

From Hopes to Actions – Just and Green Urban Recovery Ukraine

**BUILD
BACK
BETTER**
REBUILDING
UKRAINE TO BE FIT
FOR THE FUTURE

CALL FOR CITY PROPOSALS

JUST AND GREEN URBAN RECOVERY IN UKRAINE

* JUST * GREEN * INCLUSIVE * BEAUTIFUL * SUSTAINABLE *

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is needed for participating the call – in brief:

Handing in of the application no later than **12st of August 2025**.

Online exchange info with JGURA-team on the 8th of July 2025, 14-15.00 pm following the [link](#).

The documents to be submitted in Ukrainian include:

- **Filled in and signed JGURA Application Form** (UA and EN if possible)
- A city plan with the **outlined city area(s) / neighbourhoods** to be focussed on
- Documentation showing the **ownership of sites** in the chosen city area
- **A presentation** (up to max. 15 slides) that explains the idea (use the attached pptx template) (UA and EN if possible)
- **Official letter** by the city mayor accompanying the application

All to be sent to JGURA@giz.de and
to iryna.milash@giz.de and to nataliya.zorchenko@giz.de

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1. ABOUT THE JGURA PROJECT

The “**Just & Green Urban Recovery Accelerator**” (hereafter **JGURA**) is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as well as co-financed by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). JGURA represents a strategic response to Ukraine’s **urban recovery** challenges while fostering long-term sustainable integrated urban development. JGURA seeks to support Ukrainian cities in coping with the impacts of the war on the urban fabric and support them to embark on the route towards **socially-just, climate-friendly** and **resilient** approaches in line with the **EU accession agenda**. Guided by the **New Leipzig Charter**, and in the spirit of **New European Bauhaus (NEB)**, JGURA complements Ukraine’s reform and investment agenda outlined in the Ukraine Plan of the EU-Ukraine Facility.

This call **invites a selected number of secondary cities in Ukraine with a minimum of 200,000 residents** to submit a green urban recovery challenge (what) in a specific urban area or neighbourhood (where) to be solved with the JGURA Project. For that matter, the city will **identify needs and potentials that address official investment priorities which the city wants to focus on in the coming years**. The challenge or development objectives in the chosen neighbourhood should be embedded in an **integrated and sustainable urban development concept or similar city planning documents**. The neighbourhood development should address **social, climate, environmental (blue and green), and recovery dimensions** in a holistic manner.

As part of the neighbourhood development JGURA will further support the design and implementation of **one selected demonstration project for green transformation** in the identified neighbourhood, serving as a potential model for **larger-scale investments** through further funding sources. The planning and implementation process is intended to be **replicable and inspiring**, offering practical insights and lessons both during development and after completion. The overall project cycle is expected to span approximately **3 to 4 years**.

JGURA addresses urban recovery challenges following the **Urban Living Lab Approach** – a multi-stakeholder platform established in each partner city to accelerate urban recovery. It involves various stakeholders, including city departments, the private sector, academia, and NGOs. The labs are set up as a real world physical space for co-creation and innovations with regard to **integrated urban solutions for a just and green recovery in line with key NEB values** - sustainability, inclusion, and aesthetics - and core principles - participatory process, multi-level engagement, transdisciplinary approach. These efforts take place **in the context of Ukraine’s EU accession agenda**, which reinforces the urgency and importance of sustainable, inclusive, and forward-looking urban development approaches.

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2. SUPPORT OFFER BY JGURA

What the participating cities will gain:

1. be part of a cohort of Ukrainian change maker cities developing next practices in green and just urban recovery
2. develop your practice solution to solve your challenges with state-of-the-art knowledge and advice on what works and what does not
3. improve your visibility in national and international arenas, strengthen your city's appeal to the private sector/investments, enhance its image as an attractive employer
4. be part of effective multilevel governance and contribute actively to shaping national recovery policies and frameworks.

JGURA will provide:

5. **capacity building, technical and process advice** for the selected cities and other involved stakeholders (e.g. civil society, private sector) in the development of a city **neighbourhood** introducing and using integrated urban planning instruments
6. **financial support, technical and process advice** to design and implement a demonstration project as a selected measure in the neighbourhood development ("demo project"). Financial support for the implementation of a demo project per partner city includes up to 220.000 EUR
7. **technical and process advice** to partner cities and implementation partners on the effective integration of the different needs of women and men, and youth and children, people with disabilities and marginalized groups into the design and implementation of neighbourhood development and demo projects
8. **advice** to link **larger-scale city investment projects** to other funding sources
9. **facilitation of horizontal and vertical learning and dialogue** between Ukrainian and international cities and with the national government authorities. This shall contribute to good practices sharing across Ukraine as well as to informing the Ukrainian national legislative recovery framework with regards to the urban dimension considering the EU accession agenda.

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3. OBJECTIVES OF INTEGRATED NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMO PROJECTS

Building on **European good practices**, JGURA promotes integrated neighbourhood development in line with New European Bauhaus & the New Leipzig Charter as a strategic response to transforming Ukrainian cities and to make them **fit for green recovery** and the EU accession agenda.

In 2021, the **European Commission** launched the **New European Bauhaus** aiming to transform **Europe's neighbourhoods** and living environment through design for sustainability and inclusion. It leads to the development of **holistically thought buildings, open spaces and living environment** around them promoting the **EU Green Deal objectives** and values. It is looking for solutions that are not only sustainable, but also inclusive and beautiful, while respecting the diversity of places, traditions, and cultures in Europe and beyond. It promotes innovative solutions and access to **affordable housing, supports innovation to make the neighbourhoods more circular, regenerative, sustainable, and inclusive**, where people participate, feel connected to the place they live in and feel listened to.¹

The design and implementation of demo projects shall **demonstrate a new or alternative practice in an urban setting** and prove that it works. The demo project will serve as a showcase to demonstrate the **feasibility and reliability of ideas**, thereby promoting wider understanding and adoption considering **Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction objectives** and efforts in line with the EU accession agenda.

The following principles shall guide the collaboration between JGURA and selected Ukrainian cities in the development of neighbourhoods and demo projects:

- **Foster Just and Green Urban Recovery:**
Promotion of a recovery process that supports liveable (sustainable, inclusive, beautiful) cities in Ukraine
- **Enable Local Innovation:**
Promotion of measures of Ukrainian cities, civil society and the private sector that make innovative contributions to just and green urban recovery following an integrated urban development approach

¹ [Revitalising neighbourhoods across Europe with the New European Bauhaus Facility - European Union](#)

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- **Address urgent local needs:**

Support interventions that respond to local **investment** priorities, creating visible and tangible value for the community

- **Contribute to social and economic progress:**

Projects are to contribute to social well-being and stimulate local economies

- **Encourage Experimental Projects / Architecture / Spatial Practices**

Support projects that explore new aspects in green spatial development, architecture, and (re-) construction methods, aiming to transform how and with what we shape our (built) environment.

- **Empower Participatory and Sustainable Practices:**

Support of participatory, environmentally friendly and creative projects in the urban area.

- **Promote Knowledge Sharing:**

To contribute to a nation-wide process through dissemination of future solutions for a liveable city in the sense of a just and green urban recovery of Ukraine in line with its EU accession agenda.

- **Reliable partners:**

- The city is expected to ensure regular, transparent communication and maintain close, constructive cooperation with JGURA.

4. WHICH NEIGHBOURHOOD - AND DEMO PROJECTS ARE BEING SOUGHT

The call invites **proposals for projects** that consider the above-mentioned principles and consider the following aspects in design and implementation:

- The focus is on promoting the sustainable transformation of cities and their neighbourhoods, while strengthening **cross-sectorial cooperation** between **different departments of the city administration and politics**
- Projects should be developed and implemented in close collaboration with residents, civil society organisations, academia and the private sector reflecting a **multi-stakeholder approach**
- Cross-cutting themes to be considered as central aspects of project design and implementation include **nature-based solutions² (nbs)**, **gender equality**, **inclusivity**, **barrier-free**

² European Union Commission's definition: **nature-based-solutions** are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions." Nature-based solutions must therefore benefit biodiversity and support the delivery of a range of ecosystem services.

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and **human-centred design**, as well as the active involvement of **vulnerable groups**. The scope of eligible proposals is intentionally broad in terms of focus and methodology.

Neighbourhood development in your city (Where):

The call for proposals is looking for a neighbourhood or city quarter with a **need for targeted development and coordinated action which corresponds to official investment priorities**. The aim is to identify and work on interconnected projects that collectively enhance a wider part of the city.

Neighbourhood **development** generally refers to the process of shaping and improving an area to create a functional and desirable living environment for residents, as well as a supportive working environment for all. This can involve planning for new housing, infrastructure, public spaces, and amenities in a way that integrates with the existing area, fosters a sense of community, and meets the needs of residents. The area could also include the revitalisation of a brownfield site, transforming previously unused or contaminated land into a valuable and integrated part of the neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood average size to be considered in the call: A neighbourhood is a distinct, localized area within the city, defined by shared physical boundaries, social identity, or common characteristics (or can also be around a physical boundary, like a street or a river). It often includes residential zones, public spaces, and essential services such as schools, shops, and community facilities. A neighbourhood functions as a social and spatial unit where people live, interact, and form networks of everyday life. **It is smaller than a district, perhaps walkable and has at least around 5.000 inhabitants.**

Please note: The proposed neighbourhood development projects should be backed and generally linked to the city development planning of the city authorities.

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Ideas of potential demonstration projects to be designed and implemented as part of the neighbourhood development effort (What):

An **urban demonstration project** is a project designed to demonstrate a new or alternative practice in an urban setting and prove that it works. It serves as a showcase to demonstrate the feasibility and reliability of ideas, thereby promoting wider understanding and adoption. The integrated planning of a demonstration project is linked to planning instruments in the urban fields of action such as (i) public space; (ii) mobility & transport, (iii) energy/energy efficiency or (iv) built environment. It could include, for example:

- The enhancement of public spaces through temporary, experimental, or long-term uses that foster community engagement, creativity, and social inclusion.
- Nature-based and climate-resilient solutions that improve urban quality of life
- Circular (re-)construction initiatives using regenerative or reused materials
- Small-scale mobility interventions that promote accessibility and sustainability

Please note: The demo project ideas do not have to be final. Initial ideas, reflecting the need for action in the identified neighbourhood, are sufficient for the proposal. However, they should be backed and generally linked to city development planning as well as official investment priorities of the city authorities.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

The following eligibility and selection criteria must be addressed by cities applying to participate in the Project's support programme. They serve to ensure strategic alignment, institutional readiness, and local commitment for a successful just and green urban recovery.

Moreover, a **geographical balance** between all participating cities within the three geographical areas (west, central/south, east Ukraine) as well as **synergies** with other German development cooperation projects will be considered in the final selection.

5.1 Evaluation of commitment, readiness and contribution

- **Political commitment:** Clear support from city leadership of the mayor, city council, city administration on just and green urban recovery and the strengthening the resilience of neighbourhoods.
- **Alignment with the city's official priorities:** link between the proposed demonstration project and the city's official investment priorities.
- **Local contribution:** Willingness and ability to mobilise own source contributions for project implementation. This could include, for example: readiness to commit time of relevant staff

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to the project activities, space for project activities (Urban Living Lab space) or financial contributions, etc.

- **Urban Planning experience:** Proven good understanding and/or previous experience with instruments of integrated urban development (e.g. integrated urban development planning concepts, recovery planning, participatory formats, cross sectoral work between city departments on city level, etc.).
- **Strategic Alignment with the city's planning documents:** Alignment or potential to align and create synergies with existing planning documents and recovery programmes / strategies and other ongoing interventions within the city.
- **Community Involvement:** Record of active community-based organizations that support urban development efforts in collaboration with the city administration.

5.2 Evaluation of suggested neighbourhood development projects

- **Impact** - the project contributes to just and green urban recovery on a small- or large-scale urban development
- **Sustainability** - the project sets-out to be environmentally and climate-friendly, socially just and economically sustainable in the long term
- **Innovation** - the project brings a new approach to the city that makes a significant improvement / visibly improves the quality of life
- **Diversity** of project participants and inclusive participation processes are foreseen (various actors to be involved in the project include city administration, politics, civil society, business, science, non-governmental organisations, other institutions such as churches, trade unions, etc.),
- **Exemplary** character - it is a project that has the potential of being replicated in the city or also by other Ukrainian cities in the recovery and reconstruction context.
- Diversity of **funding** (e.g. combination of public and private funds)
- **Realisability** of the project within a period of up to 4 years (e.g. in technical and temporal terms)

The project application will be evaluated according to the above criteria by the JGURA project team.

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6. TIMETABLE

1.07.2025

Starting of the call for application by selected cities

8.07.2025, 14.00-15.00 pm

Online event for all invited cities, with a JGURA project presentation and the possibility to clarify open questions about the application to the call. After that session further questions by each city possible.

25.07.2025

End of question time

12.08.2025

Deadline of application handing in

After handing in, please make sure that the contact person of the application or a representative is available for queries.

Beginning of Sept 2025

Cities are informed about their success in this call.

October 2025

The cooperation between the cities and the JGURA project is to start from October 2025. The cooperation will be agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding between GIZ and the participating city.

The application is to be submitted in Ukrainian by e-mail to JGURA@giz.de and to iryna.milash@giz.de and nataliya.zorchenko@giz.de

If possible, application form and presentation may be submitted in English. Please send application form in MS Word format for translation purposes.

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7. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

Up to three neighbourhood areas can be suggested by the participating city, only one of them can be the focus in the JGURA project. **The following documents must be submitted to take part in the call:**

1. **Filled in and signed JGURA Application Form** (UA and EN, if possible)
2. A city plan with the **outlined city area(s) / neighbourhoods** to be focussed on
3. Documentation showing the **ownership of sites** in the chosen city area
4. **A presentation** (up to max. 15 slides) that explains the context and potential for choosing the neighbourhood/area (use the attached pptx-template)
5. **Official letter** by the city mayor accompanying the application

Personal data protection

Just and Green Urban Recovery Accelerator Project, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), handles this application form, collects and further processes personal data pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001. This form also complies with the Ukrainian legislation ([Law of Ukraine “On Personal Data Protection”](#), adopted on June 1st, 2010, № 2297-VI).

The information collected includes first name, surname, email address, telephone number, organisation and position. Your personal data will not be used for an automated decision-making including profiling.

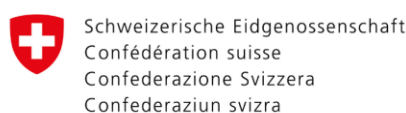
The cooperation with the JGURA project implies a political commitment and local contribution by the selected cities (see under 4.). Through the JGURA project the selected cities get expertise support, a network to learn in and a small amount of funding for realisation. There is no legal entitlement to selection and participation in the JGURA project. The application is to be handed in Ukrainian (and English, if possible). In case of submitting the application form in Ukrainian only, please provide also a MS-Word (.docx) version for translation purposes.

8. CONTACT

Office

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Antonovycha Street 16B, Kyiv, Ukraine

Rahel Freist-Held, GIZ Project Director: rahel.freist-held@giz.de



Swiss Confederation
Швейцарська Конфедерація

Implemented by:

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For **technical questions** about the application procedure, please contact:

Iryna Milash and Nataliya Zorchenko under JGURA@giz.de and
iryna.milash@giz.de nataliya.zorchenko@giz.de