#### Contact us for more information

#### UNDP

Elina Jarvela, Strategic Designer & Portfolio Lead elina.jarvela@undp.org Tina Stoum, M4EG Regional Lead tina.stoum@undp.org

#### **Portfolio Cities**

#### Areni

Zemfira Harutyunyan, Portfolio Lead arenizemfira@gmail.com Husik Sahakya, Mayor husiksahakyan@yahoo.com

#### Batumi

Rusudan Zhozhadze, Portfolio Lead rzhohadze@gmail.com Archil Chikovani, Mayor a.chikovani099@gmail.com

#### **Ceadir Lunga**

Oleg Fazli, Portfolio Lead frozenfron@gmail.com Anatolie Topal, Mayor ttopal1972@gmail.com

#### Gyumri

Marine Hovhannisyan, Portfolio Lead mara.hovh@gmail.com Vardges Samsonyan, Mayor gyumri@gyumri.am

#### PORTFOLIO JOURNEY **BRIEF APRIL 2023**

#### Chora

Mariela Atanassova, Senior Strategic Innovation Designer mariela.atanassova@chora.design

#### EU

Thibault Charlet, Programme Manager, DG NEAR Thibault.CHARLET@ec.europa.eu

#### Icherisheher

Elsevar Mammadov, Portfolio Lead elsever.mammadov@icherisheher.gov.az Shahin Seyidzade, Mayor shahin.seyidzade@icherisheher.gov.az

#### Kapan

Hasmik Ghonyan, Portfolio Lead hasmikghonyan@gmail.com Gor Tadevosyan, Deputy Mayor infokapan@gmail.com

#### Khirdalan

Jahangir Salimkhanov, Portfolio Lead jselimkhanov@gmail.com Orkhan Musayev, Mayor, omusayev@mail.ru

#### Kutaisi

Tinatin Berishvili. Portfolio Lead tikoberishvili@gmail.com loseb Khakhaleishvili, Mayor i.khakhaleishvili@kutaisi.gov.ge

#### Mykolaiv

Tetiana Shulichenko. Portfolio Lead Tetiana.shulichenko@gmail.com Vitalii Lukov, First Deputy Mayor, vdlukov@ukr.net



This publication was funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the "Mayors for Economic Growth" Facility and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

#### MAYORS - CHÔRA -**GROWTH**



## PORTFOLIO JOURNEY BRIEF **APRIL 2023**

#### [Portfolio approach]





the European Union





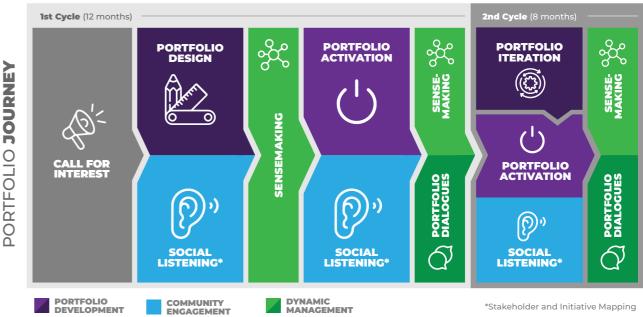


#### What is the M4EG?

The Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) is a joint EU & UNDP initiative to support Mayors and their teams in the Eastern Partnership region. Through monetary and technical resources, networking and learning opportunities, the M4EG seeks to explore new trajectories of growth to make towns and cities resilient and attractive for people and investment. Recognizing there are no quick fixes for complex challenges, the M4EG takes a 'hyperlocal' and whole-of-place approach, working alongside Mayors and their teams. Find out more on how our municipalities are investing in continuous learning, experimentation, and collaboration to be more #futureready: www.eum4eg.com.

#### What is the Portfolio Journey?

The Portfolio Journey is a two to three-year long program for in-depth learning and implementation under the M4EG. This program is based on systems thinking, which uses a "portfolio approach" to address complex problems that cannot be solved through traditional project management methods alone. The participating municipalities receive implementation funds of up to €225,000, and each received dedicated support from Chora and UNDP to assist with portfolio design, activation/implementation and dynamic management.



The portfolio approach is a complementary method that helps decision-makers navigate problems that require a more comprehensive and interconnected perspective. It is a learning tool for achieving transformative change within a city or town. Challenges such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, and air pollution are all outcomes of interconnected systems that demand new types of policy design and implementation for national and local governments. Designing responses with a systems approach requires dedication, new capabilities, and new and alternative funding modalities to move beyond single projects toward more connected interventions.

Systems thinking originates from the 1950s and has since been widely adopted by both private and public decision-makers when dealing with complex and persistent problems that cannot be solved with technical or single-sector approaches alone. In the context of climate related challenges in cities, various new initiatives embracing systems have emerged over recent years and which the M4EG Portfolio Journey is learning from, including NetZeroCities, Climate KIC's Deep Demonstrations, New European Bauhaus, and Viable Cities. In 2020, UNDP developed an urban transformation framework called the Agora stencil, together with Chora Design, to apply systems-wide portfolio approach.



••
Ù
1
•
Ē
•
Ţ
•
2

currently part of the Portfolio Journey under the M4EC at different stages of implementation: 10 cities and towns are

	Local authority	Country	Population	Portfolio mission/ focus	Stage (April 2023)
-	Areni	Armenia	11,309	Sustainable Tourism	Initial seed portfolio activated (up to 70,000) w/ dynamic management protocol in place
2	Gyumri	Armenia	116,800	Cultural Tourism	Option proposal finalisation and signing of the fund agreement ongoing
м	Kapan	Armenia	43,190	Participatory Community Wellbeing	Bootcamp finalized in early April, positions designed along with their first options to be implemented in late spring 2023
4	Icherisheher	Azerbaijan	3,000	Smart Old City	Social listening and stakeholder inputs ongoing, portfolio design bootcamp in May 2023
Ŋ	Khirdalan	Azerbaijan	95,200	Creativity and Entrepreneurship	Portfolio design finalized, activation of initial option implementation starting in spring 2023
9	Kutaisi	Georgia	129,305	Eco-Smart City	Initial seed portfolio (up to 70,000) activated w/ dynamic management protocol in place
7	Batumi	Georgia	173,745	Start-up Ecosystem	Initial seed portfolio activated (up to 70,000) w/ dynamic management protocol in place
Ø	Ceadîr-Lunga	Moldova	19,401	Energy Transition	Initial seed portfolio (up to 70,000) activated w/ dynamic management protocol in place
6	Mykolaiv	Ukraine	474,751	Deep Blue Transformation	Portfolio focus designed, positions and option proposals ongoing, implementation from late spring 2023
10	Ternopil	Ukraine	224,134	TBC - Response & Renewal	Mayor and team chose to pause portfolio kick-off until spring 2023

## Introducing the Portfolios

Spotlight Cohort 1

MAYORS ERECONOMIC GROWTH

[Portfolio approach]



## **Introducing the Portfolios**

Spotlight Cohort 1



**Areni / Armenia** Sustainable Tourism

## From underdeveloped infrastructure to well-developed diversified tourism and an attractive community

Areni faces challenges linked to insufficient infrastructure and underdeveloped waste management, resulting in environmental pollution, and negatively affecting tourist activity in the area. The specific area of interest the city has decided to address through this portfolio is sustainable tourism, both from an economic and environmental perspective. The portfolio intends to attract and direct additional financial resources to the community to renew parts of its local infrastructure and contribute to the diversification of the local economy by exploring possibilities of interconnected value propositions, as well as exploiting new niches and alternative tourism offerings, such as eco, gastro and adventure tourism.

#### Intended effects:

Shared ambition and strategy committed to transformation and mobilization of all stakeholders towards the creation of inclusive, innovative, and resilient tourism.
A clean, green, and safe environment for visitors and residents across generations.
A diverse, connected, sustainable, and attractive tourism economy that attracts funding towards infrastructure renewal and other benefits applied to Areni's community as a whole.

Areni team did an extended outreach as part of the design process, including the youth, guest house businesses, wine factories, homemade winemakers, and artisans.

#### "Thanks to the program I understood that there is no problem without any solution, just that we need to look at the problem from different angles."

Norayr Grigoryan, Areni Community Administration



creating and brand narrative, inter Tourism Areni's Sustainable



#### **Batumi / Georgia** Start-up Ecosystem

#### From talent drain into talent retention and knowledge-driven economy

A key challenge for Batumi rests on an economy mainly dependent on tourism - a sector which predominantly hosts seasonal activities and offers low-skill service jobs during summers. Talented youth (14-29 years old) look therefore for high quality education and diverse work opportunities in Tbilisi or abroad, contributing to a high emigration rate in the city. Despite a high demand for managerial and entrepreneurial skills, the higher and professional education systems are not well orientated towards the needs of the city's labor market. Given these challenges as well as the need to diversify the city's labor market with a focus on high-skilled knowledge work and improve access to innovation and startup activities and networks, the specific area that the City Hall has decided to address through the M4EG Urban Makeover portfolio is Startup Ecosystem Development.

#### Intended effects:

- Diversify and broaden Batumi's talent pool by retaining talented local youth and attracting external high-skilled talent.
- Contribute to a renewed urban identity by making Batumi Georgia's second startup capital.
- Ignite interest, develop startup-savviness and encourage a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation with a particular focus on youth.
- Enable the City Hall to become an enabler of Batumi's startup ecosystem.

"I was very interested in engaging stakeholders, interviewing private sector representatives, and sharing their expectations and experiences (social listening and sensemaking) which gave us the opportunity to choose the direction of the portfolio based on a diverse discussion, and showed us the different ways and approaches to the challenges, that can be replicated in the municipality's other activities." Rusudan Zhozhadze, Municipal team of Batumi

# [chôra] Start-up Ecosystem Batumi Portfolio

The space will be enabled by the Municipa but designed and run by an independent start-up coalition.

Portfolio Position 4 CONNECTING BATUMI Networking the Ecosystem: Establish a pulse of networki events and activities that cor

s publication was funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the "Mayors for Economic Growth" Facility and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

EAM

[Portfolio approach]

Batumi: Archil Chikovani, Rusudan Zhozhadze, Shorena Paghava, Natia Miminoshvili UNDP: Elina Järvela Tinatin Tkeshelashvili Chora: Ekin Karel, Mariela Atanassova

youth are educated and empowered to become start-up entrepreneu Batumi's Start-up Ecosystem Development portfolio explores dominant job narratives, spa physical spaces of interaction for talent, and building connections with mature start-ups.



#### Ceadir-Lunga / Moldova

**Energy Transition** 

### From an import-based and extractive energy system to an independent, affordable and renewable energy set-up

The city of Ceadir-Lunga is an important and historical industrial city since the Soviet Union times. Ceadir-Lunga has historically been a significant industrial city closely connected to the Russian economy ever since the Soviet Union. Its heavy reliance on energy imports from Russia has led to a sharp increase in energy prices, which is having a significant impact on the city's residents. This, combined with high unemployment rates, low incomes, and outdated energy efficiency standards, has placed a considerable burden on households, putting individual and community well-being, access to basic needs, and social inclusion at risk.

To address these challenges, the municipality has decided to transition towards an affordable and renewable energy system that prioritizes the needs of its citizens. This entails moving away from an import-based and extractive energy system towards an independent, affordable, and renewable energy setup that empowers citizens. The municipality aims to create a sustainable and inclusive energy future, take a holistic approach to homes as a key driver of the energy transition, and provide relief and inclusion for low-income households.

#### Intended effects:

- Inclusive and sustainable energy future.
- Holistic approach to the "home" as a key agent of the Energy Transition.
- Relief and inclusion of low-income households.

"Through the portfolio approach, we identified the problem of the city and found solutions. The process has enabled us to apply new and innovative methods for greater impact and sustainability"

Oleg Fazli, Municipal team of Ceadîr-Lunga





ing on energy smart streetlights, ð munities Ceadîr-Lunga's Energy Transition Portfolio designed interventions aro solutions and habits, exploring possibilities on establishing an energy i



#### **Kutaisi / Georgia** Eco-Smart City

#### From an old industrial center to an Eco Smart City for urban transformation

Kutaisi has been facing numerous challenges in recent years. Its economic importance has been on the decline, leading to a brain drain and a lack of opportunities for talented youth. The tourist industry has been struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has put a strain on the city's economy and caused a decrease in population due to migration. In addition to these challenges, the city is grappling with environmental issues due to its past industrial activities, which have led to air pollution and other climate-related problems.

To address these challenges and promote environmental resilience, the city has decided to use the Portfolio process. This approach will support its efforts to transform into an Eco-Smart City that respects its environment and resources and is equipped to deploy innovative green solutions to address urban challenges in line with the city's Master Plan.

#### Intended effects:

- Become an attractor for stakeholders with sustainable interest and agendas.
- Engage with Kutaisi's citizens, visitors, and businesses to become active stewards of the environment and urban-natural ecosystems and resources.
- Inform and lead an agenda for sustainable policies and incentives at a country level.
  Enable sophisticated and responsible management practices at municipal level in order to lead by example.

"With the active participation of citizens, it was possible to identify a common challenge for the city - improving the condition of the living environment. The participatory process also showed us that solving this issue was impossible with traditional methods and required a complex approach. This led to the vision of the transformation of Kutaisi to an Eco Smart City."

Irakli Goglichidze, Municipal team of Kutaisi

## – [снôra] 0 Eco-Smar Kutaisi P



## **Introducing the Portfolios**

Cohort 2



#### **Gyumri / Armenia** Cultural Tourism

Gyumri, the second-largest city in Armenia with a population of 112,100, is an urban municipal community and the administrative center of Shirak Province. Known as the "culture capital of Armenia," it boasts a rich history, heritage sites, cultural life, and unique customs. The challenges Gyumri faces are linked to the surge in tourist growth observed since 2018, which the city was not prepared to accommodate. Despite facing growing pains related to cultural and tourism development, the city has successfully reactivated its former cultural and touristic life post-covid pandemic. The city team decided to use the Portfolio process in developing resilient and equitable cultural tourism. Its vision is to turn Gyumri into an international cultural destination, benefiting local communities, visitors, and the preservation and replenishment of its cultural assets in the long term.

#### **Intended effects:**

· Gyumri becomes a known destination for cultural tourism around the world.

• The Municipality becomes the owner and manager of the comprehensive cultural tourism strategy in Gyumri.

· Visitors have positive and memorable experiences throughout their entire journey to and in Gyumri.

 Gyumri has the necessary infrastructure and conditions for the preservation and continues replenishment of its cultural capital.



#### Kapan / Armenia Participatory Community Wellbeing

Kapan is a town in southeast Armenia, serving as the administrative center of the Kapan Municipality as well as the provincial capital of Syunik Province. The economy of Syunik is mainly based on the industrial sector, including mining, building materials production and food-processing. After initial sensemaking and community listening, the team chose to focus their portfolio on creating a community where the well-being of all residents is at its center.

#### **Intended effects:**

- Kapan has an effective local authority that provides systemic solutions to its residents and attracts and manages external resources.
- Kapan has diversified its economy to better serve the needs of its residents.
- · Kapan has a strong supportive social fabric with residents has the agency to shape their community.





#### Khirdalan / Azerbaijan Creativity and Entrepreneurship

Located in Azerbaijan's Absheron District right outside of Baku, Khirdalan gained the status as a city in 2006. Despite being home to numerous industrial enterprises and factories, it gradually became known as a "sleeper town" of Baku. Since the municipal team came into power after the 2019 elections, they have strived to transform the city's image. Through the portfolio design phase, the team refined their focus on transforming Khirdalan to be a city that attracts creative entrepreneurship to supplement and in the long run possibly diversify the existing industrial factories. The aim is to generate business ideas and create an enabling environment for them to be converted into successful ventures, resulting in a creative and sustainable Khirdalan.

The municipal team devised four positions and options to be implemented in the initial stage of the transformation process. These include:

· Knowledge Generation - A series of a first of a kind townhall meetings to understand the current interests and needs of different industrial sectors and stakeholders. • New Identity, New Khirdalan - A series of participatory workshops with local youth, facilitated by artists, in partnership with industry actors in Khirdalan, culminating in an exhibition for the public.

• Talent Matching: Existing Youth to Existing Industry - A one-off pilot job fair experiment to bring together companies from Khirdalan's industry and job seekers. • YOUTH-Entrepreneurship Narratives - A series of 2-3 hybrid events featuring local heroes

with a relatable socioeconomic background to inspire the target audience in selected physical locations in Khirdalan.



#### Icherisheher / Azerbaijan Smart Old City

Icherisheher, also known as the Old City of Baku, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that houses 4,000 residents within its 12th-century walls. This open-air museum, built in an amphitheater style across 22 hectares, sits atop a small hill on the Caspian Sea coast, surrounded by fortress walls measuring 8-10 meters high and 3.5 meters wide. With thousands of annual visitors, Icherisheher is a lively and captivating city with a long-term strategy to become a "Smart Old City" by preserving the site's spirit, protecting it from external pressures, diversifying and modernizing income generation through cultural assets, tourism and creative industries, and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors.

At present, the project team is investigating five potential areas for intervention at the seed fund stage. These include: Smart tech for city management, Cultural assets meet digital technology, Smart tourism, Creative Industry, and Community Development. The project team is interviewing various stakeholders to gather intelligence that will be utilized during the Portfolio Bootcamp scheduled for May 2023.



## RESPONSE& RENEWAL

#### Cohort UKRAINE

In end of 2021, Mykolaiv and Ternopil in Ukraine were selected for the Portfolio Journey. Both city teams began the journey in early 2022 with initial stakeholder mapping, social listening and sensemaking as part of designing the portfolio focus. However, the work was interrupted by Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine in late February 2022. The Mykolaiv municipality requested that the work be resumed in December 2022, while the Ternopil city team has postponed their active engagement until spring 2023. In response to the changed circumstances, UNDP modified the existing Agora Urban Transformation Stencil to shift its focus to the new realities: response, resilience, and renewal.



#### **Mykolaiv / Ukraine** Deep Blue Transformation

Located in the South of Ukraine, on the banks of the Pivdennyi Buh River and the Inhul River, Mykolaiv is the capital and industrial center of the oblast in the South of Ukraine. Its historical focus on ship-building and maritime logistics has shaped the city's identity, where before the war, Mykolaiv ports served 23% of Ukrainian maritime logistics, 80% of alumina exports and hosted 5 large ship-building enterprises.

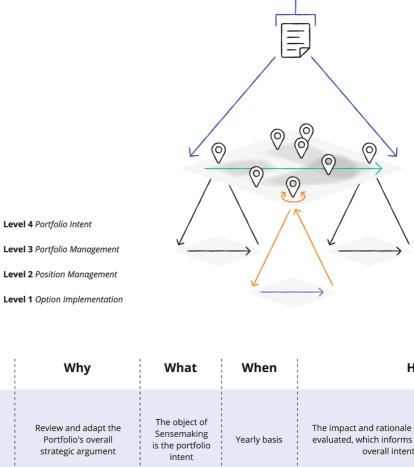
Wilson CenterThe Russian aggression on Ukraine has had a severe impact on the city. Mykolaiv was surrounded by the Russian army, putting it on the front line for eight months until Ukraine liberated the adjacent part of the neighboring Kherson oblast. Currently, the city is at high risk of remote missile attacks and bombings, and the ports and maritime routes remain blocked. The war has had a significant impact on the city's population, with 50% of residents leaving in search of safer living environments, leading to a surge in the unemployment rate, as many enterprises have also evacuated production facilities and labor force. The city has sustained substantial damage from Russian shelling, damaging more than 8,000 objects of civilian infrastructure, including residential buildings, schools, hospitals, and other facilities. The war context continues to be the key driver for the future of the city. On an organizational and personal level, the war creates conditions of uncertainty about the future and reduced capacity to plan. Facing multiple uncertainties and pressing needs, Mykolaiv City Administration will through the portfolio approach, leverage the maritime industrial identity of the city which is expected to facilitate continuous development of its economy, social, technological, and environmental systems.

#### Intended effects:

Mykolaiv to become a dynamic economic regional center to attract people and investments.
Actively involve and engage citizens, academia, and private sectors in recovering and building forward its economy and environment.
Support Mykolaiv as a city of green and blue transition hub through R&D, innovations, and sustainable economy measures.

#### How are the portfolios managed?

The first of its kind at UNDP, the Dynamic Portfolio Management Framework was developed together with Chora to help municipalities manage their portfolios in flexible and adaptive ways, and hence acts as a concrete alternative to standard project management. The framework requires monthly Learning Logs to be filled by city teams, capturing activities and lessons learned for each option. Quarterly, bi-annual, and annual Sensemaking sessions are run within the municipality teams and with local stakeholders to inform necessary changes in implementation and direction of the portfolio. The practice captures intelligence that portfolios are producing on which solutions are working and inducing change and can be utilized to inform policy-making and investment decisions beyond portfolios. Municipal teams are trained in dynamic management and sensemaking and provided with an online (Miro) dashboard to help them capture and manage changes in the portfolio, and support knowledge management practices.





[ © CHÔRA ]

The roles and responsibilities of the Dynamic Portfolio Management Framework by CHORA

How	Who
The impact and rationale of the entire portfolio will be evaluated, which informs the potential iteration of the overall intent of the portfolio	Portfolio Lead drives
All positions within the entire portfolio are brought together through the Sensemaking protocol to generate intelligence that could inform the iteration of the portfolio composition	Portfolio Lead drives
All options within the same thematic area of interest are brought together through the Sensemaking protocol to generate intelligence that both evaluates the learning value and informs the re-design of individual options.	Portfolio Lead drives
Learnings and insights are extracted from the on- ground Option experiences to be fed into the second level of dynamic portfolio management. The Option learning log is a tool designed to support the synthesis and documentation of these option-level learnings.	Option Lead drives

#### **Portfolio in action**



