural Heart**
- **The Heart of Education**
- **The Sport and Entertainment Heart**

MAKE THE CITY ATTRACTIVE TO LOST RESIDENTS AND POTENTIAL MIGRANTS

House of Future / Future Garden

Releasing the trauma of children, women and men. By appreciating people, by being able to express yourself. A low-threshold house and a garden/space for

- hair styling and nail design
- music, painting, dance and artistic experiments
- celebrating, barbecuing, cooking and baking together

With

- a multifunctional stage inside and outside and

Embedded in a house that transforms and can change with the needs. For housing and offices, for services and community spaces – like Future Garden.

House of Memories

Collect memories of the people who had to leave the city during the war, of the people who are moving to the city now and in the future. Document the demolitions, changes, and items needed to rebuild the destroyed museum.



PROJECT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY SQUARE IN TROSTYANETS



In 2023, as part of the "Urban Planning" course, implemented by NGO STEM is FEM within the framework of the "Dream and Act" program, young architects Iryna Zaulichyna and Anfisa Kaida defeated their colleagues from Okhlyrka and Ichnya, presenting their vision for the restoration of the Railway Square in Trostyanets city.

Their project is based on the idea of preserving the memory of all the townspeople who died as a result of the war with ru. The main element of

the space is a memorial in the form of a wave, which recreates the shape of the station building and symbolizes a parallel world. At the same time, it is associated with Mykola Khylyovyi – a famous Ukrainian poet who was born in Trostyanets.

The girls also proposed to redesign the parking area, ensure rapid movement of passengers and create a comfortable waiting area with a modern playground and a quiet space with an artificial pond.

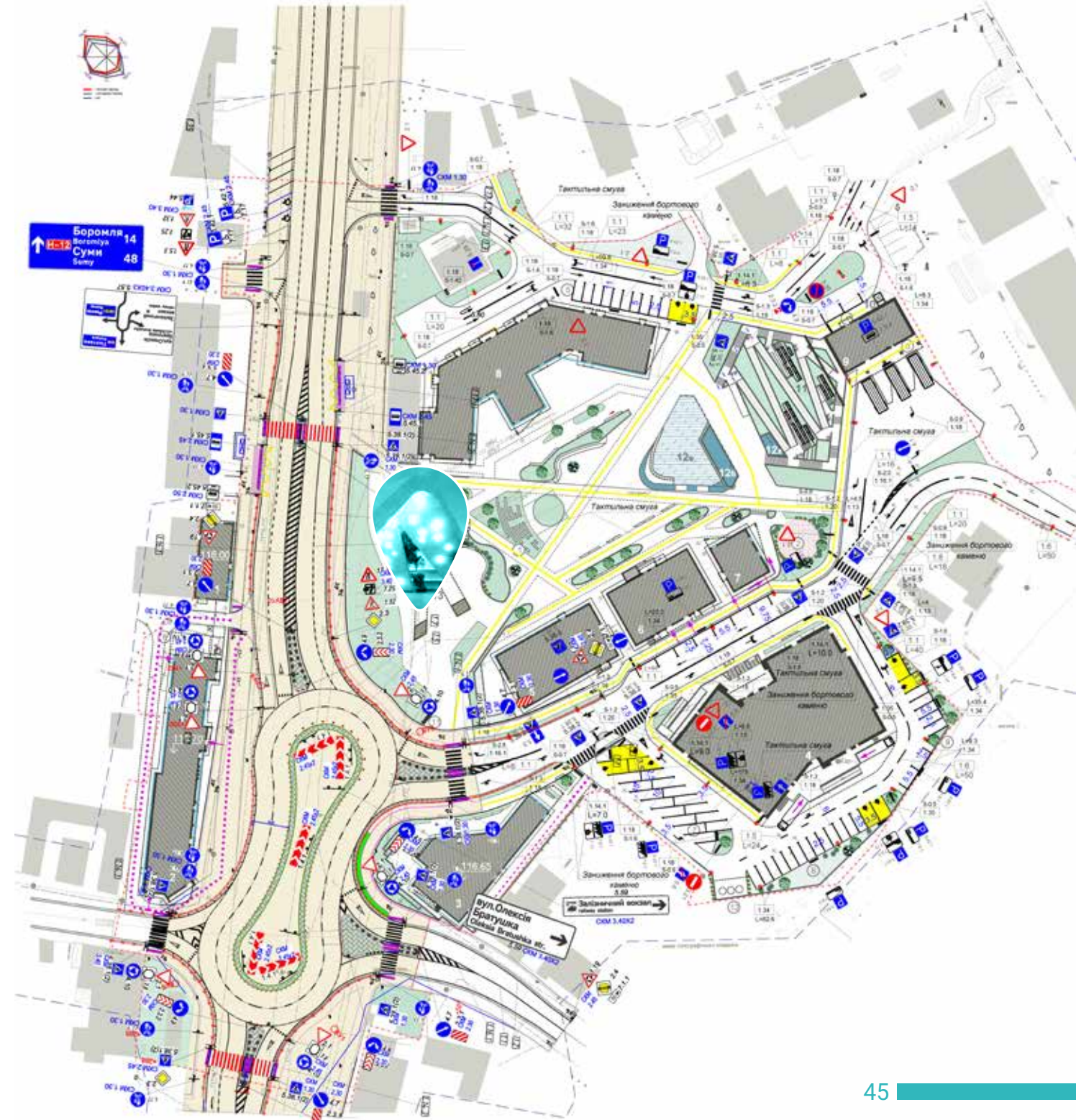


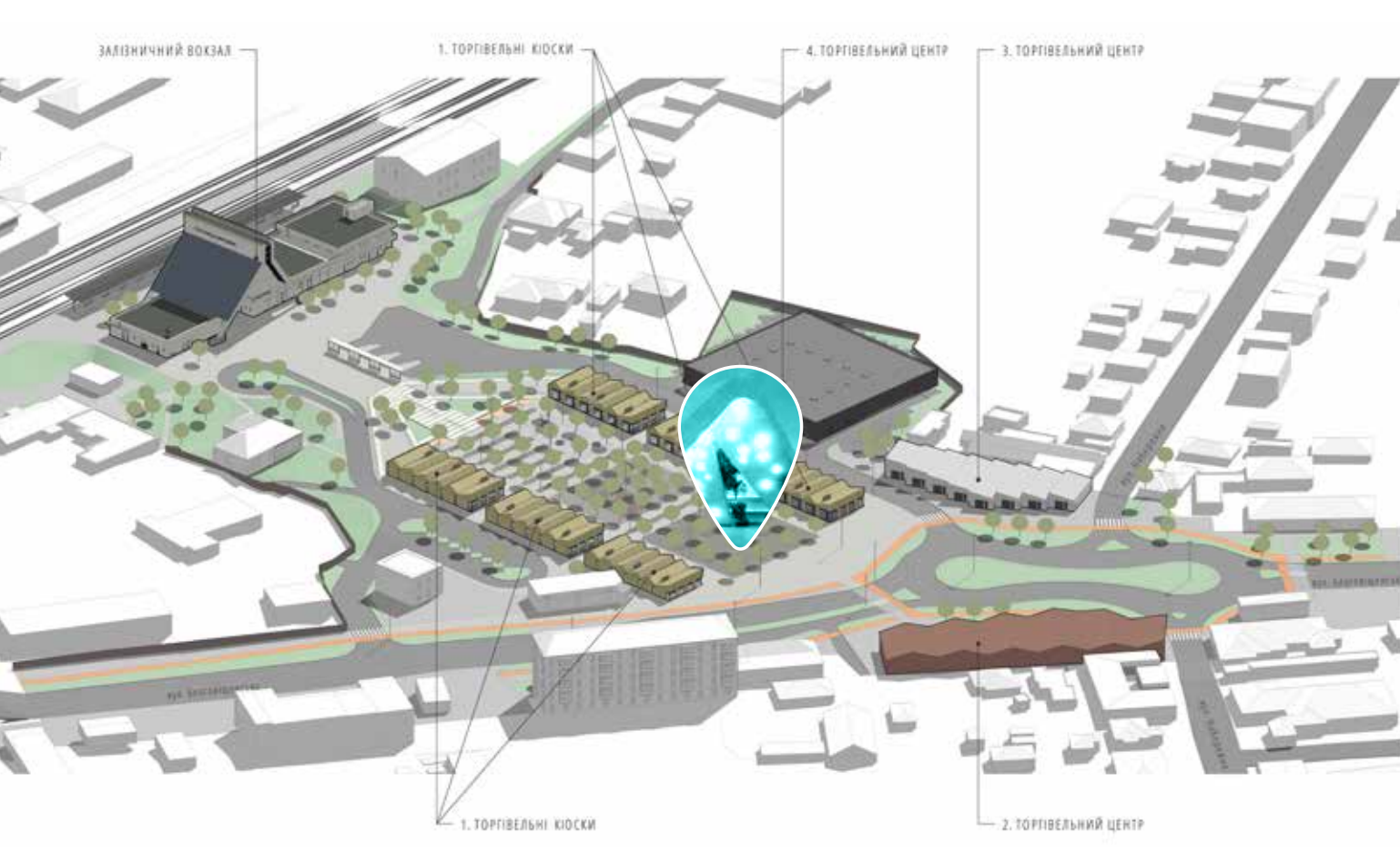
Trostyanets' city authorities plans to build this Memorial as a symbol of the struggle of the Ukrainian people, as well as the sacrifice made by the city's residents in 2022.

The number of lanterns on the concrete "wave" will correspond to the number of killed and tortured residents of hromada in the basement of the railway station. The light from the lanterns will be directed at the inscription on the floor, quoting the Ukrainian writer Mykola Khylyovyi - "Get out of moscow!".

Architect and designer Natalia Ivantsova presented the concept of the future Railway Square in September 2025, which takes into account all legislative requirements for construction, placement of roads, sidewalks and structures.

The project will be coordinated with Ukrzaliznytsia, which plans to rebuild the Railway Station itself in order to implement a unified vision of the restored territory. The start of work is scheduled for spring 2026, after the completion of the reconstruction of the H-12 highway.



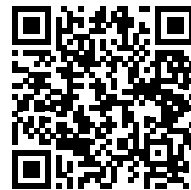


Part #3

Humanitarian and Investment Prospectus 2026



I. Creation of modern Primary Health-Care Center in Trostyanets city hromada



The goal of the project is to improve the conditions for the provision of primary healthcare through the reconstruction of a non-residential three-story building with a total area of 1, 103,6 square meters, expanding its area and applying a modern approaches to energy efficiency, safety, accessibility and high-quality medical services.

Building area: 1 103,6 square meters

Cost: 2 713 000 EUR

The goal of the project is to improve the conditions for providing primary medical care through the reconstruction of a non-residential 3-story building with a total area of 1,103.6 sq m, increasing its area and using a modern approach to energy efficiency of public buildings and a high-quality level of medical services.

The average annual number of visitors to the facility is about 42,000 people.

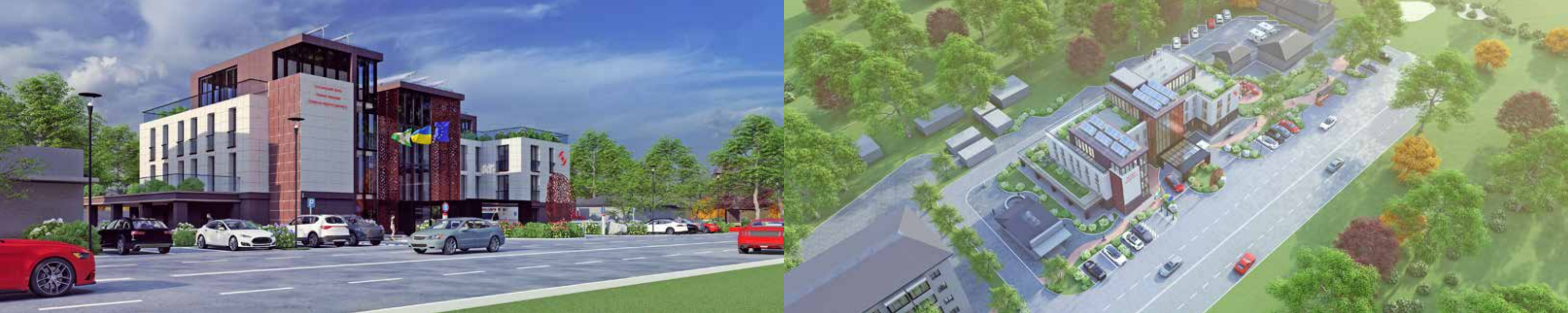
Project objectives:

- ensuring proper conditions for providing medical care to 26,880

community residents, in particular by improving the accessibility and quality of services

- creating a modern and functional medical facility with an area of 2,012.39 sq m, that meets modern standards and community needs
- using modern technologies and approaches to reduce energy consumption and optimize building maintenance costs





The existing Trostyanets Primary Health Care Center was damaged during hostilities in hromada in 2022, resulting in damage to all door and window structures, the roof, and the facade, as well as the looting of part of the medical equipment and vehicle fleet.

In addition, the specified medical facility does not meet the conditions for providing primary medical care due to the obsolescence of its material base, low throughput capacity, which does not allow it to simultaneously accept all patients, the lack of a convenient transport interchange, and geographical distance from the city center. Given this situation, a possible solution to this problem is to move the Primary Health Care Center to another building that is conveniently located and suitable for housing a medical facility.

Due to the limited territory of the health care facility, the lack of conditions for low-mobility groups, low energy efficiency, and inconvenient geographical location, the possibility of modernizing the existing premises to meet current requirements for providing high-quality primary health care.

Given this situation, a possible solution to the above-mentioned problems is to transfer the Primary Health Care Center to another building that is conveniently located and suitable for housing a medical facility.

During 2023, the Trostyanets City Council, together with Envitech LLC, developed the necessary design and estimate documentation for the creation of a modern Primary Health Care Center in Trostyanets city hromada.

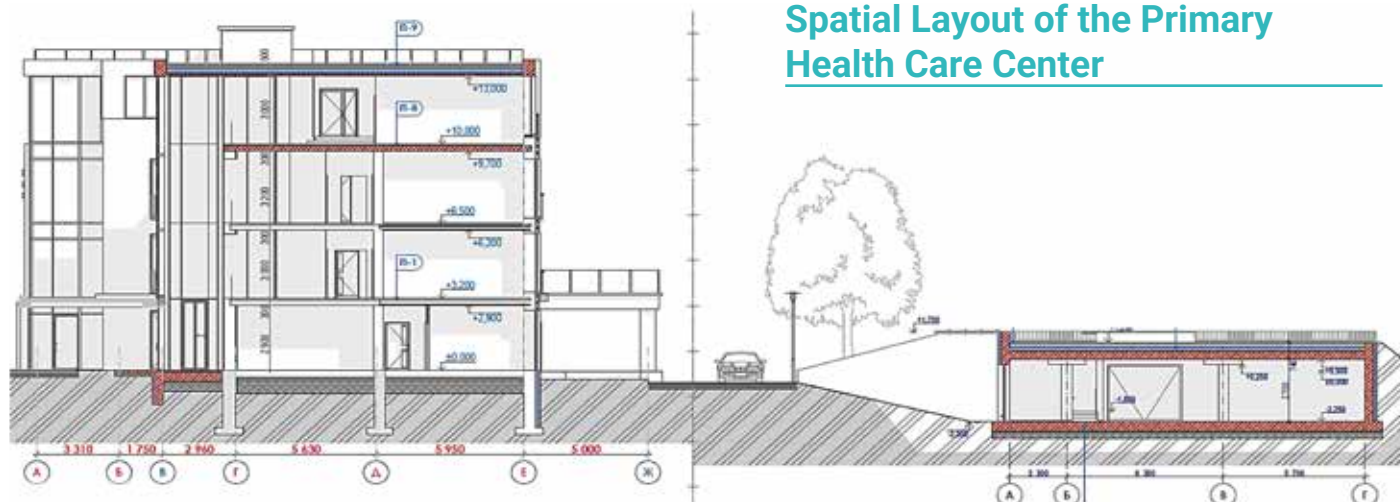
According to the project documentation, the following measures must be taken to implement the planned project:

- Construction of an additional 4 floors to increase the area of the medical institution from 1103.6 sq.m. to 2012.39 sq.m.
- Arrangement of a shelter for employees and visitors of the institution with a capacity of 120 people.
- Extension of an elevator to create conditions for unhindered visits by low-mobility groups of the population.
- Replacement of heating and hot water supply systems with modern systems

of renewable energy sources, including through the use of geothermal pumps.

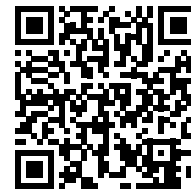
- External insulation of the facade and roof using basalt slabs. Provision of a backup source of electricity by installing a solar power plant with a capacity of 41 kW.
- Arrangement of a ventilation and recuperation system. Arrangement of 17 family doctor's offices, including 12 general practice rooms and 7 pediatric rooms and a vaccination room.
- Creation of additional facilities, including a conference room and a cafe for visitors, (up to 180 people per day), and employees (75 people).

Spatial Layout of the Primary Health Care Center





II. Creation a Multifunctional Rehabilitation Hydro Therapeutic Complex



Building area: 1 838 square meters

Cost: 4 544 120 EUR



The goal of the project is to create a rehabilitation center on the basis of the Trostyanets city hospital, through the construction of a hydrotherapy complex, the introduction of multifunctional treatment methods for the community population and military personnel in need of physical rehabilitation.

Target audience of the project:

- residents of the Trostyanets city territorial hromada, in particular, 26,880 people who may potentially need quality rehabilitation services

- low-mobility population groups (about 1,000 people) who will be able to visit a medical facility and receive physical rehabilitation services without hindrance. Military personnel who were injured and need physical rehabilitation
- internally displaced persons (there are about 1,800 IDPs in hromada) actually war-affected, received physical injuries and need this type of medical care

The architects designed a two-level building with a clear division of functions:

- the first floor specializes in medical and rehabilitation services. Here, patients will be able to undergo basic treatment and recovery
- the second floor is intended for health and rehabilitation procedures. This level will help people maintain health and prevent diseases

The hydrotherapy complex will be created taking into account the needs of people with disabilities. Designers of Crocus Engineering company have provided barrier-free communication on all floors of the building.

The hydrotherapy complex will be part of a large-scale restoration of the Trostyanets city hospital. The medical facility suffered during the occupation and is now gradually returning to its full operation.

The new complex will help expand the range of medical services for residents of Trostyanets hromada and neighboring territories. Hydrotherapy effectively helps with many diseases of the musculoskeletal system, cardiovascular and nervous systems.

Currently, preparations are underway for the next stages of the project.

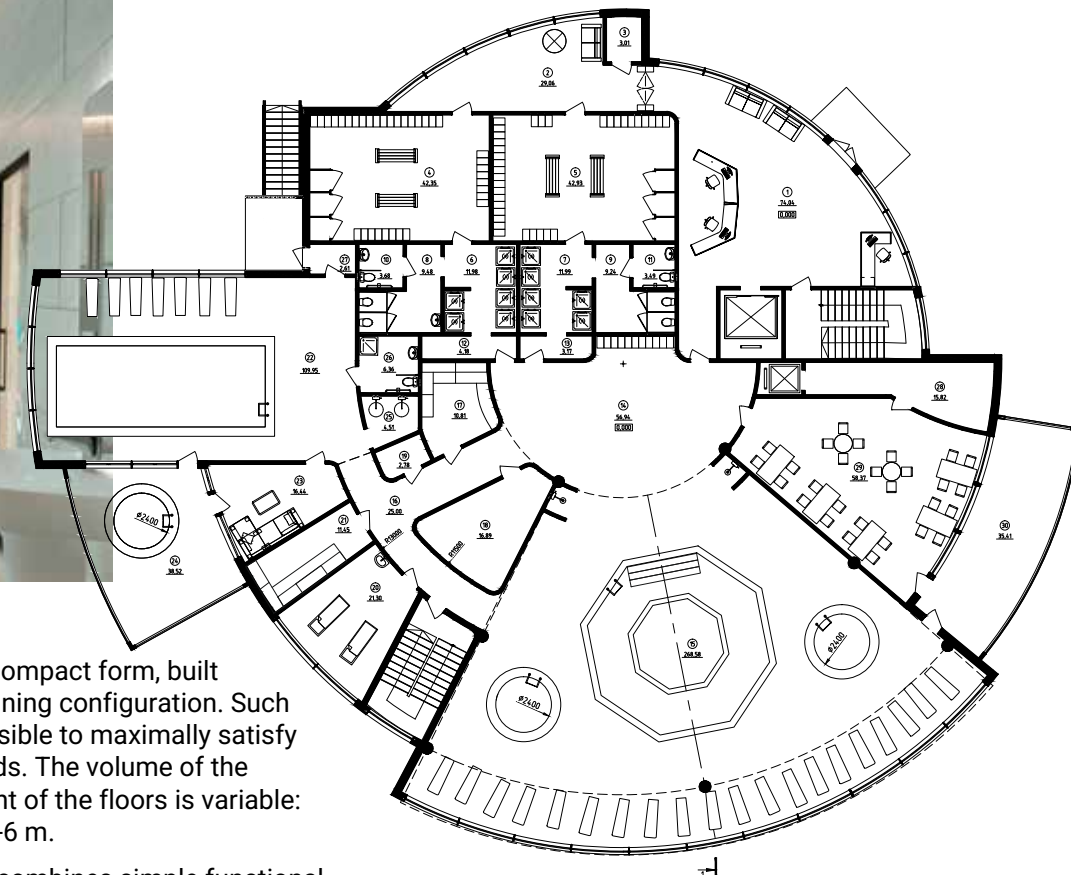


Currently, the country's doctors are faced with a new problem in the rehabilitation of military personnel - the treatment of the consequences of prolonged use of armored protection by military personnel, which critically affects their respiratory and musculoskeletal systems, causing impaired respiratory and cognitive functions.

Such injuries are present in almost everyone who is actively involved in combat operations, and their treatment will require years of medical rehabilitation and constant support from specialists.

Water therapy is also recommended for pensioners for the treatment of various injuries, diseases, as well as for the prevention of diseases. Therefore, this project is extremely relevant, especially after the end of the war.





The location of this center near the Neskuchne natural reserve, which is saturated with fresh air and nature, will positively affect the provision of specialized rehabilitation care to patients who need these services.

Pre-design proposals were prepared for this facility. It is expected that the rehabilitation center will include floor (vertical and horizontal within one floor) zoning and will have two floors with a total area of 1,838.17 sq m. The first floor will primarily serve a medical and rehabilitation function. The second floor will serve a health and recovery function.

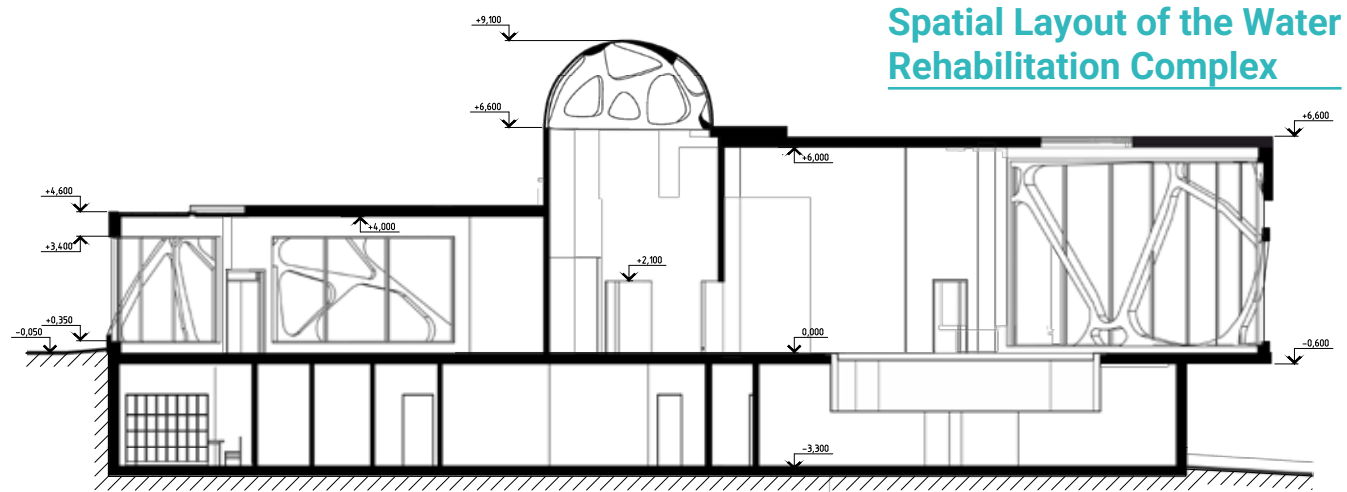
The structure of the first floor defines the following functional zones:

- rehabilitation zone, which includes a massage room, a treatment room, a manual therapy and lymphatic drainage room, a room with a vertical stretching pool and a horizontal stretching bath, an aroma therapy room

- staff zone
- cafeteria service zone
- technical zone, which includes technical rooms

The structure of the second floor defines the following functional zones:

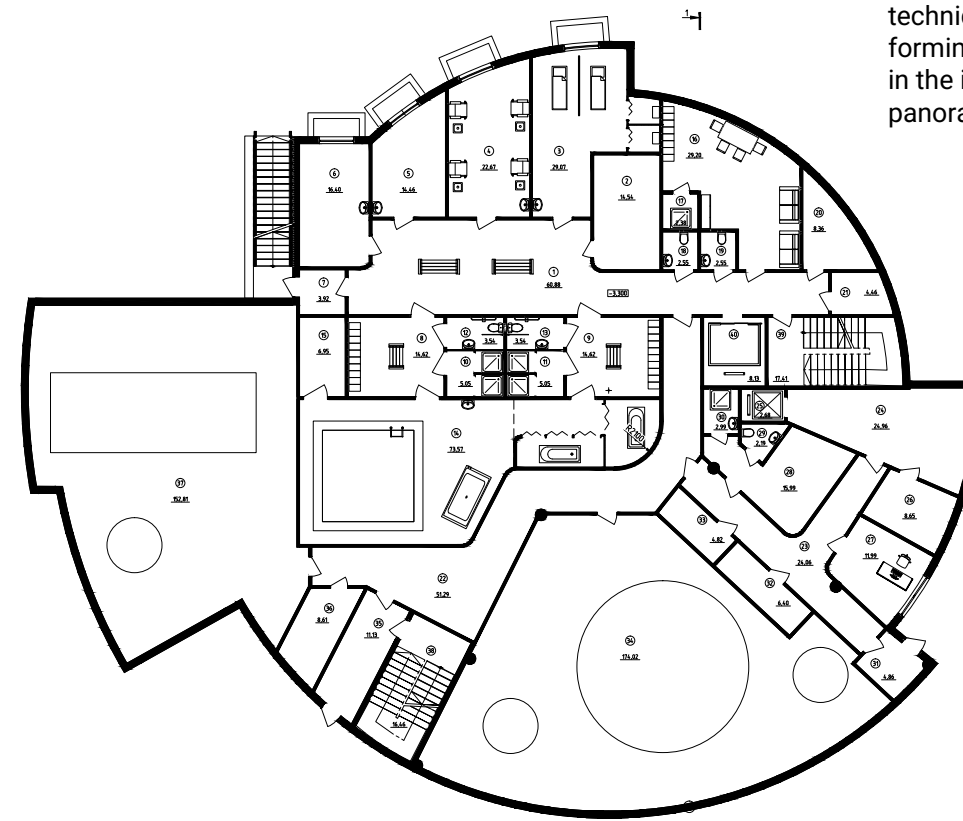
- entrance zone
- locker room and toilet area
- clean communication space zone, connecting the main functional blocks
- pool zone, including the main hydromassage pool and 2 jacuzzi baths
- SPA zone, combining the swimming pool, salt room, massage room, Finnish bath, hammam, solarium, terrace with a hot tub
- cafeteria zone



The designed building has a compact form, built according to a radial-ring planning configuration. Such a compact form makes it possible to maximally satisfy functional and economic needs. The volume of the building is two-story, the height of the floors is variable: 1st floor – 3 m., 2nd floor – 4-6 m.

In terms of style, the building combines simple functional forms with elements of bionic and futuristic architecture, which are used in the decoration of the facades and roof. Open terraces have been designed, which have a functional purpose, and also organically combine the building with the surrounding natural environment.

A feature of the figurative and compositional solution is the use of an overhanging console with a large volume of panoramic glazing, in which the main function of the building is organized. This technique is optimal for a given relief, thus forming the dominant of the main volume, in the internal space of which a visual panorama of the external landscape opens.



The facades of the building are designed using panoramic glazing systems in combination with blank volumes of facade structures. Solid glazing is used in large common areas of the main purpose.

Above the central communication space in the central part of the building, a dominant dome structure is arranged, which forms an atrium illuminated space and is the core of the architectural composition of the building.



III. Overhaul and Thermal Modernization of Trostyanets City Lyceum



Building area: 7 654,9 square meters

Cost: 1 162 000 EUR

The project aims to restore the secondary school, which was damaged due to military aggression, to create an improved educational environment and reduce energy consumption through modern energy-saving technologies.

The project includes major repairs and thermal modernization, encompassing the external insulation and sealing of the building's facade, partial roof repair covering, and replacement of door units with energy-efficient alternatives.

Lyceum №1 of Trostyanets – the largest hub institution of general secondary education in the community, with more than 690 pupils from the city and surrounding villages. The educational process is provided by 43 teachers and 62 technical staff. The school consistently demonstrates high

academic results, maintaining leading positions in the community and remaining competitive among schools in the region. The Lyceum actively participates in national and international educational programs and maintains partnerships with European and American organizations.

At the same time, for further development, the school requires comprehensive modernization to meet modern requirements for quality education, safety, inclusiveness, and technological advancement.

Current state and problem

- The school building, constructed in 1986, has a total area of 7,654.9 m² (three floors) and has never undergone major renovation.
- A high degree of deterioration in structural elements and engineering systems (water supply, heating, ventilation, sewage).

- Low energy efficiency – due to poor insulation, the building consumes excessive amounts of energy, increasing the burden on the local budget.
- The school canteen is in unsatisfactory condition, making it impossible to provide meals that meet modern safety and hygiene standards.
- Outdated classrooms and lack of modern equipment for the introduction of STEM education and digital technologies.
- Insufficient accessibility for people with reduced mobility.

Strategic development vision until 2030

1. Thermal Modernization of the School
 - Insulation of facades and plinth (7,654.9 m²).
 - Complete modernization of the heating system with automated control.





- Installation of a rooftop solar power plant with a capacity of 50 kW and implementation of energy-saving solutions.
- 2. Reconstruction of the School Canteen
 - Complete renovation of the kitchen area with modern energy-efficient equipment.
 - Improvement of safety, hygiene, and food quality.
 - Promotion of a healthy eating culture among pupils.
- 3. Creation of an Innovative Educational Space
 - Opening a STEM Hub with laboratories for robotics, 3D modeling, biotechnology, and digital design.
 - Launch of a specialized DroneLAB for studying unmanned technologies, hosting competitions, and technical hackathons.

- Development of partnerships with educational and technological institutions.

Inclusiveness and safety

- Installation of a ramp and a vertical lift.
- Adaptation of all access routes in accordance with national building codes.

Existing prerequisites for development

- With the support of programs such as GIZ, UNICEF, Lumos, and other international partners, a digital learning environment has already been created, ensuring uninterrupted education, including for IDP children and pupils with special educational needs.
- The Lyceum has experience in successfully implementing projects, transparent reporting, and active community involvement.

- The teaching staff is highly motivated and professional, ensuring effective implementation of large-scale educational changes.

Expected results

- More than 690 pupils will gain access to modern, safe, and comfortable learning conditions.
- Reduction of heat loss by 35–40% and energy costs by 30–40%.
- Stable classroom temperature of 18–20°C in winter, with illness rates reduced by up to 25%.
- Constant access to hot water in classrooms, the canteen, and technical facilities.
- Full barrier-free accessibility of the building.
- Improved working conditions for 62 employees, increasing motivation and staff retention.

Budget and timeline

- Estimated cost: UAH 56,083,379 (~USD 1.4 million).
- Implementation period: 12 months.

Advantages of the Lyceum over other educational institutions

- The largest hub school in the community with extensive pupil coverage.
- High academic and extracurricular performance.
- Active international cooperation with European and American partners.
- Potential to become a regional center for STEM education and the development of unmanned technologies.





IV. Creation of Multifunctional Child Development Centre

Cost: 401 000 EUR

Address: Boiler station, L. Tatarenka Str., 1B, Multifunctional Leisure Center, Trostyanets city, Sumy region

The project aims to transform an abandoned building into a **Multifunctional Child Development Center**, featuring a large multipurpose hall, co-working spaces, lounge areas, and facilities for out-of-school and non-formal education, complemented by a modern public space with restored green areas, children's and training grounds.

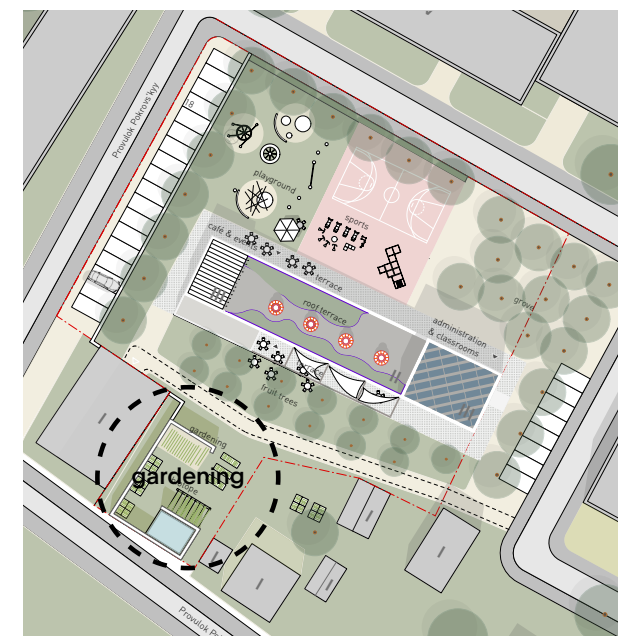
Expected results include the renovation of the building to meet energy efficiency and inclusivity standards across a total area of 652.5 m², the installation of a 30-kW rooftop solar power plant reducing CO₂ emissions, and



the creation of accessible facilities for people with limited mobility via an elevator.

The surrounding area will be landscaped, and the premises will be fully equipped to support various public activities. The establishment of a children's creativity center with diverse educational programs will enhance local cultural activities.

Trostyanets city hromada – even before the start of the full-scale war – was different from others in that from year to year the number of people arriving for permanent residence was greater than the number leaving.



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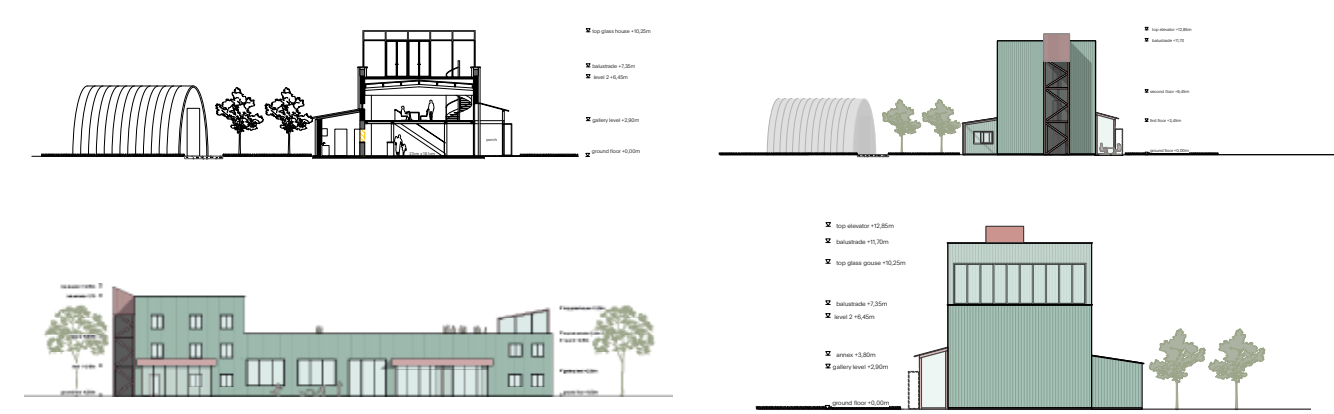
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municipality on a charitable basis, a large role is given to the renovation and revitalization of old, abandoned industrial and production premises.

The building consists of a three-story administrative building, where offices are located, with a total area of 280.1 m, 2 halls, an area of 272.6 m and auxiliary premises, an area of 99.8 m.

This is the old municipal boiler station, with a three-story administrative building, located in the city center. Currently, it is not used for its intended purpose, is partially abandoned and is gradually falling into disrepair.

And now, given the constant increase in internally displaced persons, the community is faced with the problem of an insufficient number of multifunctional buildings in the city center that would be "flexible" and adaptable to any cultural, educational or artistic event.

architectural monument, which makes it impossible to hold sports events there.

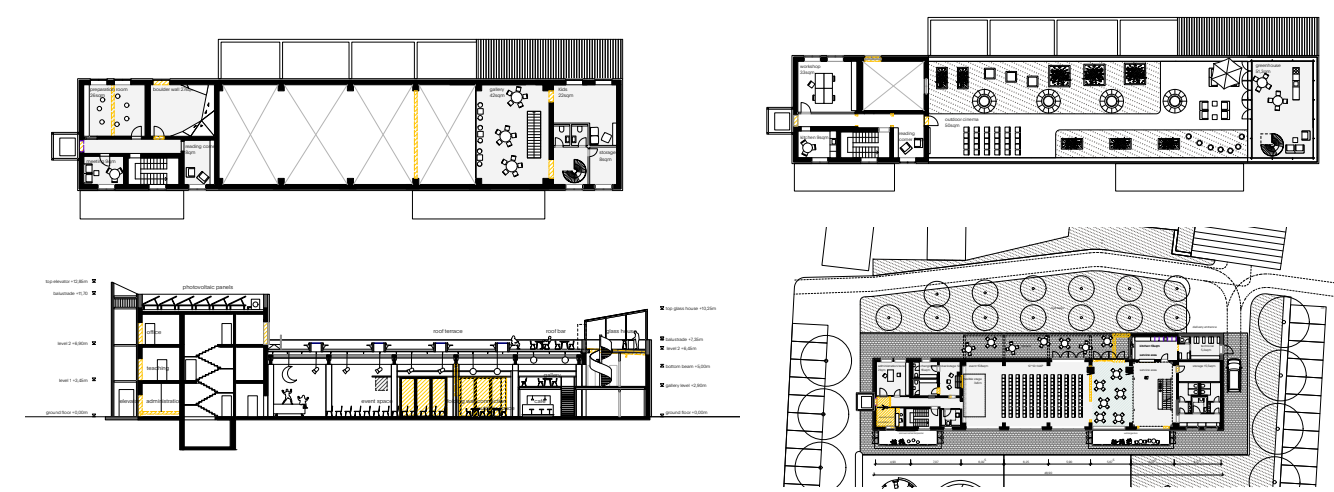
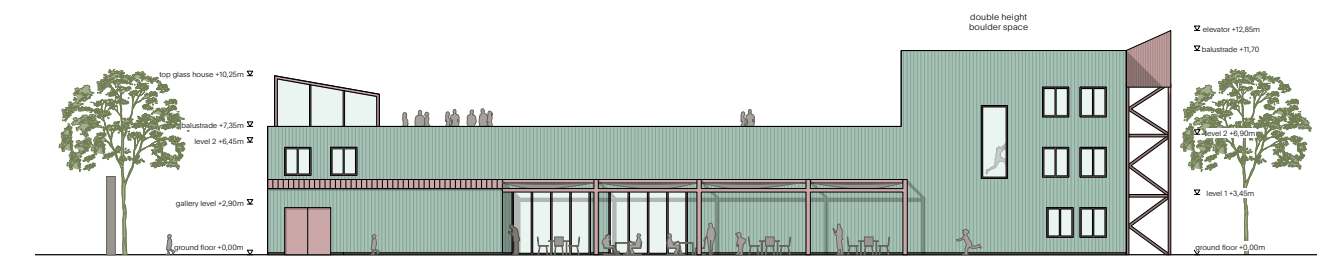
Among the available premises is the Cultural Services Center, which has a concert hall, which is adapted for classical events: performances, plays, ceremonial performances.

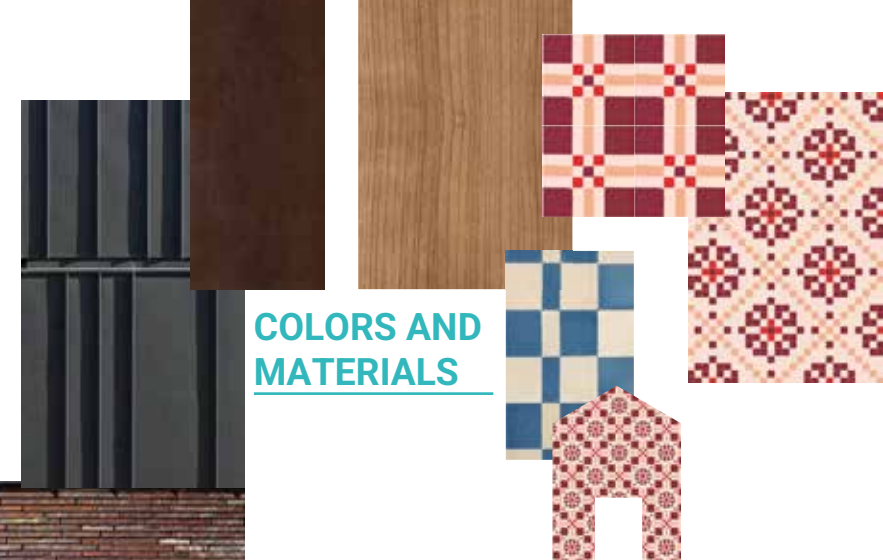
Trostyanyets Public Library is a modern co-working center, but due to limited space, it is also impossible to organize additional circles in various areas that are needed by community residents.

Palace of Children and Youth, which provides extracurricular education but has a limited number of premises, in addition, the institution is located in an

In addition, the listed premises are not adapted for unhindered access by people with reduced mobility.

According to the recommendations of the Austrian engineering consulting company **IC consulenten**, which had been developed a "Master Plan" for the restoration and development of Trostyanyets





COLORS AND MATERIALS

Alternative design solution for the reconstruction of Trostyanets Boiler station from the team of Dan Dimalant

EMBROIDERY (Vyshyvanka in Ukrainian)

Embroidery is a fundamental element of traditional Ukrainian clothing and culture. Each pattern has deep symbolism, and embroidered textiles can be used as a talisman that protects a person or tells their story. Specific patterns depend on the region. These patterns and shapes are also present in folk art. The colors red, black, and white are commonly used.



DESIGN INSPIRATION

Building details and interior inspired by embroidery patterns and symbolism in ukrainian art and culture.



DESIGN INFLUENCE

- contrast of materiality between new and old
- modern industrial style
- framed cutouts inspired by ukrainian architectural forms
- expand and connect the interior with the external environment with the help of protective elements
- accented details on new elements inspired by folk art and vyshyvanka





EXISTING BUILDING

- EXISTING MASONRY STRUCTURE TO REMAIN INTACT
- RE-DESIGNED ENTRANCE GROUP AND VESTIBULE
- REVAMP THE SOVIET ERA DESIGN OF THE CURRENT STRUCTURE WITH A MORE LIGHT AND TRANSPARENT DESIGN
- USE MODERN ENERGY SAVING TECHNOLOGIES (EX: USE OF SOLAR POWER)
- PRIMARY TARGET AUDIENCE: CHILDREN & YOUTH

**SOLDATSKIE CULTURAL CENTER
DESIGN STRATEGY**

V. Soldatske Cultural Center. A Modern Social and Recreational Center

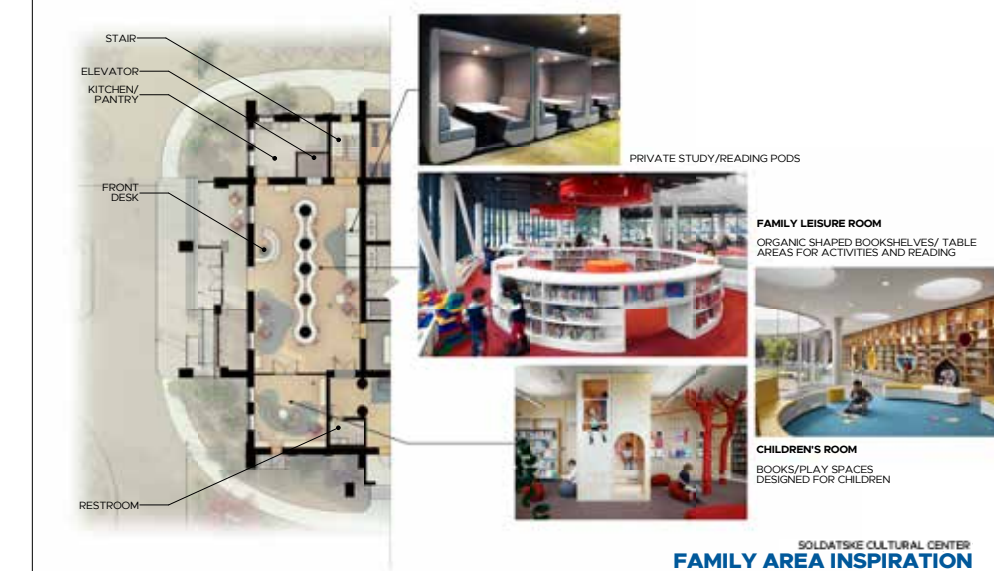
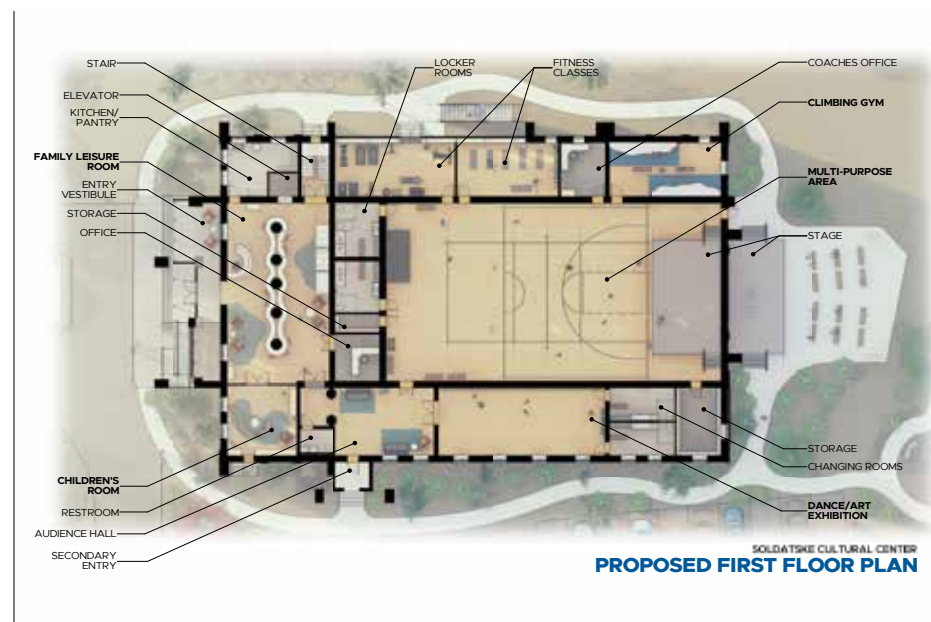
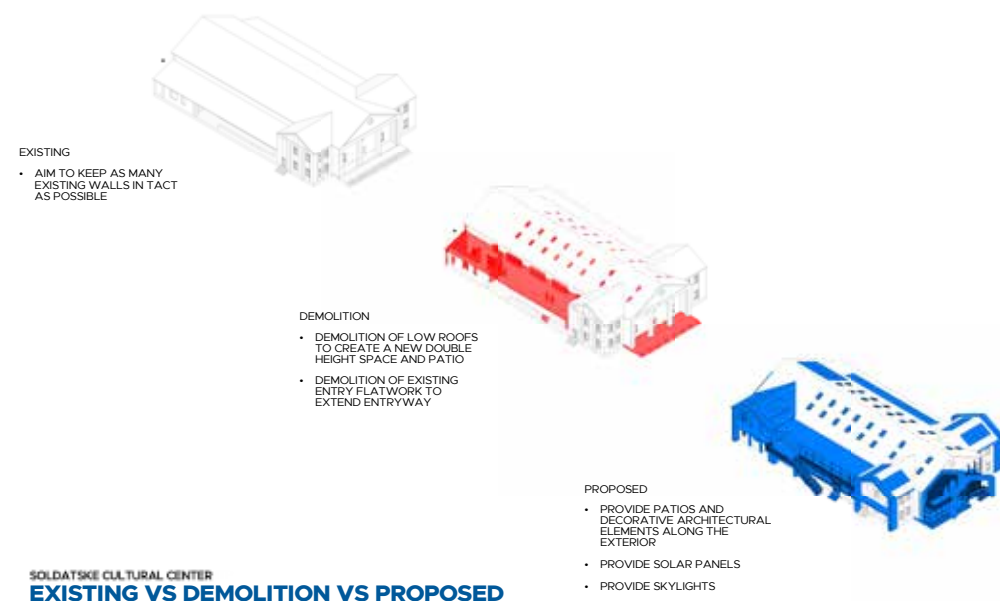
Team: Shawn Ridenhour and Rachel Splitgerber

The existing cultural and leisure center in the village of Soldatske was built during the Soviet era and has not undergone any modernization for at least the last 50 years.

The cultural and leisure center in Soldatske is essentially a two-story building with a total area of 1400 square meters. Currently, this building is in a state of disrepair.

This cultural institution serves all residents of the Soldatske village

council, which consists of four villages with a combined population of over 1037 people. Accordingly, there is an urgent need to make decisions regarding the modernization of this institution and its full operation.



FITNESS CLASS



FITNESS CLASS

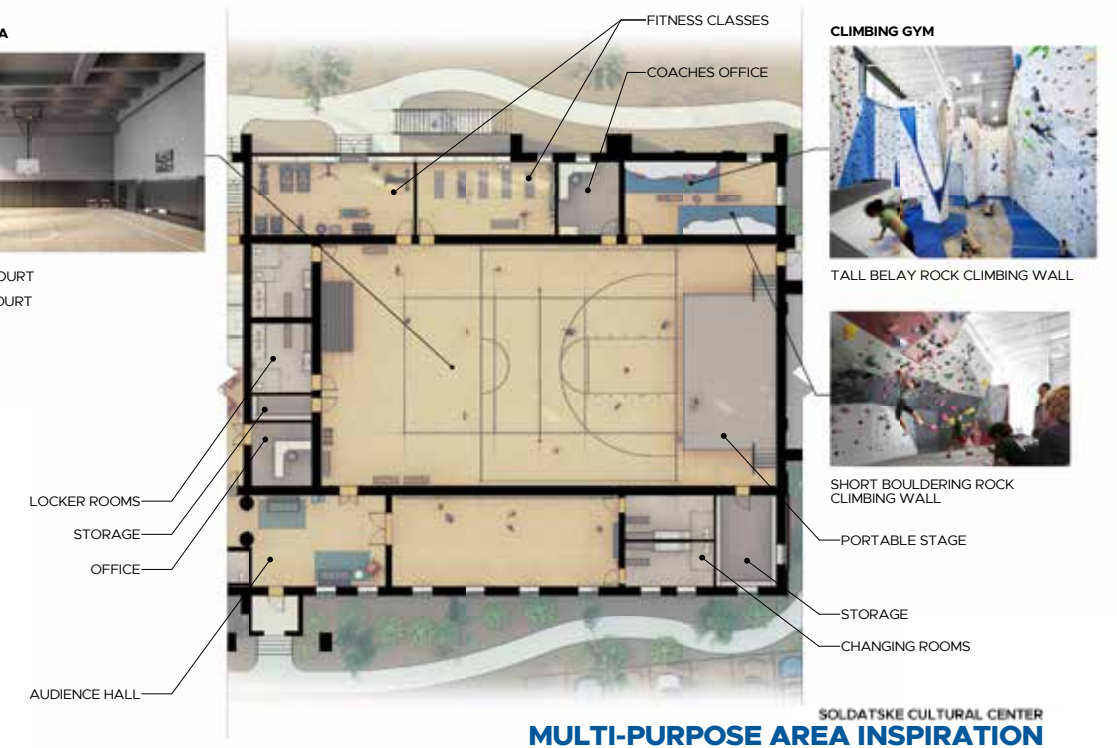


One possible solution to transform these aging rural clubs is to create multifunctional "hubs" that combine the functions of a cultural, educational, and entertainment center, bringing together a community space for social interaction and a venue for cultural and recreational events.

MULTI-PURPOSE AREA



HALF BASKETBALL COURT
FULL VOLLEYBALL COURT



The main goal of the proposed project is the cultural development of the Trostyanets community and the improvement of rural leisure through the restoration and modernization of the cultural and leisure center in the village of Soldatske, using the experience gained from Polish partner cities.



SOLDATSKE CULTURAL CENTER
MULTI-PURPOSE AREA



SOLDATSKE CULTURAL CENTER
MULTI-PURPOSE AREA



SOLDATSKJE CULTURAL CENTER
PROPOSED SECOND FLOOR PLAN



ARTS AND CLUB SPACE
ART AND CLUB AREAS WITH A MIX OF COMMUNAL & PRIVATE WORK SPACES

SOLDATSKJE CULTURAL CENTER
ART AND CLUB AREA INSPIRATION

Project tasks:

- Transforming the Soldatske rural cultural institution into a modern cultural and leisure center
- Improving the socio-cultural sphere of life in the rural area of the Trostyanets community as an example of reforming cultural life in the village of Soldatske

- Reducing the number of derelict objects in the community affected by military actions
- Meeting citizens' needs in the sphere of culture and leisure
- Implementing european experience in organizing cultural leisure in rural areas, with a focus on the example of Poland



SOLDATSKJE CULTURAL CENTER
SOUTHEAST CORNER - LOOKING AT ENTRY



SOLDATSKJE CULTURAL CENTER
PLAYGROUND AND STAGE

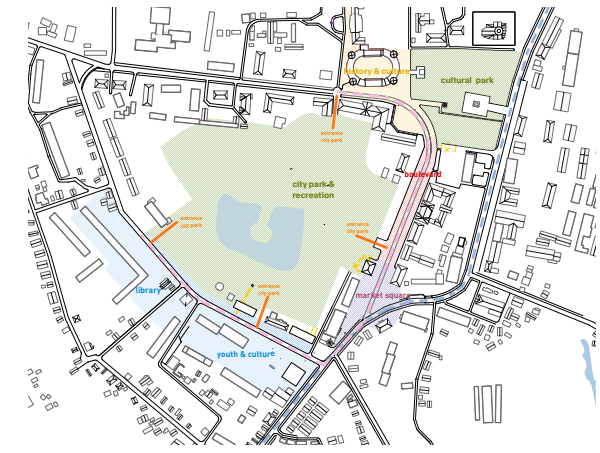


SOLDATSKJE CULTURAL CENTER
SOUTHWEST CORNER - LOOKING AT ENTRY





conceptual siteplan



M 1:3000 | DIN A3

VI. Café and Tourism Office Pavilion in Trostyanets city

Allmannwappner gmbh Nymphenburger Straße 125, 80636 München

The architectural bureau allmannwappner from Munich (Germany), as part of the implementation of the Municipal Development Master Plan, proposed to build a modern Tourist Information Center, fan shop, and cafe on Myru Street in Trostyanets city (the entrance to the Central Park) instead of the old store. The

project involves transforming Myru Street in completely pedestrian zone, with cafes, and arranging various recreational spaces.

Tourist Information Center will provide basic services, from maps and local advice to promoting sustainable travel. It is a comprehensive modern solution that combines spatial design, functional city infrastructure, and new approaches to interacting with residents and tourists.

Its form and materials are designed in accordance with the key principles of co-creation in a city with a multicultural heritage, mobility, inclusivity and conciseness.

Such an integrated approach expands the possibilities of using the tourist information center and turns it into a tool that introduces the city, encourages dialogue and increases respect for multicultural heritage.

Ultimately, this will help the city to understand the needs of hromada's residents and tourists, and develop effective approaches to tourism management.



3 16/07/25 Trostyanets visualisations

allmannwappner

Zoom market square



M 1:1000 | DIN A3

5 16/07/25 Trostyanets visualisations

allmannwappner

visualisation views

- view 1: boulevard entry with the café Trostyanets
- view 2: café and tourism office pavilion
- view 3: farmers market and park entry
- view 4: food court furniture



M 1:1000 | DIN A3

6 16/07/25 Trostyanets visualisations

allmannwappner





VII. Educational and Cultural Center "Korobka HUB"

Cost: 1 130 000 EUR

The creation of a modern Youth HUB in the city of Trostyanets an innovative multifunctional space for non-formal education, entrepreneurship development, civic activity, and cultural leisure. The project aims to provide young people, entrepreneurs, and the community as a whole with quality opportunities for selfdevelopment, gaining new knowledge and skills, starting a business, building an active civic position, and attracting investments, which will support the sustainable social and economic development of the community.

Before the war, the construction of a center for business support, investment attraction, development of the youth movement and development of the territory was started. 35% of construction works in the amount of EUR 154,8 thousand have already been completed

The premises have large enough rooms for simple use, necessary for creating a coworking space, exhibition and training rooms, conference rooms, a business incubator for up to 10 offices, and a room for training in computer technologies.

It is here that it is planned to create an infrastructure to support business:

- ▶ a training center, where interested persons will be able to gain knowledge of the basics of business and the peculiarities of its conduct
- ▶ a business incubator, where novice entrepreneurs will be able to obtain specially equipped premises and other property in order to assist them in acquiring financial independence



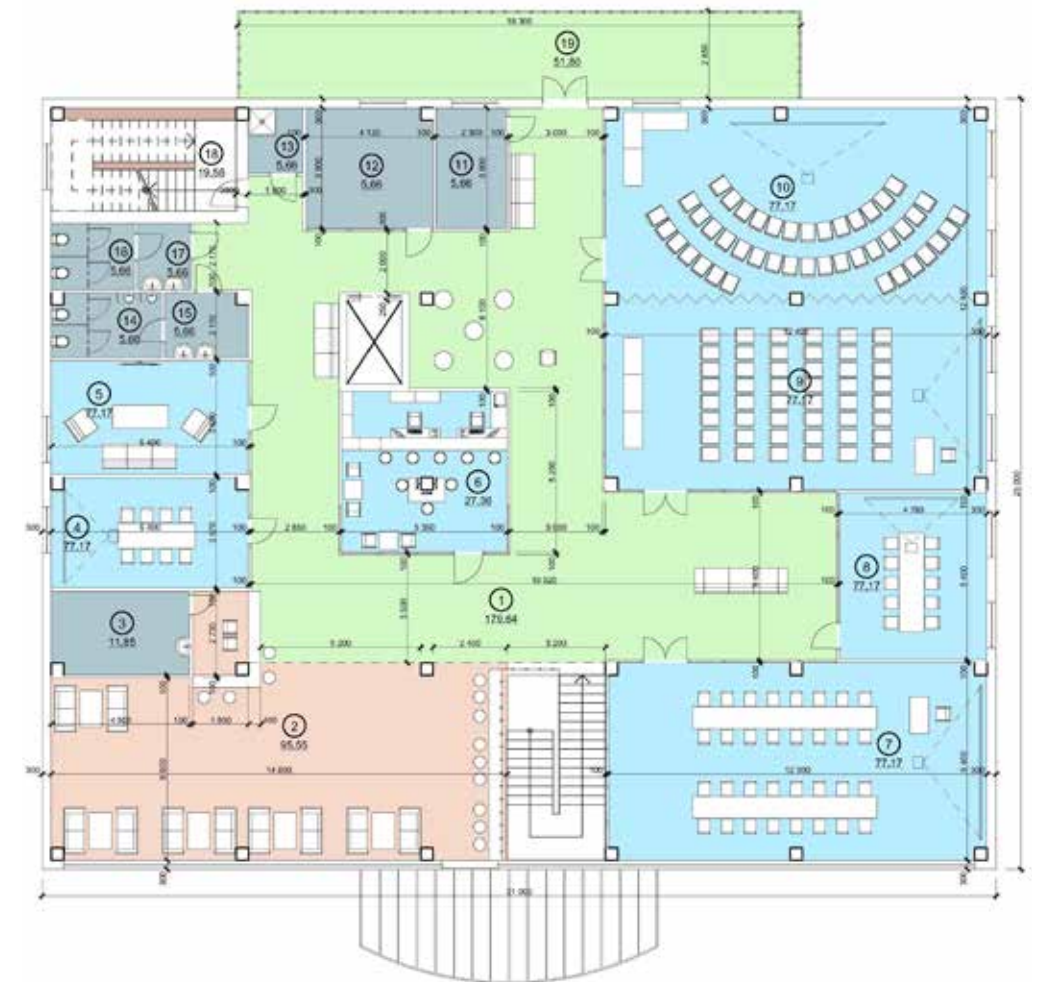


Spatial Layout of the Educational and Cultural Center "Korobka HUB"



The project involves the renovation of the building from the former canteen of the Elektropobutprilad factory into a modern educational and cultural center. The area is over 1000 sq.m. The building is planned to be energy efficient with solar lighting panels, heating with heat pumps, without gas, inclusive.

Safe (under the building is a basement shelter). The building is planned to house a business incubator for budding entrepreneurs, conference rooms, classrooms, a business and investor support center, a library with an entrepreneurial and development focus, a center for working with artificial intelligence, etc.





- an investor service center, which provides local and foreign investors with comfortable conditions for work and recreation: to obtain all the necessary information about the region and interesting objects, about the legislative framework of Ukraine, to hold meetings and negotiations, to use the services of an office manager, a cafe, a recreation room
- information and advisory platforms on credit and financial opportunities, opportunities for developing new markets, including European countries; a computer technology training center, where you can learn to work with a computer and software, get acquainted with the possibilities of e-government, etc.
- a youth space and a conference hall, where you can organize various educational events

An Advisory Center on the prospects for using alternative energy sources will be formed here. As part of the consultation, interested individuals, residents or entrepreneurs, will be able to familiarize themselves with the basic "know-how" of this field of activity and, based on them, start their own business in the field of "green" energy, which is currently quite underdeveloped in the region, has a low competitive environment, but has quite broad prospects for development.

This project idea had been received funding within the framework of the Sectoral Policy Support Program before the full-scaled incursion in 2022, which was implemented by the Ministry of Community and Territorial Development of Ukraine and with the financial support of the European Union.

To complete the implementation of this project, the following activities must be performed:

- completion of the exterior decoration of the facade
- connection of the reconstruction object to the sewage and water supply network
- arrangement of the ventilation system
- arrangement of the power supply system, taking into account the standard connection to the electrical networks of electrical installations
- landscaping
- obtaining a certificate of acceptance into operation of the completed construction object
- search and involvement of experts, consultants and trainers on business development
- purchase of the necessary IT-equipment and facilities
- completion of the reconstruction of the Hub premises
- commissioning of business incubator offices
- launching of an investor service center
- implementation of ongoing educational and qualification programs





VIII. Construction of new residential neighborhood with social housing for refugees

Building area: Next to the industrial park (40 hectares), there is an excellent land plot of 400 hectares available for residential development. It borders the "Neskuchne" dendrological park (256 hectares).

Cost: in the process of calculation



Trostyanyets city, together with the *Metinvest* company, has developed a concept for a new residential neighborhood called "Steel Dream" in the city of Trostyanyets. A new district will be developed to accommodate 12 000 people. In addition to residential buildings, the project includes the construction of social, industrial, and recreational facilities. The project will enable people whose homes were destroyed, as well as those who left the occupied territories, to receive new homes and return to a full life.

Metinvest presented four unique concepts for the restored "Steel Dream" neighborhoods – for Bakhmut, Mariupol, Trostyanyets, and Hlukhiv. They were presented at the international conference Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025 in Rome.

"For Trostyanyets, "Steel Dream" is a powerful and effective tool that allowed us to reach a new level of negotiations with international partners. Having such a detailed plan is exactly what is expected of us in the international arena. This approach has the potential to become a driver for the entire Sumy region," said Yuriy Bova – the Mayor of Trostyanyets.





"Steel Dream" is based on three steel technologies: module, frame and platform. The company's specialists have developed over 200 typical residential and social infrastructure projects.

Main advantages:

- Speed of construction thanks to prefabricated structures
- Reliability and durability
- Flexibility in planning and use
- Environmental responsibility (98% of steel is recyclable)

Metinvest offers a complete roadmap for cities – from concept to operation. The company provides not only standard projects, but also assistance in finding financing, preparing documentation, and launching construction.

"We don't just offer ideas. We offer a clear, step-by-step action plan and an open partnership platform," emphasized Tetyana Skrypka, Head of External Projects at Metinvest Sichstal.

The design of these quarters will start this year, which gives Trostyanets real prospects for rapid and high-quality recovery after the war devastation. Participation in such a prestigious international conference confirms Trostyanets' readiness for active cooperation with international partners in matters of reconstruction and development.

Trostyanets city hromada has taken in about 2 100 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk, and Chernihiv regions. The city council is making every effort to provide these people

with housing. Thus, 6 collective housing centers for internally displaced persons have been created in hromada, designed for 240 people. This is not enough, but the city's resources are limited. Unfortunately, the war does not leave our country, and in particular the Sumy region. Border municipalities are subjected to resist artillery shelling and killer drones attacks every day. For the sake of the safety of civilians, the evacuation of the population from the border zone has begun.

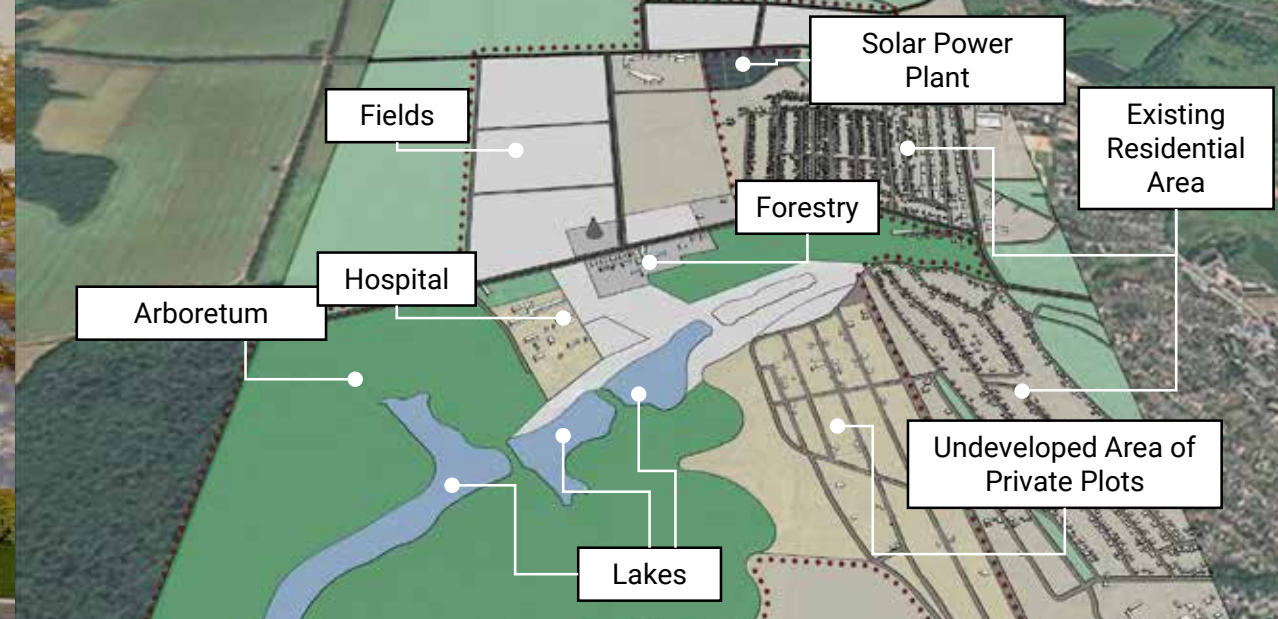
Therefore, the urgent problem today is housing for people who are forced to leave their homes. Trostyanets city council, together with the Metinvest company, has developed a concept for the development of a new residential district "Steel Dream" on the territory of city, where 10 000 people will be able to settle. In addition to residential buildings, the project includes the construction of social, industrial and recreational facilities. The built

residential buildings will allow the owners of destroyed housing and those who left the occupied territories to get new homes of their own and return to a full life.

Metinvest is an international mining and metals group of companies, covering enterprises in Ukraine, the EU, the UK and the US, controlling the full production cycle from raw material extraction to the production of steel and finished products. The company has been a member of the UN Global Compact since 2010 and is one of the leaders of Ukrainian business in terms of scale, expertise and innovation.

"Steel Dream" is a universal concept created by Metinvest for the rapid and high-quality reconstruction of destroyed communities and cities based on steel prefab solutions: modules, frames and platforms. The project offers over 200 standard solutions for residential, social and infrastructure development, which are adapted to the specific needs of the





community. The modular approach allows for the construction of residential buildings, schools, kindergartens and shelters in an extremely short time. The project is environmentally friendly (98% of the steel is recyclable), inclusive and complies with European quality standards.

"Steel Dream" has significant regalia, including the **UN Global Compact** award in the "Economic Development" category and a victory at the **Ukrainian Building Awards**. The concept received positive conclusions from architects and has already been presented for Mariupol, Bakhmut, Trostyanets and Hlukhiv. Large projects for Luhansk city and Siverskodonetsk are also in development.

The project differs from other concepts in that it is developed free of charge for municipalities, as well as in its mass scale, versatility of solutions, speed of implementation, environmental responsibility, and openness to adaptation to different budgets. It provides with a ready-made package of typical design solutions to begin attracting state and international funds for adaptation and construction.

For Trostyanets city, *Metinvest* is developing the "Point of Unity" concept, which integrates industrial, cultural, and environmental heritage into a single modern ecosystem. This model can become a driver for the entire Sumy region, bringing municipalities to a new level of cooperation with international investors and allowing for rapid restoration of infrastructure and quality of life.

Plot:

– Located in the western part of the city

Plot Area:

– Approximately 400 hectares

Existing Development on the Plot:

– Consists of infrastructure, public, and private facilities

Surrounding Development:

– Mainly consists of private homes

Plot Connectivity:

– Connected to the T-19-13 territorial road, Neskuchanska Street, and other local streets

Land Plot Analysis

Total Plot Area 88 ha

Total Development Area 19 ha:

- Residential 10,5 ha
- Public/Community 8,5 ha

Green Space Area 50 ha

Paved Area 19 ha

Population 11 605 residents

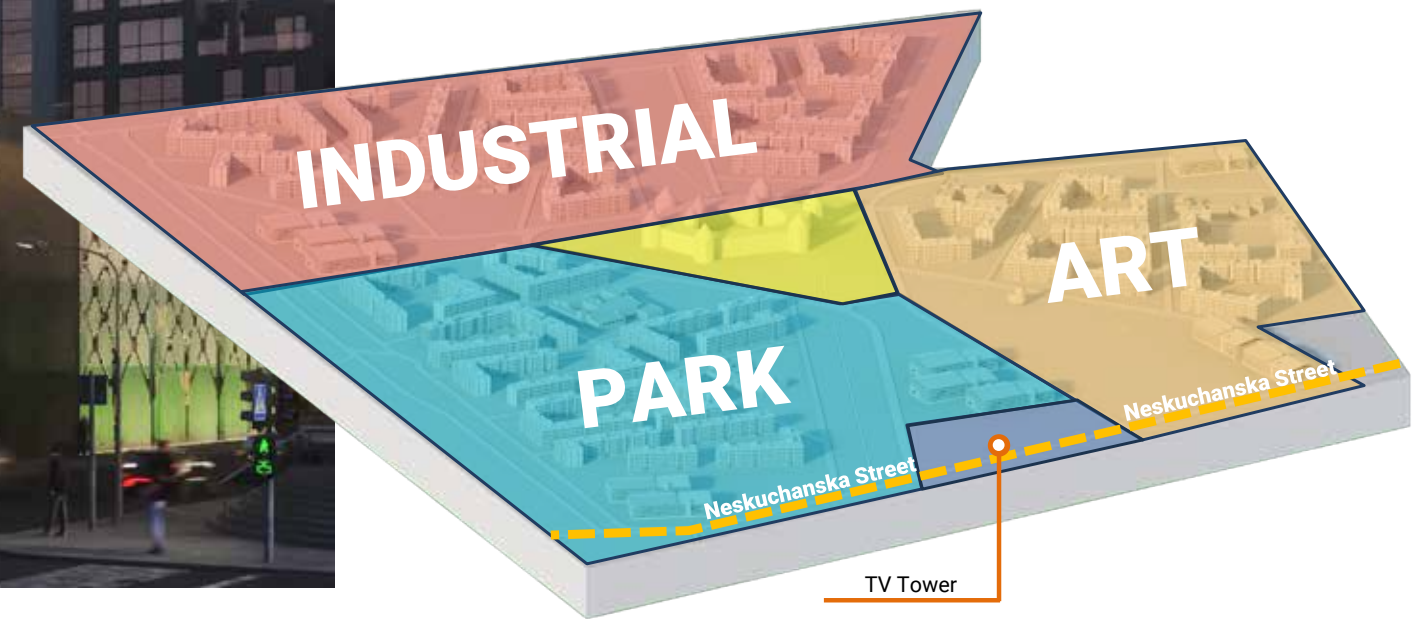
Population Density 130 residents/ha

Building Height 5 storeys

Number of Building Sections 195 units

Number of Apartments 6 595





Capacity of Residential Shelters 11 650

Total Parking Spaces 3 530

Planned Capacity in Educational Facilities:

- Preschool 630 children
- Secondary School 800 students

Current situation

A gas distribution station and a high-pressure gas pipeline are located on the site.

A 110 kV substation is located in the southeastern part of the site.

110 kV and 35 kV power lines cross the site.

An exclusion zone exists in the southern part of the site due to high electromagnetic field (EMF) levels

A portion of the site is currently occupied by private garden plots.

Implementing such an ambitious concept will require further clarification and potential adjustments to the final project design.

Quarter Concept

Industrial Quarter

Life Next to Work:

The quarter is located in close proximity to the new Industrial Park. This creates an ideal worklife balance by minimizing commute times.

Comfort for Residents:

This is a self-contained space with its own infrastructure. It includes a planned kindergarten for 210 children, modern sports grounds, and large green areas (16 ha) for recreation.

An Engine for the Community:

Creating comfortable housing for 4,880 future residents is a key factor in attracting a skilled workforce to the Industrial Park and ensuring the sustainable economic development of Trostyanets.

Quarter Concept

Industrial Quarter. Sports fields



Quarter Concept

Industrial Quarter. Playgrounds



Quarter Concept

Art Quarter. Playgrounds



Quarter Concept

Art Quarter

A Space for Creativity and Self-Expression: This is the cultural heart of the new community, where contemporary art, vibrant murals, and unique art installations are integrated into the everyday environment. And yes, that includes the famous Yellow Duck!

A Hub for Events and Festivals: The quarter's architecture and public squares are designed to host art exhibitions, music festivals, and fairs, uniting residents and city guests.

Inspiration for the Whole Family: In addition to creative zones, the quarter offers comfortable infrastructure for its 2,610 residents, including a new school for 400 students, a kindergarten, and interactive recreational areas.

Quarter Concept

Park Quarter. Park area



Quarter Concept

Park Quarter

Life on the Border with Nature: The quarter's main idea is maximum integration with the "Neskuchne" arboretum. A central promenade flows smoothly into the park, erasing the boundary between the city and nature.

An Oasis of Calm and Health: The quarter is designed for those who value tranquility and active outdoor recreation. Playgrounds made from natural materials, sculpture alleys, and proximity to the lake create a unique, rejuvenating atmosphere.

Infrastructure in Harmony with the Park: For its 4,110 residents, the plan includes not only a school and a kindergarten but also a cozy commercial area fronting the park, making the quarter both comfortable and self-sufficient.

Quarter Concept

Art Quarter. Park area



Quarter Concept

Park Quarter. Commercial area





The territory designated for the construction of a residential neighborhood in the city of Trostyanets has an extremely attractive location and unique spatial and landscape advantages. Immediately adjacent is the Neskuchne tract - a monument of landscape art of national importance with an area of over 250 hectares.

This is one of the most picturesque natural objects of Sumy region, combining ancient oaks, exotic tree species (ginkgo biloba, plane tree, tulip tree, sequoia), forest areas, natural meadows, streams and a cascade of lakes. The proximity to such a natural territory provides clean air, a favorable microclimate and high quality of the environment, which creates a comfortable,

environmentally safe environment for living.

The Trostyanets City Hospital is located near the territory of the future microdistrict, which is the community's main medical institution and guarantees residents quick access to quality medical services. Such a neighborhood is an important advantage for the formation of a comfortable and safe living space.

In addition, in the immediate vicinity of the site is the territory of the former sports base, which is planned to be restored and modernized into a modern biathlon center. It includes asphalt tracks for summer training, a cross-country ski trail, a shooting range, a service area and premises for athletes. The implementation of this project will allow for competitions and training in biathlon, cross-country skiing and cycling, which will create a powerful

sports cluster around the residential area.

The presence of the nearby T1913 Trostyanets-Lebedyn road, convenient transport connections, a bus stop and developed engineering infrastructure (water intake, sewage collector, gas pipeline, power lines) creates conditions for the rapid implementation of development.

Thus, the territory of the future residential neighborhood

combines unique natural, social and infrastructural advantages - proximity to the arboretum and lakes, proximity to the hospital, the presence of a sports facility, which will be transformed into a biathlon center, surrounded by a forest and access to full range of city services. All this makes the place optimal for creating a modern, comfortable, environmentally balanced living space that will promote an active, healthy and harmonious lifestyle.





The Round Yard: An Idea that Unites

The "Round Yard" was never a fortress, but a stage for community life—a place for fairs, theater, and festivals that brought everyone together.

The core idea is to create a multifunctional center of unity. The new complex will become a modern "Round Yard," combining the three key forces of Trostyanets: Industry, Art, and Nature.

Arboretum "Neskuchne"

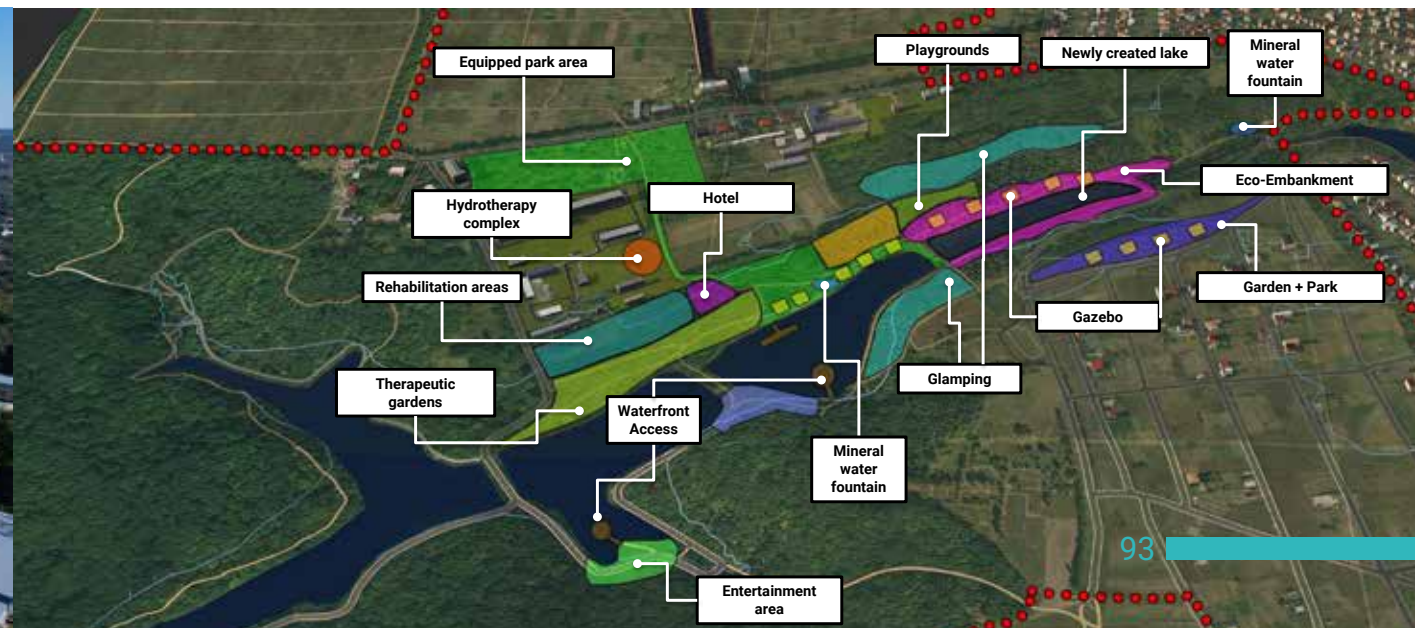
This is a unique place that combines natural treasures with historical heritage, and it is a true point of pride for Trostyanets.

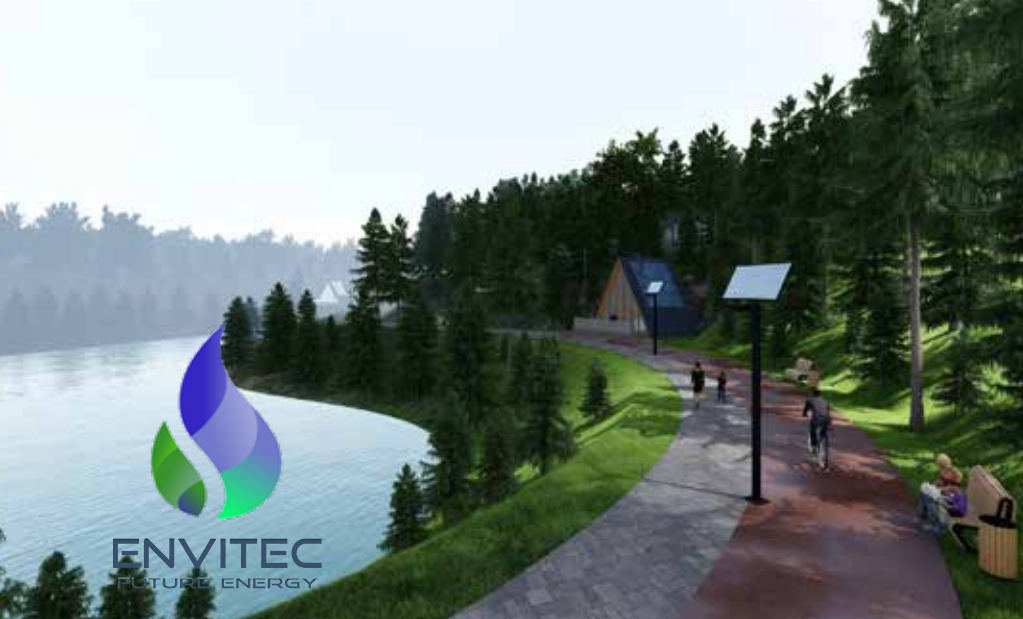
Unique Flora:

Over 800 species of trees and shrubs grow on the park's territory. The collection includes rare and exotic plants, making it one of the richest arboretums in the region.

Historical Heritage:

The park, founded in the 19th century, is an official monument of landscape art. It preserves the authentic atmosphere and landscape planning elements of a past era.





Arboretum Concept

Benchmarking Against the World's Best Eco-Parks

An analysis of the world's best eco-parks was conducted to transform 'Neskuchne' into a modern space that combines science, recreation, and beauty. Our concept is based on 5 key principles that will make the park a source of community pride.

1. Kew Gardens (Great Britain) – kew.org

2. Arboretum Trompenburg (Netherlands) – trompenburg.nl

3. Arnold Arboretum (United States) – arboretum.harvard.edu

4. Missouri Botanical Garden (United States) – missouribotanicalgarden.org

5. Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (Great Britain) – rbge.org.uk

6. Brooklyn Botanic Garden (United States) – bbg.org

7. Singapore Botanic Gardens (Singapore) – nparks.gov.sg

8. Jardín Botánico de Bogotá (Colombia) – jbb.gov.co

9. Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden (Thailand) – nongnoochtropicalgarden.com

10. Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden (South Africa) – sanbi.org

The main goal is to transform the "Neskuchne" arboretum from a conservation area into a vibrant green hub that unites four key directions:

➤ **Health & Wellness:** Creating a modern rehabilitation center, therapeutic gardens, and freshwater fountains.

➤ **Active Recreation:** Developing sports and children's zones, building a rope park, and creating a new lake for leisure activities.

➤ **Tourism & Hospitality:** Developing tourism infrastructure, including the construction of a new hotel and glamping zones.

➤ **Nature Preservation:** Carefully integrating all new facilities into the existing landscape to preserve the park's unique biodiversity.





Hotel

Area – 6,450 m²

Implementation period – 9 months

Trostanets has significant potential for tourism development, thanks to its unique natural resources and historical monuments.

The new hotel complex will become a hospitality center for all community guests and a key element of the tourism infrastructure.

Location:

Adjacent to the rehabilitation center and the arboretum entrance.

Target Audience:

- Patients and guests of the rehabilitation center
- Tourists visiting natural and historical landmarks
- Athletes and event participants at the biathlon complex

Biathlon complex "NESKUCHNE"

Location: The biathlon complex is located in the southern part of the plot.

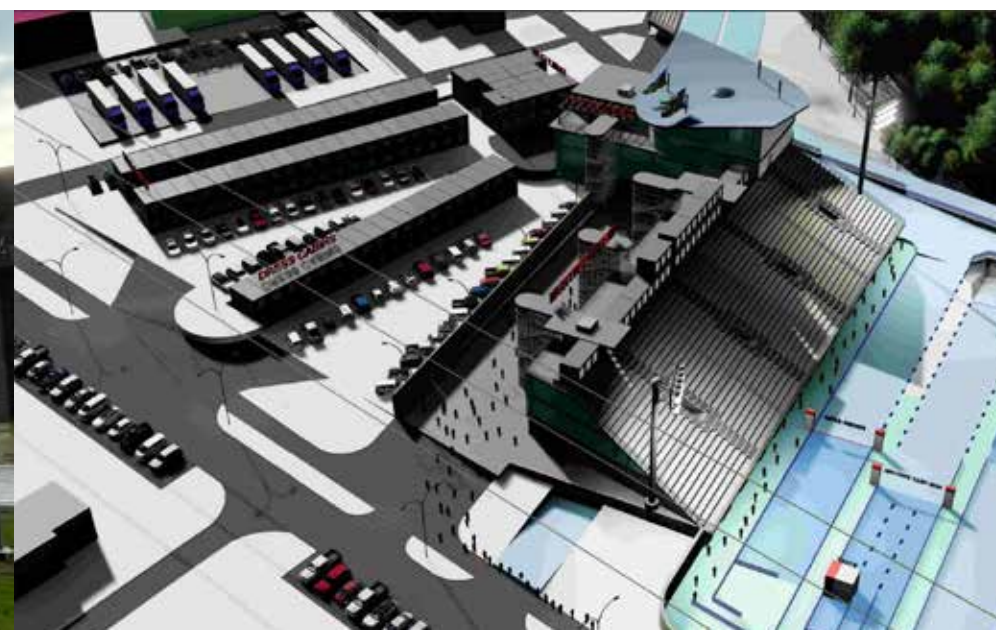
Land Area: 14 hectares.

Strategic Goals:

- A modern, European-standard complex capable of hosting world championships
- A unique location next to the arboretum on flat terrain (160m above sea level)
- An alternative to Bukovel for flat-terrain competition

Key Features:

- The project was developed with input from experts in biathlon complex design and operation
- A main grandstand with 6,000 seats
- A parking area for 600 vehicles



Open for Partnerships



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