

RESILIENCE

and the European future of SUMY region

The goal of the national conference is to draw the attention of Ukraine's international partners from the governmental and non-governmental sectors to the Sumy region, which today is the country's frontline, and which needs increased support.

Today, the region is changing its role very quickly, actually becoming the "steel porcupine".

However, we had always been the outermost fortress of Europe in the east and want to boost our strengths as a Ukrainian and European region.



Міністерство
закордонних справ
України



МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ОХОРОНИ
ЗДОРОВ'Я
УКРАЇНИ



Міністерство
у справах
ветеранів
України

30 October
2025

We need
partnerships.
We are looking
for friends.



BNP PARIBAS



UKRAINE

U LEAD
З Європою



EN ISO 9001:2015
SPP

VISION
ZERO



TECHNOLOGIA

METINVEST



allmannwappner



StratCommsUA
Ideas shaping
Ukraine's future



urban reform

unicef





RESILIENCE

IS NOT JUST A SYMBOL

Dear ladies and gentlemen,
dear colleagues, partners and
friends of Ukraine!

For Sumy region, today's event is special. We have never held such meetings in this format, under such difficult circumstances. For us, this is a new experience and, frankly, we worried a bit while preparing for it.

However, we have sufficient experience in cooperation with foreign governmental and non-governmental organizations, have implemented dozens of projects and attracted about 6 billion hryvnias since 2022 – this is more than half of all state investments in key development programs.

I sincerely hope that our partners are satisfied with the level of interaction and openness demonstrated by Sumy region.

Of course, we are not perfect but constantly learning. We are learning to act effectively, adhering to the principles and rules by which leading international programs and development projects operate.

Real trials provide invaluable experience. They form an inner confidence that can be described with a short phrase: "I don't know how, but I can". We are confident that when the war is over, this faith – faith in ourselves, in our own capabilities – will remain with us. And it will become the basis for rebuilding our state.

The resilience we often talk about actually rests on people; there are currently about 950 thousands of them in the region. These people demonstrate real strength. They stay because they believe that they will not be abandoned and supported. This is our land, and the question of "to hold on or not" simply does not arise for us.

Resilience is not just a symbol. It is a specific category that can be measured. It is time, physical and moral resources, a willingness to sacrifice, act and live on. Everyone who stayed in the Sumy region did it consciously. And everyone has their own reason, their own faith, their own deeply conscious decision to remain part of the future of Ukraine.

Sumy region withstands the enemy's blows both in terms of energy and civil infrastructure. Every morning, we return to work: we treat, teach, repair, support each

other, and all this happens against the background of the sounds of the shaheeds and the hum of generators. Because even now, our plans include a new country: modern, fair, and strong!

We are not a "fortress", and not an outpost. Maybe, we are a something like what the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, aptly called an "iron porcupine": strong, resilient, but one that needs to be provided with resources. And if I were an architect, I would say that Sumy region is an "entry group" – a gate to Ukraine. And these gate remain firmly closed to the enemy.

That is why it is so important that international support for Ukraine should be balanced and not focused only on relatively "safe" regions. Support for border regions, such as Sumy, is a guarantee that people will not lose faith, will not leave their homes, and the "gray zone" will not expand to neighboring Ukrainian territories.

Support for Sumy should be not only in the humanitarian sphere, but also in the strategic one. Resilience should have an infrastructural dimension – through the development of medical and non-medical rehabilitation, rapid housing restoration, construction of modern highways into rear regions, ensuring mobility and digital solutions in the field of social services, et cetera.

The more modern projects we implement here, on the border, the safer and more stable the situation in the entire country will become.

I thank to all of our international partners for your faith and trust in Sumy region, for your support of our hromadas and people who remain here, work and protect the future of Ukraine every day.

Together we will definitely win.

Together we will build a state that we will be proud of.

Oleh Hryhorov,
head of the Sumy regional military administration

Contents

Part #1

Resilience of Sumy region. Summer 2025 3

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Sumy lebt und überlebt..... 4

The New York Times

Ukraine Counterattacks, Scoring Rare, if Modest,
Success in Northeast 8

NZZ Geopolitics

As Russians advance in northern Ukraine, Sumy could
soon become a front-line city 12

The Christian Science Monitor

Civilians flee in Ukraine's Sumy region, but Russia
faces huge losses..... 18

Part #2

Sumy city hromada 22

Sumy: a land of dignity, struggle, and strength!

A land of spirit that never fades!..... 24

Rehabilitation Centre 26

Flame of Life 46

Veteran PRO 58

Emotional cage 74

Part #3

Konotop city hromada..... 76

Concept for the reconstruction of Station square in
Konotop city 78

Creation of a rehabilitation department at Konotop
Hospital 84

Rehabilitation complex with adaptive
sports activities..... 86

Part #4

Shostka city hromada 90

Shostka city hromada: a future born of trust,

nature, and interaction..... 94

SafeMed – Capsule Hospital

Safety and Continuity of Medical Care in Crisis
Conditions 96

Creation of a municipal institution

"Veterans Center" in Shostka 100

Art-Underground-Center 122



Part #1

Resilience of Sumy
region. Summer 2025

Hintergrund

Süddeutsche Zeitung



Sumy lebt und überlebt

Nordukraine Die Russen sind zurückgedrängt, doch die Stadt erlebt täglich Angriffe aus der Luft. Zugleich sind die Bars wieder gut besucht. Wie steht Sumy den Krieg durch? Eine Reportage.

Clara Lipkowski (Text) und
Oles Krompias (Fotos)

In Sumy ist der Krieg besonders nah. Die Stadt am Ufer des Psel liegt keine 35 Kilometer von der russischen Grenze entfernt. Und noch näher sind die Stellungen russischer Soldaten, die im Frühjahr die Grenze überquert haben.

50'000 Soldaten hatte Russland dort zusammengezogen, war schnell vorgedrungen und hatte mehr als ein Dutzend Dörfer erobert mit Infanterie, Artillerie, Drohnen. Es rückte bedrohlich nah an Sumy-Stadt heran. Inzwischen hat die ukrainische Armee, die im Schutz des Waldes operiert, einige Orte zurückeroberd. Der russische Vormarsch ist gestoppt.

Die russischen Angriffe auf Sumy-Stadt aber gehen weiter. Sie trafen mehrfach die Universität, Linienbusse, ebenfalls mehrfach, Fabriken. Die Energieversorgung, Wohnhäuser. Immer wieder gibt es Tote und Verletzte.

An einem Nachmittag Ende Juli geht in der Stadt und auf dem Handy wieder die Sirene los, Luftalarm. Wenige Augenblicke später kracht es. Ein dumpfer Einschlag. Wo, ist zunächst unklar, dann steigt eine dunkle Wolke im Norden der Stadt auf.

Keine halbe Stunde später ein weiterer Angriff. Mitten im Zentrum auf einem Platz ist das durchdringende Surren einer Kampfdrohne zu hören. Eine junge Fussgängerin stoppt und blickt in den Himmel. Drohne, das tönt nach Spielzeug, die Shaheds oder Geran aber, die hier fliegen, haben eine Spannweite von mehr als drei Metern und stürzen sich mit bis zu 90 Kilogramm Sprengstoff ins Ziel. Die Menschen kennen die Gefahr. Sie haben schon oft gesehen, was die mörderischen Flieger in ihrer Stadt anrichten.

«Ich verstehe nicht, was in den Köpfen der Russen vorgeht»

Die junge Frau blickt auf ihr Handy und geht dann weiter, eine ältere Frau wendet den Blick vom Himmel ab, murmelt, was das nun sei, und verschwindet in einem der Betonbunker, die die Verwaltung für solche Fälle an öffentlichen Plätzen aufgestellt hat. Dann sind Maschinengewehrsalven zu hören – ukrainische Luftabwehr. Dann Stille. Die Frau tritt aus dem Bunker und geht davon. Es ist Sommer in Sumy, 2025.

Will man ein besseres Bild der Lage bekommen und dafür Oleh Hryhorow treffen, den Chef der Militärverwaltung der Region, führt seine Sprecherin in einen Luftschutzkeller. Das Gebäude soll aus Sicherheitsgründen nicht genannt werden. Es geht entlang dicker Betonwände vorbei an Heizungsschächten. Wegen der ständigen Angriffe könne man sich jetzt nicht in ein Büro setzen, sagt sie. Auch sie hat draussen die Rauchsäule gesehen. «Das war der vierte Treffer heute. Es gab drei Leichtverletzte.»

Irgendwo in einem Zwischengang stehen ein Tisch und drei Stühle. Kurz darauf erscheint Oleh Hryhorow mit Personenschutz. Er ist das Gesicht der Region. Er beantwortet ernst und knapp die Fragen. Hryhorow schildert, dass die Russen mit unterschiedlichsten Waffen auf



Sumy im Sommer 2025: Schäden russischer Angriffe sind im Stadtbild unübersehbar.



Drohnenjäger Andriy schießt in den Feldern nahe Sumy auf Kampfdrohnen des Feindes.



Oleh Hryhorow, der Chef der Militärverwaltung, in einem Luftschutzkeller.



Die Menschen trauen sich wieder in den Ausgang: Bar in der Innenstadt.

alles Mögliche schossen, auch auf zivile Gebäude. Dass die Menschen versuchten, irgendwie mit dem Krieg zu leben. Und dass man sehr dankbar sei über internationale Hilfe. Sein Handy klingelt, Rücksprache mit der Feuerwehr. «Was wissen wir?», fragt Hryhorow. Der Angriff mit der Rauchsäule, er traf eine Trafostation, Splitter haben eine Tür zur Anlage beschädigt, die Stromversorgung blieb intakt. Oleh Hryhorow legt das Handy zur Seite.

«Ich verstehe nicht, was in den Köpfen der Russen vorgeht», sagt er. 7102 Einwohner von Sumy flohen seit Jahresbeginn aus der Stadt. 55'200 Menschen verliessen die Region. 213 Dörfer gelten als lebensgefährlich. 62 von

ihnen sind heute unbewohnt. Hryhorow sagt: «Die Menschen wollen nicht weg. Sie lieben ihre Heimat.» Die, die bleiben, richten ihr Leben nach den Regeln des Kriegs. Eine besagt, dass sich die Menschen bei Luftalarmen nicht in der Nähe von Verwaltungsgebäuden aufhalten sollen.

In der Innenstadt ist es nirgends sicher

Dass solche Regeln keine Hirnspinnerei sind, zeigt ein Angriff wenige Tage nach dem Gespräch. Eine Kampfdrohne fliegt mitten im Zentrum in das lange, unverkennbare Gebäude des Regionalrats. Es steht leer, natürlich, daher gibt es keine Verletzten. Für die Menschen aber ist es das unmissverständliche Zeichen, dass

Russland das Herz der Stadt jederzeit angreifen kann, wenn es will. Nirgends ist es sicher. Manche Passanten sagen, dass sie nur noch für die wichtigsten Erledigungen in die Innenstadt kämen. Das Gebäude wird bis Ende August noch vier weitere Male beschossen.

Tief eingebrannt ins Gedächtnis der Stadt hat sich ein Doppelangriff. 35 Menschen wurden im April getötet, 129 verletzt. Zwei russische Raketen schlugen am Palmsonntag im Zentrum ein, kurz hintereinander, als Rettungskräfte zu Hilfe kamen. Auch ein Bus wurde getroffen. Besonders gross ist der Stadtkern nicht, man kommt automatisch an den Einschlagsorten vorbei.

Im Mai, Juni und Juli gingen die Angriffe weiter. 47 Angriffe auf Sumy-Stadt und die nahe Umgebung gab es allein in der Nacht vom 24. auf den 25. August. Kurz darauf flog eine Drohne direkt in den Balkon eines Wohnhauses im 8. Stock. Eine steuerte in eine Tankstelle. Anna Klochko, eine Fotojournalistin aus Sumy, dokumentiert das Geschehen. Sie sagt dieser Redaktion: «Weil die ukrainische Armee die russische Armee aus der Region drängt, rächen sich die Russen an uns Zivilisten.»

Sie richten die Waffe in den Himmel – und warten

Um das Schlimmste abzuwenden, sind Soldaten wie Oleh und Andriy im Einsatz. Mobile Luftabwehr, auch Drohnenjäger genannt. Sie haben sich zu einem Treffpunkt erklärt, etwas ausserhalb der Stadt. Bei der Ankunft eilen sie gerade zu ihrem Pick-up. Andriy zieht noch im Gehen seinen Stiefel an und sagt: «Wir müssen los.» Sie fahren voraus. Auf ihrer Ladefläche ist das Maschinengewehr instal-

liert, Typ Browning, aus den USA. Nach ein paar Minuten parkieren sie an einer Position in einem Feld, ringsherum hoch gewachsener Mais. Sie richten die Waffe in den Himmel – und warten. Ein Bildschirm zeigt ihnen, was wohin fliegt. Drohnen, Raketen der Russen. Der 40-jährige Oleh und Andriy, er ist 28, sind für die Kamikazedrohnen hier. Vor ein paar Wochen erst haben sie hier eine Shahed abgeschossen.

Die Drohnen, für die sie die Zentrale herkommandiert hat, sind vom Radar verschwunden. Warum, ist unklar. Sie fliegen oft ungehindert weiter, manchmal erwischen andere Einheiten sie. In der Gegend sind mehrere Pick-ups mit montiertem Gewehr in der Abenddämmerung zu sehen. Nur dann können sie aktiv werden, am Tag wären sie zu leicht erkennbar. Dass die Russen trotzdem wissen, dass sie hier stationiert sind, daran haben Oleh und Andriy keinen Zweifel. Ihre Schüsse verraten sie.

Gleitbomben daheim: Der Krieg macht keine Pause

Andriy kommt aus der Region, für deren Verteidigung sei er hier, sagt er. Er lebt in einem Ort zehn Kilometer von der Front, kürzlich schlug eine Gleitbombe 500 Meter von seinem Haus entfernt ein. Gleitbomben zu Hause – und hier, im Einsatz, die ständige Gefahr, entdeckt und attackiert zu werden – für Leute wie Andriy gibt es keine Pause vom Krieg.

Manche Drohnen seien mittlerweile so modernisiert, dass sie ihre Flugbahn ändern, sagt er. Etwa, wenn sich ein Geschoss nähert. Eigentlich fliegen Kamikazedrohnen vorprogrammiert in ihr Ziel. Einige neuere können ruckartig ausweichen. «So sind sie viel schwieriger zu treffen.» Sie fliegen dann von hier weiter in an-

dere Landesteile, nach Poltawa oder Tschernihiw. Im Gegensatz zu letzter Woche sei das ein ruhiger Abend, sagt er. In der nächsten Stunde fliegt nichts mehr in die Richtung der Männer. In solchen Fällen positionieren sie sich woanders – oder warten.

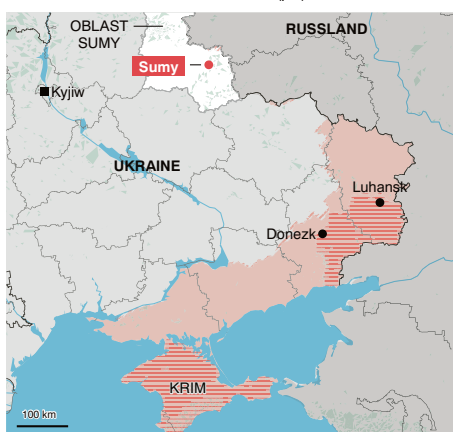
Bis zur Sperrstunde ist noch Zeit für einen Drink

Während vor der Stadt die Soldaten Wache halten, gehen in der Altstadt die Lichter einer Bar an. Sumy war noch vor einigen Wochen nahezu leer, jetzt, Ende Juli, trauen sich wieder mehr Menschen in den Ausgang. Man trinkt Cocktails, Bier. Es sind Semesterferien, es ist noch etwas Zeit bis zur Sperrstunde um 23 Uhr. Bogdan wohnt gleich um die Ecke, in einem der niedrigen stückverzierten Gebäude. Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts erbaut. Ja, Menschen mieden die Innenstadt, sagt er, er aber nicht. Der 24-jährige ignoriert auch den Luftalarm, der jetzt wieder losgeht: «Wir lassen uns nicht terrorisieren.»

Vor einem Monat, als viele seiner Freunde die Stadt aus Angst verlassen hatten, heiratete er seine Freundin. Sie wollen nicht fortgehen, sie haben hier Familie. Seine Frau Kate gesellt sich dazu und zeigt auf ihrem Handy ein Foto, sie im weissen Kleid. Beide strahlen. Sie rauchen, trinken Bier und Bogdan sagt: «Es ist ganz einfach: Wir leben im Hier und Jetzt, weil wir nicht wissen, was morgen ist.» Kate arbeitet in einem Restaurant in der Innenstadt, er ist Musiker und arbeitet in einer Firma im Vertrieb. Bisher wurde er nicht eingezogen. Er würde aber zur Armee gehen, sagt er. Er plant, sich freiwillig zu melden. Dann stehen die Chancen besser, nicht in die Infanterie zu kommen. Da würde er, sagt Bogdan, nicht länger als drei Tage überleben.

Neue Front im Norden der Ukraine

■ russisch kontrolliert ■ seit 2014 unter (pro)russischer Kontrolle



Grafik: wig / Quelle: Institute for the Study of War / Quelle: OSM



Britain's economic hole just got deeper

MARTIN WOLF, PAGE 21

The dangers of performance-based lay-offs

WORK & CAREERS, PAGE 16

Ukraine strike Attack follows US-Putin talks

Officials and volunteers clear rubble in Sumy, northeastern Ukraine, yesterday after a Russian missile strike. At least 34 civilians were killed and 117 injured.

The attack came less than a day after President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff met President Vladimir Putin in Russia to discuss bringing his full-scale war to an end.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned the strike, calling for a firmer international response and reiterating that "peace is impossible" without sustained pressure on Russia.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany described the incident as "barbaric". "Such Russian attacks demonstrate the extent of Russia's supposed willingness to make peace. Instead, we see that Russia is relentlessly continuing its war of aggression against Ukraine."

Dozens killed page 4

Russian border blame game page 5



Olaf Scholz/Reuters

Briefing

► Lossmaking British Steel poses big test for ministers

Business secretary Jonathan Reynolds has told MPs that ministers had no choice but to act to ensure the two blast furnaces at its Scunthorpe site kept working after emergency legislation taking control of the steelmaker. — PAGE 2

► Arrest warrant for Siddiq

A Bangladeshi arrest warrant has been issued for former City minister Tulip Siddiq over allegations that she abused political power to acquire land near Dhaka unlawfully. — PAGE 2

► Gold glimmers amid gloom

Gold has enjoyed its best week in five years, surging to a record high of \$3,237 a troy ounce as investors rushed to the safety of one of the few havens left in global markets amid the tariffs turmoil. — PAGE 7

► Lean times for start-ups

Investment in start-ups has fallen to a post-pandemic low, at just £16.2bn in 2024, leading fledgling tech CEOs to consider



Register

Sign In

Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Arts Travel Earth Audio Video Live

Ukrainian forces halt Russian advance in Sumy region, says army chief

26 June 2025

Share Save

Laura Gozzi and Zhanna Bezpiatchuk BBC News, London and Kyiv



A soldier prepares to fire artillery in the Sumy region of Ukraine, bordering Russia

The head of Ukraine's army, Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi, has said his troops have stopped Russian advances in the northeastern border region of Sumy.

During a visit to the front on Thursday, Syrskyi said the line of combat had been "stabilised" and that the Russian summer offensive in the area had been "choked off".

However, Syrskyi also added that he had personally gone to check on fortifications in the region and that more were urgently needed.



ALJAZEERA

News

Middle East

Explained

Opinion

Sport

Video

ar borders? Why are Tomahawk missiles for Ukraine a 'red line' for Russia? How Trump changed

In Sumy, Ukraine, the front line is drawing near – but we refuse to leave

Leaving might feel safer, but staying means protecting our community and preserving what war hasn't yet taken.

By Lesia

An aid worker running classes for children in Ukraine.

4 Jul 2025

Share Save



Residents walk at a street near a building damaged by Russian missile strikes, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Sumy, Ukraine, June 13, 2025. [Sofia Gatilova/Reuters]

When you live in war for so long, you have to take comfort in whatever little control you have over your decisions. My city in northwest Ukraine is now just 20km (12 miles) from the front line.



Moment missile lands in Ukrainian city of Sumy

EXPLORE MORE



'Hundreds' of drones and missiles fired at Ukraine by Russia
28 Sep 2025 | Europe



Watch: Polar bears occupy abandoned Soviet-era research station
27 Sep 2025 | Europe



BBC's Steve Rosenberg attends 'Russia's answer to Eurovision'
21 Sep 2025 | World



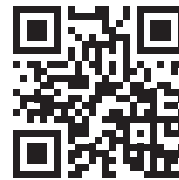
Belarus and Russia stage joint military drills

Like many Ukrainian cities, Sumy has been scarred by war. It saw heavy fighting early in the full-scale invasion and has, in the last year, become a frequent target of Russian drones, missiles and guided bombs. Now, Ukraine's top general, Oleksandr Syrsky, [says](#) at least 50,000 Russian troops have massed on the other side of the border, though Ukraine has so far managed to thwart them.



Source: Line of control via the [Institute for the Study of War](#) and [AEI's Critical Threats Project](#)

Credit: NPR



KYODO

島

衆

月

2025年(令和7年)5月1日 木曜日

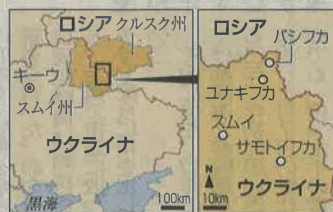
就任100日「史上最も成功」

トランプ氏、演説で自賛



28日、ウクライナ北東部スミイの避難民施設で、ロシア軍に破壊された自宅の写真を見せながら取材に応じるフレンチナさん（左）とイワンさん＝28日（共同）

【スミイ共同】国境を支配したロシア軍が、ウクライナ北東部スミイ州の集落を爆撃し住民を殺傷している。暮らしを破壊され「早く停戦を」と願う住民らは、ロシアの占領を許容するトランプ米政権の和平案に反発し「私たちの土地は渡せない」と訴える。前線の司令官は「ロシアに罰を与えなければ影響は世界に及び、中国も侵略を始める」と警告した。



ロシアは26日、ウクライナ軍が攻め込んだ西部クルスク州の奪還を発表。国境を接するスミイ州の一部を占領し

ロシア軍迫るウクライナ北東部ルポ

「私たちの土地 渡せない」
避難民、米和平案に反発

共同通信記者は27、29日、ウクライナ軍の許可を得て同州内を取材した。

ロシアが占領したのは州都スミイの北方、国境沿いのバシフカ村など4集落約90平方キロ。南に約10キロのユナキフカ村は28日、誘爆空爆弾とドローンで激しい空爆を浴びた。警察によると教会や民家が破壊され、路上には爆弾が残った大きな穴、焼け跡の煙が空にたなびく。

村を脱出したアンドリー・シユベツさん(74)は「自宅が爆撃され全焼した。もう帰る場所がない。死ぬまで帰れないだろう」と涙を流した。

スミイの東方、国境から約20キロのサモトイフカ村には、小さな民家を利用した軍の野戦病院がある。安全とされる夜に訪ねると、ドローン部隊のバルロック操縦士(29)が緊急手術を受けていた。

「爆弾の破片で腹腔に穴が開き腎臓が損傷した」とエスコバル軍医(39)。「命に別条はない。数カ月で治るよ」と告げられ、上官らは安心して帰って行った。

戦況悪化は野戦病院にも影響している。スミイ方面は負傷者が比較的小さなだったが、最近急増し1日に30人近く治療することもある。「敵は病院を見つければ爆撃する。今月は1週間に3回も移動を強いられた」と軍医。

クルスク州の最前線で大隊司令官を務めてきたシエルシユン大尉(30)は焦りと憤りを募らせる。村内の指揮所で取材に応じ「ロシアの侵略を罪に問わない和平は不可能だ。そんなことをすれば侵略は各地に広がる。中国の台湾侵攻も可能性が高まる」と話した。

スミイの避難民施設には高齢者の姿が目立つ。頼れる家族や知人がいない人々だ。心臓病の夫イワンさん(84)を支える妻フレンチナさん(75)は歩いてでも村に帰りたい。早く戦争を終わらせて」と訴えた。一方で米和平案への意見を尋ねると「ダメ！こんなに多くの人が亡くなったのに土地まで譲れません」と声を荒らげた。

それでは、どうすれば戦争は終わるのでしょうか。そう尋ねるとフレンチナさんは少し考えてから言った。「全世界が立ち上がって終わらせればいいじゃないか」。

戦況悪化は野戦病院にも影響している。スミイ方面は負傷者が比較的小さなだったが、最近急増し1日に30人近く治療することもある。「敵は病院を見つければ爆撃する。今月は1週間に3回も移動を強いられた」と軍医。

クルスク州の最前線で大隊司令官を務めてきたシエルシユン大尉(30)は焦りと憤りを募らせる。村内の指揮所で取材に応じ「ロシアの侵略を罪に問わない和平は不可能だ。そんなことをすれば侵略は各地に広がる。中国の台湾侵攻も可能性が高まる」と話した。

スミイの避難民施設には高齢者の姿が目立つ。頼れる家族や知人がいない人々だ。心臓病の夫イワンさん(84)を支える妻フレンチナさん(75)は歩いてでも村に帰りたい。早く戦争を終わらせて」と訴えた。一方で米和平案への意見を尋ねると「ダメ！こんなに多くの人が亡くなったのに土地まで譲れません」と声を荒らげた。

それでは、どうすれば戦争は終わるのでしょうか。そう尋ねるとフレンチナさんは少し考えてから言った。「全世界が立ち上がって終わらせればいいじゃないか」。

印首相「テロに打撃

パキスタン念頭 軍事的緊張

【ニューデリー共同】インドのモディ首相は29日、パキスタンを念頭に、テロリズムに壊滅的打撃を与え、それが国家の決意だとして「軍に標的や時期を決める完全な作戦上の自由がある」と述べた。閣僚らの会合での発言として地元メディアが伝えた。一方、パキスタンのタラル情報・放送相は30日未明、インドが

BRICS外相会合

「米関税に懸念」

議長声明を発表

【リオデジャネイロ共同】中国やロシアなど主要新興国で構成するBRICSの外相会合は29日、トランプ米政権を念頭に「無差別な相互関税など、不当で一方的な保護主義の台頭に深刻な懸念を表明する」とした議長声明を発表し閉幕した。

会合はブラジルのリオデジャネイロで28日に開幕。共同声明を出す方向で調整

取り戻している」と主張。「企業はミシガン州に戻り、再び車を作りたいがっている」と述べた。日本の自動車メーカーに米国での生産を求め、対中関税で「史上

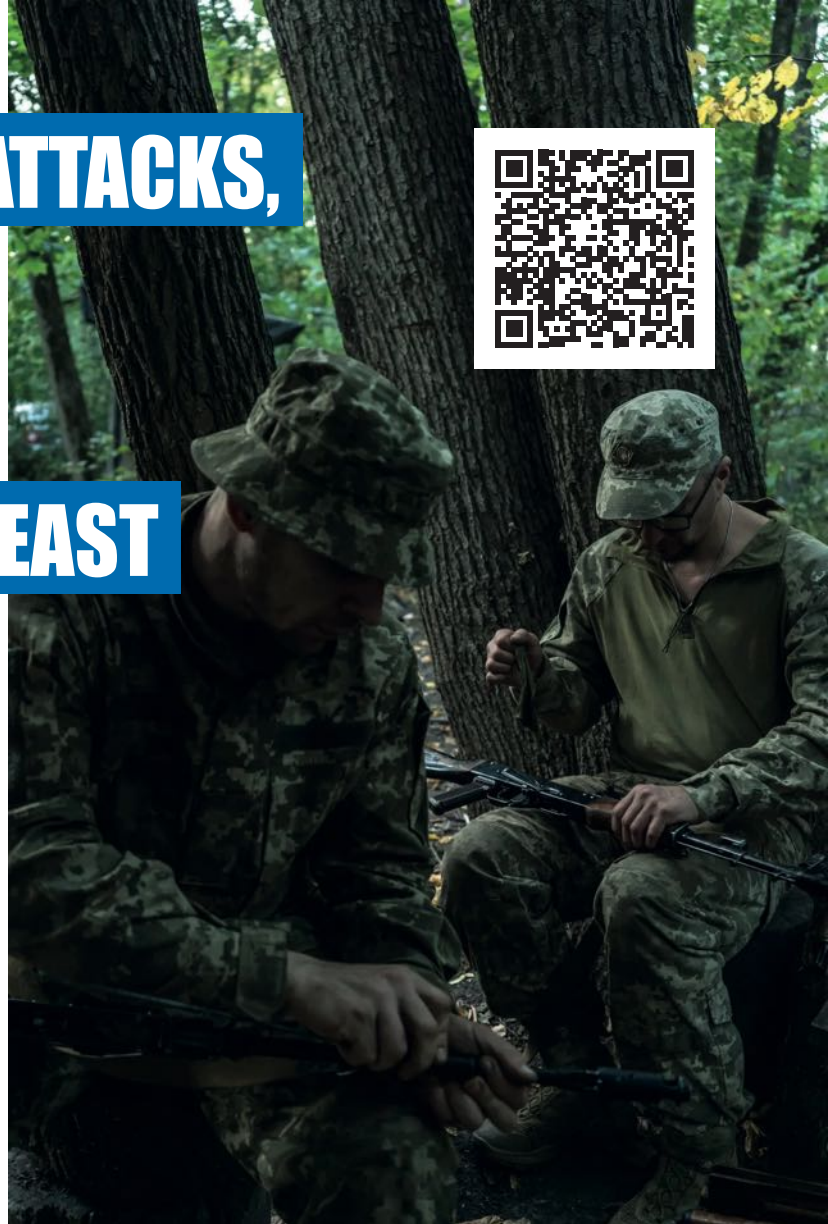
「インフレを終わらせている」とも強調。景気底上げにつながる政策金利引き下げに慎重姿勢を維持する米連邦準備制度理事会(FRB)が「良い仕事をして

UKRAINE COUNTERATTACKS, SCORING RARE, IF MODEST, SUCCESS IN NORTHEAST



The gains could help counter Moscow's narrative that Russian advances are unstoppable and that Kyiv should settle for a peace deal, even if it means giving up territory

The New York Times



By Constant Méheut and Olha Konovalova

Visuals by Brendan Hoffman

Constant Méheut and Olha Konovalova spent time with Ukrainian forces in the northeastern Sumy region to report this article.

The Ukrainian infantryman spent 22 days in a foxhole. Every attempt to climb up and advance toward a Russian-occupied village, he said, felt like a one-way trip.

"Constant mortar shelling. Drones flying overhead," said the infantryman, who gave only his call sign, Knyaz, per military protocol. "Running and hiding under trees. Digging into the tree lines. Sleeping there. Living there."

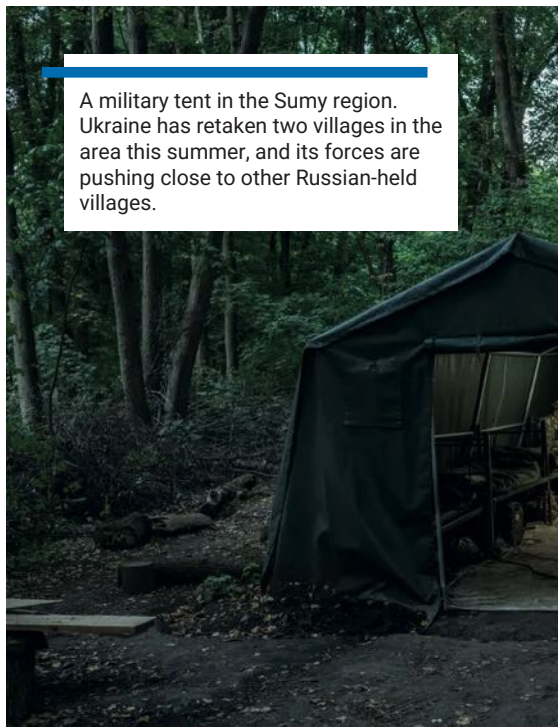
After a month of fighting, Knyaz's unit liberated the village, which is no bigger than a few streets, in the northeastern region of Sumy, according to independent groups monitoring the battlefield. The village, Kindrativka, is one of two that Ukraine has retaken in the region this summer, and its forces are now pushing close to other Russian-held villages — modest gains that matter deeply to Kyiv.

The successful Ukrainian counterattack in Sumy, which borders Russia, is a rare twist on a battlefield dominated by Moscow's forces. Since May, Russia has captured between 170 and 215 square miles of territory each month, according to DeepState, a group mapping battlefield changes. Ukrainian commanders emphasize in interviews that they are constantly

outmanned and outgunned by Russia.

But reclaiming small areas of Sumy helps Ukraine counter Moscow's narrative that Russian advances are

A military tent in the Sumy region. Ukraine has retaken two villages in the area this summer, and its forces are pushing close to other Russian-held villages.



unstoppable and that Kyiv should settle for a peace deal now, even if it means giving up territory. Moscow's progress has stalled in Sumy to the point that it is moving troops from that area to other fronts, analysts say, including the eastern region of Donetsk, where it is trying to encircle several key cities.

Russia's Sumy operation "has failed," President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine told reporters on Wednesday. "They suffered significant losses, primarily in manpower," Mr. Zelensky said of Russian forces, adding that those who remained were being redeployed.

Ukraine's step forward in Sumy draws on familiar tactics like relentless drone strikes and small-group infantry assaults. But their execution by some of Kyiv's elite units, including airborne troops, helped explain the advance.

The gains carry extra weight because they could weaken Russia's negotiating hand. Moscow has floated trading land captured in Sumy for territory it seeks in Donetsk as part of a peace deal. President Trump has backed the idea of such a "land swap," though the Kremlin's proposal is heavily unequal.

Maksym Skrypchenko, the president of the Transatlantic Dialogue Center, a Kyiv-based think tank working on talks to end the war, said that by reclaiming parts of Sumy, Ukraine aimed to weaken Moscow's bargaining position. "Why should we

swap territories if we can get them back?" he said.

But whether Ukraine has the military capacity to achieve that goal and pre-empt any plans for land swaps remains uncertain.

Moscow still wields superior firepower. Relentless Russian bombings left the villages Ukraine retook in Sumy barely recognizable. When a soldier from the 225th Separate Assault Regiment raised a Ukrainian flag in Kindrativka in July, drone footage from the regiment that was verified by The New York Times revealed entire streets reduced to rubble.

In addition, "for the past two years, they've always had superiority in numbers," First Lieutenant Anvar, a battalion commander in the 225th also using his call sign, said of Russian forces in a recent interview from the region.

In many ways, his presence in Sumy embodies Ukraine's own failure to dictate the terms of a potential land swap. A year ago, First Lieutenant Anvar was leading one of the first units to invade Russia's western Kursk region, bordering Sumy. Mr. Zelensky later described the surprise offensive as an effort to capture Russian territory that could be exchanged for Ukrainian land.

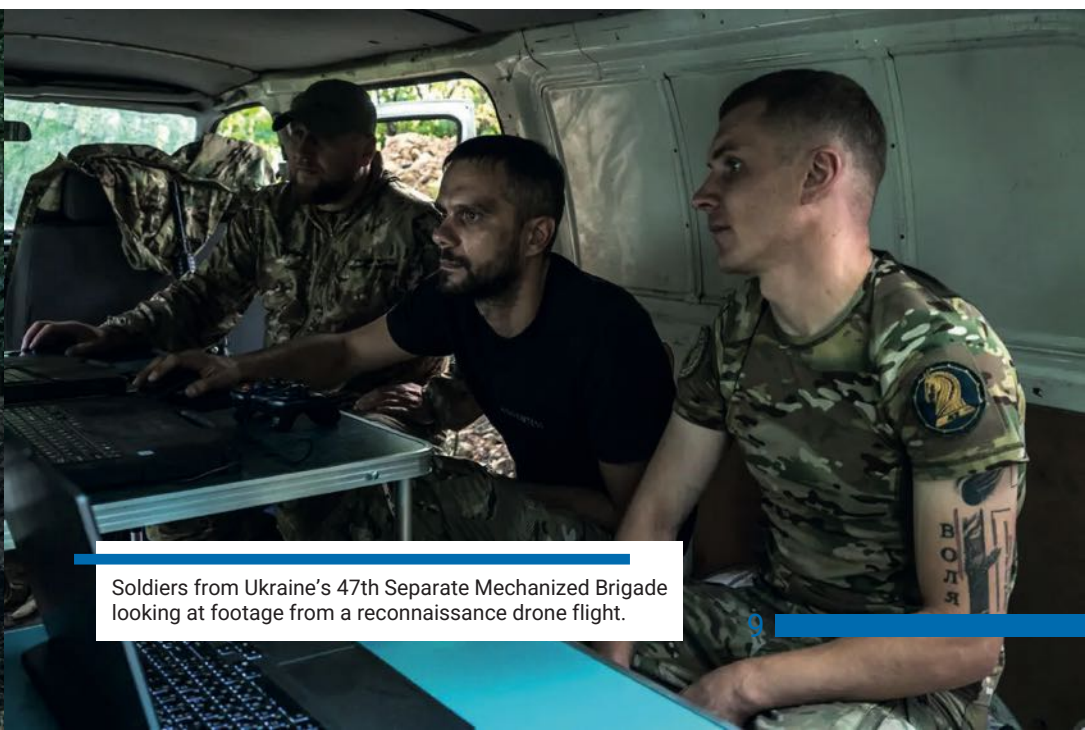
Ukraine's hold on Kursk unraveled this spring, after months of Russian assaults backed by North Korean troops. Russian forces pushed Kyiv's troops back into Sumy and then surged into the region, taking village after village. By mid-June,

they were barely a dozen miles from the regional capital, also named Sumy, home to some 250,000 people.

First Lieutenant Anvar's regiment was urgently redeployed to the region to halt Russia's advance. He said his unit used the same tactics Moscow had employed to drive Ukrainian forces out of Kursk. First, it conducted relentless drone attacks on roads and vehicles to cut Russian supply lines. Then, once the enemy was exhausted and had no food or water, he said, the infantry attacked.

Gone are the large mechanized assaults that marked the early part of the war. They have been rendered impossible by constant drone surveillance and strikes. Lieutenant Colonel Ihor, a battalion commander in Ukraine's 80th Air Assault Brigade, who asked to be identified only by his first name, also by military protocol, said soldiers now attacked in pairs. They move "cautiously and quietly" a few dozen yards, dig a small dugout, fire on the enemy, then move again. For lack of safe roads, food and water supplies arrive by drone airdrops.

"The enemy sees everything, every move we make, and reacts instantly with strikes," Lieutenant Colonel Ihor said.



Soldiers from Ukraine's 47th Separate Mechanized Brigade looking at footage from a reconnaissance drone flight.



Local workers installing concertina wire barricades in a field in the Sumy region, as part of new fortifications against possible Russian troop advancements.



Memorials in the city of Sumy for local soldiers who have died during the war with Russia.

That makes for brutal assaults stretching on for weeks. Recounting the fight for Kindrativka, four soldiers from the 225th Separate Assault Regiment looked drained, their faces etched with fatigue and their voices breaking every few minutes with harsh coughs.

"The first days, yes, it's frightening," said Sergeant Palma, 45, using his call sign. But he added that one quickly gets used to the relentless shelling. "The fear actually comes back when you rotate out. You sit in silence, and

that's scarier. Because silence means something is wrong. It means the Russians might be crawling toward you."

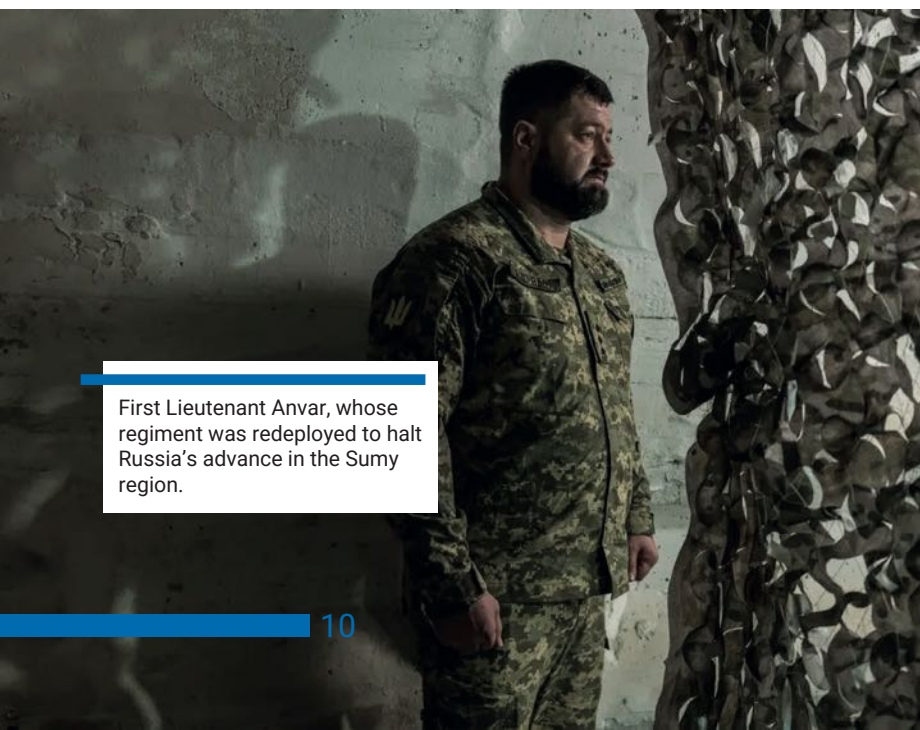
Soldiers say survival on a battlefield where any movement is detected by drones comes down to digging foxholes and lying low. "The deeper you dig, the safer," Sergeant Palma said.

But drone operators are learning to hit even the smallest foxholes. On a recent afternoon in the Sumy region, a drone operator from Ukraine's 95th Air Assault Brigade clutched a drone's controller and peered into goggles showing its live video feed. He practiced guiding the quadcopter

through hoops only a few feet wide, mounted on posts in a field.

"It's not about speed, but about skill and control," said Lieutenant Andrii, the head of a drone platoon in the brigade, using his first name. In the background, gunfire rang out from other units training at the firing range. Most of the troops had either just returned from or were about to deploy to Yunakivka, a larger village where Ukraine and Russia are locked in fierce battles.

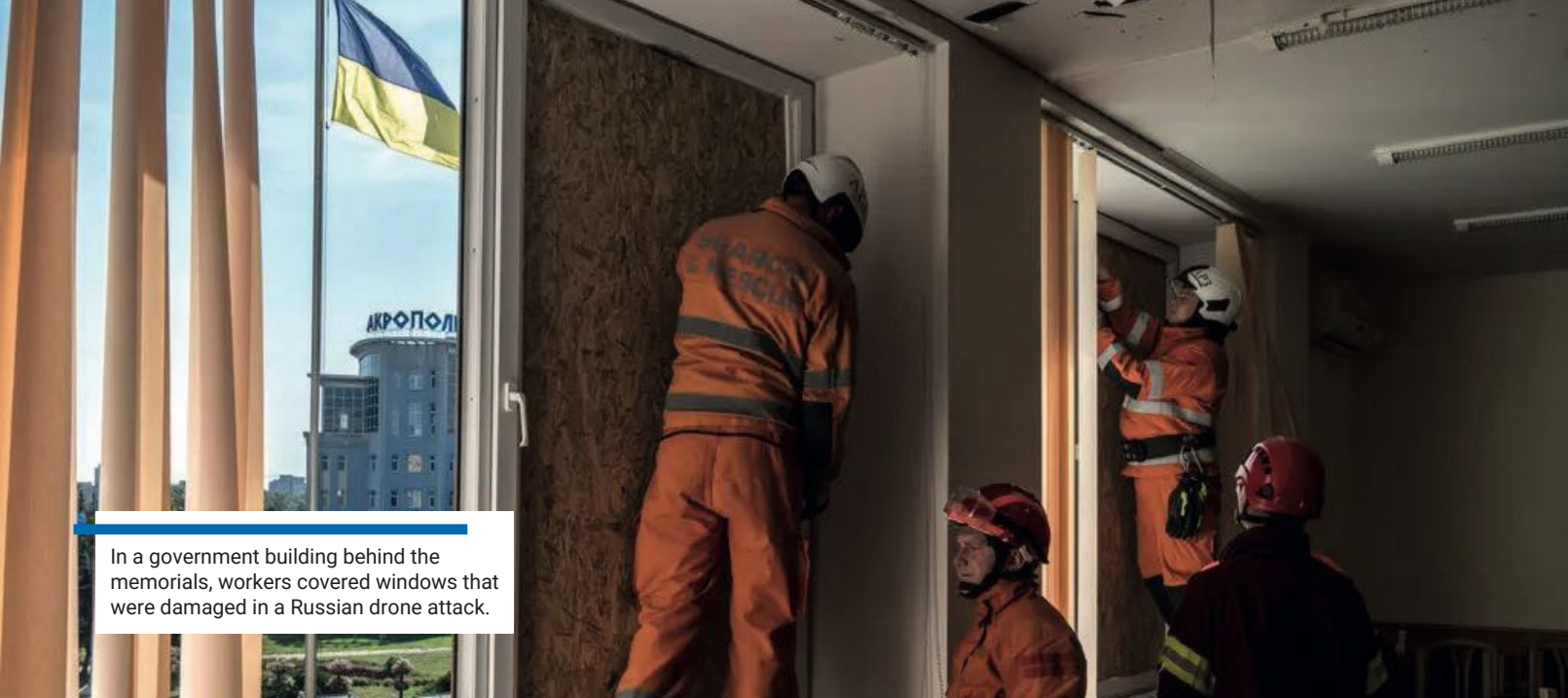
The task may soon get easier for Kyiv after Russia's recent move to redeploy troops from Sumy to Donetsk. First Lieutenant Vladyslav, a company commander in Ukraine's 13th Separate Air Assault Battalion, which fights in Yunakivka, said new Russian troops they faced were less



First Lieutenant Anvar, whose regiment was redeployed to halt Russia's advance in the Sumy region.



Ukrainian soldiers eating dinner inside of a tent.



In a government building behind the memorials, workers covered windows that were damaged in a Russian drone attack.

trained and less well-equipped. He also used just his first name.

But the Russians retain a major advantage: guided bombs carrying hundreds of pounds of explosives. Moscow uses them both to pulverize defenses before an assault and to crush Ukrainian offensives before they can gain ground.

Lieutenant Colonel Ihor said Russia often blanketed areas with the bombs, sometimes three to six at a time, flattening even underground bunkers. He spoke from one such bunker near the front, hidden in a forest where the ridges of a sprawling tunnel network made it look as if a giant worm had burrowed through the earth.

"Even sitting in a trench or a dugout with several reinforced layers — when a guided bomb hits, it's devastating," he said. "It's not only physically destructive, it's also psychologically exhausting."

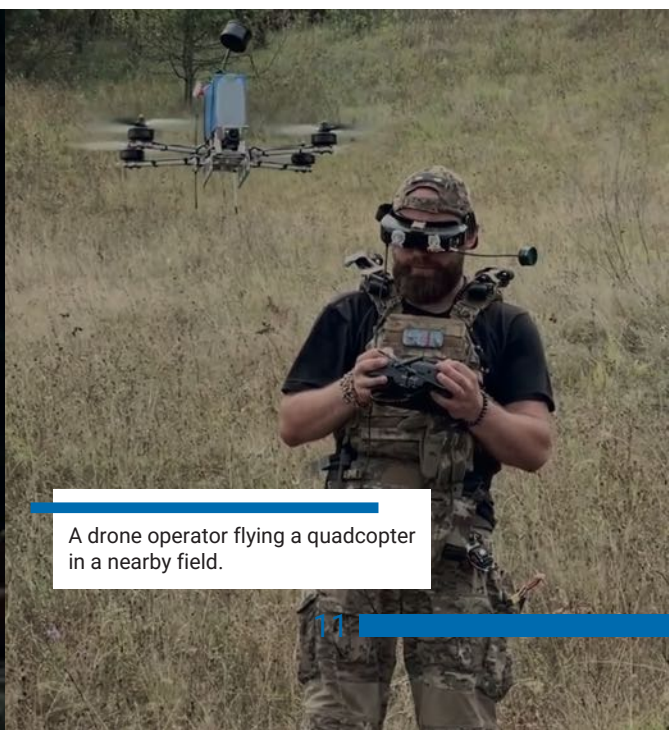
The village of Kindrativka attests to that potential for destruction. Nataliya Bilechenko, 48, a resident of Sumy, recalled how a colleague had rejoiced at the liberation of Kindrativka, her home village. The joy, however, was tempered by the fact that her house had been destroyed.

"Of course, she was happy," Ms. Bilechenko said. "Still, she's without a home, without anything."

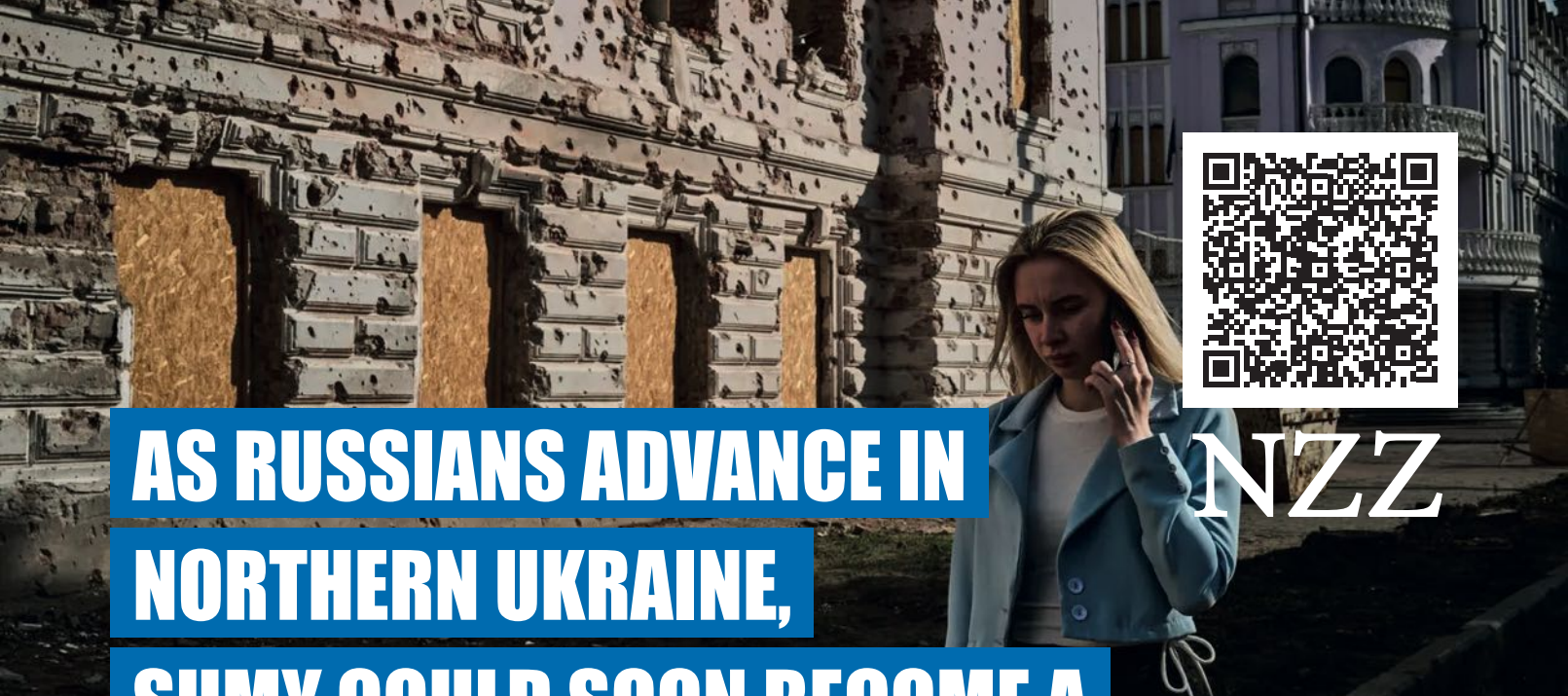
Jiawei Wang contributed reporting.

Constant Méheut reports on the war in Ukraine, including battlefield developments, attacks on civilian centers and how the war is affecting its people.

A version of this article appears in print on Sept. 22, 2025, Section A, Page 6 of the New York edition with the headline: Ukraine Counterattacks Scoring Rare, if Modest, Success in Northeast.



A drone operator flying a quadcopter in a nearby field.



AS RUSSIANS ADVANCE IN NORTHERN UKRAINE, SUMY COULD SOON BECOME A FRONT-LINE CITY

The front in the north is the most important secondary theater of the war in Ukraine. Last summer, Ukrainian troops invaded the Russian region of Kursk. But the Russians have pushed them back – and are now advancing further and further into Ukrainian territory.

Volker Pabst (text),

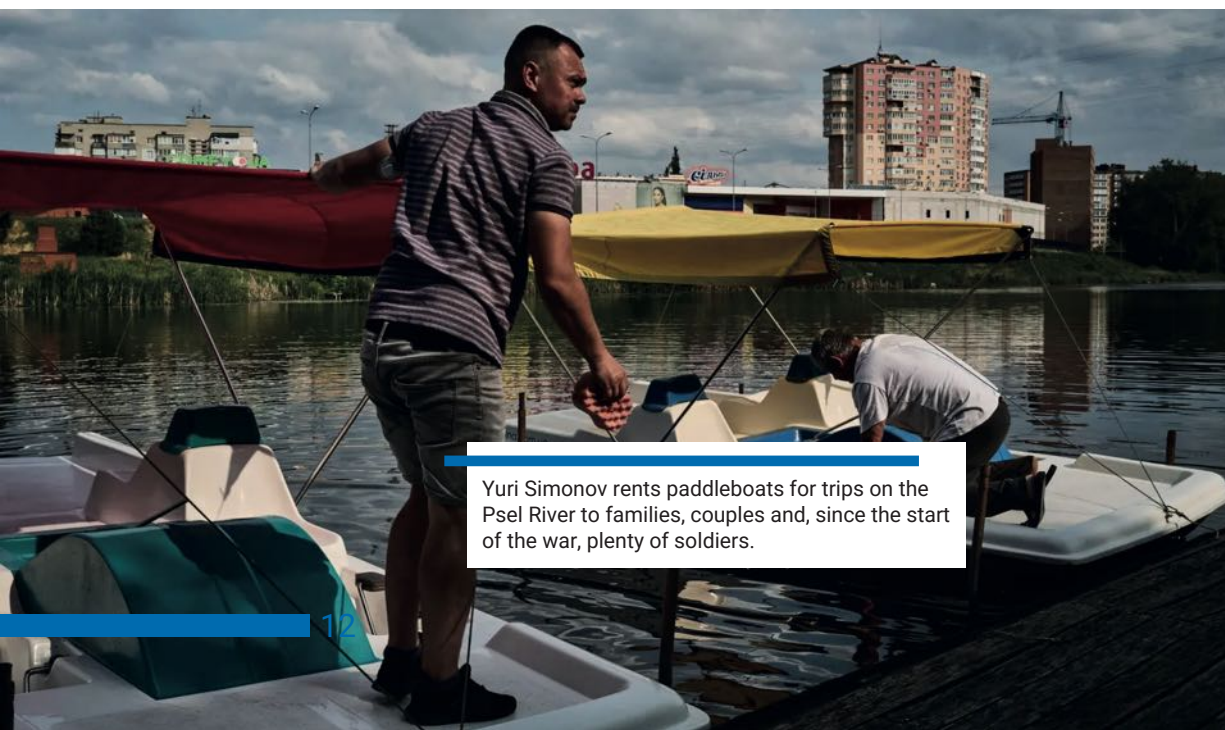
Dominic Nahr (photos), Sumy

Yuri Simonov moors a paddleboat at the jetty and prepares it for the next customers. A family has just returned from a trip. Now, an employee is instructing a group of soldiers who want to spend some time on the water. A young couple

is already waiting behind them. Business is going well.

"Anyone who wants to have a little fun in Sumy will end up coming to see me sooner or later," Simonov says. He has been renting out pedal boats near the city park for years. This industrial city in northern Ukraine is no gem, even by Soviet standards. But along the Psel River, which flows through

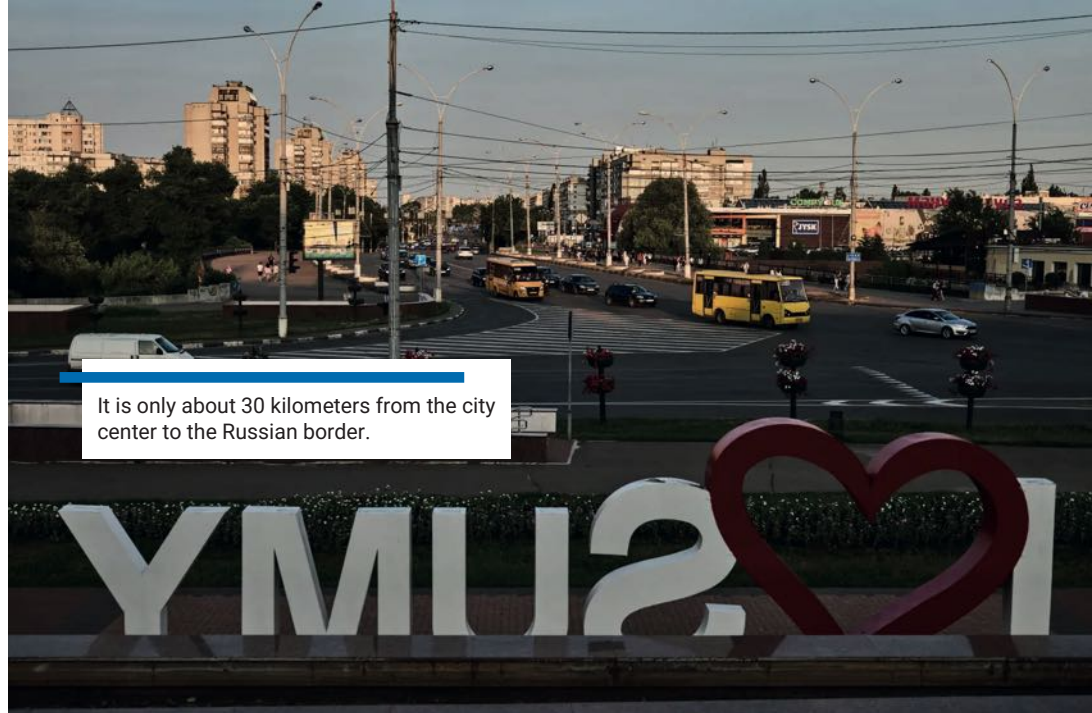
the middle of the city, there are places of unexpected beauty. The banks are covered with lush grass. Fishermen are casting from some of the coves, while others are dotted with picnickers. Even the concrete apartment blocks and occasional factory chimneys rising up behind the greenery do little to detract from the idyllic setting.



Yuri Simonov rents paddleboats for trips on the Psel River to families, couples and, since the start of the war, plenty of soldiers.

Summary

- The northern Ukrainian city of Sumy faces escalating threats as Russian forces advance in the region.
- While everyday life continues in the city, surrounding villages are being evacuated in the face of heavy fighting.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Russia plans to create a buffer zone in northern Ukraine, including Sumy, but experts say a successful Russian advance into the city itself is unlikely.



"We've always had couples and families," says Simonov about his customers. "And since the war, soldiers too. They're happy to be able to switch off for a while." At first glance, Sumy seems carefree, and not just by the river. People go about their business, meet in cafés or stroll in the park. But the war is nearby.

Front only a few kilometers away

It is only about 30 kilometers from the city center to the Russian border. Russian drones have repeatedly struck here. In many places, there are aboveground concrete shelters where pedestrians can quickly seek safety during air raids. So close to the border, little warning time can be provided. In April, in the bloodiest attack of the year so far, two Russian Iskander missiles killed 34 civilians here and injured more than 100 others.

The Russians are advancing on Sumy

Russian advance since March 2025



Kartengrundlage:
© Openstreetmap, © Maptiler

As of June 24, 2025
Source: UAMAP NZZ / Visuals



In the evening, the city streets are lively.
At first glance, Sumy appears carefree.



Around 100 internally displaced persons arrive in Sumy every day from the border area near the front line. Olga Klimenko (front right) was one of them.

The war has since moved even closer to Sumy. Russian attackers have captured several villages north of the city. After the Ukrainian soldiers who invaded the Russian region of Kursk in March were largely driven out, Russian forces did not stop at the border. They are now pushing forward into Ukrainian territory, toward Sumy.

In recent days, that Russian advance has slowed somewhat. The commander in chief of the Ukrainian armed forces, Oleksandr Syrskyi, said after a visit to the region that the front line had

stabilized, and that the Ukrainians were even launching counterattacks in some places.

Nevertheless, apart from Donbas and the front line east of Kharkiv, Russian pressure is greatest here in the north of the country.

Fleeing from the villages in the surrounding area

The war has already reached Olga Klimenko. After retiring, the former teacher had moved from the city to the village of Ivolzhanske, just north of Sumy. "The nature there is

beautiful, especially in spring when the lilies of the valley are in bloom," says the 68-year-old wistfully.

But now she is at the center for internally displaced persons in Sumy, registering for support services. According to the Ukrainian military administration, around 55,000 people from more than 200 villages in the region have been evacuated or have fled on their own since the start of the war. Every day, around 100 more are added. In Sumy, they receive a small compensation payment. In addition, beds are available at the center, a former hospital, for those who do not have relatives or friends to stay with.



A public bus in the center of Sumy. Before the war began, the city had a population of around 250,000.



A burned-out vehicle on the outskirts of Sumy. The main road heading north leads into the contested area.

Klimenko is now living in Sumy with her daughter. "We were the last ones to leave Ivzhanske," she says. Although the village is still under Ukrainian control, the Russians have already taken the neighboring village a few kilometers further north. Klimenko says that her house has been severely damaged in the shelling. There is no more electricity, water, or gas.

"And those drones are constantly in the air."

Putin's plans for a buffer zone

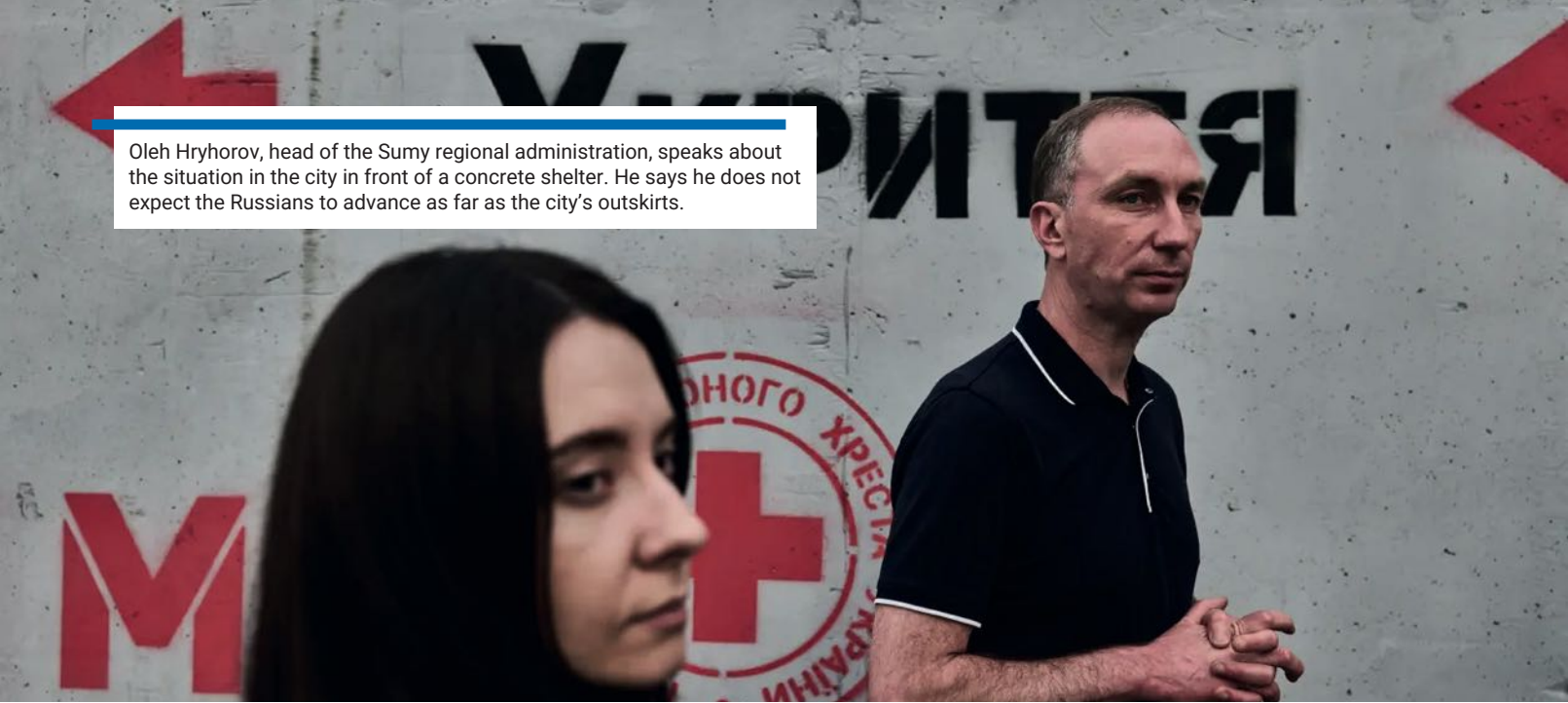
The fighting here on the northern front may differ in scale and intensity from that in the Donbas. However, the fundamentals of warfare are similar. Drones from both sides of the conflict monitor every square meter along the front line. Nevertheless, Russian attackers are continuing to make advances, on foot or on motorcycles, suffering heavy losses in the process.

Here too, Russia is relying on the fact that it has access to far more

resources. According to Ukrainian sources, as many as 50,000 Russian soldiers are stationed in the Russian border region near Sumy. Just as the Ukrainian offensive in Kursk aimed to tie down Russian troops outside the Donbas, the Russian offensive is now forcing the Ukrainians to keep considerable forces on the northern front.

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently said that the establishment of a buffer zone in northern Ukraine is one of Moscow's war aim. That is not very realistic, at least along the entire border. Most observers currently consider it unlikely that the city of Sumy, which is included in buffer zone demanded by Moscow, will be captured. The Russians have had to expend enormous resources



A man and a woman are standing in front of a concrete shelter. The man, Oleh Hryhorov, is wearing a dark blue polo shirt and has his hands clasped. The woman is in the foreground, looking towards the camera. The shelter has a large red cross symbol and some Cyrillic text on it. A red arrow points to the left in the background.

Oleh Hryhorov, head of the Sumy regional administration, speaks about the situation in the city in front of a concrete shelter. He says he does not expect the Russians to advance as far as the city's outskirts.

to conquer much smaller population centers. Before Russia's war of aggression, Sumy had a population of around 250,000.

However, it is not an unlikely scenario that the attackers will advance so

far that Sumy becomes a front-line town under regular bombardment, as is the case in Kherson. If Russian troops succeed in capturing the village of Yunakivka, which is

currently the scene of fierce fighting, along with its strategically important hills, they could fire on the city from there largely unhindered.

A photograph of a heavily damaged, multi-story building. The facade is crumbling, with large sections of concrete and brick missing. Debris is scattered on the ground in front of the building. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, possibly from the setting or rising sun.

This house was destroyed during a Russian attack: The shelling is likely to intensify if the front line moves closer to the city.

The northern outskirts of Sumy are off-limits to journalists due to the tense security situation. Special permission is required even to visit Sumy. Nevertheless, the authorities are careful to portray themselves as unconcerned. "All this talk of a buffer zone is just scaremongering," says Oleh Hryhorov, the military governor of Sumy. The Russians will not succeed in establishing themselves here, he predicts. "Take a look around. People are living as usual, going to work and meeting friends in cafés."

A "dual reality"

For more than three years now, Ukrainians have been demonstrating that everyday life goes on even during wartime. This makes it difficult to draw conclusions about the actual threat level. Hryhorov confirms this, if indirectly. When the air raid siren suddenly sounds, he ignores it and continues the conversation, seemingly unimpressed.

"We live in a dual reality," says Alina Dyadtshenko. The choreographer teaches dance in Sumy. The convention center where she previously always held her dance classes was damaged in the April rocket attack. She now meets with her students several times a week outdoors, where they dance in a square in the city center. "Of course we're scared," she says. "It's war, after all. But we want to live too," she says defiantly.



A rocket destroyed the building where Alina Dyadtshenko (far right) used to meet with her students. Since then, she has been giving dance lessons outside.



CIVILIANS FLEE IN UKRAINE'S SUMY REGION, BUT RUSSIA FACES HUGE LOSSES

By Howard LaFranchi,
Staff writer

As the summer fighting season intensifies in Ukraine, the heavily wooded Sumy region in the northeast corner of the country finds itself subjected to two incongruous styles of Russian warfare.

There is the grueling, World War I-style ground war, throwing waves of Russian infantry against

Ukrainian fire. And there is the 21st-century warfare of surveillance and explosives-laden drones terrorizing the civilian population on the cheap.

Together they are helping thousands of Russian soldiers, massed along Sumy's border with Russia, to advance meter by meter – and at great human cost – to overrun a few border farming villages and advance toward dozens more.

Why We Wrote This

Russian troops are advancing very slowly in the Sumy region of Ukraine, but their progress is forcing local villagers to flee to safer locations.



Howard LaFranchi/The Christian Science Monitor
Nataliia Piven sits in the room she shares with her husband and adult son in a temporary shelter in Sumy, a city increasingly under siege from Russia's air and ground war in Ukraine, June 12, 2025.



Howard LaFranchi/The Christian Science Monitor
Rita Husakova sits with seven of her eight children in the room they share in a temporary housing shelter in Sumy, Ukraine, June 12, 2025.

This month Russia crossed a remarkable threshold: Its army has suffered 1 million casualties, dead and wounded, on the Ukrainian battlefield since launching its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

U.S. President Donald Trump is still pressing for a ceasefire – he says he told Russian President Vladimir Putin in a phone call Sunday that he must bring “his” war in Ukraine to an end.

For now, it is Russia’s deadly missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian cities and civilian infrastructure that are attracting the most attention.

On the night of June 17, Russia launched its deadliest air assault on Kyiv in months, killing 23 people in a barrage of more than 400 drones, 125 missiles, and cluster munitions. Several high-rise apartment buildings were heavily damaged, some destroyed.

But the intensification of fighting along Sumy’s border is evidence that the ground war continues.

Three times uprooted

Nataliia Piven can attest to that. She has seen her life turned upside down by both the old-fashioned and the ultramodern versions of a war now in its fourth year.

Sitting in the sparsely furnished three-bed room she shares with her husband and adult son in a Sumy city refuge, Mrs. Piven recounts how the war has uprooted her family

three times since fighting in March 2022 destroyed her home just over a mile from the Russian border.

Most recently, on May 5, a Russian glide bomb landed in the courtyard of the farmhouse the Pivens had occupied, wounding Mrs. Piven and her husband.

“We knew the enemy was getting a little closer every week,” she says, “but we had nowhere else to go.”

Now, at least until another abandoned farmhouse can be found, the hospital-turned-shelter is home.

“We’ve been here living like this for over a month,” she says, indicating the plastic bags serving as dresser drawers. “But I’m not complaining; I know many people have had worse things happen.”

Such as the neighbor who recently lost a son. “He was just sitting at the table when a drone killed him,” she says. “That’s what we face now; it’s really scary.”

Down the hall, Rita Husakova tends to her eight children in a room they have occupied since a grenade dropped from a Russian drone hit the bus she was taking from her

village. Her uncle, aunt, and sister were killed.

Advancing Russian troops have made it too dangerous to return home, so she awaits assignment to a nearby village that seems safer.

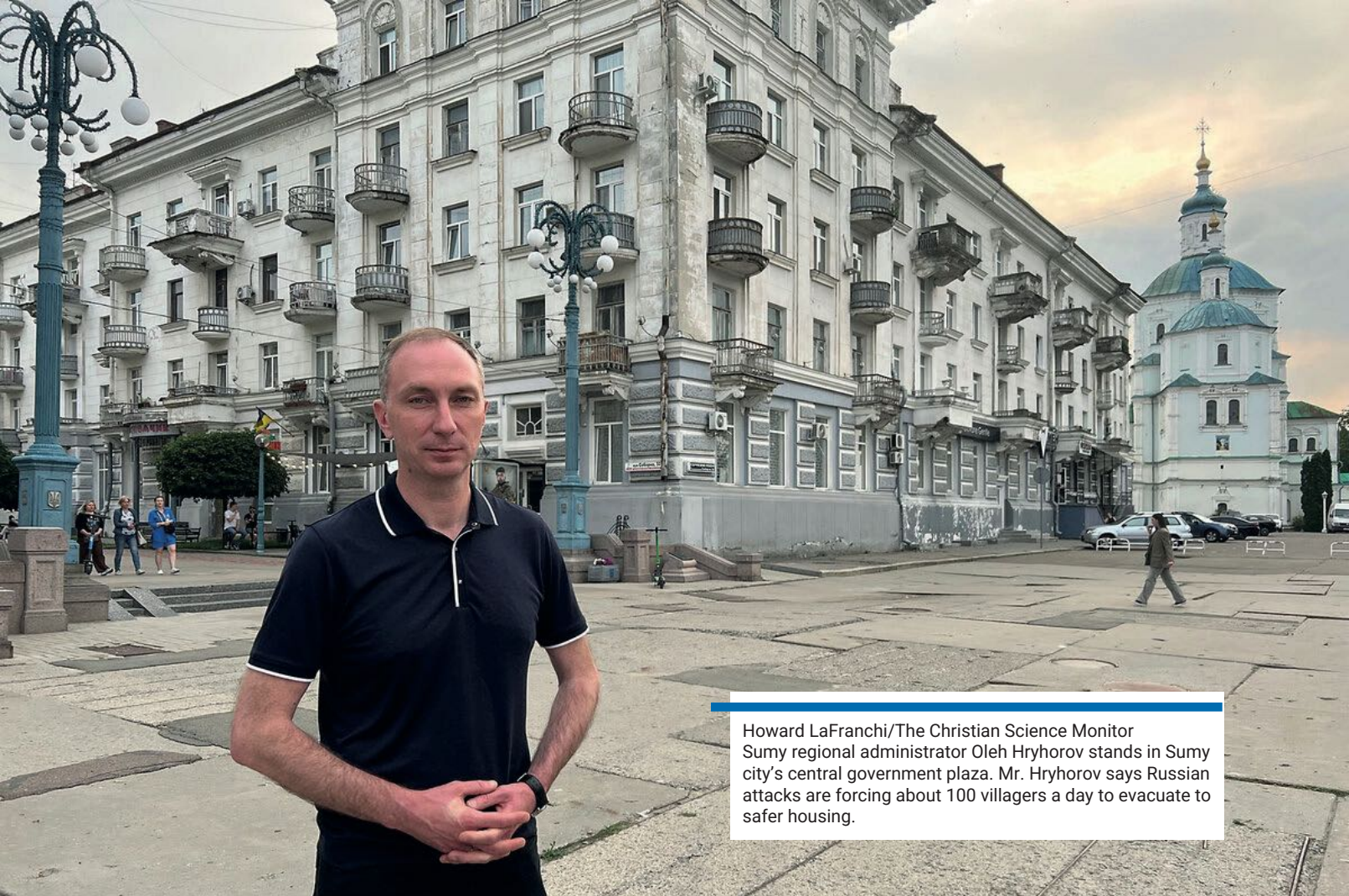
“The danger is everywhere, but maybe we can find something a little better. Children can’t live like this every day,” she says, gesturing at the cramped room.

Ukrainian bravado

At Sumy city’s government center, administrator Oleh Hryhorov acknowledges the recent Russian advances, but insists that together the people of Sumy and the army will prevail.

“Despite the Russian desire to occupy Sumy region and Sumy city,” he says, “I can say confidently they don’t have a chance.”

In the meantime, he says a gamut of regional agencies is prepared to provide temporary housing, food, and other services for the 100 people evacuated every day from the most threatened border villages.



Howard LaFranchi/The Christian Science Monitor
Sumy regional administrator Oleh Hryhorov stands in Sumy city's central government plaza. Mr. Hryhorov says Russian attacks are forcing about 100 villagers a day to evacuate to safer housing.

Of the 85,000 residents of villages under threat that the administration has deemed eligible for government evacuation, about 55,000 have been brought out. The rest are either waiting their turn, or refusing to leave their homes and farm animals.

Noting that Sumy region has more than 350 miles of border with Russia, Mr. Hryhorov says safeguarding civilians from Russia's "campaign of panic and chaos" is not easy. But he points to a nearby outdoor café with several occupied tables and adds, "Is that the sign of a community that is fearful and ready to give up to the enemy?"

Russia has amassed some 50,000 troops along the Sumy front line over recent weeks. That may sound like a formidable number, but military experts say it's unlikely to be enough to threaten large swaths of the region or to capture and occupy Sumy city and its quarter-million residents.

In any case, some suspect Russia has something else in mind.

"Putin's main objective for this Sumy campaign is to allow Russia to break through and occupy all of Donbas," says Mykhailo Samus, director of the New Geopolitics Research Center in Kyiv, referring to the eastern Ukraine territory Russia has annexed but does not fully occupy or control.

"He thinks that if he can increase the pressure on Sumy and cause alarm there, he can force Ukraine to shift resources away from Donbas and pave the way to his main goal," he says.

But Mr. Samus says that scenario does not take into account the realities of front-line battlefields today.

"The fact is Russia is losing 90% of the infantry it's sending forward because of Ukrainian drones," he says. "Warfare is obviously different from 10 years ago," he adds, "but honestly it's different from how it was" when the war started.

Four years ago, Russian infantry could advance 7 to 8 miles beyond the border before encountering Ukrainian fire, he says. "But now as they advance, almost all of them will be killed by Ukrainian drones."

New Russian tactics

There are some signs that Russia is taking account of its heavy infantry losses. Rather than send waves of infantry across the landscape or expose troops in large transport vehicles, Russian commanders are providing their soldiers with

motorcycles and nondescript vehicles, military analysts say.

Another factor this fighting season is an almost certain end to U.S. aid to Ukraine. At a Senate budget hearing this month, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth said the Trump administration's goal in cutting the military aid would be to pressure Ukraine to accept a negotiated settlement and cut short an "endless war."

Ukrainians are by and large aware that the days of large U.S. aid packages are over, but they are not complaining about betrayal.

"We understand that the U.S. wants to be free of all these global problems like Ukraine," Mr. Samus says. "But that says to me the U.S. doesn't want to be a leader anymore."

Most local people in Sumy say that Ukraine remains grateful for the vital assistance the United States offered their country in its most dire moment, which helped Ukraine to build its own capacities and hold off a formidable foe.

Oleh Strilka, a press officer for the Sumy region's emergency response service, says he'll never forget the day he realized Ukraine had a powerful and dedicated partner in the U.S.

His commander had asked him and emergency responders to compile a "wish list" of all the American equipment and supplies they could use to better serve the civilian population facing deadly and unpredictable attacks.

"I was shocked and amazed when the equipment arrived. It was everything I had asked

for and more," he says. Firefighters received powerful water pumps; emergency responders received state-of-the-art tools for pulling survivors from rubble.

Mr. Strilka says that even though that aid has stopped and the work of Sumy's emergency responders has become more dangerous, he still feels the effects of past American support.

He points to two women planting petunias in a city park. "You see that here in Sumy we are all doing things that despite our situation give us hope for the future," he says.

Oleksandr Naselenko contributed reporting for this story.



Howard LaFranchi/The Christian Science Monitor
Sumy emergency responder Oleh Strilka (left) stands with his colleague Valeriia Demenko in Sumy city center June 12, 2025. He says city gardeners planting flowers in parks show Sumy residents' hope for their city's future.

Sumy city hromada

Population:

The total area of the territory is **351.7 km²**. The population of the hromada is **261 889** for 2025. Sumy ranks 20 in terms of population in Ukraine from 425 cities.

Women: 127 461

Men: 96 238

IDPs: 34 823 people.

Sumy city hromada includes 21 population centers and has its administrative center in the city of Sumy.

The hromada's forest fund is 8,248.2 hectares (23.4% of the total territory), the area of agricultural land is 9,331.8 hectares.

Sumy is located 333 km from the city of Kyiv and 184 km from the city of Kharkiv, the distance from the city of Sumy to the city of Poltava is 175 km and 307 km to the city of Chernihiv.

The nearest airports to the city are Kharkiv Airport (199 km), Boryspil International Airport (337 km).

The distance from city to the border of ru is 38 km.

Despite the blockade of the city and artillery and aircraft shelling for several weeks on March 2022, Sumy city hromada remained unconquered. The blockade lasted until April 4, when Sumy was liberated.

However, the danger remains, with ru troops demonstrating armed aggression towards the hromada, reminding us of the relentless threat that still looms over the city.

The development strategy until 2027 is based on three key principles: restoring infrastructure, introducing innovations, and creating a safe and comfortable living environment. The main areas are accessibility, supporting social programs, developing a competitive economy, and effective governance.

The vision is to create a stable, innovative, and socially responsible environment where every resident has the opportunity to grow with the community.

Part #2

Sumy city hromada

Sumy region

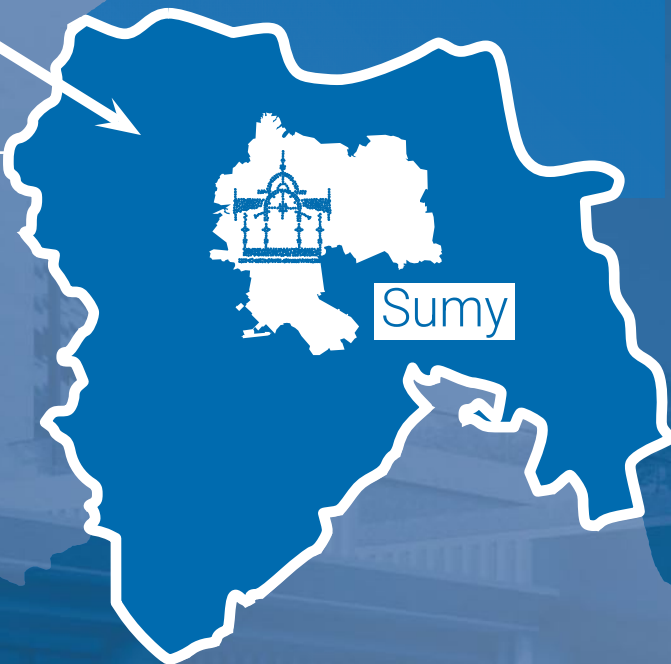
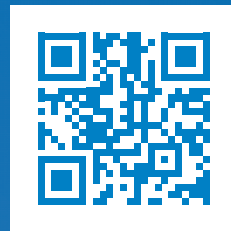
Ukraine



area

351.7 km²

Sumy city hromada strives to harmoniously combine traditions and modern technologies, ensure a high standard of living, access to quality services, and actively involve residents in decision-making.



residents

261 889



settlements

**21 population
centers**

Sumy:

a land of dignity, struggle,
and strength!

A land of spirit that never fades!



Sumy region is more than just a geographical location. It is a place where invincibility is not a slogan but a way of life. Here, at the crossroads of history, people have always fought—for freedom, for dignity, for the right to be themselves, for Ukraine. This is a land where history does not remain silent. From the times of the medieval Cossacks to the current war, the spirit of resistance, solidarity, and self-sacrifice can be felt in every community.

That is why the concept of Ecosystem "Sumy" was born. It is not just a name—it is a symbol. A symbol that invincibility is not only about territory, but about people. Sumy region has not only endured and held on but also strives to recover and grow. And undoubtedly, the veteran community is the living fabric of this invincibility! Our defenders are those who returned from the battlefield, who lost but did not break, who build a new reality every single day.

Ecosystem "Sumy" is an idea aimed at creating a reintegration ecosystem in Sumy that unites medical, physical, psychosocial, economic, and informational support for veterans and their families.

At this conference, the Sumy Regional Military Administration is demonstrating the first three projects of the **Ecosystem "Sumy"**, which is aimed at supporting primarily veterans of the ru-Ukrainian war, their families, and over time, other vulnerable groups of the population of territorial hromadas in Sumy region.



The first three projects are aimed at developing medical and non-medical rehabilitation services, providing psychosocial counseling to veterans and their family members, medical support to seriously wounded soldiers in Sumy, and supporting and developing adaptive sports for veterans:

- Sumy. Rehabilitation Centre
- Sumy. Flame of Life
- Sumy. Veteran PRO

We hope for the support of the Ukrainian government, national business, and Ukraine's international partners to implement these initiatives ASAP. We invite all interested parties to join us!

We hope that next year these first three projects will be joined by other municipal and private institutions, which together will form new standards of veteran policy in Sumy region.

Sumy

REHABILITATION

CENTRE



Currently, there is no full-fledged Rehabilitation Center in Sumy region with the ability to manufacture and select prostheses for patients who have lost limbs.

Potential target audience of the future Center: military personnel, veterans, civilians injured as a result of hostilities, and patients with injuries that led to the loss of limbs.

In 2024, 7,183 people received rehabilitation services in Sumy region.

In 2025, such a need for rehabilitation services of varying complexity will already amount to more than 9,000 people only in the hospitals.

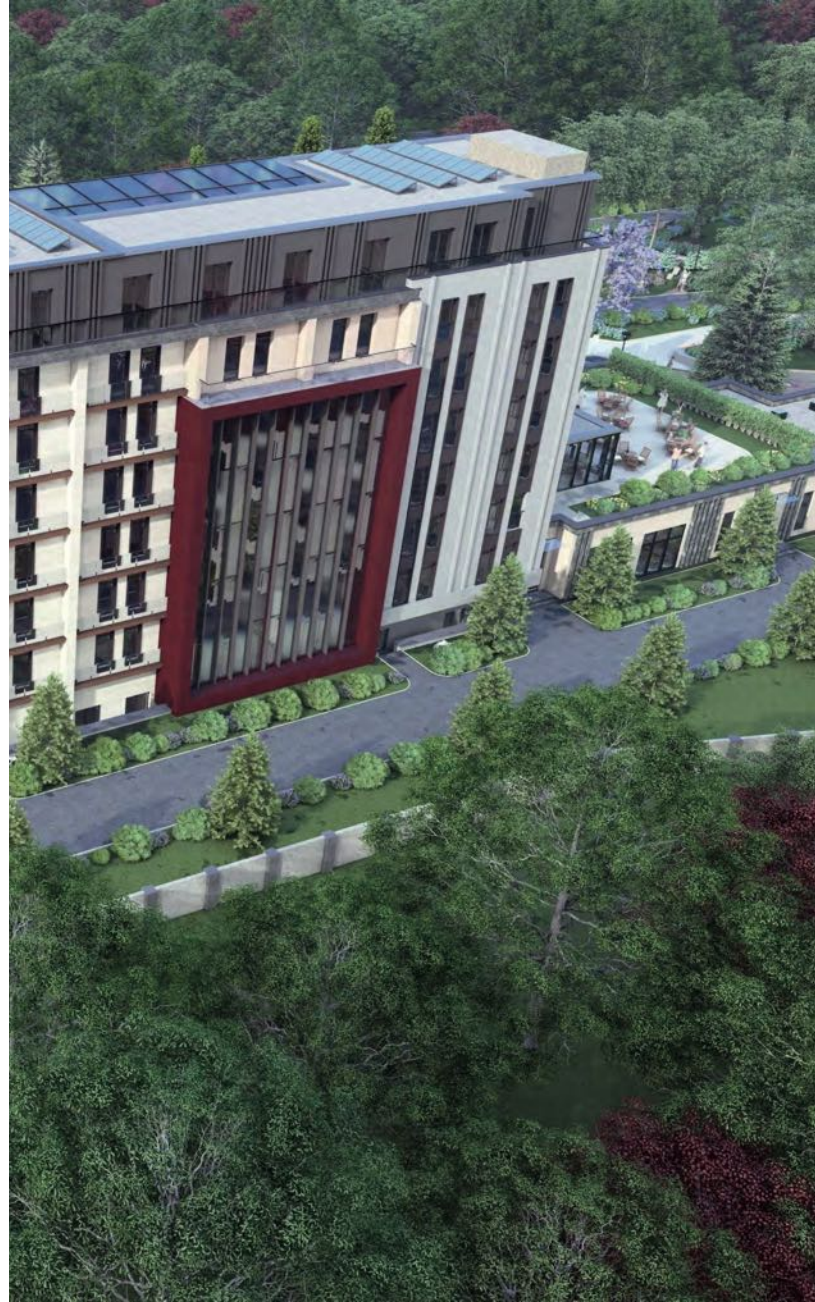
And in 2026-2030, according to forecasts, this number will be at least 10,000 people annually.

We plan to renovate a building of **Regional Specialized Dispensary for Radiation Protection of the Population** with a total area of 3,500 sq. m, located in the immediate vicinity of the hospital complex, and transform it into a multifunctional Rehabilitation Centre. The inpatient ward will be expanded to 100 beds, which will allow us to treat up to 3,000 patients annually.

The purpose of creating a rehabilitation center is to provide conditions for high-quality recovery and/or maintenance of optimal physical and mental health of military personnel, veterans, survivors of captivity, torture, and occupation. As well as restoring the health of family members of the deceased, prisoners of war, missing persons, and other persons with injuries and recurrent disorders caused by the war.

Separate rooms will be designed for group and individual work with patients. This will allow for continuous professional development of doctors from the multidisciplinary rehabilitation team in Sumy, without the need to travel to other large cities of Ukraine or seek their professional realization abroad.

Today the non-profit enterprise of the Sumy Regional Council "Sumy Regional Specialized Dispensary for Radiation Protection of the Population" provides specialized inpatient, outpatient, rehabilitation, and psychological medical care to a wide range of patients.



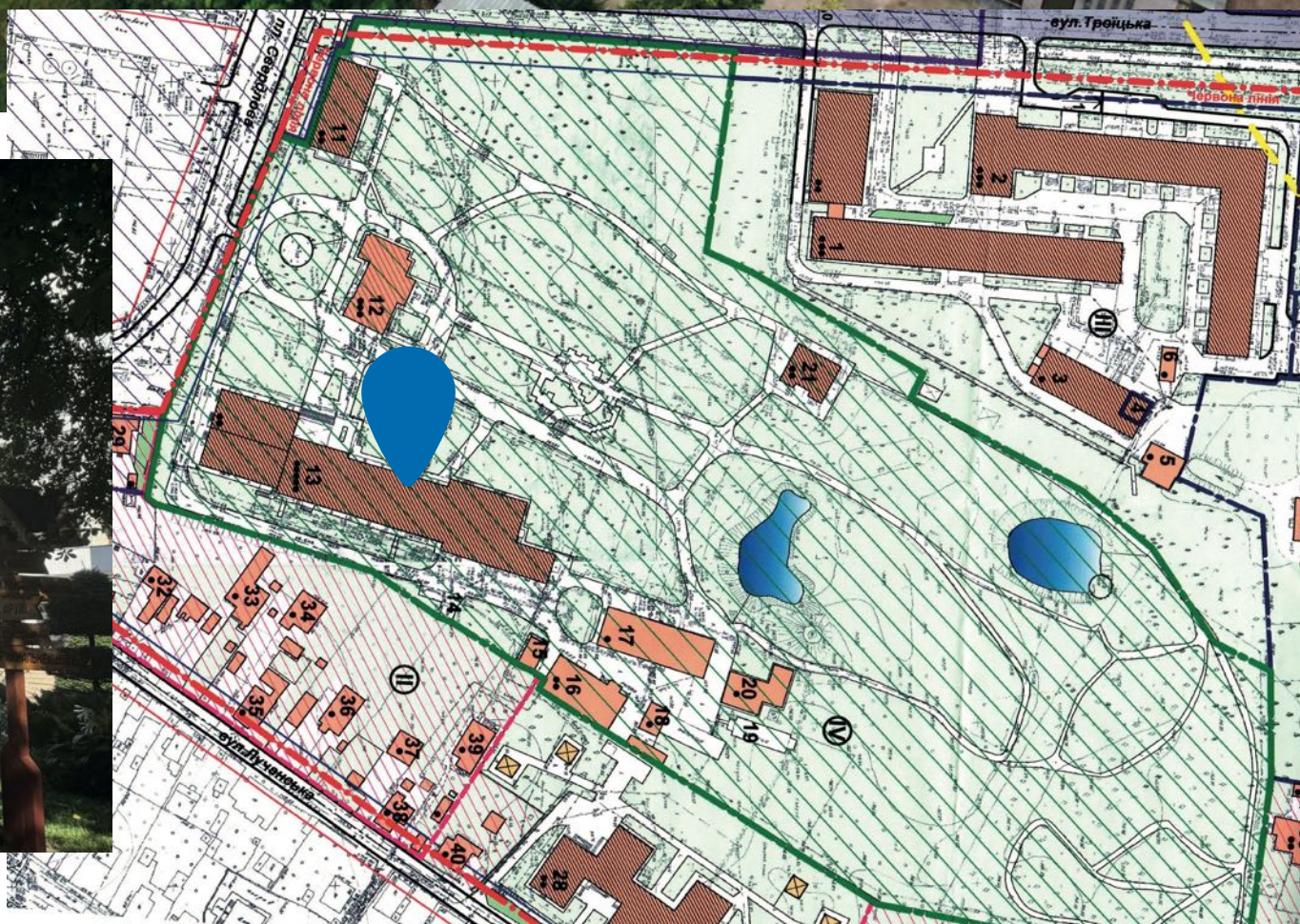
The structure of the dispensary includes:

- An outpatient clinic, with the possibility of 90 patient visits per day, based on which doctors in almost 20 specialties (therapy, surgery, endocrinology, neurology, otolaryngology, psychotherapy, ophthalmology, gynecology, dermatology, urology, cardiology, pulmonology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, vascular surgery and others) conduct appointments, and there is also a Medical and Psychological Rehabilitation Center
- Inpatient departments with 150 beds (therapeutic, cardiological, neurological, surgical, rehabilitation), in 2024 – 6,856 patients were treated; in 6 months of 2025 – 5,234 patients were treated
- Diagnostic units (X-ray examination: 2024 – 6,957, 6 months of 2025 – 3,518; ultrasound examination: 2024 – 22,508, 6 months of 2025 – 6,952; endoscopy: 2024 – 572, 6 months of 2025 – 342; CLD examination: 2024 – 271,825, 6 months of 2025 – 142,782)

Medical personnel with many years of experience in treating patients with multi-organ chronic pathology. Admission, consultations and medical support are provided by 21 doctors of the highest category.

For the period 2023-2024, the enterprise employed graduates of higher educational institutions, including: endocrinologist (outpatient and polyclinic department), gastroenterologist (therapeutic department, outpatient and polyclinic department), obstetrician-gynecologist (outpatient and polyclinic department, surgical department), therapist (outpatient and polyclinic department), doctor of physical and rehabilitation medicine (rehabilitation department), doctor of physical and rehabilitation medicine (rehabilitation department).







The hospital generally has the conditions for high-quality rehabilitation and restorative treatment:

- 2 gyms with an area of 97 sq. m and 279.6 sq. m are equipped
- there is some equipment for the rehabilitation of patients with musculoskeletal, cardio-respiratory and nervous systems, after surgical interventions
- multidisciplinary rehabilitation teams provide outpatient and inpatient medical rehabilitation with the development of individual rehabilitation plans

for a wide range of pathologies. The team includes: a doctor of physical rehabilitation medicine, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, their assistants, doctors and specialists in related specialties (neurologist, orthopedist, cardiologist, psychotherapist, psychologist, speech therapist)

The medical building of the dispensary was built in the 80s of the last century according to the design of the sanatorium and has a block system of medical wards with separate toilet rooms, but today the complex needs major repairs.

The hospital is located in the historical part of the city of Sumy, on the territory of the Asmolov Park with an area of 5.3 hectares. This allows you to use the park for the design and location of a sports ground for practicing adaptive sports for veterans with disabilities, a path along the perimeter of the park for walking in wheelchairs, separate areas for organizing meetings with loved ones, etc.





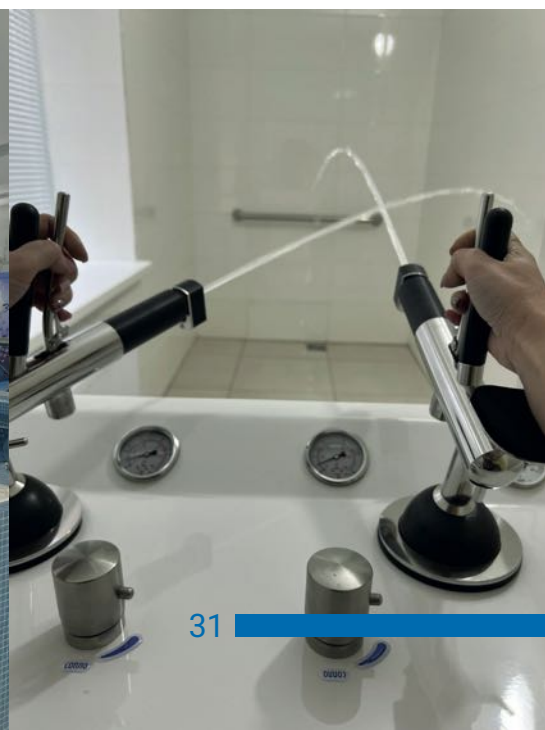
Техніко-економічні показники

П.п.	Найменування	Од. вим.	До реконструкції	Після реконструкції	Примітки
			Кількість	Кількість	
1	Найменування об'єкта будівництва, місце його розташування	Реконструкція реабілітаційного відділення КНП СОР «СОСДРЗН» за адресою: м. Суми, площа Троїцька, 14			
2	Вид будівництва	Реконструкція			
3	Загальна кошторисна вартість	тис. грн.			
4	Поверховість	пов.	5	7	
5	Ступінь вогнестійкості будівлі	ст.	II	II	
6	Площа ділянки	Га	5,3452	5,3452	
7	Площа озеленення	м²	46 499,1	45 983,5	
8	Площа забудови	м²	2 248,8	2 764,4	В т.ч. СПП - 314,47 м²
9	Потужність, місткість, пропускнуна спроможність	кВт/год	-	150	
10	Загальна площа	м²	6 497,0	6 831,69	В т.ч. СПП - 278,3 м²
11	Корисна площа	м²	3 533,2	3 939,17	В т.ч. СПП - 184,3 м²
12	Опалювальна площа	м²	5 423,2	6 064,66	
13	Будівельний об'єм	м³	21 312,55	23 489,92	В т.ч. СПП - 1 352,22 м³
14	Опалювальний будівельний об'єм	м³	—	22 809,76	
15	Кількість створених робочих місць	міс.	—	85	
16	Річні витрати ресурсів;				
16.1	- паливо	тис. т.	—	—	
16.2	- водопостачання	тис. м³	—	6,285	
16.3	- електроенергія	МВт·год	—	934,74	
16.4	- теплова енергія	Гкал/год	—	0,8382	
17	Клас енергетичної ефективності	клас	С		
18	Тривалість будівництва	міс.	12		
19	Термін першого планового обстеження		2026 р.		
20	Рекоменд. періодичність обстежень		1 раз на 10 років		
21	Перелік конструкцій категорії відпов. А та Б		А-фундаменти, колони, плити перекриття, несучі цегляні стіни, стіни сходово-ліфтового блоку, сходові марші; Б-зовнішні і внутрішні несучі стіни, перегородки, огороження балконів і терас.		
22	Граничне експлуатаційне (ГЕН) та граничне розрахункове (ГРН) значення навантажень, для конструкцій перекриття та покриття		ГЕН на типову плиту перекриття складає 0,7т/м². ГРН на типову плиту перекриття складає 0,78т/м². ГЕН на плиту покриття складає 0,58т/м². ГРН на плиту покриття складає 0,89т/м². Значення навантажень подані без врахування власної ваги плит перекриття та покриття		

For 2025, contracts have been concluded with the National Health Service of Ukraine for 9 packages:

- Prevention, diagnostics, observation, treatment and rehabilitation of patients in outpatient settings
- Esophagogastroduodenoscopy
- Mobile palliative medical care for adults and children
- Surgical operations for adults and children in inpatient settings
- Surgical operations for adults and children in inpatient settings for one day
- Inpatient care for adults and children without surgical operations
- Rehabilitation care for adults and children in inpatient settings

- Rehabilitation care for adults and children in outpatient settings
- Ensuring the human resource potential of the healthcare system by providing medical care with the involvement of interns



Currently, the country's doctors are faced with a new problem in the rehabilitation of military personnel – the treatment of the consequences of prolonged use of armored protection by military personnel, which critically affects their respiratory and musculoskeletal systems, causing impaired respiratory and cognitive functions.

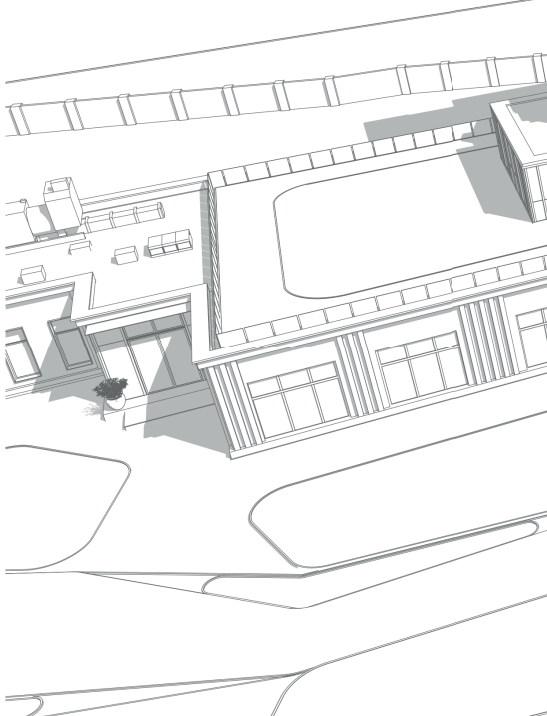
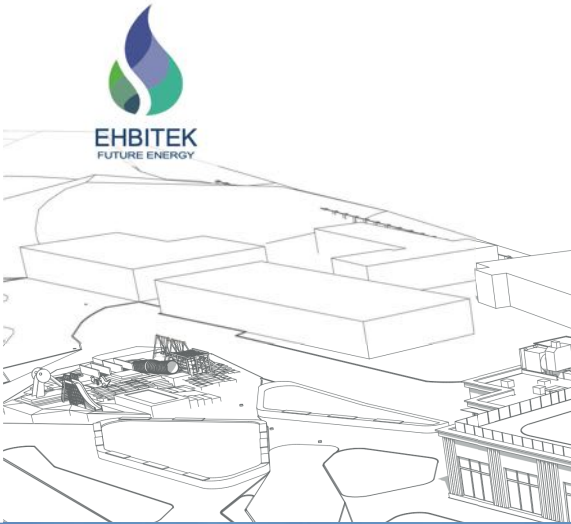
Studies using plethysmography and spirometry demonstrate that even without load, a bulletproof vest reduces functional residual lung capacity by 17%. Disturbances in the functioning of the musculoskeletal system are also critical.

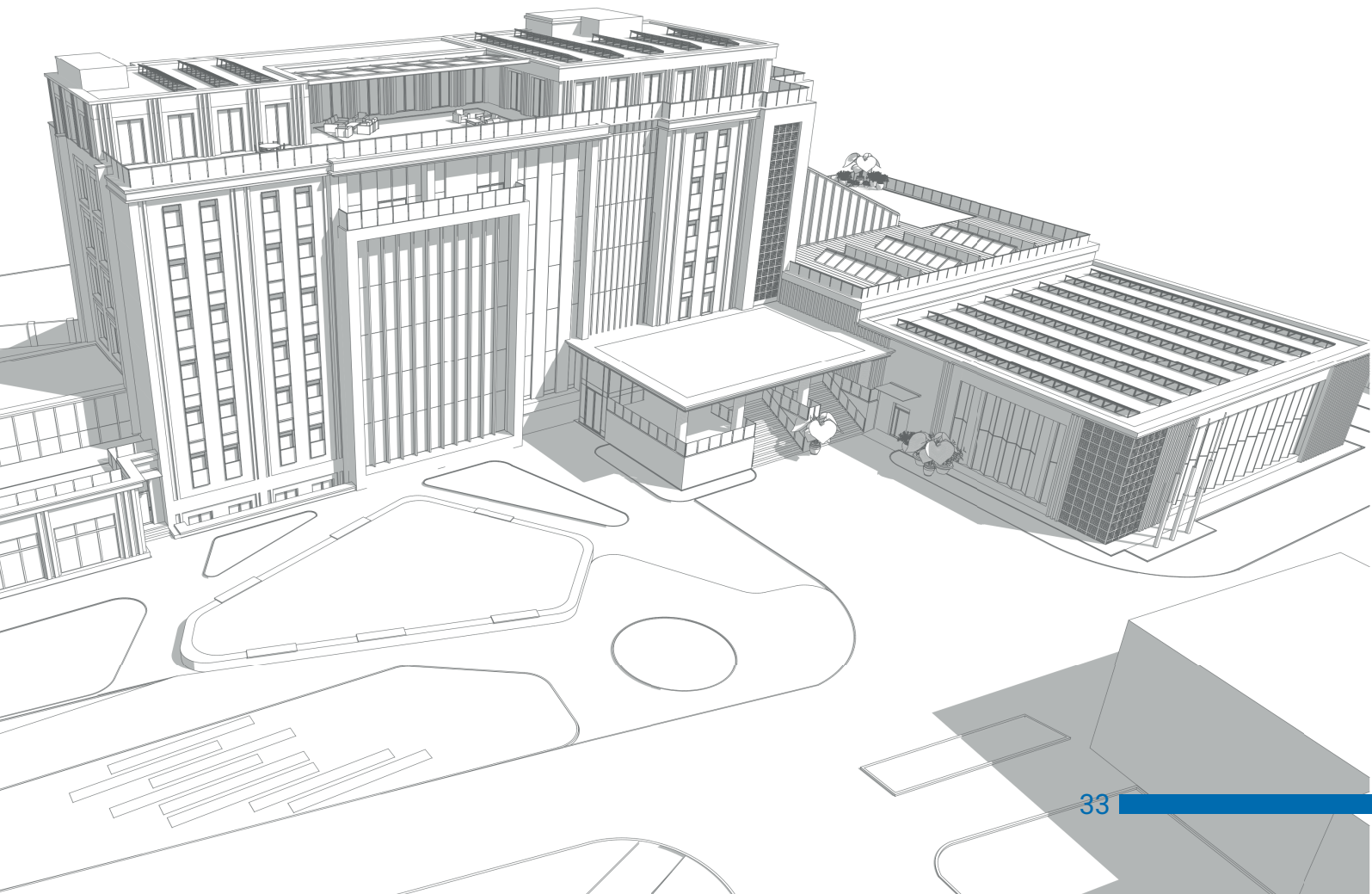
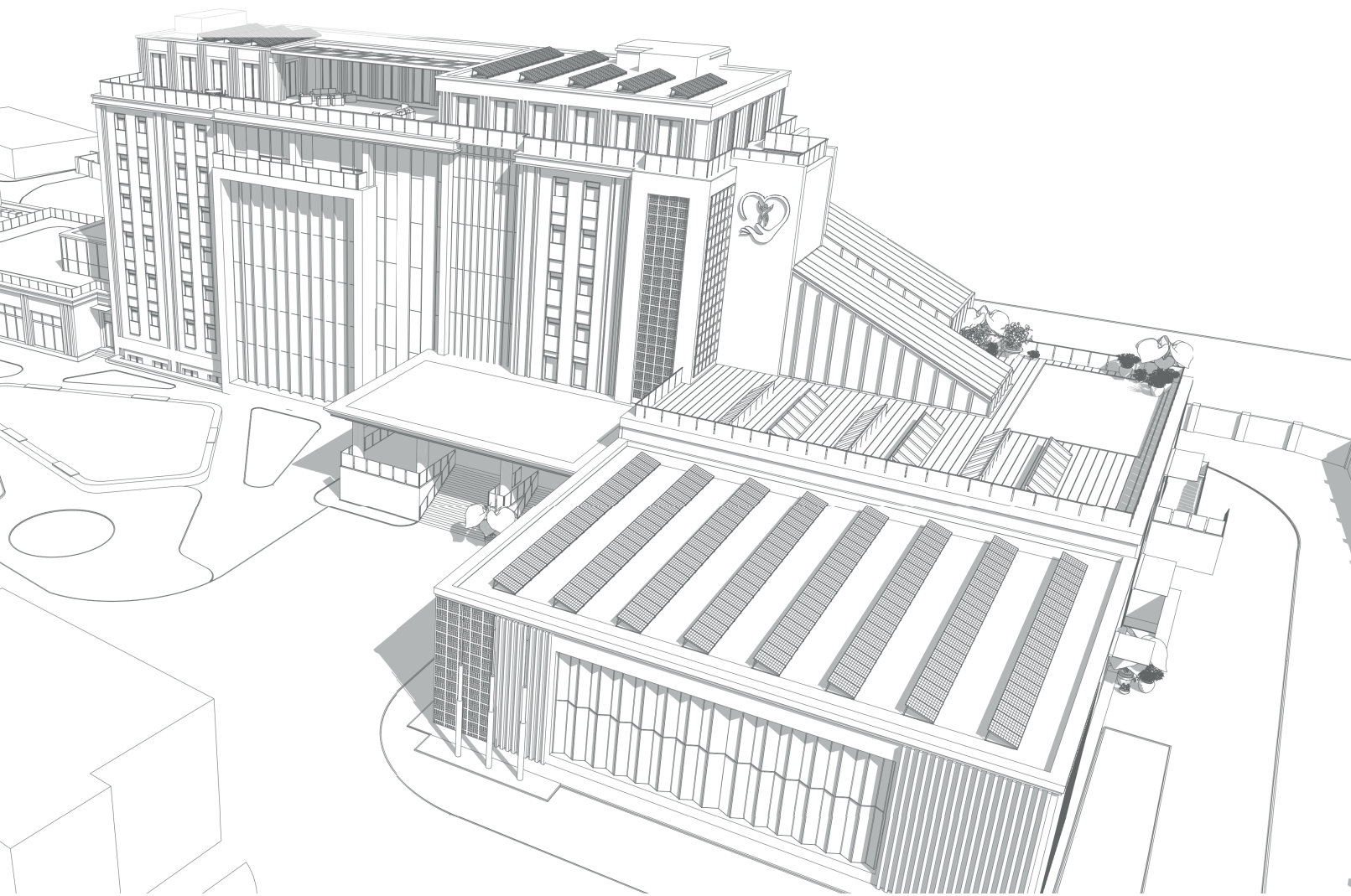
Heavy armor sets and other loads (up to 60 kg) cause intervertebral hernias, lumbosciatica and chronic lower back and neck pain. Test results have shown a significant deterioration in shoulder mobility and musculoskeletal control. Constant stay in ground shelters very quickly worsens a person's physical balance, limits trunk movements, and contributes to chronic back pain. The body often experiences physiological stress due to general overheating, increased heartbeat, and increased energy expenditure even under low loads.

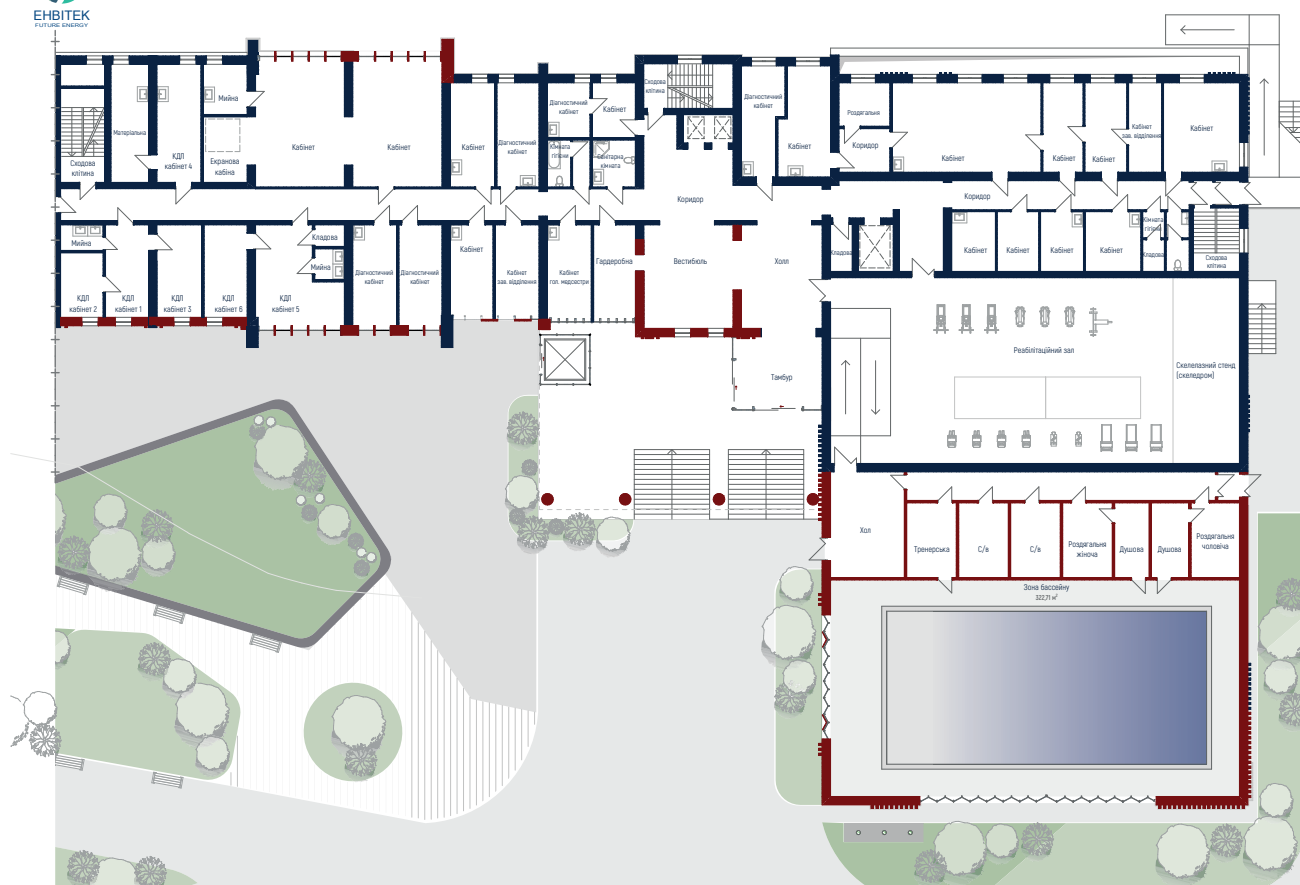
Such injuries are present in almost everyone who is actively involved in combat operations, and their treatment will require years of medical rehabilitation and constant support from specialists.

The scale of the needs assessment and deployment of such infrastructure should have been thought about beforehand.

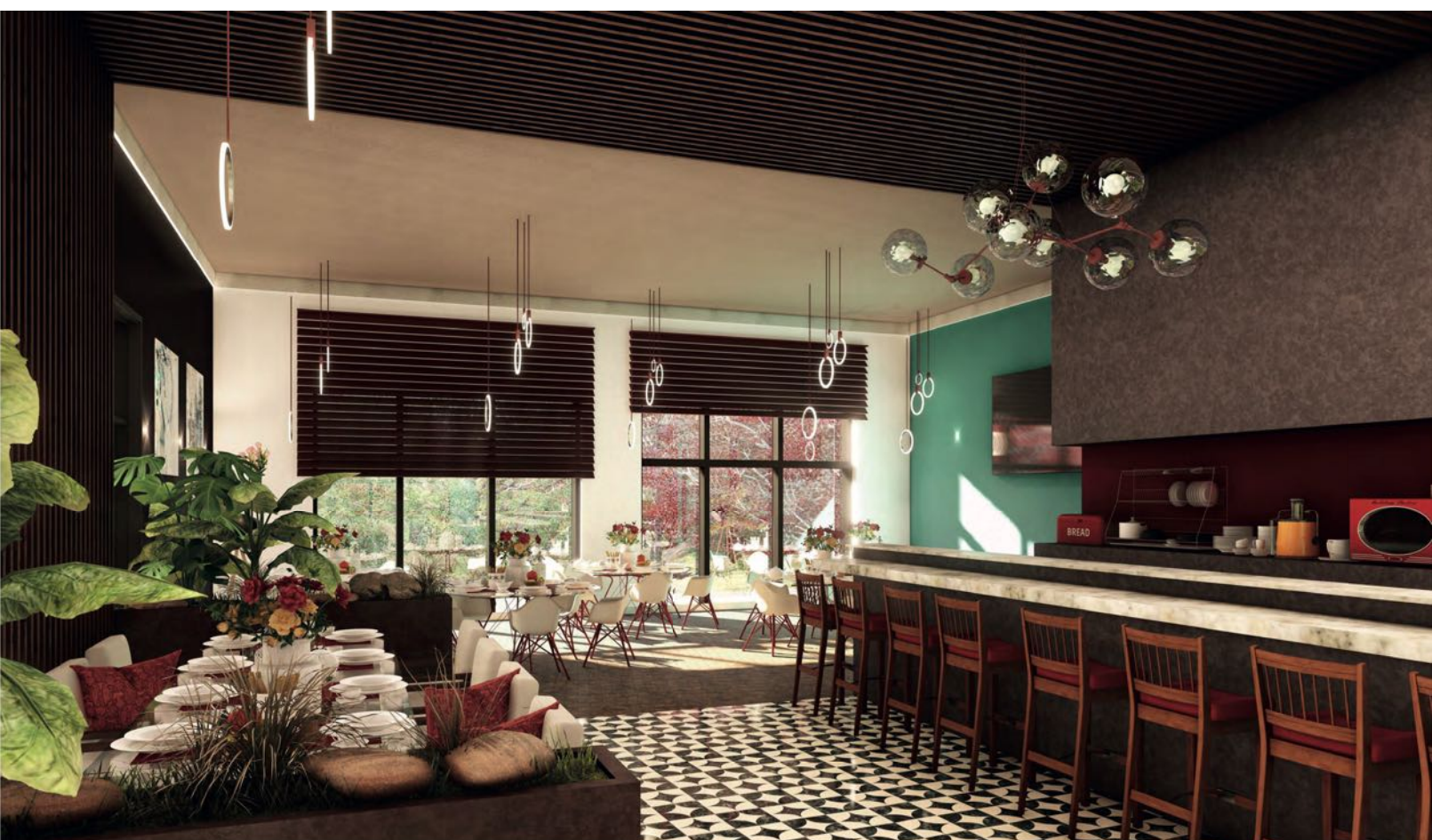
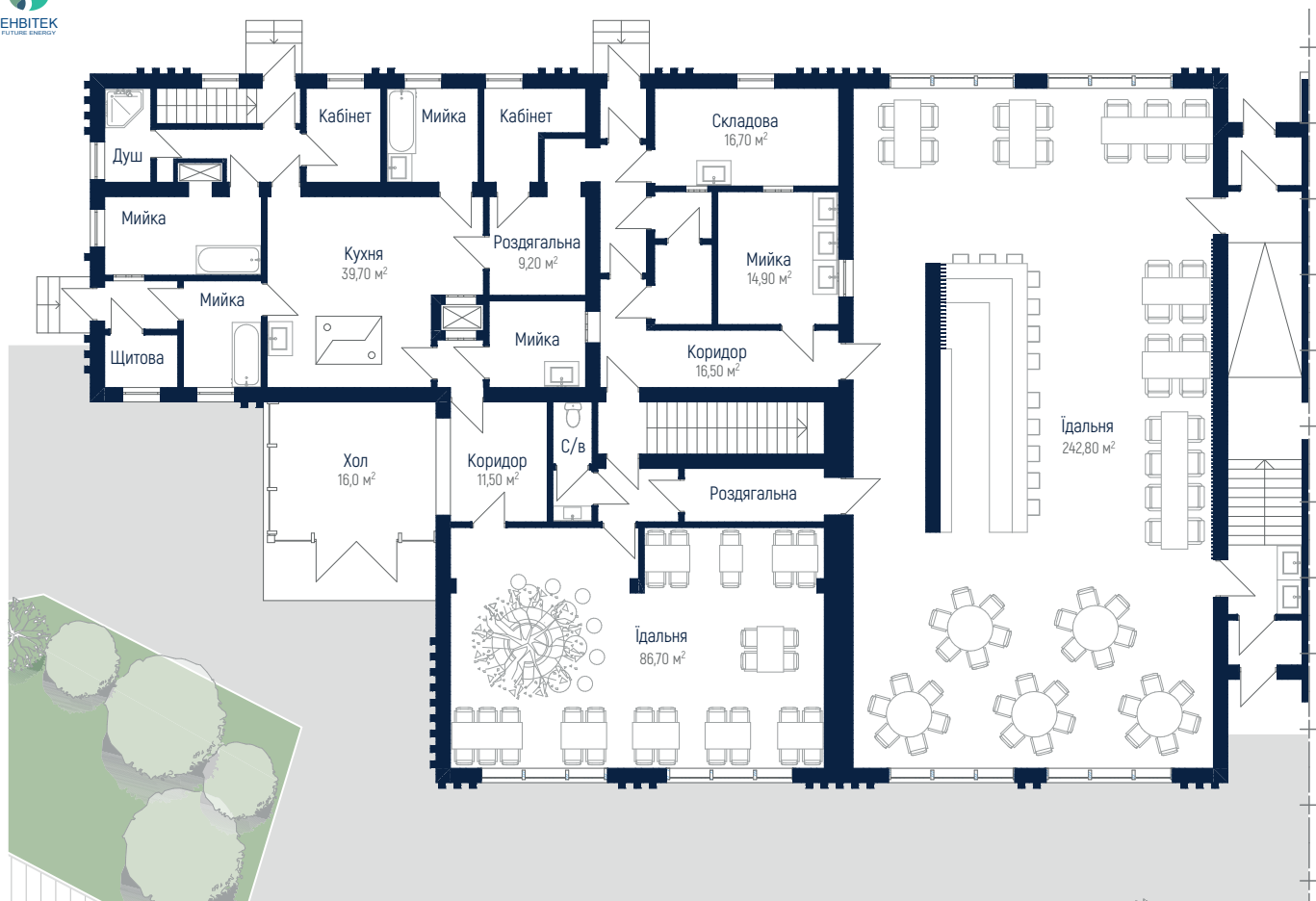
The need for rehabilitation treatment of such injuries in the Sumy region alone will grow rapidly and may amount to **90% of all combatants returning from the war in 2026-2030, which could be up to 50,000 people or even more.**



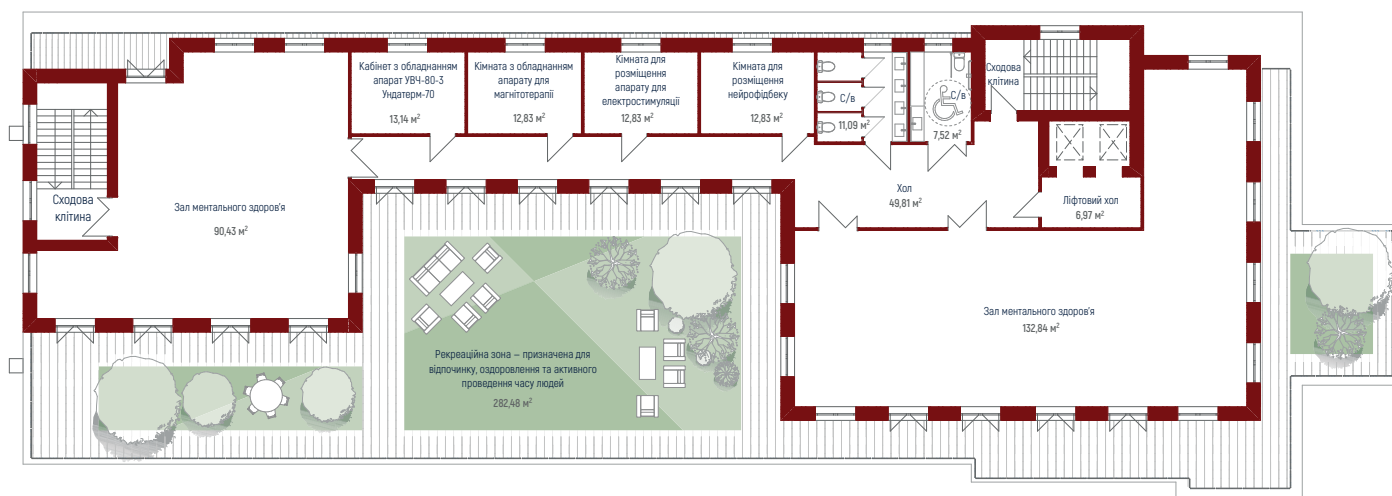
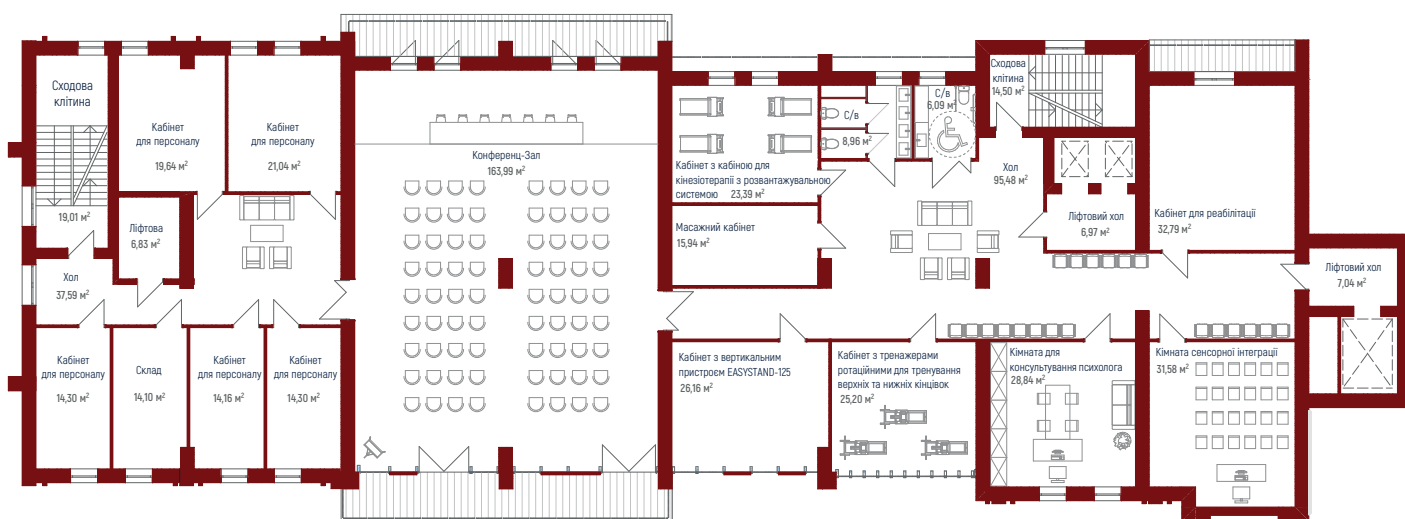












Hydrotherapy as a method of evidence-based rehabilitation

Hydrotherapy as a method of evidence-based rehabilitation will be used for the rehabilitation of patients with injuries of the human musculoskeletal system. This is the use of the physical properties

of water (temperature, pressure, buoyancy, resistance) for therapeutic and rehabilitation purposes. It is carried out in the form of therapeutic swimming, aqua therapy (exercises in water), hydromassage, contrast baths, showers (Charcot, circular, etc.).





Water treatment methods that will be used at the Rehabilitation Center:

1. Aqua kinesiotherapy (aqua therapy/water exercises)

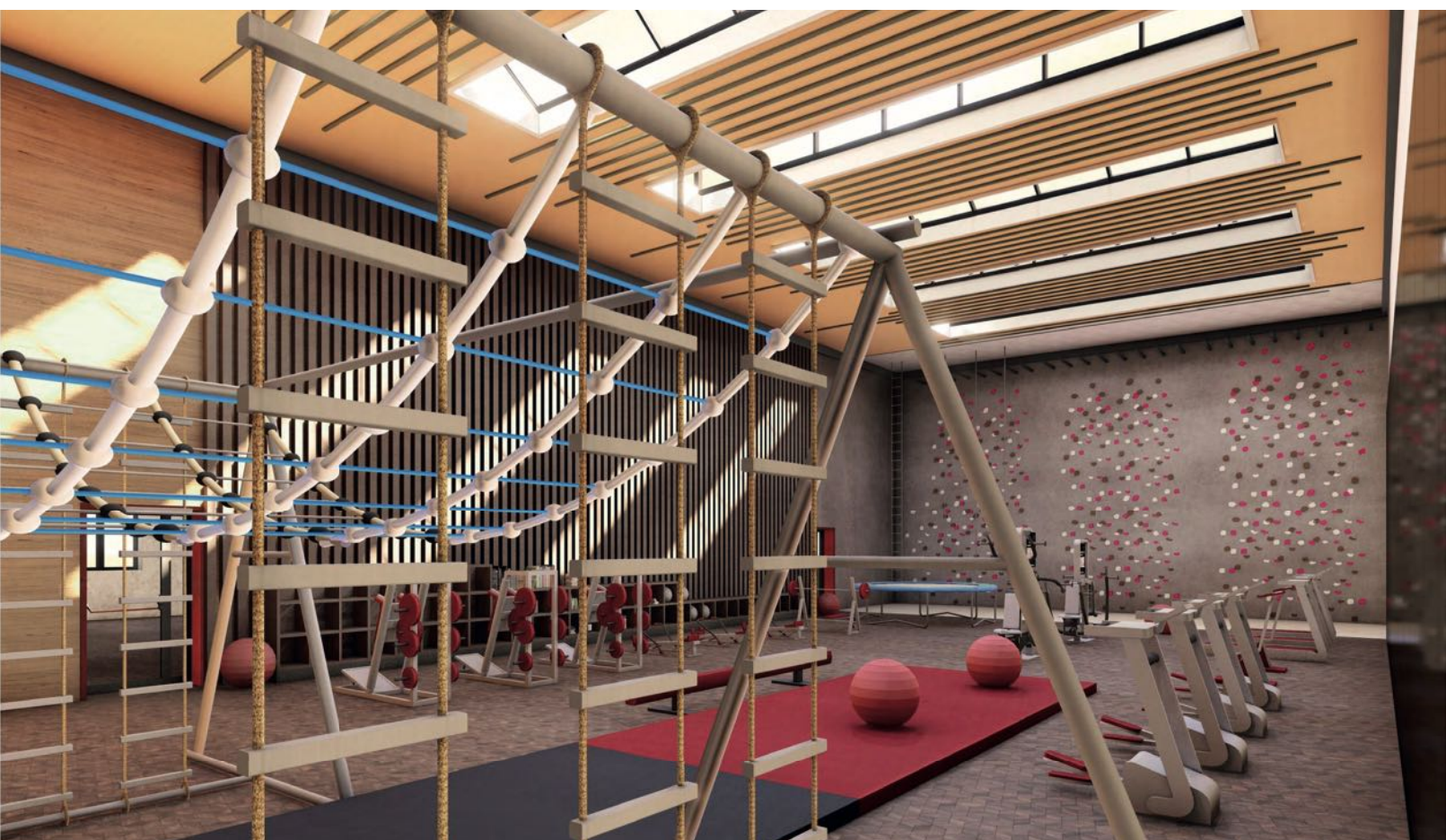
These are physical exercises performed in an aquatic environment for the purpose

of treatment, rehabilitation and prevention. Usually the water temperature is 30–33°C. Training may include: walking in water, stretching exercises, strength, balance, special techniques (Halliwick, Ai Chi, Bad Ragaz).

Mechanism of action: reduction of gravitational load -> easier movement for people with pain or

dysfunction, hydrostatic pressure improves blood and lymph flow, temperature promotes muscle relaxation.

Indications: stroke, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, arthritis, osteoarthritis, after endoprosthetics, fibromyalgia, back pain, postoperative rehabilitation.





Advantages: the ability to start moving even before full strength is restored, improves functionality, balance and quality of life, safe environment for older people.

2. Balneotherapy (baths)

This is bathing in natural or artificially enriched waters (30-38 °C).

Mechanism of action: microelements are absorbed through the skin -> anti-inflammatory effect, hot water reduces muscle spasticity, psycho-emotional relaxation, reduces anxiety.

Indications: arthritis, psoriasis, eczema, chronic pain, central nervous system's dysfunctions

(neuroses, depression), post-covid rehabilitation, fibromyalgia.

Benefits: improves quality of life, reduces pain, normalizes sleep, improves skin condition.





3. Contrast baths / showers (Charcot, circular, Scottish shower)

Alternating application of hot (38–42°C) and cold (15–20°C) water or pressurized water jets. Duration – 5–15 min, alternating phases.

Mechanism of action: causes vasoconstriction/vasodilation, stimulates capillaries, improves microcirculation and lymphatic drainage, activates the autonomic nervous system.

Indications: varicose veins, leg fatigue syndrome, hypotension, toning after training or physical exhaustion.

Advantages: simple and affordable method, proven effectiveness for reducing muscle soreness, adaptable to home conditions.

4. Hydromassage (jet bath, shower massage)

Mechanical effect of water jets (under pressure) on the skin and muscles. Used as part of complex physiotherapy or SPA programs.

Mechanism of action: mechanical stimulation of receptors -> muscle relaxation, improvement of venous and lymphatic outflow, partial imitation of manual massage.

Indications: muscle spasms, back pain, anxiety, obesity, cellulite, muscle recovery after sports.

Benefits: powerful relaxing effect, reduces pain, improves well-being.



5. Wound hydrotherapy (water cleansing)

The essence of the method: cleansing the wound surface with sterile or antimicrobial water (for example, a pulsating jet, or baths).

Mechanism of action: physical removal of bacteria, necrotic tissues, preparation for further treatment or dressing.

Indications: chronic trophic ulcers, bedsores, postoperative wounds, burns of the I-II degree.

Advantages: painless alternative to surgical treatment, proven effectiveness in hospitals and at home.

Hydrotherapy is a scientifically based, effective and safe method of physical rehabilitation for many nosologies, provided that the program is correctly selected and contraindications are taken into account. When conducting medical rehabilitation of diseases such as stroke, diseases of the musculoskeletal system, postoperative patients, the use of these methods has proven positive results.



Occupational therapy equipment



Multisensory therapeutic device for motor and cognitive rehabilitation MYRO



Tirostation, a device for restoring cognitive impairments



Diego - a device for restoring upper limb motor skills and cognitive impairments



Exercise machine for active and passive use for upper and lower extremities



Universal exercise machine Norma-Trade (rehabilitation table)



Gloreha Crescendo upper limb rehabilitation device

Occupational therapy equipment



Robot simulator for upper limb rehabilitation



Busy board



Occupational therapy kitchen



Occupational therapy kitchen

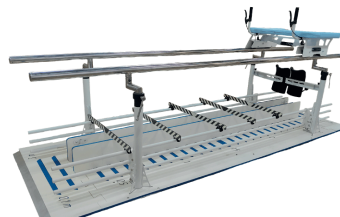


Occupational therapy kitchen

Physical therapy equipment



Apparatus for passive development of the lower extremities



Rehabilitation bars with obstacles



Redcord system



Dynamic Staircases



Dynamic Staircases



Physical therapy equipment



Ceiling lift for water rehabilitation of patients



Rehabilitation treadmill



Ceiling lift



Ceiling lift



Ceiling lift



Ceiling lift

Physical therapy equipment



MTB Strength Training Equipment



MTB Strength Training Equipment



Orbitrek



Amooev 300 Stabilometric Systems



Lower limb extension exerciser

Physical therapy equipment



High-Intensity Magnetic Therapy BTL-6000 SUPER INDUCTIVE SYSTEM ELITE



Multifunctional rehabilitation complex



Extracorporeal radial shockwave therapy



Balance boards for rehabilitation



Cycle ergometers with Ergoline ERS-2 system



Set of mechanotherapeutic equipment for kinesiotherapy "GRAVITON"

Sumy

FLAME OF LIFE

The Sumy Regional Clinical Hospital (SRCH), a communal non-profit enterprise of the Sumy Regional Council, is a leading medical institution with the highest accreditation category. It provides care to one-fifth of the region's population and is the biggest supra-cluster healthcare facility in Sumy region, with the largest hospital bed capacity – 632 inpatient beds and a consultative outpatient clinic for 380 visits per day, ensuring medical care for both the civilian population and military personnel. Its medical license covers 51 specialties.

To provide specialized care, the hospital has strong human resources. Its medical staff includes 237 doctors, among them 8 Honored Doctors of Ukraine, 2 professors, 1 Doctor of Medical Sciences, 6 associate professors, 32 Candidates

of Medical Sciences, 1 Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, and 1 Candidate of Biological Sciences. Physicians with the highest qualification category make up 32% of the total number of doctors.

The hospital employs a total of 1,345 staff members.

Within SRCH, several highly specialized centers operate interventional radiology with an X-ray surgery unit, joint endoprosthetics, nephrology and hemodialysis, and endocrinology center. The diagnostic and treatment process is supported by paraclinical services such as a clinical diagnostic laboratory, functional diagnostics, radiology, endoscopy, and rehabilitation departments.



Project Team



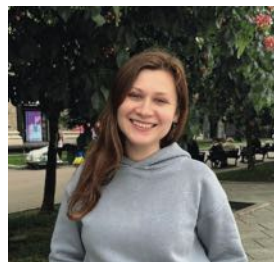
Grechanichenko Mykola

Director Private JSC "SUMSKYI PROMPROEKT"
Chief Project Architect



Lobanov Vasyl

Head of the Architectural Department



Rudenko Alina

Lead Project Architect
PhD in Architecture and Urban Planning



Popova Yuliia

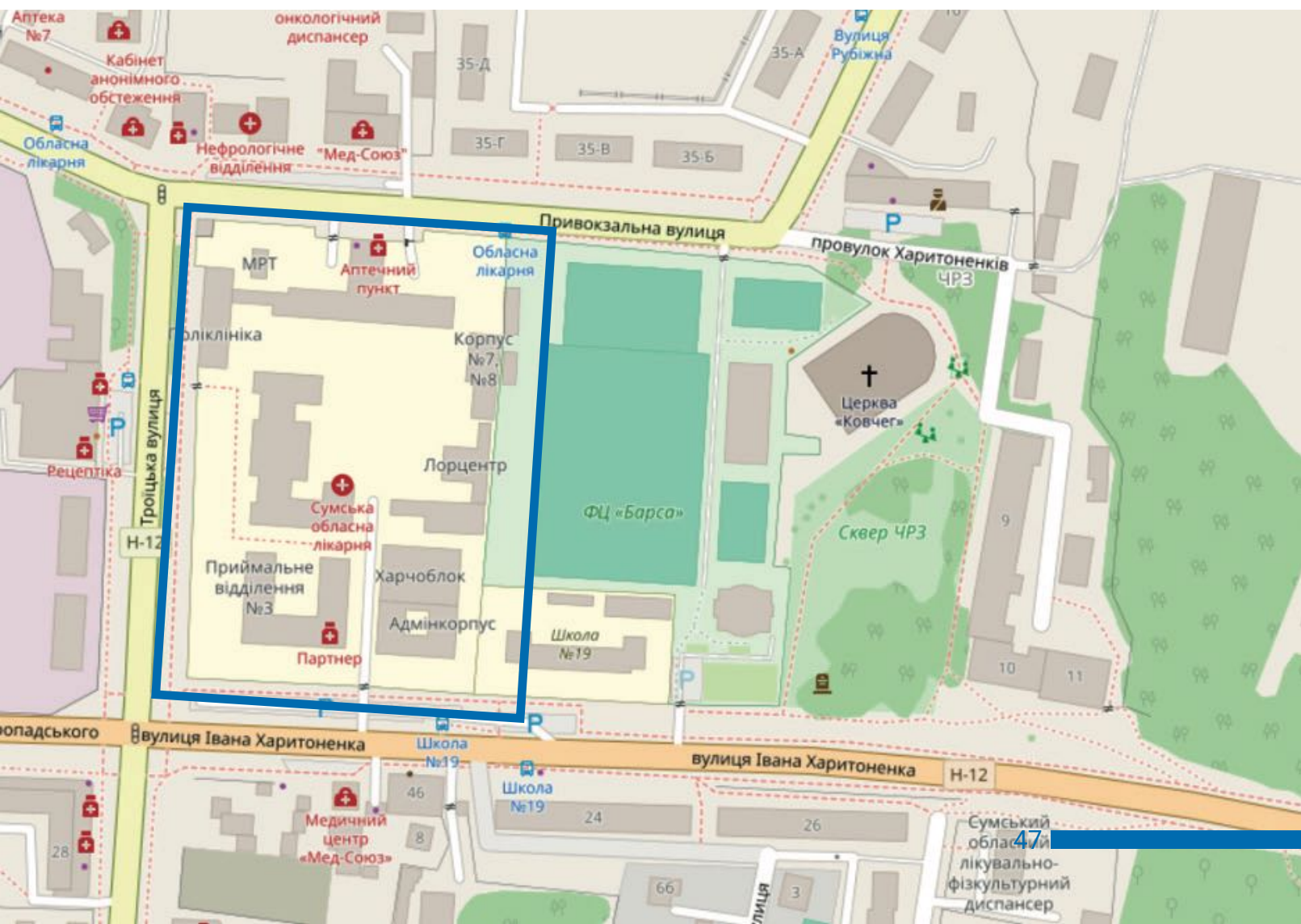
Junior Project Architect



The material and technical base is gradually improving but requires modernization and further development. In 2021, a decision was made to construct a new 9-story surgical building with a modern operating block

and anesthesiology department with intensive care beds, a chronic hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis unit, and modern medical equipment. This would significantly improve the quality of medical care in Sumy region, ensuring

comfortable conditions for both patients and staff. Unfortunately, the full-scale military aggression in 2022 of ru against Ukraine disrupted these plans. Nevertheless, we are confident that they will eventually be implemented.



Burns are among the most severe injuries in global medical practice. In Ukraine, due to the ongoing war, the number of patients with burn injuries continues to rise. Before the war, most burn cases were related to household accidents. The war has dramatically changed this statistic. In 2025, more than 35% of patients suffered injuries during attacks. Mine-explosive wounds are among the most severe trauma types,

often accompanied by extensive burns to various parts of the body. These injuries require highly qualified care, urgent surgical interventions, and prolonged rehabilitation.

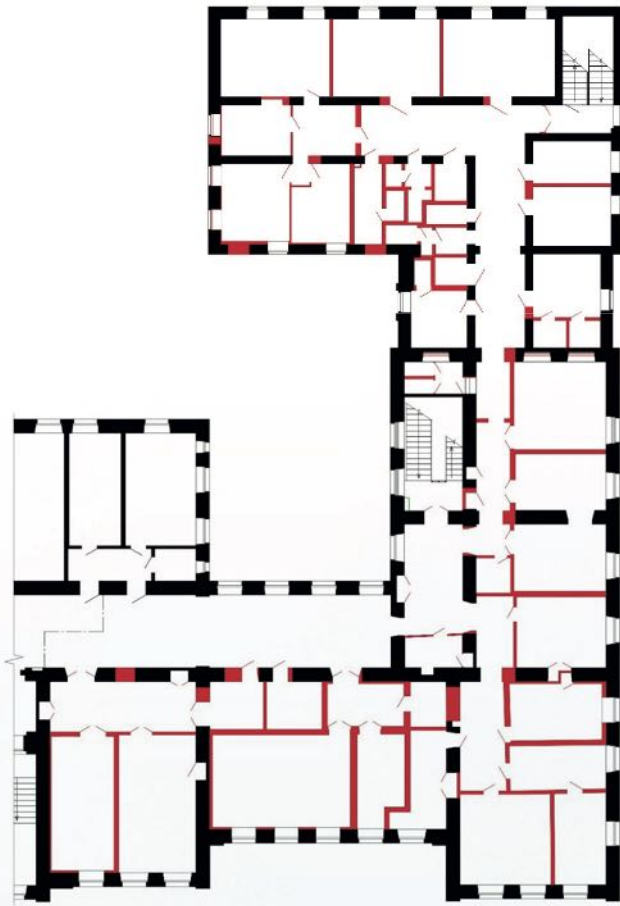
The Burn Department of SRCH is the one specialized center in the Sumy region providing treatment for burn patients using modern European methods of diagnostics, treatment, and rehabilitation.

It has 20 beds, including 3 for children. The provision of specialized burn beds for the adult population of the region is 0.16 per 10,000 population (Ukraine – 0.19). The department is located on the 3rd floor of Building 2 at 48 Troitska Street, Sumy.

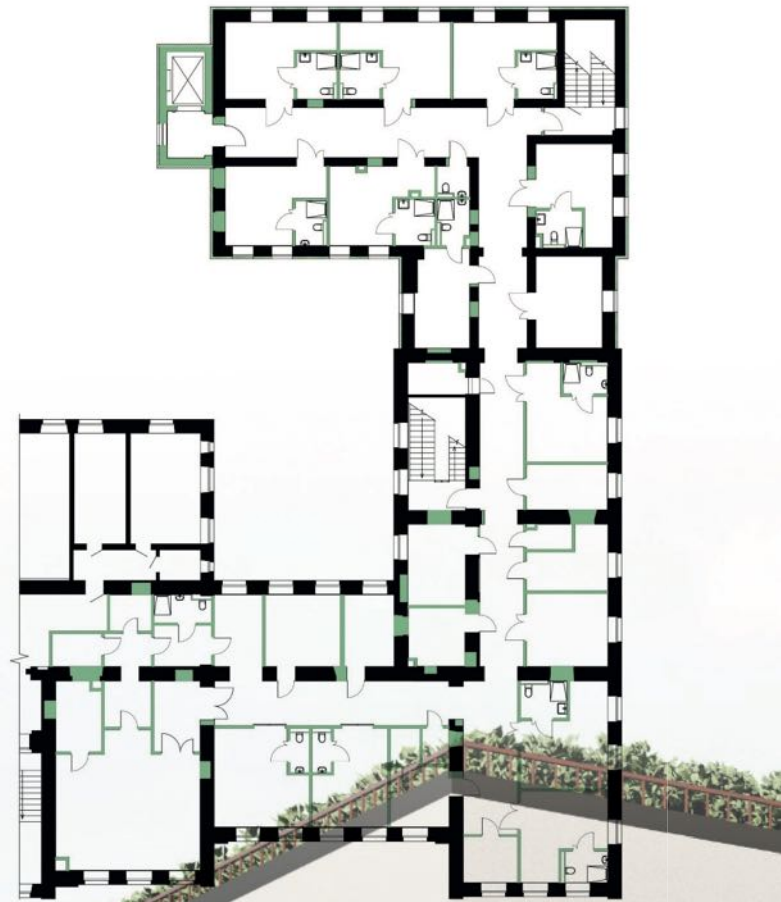




Before Replanning



After Replanning



- Оперативний блок
- Палати інтенсивної терапії
- Двомісні палати пацієнтів
- Палата для сумісного перебування дитини та мами
- Кабінети лікарів (ординаторська, кабінет завідуючого відділенням, кабінет фізіотерапевта, кімната прийому їжі та відпочинку)
- Кабінет старшої медичної сестри, пост чергової медичної сестри
- Перев'язувальні
- Допоміжні приміщення (інвентарні, комори, матеріальна, мийна посуду)





Currently, it has 8 wards with 2 to 6 beds each, 3 dressing rooms, 1 room for treatment manipulations, and 1 operating room with a single table. Each bed is allocated 5.75 m² of space, which is 4.25 m² below the standard. The department staff consists of 2 full-time burn surgeons and 2 part-time doctors, 10 nurses, and 9 nurse assistants.

Early surgical treatment of burns, particularly in children, is applied:

early necrectomy and dermabrasion with simultaneous xenodermoplasty and autodermoplasty. Surgical treatment is performed for almost all types of skin loss. The department also treats patients with frostbite, trophic ulcers, and bedsores.

In 2024 the department provided inpatient care to 270 patients, including 10 children. It performed up to 450 surgical interventions in

2024, with more than 50% being autodermoplasty and combined plastic surgeries, 5% amputations and total osteonecrotomies, and 3% reconstructive surgeries. Surgical activity of burn surgeons is 66.8% (2023 – 61%). Surgeries of level III–IV complexity account for 60% (2023 – 52.2%).



In 2025, the average treatment duration decreased to 21.8 days (from 22.8 in 2023) due to the introduction of early rehabilitation and evacuation of patients to safer hospitals outside the region.

Due to the limited equipment capacity of the burn department and the tense military situation, up to 20% of patients – including military personnel with severe injuries – are evacuated to Kyiv city clinical hospital №2, and St. Panteleimon's hospital in Lviv (10 patients in 2023, 51 patients in 2024).

In Ukraine, there is a limited number of burn centers specializing in complex burn treatment. This restricts patients' access, especially from remote regions to highly qualified care. Additional challenges include long distances to care, insufficient funding for modern equipment and medicines, a shortage of qualified medical personnel experienced in burn care (surgeons, nurses, rehabilitation specialists), and high workloads for staff working under stressful conditions.

The creation of a modern Burn Center in Sumy region will improve access to specialized care by doubling the number of treated patients and surgical interventions (500 patients; 900 surgeries annually). Moreover, it will expand the range of surgical procedures, with increasing number of reconstructive operations up to 20% (180 cases).



The Burn Ward will provide care for patients with thermal injuries among civilians, military personnel, workers in hazardous industries, and children, using modern methods of diagnostics, treatment, and rehabilitation, incorporating advances in medical science, technology, and international best practices. Additional space will allow the separation of pediatric and adult patient, ensuring better comfort for both patients and medical staff.

Burn patients have historically been considered the most resource-intensive among surgical profiles. According to statistical data, in 1993, the full course of burn treatment in Ukraine cost up to €200,000, primarily due to the need to prevent septic complications and fatalities, which are highest in this cohort, especially in the first hours after injury.

Even today, the basic conditions remain unchanged: the first 48 hours are the "golden window" for creating proper conditions of

care, adequate pain management, and restoring the function of affected organs and systems. The correctness of treatment tactics at all stages directly improves patient survival, recovery quality, and reintegration into society.

SURGICAL EQUIPMENT



Fractional CO2 laser Pixel Plus



Electrosurgical unit BOWA ARC 400



Medical suction unit NEW HOSPIVAC 350 BASIC 2



Ultrasonic cavitator Sonoca 300



Linear electrodermatome with disposable cutting head DK-717.0.00



Disk electrodermatome DK 717.0.02



EQUIPMENT FOR THE DRESSING ROOM



Shadowless operating lamp (single-dome)



Electric medical bathtub Rhapsody



Adjustable bathtub lift

EQUIPMENT FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY, REHABILITATION AND OTHER



Universal LED DERMALUX Tri Wave device



Electric rotary trainer for upper and lower extremities



Mobile X-ray system



Specialized beds for patients (with burns) Soft 2 (for adults)



Specialized beds for patients (with burns) Soft 2 (for children)

BURN TREATMENT ROOMS AND INTENSIVE CARE UNITS



Patient heating system 3M

Infusion solution heating complex



Lung ventilation device



Patient monitoring system



Hearls fluidized air care system



Mobile patient lift



It should be noted that the hospital also hosts the Department of Surgery, Traumatology, Orthopedics, and Phthiology of the Academic and Research Medical Institute of Sumy State University, chaired for 25 years by Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Higher School of Ukraine, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor, Honored Doctor of Ukraine, 2019 Scientist of the Year, and Chairman of the Association of Surgeons of Sumy region – Ihor Duzhyi. Nearly every complex case of medical care is managed jointly with this department.

In addition to close cooperation in specialized care for wounded soldiers and other patients, the department's staff are engaged

in applied scientific research. Seventeen dissertations for Candidate of Medical Sciences and Doctor of Philosophy have been defended at the department. Overall, the center will become a place of comprehensive care: medical, psychological, and social.

Currently, the safety issues of the Burn Center are linked to the physical deterioration of its building (brick wall damage, destroyed porches, damaged roof joints, corroded drainage system, deformed window frames, lack of glazing, partial destruction of reinforced concrete staircases), as well as worn-out utility systems (sewage, water supply, electrical networks, ventilation and air conditioning); non-compliance with

thermal insulation requirements under DBN V.2.6-31:2021 "Thermal insulation and energy efficiency of buildings": the thermal conductivity of a 680 mm brick wall does not meet modern standards; lack of major repairs since time of building construction, absence of a ramp and elevator for barrier-free access, outdated furniture, plumbing, and treatment equipment, as well as high maintenance costs.



Letter of Support

To whom it may concern

On behalf of St George's University of London, I am writing to express our strong support for the renovation and modernization of the Burn Unit at the Sumy Regional Clinical Hospital. The Burn Unit provides critical and often life-saving care for patients with severe burn injuries. Its services are indispensable not only for the local community but also for the broader region. However, the current infrastructure, equipment, and facilities require significant renewal to meet modern medical standards and ensure the highest quality of treatment. In the context of the ongoing war, the importance of this initiative cannot be overstated. The number of patients with severe burn injuries and complex trauma has increased considerably, placing an unprecedented burden on the healthcare system. Upgrading the Burn Unit will therefore directly strengthen the hospital's capacity to save lives and provide high-quality emergency and long-term care to those most affected by the war.

Modernization of the Unit will:

- Improve patient outcomes through access to advanced diagnostic and therapeutic technologies;
- Enhance the working conditions and efficiency of medical staff;
- Enable the introduction of innovative rehabilitation programs for burn survivors;
- Ensure the hospital's resilience and readiness to respond to the urgent healthcare needs caused by wartime challenges.

We fully endorse this initiative and are confident that its implementation will bring substantial benefits to both patients and healthcare professionals. We strongly encourage all relevant stakeholders to support this vital project.

Thank you in advance, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



Terry Poulton
Professor of Medical Education
St George's University of London

At the initiative of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, we have set the goal of creating a modern Burn and Plastic Surgery Center that will provide medical care according to European standards. The project envisions building thermal modernization, construction of a porch with a ramp, addition of an elevator shaft, remodeling of premises, and modern finishing of walls, ceilings, and floors. Outdated utility systems will be replaced.

As a result, the renovated building will feature convenient and functional layouts with the following facilities:

- 8 two-bed wards with universal bathrooms
- 2 intensive care wards with toilets (for 3 beds each)
- an operating block with an operating room, preoperative area, sterilization, washing room, and changing room with bathroom for staff; duty room

- head of ward's office
- head nurse's office
- physiotherapist's office
- staff lounge
- dressing room
- infected patients' dressing room
- manipulations room
- storage rooms for supplies and medications
- cleaning equipment room

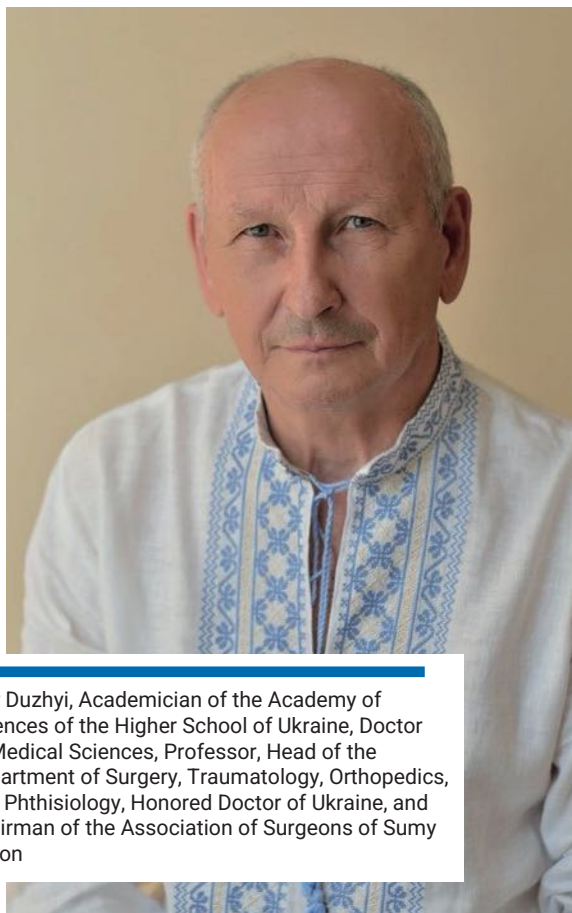
Conditions will also be created for the future use of alternative energy sources (a solar power plant up to 30 kW).

The total estimated cost as of January 22, 2025, is UAH 66,714.654 thousand, including:

- Construction works – UAH 26,189.26 thousand
- Equipment, furniture, inventory – UAH 29,347.39 thousand
- Other expenses – UAH 11,178.004 thousand

The establishment of the Burn Center in Sumy is a strategically important project for the development of the region's healthcare infrastructure.

Expected outcomes of the project include the implementation of modern medical technologies and treatment methods, expanded capacity for providing care to military personnel and civilians, including children and the elderly. The renovated center will become a vital hub for saving lives, restoring health, and ensuring patients' return to productive life.



Ihor Duzhyi, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Higher School of Ukraine, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor, Head of the Department of Surgery, Traumatology, Orthopedics, and Phthisiology, Honored Doctor of Ukraine, and Chairman of the Association of Surgeons of Sumy region

**SUMY STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH MEDICAL INSTITUTE
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, TRAUMATOLOGY, ORTHOPEDICS AND
PHTHISIOLOGY**

Dear colleagues!

We live in a time when all agreements of a global scale, at whatever level they are concluded (EU, UN, NATO, not to mention agreements between states) are not worth a penny of the value of the paper on which they are concluded. Historians will find a justification for this in the near future. In general, the reason is quite simple. The rf was a member of most world organizations, although it had nothing to do with their founding, except for the title of "winner in World War II". Without discussions, without "for" and "against". And at the same time, in all world organizations, in addition to "participation" in them, the rf was "awarded" with the right to "veto" on everything that does not correspond to the plans of these organizations. And since then, the world community on all continents began to regularly encounter various military clashes. Up to the use of biological and chemical weapons. And the organizers of these actions were the rf. Today, there are 183 major or minor military conflicts taking place around the world. In all of them, the leaders of the rf prevail. Any military conflict is accompanied by mass burn injuries.

Among the causes of death in all countries of the world, among injuries of various genesis, the proportion of burns is 5% (Echinard c.). According to the national information bank, up to 2 million burns are registered in the USA annually, 100,000 of whom are hospitalized, and 30,000 of whom are children. The cost of treating these burns exceeds 2 million dollars. In Ukraine, the number of burns annually is 21.3 per 10,000 population.

According to a burn center in the Czech Republic, with a skin deficit of 30%, the treatment of one burn costs \$26,000.

It is known that when 15% or more of the skin is affected, the vascular bed is involved in the pathological process, mainly of a microcirculatory nature, which requires treatment in specialized departments. Specialized centers should exist for the treatment of such patients. The medical staff of such departments should be



Sumy

VETERAN PRO



Sumy region, located in the northeast of Ukraine, is one of the areas that has been significantly affected by military actions in the context of the full-scale war. The war has left a deep mark on the lives of local residents, especially veterans, their families, and communities. During the hostilities, hundreds of servicemen went through extremely difficult combat situations, resulting not only in physical injuries but also in psychological trauma that requires long-term treatment and rehabilitation.



As the war remains in its active phase and continues to escalate, it is already clear that the category of "veterans and their family members" will encompass a substantial portion of Ukraine's population.

The return of veterans to civilian life, their integration into communities, and the restoration of physical and mental health are among the most urgent tasks of today. The scale of losses in the region is tangible: hundreds of families have lost loved ones, and the number of individuals who have suffered significant, often irreversible physical injuries continues to grow. In fact, nearly all veterans and their family members are people facing mental health challenges. All of this creates additional pressures on communities and requires a systemic approach that includes support across various spheres of life.

At the same time, for reintegration of the veteran community to be truly effective and smooth, it is not enough to simply talk about the development and implementation of state policy at the local level. What is needed is the creation of a certain ecosystem, where each element is united by a shared vision

and understanding. A capable, comprehensive veteran space can become the physical nucleus of such an ecosystem.

The limited capacity of existing institutions in the region (and in some cases, their complete absence), along with a lack of qualified personnel, significantly complicates the process of providing necessary assistance. Most facilities are not adapted to the needs of people with disabilities, which poses a serious barrier to their rehabilitation and social adaptation. The absence of modern rehabilitation approaches—such as the use of advanced technologies, innovative methods, and personalized programs—reduces the effectiveness of support and hinders veterans' return to active life.

Social integration of veterans and their families is another critical aspect. They require dedicated spaces where they can receive support, undergo training, connect with like-minded individuals, and discover new opportunities for development. Such centers will foster the creation of communities that support veterans and help overcome the isolation often associated with their status.

SUMY | VETERAN PRO
Justification and Problem Statement

» Statistical Data: the Human Dimension



62 252
veterans



up to 150 00
family members of veterans



34(6)\84
Staff of the Regional Veteran Center (including those currently employed) / Number of support specialists in the region



up to 200 thousands
mobilized individuals in the region who will be granted veteran status



8 439
family members of the fallen



In 2024, the Sumy Regional Council established the Regional Veterans Centre "Veteran PRO," envisioned as a place that provides comprehensive assistance to veterans and their families, offers informational and methodological support to specialists working with veterans, facilitates the development of veteran centers and spaces in communities, and designs, pilots, and implements various programs aimed at reintegration—based on assessed needs and challenges.

From the personal experience of the center's leadership, who themselves are veterans (including veterans with disabilities), the most

fundamental principle is building trust and a support system based on the "peer-to-peer" model.

In 2024–2025, the center received support and, in partnership with civil society organizations, began forming a system of comprehensive support for the veteran community. This included needs assessments, capacity building for service providers, and piloting integrated psychosocial and physical support programs, including adaptive sports. Despite positive outcomes, it became clear that small, local, situational initiatives are insufficient to establish a systemic approach.

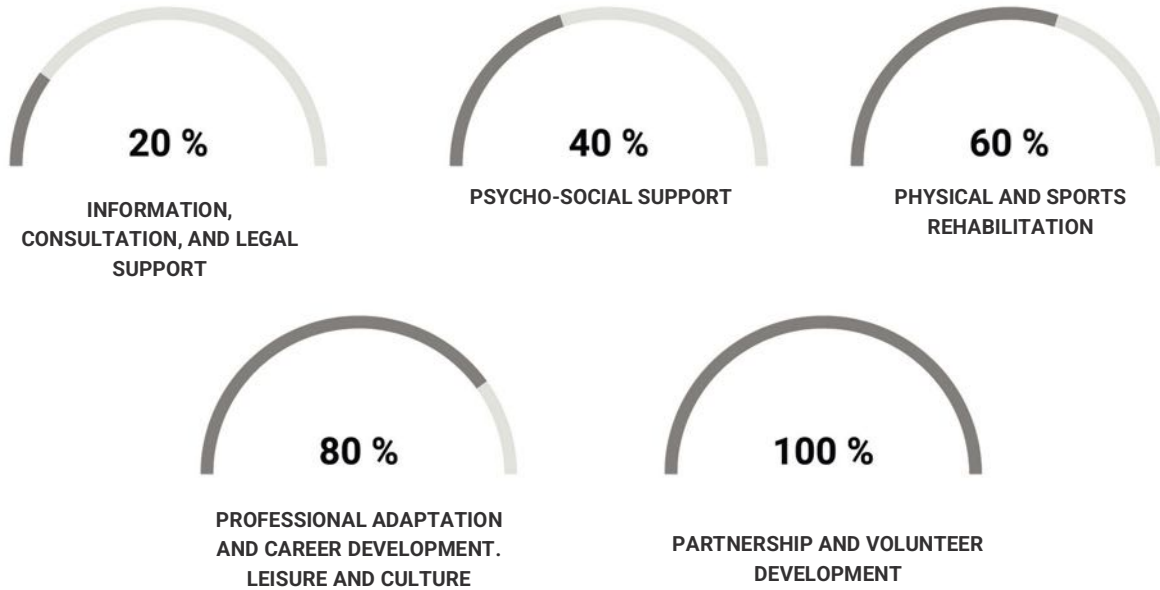
Currently, the Regional Veterans Centre, as the main entry point for veterans, is able to serve approximately 40 veterans and their family members per month. This primarily includes informational and consultative support, occasional psychological and legal assistance, and, in rare cases, support for adaptive sports competitions initiated by veterans themselves. However, the center lacks its own dedicated premises and adequate infrastructure.



SUMY | VETERAN PRO

Our mission - is to create conditions for veterans' self-realization, strengthen their families, and build an active, united community.

Tasks and Functions



With the desire, understanding, experience, and potential already in place—and with trust and a proactive veteran community being cultivated—there is now a pressing need in Sumy city and the region as a whole to establish not just a veteran center as an administrative-service office, but a multifunctional comprehensive hub. This hub should primarily be a space of trust and effective support. It should combine administrative, consultative, and methodological functions while also providing opportunities for physical, psychological, and social rehabilitation, supported by appropriate infrastructure and staffing.

Such a hub would significantly increase the number of veterans served, expand the range of services offered, and improve the overall quality of support provided.

Statistics

As of today, approximately the following numbers are registered in Sumy region:

- 25,717 veterans
- more than 64 000 family members of veterans
- 4,321 family members of fallen soldiers

At the same time, the professional capacity of specialists dedicated exclusively to veteran case management includes only 84 professionals. Most of them have limited experience and require specialized training as well as ongoing informational and methodological support.

The official staff of the Regional Veterans Centre consists of 34 positions, but in reality, only 6 employees are actively working.

Across the region (which includes 51 hromadas), there are 7 veteran spaces and centers, including





the regional one. However, only 2 of them operate as independent institutions, and just 1 is capable of providing a relatively full range of services.

In the regional center (where today the majority of veterans in need of services reside—not only from the Sumy city but also internally displaced persons from more than 10 other communities), there are 27 sports halls, but only 3 of them are accessible and inclusive.

This situation clearly demonstrates the existing shortage of modern, accessible spaces for the recovery and development of veterans.

Space

The primary goal of this initiative is to create a unique space that will serve as a pillar of support for veterans and their families. It is a place where everyone who

has endured the trials of war can receive the necessary assistance, psychological support, and opportunities for rehabilitation and social integration. Such a space will contribute not only to physical recovery but also to psychological and emotional strengthening—an essential aspect of helping veterans return to active life.

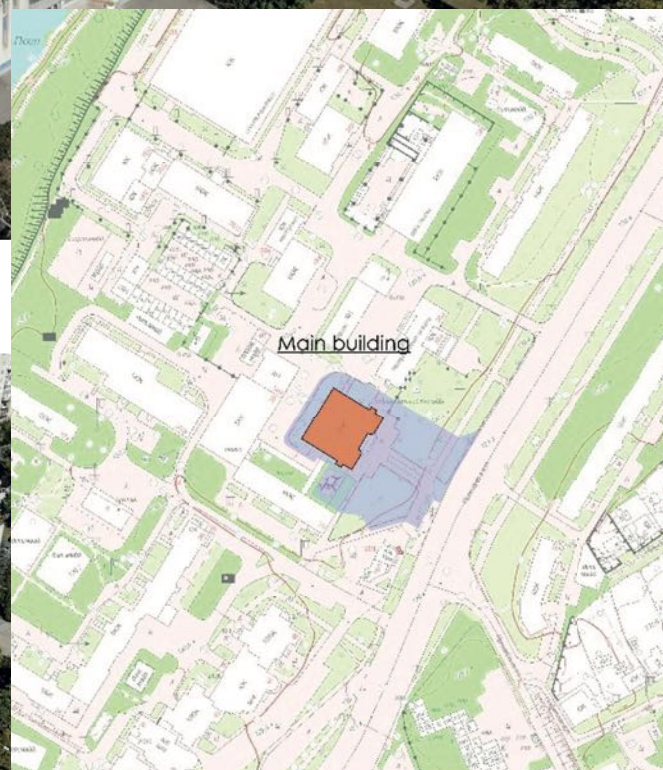
Modern Infrastructure

A crucial component of the concept is the use of modern infrastructure and innovative approaches to the recovery process. This includes the implementation of technologies such as telemedicine, mobile applications for psychological support, and the integration of advanced rehabilitation methods. These innovations will enable the most effective adaptation of veterans to peaceful life. The approach also involves creating

comfortable and functional environments equipped with modern tools to accelerate recovery and skill development.

Community and State Collaboration

The unification of community and state efforts is a key element of this initiative. Together, they must create favorable conditions for veterans to return to active civic life. This involves not only financial support but also the active participation of local communities, volunteer organizations, and government institutions in the rehabilitation and integration process. Such collaboration fosters trust, mutual understanding, and support among all stakeholders.



Positive Image

It is essential to cultivate a positive image of veterans in society. They should be seen not only as symbols of heroism but also as active citizens, leaders, and mentors for the younger generation. Promoting such images will enhance the prestige and respect for veterans and encourage their active involvement in community life, civic initiatives, and volunteerism. Ultimately, this concept will contribute to the development of a more open, tolerant, and supportive society—one in which every veteran can find their place and realize their potential.

Key Functions of the SUMY: Veteran PRO

The establishment and effective operation of the SUMY: Veteran PRO center involves the implementation of a set of key tasks aimed at supporting and developing the community. These tasks span various areas of activity, ensuring a comprehensive approach to meeting veterans' needs and promoting their social, psychological, physical, and cultural development.

1. Information and Consultation Support

This task involves providing clear explanations about available benefits, social guarantees, and support programs. It is essential to ensure that veterans have access to up-to-date information so they can take advantage of all available state and local support mechanisms, as

well as understand their rights and responsibilities.

2. Psychological Support

Psychological assistance includes individual and group consultations, therapeutic programs, and family support. This contributes to improving veterans' mental health, reducing stress and anxiety levels, and fostering healthy interpersonal relationships.

3. Legal Assistance

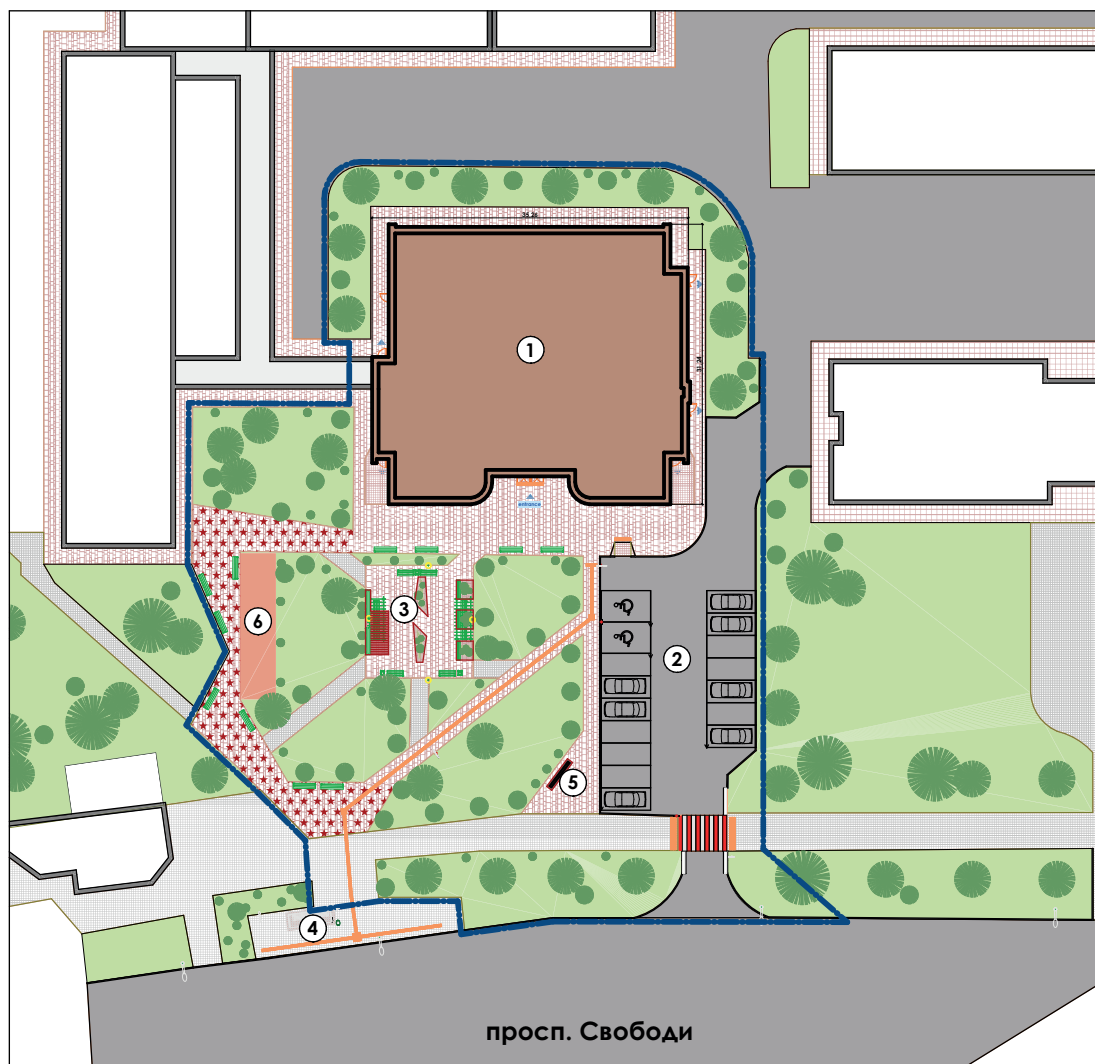
This area includes providing consultations, helping with the preparation of necessary documents, and supporting interactions with government institutions. It is important to ensure that veterans receive qualified legal aid to protect their rights and interests.



Умовні позначення

- Межі проектування (благоустрою)
- Проектна будівля
- Існуюча забудова
- Озеленення
- Замощення тротуарною плиткою
- АРТ простір (інсталяції)
- Асфальтобетонне покриття
- Спортивне покриття

- 1 - Проектна будівля
- 2 - Парковка
- 3 - Сквер
- 4 - Зупинка "Проспект Свободи"
- 5 - Стела з флашшоками
- 6 - Вуличні тренажери





4. Physical and Sports Rehabilitation

Implemented through adaptive sports programs and health recovery initiatives. This helps improve physical condition, increase activity levels, and promote the integration of veterans with special needs into society.

5. Professional Adaptation and Training

Includes organizing courses, developing digital skills,

and supporting veteran entrepreneurship. This enhances qualifications, enables the acquisition of new knowledge and skills, and helps veterans better adapt to modern working and living conditions.

6. Leisure and Cultural Activities

Organizing interest-based clubs, family events, excursions, and creative workshops promotes active recreation, cultural development,

and strengthens social ties within the community.

7. Partnerships and Volunteering

Engaging civil society organizations, volunteers, and partners expands the possibilities for program implementation, increases their effectiveness, and ensures broad support for veterans.



Taking into account the directions and physical capabilities of the potential premises, the veteran hub "SUMY: Veteran PRO" proposes the following locations:

1. Training Room

Function: A space for briefings, general meetings, presentations, trainings, and educational events. Promotes community cohesion and experience sharing.

2. Physical Rehabilitation Room

Function: A massage and physiotherapy room for restoring veterans' physical condition. May include modern equipment for therapy and relaxation.

3. Psychological Relief Room

Function: A safe space for individual and group sessions with psychologists. Supports emotional recovery, stabilization, and mental health.

4. Ergotherapy and Abilitation Room

Function: An adapted space for teaching veterans with disabilities everyday life skills, household tasks, and the use of assistive devices.

5. Children's Play Area

Function: A cozy room for children of veterans and fallen defenders. A place where children can play, learn, and feel the support of the community.

6. Adaptive Sports Hall

Function: A gym with adaptive equipment for physical activity, rehabilitation, and strength development. Encourages reintegration through sport.

7. Inclusive Pool

Function: A space for water rehabilitation, swimming, and therapy. Accessible to veterans with various levels of physical ability.

8. Specialist Consultation Room

Function: A workspace for lawyers, social workers, psychologists, and other professionals providing individual consultations and support.

9. Reception Area

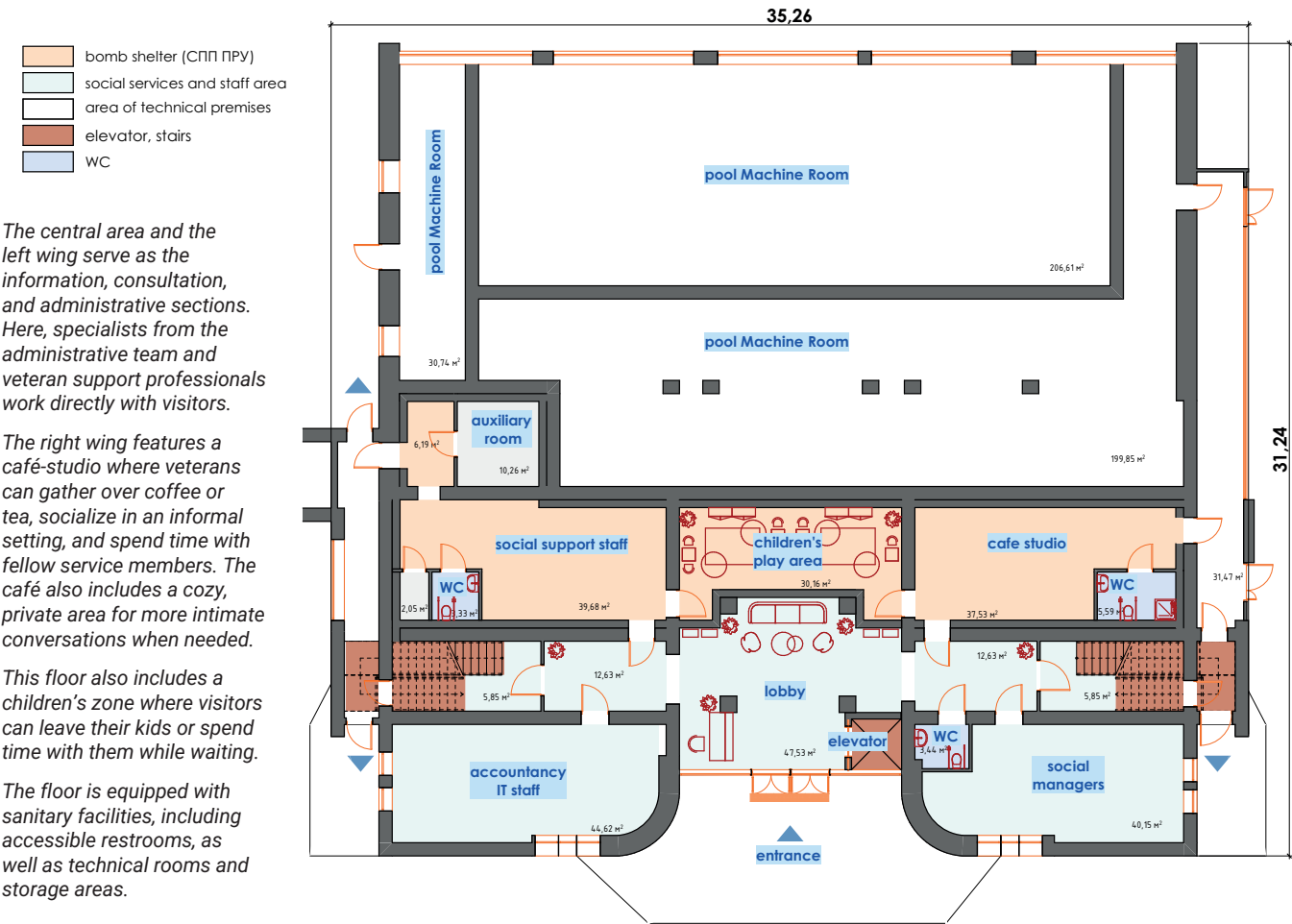
Function: Welcoming visitors, administration and coordination, providing information, registration, and other services.

In the future, the potential premises allow for the expansion and development of additional locations, such as temporary accommodation rooms with overnight stay options, showers, a kitchen, an art café, a media studio, and more.





First Floor





At the same time, we view the Veterans Center not merely as a physical location, but as a space of accessibility, inclusion, and unity. It is important to note that since its establishment in 2024, the Regional Veterans Center has been dynamically evolving — fulfilling not only administrative, methodological, informational, consultative, and statistical functions at the regional level, but also expanding its range of services and creating conditions for effective rehabilitation and reintegration of veterans.

With a strong team and personal experience, one of the core focuses of the future space is adaptive sports. For many veterans, especially those with amputations, the system of adaptive sports rehabilitation represents a comprehensive yet fundamental approach that

includes social adaptation, psychological support, and fosters an environment where veterans can regain faith, motivation, and the drive to move forward.

At the same time, there is a growing need for mobility — both in terms of service delivery and access to opportunities for veterans, especially those with disabilities. In particular, when participating in events within our region and across other parts of Ukraine, veterans often rely on their own vehicles, which are not suitable for such purposes. These personal vehicles are not equipped to meet accessibility standards. For example, individuals with lower limb amputations are unable to independently enter the vehicle, which causes discomfort and may eventually lead to veterans refusing to participate in various activities

— negatively impacting their physical and mental health, and hindering their reintegration into civilian life.

In light of the above, to enhance the effectiveness of the Center's operations, support its development, and ensure access to necessary locations for veterans with disabilities — as well as to improve their mobility, quality of life, and establish a functional mobile service delivery system tailored to veterans' needs — there is an urgent need for specialized inclusive transport.

Having such a vehicle would significantly increase the number of veterans reached by services and programs and contribute to the creation of a barrier-free, inclusive, veteran-oriented environment.

Second Floor

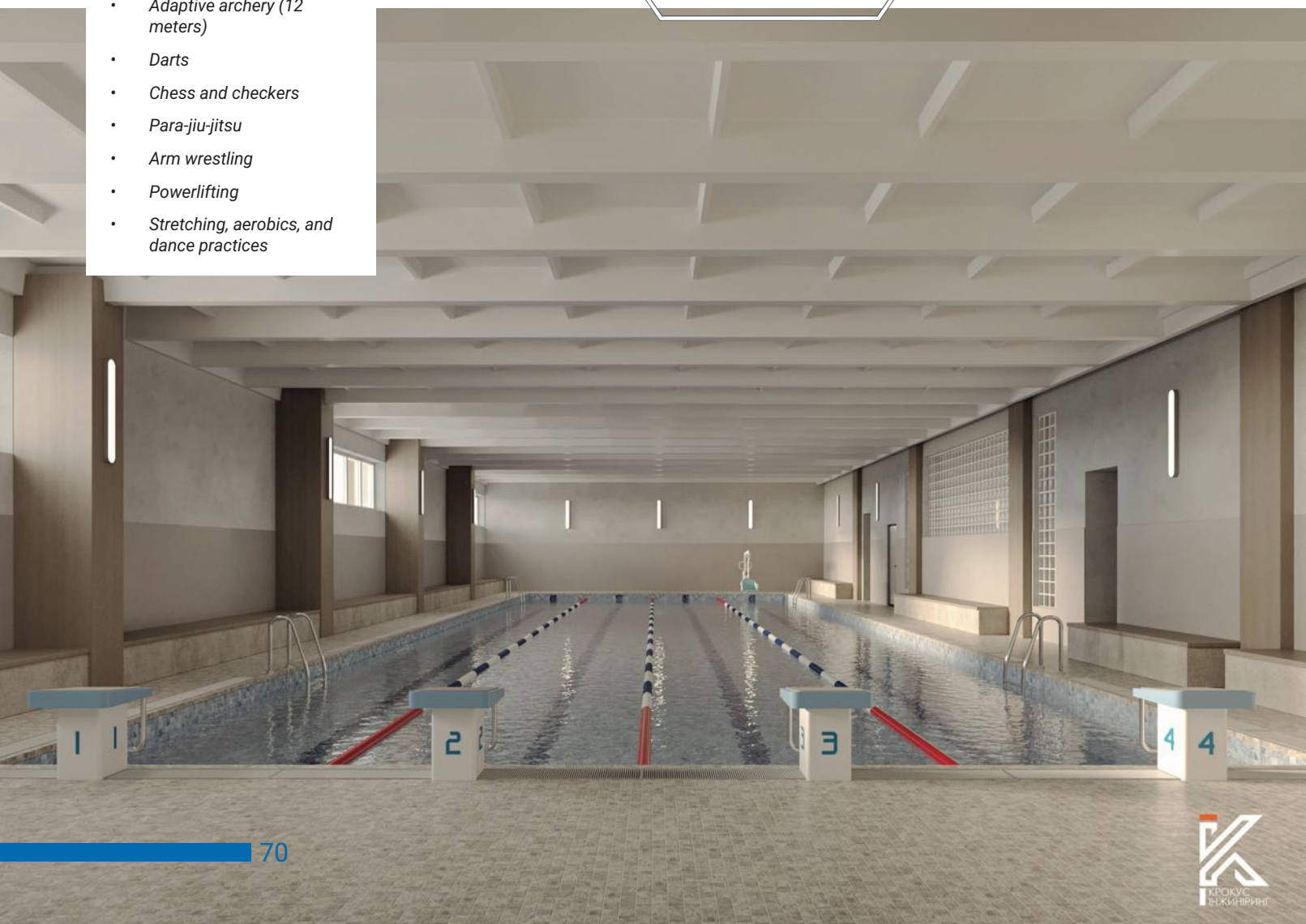
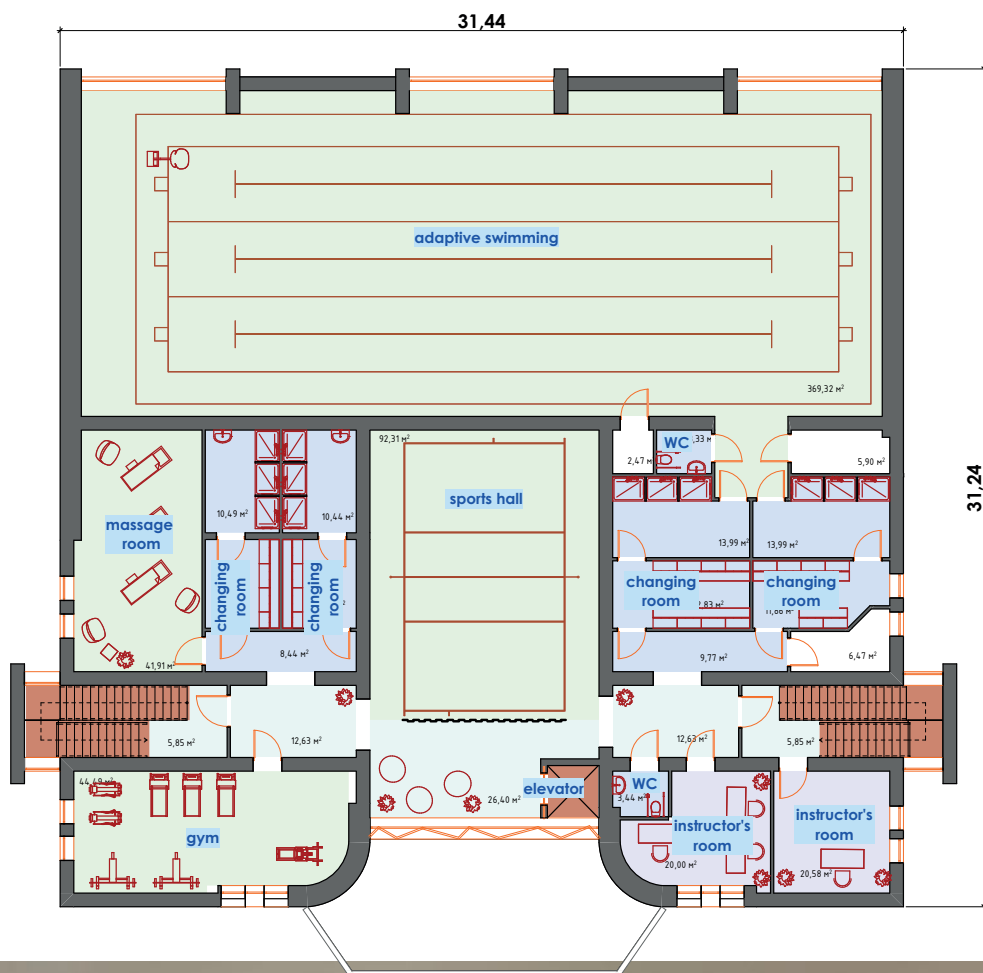
- adaptive sport area
- changing rooms area, WC
- area of technical premises
- staff area
- elevator, stairs

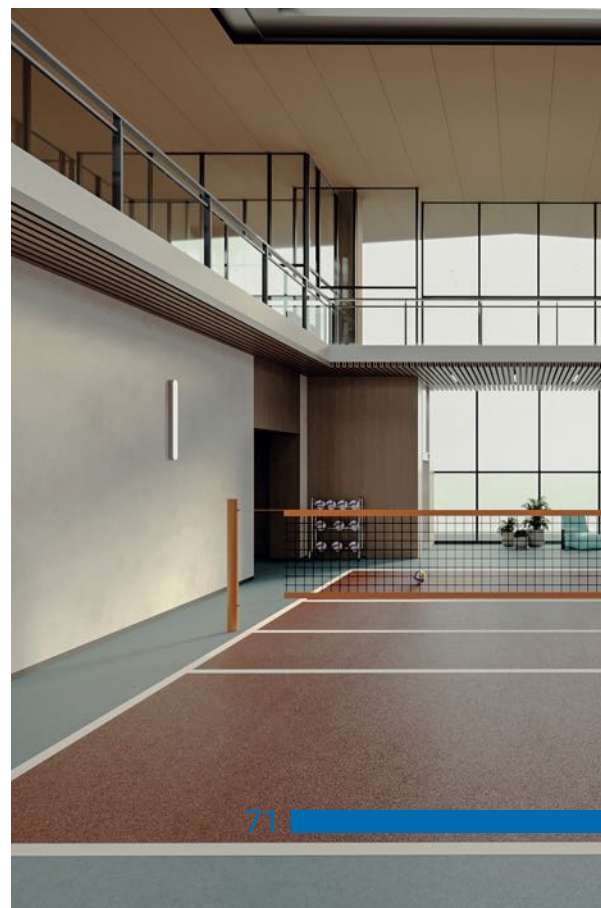
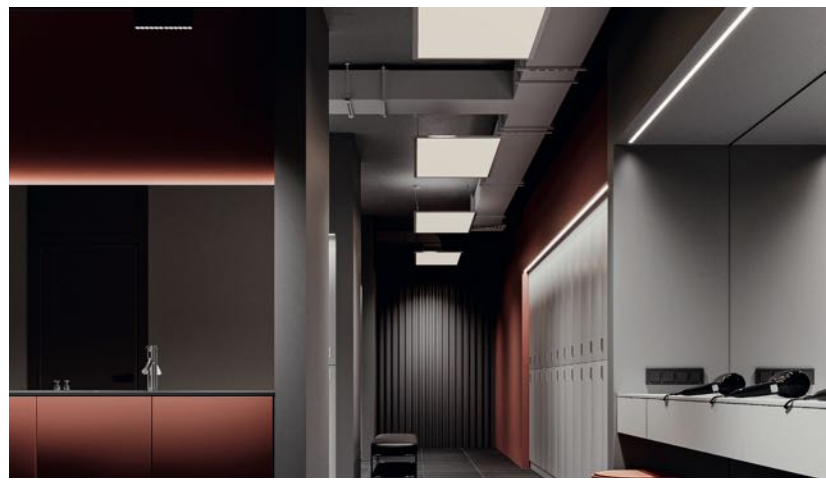
This area is dedicated to physical and sports rehabilitation. It includes:

- A large inclusive swimming pool with changing rooms, showers, and sanitary facilities;
- A massage room;
- Offices for specialists—trainers, rehabilitation experts, and adaptive sports instructors;
- A gym;
- A multifunctional sports hall.

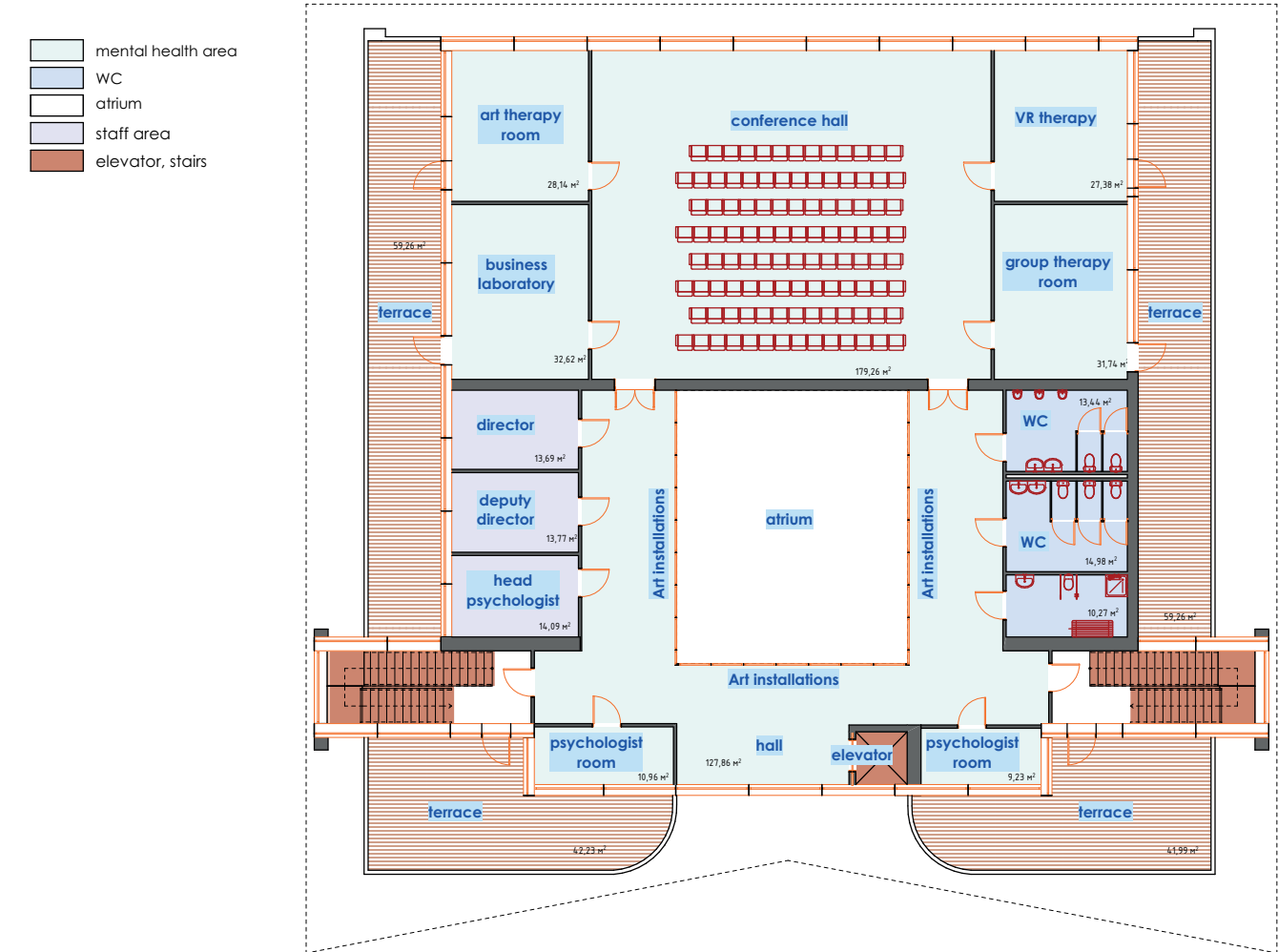
Although the multifunctional hall is not professional-sized, its flexibility allows for a wide range of adaptive sports for veterans with various disabilities (including amputations), such as:

- Table tennis
- Boccia
- Adaptive archery (12 meters)
- Darts
- Chess and checkers
- Para-jiu-jitsu
- Arm wrestling
- Powerlifting
- Stretching, aerobics, and dance practices





Third Floor



Expected Outcomes and Community Benefits

The implementation of the program is aimed at achieving several key objectives that have a significant impact on community development and improving the quality of life for its veterans. The main outcomes and benefits can be categorized into several areas:

1. Improved Quality of Life for Veterans and Their Families

Through comprehensive assistance and rehabilitation programs, veterans receive the necessary support to restore their physical and mental health. This facilitates their social adaptation,

return to active life, and reduction of social isolation. Families of veterans also receive support, which positively affects their well-being and stability.

2. Social Cohesion

The creation of a veteran community and partnerships with organizations fosters strong social connections within the community. This not only strengthens the sense of unity but also encourages experience sharing, mutual support, and cooperation among participants. As a result, active civic initiatives emerge, reinforcing the social fabric of the region.

3. Economic Impact

The development of veteran entrepreneurship and the creation of new jobs for professionals such as psychologists, lawyers, and trainers contribute to the region's economic growth. This attracts investment, increases employment, and stimulates the development of small and medium-sized businesses focused on supporting veterans.





- The MAN TGE Crewliner has 11 passenger seats in the cabin on fixed seats, 2 seats for passengers in wheelchairs for people with special needs
- The wheelchairs included in the vehicle, Solero Light 9.072, are leading representatives of multifunctional chairs for people with special needs and allow you to adjust the chair in terms of depth, headrest height, leg position, tilt, etc. The chair is capable of transporting a person weighing up to 130 kg
- Each wheelchair is attached to the floor rail system using a special AMF Bruns Protektor 2.0 (H 450 504 LV) retaining system
- The lift for lifting people with special needs in wheelchairs at the back of the MAN TGE Crewliner also has handling features. The lift has a maximum lifting capacity of 350 kg. The elevator can be conveniently controlled via a smartphone using the Braunability Remote application.





Emotional cage

Veteran policy is usually seen as a process of helping veterans return to civilian life. State strategies focus on welfare, building a positive image of the defender, and building trust between the army and society. But true integration only occurs when both sides adapt.

"Society should adapt to veterans, not vice versa," emphasizes **Oleksandr Bondarenko**, a public activist from Sumy, the author of the project **"Emotional Cage! There is a Way Out"**.

The author of the project idea went through the war and worked in the field of communications, so he understands well how difficult it is for military personnel to talk about their experiences and how often a psychological wall arises between them and civilians. Veterans are withdrawn, vulnerable, sensitive to trifles. They need a safe space where they can speak out: talk about loss, pain, injustice, or a change in status.

Thus, "Emotional Cage" was born — a format of live communication between veterans and civilians.

Rules and structure of "Emotional Cage"

This is a clearly defined space, similar to a lighted pavilion with its own rules. There are three roles here:

- ▀ veteran — shares his story
- ▀ "listeners" — those who enter the cage to hear more and ask questions
- ▀ spectators — stay outside and watch

The division into roles creates a safe atmosphere and helps to avoid the pressure of attention. An important rule: everything that happened inside stays there. This protects veterans, who find it difficult to be in the spotlight.

Before the start of the project, the project leader helps the veterans structure their stories and prepares them morally. The event opens with an "introduction" — a three-minute story by a veteran. Then those who wish would enter the cage to hear more. While some people are having a dialogue inside, others discuss their impressions with the project leader outside.

Direct speech of participants

"At first you sit, look at the veteran and don't know how to react, what to say. And then everything went like water. It becomes interesting to listen; there is a desire to ask questions. And now we are already standing with him for about an hour and a half or two after the meeting, we left the pavilion and talked and talked... And there was also a feeling that this "cage" brought us closer. We began to communicate informally, without officialdom, in a human way".

This is how civilian participants describe their impressions.

It often happens that veterans who initially refuse dialogue open up during the format and no longer stop. Psychologists are always present in the team — although they do not announce this publicly so as not to create barriers.

Interaction between veterans and civilians

"Emotional cage" became a way to break down the wall of misunderstanding. For civilians, it is an opportunity to see the veteran for who he is, with all the fullness of emotions. For veterans, it is a space where they are truly listened to.

Oleksandr especially attracts young people. They participate in board games, adaptive sports, and write essays about defenders. A prime example is playing volleyball while sitting at the moment of the game, teenagers stop noticing the veteran's amputation, focusing on team action. This creates a healthy perception and destroys barriers.

The project organizers plan to train new communicators to scale the format to other regions.

"Emotional cage" showed: true integration of veterans is possible only when society is ready to change with them. And it is a sincere conversation that changes.



Part #3

Konotop city hromada

Konotop city hromada

Area – 100,8 square kilometers.

Population – 68 066 inhabitants.

The city of Konotop is also the administrative center of the district of the same name, which is the second most populous district (203.19 thousand people) of Sumy region.

The high population density – 880.54 people per sq. km – indicates an urbanized typology of population settlement in Konotop city hromada.

The distance from Konotop city to the regional center of Sumy city by road – 128 km; to the state border with Russia by road – 120 km; to the state border with Belarus – 158 km; to the international highway E95 Kyiv – Moscow – 28 km; to Chernihiv city – 134 km, by road – 180 km; to the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv city – 245 km; to the international airport "Boryspil" – 260 km.

In total, within the administrative boundaries of Konotop city hromada there are 10,294 hectares, of which 5,339.25 hectares are agricultural lands.

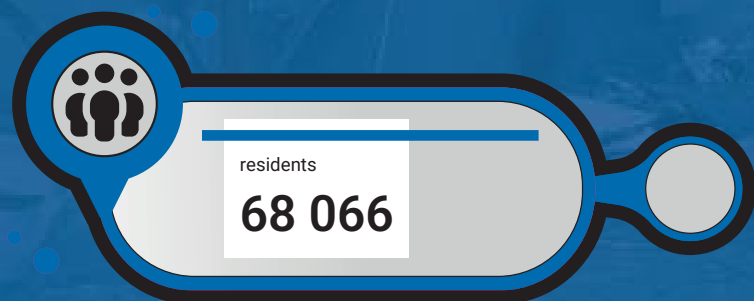
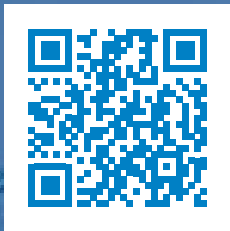
Sumy
region

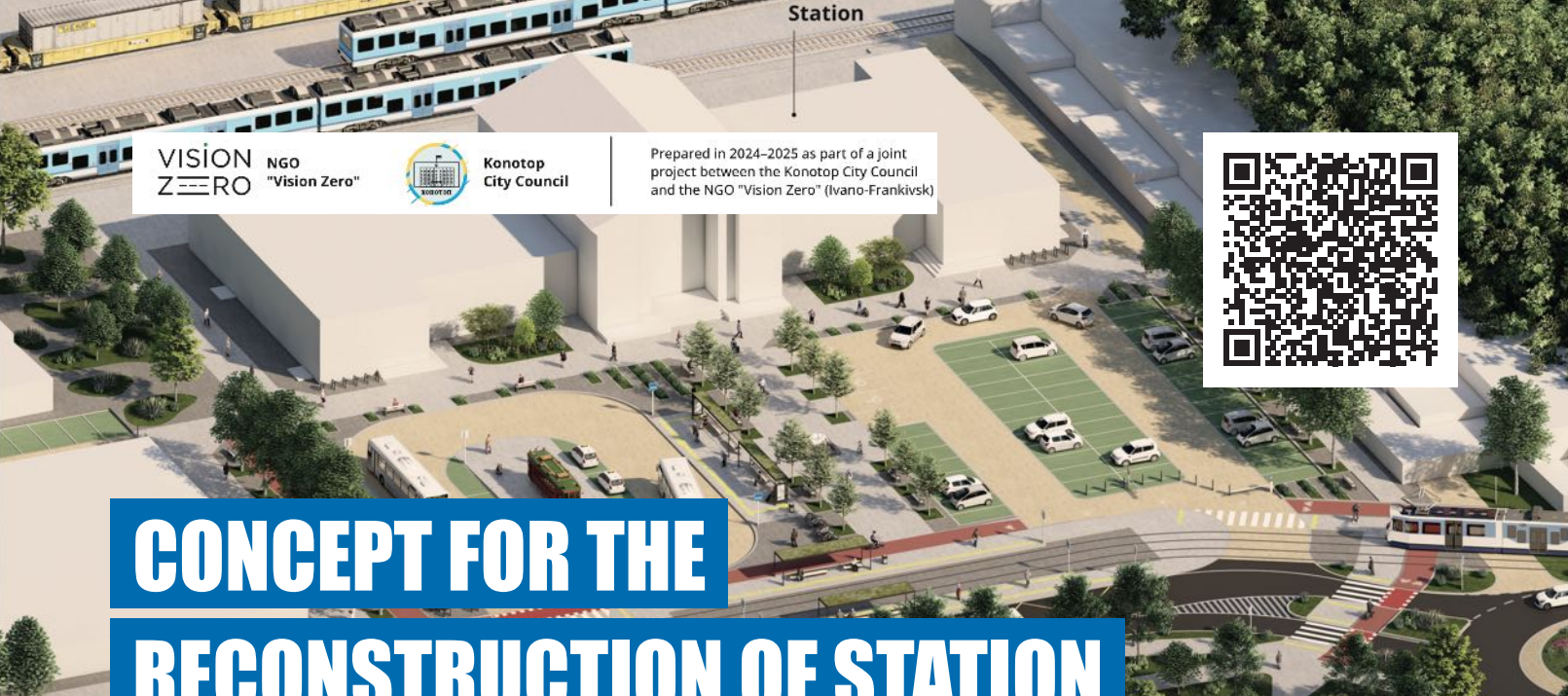
Ukraine



area

100,8 км²





CONCEPT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF STATION SQUARE IN KONOTOP CITY

In 2024–2025, within the framework of a memorandum of cooperation with the city, the project team of the public organization "Vision Zero", with the involvement of the community and other stakeholders, developed a Concept for the reconstruction of the station square in the city of Konotop, Sumy region.

An important component of the reimagining of the square was a planning workshop held in November 2024 in Konotop. The event was attended by 30 representatives of the city community of different ages, genders, and economic status. Thanks to this event, it was possible to identify the key needs and expectations of residents from the future square, which were carefully worked out by the planning team and integrated into the development of the concept.

"Station Square is a reference point, a starting point from which we must develop. Accessibility, parking, and a well-thought-out transport

interchange begin with it and the railway station: buses, trams, and including the railway," said Konotop Mayor **Artem Semenyhin**.

Yuriy Lozovenko, an expert from the NGO "Vision Zero", presenting the concept of the reconstruction of Station Square in Konotop, showed that the square in front of the railway station is intended as a transport hub and urban public space.





He said that in the future the planning solution should include:

- ▀ increasing the pedestrian space and direct passage from the central entrance
- ▀ reducing the area of the roadway and parking lot while maintaining the function
- ▀ arranging convenient tram stops and suburban bus stops on the square
- ▀ safe traffic interchanges and organizing traffic on adjacent streets
- ▀ reducing the area of asphalt and increasing landscaping
- ▀ placing a "tram-cafe", a fountain, recreation areas, etc.
- ▀ integrating the adjacent Freedom Park with the square

An important component of the reimagining of the square was a planning workshop held in November 2024 in Konotop. The event was attended by 30 representatives of the city community of different ages, genders, and economic status. Thanks to this event, it was possible to identify the key needs and expectations of residents from the future square, which were carefully worked out by the planning team and integrated into the development of the concept.

Among the main wishes of the community identified as a result of the workshop:

- ▀ Barrier-free space: free movement for everyone.
- ▀ More greenery and shade: transforming the gray asphalt space into a green oasis.
- ▀ Recreation areas: an opportunity to pause, rest and spend time.
- ▀ Convenient transport hub: comfortable transfers between trams, buses, cars and taxis.
- ▀ Food establishments and shops: the importance of their presence near the square.
- ▀ Parking: providing spaces for cars and bicycles.
- ▀ Restoration of the fountain: returning the historical element of the square.
- ▀ Honoring the Konotop tram: emphasizing the unique phenomenon of the city.
- ▀ Photo zone: creating a recognizable place for memorable photos.

The concept prioritizes sustainable mobility: instead of a continuous space for cars, there is an area where pedestrians, cycling and micromobility, as well as public transport (in particular trams) first come first. The area is a transport and transfer hub between types of

public transport (urban, suburban, intercity) and types of mobility (e.g. railway – bicycle).

The concept of the new area involves reducing non-functional areas of the roadway: instead of a continuous parking area, there are pedestrian spaces, landscaping, catering services, public transport stops, recreation areas, etc.

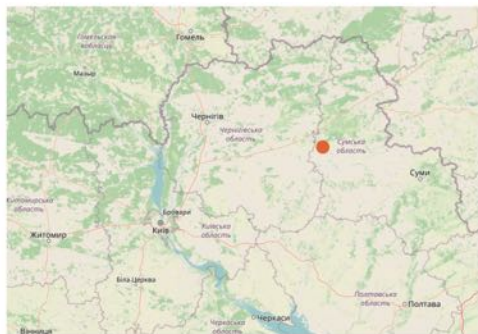
The materials were developed as part of the project "Climate-neutral and accessible transport infrastructure of Konotop", implemented by the NGO "Vision Zero". The project was implemented in cooperation with the Konotop City Council within the framework of grant support from the European Climate Foundation (ECF) in 2024-2025.

Vision Zero NGO was founded in 2016 and focuses its efforts on three strategic areas around the theme of "Zero" in the mobility sector: improving road safety to achieve zero fatalities, developing zero-emission (electric) public transport, and making transport infrastructure and services barrier-free.

Konotop. Station Square. General View and Zoning



City Overview



Konotop is a city in northern Ukraine, in the Sumy region. It has a population of about 83,000. The city is an important railway node and has developed machine-building, food, and light industries.

Founded in the 17th century, Konotop played an important role in the Cossack era and was the site of the famous Battle of Konotop in 1659. The troops of Hetman Ivan Vyhovsky, together with allied Crimean Tatar forces, defeated the Moscow army.

In 2022, Konotop was surrounded by the troops of the aggressor state, but it resisted and did not surrender.

Station Square



Konotop's Pryvokzalna Ploshcha (Station Square) is located in the southern part of the city, approximately 3 km from the city center. Its architectural centerpiece is the train station building, constructed after World War II.

The Square used to feature a fountain and trees. As of 2025, Pryvokzalna Ploshcha serves mostly as a free parking lot for around 80 vehicles, though it is rarely more than half full. Pedestrian walkways are situated aside of the parking area. Tram and bus stops are located at notable distances from the station and lack shelters and seating. The Square offers no shade or greenery.

According to the accessibility audit, neither the Square nor the station is barrier-free.



HISTORIC VIEW OF THE STATION BUILDING



CURRENT STATE OF THE STATION SQUARE



Community Needs and Aspirations

As part of Pryvokzalna Ploshcha reimagining, a planning workshop was held in Konotop in November 2024. It involved 30 residents of various ages, genders, and economic backgrounds. The following needs and expectations for the future Pryvokzalna Ploshcha were identified:

- 1 A **barrier-free space** allowing free movement for everyone;
- 2 **More greenery**, shade, and grass coverage, as the current Square is entirely paved with asphalt;
- 3 A place to **stop, have rest, and spend time**;
- 4 A **transport hub** with convenient transfers between trains, trams, buses, cars, and taxis;
- 5 **Food services and shops** near the Square are considered important;
- 6 **Car and bicycle parking** are necessary and in demand;
- 7 There used to be a **fountain**, and the community expressed the desire to see one restored in front of the station;
- 8 A reminder of the **unique Konotop tram** should be preserved and emphasized;
- 9 Photo zone for memories and stories.

These needs and expectations were analyzed by the planning team and incorporated into the reconstruction concept. All of them are reflected in the new design of Pryvokzalna Ploshcha.

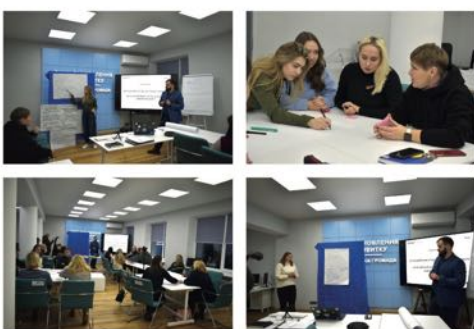


PHOTO FROM THE WORKSHOP



LUBLIN, POLAND

Planning Principles

The concept for the Pryvokzalna Ploshcha reconstruction is based on the following principles:

Universal Design — infrastructure should be as convenient and accessible as possible for all population groups, without the need for further adaptation.

Human-centered Approach — emphasis on the needs, comfort, and perception of people as the main users of the space; private vehicles do not dominate the public environment.

Climate Resilience — implementation of solutions adapted to the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events caused by climate change (e.g., heat, droughts, heavy rains, frosts).



HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ, CZECH REPUBLIC

Inspiring Example

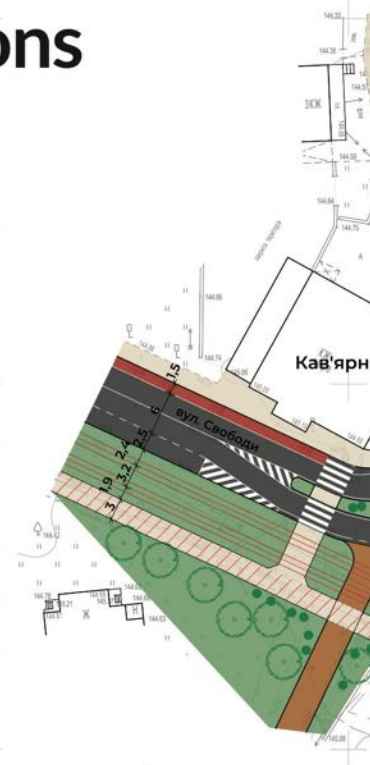


DVIRTSEVA PLOSHCHA (STATION SQUARE) IN LVIV

The reconstruction of Dvortseva Ploshcha in Lviv was implemented between 2019 and 2021 and included:

- A transport transfer hub prioritizing **trams and buses**;
- Modern, large **sheltered waiting areas** with benches;
- High-quality paving elements and **minimized asphalt coverage**;
- Trees, shrubs, and **green spaces**;
- Barrier-free access** and universal design;
- A **fountain, a relaxation zone, and a children's play area**;
- Cycling infrastructure** and bicycle racks;
- A **paid car parking** relocated aside from the station terminal.

Konotop. Station Square. Functions and Infrastructure Solutions



Functions of the Station Square

Transport Function

Arrival of passengers by train and their departure by rail, as well as greeting and seeing off travellers. Convenient transfer between different public transport and mobility modes.

Infrastructure: sidewalks, tram stops, urban and suburban bus stops, taxi stands, passenger drop-off zones, car parking, and bicycle infrastructure.

Staying and Socializing

Spending time before or after a train journey, or while waiting for others. A safe place for children.

Infrastructure: pedestrian public spaces, benches, urban greenery, fountain and bicycle infrastructure.

Commerce and Food

The need to purchase groceries or ready-made food, everyday goods, and beverages.

Infrastructure: commercial establishments along the square and installation of a café styled as a vintage tram.

Image Function

Creating a positive impression for visitors, both for local residents and the arrived ones. A picture-worthy location that symbolizes the city's recovery and development.

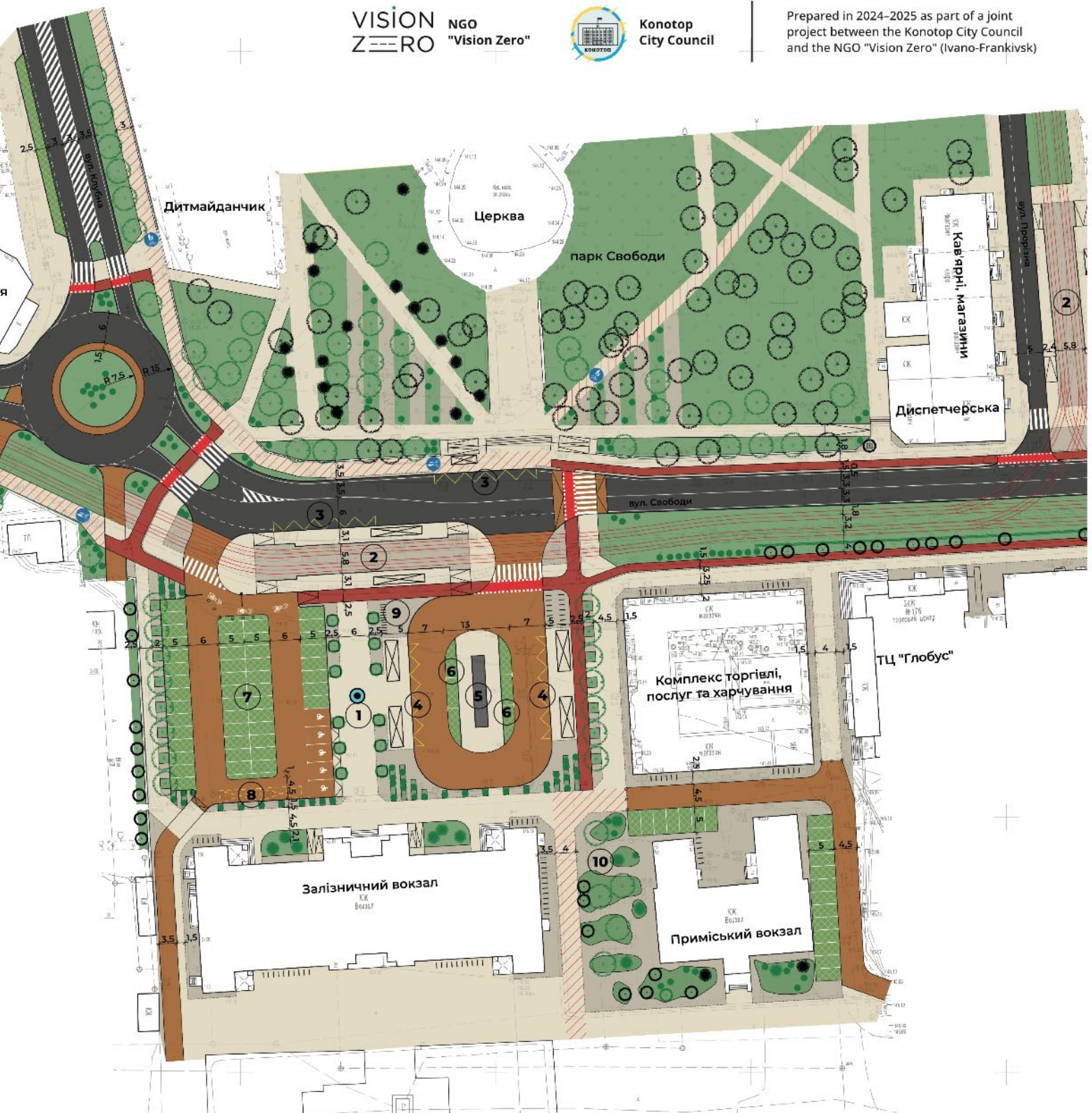
Infrastructure: attractive public spaces, high-quality materials, greenery, modern street furniture, a fountain, a vintage tram-café and bicycle infrastructure.

Urban Planning Function

Pryvokzalna Ploshcha is intended to become one of the city's public centers, with the future development of services, retail establishments, restaurants and cafes, office buildings, hotels, and more.

Infrastructure: the entire square, adjacent streets and intersections, existing and potential urban developments nearby.





Explanation

- 1 Fountain
- 2 Tram stops with platforms
- 3 City bus stops
- 4 Suburban bus stops
- 5 Retro tram – café
- 6 Taxi stands
- 7 Paid car parking for 52 vehicles
- 8 Passenger drop-off area (kiss & ride)
- 9 Bicycle and scooter rental station
- 10 Green recreational zone

Legend

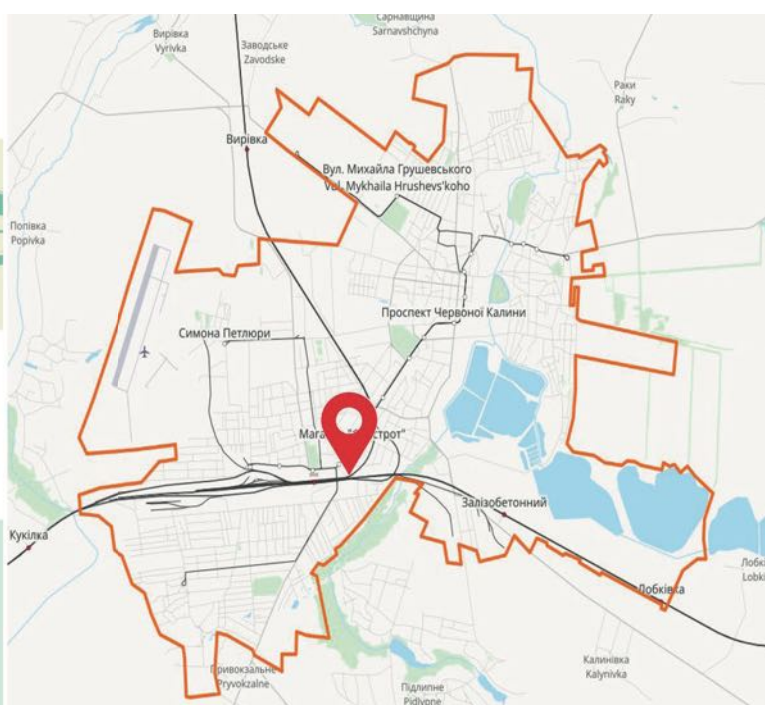
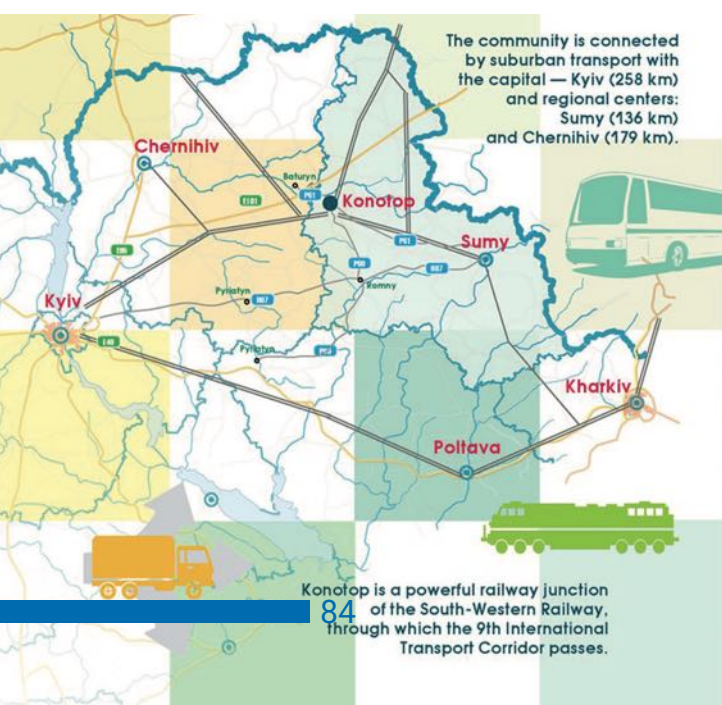
- Roadway – asphalt
- Local driveways – concrete blocks
- Parking spaces – "eco-paving" (grid surface)
- Bicycle paths / lanes
- Pedestrian (transit) sidewalk zones
- Shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists
- Buffer (service) sidewalk zones
- Lawns / greenery
- Tram tracks
- Bicycle racks (parking)
- Ramps
- Transit pavilions
- Barriers, bollards
- Existing trees
- Proposed trees
- Proposed bushes / hedges

CREATION OF A REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT AT KONOTOP HOSPITAL



**Project cost:
59 million UAH**

It is planned to reconstruct the physiotherapy department of the Konotop Central District Hospital and equip it with rehabilitation equipment





The total number of visits per year for the **adult population is 4846 people**, 8882 procedures are performed, of which:

- massage - 2771
- thermal procedures – 876
- physiotherapy procedures - 5235

The total number of visits per year for the **child population is 2129 people**, 5704 procedures are performed, of which:

- massage – 1657
- thermal procedures – 166
- physiotherapy procedures - 3881



Establishment of conditions for the provision of high-quality rehabilitation services at the Konotop Central District Support Hospital



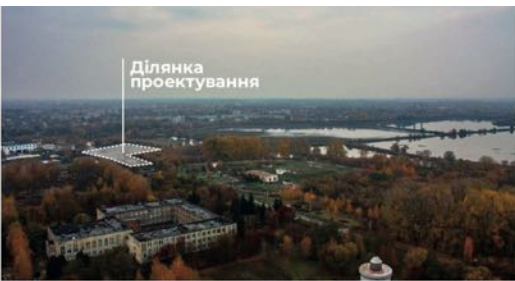
More than 7 thousand adults and children will undergo massage, thermal and physiotherapy procedures



External insulation of the building; repair of water supply, sewage, heating, and power supply systems; interior renovation of the premises; replacement of boiler equipment; installation of an alarm system; procurement of rehabilitation equipment; improvement of the surrounding area



REHABILITATION COMPLEX WITH ADAPTIVE SPORTS ACTIVITIES



The concept was developed by the project team of **LLC «European Technologies in Construction»**

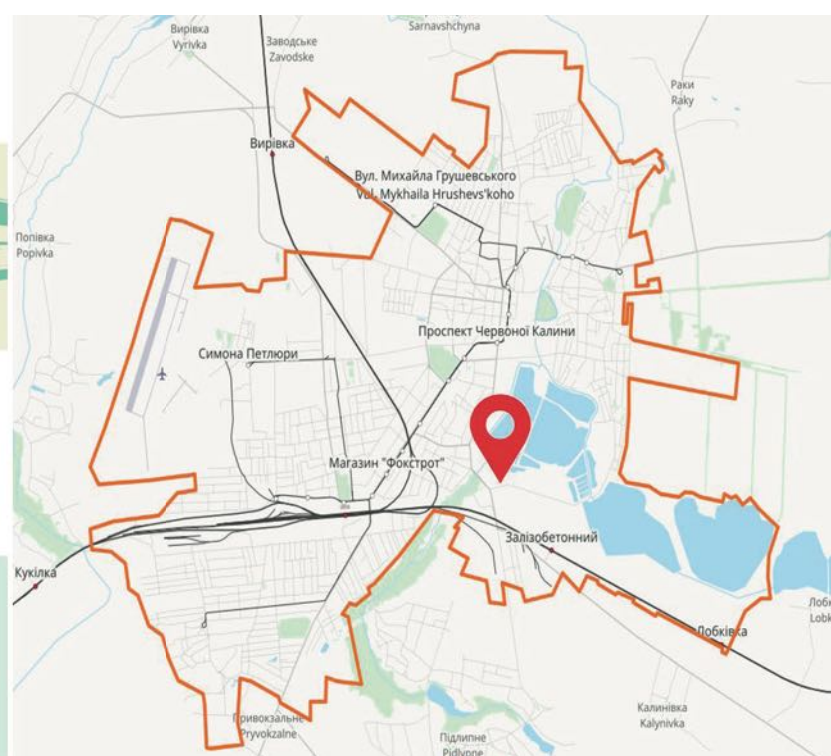
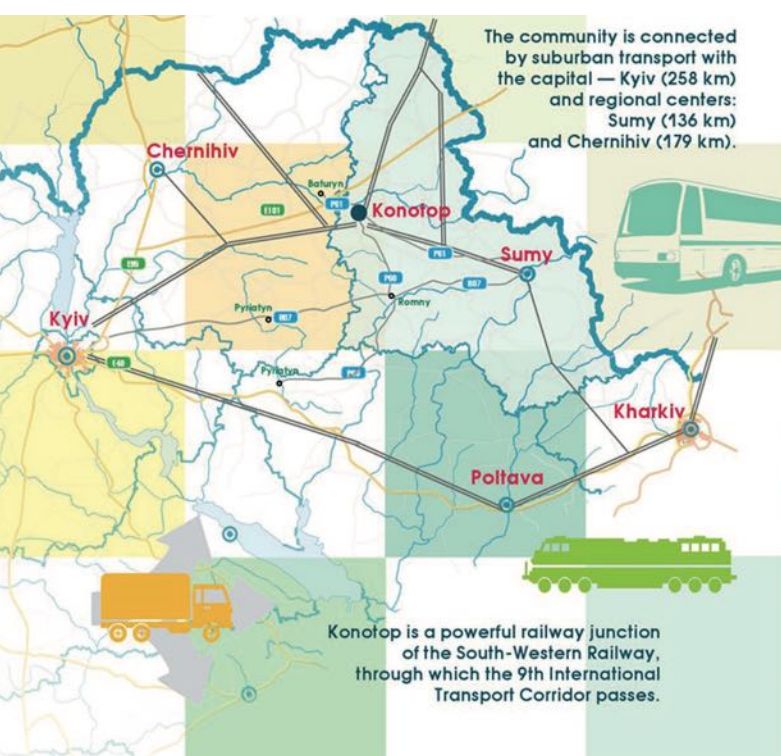


LLC Scientific and Production Enterprise «AKADEMIYA»
in cooperation with the community



Project cost:
429 million UAH

Creation of a modern sports and rehabilitation complex, which will provide conditions for physical development, professional training, rehabilitation of military and civilian personnel after injuries and illnesses, will promote social integration, the formation of a healthy lifestyle and the development of community sports infrastructure



Area of the site - 1.3 hectares:

building of the complex,

two outdoor sports grounds,

parking lot for 47 cars



All categories of the population:

- people who have suffered psychological and physical trauma (veterans; IDPs; families of the deceased; children; people who were under occupation; people in need of psychological support);
- people with disabilities;
- pupils of sports schools who attend sports sections;
- physically and socially active youth;
- elderly people

- Умовні позначення**
- межі ділянки
 - проєктована будівля
 - тротуари та пішохідні простори
 - проїзди / автостоянки
 - пожежний проїзд
 - спортивні майданчики
 - озеленення та благоустрій
 - ▲ головний вхід до будівлі
 - ▲ головний в'їзд на ділянку

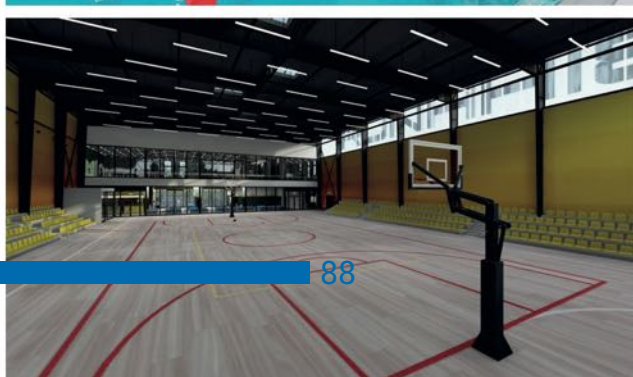
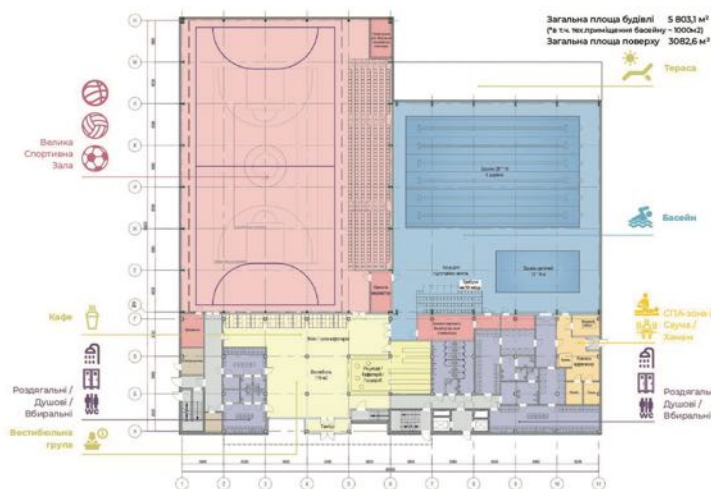
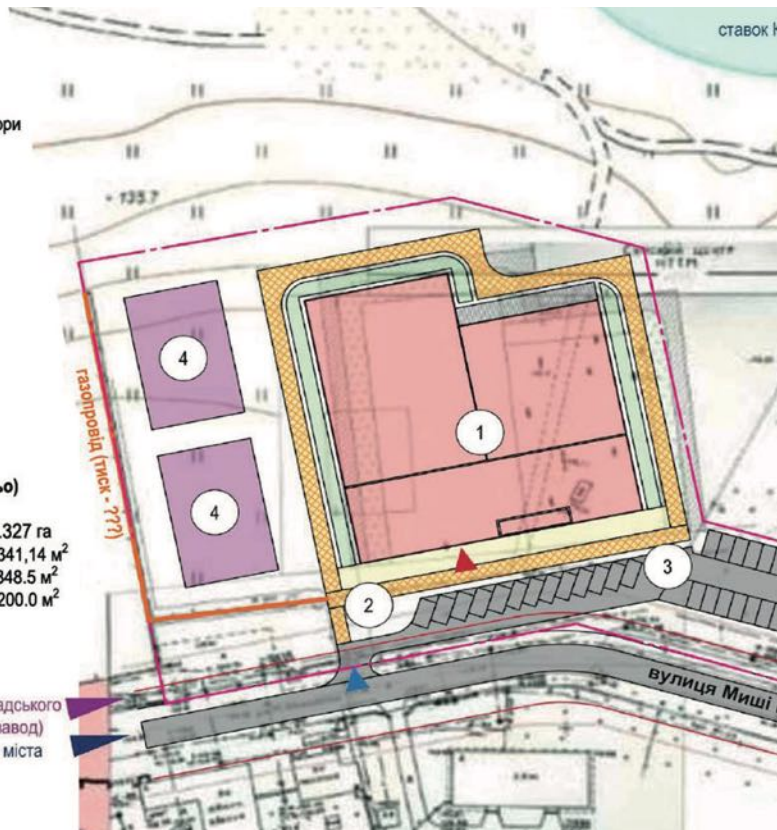
Експлікація по генплану

1. Будівля РСК
2. Вхідна зона
3. Автостоянка на 47 м/м
4. Спортивні майданчики

ТЕП по генплану (попередньо)

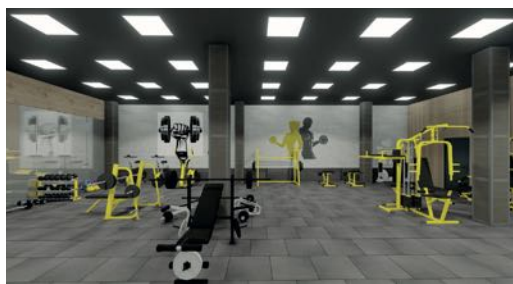
Площа ділянки	1.327 га
Площа забудови	3341,14 м ²
Площа проїздів та автостоянок	1848,5 м ²
Площа майданчиків	1200,0 м ²

підхід від зупинки громадського транспорту (Молокозавод)
під'їзд з боку центру міста



Services will be provided:
rehabilitation specialist,
psychologist, sports trainer

A gym and sections will be
open: football, basketball,
volleyball, rhythmic gymnastics,
taekwondo, boxing, tennis



Effective rehabilitation will be provided by special multidisciplinary teams.

The main task of the team is to restore the person's mental and physical functions to the maximum. After all, it is the person and his needs that are in the center of attention

7 types of spaces



CITY OF STRENGTH #KONOTOP

1. Sports rehabilitation – in a modern rehabilitation and sports complex, veterans will be able to restore physical fitness, strengthen their health and find new motivation.
2. Physical rehabilitation – on the basis of the physiotherapy department, veterans will be able to receive the necessary medical and rehabilitation procedures.
3. Psychological relief – in the relaxation center, combatants and their families will be able to restore psychological balance and internal resources.
4. Perpetuation of memory – a space is being created in the city's Memorial Square to preserve the memory of the fallen Heroes, which will become an important place for the entire community

Shostka city hromada

The Shostka Urban Territorial Community is located in the territory of the Shostka District in the Sumy Region.

The total surface area of the territory is **1 254.58 km²**.

Population: **90 331** residents

Men: **38 590**

Women: **40 262**

Children: **11 479**

Pensioners: **27 460**

Internally displaced persons: **6 823**

Shostka — is a medium-sized city located in the northern part of Sumy Oblast, the administrative centre of Shostka Raion and Shostka urban hromada. Shostka is known for its chemicals and food products. There are also powerful military production facilities in the city that have existed here for centuries.

Shostka urban hromada is the third largest hromada in Sumy Oblast. The hromada's boundaries actually coincide with the boundaries of the former Shostka Raion. Currently, Shostka hromada includes 38 settlements: a city, a town and 36 villages. Its total population is over 90 thousand people.

Part #4

Shostka city hromada

Sumy
region

Ukraine



area

1 254.58 km²

Shostka



residents

90 331



settlements

**1 city,
37 village districts**

Shostka is a northern industrial and economic centre of the Sumy Region. Its key industrial sectors include food, pharmaceutical, engineering, chemical, woodworking sectors, production of electrical and insulating materials, production and distribution of electrical and thermal energy.

In early 2022, more than 800 enterprises and institutions, as well as about 2.5 thousand entrepreneurs, were registered in the territory of the administrative centre of the Shostka Community.

The Svema Industrial Park, which began operating in 2014, is in operation. Its land area is 118.25 hectares. All engineering infrastructure facilities are available. The site is divided into zones: a research centre, a personnel training centre, an energy centre, a high-tech park, a promising development area, logistics, pharmaceuticals, chemical production, plastic production, wood processing, building materials production.

In recent years, two projects have been implemented in the territory

of the Svema Industrial Park and about 100 jobs have been created. The municipality allowed the participants of the Industrial Park not to pay for the land for a period of 5 years, which provides favourable conditions for investment.

Efforts to attract investors to the site of the Industrial Park continue and global experience in organizing work on relevant sites is being examined.

The Shostka Town Council is an active participant in the implementation of investment projects, as a result of which it was possible to attract significant investments in the infrastructure of the community.

A pharmaceutical company, which is a Ukrainian manufacturer of European-level medicines, also operates in the territory of the community. It exports its goods to more than 40 countries. Currently, the company is developing about a hundred types of medicines. Up to twenty new medicines are marketed annually.

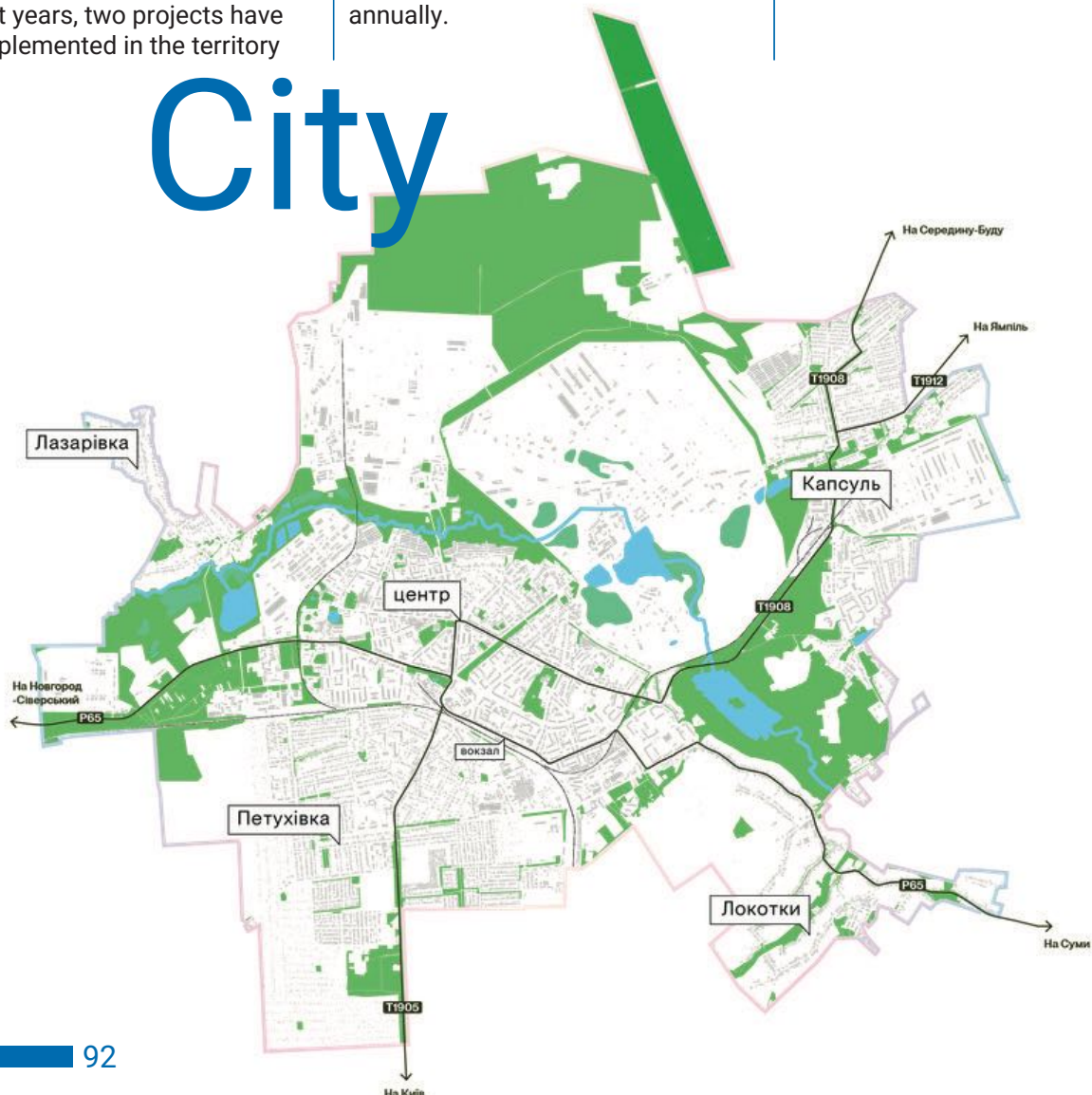
City and War

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, Shostka has been partly besieged. In order not to let the Russian troops into the region, Ukrainian defenders blew up one of the largest bridges of the Sumy Region, which is located in Shostka and connects the Sumy and Chernihiv Regions. Russian forces periodically moved near the town from the north and south.

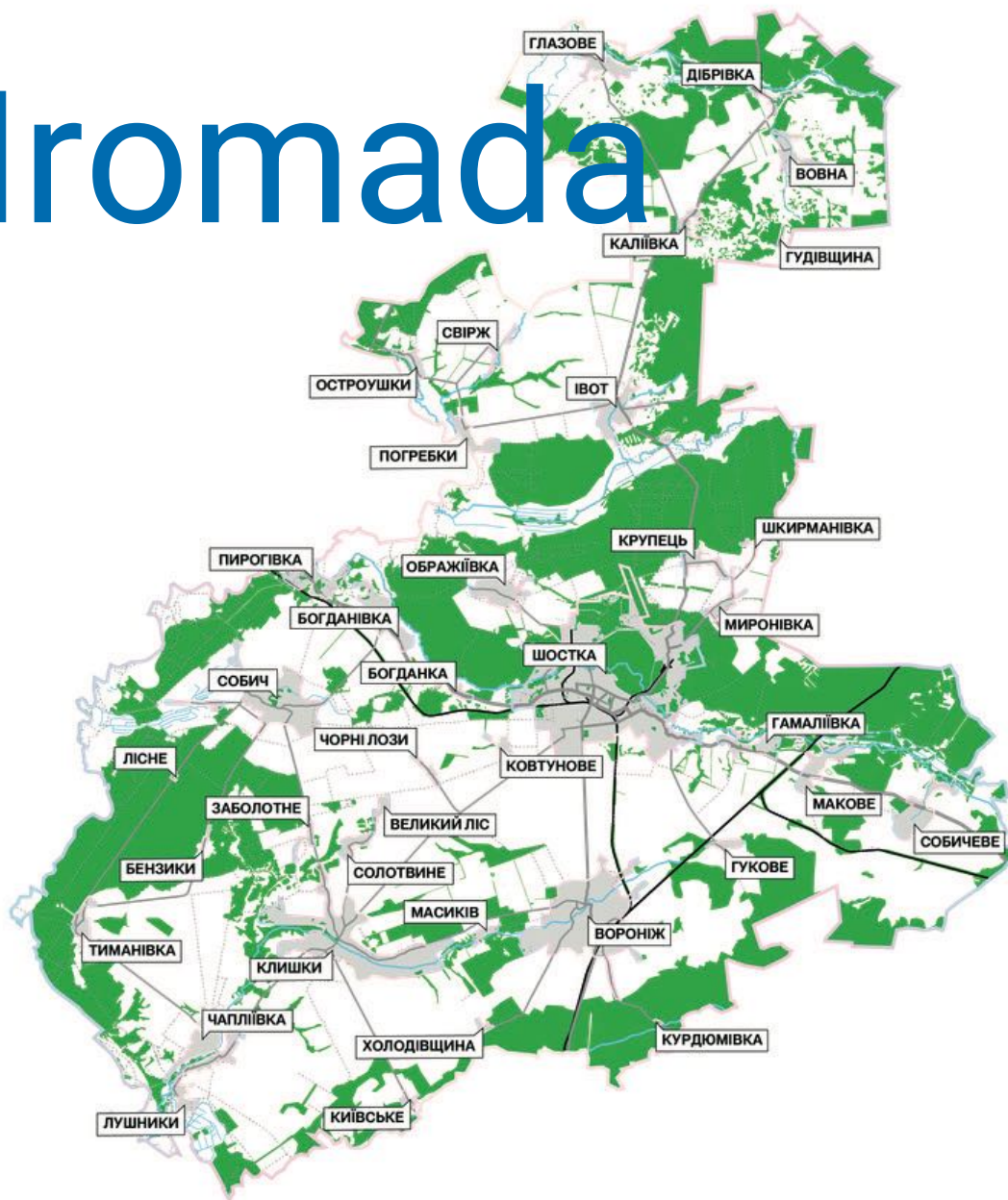
The bridge was restored in the autumn. From now on, people do not need to cover more than fifty kilometres to get from one bank to the other.

Russian troops bombarded the industrial and production facilities in the town of Shostka. Almost all the workshops and warehouses of the enterprises were destroyed; the work of some of them cannot be restored. Residential buildings were destroyed and more than fifty apartment buildings, schools, kindergartens and a polyclinic were damaged.

City



Hromada



The community receives numerous charitable assistance from sister towns. At the beginning of the winter, Poland and Germany handed over eleven power generators. The equipment was installed to work in social institutions and critical infrastructure facilities.

Development Strategy

Priority areas of the Shostka City Territorial Community development:

Priority 1. Security system: support of territorial defence; energy security; renewable energy sources; creation of safe conditions for living and doing business; ensuring law and order; strengthening of social cohesion.

Priority 2. Industrial space: use of the existing economic space; industrial innovations; creation of competitive production facilities; use of building products

of industrial enterprises of the Shostka community in Ukraine's reconstruction programs.

Priority 3. Economic innovations: self-employment of the population; start-up business support; activation of the business incubator; development of digital technologies; relocation of businesses from the territories where active hostilities are taking place to the industrial site of the Svema Industrial Park; mechanism of public works aimed at meeting the needs of the population, reconstruction of damaged infrastructure facilities; organization of new settlements in rural areas.

Priority 4. Development of the agricultural sector: food security; expansion of the raw material zone of fruit, berry and vegetable products; development of a network of plant and animal husbandry

processing facilities; organization of farms, family and individual farms.

Priority 5. Human potential: increasing the duration of health of the community residents; efficiency of providing medical services; development of the knowledge accumulation system; lifelong learning; development of online training programs and programming training; improvement of well-being and the standard of living.

Even before the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, the community authorities were planning to create eco-settlements. The Shostka IT group has developed a presentation 3-D project of an eco-settlement. According to the plan, it will consist of 20 to 30 houses of various sizes. Additional energy supply will be ensured by solar panels. The houses will be designed for both temporary and permanent residence.

Shostka city hromada: a future born of trust, nature, and interaction

While big cities compete for investment, small communities are building the future through the prism of local resources, interaction with people, and rethinking their space. In the north of Sumy region, a few dozen kilometers from the Russian border, the residents of Shostka have come together to think about their future together with the spatial development office.

Shostka municipality creates something that has never been seen in Ukraine in this format before – a spatial vision of the community based on in-depth research and dialogue.

The vision envisages specific spatial scenarios. This is not just a desire to improve something – it is the logic of change. Thus, a territory completely oriented towards industry is undergoing transformation and rethinking of abandoned industrial zones: into a reserve, new housing, a waterfront, cultural spaces in place of abandoned "gray zones".

What is the essence of vision and why is it important?

Strategic thinking is a show of courage. But even more, it is a show of respect for the people who stay, work, and believe in their communities. This document is not just another strategic piece of paper. It is living map of the future, formed from the opinions of more than four hundred residents, field observations, analysis of urban planning data, the potential of nature and values that were voiced in village clubs, school classrooms, specialist offices and on benches near high-rise buildings.

In this model, the city of Shostka does not pull the community towards itself, but is its open core – one that unites production, service functions, educational and cultural potential. And the villages are not the periphery, but active parts with their own logic, dignity and resources.

The vision for the development of the Shostka community does not contrast the city and the village, but on the contrary, creates a framework in which they complement each other.

Youth is not an audience, but a co-author

A separate part of the vision is dedicated to youth. But not as an object of care, but as a full-fledged development entity. The Shostka community has an active youth community – from IT initiatives to volunteer movements and cultural events.

In the future, there are plans to create a Youth Opportunity Center—a hub where learning, community, micro-entrepreneurship, and culture intersect. It should become a "point of gravity" that can keep young people in the community—or motivate them to return as soon as the opportunity arises.

Nature as a participant in development

It is important that the vision does not bypass what usually remains in the strategic shadow - natural environment. Part of the Shostka community is part of the Emerald





Network, a European system of protected areas.

Natural areas — swamps, forests, wetlands — in the vision become not only objects of protection. They are financial opportunities for community development (at the expense of ecosystem services), and sites for green tourism.

The city itself has an idea of forming a "blue-green framework" — a system of reservoirs, forest belts and green corridors that create shade, reduce overheating, and at the same time — are places of interaction and recreation for residents. Nature becomes one of the drivers through which the community can develop.

Trust is the basis for development

In communities that have gone through trauma — full-scale war, threats of occupation, loss of people and resources — trust becomes the most scarce and at the same time the most valuable currency.

Shostka's vision is not a declaration. It is an attempt to give people the feeling that they are heard, their opinions matter, their experience is the basis, not an ornament for the presentation. And it is precisely because of this that it works. Because no one knows the community better than those who live in it every day.

The context in which this vision was created is exceptional. Full-scale war, economic instability, demographic challenges, infrastructural degradation, emotional exhaustion. All of this is part of the reality of communities, including Shostka.

Thanks to the City Council, which is open to change and ready to move forward, the community now has a tool, to speak about yourself confidently.

The vision of the development of Shostka hromada does not provide ready-made recipes, but creates a language in which to talk about development.



SAFEMED – Capsule Hospital

Safety and Continuity of Medical Care in Crisis Conditions

Experience of Cooperation with International Partners



Thanks to the support of international organizations, the hospital has already received significant assistance to improve energy efficiency, safety, and the quality of medical services:



EU4ResilientRegion / GIZ

- solar panels (UAH 4.6 million)
- major repair and equipping of the rehabilitation department and center (UAH 8.96 million)
- major Mobile clinic-car-IVECO DAILY 72C15 (8/9 million UAH)



IOM (International Organization for Migration)

- equipment and goods for the hospital: bedding, furniture, solar-powered lamps, etc. (UAH 0.8 million)



Security Project / Tetra Tech ES, Inc. (USA)

- 4 block-modular boiler houses for autonomous heating supply (UAH 9.5 million)



UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)

- vehicle for providing palliative care (UAH 3.6 million)

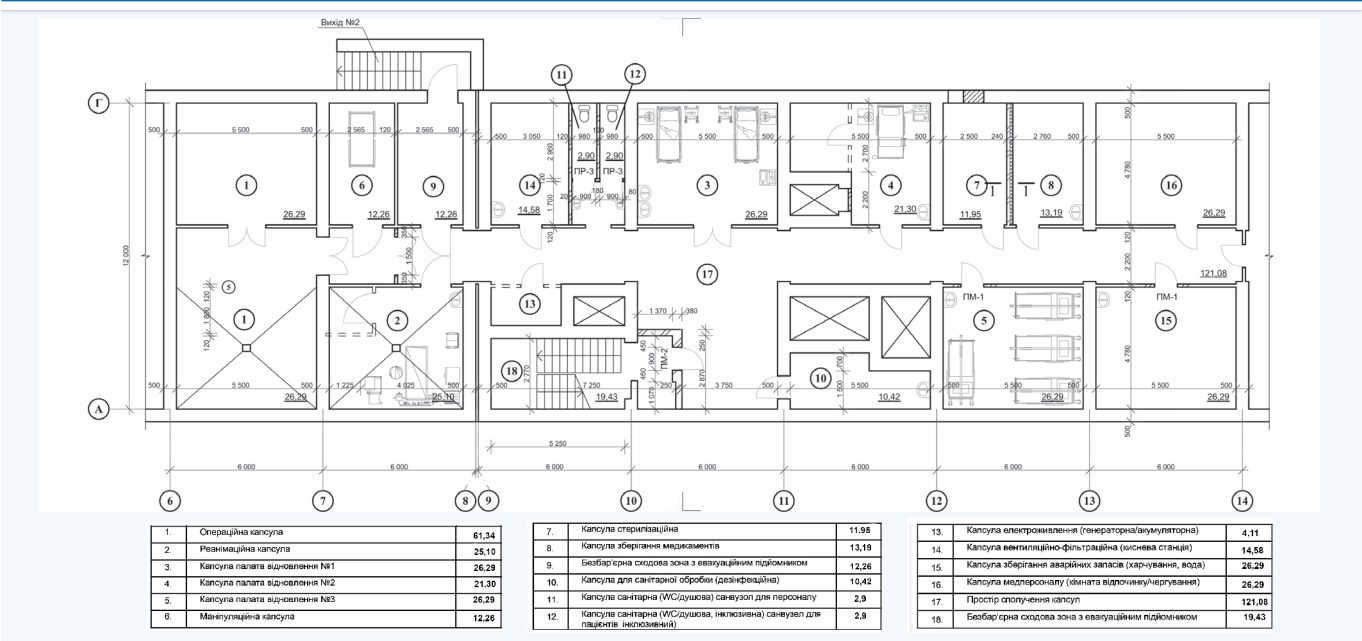
This is only a part of the international assistance implemented. We are sincerely grateful to our partners for their support in the most difficult times for Ukraine!

Critical Need

- ▲ **Crisis Context** Military threats, shelling, airstrikes, and other emergencies create unprecedented challenges for healthcare facilities.
- ⓘ **Critical Gap** Traditional hospital departments lack **complete autonomy** and **protection** needed for crisis operations.
- 💡 **Need:** Innovative solution to increase the resilience of the healthcare system.
- ⚠ **High-Risk Scenario** Hospital facility damage threatens continuity of medical care when it's needed most.



A plan SafeMed – capsule hospital



Capsule hospital concept

The main idea

Creation of sealed and autonomous modules (“capsules”) in the basement of the main building, each being an independent treatment unit.

Types of Capsules

Operating Room

Modern surgical unit

Recovery Rooms

3 separate autonomous spaces

Intensive Care

Fully equipped for critical care

Autonomy Features

Independent ventilation systems with filtration

Standalone power supply

Backup water supply systems

Complete set of medical and non-medical equipment



Technical Features and Autonomy



Ventilation

Independent systems with filtration, sterilization, and oxygen supply.



Power Supply

Independent sources: generators, batteries, solar panels, energy storage.



Water Supply

Backup systems



Equipment

Complete set of medical and non-medical equipment



Safety and Accessibility



Compliance with Standards

Designed according to building codes and inclusivity standards



Accessibility

Spacious sanitary facilities and accessible entrances for people with disabilities



Protection

Structural solutions to maximize protection against blast waves, smoke, and fire



Expected Effect



Continuity

Medical care ensured even if other hospital departments are damaged



Preparedness

Increased readiness of healthcare facilities for emergencies



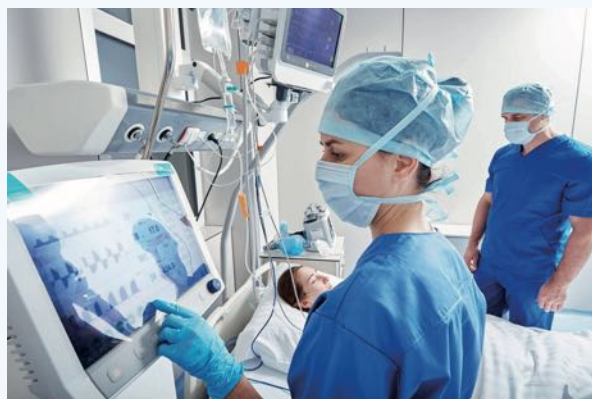
Scalability

Unique model of safe healthcare for other hospitals in Ukraine



Trust

Strengthening trust of communities and partners in the hospital



Reliability in the Most Difficult Conditions

The capsule hospital guarantees continuous operation of medical staff and patient care even in critical circumstances.

Target Audience of the Project



Community Residents and IDPs

Residents of Shostka district (190,000 people) and internally displaced persons (19,400 people)
Shostka Community (Sumy Region)



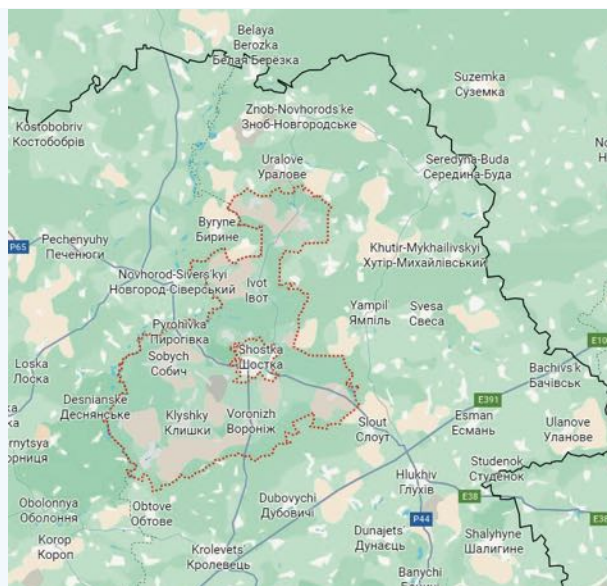
Military Personnel and Wounded

Defenders in need of medical assistance

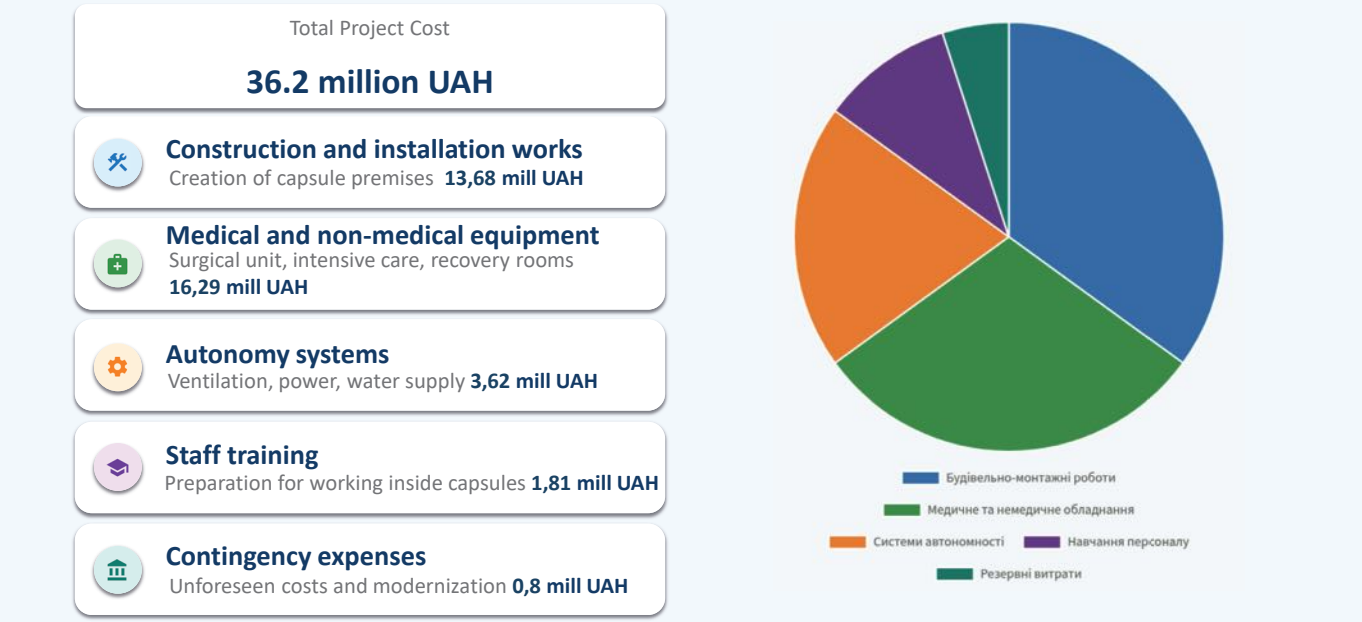


Medical Staff

Doctors, nurses, and other hospital personnel.



Project Budget



Sustainability and Multifunctionality



Conclusion / Call for investment



Creation of a municipal institution "Veterans Center" in Shostka

INTRODUCTION

The Russian-Ukrainian war, which began in 2014 and escalated into a full-scale invasion in 2022, has become one of the greatest challenges for Ukraine in recent decades. The military actions have affected all spheres of Ukrainian society, changing the political, social, economic, and psychological conditions of life, affecting every Ukrainian and leaving a mark on the consciousness of every citizen.

Today, Ukrainian society is undergoing complex transformation processes that involve broad segments of the population. The war in the country remains an important component of social transformations. This is especially noticeable among combatants, their families, and the communities where they work. Each of these soldiers bears the mark of combat experience, which significantly affects their psychophysiological state, social and professional adaptation, and interpersonal relationships with their families and loved ones.

The Russian-Ukrainian war has created a multi-level complex of factors that requires special attention and the creation of adaptive mechanisms for the resilience of the population and the state, which arise as a reaction to hybrid threats and new challenges.

Today, the state pays great attention to veteran policy. It is the veteran hub that, according to its functional purpose, will do its utmost to socialize veterans, provide advice and support in the implementation of initiatives, psychological, legal, medical assistance, etc. This is a supportive, friendly hub where qualified specialists will help solve veterans' problems.

PREREQUISITES. PROBLEMS

One of the important aspects of the psychological consequences of war is the problem of adaptation of military personnel returning from the front to peaceful life. Combat veterans often encounter difficulties in returning to everyday social activity due to physical and psychological trauma.

War changes one's perception of the world and forms new patterns of behavior that are often difficult to integrate and can cause conflicts in peaceful life. Problems such as aggression, isolation, and the inability to cope with emotions and memories of combat make the reintegration of veterans into civil society a difficult process. These problems necessitate the creation of a space for the rehabilitation and social integration of veterans. Successful rehabilitation requires the creation of comprehensive services, including psychological assistance, job search support, and social adaptation through participation in community or educational programs.

GOAL. OBJECTIVES

The adaptation of veterans is important and necessary for their successful return to civilian life, as war leads to psychological trauma and alienation from peaceful society.

The Veterans Center is a municipal facility created to provide service recipients, namely war veterans and their family members, with information and counseling support; legal assistance; psychological assistance; physical and sports rehabilitation; social adaptation; professional adaptation, including the development of digital literacy skills; and the organization of leisure and active recreation.

The project aims to achieve the following goals:

- raising awareness of opportunities and state guarantees for veterans;
- improving the level of support for veterans;
- physical and psychological resilience, socialization of veterans;
- reducing tension and social problems in the community;
- increasing trust in local government and authorities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Today, every community is scaling up the state initiative to create Veteran Hubs for veterans and their families in their territories, which are currently effective communication platforms. These platforms facilitate information and advisory support for veterans and their family members, including practical assistance from specialists from relevant institutions in various fields.

Support for combatants and veterans is a very important issue for the Shostka community. Therefore, the focus of cooperation is on working on new opportunities and meeting the needs of veterans and their families, finding common ground in resolving the most important issues on the path to reintegration into the new Ukrainian society.

The Shostka city territorial community, with a population of 94,400, is the second largest in terms of population after the Sumy community. It is the center of the north of the Sumy region, where industry is developed and vocational and technical educational institutions are available, which contributes to education and employment.

At the same time, the large number of war veterans and fallen heroes, as well as their family members, in the Shostka community creates a high social demand for the creation of a veterans' space (center).

The target audience for services at the veterans' center:

- persons who are registered and/or actually reside in the territory of the Shostka city territorial community, including internally displaced persons who are registered with the social policy department of the Shostka City Council, from among:
- war veterans, persons who have rendered special services to the Motherland, victims of the Revolution of Dignity, family members of such persons,
- family members of deceased war veterans, family members of deceased or missing defenders of Ukraine who disappeared under special circumstances;
- military personnel who took direct part in activities necessary to ensure the defense of Ukraine, protect the security of the population and the interests of the state, and were discharged from military service, in particular demobilized in accordance with the procedure established by law;
- military personnel who defend the independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty of Ukraine, and members of their families. (Family members include spouses, minor children, including adopted children, adult children recognized as persons with disabilities of groups I and II, as well as parents).

Project implementation process, design

The Veterans Center should become an accessible place for citizens, a place for ideas, development, volunteering, and an attractive space for bringing people together.

Why it is important:

- We are creating a space where the experience of military personnel is valued, where they are treated with dignity and respect.

- We take a comprehensive approach to the space, providing a wide range of services in one place, which simplifies the process of obtaining the necessary assistance.
- We are creating a place for the community where veterans can communicate with people who have had similar experiences, which helps reduce feelings of loneliness and find support.

A location in the city center with the appropriate infrastructure, transport accessibility, and a park area was chosen for the veterans' space.

During the implementation of the project and the design of the Veterans Center, part of the existing ZIRKA building at 38 Svobody Street in Shostka, Shostka District, Sumy Region, will be renovated to house the veterans' hub, which will become a magnet for residents of the Shostka community and Shostka District.

The design task is to preserve the character and structure of the building and its interior elements while updating them in line with modern trends.

The space is designed according to the open space principle. It provides for the placement of various functional areas with a minimum of partitions, which promotes communication and efficient use of space. It is important to divide the space into functional areas for work, rest, and meetings using furniture, small partitions, or color schemes, as well as to provide enough space for comfortable movement.

Barrier-free access and orientation aids for people with reduced mobility are provided.

The layout of the veterans' center is connected to the outdoor space. An open terrace, sports and children's playgrounds, parking space for private vehicles, and landscaping are planned.

The Veterans Center will be equipped with an alternative power source, namely a rooftop solar power plant. This can serve as a "point of resilience" for community residents.

The Veterans Center can be used in the future as a space for meetings, conferences, events, concerts, exhibitions, etc. The total estimated cost of the reconstruction of the facility is 1,9 million euros.

EXPECTED RESULT

The Veterans Center, a municipal facility for veterans, will function as a "one-stop shop" for comprehensive services based on the principle of "peer-to-peer," including involving veterans in the process of providing assistance to others.

The Veterans Center will become a facility for supporting veterans and their families, providing comprehensive assistance for their adaptation to civilian life. At the Veterans Center, it will be possible to receive free psychological counseling, legal advice and support on legal issues, assistance in solving life problems, applying for social services, housing search, job search advice, assistance in starting a business, retraining, and other social issues, and will also promote the creation of a safe environment for communication and exchange of experience.

The work of the veterans' center will help reduce tension and social problems and is critical to ensuring long-term security and stability in the Shostka community.

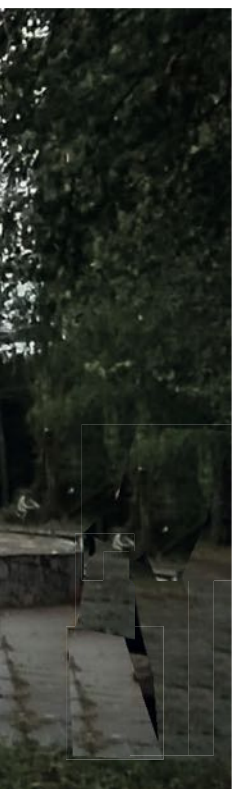
The Veterans Center will also be able to provide services online.

Overall, the creation of **the Veterans Center** in the Shostka community will increase trust in local government and authorities, raise awareness of opportunities for veterans, promote their physical and psychological resilience and socialization, and increase the level of support and national cohesion.

In the future, **the Veterans Center** will be able to scale up its activities not only in the region but also throughout Ukraine.

Existing condition. Photofixation





Veteran Center Facade Variations



before
reconstruction





VRRS system/ Система VRRS

VRRS Virtual Reality System for Intensive Clinical Use for motor, static and dynamic postural and cardiorespiratory rehabilitation

Equipment

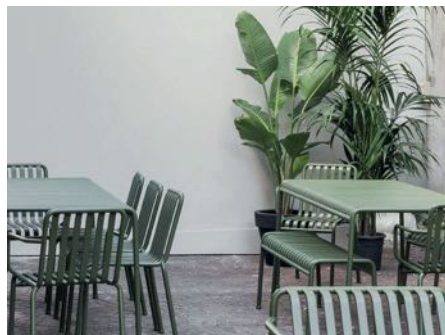
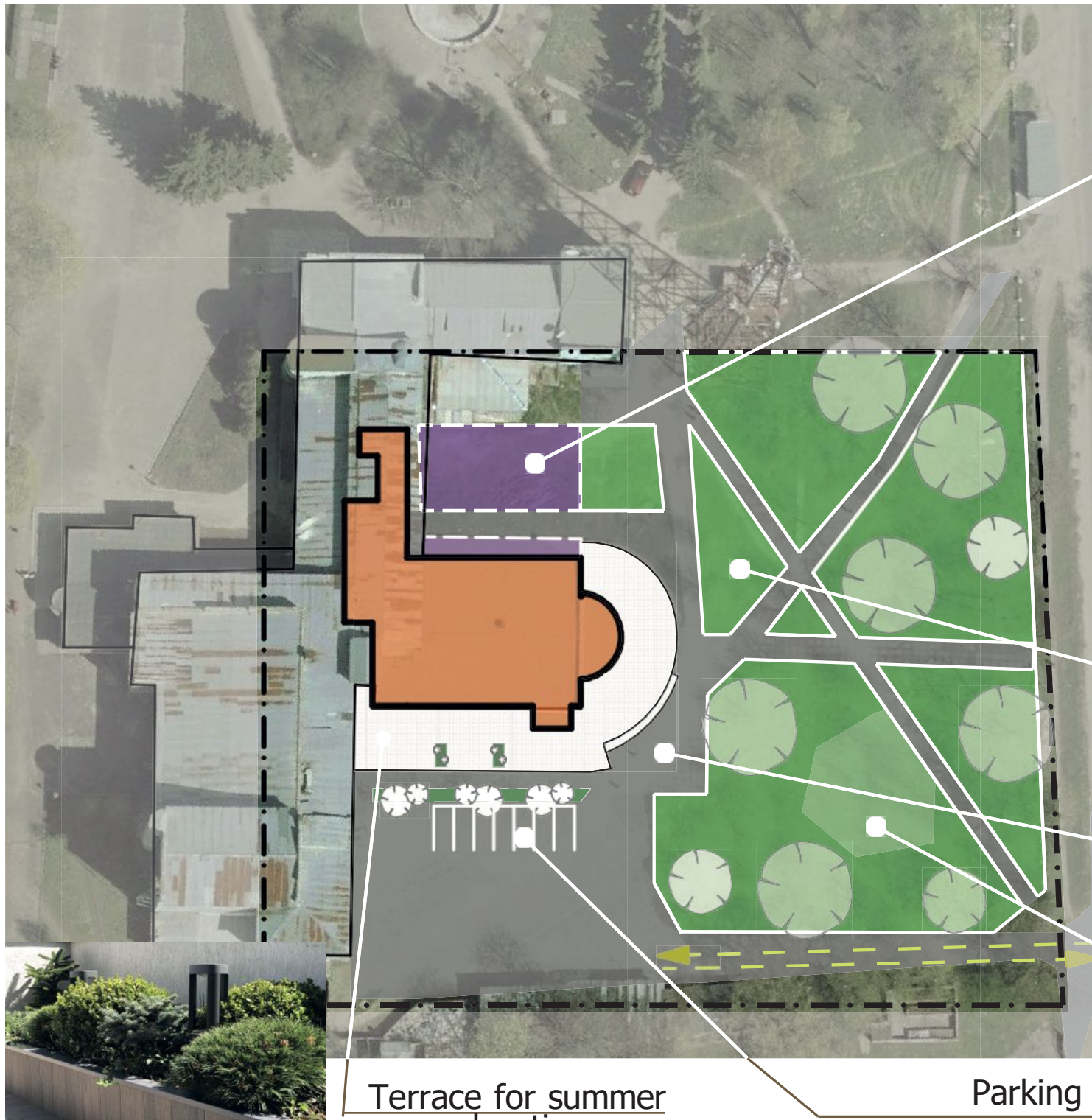


Upper limb rehabilitation device/
Апарат для реабілітації верхніх кінцівок

The device is designed to test the range of motion of the upper extremities, active training of joint movements and cognitive training after injuries

The game approach makes the training process more attractive and interesting, which helps maintain a high level of motivation

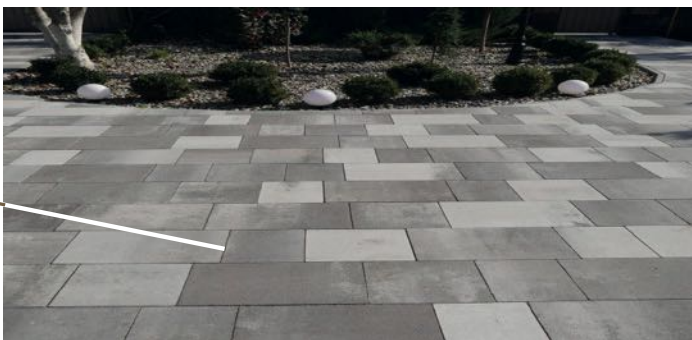
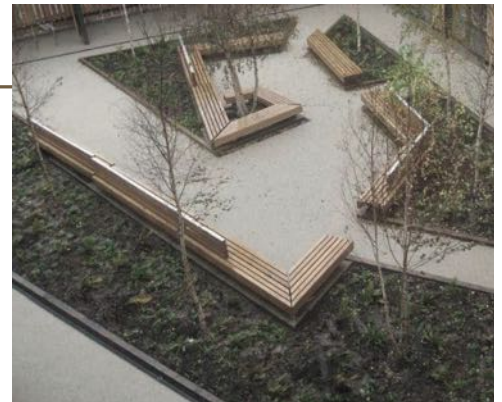
Master plan scheme



Sports ground area
with exercise
equipment



Places to relax



playgrounds



spaces

Placement of the Veteran Center in the structure of the Center for Aesthetic Education

First floor layout plan (total area 565,0m²)





Zoning:



Reception with waiting area

Coworking and consulting area

Service area

Lounge area

Multifunctional hall

Children's area

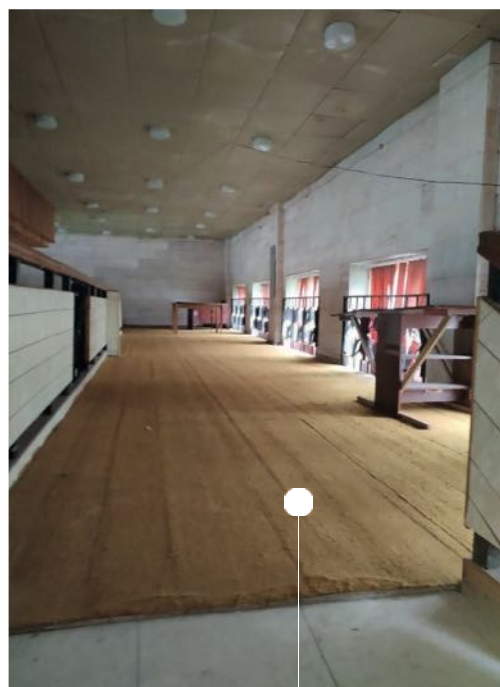
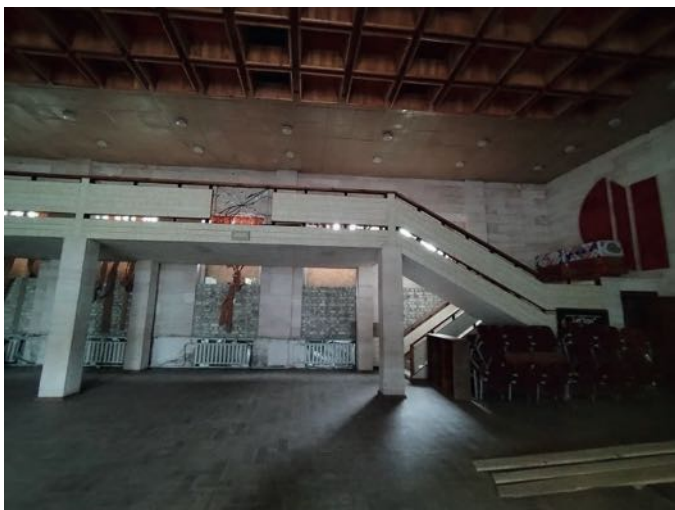
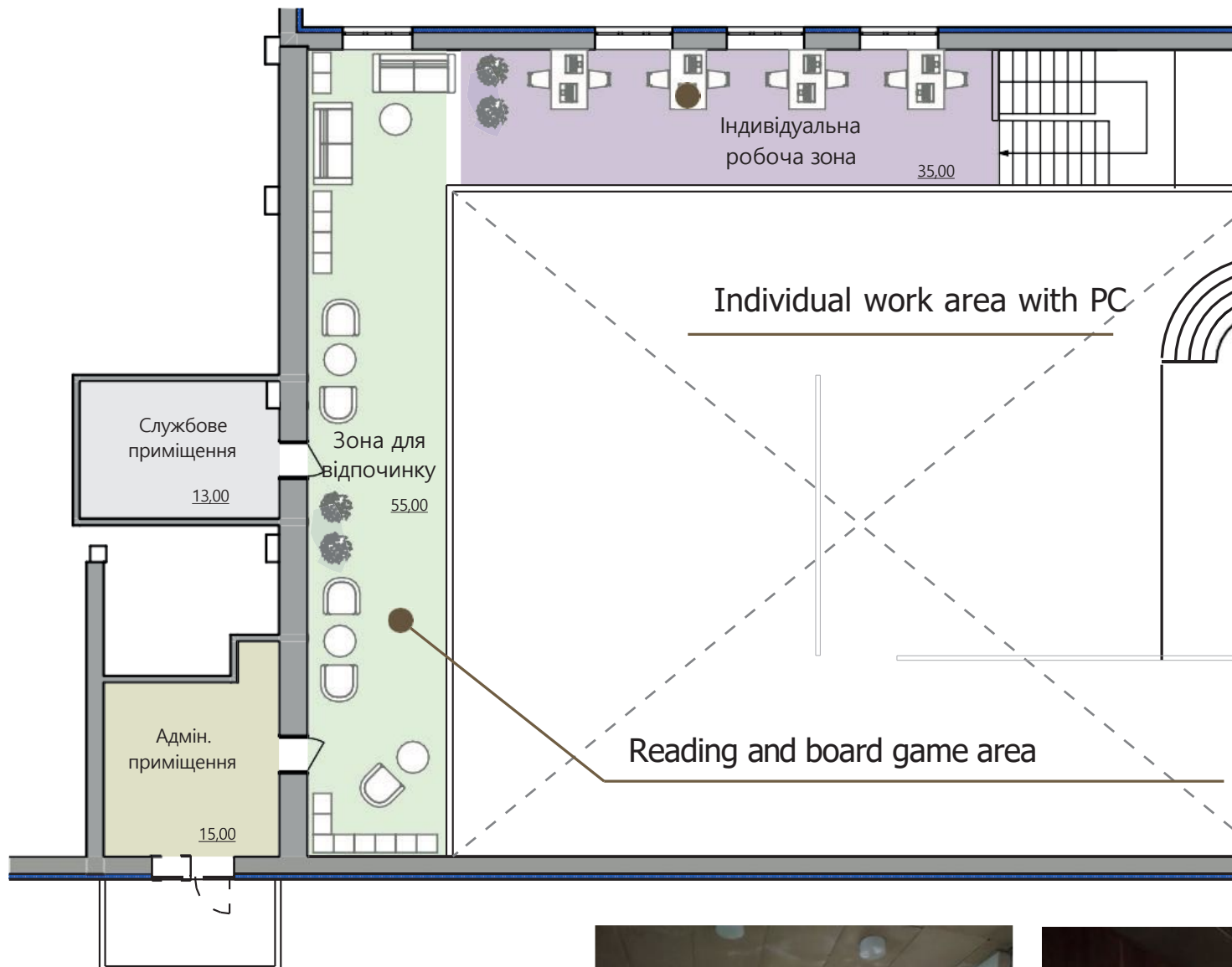
Rehabilitation / sports area

Sanitary and hygienic premises

Administrative Facilities

Balcony layout

(total area 125,0m²)



before



The reading area on the balcony is the perfect place for peace, reflection and leisure. It allows veterans to retreat with a book, work or simply relax, observing the activity below, but remaining in silence.

Interior proposals



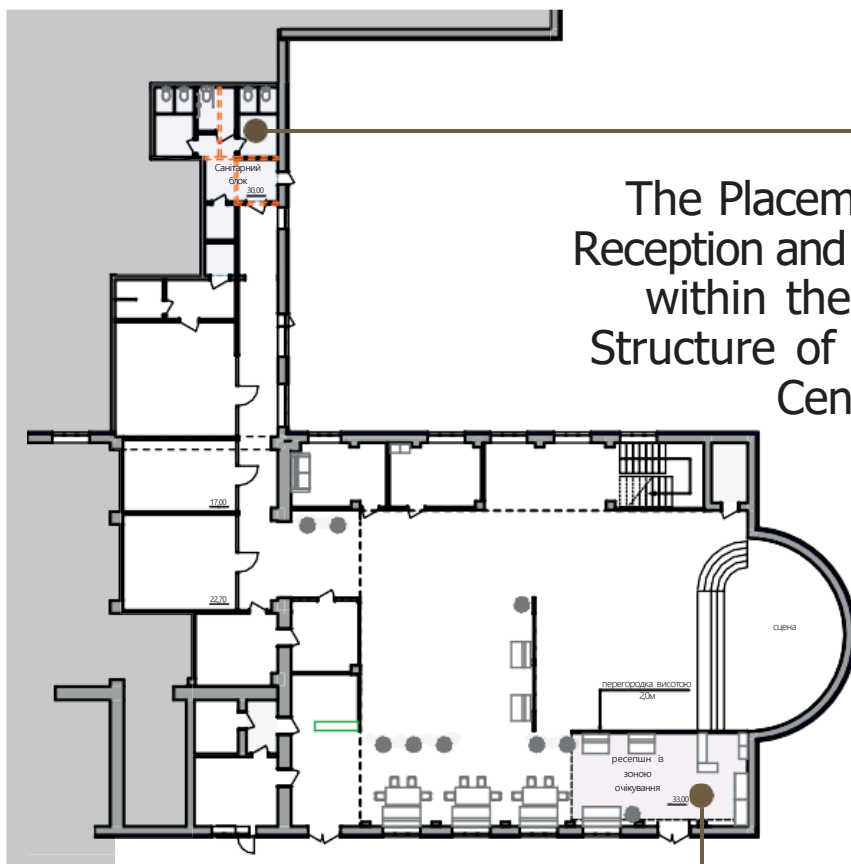
before reconstruction



after reconstruction



The Placement of the Reception and Waiting Area within the Planning Structure of the Veteran Center

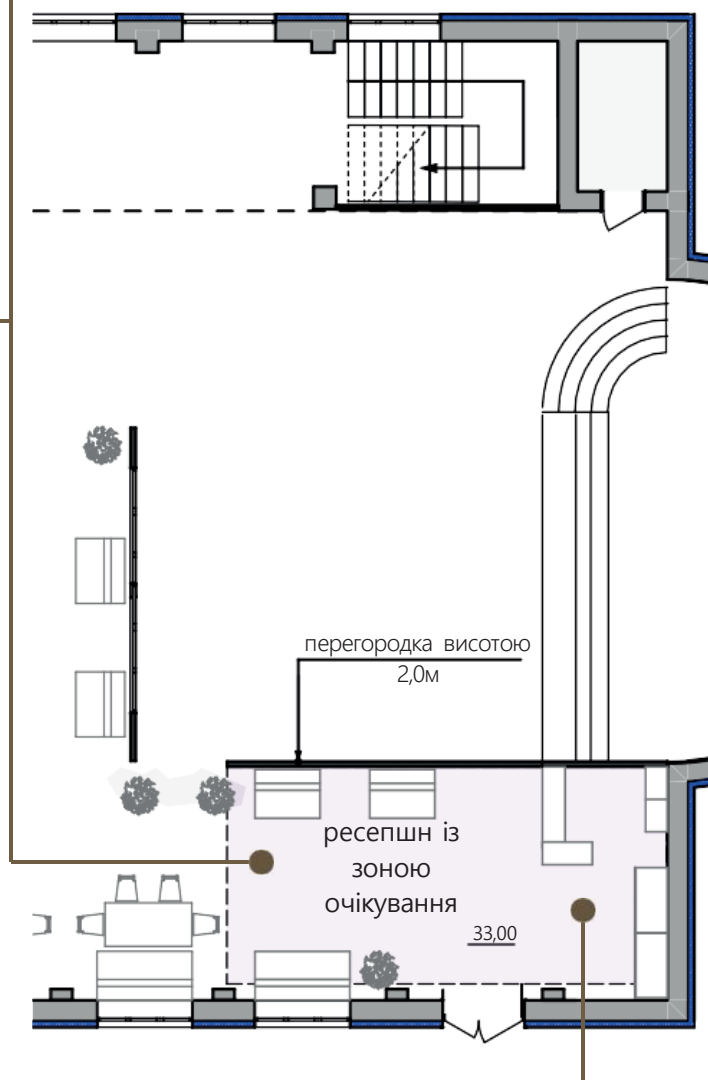


Reception

Meeting

Coordination

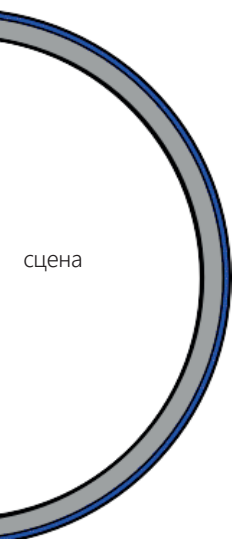
Initial Information



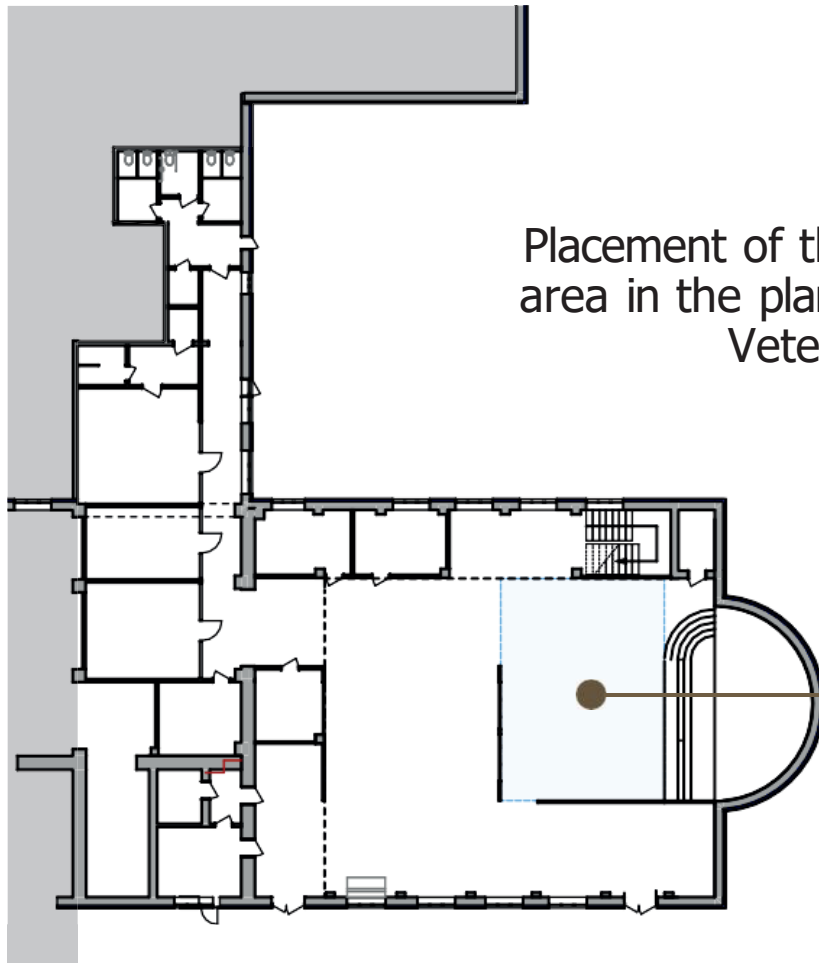
Sanitary and hygienic premises



Interior proposals



Placement of the multifunctional hall area in the planning structure of the Veterans Center



after
reconstruction

Multifunctional hall (75,0m²)

trainings

presentations

public meetings

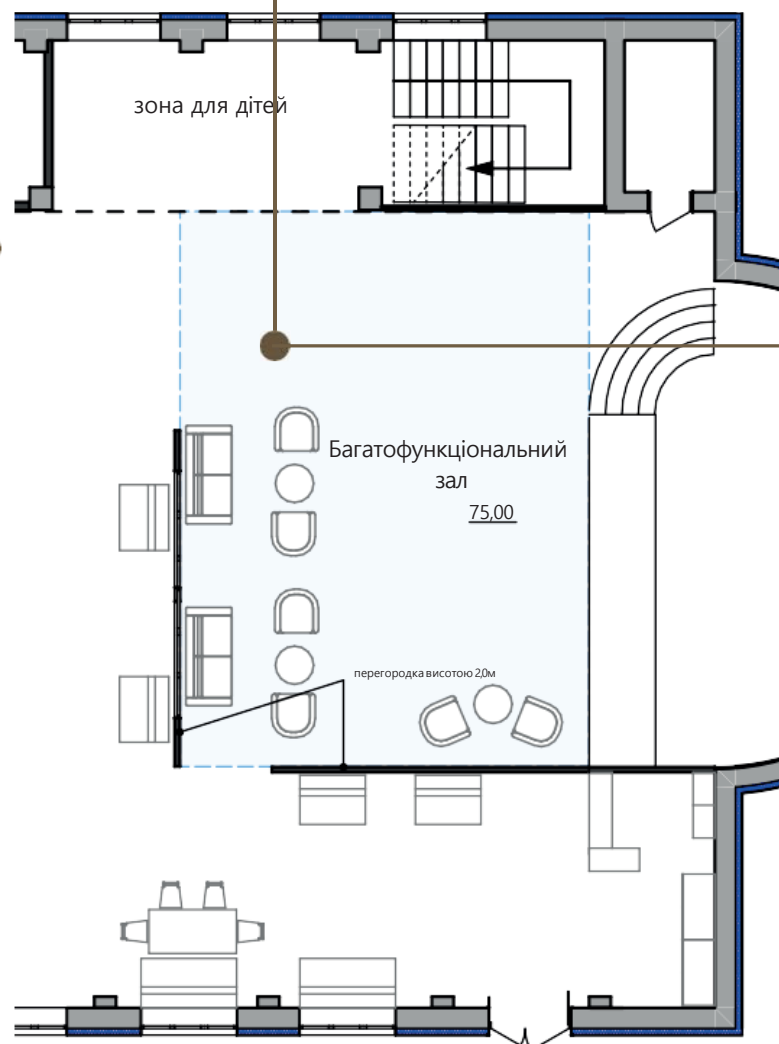
exhibitions

film screenings

celebrations

mobile furniture for various formats
(chair+table+modular armchairs,
transforming partition, etc.)

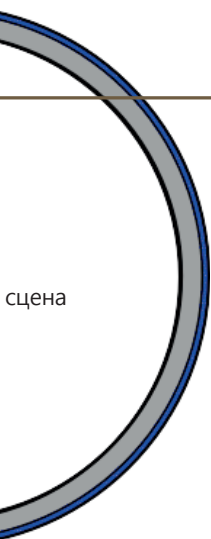
modern equipment



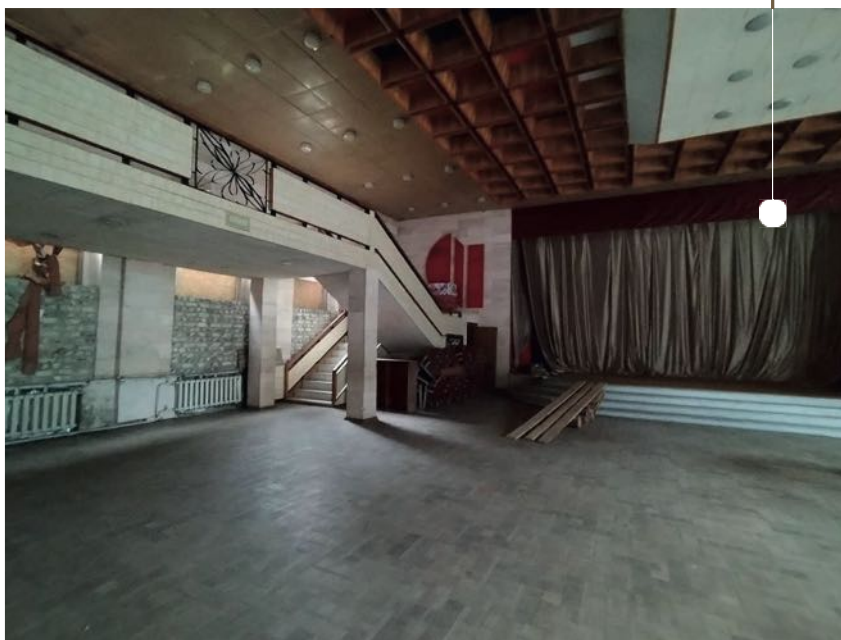


to create a cozy, warm space for the comfortable stay of veterans and their families

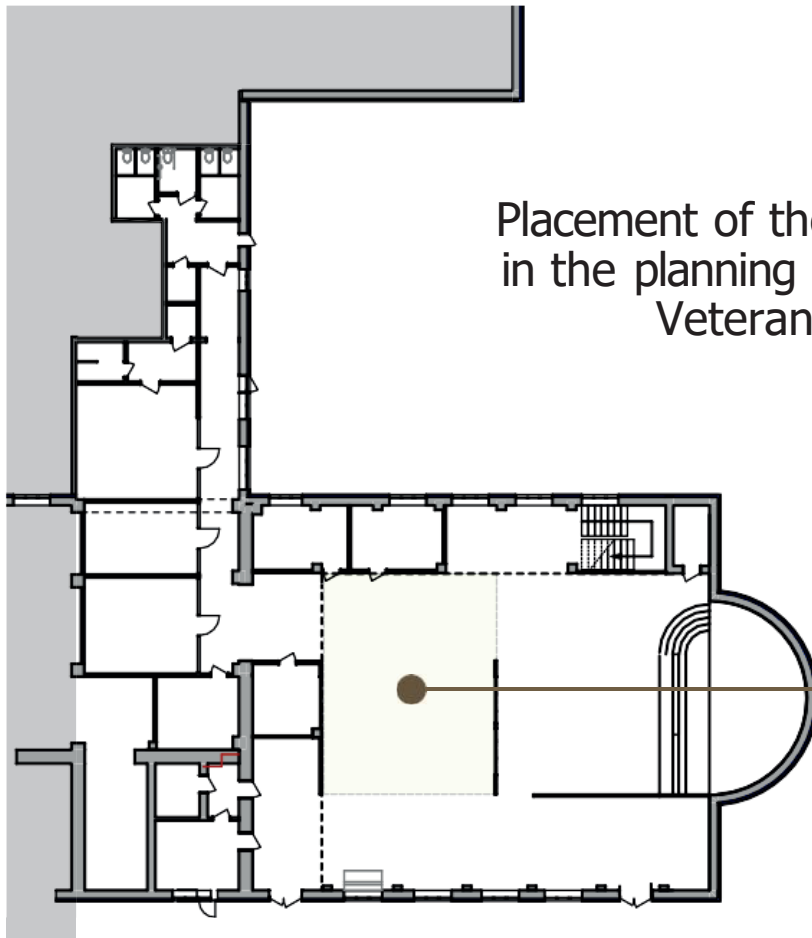
preservation (restoration) of elements of the existing interior and their improvement



before reconstruction



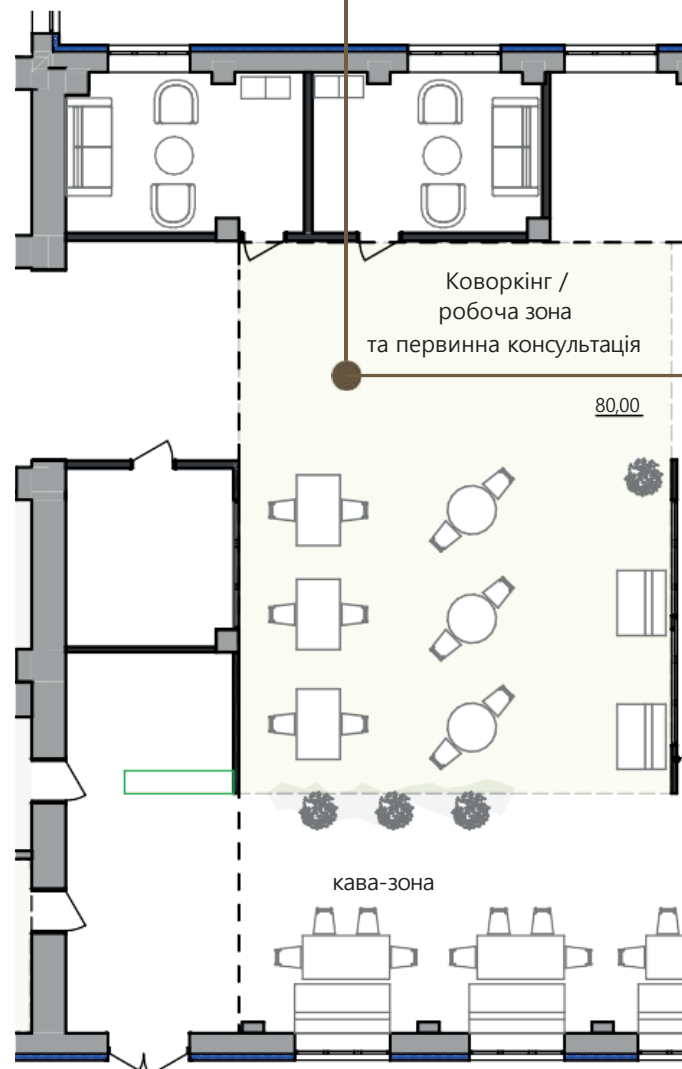
Placement of the coworking area
in the planning structure of the
Veterans Center



Coworking / work area

Coworking creates access to a comfortable space with internet, technology, and office amenities

The shared space promotes networking between veterans, their families, and local activists

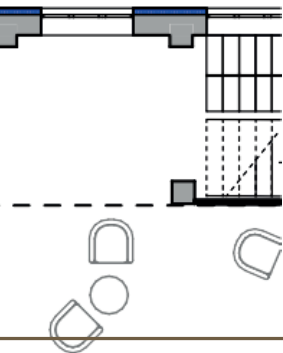




Interior proposals

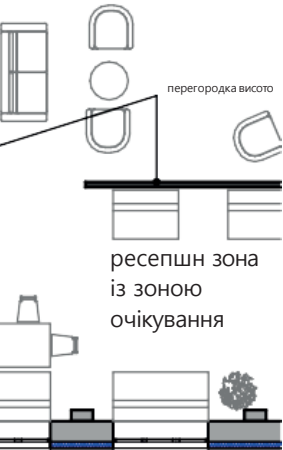


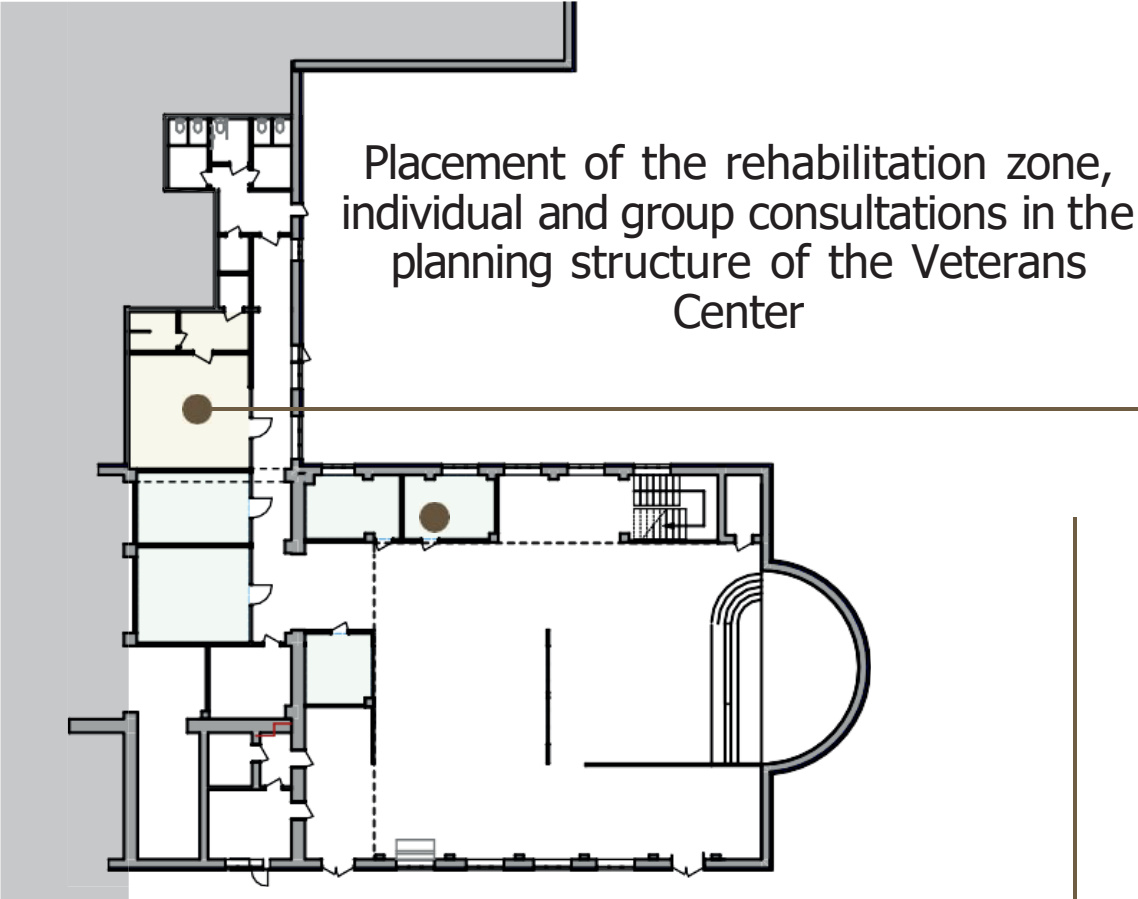
after reconstruction



before reconstruction

Багатофункціональна зала





Small gym

Can be equipped for rehabilitation exercises

Locker room with showers

Rooms for individual consultations

Interior proposal



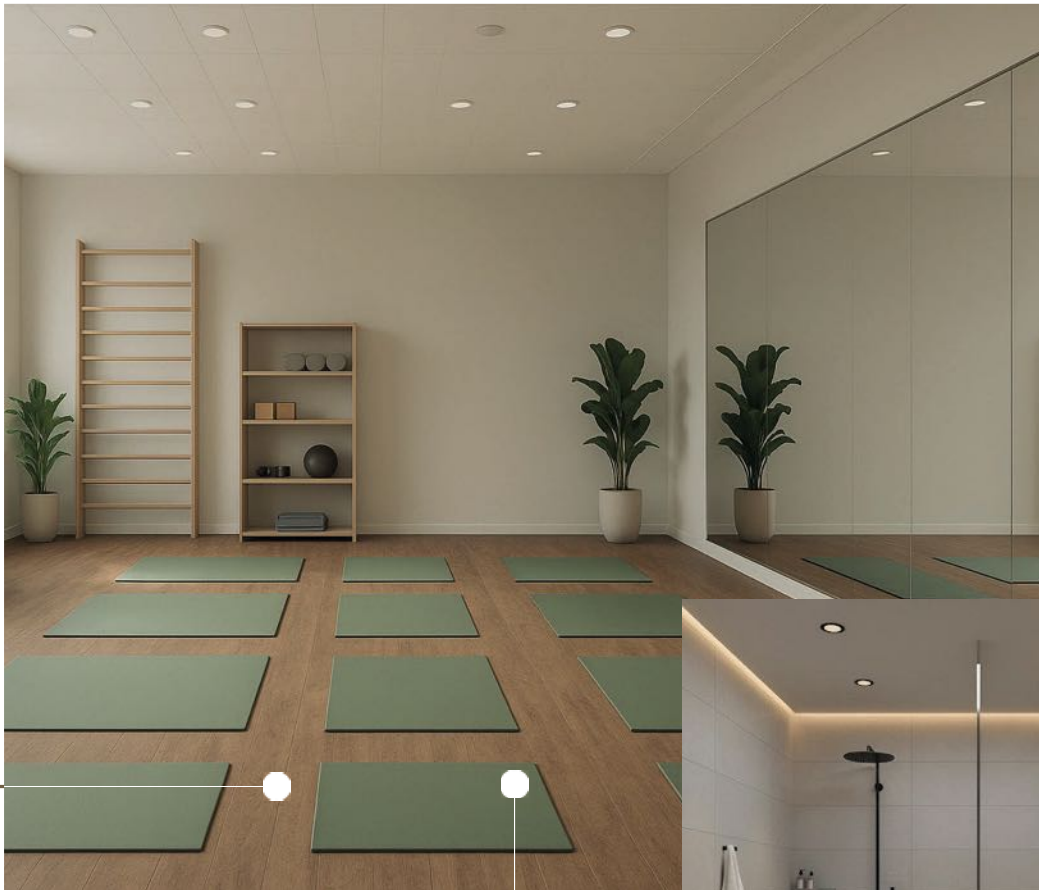
Separate office for psychologists, social workers

Cozy, with good soundproofing

after reconstruction

Rehabilitation/physical activity room (optional)

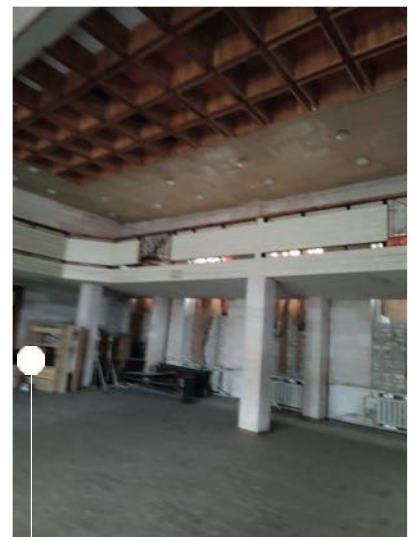
m or yoga
pped with
equipment
h shower



after reconstruction



before reconstruction



before reconstruction



Equipment



A virtual reality helmet for veterans is used in rehabilitation to overcome phantom pain, treat , improve psycho-emotional state, and motor rehabilitation



interacts with training objects, relearns how to move his own body correctly so as not to harm himself

Rehabilitation space

gamified training

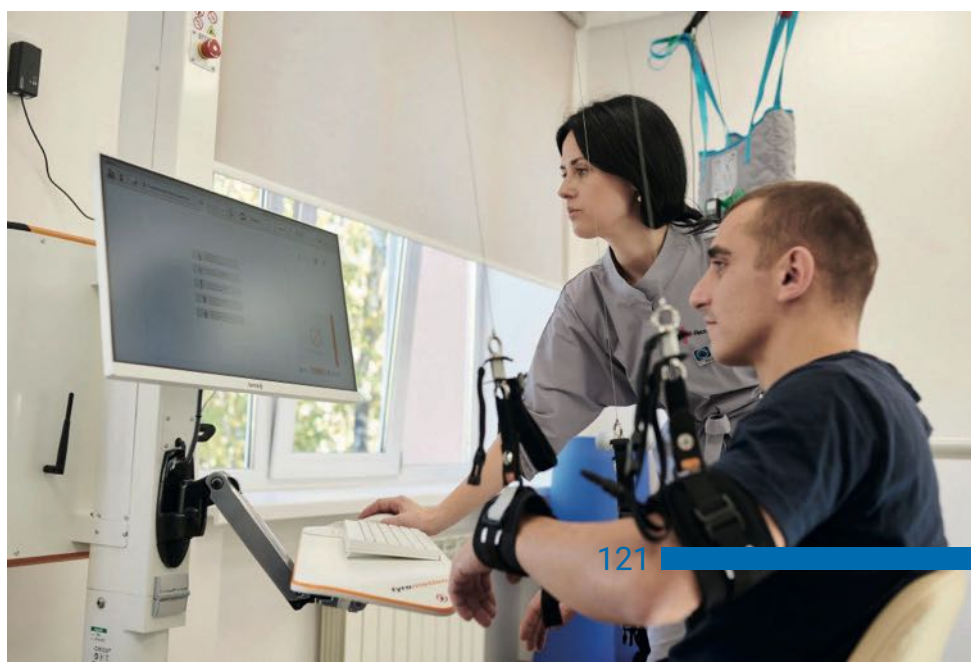
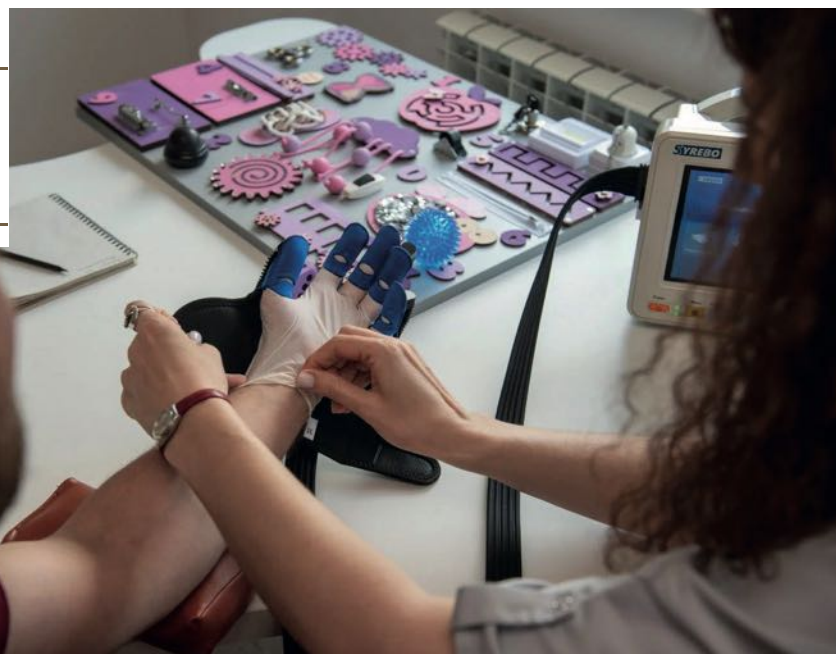
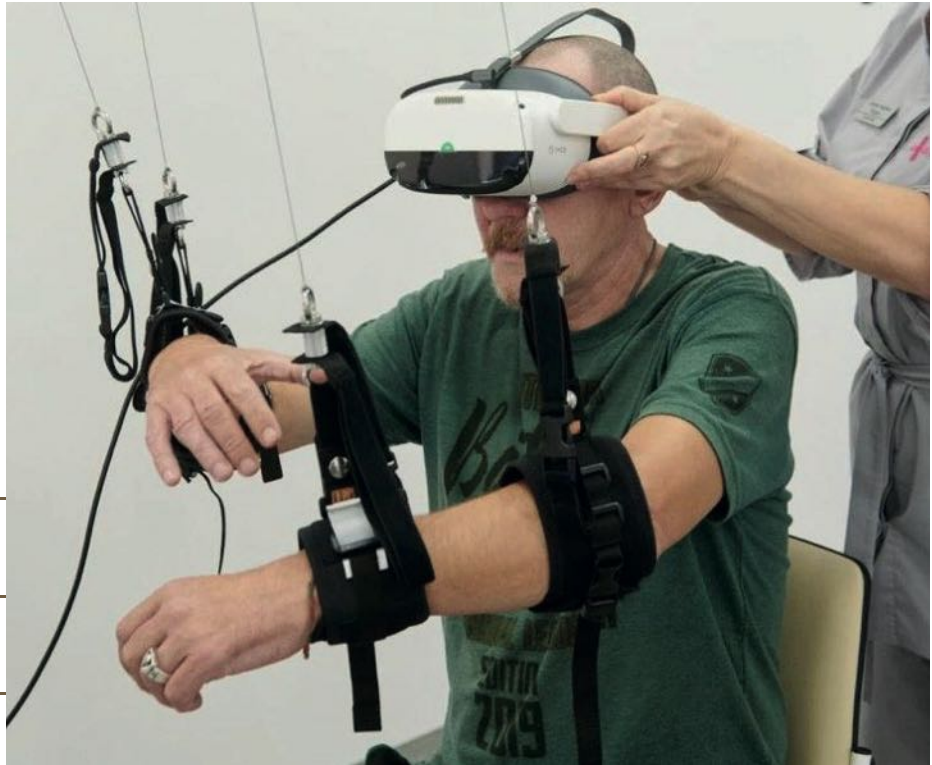
virtual reality

occupational therapy

increasing motivation for recovery

providing feedback to the patient

using virtual (VR) or augmented (AR) reality devices





ART - UNDERGROUND - CENTER

Introduction:

This project is not just a shelter, but a full-fledged cultural, economic, and creative space that functions even during the most difficult times of war. It will become an important component of our future, remaining relevant even after victory.

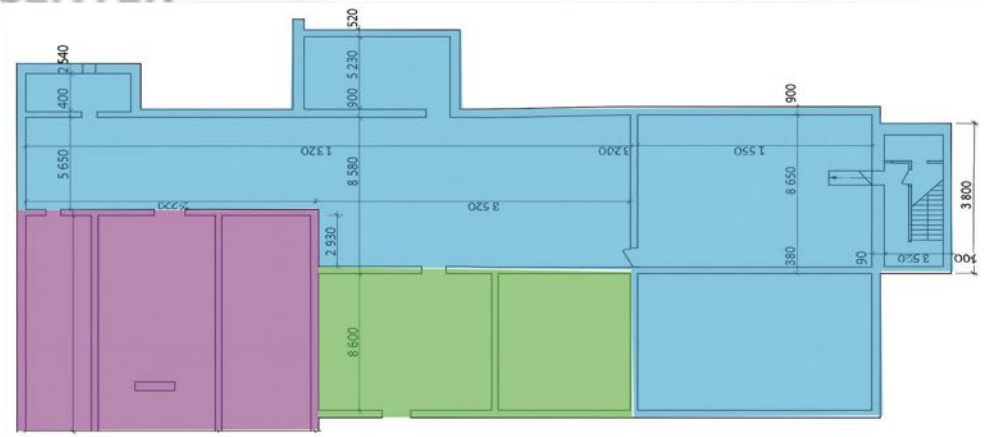


Work Zone

2 Creative Zone

Relax Zone

Floor Plan – Schematic: ART - UNDERGROUND - CENTER



Work Zone – Blue
 Open-space
 Quiet capsules/phone-booths
 Transformable conference hall (18-24 seats)
 Multimedia spaces for VC (2 rooms for 4-6 people each)
 IT hub / communications

Work Zone

Creative Zone – Purple
 Painting/graphics studio and
 Sculpture/modeling studio
 Digital art / media lab
 VR/AR room (min. 5x5 m open space)

Relax Zone – Green
 Sensory room
 Quiet library/niches
 Underground greenery (biophilia)
 Cafe Zone, Pantry-kitchen

Quiet capsules



Multimedia spaces for VC



Transformable conference hall



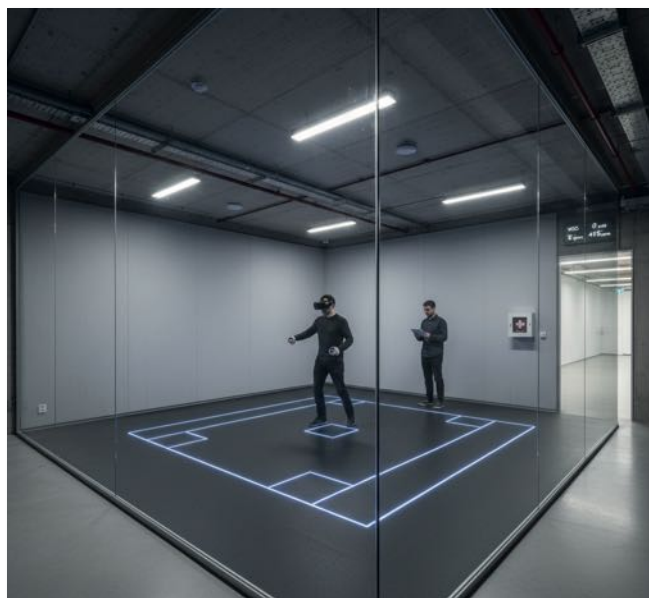
Creative Zone



Digital art



VR/AR room



Makerspace



Relax Zone





Energy Efficiency and Autonomy

Generator in a separate room/outside with noise suppression and exhaust ventilation; ATS with safe delay.

Water: filtration (mechanical + carbon), separate drinking water line with reserve supply.

Monitoring: energy consumption panels, CO₂, RH, PM2.5; filter maintenance log.

Ventilation: local exhaust in rooms and backup mechanical ventilation unit.

Communications: fiber optics + Starlink (antenna on surface or light well); failover < 30 s; backup power for the hub.

Military resilience: 2 exits, airlock vestibule with reinforced doors, first aid kits, water 3 L/person/day (72 hours), portable radio stations, safe areas without glass.

Budget and Funding Sources

Transparent structure allows attracting donors, grants, and investors, demonstrating efficient use of funds.

Construction and Installation Work	14.48 million UAH
Equipment	12.67 million UAH
Autonomy Systems	5.43 million UAH
Training and Reserve	3.62 million UAH

Total Project Cost

36.2

million UAH

ART-UNDERGROUND-CENTER

After Victory - this center will remain a unique world-class space:

- Exotic, energy-efficient, modern.
- A place of power for artists, entrepreneurs, and the entire community.
- A symbol that even in the darkness of war, the light of the future is born.

Creating even underground. Ukraine. Unbreakable. Free.



Olga Vedmidera

Head of the Health Department
of the Sumy Regional State
Administration
medycyna@sm.gov.ua
+38 066 6782770
Health Department
Shyshkarivska Street, 9,
Sumy, 40030, Ukraine
<https://bit.ly/4ilcBnx>



Victor Mikhailovsky

Executive Director
Dipl.-Ing. Civil Building
PhD,
victor_mikhailovsky@envitec.com.ua
+38 050 3114192
ENVITEC LLC
V.Lobanovsky ave. 6A
Kyiv 03037, Ukraine
www.envitec.com.ua



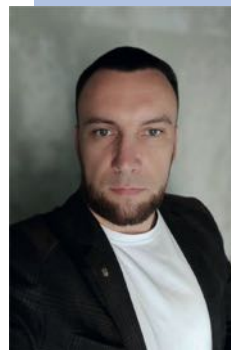
Volodymyr Horokh

Director, Candidate of Medical Sciences, Honored
Doctor of Ukraine
goroxvvobl@ukr.net
+38 (050)713-33-17
Non-profit enterprise of the Sumy Regional Council
"Sumy regional clinical hospital"
48 Troitska St., Sumy, Ukraine. 40022
(0542) 66-58-00
(0542) 66-58-01



Mykola Zaritskyi

Acting Director
Municipal Institution of the Sumy
Regional Council
"Veterans' Hub Veteran PRO
'Sumshchyna"
Phone: +380 99 665 0931
Email: Coca-Cola-Almighty@ukr.net
Address: 29 Magistratska Street,
Sumy 40009, Ukraine
Institutional Phone: +380 93 251 5126
Institutional Email: veteranpro@ukr.net



Kozniienko Serhii

Deputy Director of the Municipal Institution
of the Sumy
Regional Council
"Veterans' Hub Veteran PRO 'Sumshchyna"
Phone: +3806683568211
Email: sumy.i.ato@ukr.net
Address: 29 Magistratska Street,
Sumy 40009, Ukraine
Institutional Phone: +380 93 251 5126
Institutional Email: veteranpro@ukr.net



Organizer:

Sumy oblast military administration,
<https://sm.gov.ua>

Ukraine,
Sumy region, Sumy city,
Maidan Nezalezhnosti, building 2

E-mail: mail@sm.gov.ua
Information support: media@sm.gov.ua

+380 542 78 27 85



Government partners:

Міністерство закордонних справ <https://mfa.gov.ua>

Міністерство охорони здоров'я <https://moz.gov.ua>

Міністерство у справах ветеранів <https://mva.gov.ua>

