



Municipal institution
CITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF ZAPORIZHZHIA

DIGEST OF ZAPORIZHZHIA

Recovery & Development

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ZAPORIZHZHIA 2025: HOME, HOPE, CARE, AND RESILIENCE

FROM JANUARY to June 2025 – another six months of resistance, resilience, and daily dedication to our hometown – this is how one may describe life in Zaporizhzhia in the fourth year of full-scale war.

OVER 700,000 residents remain in the city despite the proximity of the front line and ongoing Russian shelling. Almost a third of them belong to vulnerable groups, particularly internally displaced people.

ENSURING SAFETY, basic comfort, and a sense of stability – as much as possible under wartime conditions – remains a top priority for the city and regional authorities. Together with the Zaporizhzhia City Council, our municipal institution “City Development Institute of Zaporizhzhia” works every day to make this possible.

THESE DAYS, our key areas of focus are reconstruction and development, support for children and youth, strengthening medical and social infrastructure, and assisting those affected by the war.

WE ARE EXPANDING international partnerships to make Zaporizhzhia’s voice heard across the world. We are building the future on the principles of transparency, open cooperation, and real benefits for the community.

WE WELCOME collaboration with those who share our values and believe that partnership is the key to meaningful change.

— *Viktoriiia Agientaieva, Director of City Development Institute of Zaporizhzhia*

OUR CORE GOAL IS A STRONG, SUCCESSFUL, AND DEMOCRATIC ZAPORIZHZHIA.

OUR CORE VALUE IS PEOPLE.





ZAPORIZHZHIA'S GOAL FOR 2026 IS ADVANCING INTO UKRAINE'S TOP 10 TRANSPARENT CITIES.

TI UKRAINE HAS RECOGNIZED ZAPORIZHZHIA FOR PROGRESS IN TRANSPARENCY

Zaporizhzhia ranked 12th in Transparency International Ukraine's national transparency ranking. Over the past year, the city's transparency level increased from **36.7% to 63%** – the highest growth rate among 100 Ukrainian communities during the full-scale war.

Rehina Kharchenko, Secretary of the City Council, received a special award from the TI Ukraine team during the official presentation of the research findings in May.

According to experts, the most transparent areas include the city's response to wartime challenges, openness, and public engagement. The highlighted **good practices** are:

- an up-to-date report on humanitarian aid;
- the transparent operation of commissions on compensation for damaged or destroyed property;
- a public platform for complaints and appeals with tracking functionality.

PROTECTING THE FUTURE: shelter solutions for schools

101 out of 108 schools have resumed work in a mixed format.

Each of these schools now has a learning space equipped directly in the basement, allowing children to **safely follow the school curriculum** and interact with their peers. The shelters are also equipped with medical and sanitation rooms, psychological relief areas, play zones, and dining areas.

Repairs and equipment for the shelters are funded through the local budget, state subventions, and support from partners, including UNICEF.

All shelters are inspected by the State Emergency Service, after which the Regional Defense Council decides if offline classes may be held there.

In the first half of 2025, the eighth **“Underground School”** was opened in Zaporizhzhia. These educational facilities are built inside radiation shelters and fully comply with safety and accessibility standards.

There are also **90 preschools** operating in a mixed format, and the first underground preschool facility is planned for construction.





SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE

Seventeen concrete shelters were installed in two city districts that suffer the most from shelling. Located at bus stops and other public spaces, the shelters can accommodate 25 to 50 people at a time. The work was funded from the reserve funds of the regional and city budgets.

A safe coworking space was opened in the shelter of the city's cultural center. It regularly hosts trainings and other events for community professionals from Zaporizhzhia Oblast, as well as activists from NGOs and volunteers. The space was equipped with the support of UNDP Ukraine and financial assistance from the Government of Denmark.

A mobile police office was launched also with the support of UNDP Ukraine. This solution ensures the continuity of police services and enables a prompt response to community needs. The mobile office provides consultations, accepts appeals, and plans to conduct classes on public and mine safety.



Запорізька
міська рада



Запорізька
міська рада

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

Four solar power plants are now operating at medical facilities.

The first installation was launched at **City Children's Hospital No. 5**, where it now provides nearly 100% of the electricity needed to power the building and critical equipment in the intensive care and neonatal pathology departments.

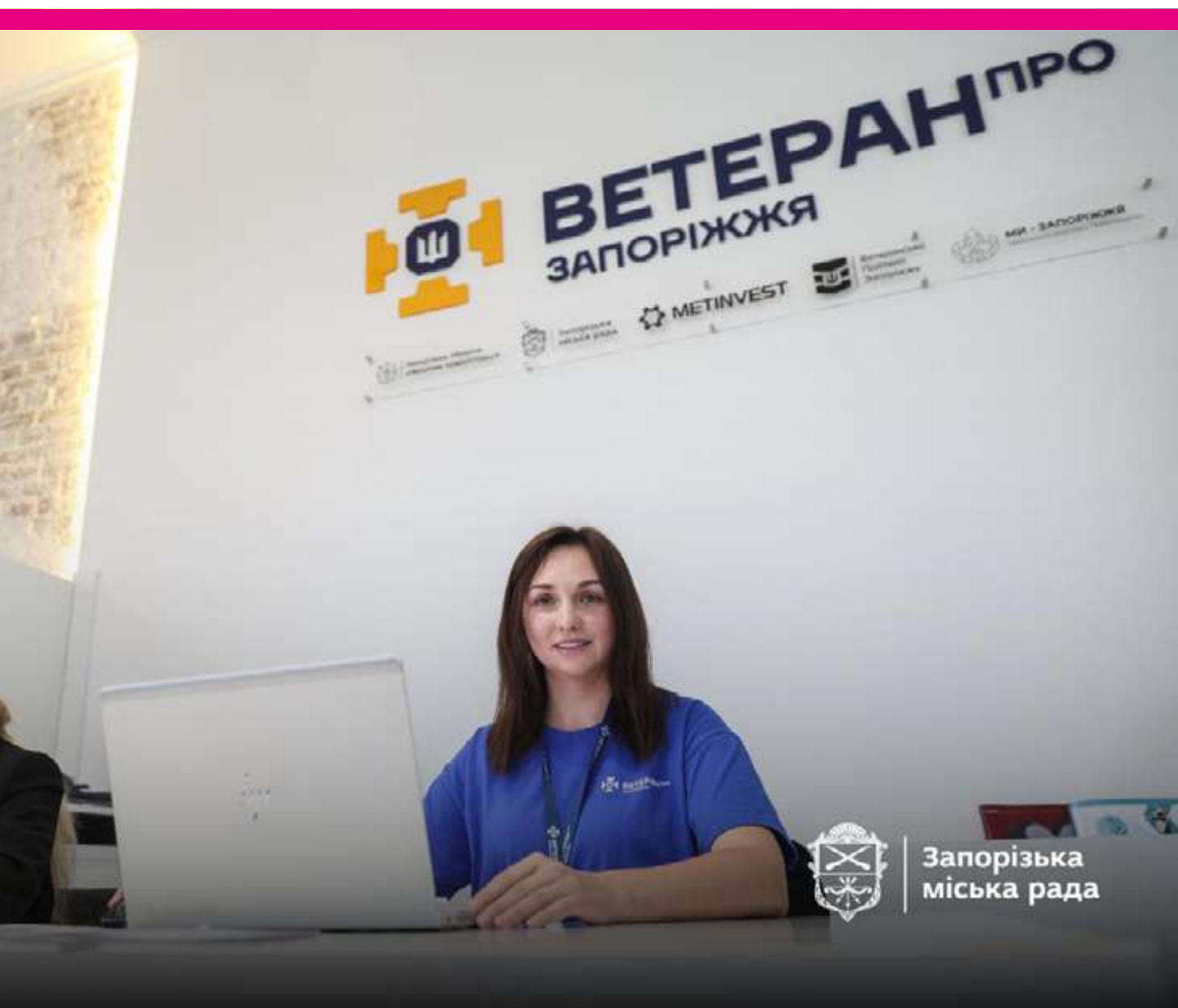
With the support of regional authorities and international partners, Zaporizhzhia is investing in the energy independence of its critical infrastructure.

For the city's healthcare sector, this effort ensures uninterrupted access to essential medical services – even during power outages.

Such projects have already received support from EcoClub NGO, the Czech organization NESEHNUTI, the French NGO Electriciens Sans Frontieres, and companies including Sunlux, Huawei, and Solar Garden.

By the end of 2025, the city plans to install **12 solar power plants** at municipal facilities. Discussions with potential partners are underway.

In June, Zaporizhzhia joined the **European Energy Award**, further affirming its commitment to sustainability.



SERVICES FOR PEOPLE

— veteran policy

Veteran PRO

In May, **Veteran PRO. Zaporizhzhia** officially opened — a multifunctional center offering counseling, support, and adaptation services for veterans and their families, including families of fallen heroes. Psychologists, specialists in veteran support and demobilization, as well as representatives from the Pension Fund, Employment Center, and City Center for Administrative Services work at the center.

Support Spaces

In the first six months of 2025, the Zaporizhzhia City Council established a network of **veterans' rooms**. These are seven modern support spaces operating in every district of the city. Veterans, their family members, and families of fallen defenders can come here for psychological support, guidance on various issues, and assistance from city professionals in accessing essential services.

Veteran PRO offers access to **over 300 administrative services.**



— care and support

Social Taxi

Zaporizhzhia City Territorial Center for Social Services launched a new service — **a wheelchair-accessible social taxi**. It is available to people with war-related disabilities, as well as individuals with Group 2 disabilities involving musculoskeletal disorders or visual impairments. The service can be used to travel to medical and social institutions, banks, train stations, or to attend meetings with local government officials.

Resilience Center

In June, Zaporizhzhia marked the opening of the Resilience Center — **a safe, barrier-free space** where citizens can seek help and support. The center's goal is to promote mental health and support the social adaptation of people facing crisis situations. It will serve **up to 400 people** each month. The services are already in high demand among mothers with children, the elderly, teenagers, and internally displaced persons.



— accessibility and safety

Medical Care

In February, **City Hospital No. 9** completed the renovation of its intensive care unit. It now has 32 beds, two of which are equipped for renal replacement therapy, including hemodialysis.

Renovation work was also completed at the **City Children's Hospital No. 5**, where an operating room, long-term stay areas for seriously ill children, and leisure spaces were arranged. The project was funded by state subventions and the city budget.

Administrative Services

The city's **Centers for Administrative Services** continue improving efficiency, allowing residents to access most services in one place with fewer visits.

Currently, they provide **494 services**, including passport issuance, social protection, services for veterans, recognition of Chernobyl disaster victims, and consultations from the regional employment center.

ZAPORIZHZHIA FOR YOUTH and youth for Zaporizhzhia

In December, the city Youth Center opened its doors for the first time. This is a unique municipal institution created with the support of UNICEF and local NGOs. Its team consists of active young people who want to bring change to their hometown.

In just six months, **more than 7,200** people visited the Youth Center, and its team organized **over 600 events.** Several dozen events are held here each week, all of which are free to attend. It's a space where active youth can bring their creative ideas and social initiatives to life.

The 13 youth teams who won the city competition under the UNICEF project are now implementing their own **initiatives.** These include sports tournaments, the creation of new leisure spaces, and even an astro-picnic on Khortytsia Island.

Moreover, Zaporizhzhia joined the initiative of Lviv, which shared its title of **European Youth Capital 2025** with other Ukrainian cities. With the support of Lviv partners and UNICEF, three cities – Zaporizhzhia, Poltava, and Mykolaiv – began developing their youth strategies.





Strengthening public utilities is a priority for the frontline city.

The German Federal Agency for Technical Relief, GIZ GmbH and UNDP Ukraine have provided vital assistance to municipal services, including new vehicles, equipment for repairing damaged infrastructure, and rescue equipment.

In total, Zaporizhzhia received **19 community vehicles** in 1st half of 2025.



HELP FROM PARTNERS

The Ukrainian Action NGO donated a Renault Kangoo to the City Department of Social Protection. The car will help expand social taxi services for war veterans and other people with limited mobility.

Volunteers from Hanover brought a new ambulance to the palliative care unit of **City Hospital No. 8**. The vehicle was purchased with donations from the community of Dissen, Lower Saxony. Maria Maksymets, a representative of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic parish of St. Volodymyr in Hanover, and anesthesiologist Hane Dirk personally delivered the ambulance to Zaporizhzhia, where they met with hospital staff and city council officials.





The Magdeburg fire and rescue services donated over 1,700 pieces of equipment to their Zaporizhzhia colleagues, as well as a motorboat and a Ford Transit for the city's rescue and diving service.

The Rotary Club Zaporizhzhia-Khortytsia delivered generators to two children's and youth sports schools. The devices will help these institutions to continue training process even during power outages.



The German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) supplied the city with an IVECO Daily semi-truck. The vehicle will operate in the city's largest district, which regularly suffers from missile and drone attacks.

Such a vehicle was especially needed here, as it will help the district administration respond faster to emergencies – in particular, by delivering social services and humanitarian aid to areas affected by shelling.





The Support of Ukrainian Orphans provided new laptops and flash drives to 39 orphans and other children without parental care. This is not the first time the French organization has supported Zaporizhzhia. For the past three years, the charity has been a reliable partner of the City Children's Service.



The German Integration Association Gromada.ua in Oberhausen donated new synthesizers and easels to the youth art school. These gifts were purchased with funds raised by volunteers during a memorial event at the Oberhausen Theater, held on the anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.



Blau-Gelbes Kreuz once again donated functional hospital beds, medical couches, and storage cabinets to medical institutions in Zaporizhzhia. In cooperation with **Tavriiski Zori – 2023**, the organization also provided tactical backpacks to aid victims of shelling. These mobile first aid kits were distributed among district administrations, emergency rescue services, and social and medical institutions.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Zaporizhzhia continues to suffer from Russian shelling. After each missile or drone attack, municipal services, volunteers, and charitable organizations immediately respond in the affected areas. Through joint efforts, we address urgent needs and provide support to city residents:

- Consultations (psychological, social, legal assistance)
- Needs assessment
- Evacuation of people and assistance to residents with limited mobility
- Material assistance
- Food and basic supplies packages
- Repair and maintenance of damaged buildings

We are sincerely grateful to all partners and volunteers who offer their unwavering support.

ARTAK, Beluga UA, Caritas Zaporizhzhia, Crazy People, Dobrobat, East SOS, Happy Child, Happy Kids, Kichkas Volunteers, Oberig Foundation, On Wings of Hope Zaporizhzhia, People In Need, People's Aid Zaporizhzhia, Proliska – Zaporizhzhia Salyus, Right to Protection, Sonce UA, Source of Unity, The Relief Coordination Centre in Zaporizhzhia region, Zaporizhzhia regional branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross and others.





INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION: ZAPORIZHZHIA – CHERNIVTSI

Mutual delegation visits involving city leadership and specialists.

A joint application to the UNESCO competition for inclusion of Chernivtsi and Zaporizhzhia in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Strengthening bilateral cooperation between universities, schools, and methodological centers.

Chernivtsi Youth Parliament deputies visited Zaporizhzhia and took part in a roundtable discussion on youth policy and youth advocacy.

Youth FC Metallurg from Zaporizhzhia took part in the Bukovyna Cup 2025 tournament.

Zaporizhzhia Youth Center team visited their counterparts at the Youth Residence Center in Chernivtsi to exchange expertise in youth work.

Sympho KIDS orchestra of the Zaporizhzhia Children's Philharmonic went on tour to the Chernivtsi.

Another area of cooperation is the exchange of experience and best practices in veteran policy.

In January, Zaporizhzhia and Chernivtsi signed a 2025 Action Plan as part of the **Side by Side: Cohesive Communities** project.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Zaporizhzhia delegation visited our sister city of Belfort, where they held a highly productive meeting. The parties approved eight areas of cooperation, discussed joint projects in culture and education, and explored the French experience in strategic planning and urban development.

Municipal company LINZ AG (Linz, Austria) donated funds to purchase generators for the municipal transport company. Partners from Hilfswerk International in Ukraine assisted with the procurement and delivery of these important devices to Zaporizhzhia.

In May, Rehina Kharchenko, Acting Mayor of Zaporizhzhia, held a video meeting with Mr. Dietmar Prammer, Mayor of Linz. The partners discussed humanitarian aid, opportunities for children's recreation, and cultural cooperation between the sister cities.

For the third year, Oberhausen has hosted rowers from Zaporizhzhia. For young athletes, the visit offers a chance to train for upcoming competitions and recover in a safe environment. The initiative is supported by the Oberhausener Kanu-Verein von 1928 e.V. canoe club.



— diplomatic visits

As part of the REBUILD OF UKRAINE trade mission, members of the Zaporizhzhia City Council visited **Birmingham**, a sister city since 1973. The visit included meetings with Birmingham City Council officials and a trip to the Moseley Hive community center, which implements a number of initiatives supporting Ukrainians.

During the meeting at City Hall, both parties emphasized the importance of strengthening their partnership. Priorities for cooperation include **healthcare, education, culture, and support for youth**. Initial contacts have already been established between medical institutions and youth communities in both cities.

Another significant event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Zaporizhzhia and **Oberhausen**. This document is the first step toward updating the historic cooperation agreement signed in 1986. The update is planned for next year, on the 40th anniversary of the cities' twinning.

The memorandum reaffirms Oberhausen's **continued support for Zaporizhzhia** during the war and in the postwar period and outlines the key areas of collaboration.

Since 2022, Oberhausen has provided assistance to Zaporizhzhia totaling **about 1 million euros**.



Photos: Moseley for Ukraine, Carsten Walden



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Voice of Zaporizhzhia in the world

January

Zaporizhzhia Region 2025: Resilience and Development Dialogue Platform in Kyiv.

International cohesion forum “Creating the Future” in Kyiv.

Municipal Partnerships Conference between Germany, Armenia, Ukraine, and France in Tsaghkadzor, Armenia (organized by Youth Global Germany NGO with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office).

April

On the Road to URC 2025 in Verona, Italy – a preparatory event for the Ukraine Recovery Conference.

May

3rd International Summit of Cities and Regions As Strong as United in Kyiv.

7th German-Ukrainian Municipal Partnership Conference in Munster, Germany.

June



OUR PROJECTS

The City Development Institute of Zaporizhzhia (CDIZ) supports and coordinates projects aimed at strengthening community resilience, recovery, and development.

These include our initiatives, projects in cooperation with local authorities, international partners, and inter-municipal cooperation projects.

Oberhausen and Zaporizhzhia are implementing a joint project under the Nakopa program. Thanks to this cooperation, the Outpatient Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Department of City Hospital №4 has already received five units of new equipment.

In June, we held a joint video conference with the participation of healthcare department heads from both cities – Anna Dub from Zaporizhzhia and Charlotte Weber from Oberhausen – as well as specialists from City Hospital №4 and the AMEOS Reha Center Oberhausen.

Additionally, our doctors visited Oberhausen as part of a study trip, where they had the opportunity to observe the work of the **AMEOS Reha Zentrum** and establish contacts with its team.

— power of partnerships

CDIZ presented its experience of cooperation with European partners during a youth forum dedicated to Europe Day.

Our team took part in thematic panel discussions and organized an interactive space where young participants could learn more about Zaporizhzhia's sister cities within the European Union.

In addition, we launched an outdoor advertising campaign to raise awareness of international partnerships among citizens. Twenty branded billboards were placed to highlight the importance of cooperation with sister cities and the results achieved together.

Together with the Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC), we are implementing a program to strengthen public resilience.

The initiative is aimed at improving the psychological preparedness of municipal employees and volunteers from the public for effective action in emergency situations.

The first intensive course with ITC trainers has already taken place, during which Zaporizhzhia specialists learned about Israeli methods of providing initial emotional support and received practical tools for managing stress and stabilizing emotional states.



PROJECTS **IN PROGRESS**

— **Summer camps for Zaporizhzhia children.**

For the third year in a row, we have been implementing an initiative with our sister cities to give children a chance to rest and recover under peaceful skies. This summer, with the support of **Magdeburg, Lahti, and Linz**, we will be able to organize safe vacations for around 140 children.

— **Exchanges and internships for doctors.**

We help the professional medical community of Zaporizhzhia establish contacts and share experiences with European colleagues. We are currently in dialogue with hospitals in **Birmingham, Oxford, and Olsztyn**. With the support of local partners, we are also looking for interested medical institutions in France and the Netherlands.

— **Public transport for Zaporizhzhia.**

To respond quickly to emergencies and provide essential public services, Zaporizhzhia needs more municipal vehicles, public transport, and equipment. Currently, we are negotiating with both our sister cities (**Linz, Oberhausen, Belfort**) and other potential partners for such assistance.

— **Exchange of experience in civil security.**

Together with our colleagues in **Magdeburg**, we plan to apply to the **SKEW Small Projects Fund** for a joint initiative in 2026 focused on experience exchange between the fire and rescue services of our two cities. The project will include a series of online conferences as well as an in-person visit by a Zaporizhzhia delegation to Magdeburg.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

— University collaboration.

We facilitate cooperation between Zaporizhzhia universities and **Mid Sweden University**. Our goal is to create opportunities for student exchanges, joint projects, and the development of dual degree programs, opening new academic and career pathways for young people in Zaporizhzhia.

— Social housing for people in need.

CDIZ team is planning a joint initiative with the international humanitarian organization **Better Shelter**, which specializes in safe and dignified social housing. Together with our partners, we are exploring the possibility of introducing innovative housing solutions in Zaporizhzhia for internally displaced families, large families, and other vulnerable groups.



Be part of change for Zaporizhzhia

If you are interested in supporting these important projects or offering other forms of assistance to our city and its residents, please contact us at: irmzpcity@gmail.com.

We look forward to partnering with you to implement socially meaningful and effective solutions in Zaporizhzhia.

CONTACTS

Thank you for standing
with Zaporizhzhia

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