



Workshop

Sharing experiences of the city of Helsinki in building and maintaining civil defence shelters

A workshop organized in the framework of the project “UN4Kharkiv and UN4Mykolaiv: Integrated Rehabilitation of Settlements (Territories) in Ukraine”

The workshop will be held with limited in-person participation only at Helsinki City Hall

13 December 2022, 08:45-17:40 EEST

More information is available at <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/372764>

Concept note

This workshop is organized by the [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\)](#) and the city government of Helsinki, on 13 November 2022 in Helsinki, Finland, in the framework of the UNECE project “[UN4Kharkiv and UN4Mykolaiv: Integrated Rehabilitation of Settlements \(Territories\) in Ukraine](#)”. The project supports efforts of the national and local governments in Ukraine to plan and prepare for rebuilding cities based on the “building back better” principle. The project focuses on the pilot cities of Kharkiv and Mykolaiv. In the city of Kharkiv, the local government, with the support of renowned architect Norman Foster, the Norman Foster Foundation, ARUP Berlin and other international experts, is developing a new recovery master plan for the city. In the city of Mykolaiv, the recovery Master Plan is being developed in cooperation with OneWorks, an international design company. Both Ukrainian cities suffered from damage from bombing and shelling by the Russian army. According to the city government of Mykolaiv, the attacks of Russia in the city have damaged 5,870 residences, 320 educational facilities, 65 health-care facilities, 131 cultural establishments, and 106 industrial enterprises.

The invasion of Russia in Ukraine has forced Ukrainian cities to start building capacities and gaining knowledge about civil defence shelters. Finland has relevant experiences and best practices. For instance, the city of Helsinki **has been building a network of bomb shelters since the 1960s that can now host more than the capital’s population. There are approximately 5,500 civil defence shelters with approximately 900,000 places** in Helsinki. There are places in the shelters enough to cover the need of not only those living in Helsinki but also those who are visiting. The modern civil defence infrastructure offers shelter from military threats, natural disasters or ionising radiation and toxic substances.



The workshop will:

- (1) Present best practices in the provision of the civil defence shelters in the city of Helsinki, Finland;
- (2) Present the experiences of the Government of Finland in developing the legal and institutional frameworks for the civil defence shelters;
- (3) Discuss legal, institutional, financial and technical challenges to building and maintaining civil defence shelters in the cities of Kharkiv and Mykolaiv;
- (4) Formulate recommendations for approaches to design new master plans that will provide access to people in cities of Ukraine to civil defence shelters, which would also support the implementation of the Ukrainian National Recovery Plan.

The workshop is organized as in-person participation only.

Organizers:

The UNECE and the City of Helsinki, Finland.

Language:

The workshop languages are English and Ukrainian with simultaneous interpretation.

For more information, please contact:

Gulnara Roll, Regional Adviser, Forests, Land and Housing Division at UNECE (email: gulnara.roll@un.org) with a cc to **Juan Valle Robles** (email: juan.vallerobles@un.org)

Programme

08:45-09:00 Meeting at the Helsinki City Hall (Meeting point: Helsinki City Hall. Address: Pohjoisesplanadi 11-13, 00170 Helsinki, Finlandia)

Contact persons: **Laura Uttu-Deschryvere**, Head of International Affairs (+358 40 717 6415), **Outi Jäppinen**, Senior Advisor, International Affairs (+358 40 574 3588)

09:00-09:15 Car transfer from the Helsinki City Hall to the study visit

09:15-11:15 (appr.) Study visit to the civil defence shelters in Helsinki

During the study visit, the Ukrainian experts will obtain practical information about the civil defence infrastructure of Helsinki and the history of its construction from 80 years ago to the present day. Finnish experts will share their technical know-how and their perspective of the civil defence shelters located in residential and public buildings. The study visit will be led by Mr. **Pasi**



Raatikainen, Special planner for civil defence at the Preparedness and Civil Defence Planning Unit, Rescue Department, City of Helsinki.

Meeting point: Merihaka shelter. Address: Miina Sillanpään katu 2, Helsinki.

11:15-11:30 Car transfer from the study visit to the Helsinki City Hall

11:30-13:00 Possible meetings with the City of Helsinki officials

13:00-14:00 Lunch hosted by Anni Sinnemäki, Deputy Mayor for Urban Environment, City of Helsinki

14:00-14:30 Opening and welcome

Moderator: Laura Uttu-Deschryvere, Head of International Affairs, City of Helsinki

- **Juhana Vartiainen**, Mayor of Helsinki, Finland
- **Paola Deda**, Director Forests, Land and Housing Division UNECE (pre-recorded video)
- **Sergiy Kuzmin**, Deputy Mayor for digital transformation of Kharkiv, Ukraine
- **Vitaly Lukov**, Deputy Mayor of Mykolaiv, Ukraine

14:30-14:45 Session 1. Information on the UN4Kharkiv and UN4Mykolaiv project

- **Melanie Steinkemper**, Urban Planning Consultant at UNECE, Geneva, Switzerland
- **Ulrike Elbers**, Associate, Structural Engineering, Arup Berlin, Germany

14:45-15:30 Session 2. Finnish legislation, national strategy and guidelines on civil defence shelters as part of the national safety plan – Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Environment

The purpose of this session is to present the national legal framework, including relevant regulations and guidelines for civil defence shelters in Finland. The session will also discuss how the shelters are used, by which authorities and how various entities interact and coordinate between themselves; and organize the use of the shelter spaces and movement of people and goods in the shelters.

Moderator: Marko Nokkala, UNECE consultant, Helsinki, Finland

- **Jussi Korhonen**, Director, Civil Emergency Preparedness, Ministry of the Interior Department for Rescue Services
- **Jarkko Häyrinen**, Senior Officer, Ministry of the Interior Department for Rescue Services

Discussion



15:30–16:30 **Session 3. Helsinki experience and best practices on civil defence shelters in residential buildings and public spaces**

This session focuses on the role of Helsinki city's shelters from the perspective of preparedness, safety and security during emergencies. The city of Helsinki has a large underground network of shelter spaces, tunnels and networks that have been built over several decades. This session will inform about the network, the way the spaces are operated on an everyday basis and also under emergencies; and how they are maintained.

Moderator: Marko Nokkala, UNECE consultant

- **Pasi Raatikainen**, Special planner for civil defence, Preparedness and Civil Defence Planning Unit, Rescue Department, City of Helsinki
- **Ilkka Vähäaho**, Head of Soil and Bedrock Unit, Urban Environment Division, City of Helsinki

Discussion

16:30-16:45 **Coffee break**

16:45-17:30 **Session 4. Rebuilding affordable and safe cities in Ukraine: What are the challenges in the short-term and long-term for the provision of civil defence shelters in Ukraine?**

Moderator: Marko Nokkala, Senior Sales Manager, Valmet

- **Dmytro Fomenko**, Head of Kharkiv architects working group, Kharkiv, Ukraine
- **Yevhen Poliakov**, Deputy Chief Architect of Mykolaiv, Ukraine

17:30 –17:40 **Closing and remarks**

- **Closing and remarks by the moderator**