# MAYORS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

# LEARNING SPRINT INSIGHTS

## EU Response & Renewal Grant Programme for M4EG





The Response & Renewal Programme supports local authorities to recover and revitalise local economies and living conditions impacted by the war in Ukraine under two lots:

**LOT 1:** Response & Immediate Recovery, and **LOT 2:** Renewal & anticipation.

Through a competitive process, 5 local authorities were selected from the Republic of Moldova and 13 from Ukraine.

All have successfully undergone a 4-week learning sprint to validated and strengthen their planned interventions.

Find key information about the initiatives and the municipalities' own statements (\*paraphrased) on results and insights following their participation in the Learning Sprint.

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# The components of the Learning Sprint



#### Social Listening

Exploring and capturing community voices and narratives through human-centered approach



### Sensemaking & Dynamic Management Making sense of activities and processes

in order to extract insights, induce learning and create meaning from experience



#### Design Workshop

# **Key principles**

To build on the ongoing response and renewal initiatives within the local authorities and amplify it rather than bring initiatives from the 'shelf' or 'outside'.

To support ongoing area-based systemic interventions to urban

Supporting municipalities to strengthen proposals with systems thinking

### Gender Sensitivity

Strengthening proposed activities through gender lens to leave no one behind

## response, recovery, and renewal, with a whole of society response,

allowing for bottom-up initiatives geared towards more sustainable economies and neighbourhoods.

#### **1** CIMISLIA

46.5251° N, 28.7722° E Improve connectivity within the city and to neighbouring villages

Lot 2: city/community EUR: 74 604

The Learning Sprint has equipped us with skills in testing ideas, embracing failure as a learning opportunity, and swiftly adapting to new circumstances. This transformative experience will extend its influence beyond the sprint, permeating other initiatives within our municipality. The profound impact it has had on our project and our overall approach to challenges within the municipality is evident, as we now navigate them with renewed confidence and agility.

#### **2** DROCHIA

48.0318° N, 27.8183° E Energy efficiency & social services improvement and adaption to the needs of the community and refugees

Lot 2: city/community EUR 93 780

Based on the learning insights and discussions with stakeholders our proposal was revised. This emphasised the value of Community Listening as a potent method for ensuring the alignment of the project priorities with the needs of the community.

# MOLDOVA



#### **3** COPCEAC

46.4294° N, 29.6040° E Empowering residents of Copceac, refugees from Ukraine, and the business community through Multifunctional **Center of Public Services** 

#### Lot 2: city/community EUR 93 780

We have found the knowledge gained in the Learning Sprint, such as understanding common needs through questionnaires and data analysis, useful beyond this particular initiative and have already applied it in the application for the European Village (Satul European Express) project.

#### **5** CARPINENI

46.7657° N, 28.3400° E Social, cultural, and economic integration of refugees from Ukraine

Lot 1: city/community EUR: 46 890

Throughout the Learning Journey, we gained the realisation that our proposed intervention may not completely reflect the opinion of the target group, making it evident that by engaging in communication with community members and actively seeking their input we can ensure that our initiatives resonate with the needs on the ground.

#### **4** VOLINTIRI

46.4294° N, 29.6040° E Provision of support to aspiring entrepreneurs

Lot 1: household/service EUR: 46259

During our work on mapping and engaging in discussion with stakeholders, we came to the realisation that our initial assumption of the involvement of the stakeholders and their support of the project should be different.

#### **1** BUCHA, KYIV OBLAST

50.5533° N, 30.2135° E Provision of a wide range of rehabilitation services for residents of the Bucha Territorial Community



#### **2** CHERNIVTSI, KYIV OBLAST 48.2921° N, 25.9358° E

Increasing the integration and social cohesion of internally displaced persons and the population affected by

#### Lot 2: individual / household EUR 75 310

The results from the Community Listening confirmed the relevance and importance of creating a comprehensive rehabilitation center in our community. We are planning to hold Community Listening sessions throughout the implementation period in order to monitor emerging challenges in the community.



#### **3** CHORTKIV, TERNOPIL OBLAST

49.0109° N, 25.8027° E Improving the provision of social services for vulnerable categories of the population (Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and the population in difficult life circumstances)

Lot 1: individual / household EUR 49 630

The Learning Sprint inspired actions of adding components to enhance integration processes and the initiative has included measures to explore new sources and opportunities for expanding services based on the feedback obtained through Community Listening.

#### **4** HLUKHIV, SUMY OBLAST

51.6709° N, 33.9079° E Creation of proper conditions for short- and long-term residence of IDPs and the population that suffered as a result of military actions

Lot 1: individual / household EUR 49 650

The approaches introduced during the Learning Sprint are already being used by the municipality's specialists to understand and quickly respond to the urgent needs of the community in order to improve the social situation of the IDPs.

#### the war to the Chernivtsi community by creating a special integration and communication space

Lot 2: city / community EUR 99 945

The Learning Sprint and in particular the Community Listening has proven to be an effective method for updating and aligning current and future programs within the municipality with the community needs. The Learning Sprint had direct impact on our initiative and will continue to influence the municipality's work.

#### **5** KAMIANETS-PODILSKYI, **KHMELNYTSKYI OBLAST**

48.6967° N, 26.5825° E Social integration of IDPs by providing a wide range of social, humanitarian, legal and other assistance on the basis of the newly established Municipal Resource Center for the support of IDPs

Lot 1: EUR 50 000

The Learning Sprint sparked ideas on unconventional approaches to social integration such as showcasing the talents of IDPs through a musical concert of displaced musicians. Additionally, it drove forward the thinking on the sustainability aspect of ensuring the operation and expansion of the support center independent of external funding.

#### **6** KHARKIV

49.9935° N, 36.2304° E Sustainable modernisation and recovery of the war-torn city of Kharkiv

Lot 2: city/community EUR 87 000

During the Community Listening, a strong interest of the community in preserving the cities cultural heritage was highlighted which further inspired adding a occurring participatory feature to the initiative which will allow for interactive community engagement for future city planning projects.

#### 7 NIZHYN

51.0378° N, 31.8881° E Creation of conditions for employment and socio-psychological adaptation of internally displaced persons through the creation of a clothing manufacturing plant on the basis of a communal enterprise

#### Lot 2: individual/community EUR 100 000

The gender aspect and the whole of approach has firmly entered the practice of project management and grant writing after our participation in the Learning Sprint. This means whilst addressing the challenges of war we also aim to achieve the Global Goals of sustainable development, embodying the principle of "Think globally - act locally!"

#### **8** NOVA KHAKOVKA, KHERSON OBLAST

46.7515° N, 33.3678° E Creation of conditions for organisational support of IDPs and the population affected by military actions

Lot 2: individual/household EUR 56 466

Through the approaches offered in the Learning Sprint, we have been able to improve our understanding and exchange experiences with other municipalities on the needs of IDPs living in the community and throughout Ukraine. As a result of this, activities have been revised to better support the identified needs of the IDPs.

50.2969° N, 26.8601° E Creating conditions for the economic and social integration of IDPs at the local level

Lot 1: individual/household EUR 25 000

The Learning Sprint led to several concrete improvements of our proposal including: systematisation of the project's educational component, detailed planning of specialised training for IDPs, and establishment of a consultative body for addressing IDP issues.

### **10** SLAVUTYCH, KYIV OBLAST

51.5222° N, 30.7457° E Creation of a complex cross-sectoral management mechanism for crisis response in the community

Lot 2: city/community EUR 95 095

Based on the findings from the Community Listening, we have expanded the initiative's offerings, increasing the number of personal development trainings for victims of military aggression, adding workshops for IDPs to acquire new skills and business trainings for entrepreneurs.

#### 12 VELYKI LUCHKY, ZAKARPATTIA

48.4200° N, 22.5614° E Increasing the economic activity and tourist attractiveness of the village community by involving residents and IDPs of the community to the joint activities of the "Center for the processing of wild berries"

Lot 2: individual/community EUR 65 785

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The Learning Sprint has enabled new partnerships which will contribute to scaling the impact, and the knowledge acquired will be shared and applied to other activities of the municipality.

#### **13 VOZNESENSK, MYKOLAIV OBLAST**

47.5605° N, 31.3361° E The concept of sustainable restoration of Voznesensk community through modern approaches of urbanisation and digital spatial modelling

Lot 2: city/community EUR 98 200

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The knowledge gained from the sprint has been incredibly valuable, with certain elements already integrated by the Youth Council. We have obtained a deeper understanding of the community's preferences and concerns, allowing us to prioritise activities that cater to their needs. These include initiatives like street cleaning, the enhancement of public spaces, and the improvement of parks and waterfront areas.

#### **11 VELYKA OLEKSANDRIVKA**

47.3212° N, 33.3033° E Restoration of the provision of administrative and public services in the community

Lot 1: city/community EUR 31 866

The Community Listening proved to be a highly useful tool which revealed the communities' view on the importance of restoring social, administrative, and other institutions, as well as planning measures to restore the territory. This method is now being widely applied to plan our municipal activities beyond solely this initiative.





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