

Forum:
«From Crisis Response to Resilient Communities: Ukrainian Experience for European Municipalities»

Objective:

To create a platform for knowledge exchange between Ukrainian and municipalities of the Baltic Sea Region on building resilient communities, strengthening preparedness for crises, ensuring the continuity of public services, and enhancing intermunicipal partnerships with the aim of fostering a safer and more resilient Europe.

Date:

29 July 2026

Format:

Offline

Venue:

(To be specified by the host municipality)

Moderator:

(To be confirmed)

Programme:

Time	Activity	Speakers
09:30–10:00	Registration of participants. Welcome coffee	
10:00–10:30	Opening remarks	- Representatives of Ropaži Municipality - Oleksandr Zarubin, Mayor of Boiarka City Council - Yurii Khomenko, Secretary of the Nizhyn Council - Other officials (subject to confirmation)

<p>10:30–11:30</p>	<p>Leadership and community governance in times of uncertainty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role of local self-government in strengthening resilience; • continuity of community operations; • decision-making under uncertainty; • practical lessons for European municipalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oleksandr Zarubin Mayor of Boiarka City Council - Yurii Khomenko, Secretary of the Nizhyn Council - Ropaži Municipality
<p>11:30–11:45</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>	
<p>11:45–12:25</p>	<p>Community preparedness and whole-of-society resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mobilising residents in response to crises; • volunteer movement and civic engagement; • trust and cooperation between local authorities and citizens; • the role of civil society organisations; • Ukrainian experience as a contribution to the European civil preparedness framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Olena Kovtun, Head of the Department of International Cooperation, Economic Analysis and Strategic Communications; - Ropaži Municipality
<p>12:25–13:15</p>	<p>Digital Transformation and business as a Tool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yurii Khomenko, Secretary of the Nizhyn Council <i>(among other speakers)</i>

	<p>for Building Resilient Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role of local business in strengthening community resilience; • cooperation between municipalities, entrepreneurs and civil society; • digital solutions for crisis response, service continuity and recovery; • practical examples of using innovation to support local development. 	
<p>13:15–14:15</p>	<p>Lunch</p>	
<p>14:15–15:05</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery Begins with People: The Role of Local Government in Preserving Community Human Capital • human capital as a key resource for community recovery; • supporting residents 	<p>- Tetiana Kockova First Deputy Mayor;</p> <p>- Iryna Hrozenko, Deputy Mayor of Nizhyn <i>(among other speakers)</i></p>

	<p>affected by war, displacement and social vulnerability;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role of local government in maintaining access to social, educational and health-related services; • preventing burnout among professionals working with communities; • creating conditions for people to remain, return and contribute to local development. 	
<p>15:05–15:55</p>	<p>Veterans, human capital and community cohesion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community cohesion and mutual support; • veterans’ experience as a source of resilience; • the role of municipalities in supporting veterans and their families; • reintegration of veterans into active community life. 	<p>Andrii Ratushnyi Ivan Budurov (veterans)</p> <p>Inna Kulyenko, Head of the “Nezlamni” Veterans Center (online, to be confirmed)</p> <p><i>Moderator Olena Kovtun</i></p>

15:55–16:45	<p>Between Efficiency and Resilience: Green Transition Challenges and Lessons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balancing energy efficiency, climate goals and security needs; • renewable energy and backup power solutions for critical infrastructure; • practical challenges of implementing green projects at the local level; • cooperation between municipalities, businesses and international partners; • lessons learned from Ukrainian and European communities. 	<p>- Kateryna Hutorka and Diana Miahka, Chief Specialists, International Relations and Investment Department, Nizhyn City Council</p> <p><i>(among other speakers)</i></p>
16:45–17:00	Closing remarks	
17:00–18:00	Informal networking among interested stakeholders	

List of potential practical workshops

- 1. Intermunicipal cooperation and partnerships as a tool for resilience**
11:45-12:25

- Intermunicipal Cooperation and Partnerships as a Tool for Resilience: the role of municipal partnerships in supporting communities during wartime;
- Nizhyn's Experience in attracting humanitarian, material, technical, and expert assistance through cooperation with sister cities;
- Transition from Emergency Assistance to Long-Term Joint Projects;
- Municipal Diplomacy as a tool for strengthening the international presence of the community;
- Prospects for Expanding the Partnership Network and implementing joint initiatives at the intermunicipal level.

2. Crisis communication and countering disinformation

12:25-13:15

- communication by local authorities during crises;
- cooperation between municipalities, emergency services and media outlets;
- countering disinformation and preventing panic;
- building trust between local authorities and residents;
- digital tools and communication channels for informing the public;
- practical experience of Ukrainian municipalities in crisis communication.