

Panorama Ukraine: Healthy & Future-Proof Neighborhoods



Dictionary definitions:

Neighborhood - A neighborhood is a geographically localized community within a larger city, town, suburb or rural area, sometimes consisting of a single street and the buildings lining it. Neighborhoods are often social communities with considerable face-to-face interaction among members. Researchers have not agreed on an exact definition, but the following may serve as a starting point: Neighborhood is generally defined spatially as a specific geographic area and functionally as a set of social networks. Neighborhoods, then, are the spatial units in which face-to-face social interactions occur—the personal settings and situations where residents seek to realize common values, socialize youth, and maintain effective social control.

Спільнота - люди, що живуть спільно в окресленій території. Соціальна група, люди в якій мають спільну тему або зацікавленість, мають високий рівень ідентифікації себе з групою, завдяки приналежності до спільноти вони можуть досягати певних цілей. Цілі та цінності визначаються спільно, усі сприймають їх серйозно, обговорюють особисті потреби. Також обговорюють коли та в який спосіб потрібно досягати цілей.

INTRO

With Healthy and Future-Proof Neighborhoods, Panorama Ukraine aims to explore and start with redefining neighborhoods for the 21st century and beyond. A 3-day workshop will be hosted in Lviv from September 9-11, 2024. It will be a follow-up of our Rotterdam workshop in June. The short time span will serve as a pressure cooker, where we will facilitate Ukrainian and Dutch stakeholders to come up with out-of-the-box solutions for specific cases. These cases can then also be used as examples for more systemic changes. Groups are welcome to build up on the work of the previous workshop or look from the perspective that was missing the last time.

WHY

A neighborhood is an optimal civic/civil¹ unit for comprehensive urban design. It is small enough for people to know each other, take care of each other and form a community together, and it is large enough to warrant having an (in)formal leader, to affect physical and political change in their surroundings.

Historically, the Ukrainian Kozaks (/Cossaks) lived as a loose federation of independent democratic communities (*stanitsas*, closest thing Ukraine has to the original meaning of neighborhoods) and they became a symbol of resistance against first, the Russian monarchy and later the soviet collectivism. Russia has done its best to eradicate the neighborhood as a (Ukrainian) social and spatial construct and replace it with the 'district/ rayon': too large and anonymous to fulfill neighborhood functions – effectively replacing community with collectivism and polycentrism with enforced utilitarianism.

While rebuilding Ukraine, neighborhoods will have to take center stage – as providers of housing and other basic urban functions but also as a cornerstone of a renewed, healthier Ukrainian society.

Rethinking the neighborhood

After WW2 many countries (like the Netherlands, but also Ukraine) had to rebuild very quickly, often prioritizing quantity over quality and long-term thinking, resulting in many problems we are still tackling today: car-oriented urban planning in post-industrial cities is literally making inhabitants ill and the public-private ambiguity causes lack of space for social encounters. Many post-war neighborhoods are monofunctional and/or monotypological, meaning if people's personal situation changes, they often need to move neighborhoods (and sever social ties) in order to find suitable housing. Moreover, there is a lack of climate adaptivity and sustainable energy solutions, mismatch in amenities and jobs, unequal mobility access, resulting in unhealthy environments.

¹ Civil citizenship pertains to how people interact with state institutions (by voting or running for elected office, paying taxes, or having their rights affirmed under law), whereas civic citizenship tends to focus on how people live and interact within a community, be it a neighborhood, a city, an ethnic diaspora, or some other definition of a group. Civil citizenship is always related to the nation, but civic citizenship can reach beyond national borders and stretch into global citizenship, or it can retract into small, hyper local citizenship. [Source](#)

As more and more people choose to live in cities globally², the need to change how people live there is acute. And because most societal challenges and transitions will need to spatially and politically 'land' on the scale of the neighborhoods, an integral, comprehensive approach and rethinking of the 'neighborhood' for the 21st century and beyond is essential.

HOW / workshop approach

Panorama Ukraine is a project that consists of multiple events, each with a different thematic focus. We aim to take on the following 8 themes: integral water resource management, healthy and future-proof neighborhoods, effective governance, sustainable energy production, sustainable multimodal mobility, regenerative, biodiverse ecosystems, regenerative agriculture and circular economy. In November 2023 we organized the first workshop Working on Water, on the theme of integral water resource management. This second workshop will focus on Healthy and Future-Proof Neighborhoods.

The Panorama Ukraine organization team takes care of the organizational issues relating to the Panorama and the Panorama workshops.

The Panorama Ukraine content team prepares the content for each workshop (framework, data, people to contact and involve etc) and supports the workshop leaders and working groups in terms of content.

The workshop will have a duo of workshop leaders who will coordinate the working groups in terms of inspiration, content and production. The workshop leaders will work together with the content team of Panorama Ukraine to refine the frameworks and workshop briefs. The workshop leaders will also reflect on the results of the workshop groups to distill lessons and formulate possible next steps (and connect the results to the other Panorama Ukraine workshop themes).

The working groups will each be led by a duo of group leaders (UA + NL) who will, based on the workshop framework, formulate a research brief for their working group and will be responsible for the group workshop result. We expect group leaders to join 2-3 meetings to formulate the brief and a list of requests for all the necessary input data they expect to need to use during the workshop. After the workshop, group leaders will reflect on the results of your group and also present your results to the municipality of your case study. For this workshop we will work with six groups.

Each group will consist of participants: designers and experts, young professionals and students with diverse backgrounds who will work together with the workshop leaders on research and design proposals following the workshop brief (maximum group size 8 participants).

For each working group, we will facilitate contact with representatives of municipalities or local partners from case study areas. Their responsibility will be to provide local knowledge, needs and data to the content team, workshop leaders and group leaders before and during the

² United Nations population trends, projected: 68% of population in urban areas by 2050 [Source](#)

workshop. Case study representatives in the six selected cities will be asked to find data, references, maps and other drawing material throughout the program. A starting package of information should ideally include the following:

- General: GIS data on ground use/topography: water, roads and railways, building fabric, nature (types), agriculture, industry, monuments, archaeological sites.
- Urban fabric: identification of main residential areas and additional information on living typologies, current urgencies.
- Demographics: density, age groups, migration, emergency sheltering
- Indication of war afflicted areas and/or locations suffering from climate change or pollution (general map of red flags).
- Materials from the previous workshop

WHAT / FRAMEWORK

For Healthy and Future-Proof Neighborhoods, we will work with five case studies: Drohobych, Ohtyrka, Kherson, Voznesensk and Klesiv. The sixth team will work on implementation strategies for diverse housing models. The Panorama content team together with our extensive network of UA and NL experts and designers has identified a number of sub themes we think are crucial for exploring the neighborhoods:

- integral sustainability
- inclusive participation (diversity)
- human scale & community
- gradation between public and private space
- local identity
- live, work & recreate (balance)
- active, diverse program
- healthy public space & landscape
- multimodal accessibility
- feasible development (finance + legislation)
- housing models and policy (incl social impact and IDP)
- migrant integration (housing, work, amenities)
- safety (bomb shelters)
- growing & shrinking strategies

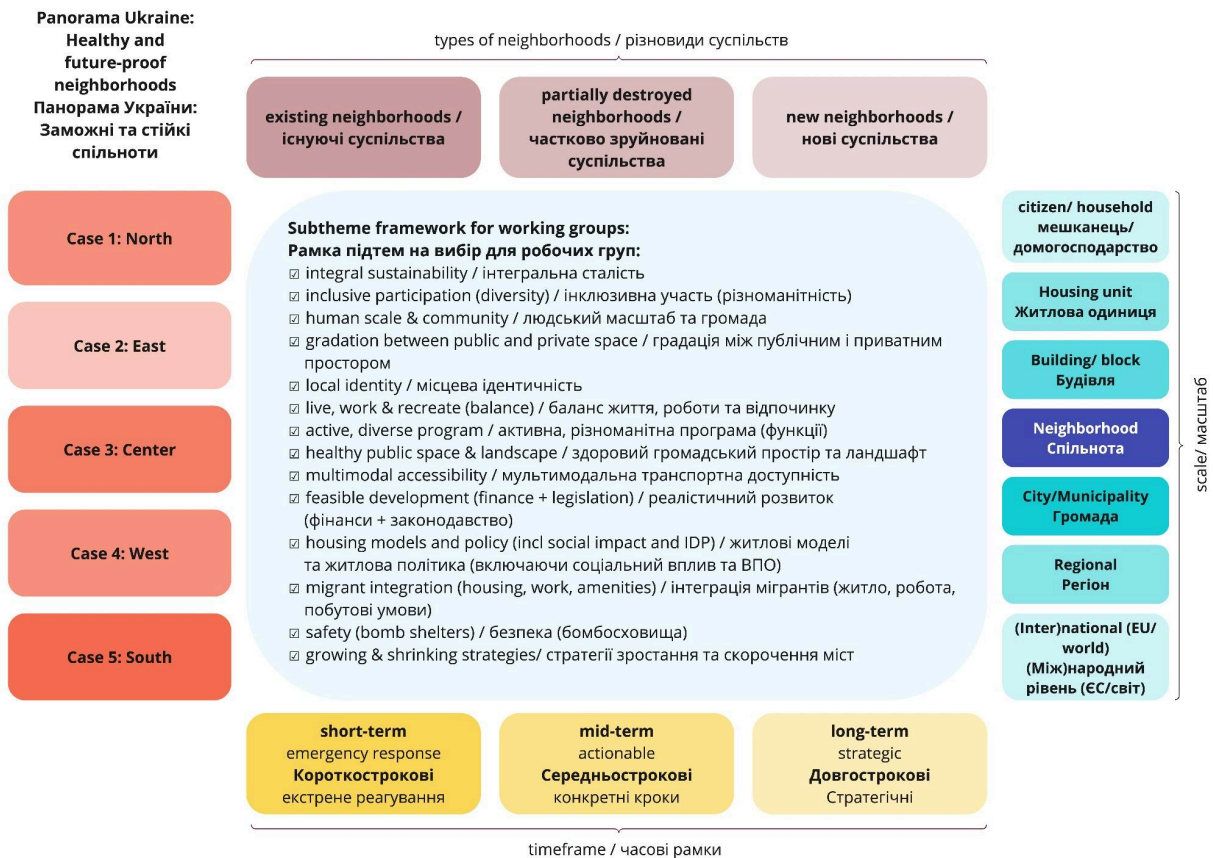
NB Some subthemes will be more relevant to some case studies than others and we invite the workshop and group leaders to challenge and complete the subthemes, while also keeping the other Panorama Ukraine workshop themes in mind.

The Panorama content team has also identified the scales on which we think research, discussion and design are needed:

- Citizen/ household
- Housing unit
- Building/ block
- Neighborhood
- City/ municipality
- Region
- (Inter)national (EU/ world)

Once again, some scales will be more relevant than others but using this framework will help to guide the case studies, make them more complete, comparable and ultimately universally applicable.

The content team also envisages 3 different timeframes for approaching the case studies: short-term emergency response, mid-term actionable/ operational concepts and long-term strategies.



The aim of the framework is to structure thinking and act as a checklist making sure nothing is forgotten. The framework will be adapted for each Panorama workshop theme and will serve to tie together the resulting insights, lessons and building blocks.