

## Slovakia-Ukraine Local Solidarity Forum

9<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 10:00-12:00 CEST, Slovak time / 11:00-13:00 EEST, Ukrainian time, online

### Context and relevance

Since the start of the Russian aggression on 24 February 2022, Ukrainian municipalities have been in the frontline trying to mitigate the damages caused by the war. They are assuring continuation of services, organising shelters and evacuations, providing food and basic necessities to the local residents and the internally displaced people.

Slovakia has become one of the top Ukrainian supporters amongst other European countries. Slovak municipalities have sent humanitarian aid to their partners across the country and have been welcoming people fleeing the war and trying to offer the best residence conditions possible. Cooperation of local and regional authorities, volunteers, non-governmental organisation, business and church communities is an important contributing factor of the Slovak actions in support of Ukraine.

As the Russian war against Ukraine is now likely to last an unknown period of time, it is important to ask ourselves how to keep the momentum and to continue to help Ukrainian municipalities which are a backbone of the national resistance.

### The aim of this local solidarity forum between Slovakia and Ukraine will be to:

1. Highlight specific challenges of war time local governance from the ground in Ukraine;
2. Present best examples of local support by Slovakia, the challenges that were encountered and addressed;
3. Encourage creation of new municipal partnerships between Slovakia and Ukraine.

### The structure of the online forum will be as follows:

- ✓ Presentation of U-LEAD initiative “**Bridges of Trust**”, its framework, results and opportunities for Slovak municipalities to help Ukrainian partners;
- ✓ Story of Trostianets living under occupation: how **Mr. Yurij Bova**, mayor of the municipality, managed to keep the municipality running and sustain critical control levers;
- ✓ **Potential of peer-to-peer cooperation between Ukraine and Slovakia** at times of war and future perspectives.

**Language:** The language of the Forum will be Ukrainian, Slovak and English. A simultaneous interpretation will be organised.

### Participants

The following participants will be invited to the event: Ukrainian and Slovak municipalities, local NGOs and volunteer movements, representatives of local business communities who have been supporting or would like to support Ukraine, and representatives of embassies of Ukraine and Slovakia.

## Proposed Agenda

**Moderation:** Durmish Guri, Director - External Resources and Knowledge Strategy, Council of European Municipalities and Regions

10.00-10.20 CEST 11.00-11.20 EEST	<p><b>Welcome words</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Michal Kaliňák</b>, Secretary-General of the Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia</li> <li>• <b>Viacheslav Nehoda</b>, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Communities and territories of Ukraine</li> <li>• <b>Xavier Camus</b>, Head of Co-operation Section 1 — Good Governance and Rule of Law of the EU Delegation to Ukraine (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Bastian Veigel</b>, GIZ Programme Director of U-LEAD with Europe</li> </ul>
10.20-10.40 CEST 11.20-11.40 EEST	<p><b>Resilience of local government and people under war-time conditions: testimonies from the ground in Ukraine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yurij Bova</b>, mayor of Trostianets municipality, Sumy oblast, Ukraine</li> </ul> <p>Reaction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Viacheslav Nehoda</b>, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Communities and territories of Ukraine</li> </ul>
10.40-11.55 CEST 11.40-11.55 EEST	
11.55-11.20 CEST 12.55-12.20 EEST	<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>
11.20-11.50 CEST 12.20-12.50 EEST	<p><b>Solidarity through action: best practices from Slovakia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Michal Kapusta</b>, Mayor of Spišské Podhradie</li> <li>• <b>Michaela Pobudová</b>, Director of NGO Mareena</li> </ul>
11.50-12.00 CEST 12.50-13.00 EEST	<p><b>NEXT STEPS</b></p>