

THE PRAGUE CHARTER

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POST-WAR URBAN RENEWAL OF UKRAINE



Published in March 2023

This publication is an outcome of the Conference on Architecture and Building Culture Policies (ECAP 2022) that took place in Prague as one of the official events of the Czech Presidency of the Council of European Union on 11. - 12. October 2022. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Czech Chamber of Architects and the Architects' Council of Europe. Texts of this publication were presented at the session titled "**Post-war renewal of Ukrainian cities: Is it time for IBA Ukraine?**"

Information on the IBA Ukraine Initiative can be found at: www.iba-ukraine.org



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How the Prague Charter was formulated

The Conference on Architecture and Building Culture Policies (ECAP 2022) took place in Prague as one of the official events of the Czech Presidency of the Council of European Union on 11. - 12. October 2022. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Czech Chamber of Architects and the Architects' Council of Europe. I was honoured to accept the request of the conference organizers to prepare a session on the current situation in Ukraine.

In response to the immense destruction caused by the Russian aggression on Ukrainian territory, we set up an international panel of experts comprised of Ukrainian and European architects and experts on post-war urban renewal.

In preparing for the conference, the panel experts met several times online to discuss the challenges faced by Ukrainian cities. During these meetings, the need for a set of principles for the post-war urban renewal of Ukraine was recognized. This set of principles that we call the Prague Charter gave the ECAP 2022 conference a tangible output and will hopefully become a helpful instrument for Ukrainian and international policymakers.

The panel formulated ten policy recommendations considering the current situation in Ukraine and drawing on lessons learnt from the post-war reconstruction of cities and regions in Europe. The situation in Ukraine was reported on by Hanna Bondar, architect and member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.



Image 1. Conference on Architecture and Building Culture Policies – ECAP 2022 11-12.10.2022

Lessons learnt from Kosovo were summarized by Gyler Mydyti, case studies from Bosnia and Herzegovina were presented by Haris Piplaš, and Otar Nemsadze covered the situation of long-term housing of refugees in Georgia. Kees Christiaanse shared the experience of the post-war urban renewal of cities in Germany and the Netherlands after World War II.

I would like to thank Anna Bondar, Kees Christiaanse, Gyler Mydyti, Otar Nemsadze and Haris Piplaš for having accepted my invitation to the panel and for their valuable inputs on formulating the Prague Charter. The help of architects Robert Youssef and Lidia Chyzhevska was also appreciated. I am also grateful to Josef Morkus of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic and Petr Lešek and Jan Kasl of the Czech Chamber of Architects for supporting this expert panel.

This booklet comprises of three parts. First, it presents the Prague Charter, namely 10 recommendations for the post-war urban renewal of Ukraine. This is followed by a case study of the post-war reconstruction of Kosovo by Gyler Mydyti, who explains some key issues of post-war recovery processes. The final part further elaborates on the 10th recommendation of the Prague Charter, where Kees Christiaanse explains the German model of the International Building Exhibition (IBA) and proposes key topics for IBA Ukraine as an umbrella organization for various post-war reconstruction efforts.

A well-designed policy framework is a prerequisite for a just and sustainable reconstruction of Ukraine. The aim shall be to create liveable neighbourhoods with opportunities for social and economic development of all groups of society, in other words, to build places that will make people happy. The Prague Charter would like to be a contribution to this endeavour.

Petr Návrát
urban planner, Prague

Challenges faced by Ukraine: the capacity to deliver sustainable urban design

The range of challenges facing Ukraine due to the Russian invasion is rapidly expanding, as direct hostilities including numerous missile strikes on cities across the country have been ongoing for over a year. The situation makes it extremely difficult to collect baseline data and monitor the demographic situation in order to shape future recovery policies. In addition to the significant decline in population, many people have been forced to evacuate or relocate due to deteriorating living conditions and the threat of extermination, the departure of specialists and professionals abroad, the outflow of the intellectual elite from the country and the displacement of entire communities have further reduced the capacity of Ukrainian hromadas to focus on sustainable recovery and development.

We must take immediate action to address the widespread destruction of homes, social and critical infrastructure of all types. We also need to tackle the environmental pollution caused by the war, rising prices and the decline in households' economic capacity. It is time to rethink the principles of urban planning, design and construction of buildings and structures with a view to security measures. We need quick, but high-quality solutions so that our citizens can find housing and jobs, and the economy can recover from the falling tax base.

Unfortunately, the current legislation, liberalised in 2011, takes into account the interests of developers and the regulatory bodies (state and local authorities). At the same time, there is a "war" between these two market players, which leads to corruption. City residents and professionals are virtually excluded from decision-making, and their opinions are not only not taken into account, but also not asked for. The influence of the state, compared to the urban planning system of the United States and European countries, is much more powerful than it should be for a democratic system.

A new draft law No. 5655, which introduces an urban planning reform, has now been passed in the Parliament. It was drafted in 2021 with insufficient involvement of relevant stakeholders. Law No. 5655 creates new relations in urban development that provide more favorable business conditions for developers. This is done by replacing the planning application process by automatic state registration for the permit to carry out preparatory/construction work. At the same time, instead of transferring the control function to local governments, as it is common in democratic countries, the powers of state authorities are being reinforced.

They receive exclusive tools to control municipal and state construction projects. The law also introduces new actors: private supervisors and notaries. The interests of the public, cultural heritage protection bodies and professionals - architects, engineers, etc. - are completely disregarded, which will obviously affect the level of the country's building culture negatively.

In February 2023, the Parliamentary Committee on Urban Development approved a decision to develop the Urban Planning Code of Ukraine. This document should provide answers to the following questions:

- What rights and obligations do different urban development actors have?
- How to implement the decentralisation reform in the urban planning sphere?
- How to bring Ukrainian legislation closer to European legislation?
- How to facilitate post-war reconstruction in a fair way?
- What global challenges can Ukraine be responsible for?
- How to build safe, sustainable, environmentally friendly, economically viable and aesthetically pleasing cities?

The development of the Urban Planning Code of Ukraine is a long-term process that will include a broad public discussion and an educational process involving leading international experts. Preparations are currently underway.

The formation of a unified vision for Ukraine's recovery should involve civil society and be based on the principles of democracy and inclusive development. The recommendations included in the Prague Charter should become key principles for future reconstruction projects.

Hanna Bondar
Architect, Parliament Member

The Prague Charter:

**Recommendations for post-war
urban renewal of Ukraine**

1

The Ukrainian planning authorities in the driving seat of the post-war reconstruction

While acknowledging that a significant part of the post-war reconstruction will need to be financed by international aid, it is vital that **actions of all foreign organizations are in line with strategic development objectives set by the Ukrainian urban planning authorities.** The ownership of all urban and regional planning and architectural policy initiatives shall be with the Ukrainian national, regional and local government. This is in line with the Principle of Aid Effectiveness as defined in the OECD Paris Declaration.

At the same time, it will be important to build **multidisciplinary teams** combining **local and international knowledge.** The position of architects in the process shall be strengthened, including copyright protections of their original design, as architects initiate technological innovations, create places and communities and often instigate important social changes.



2

Strengthening local capacities in planning and coordination

Adequate effort needs to be provided to **strengthen capacities at regional and local level**. Even if dealing with the post-war reconstruction may be overwhelming for some local government bodies it is important that their capacities are increased to be able to decide and coordinate so that **principles of subsidiarity, decentralisation and self-governance**.

Regional administration (oblast) shall be in the position to **help mid-sized and small municipalities to plan and coordinate urban reconstruction and development**, interconnecting urban design and economic and social development. It is especially small municipalities in declining regions that will need the most help to reverse the negative demographic and economic developments.



3

People- and community-centred planning and design

Understanding local community needs and respecting project context is important in order to create new and regenerate destroyed communities and to avoid uniform soulless and placeless developments.

Community engagement should be considered not only as a requirement for any development project but active public participation in project design should be used as **a useful tool for the creation of liveable neighbourhoods**. Therefore, all agents of post-war reconstruction should have the skills and capacity needed to design and organise public participation processes to understand community needs, reflect them in design and run effective project public consultations.



4

Connecting planning and urban design with sustainable economic and social development and the climate agenda

Cities are complex organisms, and the built environment manifests their social and economic conditions. As such, the **built environment and social and economic development shall be planned in an integrated way** following the principles set by the New European Bauhaus initiative to create enriching, sustainable and inclusive places. Post-war reconstruction needs to pay attention to creating new employment opportunities, education or community services while developing the built environment. When generating new opportunities, the precious values of unique Ukrainian natural landscape and heritage shall be preserved.

Architecture, urban planning and design are among the most effective tools in dealing with **climate change** because they address both **mitigation and adaptation**. This approach requires **cross sectoral cooperation** that should replace the traditional sector-centred public administration (silo mentality).



5

Long-term planning, even in emergency situations

Lessons learnt from relevant post-war developments show that **temporary solutions often become permanent**. Rapid recovery schemes e.g. in temporary housing or drinking water provision often funded by international donors and implemented by aid agencies tend to stay permanently in place as there is later low capacity to replace them with permanent solutions.

Even if limited funds allow only a partial or temporary solution, **local authorities should plan for the targeted situation and the partial solution shall be a piece of the final whole**. For instance, new housing units shall be part of a comprehensive masterplan that will plan for future gradual upgrades setting this partial development into a holistic system of public amenities, blue-green and mobility infrastructure.

7 Professional development and knowledge exchange for public servants

It is important to **enhance capacities of Ukrainian public administration in using design competitions** to award projects to teams that propose the most adequate architectural or urban design solutions. Competitions shall become an integral part of public procurement and building culture.

Competitions offer **a transparent way** of finding the most suitable team to work on a project. The contracting authority has the **support of a professional jury** and can **choose the most appropriate design from several proposals** based on predefined criteria. In this way time and money invested can be saved as competition generates more effective outcomes. Competitions also **create community interest** and a successful conclusion can contribute to community identity and pride.



8

Public private partnerships

Urban reconstruction efforts in the past were most effective in places where the **public and private sector worked together** in a transparent and predictable manner. This cooperation requires establishing **trust-based relationships** and understanding of the needs of each party, business needs of the private sector and objectives of the public sector.

The private sector should be **incentivised to invest** not only in prospering cities but also in less prosperous regions. It will be the role of the **public sector to help create growth poles** where growth is lacking.

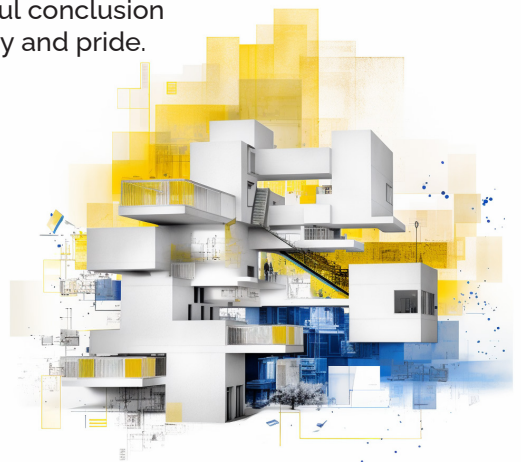
Both sectors should cooperate on creating **business friendly environments in regions** taking into account local potentials for economic development, especially in human capital.



Institutionalising design competitions and incorporating them into the building culture

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10

International building exhibition “IBA Ukraine” as an accelerator of sustainable post-war reconstruction

Having in mind the above mentioned topics it is to be recommended that an International building exhibition according to the German model of **Internationale Bauausstellung – IBA** is organized in Ukraine. To achieve the most favourable outcomes IBA Ukraine could be organized following these principles:

- as a tool to **promote a democratic and socially oriented building culture** as opposed to autocratic tendencies,
- as a **vehicle to showcase and interconnect practical and innovative solutions** in topics including zero carbon urban design, housing typologies, sustainable mobility, local economic development or community engagement,
- as a **decentralised event scattered on several sites** across Ukraine and **spread in time** (e.g. 10 years) with strong **community engagement** aspect,
- as a process to develop reconstruction **projects with a critical approach** focused on placemaking that creates strong local identities,
- as a **lean professional organization** that can handle and help **implement multiple projects** of different scale,
- as a **wide range of scalable model projects** from overarching masterplans to emergency repairs of damaged buildings and everything in between,
- as a platform for **international knowledge transfer** and **policy development** and as a partner in **planning education**.



Image 2. Emergent Becoming Permanent: Euphoric Post-war Reconstruction Responding to Economic rather than Housing Exigencies

Learning from Kosovo: From Emergent to Permanent Post-War Reconstruction

Kosovo's case is instrumental in better understanding some key issues that lead to problematic urban and territorial developments in the post-war recovery process. Informed by the failures in this process, the case of Kosovo provides essential recommendations for post-war reconstruction projects by touching upon the consequences of the war over which Kosovo started its reconstruction and the emergent undertakings that became involuntarily permanent solutions. Finally, Kosovo's case shows how the lawlessness, top-down policies installed by the international organisations, and the socio-spatial segregation of the population in the reconstruction process have had irreversible social, economic, and environmental repercussions in the territory.

Gyler Mydyti

I. Kosovo's Year Zero

The war of 1999 marked the turning point in the lives of almost two million people in Kosovo. Their lives radically changed, not when the war ended but when they were forced to leave their homes. Intending to change the ethnic makeup of Kosovo and thus establish complete control of Serbia's authorities over Kosovo, Serbia committed numerous crimes, resulting in the forced deportation of approximately 900,000 Kosovo Albanian civilians during the second quarter of 1999. As a result, people massively moved toward the neighbouring countries: mainly towards Albania and North Macedonia and fewer towards Montenegro. The remaining 500,000 to 600,000 Kosovo ethnic Albanians did not leave but were displaced within the country. This massive population movement in just a few months was exceptional and was considered to have not happened in Europe since WWII.

The June 10th, 1999, after the intervention of NATO airstrikes for 78 days, marked the beginning of a complex and prolonged transition to peace: from war to public security, from totalitarian and oppressive Serbian political control to UN-administered interim protectorate, from ethnic exclusion to national reconciliation, and from a state-controlled to a market-oriented economy. These distinctive characteristics of Kosovo's transition made the reconstruction process extraordinarily challenging and idiosyncratic.

While people were euphorically leaving the refugee camps of the neighbouring countries to return to their homes in liberated Kosovo, they most probably did not think of having to experience yet another trauma—the trauma of having most pre-war life traces vanish was part of the ethical cleansing strategy.

During the war, the identity cards and life memories of Kosovo Albanians were mainly destroyed. Their homes remained under the ruins, and everything that represented the materialisation of cultural heritage was a target of extinction. Many Kosovo settlements were massively destroyed, with around 80% of the housing stock being heavily damaged. Few urban settlements—like the capital city of Prishtina—managed to survive and played a vital role in the reconstruction process.

In general terms, it is estimated that 50-75% of buildings were either looted, burned, or destroyed during the war in Kosovo. According to UNHCR, nearly 40% of all residential dwellings were profoundly damaged. And more than 13,000 people were killed or went missing between 1998 and 2000, of which around 85 % were civilians. The human and economic consequences of the war in Kosovo were thus overwhelming.

II. Emergent Becoming Permanent

Despite the shocks caused by the war, a new life began over the ruins. Upon their return, people were living in collective centres in public buildings, tents, or with relatives. The main goal was to have shelter over the head and to develop an existential economy. Thus, creating new post-war normality.

After the war, Kosovo was the United Nations' first international experience of the territorial government. As a result, the UN established an international security presence through the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) and an interim civil administration (UNMIK), which lasted until Kosovo declared its independence on February 17th, 2008. A crucial emergent undertaking that UNMIK brought about was providing the safety and security of minorities in territorial enclaves, which further led to ethnic-based decentralised territory administration. However, in the long run, this territorial segregation presents a permanent problem of seclusion of the Serb population—embedded neither in Kosovo nor Serbia. More importantly, it represents the destabilising factor threatening the Western Balkan region.

The UN and the European Agency for Reconstruction have managed and carried out the entire reconstruction process in Kosovo. In this process, priority was given to rebuilding the houses of vulnerable families by supplying them with construction materials to rebuild their homes. However, while destroyed houses were being reconstructed, other building types started to sprout everywhere in the territory. The reconstruction of Kosovo was thus soon characterised by the wild densification of city centres and the informal expansion in the fringes and the agricultural lands of every settlement.

In the case of the capital Prishtina, for example, the skyrocketing number of residents after the war created a huge demand for housing and ignited a real estate boom. Also, given the unclear state of the country governed by the UNMIK, with no functioning police, juridical system, or governmental institutions, both housing production and public services were replaced by private and, many times, opportunistic initiatives—in the financing of which the diaspora and the international community played a crucial role. Moreover, complex formal-informal mechanisms concerning the land transformation, like privatisation, usurpation, and parcellation, became the constitutive part of territorial regulation and the dominating power structure steering the reconstruction of Kosovo.

On the other hand, while informal and private activities were materialising unabated, there have been official efforts to formalise the reconstruction process through planning instruments, instigating the emergence of parallel realities. The international community's influence on this process is inevitably significant. For example, international staff, part of different active organisations in the country or appointed directly by the UN, the EU, and the US governments, were directly involved in drafting further spatial planning or construction instruments.

However, the contradictions and incongruences between laws produced at different times by experts with other planning and cultural backgrounds who needed a clearer idea of what was happening on the ground have made the implementation of these top-down planning instruments nearly impossible. It was of course challenging to implement them as almost 75% of the building stock was informal. What were once meant to be temporary and informal structures have already become a permanent part of the built environment and could not be considered non-existent.

Moreover, informality in Kosovo became the organising logic and the normative system that governed the urban transformation of the territory of post-war Kosovo. The parallelly produced planning and construction instruments incited the stabilisation of a complex model of entanglement and interdependence between the formal and informal sectors in urban environments, which involves the modes of the physical production of urban space under such regimes. Thus, it is difficult to distinguish between urban informality and formality, which are materialised at different rates of intensity and complexity. This wild formal-informal expansion of cities encroaching on surrounding agricultural land led to chronic problems of environmental deterioration and pollution, inadequate infrastructure and services, lack of public space, and, finally, a massive disruption of Kosovo's social change dynamics.



Image 3. The uncoordinated development of Prishtina, Kosovo

III. What Else Beyond Shelter?

The lack of a solid legal framework, the dominance of the private sector, and the political instabilities brought about by the contested statehood of post-war Kosovo enabled different actors to plan or, instead, not to plan their actions. As a result, despite the state-building and formalisation processes Kosovo has been undertaking since its independence in 2008, and the halt of illegal constructions in 2014, the rapid pace of real estate investments in housing construction remains uninterrupted everywhere in Kosovo.

More importantly, the discrepancies between housing and infrastructure investments and housing supply and demand are further reinforced. It is, for example, assumed that the housing supply has long ago forged ahead of the housing demand. Moreover, a significant absence of social and public infrastructures and other essential urban amenities is the reality of rapidly built neighbourhoods across Kosovo.

This is because Kosovo cannot still find creative and competitive market niches to become part of the European economy and fight the huge unemployment rates, which fluctuated between 25-39% in the last decade. To date, construction—mainly focused on housing—remains one of the most developed economic sectors and the second largest industry after the service sector in Kosovo.

Bringing up the rear, the following failures in the reconstruction process in Kosovo could serve as lessons learned for other post-war reconstruction territories:

- Create job opportunities beyond the construction sector for the population, particularly for the younger one, which constitutes a large part of the labour force. Migration should be only one of many solutions for them to build a good and affordable life.
- Foresee the long-term social, economic, and environmental effects of emergent reconstruction initiatives that can quickly become permanent, such as lawlessness, disintegration, segregation, and discrimination.
- Avoid social and environmental fragmentation and degradation.
- Treat the traumas people went through properly and consider them in all undertakings in the reconstruction process.
- Bring international experiences as best practices that could be integrated and embedded into local planning and building practices. Ultimately, what local communities need and how they apply, use, and transform the provided knowledge matters.
- More importantly, institute the rule of law, and enforce planning decisions to assure a social just and sustainable reconstruction process.



Image 4. Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius and others at the Hansaviertel model during IBA Berlin

Beyond IBA: The International Building Exhibition as a model to implement qualitative urban reconstruction processes in Ukraine

Many actors in architecture and planning engage in emergency aid and reconstruction visions for Ukraine, like the Ro3kvit urban coalition, consisting of professionals from Ukraine and many other countries. As many of these organisations are trying hard to help support the reconstruction of the built environment in Ukraine in multiple ways, there may be a need for a comprehensive, symbolic project platform that serves as a frame to coordinate exemplary aid and reconstruction projects, to communicate within the profession and to Ukrainian citizens, to organize funding and, finally, provide a benchmark label.

An event like an Internationale Bau Ausstellung (IBA) may be a helpful format for such a project campaign. Of course, this IBA is not a replacement for the giant Marshall Plan, which will be needed to reconstruct Ukraine. Still, within the large number of projects, it may constitute an over-arching collection of best practices, which may be a reference or guideline for other projects.

Kees Christiaanse

The European struggle of post-war reconstruction

Like the IBA-Berlin in 1957 and 1984, the IBA-Emscherpark 1989-98 in the Ruhr area, and the IBA-Heidelberg of the past five years, an IBA-Ukraine needs a timeframe of approximately ten years to have a catalytic effect on Ukraine's reconstruction, which will probably need a recovery period of 50 years.

For example, Rotterdam's evolution from the sober post-war reconstruction of its destroyed city centre into a mature metropolis took around 50 years. This was also because a new city centre with a new street pattern and plots was developed, which first needed to "land" in people's minds.

A recovery period of 50 years can also be observed in other cities, like Le Havre in France or Berlin in Germany. Recovery means more than just cleaning up and creating new buildings and infrastructure. Communities need many years to resettle and recreate social, economic, and cultural humus.

The idea of an IBA-Ukraine also explores how we can operate as architects and urbanists during a real-time war condition, where communities are simultaneously destroyed and provisionally repaired. It requires a seemingly contradictory approach combining immediate action and quick improvisation with robust long-term vision and implementation strategies. However, apart from direct support for the damaged habitat, it is undoubtedly valuable and necessary to start planning for reconstruction now.

In Rotterdam, which was destroyed in 1940, architects and planners started to create reconstruction plans in 1941, while the city was only liberated from the Nazis in 1945. Likewise, Patrick Abercrombie made his reconstruction plan for London as early as 1943. A particular case constitutes Berlin, which was split into Eastern and Western parts for 45 years. Thanks to the IBA 1984 and the Planwerk Innenstadt, conceived afterwards, the street pattern in the Wall zone was widely re-knitted together, as if the city disposes of a memory mechanism that automatically repairs back.

The international architecture and planning community is meanwhile providing Ukraine with the following support:

- urban design and planning reconstruction plans,
- reconstruction plans for critical infrastructure (mobility, logistics, energy, supply lines),
- (emergency, modular) housing for refugees and people whose homes are destroyed,
- repair and conversion of existing or damaged buildings,
- (modular) medical, social and educational facilities.
- assistance in consolidating policies, drafting legislation and facilitating knowledge exchange.
- and support in programming, teaching, and management of architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and urban planning education.

An International Building Exhibition, like the German IBA, may become a vehicle to showcase and interconnect practical and innovative solutions for the categories listed above.

Four examples from the past

The following four examples might be a reference for an Ukrainian IBA.

The **InterBau 1957 Hansaviertel Berlin**, a post-war reconstruction for a damaged area, where a new urban district, a City of Tomorrow, reflecting an open society and social-democratic urbanism, with exemplary housing projects and new technologies were constructed, symbolically positioned near the border between West and East Berlin, an antipode to Stalinist urbanism.



Image 5. Destruction of the Hansaviertel in Berlin in 1943



Image 6. Hansaviertel Berlin Interbau 1957

The second IBA is the IBA 1989 Emscher Park, which consisted of multiple sites scattered across the industrial wasteland of the Ruhr Area. It is an example of a decentralised event spread across ten years of development time under the umbrella of a common theme.

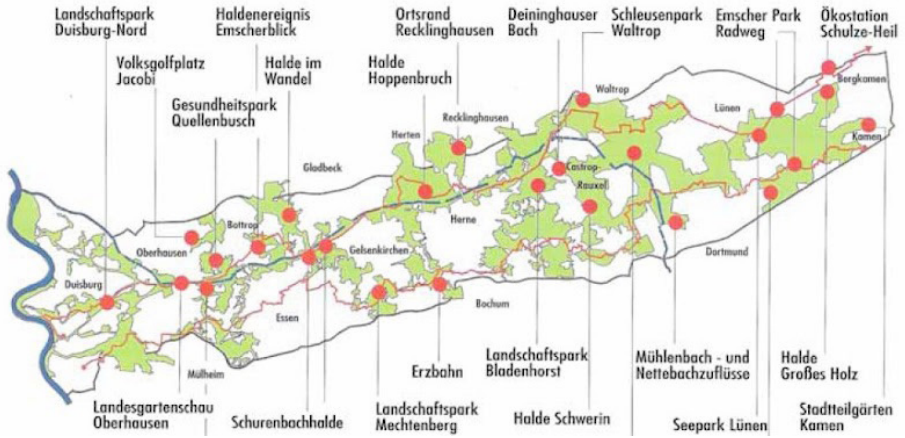


Image 7. Area of the International Building Exhibition Emscher Park (IBA) 1989-1999 with green corridors penetrating the region of Emscher River Valley

The third example is the IBA 1984-7 Kritische Rekonstruktion. It dealt with the repair of damaged urban tissue concerning local morphology, urban character, and re-densification. From this project, the Planwerk Innenstadt evolved to reunite Berlin after the wall's fall and renovate East Berlin.

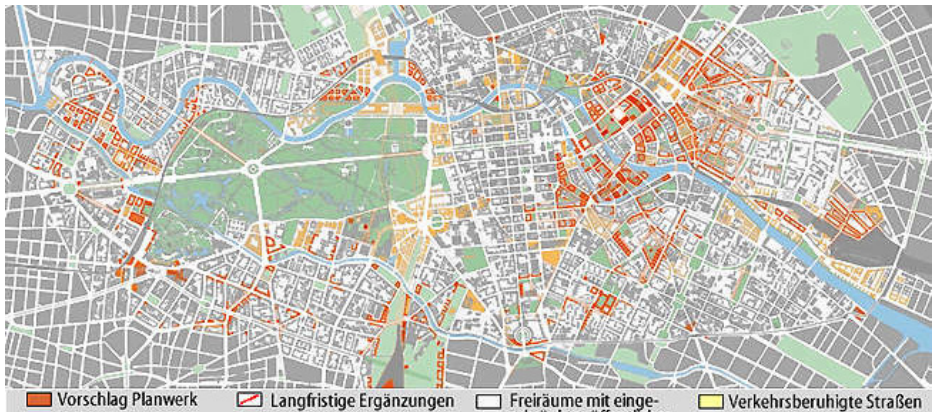


Image 8. Plan of the "Planwerk Innenstadt", masterplan of rebuilding Berlin after German reunification, adopted by the Berlin Senate in 1999

The fourth example is the IBA Hamburg, which focused on redeveloping peripheral zones with lower-income and migrant neighbourhoods and scattered and obsolete industries. Connection to the cities of Hamburg and Harburg and the successful role of IBA Hamburg as a redevelopment platform led to the organisation's continuation as the official development agency for peripheral and suburban development in Hamburg.

IBA Ukraine as an umbrella organisation

A Ukrainian IBA could become a kind of umbrella organisation that:

- develops a contemporary social-democratic building culture instead of autocratic and solely market-driven construction sector,
- constitutes a de-centralized concept of multiple sites and projects across Ukraine,
- adopts and supports projects that comply with sustainable and quality criteria,
- creates an efficient, lean professional organisation that can help implement multiple projects of different scales,
- monitors progress and disseminate results to the local and international community,
- covers a spectrum of projects from overarching masterplans for whole communities to innovative emergency repair of damaged buildings and everything in between.
- includes programs in knowledge transfer, policy development, planning education, and participation processes as an integral part of the organisation.

As reconstruction will take a central position in the recovering society, IBA Ukraine may become a movement rather than an organisation, where a project could become an IBA project when it complies with certain principles of quality and procedural criteria.

Panel of Experts

The following experts were invited to participate at the ECAP 2022 conference session and drafted the Prague Charter:

Petr Návrat - urban planner and economist. From 2005 to 2011 he worked in Sri Lanka. There, as a consultant to GIZ, he introduced local planning reform in the northeastern part of the island. In addition, he worked on projects in Cuba, the Philippines, Cambodia and Nepal. From 2013 to 2016 he worked at IPR Prague, where he was first in charge of the economic part of Prague's strategic plan. Later, as Deputy Director, he founded the public participation department and introduced public participation methods in the city's planning processes. In 2014 he founded ONplan, a planning consultancy that provides comprehensive solutions and services in the field of urban regeneration and strategic city and regional development. He taught spatial planning, urban regeneration and urban design at the International School of Architecture in Prague. He studied urban planning at the Bartlett School of Planning, UCL, London and economics at the University of Economics in Prague.

Anna Bondar - Ukrainian politician and policy-maker with a background in architecture and art history. She is a member of the Ukrainian Parliament from the "Servants of the People" faction. Bondar is also a member of the Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Development. Since 2019 she has been Director General of the Directorate for Technical Regulation at the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Municipal Services of Ukraine. From 2015-2017 she worked she as a Commissioner and Deputy Director of the Section of Landscape Planning and Holistic Development at the Department of Architecture and Urbanism of the Kyiv City Administration. Before that, from 2011-2013, she was head of the department of streets redevelopment at the municipal Kyiv Masterplan Institute. She holds the honorary title of "Distinguished Architect of Ukraine". Bondar supervised the Terra Dignitas competition to design a monument for the Heavenly Hundred, who died during the Maidan Revolution. Bondar is advocating for architectural competitions to be held by Ukrainian cities to improve the quality of urban design and architecture. She is the author of the book, "Architectural and Area Development Competitions: Democracy in Action" and has published numerous academic studies on urban development and urbanism.

Kees Christiaanse - architect and urban planner. He is the founding partner of internationally celebrated KCAP Architects & Planners. With offices in Rotterdam, Zurich, Shanghai, Seoul, Singapore and Paris, KCAP works on architectural and urban design projects throughout Europe and Asia. From 1996 to 2003, he was a professor of architecture and urban planning at the Technical University of Berlin. He later led the Chair of Architecture and Urban Design at the Institute for Urban Design at ETH in Zürich. Next to his activities as an architect and urban designer, Christiaanse was the chief curator of the 4th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) in 2009 entitled "Open City: Designing Coexistence" and between 2010-2018 he was the program leader of the ETH Future Cities Laboratory (FCL) in Singapore. In addition, he is the author of a multitude of books and essays about architecture and urban planning. He has received numerous honours, among others, the lifetime award '2016 RIBA International Fellowship' for his particular contribution to architecture, the 'ARC17 Oeuvre Award' for his lasting and innovative contribution to the improvement of the built environment and the 'ULI Leadership Award 2018' for his extraordinary commitment and courage with which he commits himself to sustainable urban development and a better quality of life in the urban centres of Germany. At present, he is a visiting professor at TU Munich.

Gyler Mydyti - originally from Kosovo, is an architect, urban planner and researcher based in Zurich. Ever since her early studies, including her experience as a post-doctoral scholar at the ETH Zürich in the last 5 years, her research interests have addressed the reconstruction, redevelopment and planning processes of post-socialist and post-war territories—mainly of Albania and Kosovo. She got her BSc degree in Architecture from Istanbul Technical University and MSc degree in Urban Studies from Politecnico di Milano. In 2014 she obtained her PhD from Politecnico di Milano with research focusing on the City-University relationship and its impact on significant urban transformations, especially of former industrial complexes. Before arriving in Zurich, she worked in various design firms and institutions in Istanbul, Milan, Paris and Prishtina.

Haris Piplas - author and associate in various urban development projects in Germany, Austria, Denmark, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. For more than 15 years, he has been researching and actively participating in urban regeneration processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His PhD Thesis titled: "Non-Aligned City: Urban Laboratory of the New Sarajevo" was concerned with the post-war recovery of his home city of Sarajevo.

In 2016 he was the curator of the "Sarajevo Now: People's Museum" at the Venice Biennale. Recently, he has taken an advisory role in the post-war reconstruction of Ukrainian cities. He holds a Masters of Urban Design from the TU Berlin and PhD from ETH Zurich.

Otar Nemsadze - is a co-founder of the Tbilisi Architecture Biennial, which is supported by the EU Creative Europe programme. At the same time, he works as an advisor to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Georgia, implementing reforms in urban development and citizens participation with the main focus on Urban Mobility. Otar holds an M.Arch degree from the Georgian Technical University and an M.Sc. in Urban Management and Development from the Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies, Erasmus University, Rotterdam. In his PhD he focuses on land ownership structures, land conflicts and effects of property ownership on the development of the capital city of Georgia, Tbilisi. Previously Otar worked for Tbilisi City Hall as a First Deputy Head of Architecture Service, supervising the Urban Planning Department. He initiated and managed projects related to updating the land use plan of Tbilisi, establishing a separate unit focusing on the urban development of the city and various other initiatives.

Lidiia Chyzhevska - is a certified architect and urban planning expert in Ukraine. She is the Chief architect of the first developed Comprehensive plan for the spatial development of Rohanska Hromada (municipality) in Kharkiv oblast (region). Also, she was the co-author of 31 pilot projects for the urban and spatial development of Hromadas (municipalities) in collaboration with USAID's AGRO Agricultural and Rural Development project, USAID Global Communities DOBRE project, USAID Agriculture and Rural Development Support (ARDS) project, UN Development Program, Westminster Foundation for Democracy project, International Fund Renaissance, GIZ project. She was the National mentor for the Poltava in GIZ "Integrated Urban Development in Ukraine II" project. She is an expert in the "U-LEAD with Europe" program in capacity development activities in spatial planning and resource management. She is a Board member of the Kyiv Regional Organization of the National Union of Architects of Ukraine and the initiator of The Professional Expert Board: Coordination of Activities for Ukraine's Reconstruction and International Cooperation. Lidiia holds a PhD in Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture from the Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture.

Robert Youssef - is an aspiring Ukrainian-Syrian graduate architect and urban planner. After obtaining a master's degree in urban planning from Architectural Institute in Prague Robert proceeded with his academic endeavours in the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia in the field of urbanism and data science. Currently working with integrated urban development strategies, architectural competition organisation, public participation and spatial analytics. Experienced in research strategy and concept development in projects driven by the common vision of regenerating urban formations through empowering local communities. Highly motivated to conduct research and professional practices responding to humanitarian catastrophes in war-torn areas of Ukraine. Robert co-runs a Prague-based Endowment Fund aimed at providing humanitarian aid and responding on the requests of local NGOs in Ukraine.

