

# ZAPORIZHZHIA

# 2025

a City of **Resilience**  
and **Promise**





# ZAPORIZHZHIA IN A NUTSHELL:

An industrial powerhouse built around a sacred historical site

The city of Zaporizhzhia lies along the banks of the Dnipro River in the south of Ukraine.

Renowned for its industrial potential, including powerful metallurgy and machine-building clusters, it also boasts a rich historical heritage and diverse culture.

With the legendary Khortytsia Island in its very heart, it is a sacred place to any Ukrainian

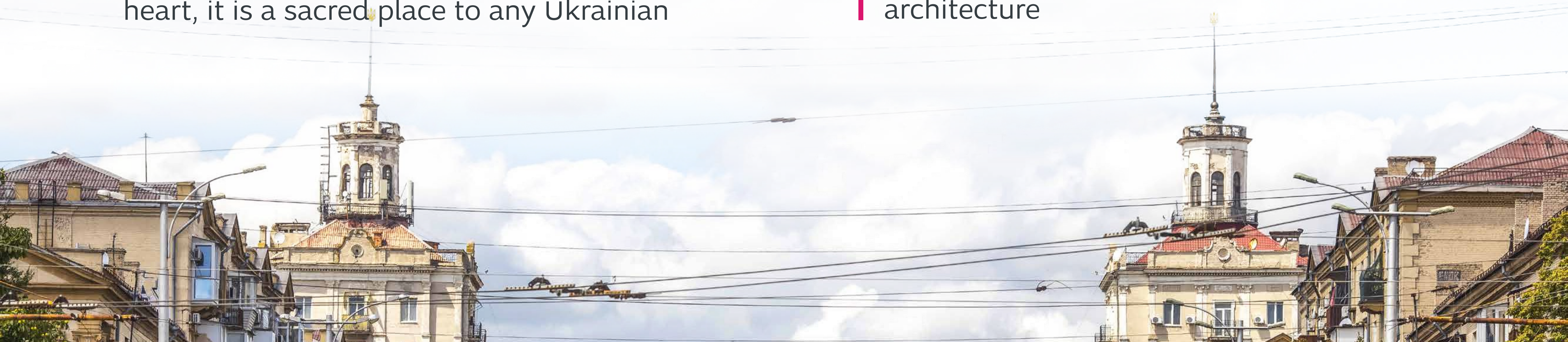
**Total area:** 331 sq.km

**Distance to Kyiv:** 544 km

**Distance to Dnipro city:** 85 km

Population  $\approx$  710,000 (2025)

**Landmarks:** Khortytsia Island  
Dnipro Hydroelectric Station (DniproHES)  
Sobornyi Avenue  
Constructivist and Mennonite architecture







# ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

## Steel heart of Ukraine

### Local economy:

Metallurgical, mechanical engineering, and energy sectors of state significance. Chemical, food manufacturing and food processing industries.

### Job sectors:

- Industry
- Trade
- Transport & Logistics
- Construction
- Public sector (healthcare, education)

Before the full-scale Russia's invasion in 2022, the whole Zaporizhzhia region ranked among Ukraine's top three exporting regions and **top ten by GDP**.



# ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

## Amid the challenges of war

The Zaporizhzhia region and the city have suffered the largest losses because of the war and Russian attacks.

Since 2022, Russia has regularly and deliberately shelled the city's industrial and energy infrastructure.

### NEVERTHELESS:

Many local enterprises continue to operate, albeit not at full capacity.

- > **UAH 174 billion** was the total cost of industrial products sold in 2024.
- > **1,600 small businesses** have relocated to Zaporizhzhia from occupied territories.
- > **1,535 new small businesses** were established in 2024.





# EDUCATION Schools and universities

## Key figures:

- 87 preschools—hybrid learning
- 94 schools—hybrid learning
- 10 TVET institutions
- 5 universities

Zaporizhzhia is a major scientific center, home to the **region's top universities** cultivating a highly qualified workforce not only for the city but for other regions of Ukraine

## TOP UNIVERSITIES

Zaporizhzhia Polytechnic,  
established in 1900  
≈ **13,000 students**

Zaporizhzhia National University,  
established in 1930  
≈ **12,000 students**

Zaporizhzhia State Medical and  
Pharmaceutical University,  
established in 1959  
≈ **13,000 students**







# SOCIAL SECTOR

Caring for people is the top priority

## Major challenges:

- changes in demography;
- new vulnerable populations and need for additional public services;
- the strain on social infrastructure and public transport;
- war traumas and mental health issues;
- socialization of children and youth;
- social housing.

**≈ 158,000 internally displaced persons**

The elderly, women, and children make up 64.8% of all IDPs.



## How we respond:

- Create centers for psychological support of war veterans.
- Launch social taxi for people with disabilities.
- Organize summer camps for children from Zaporizhzhia in twin cities.
- Collaborate with international partners to address most pressing needs.



# COMMUNITY RESPONSE

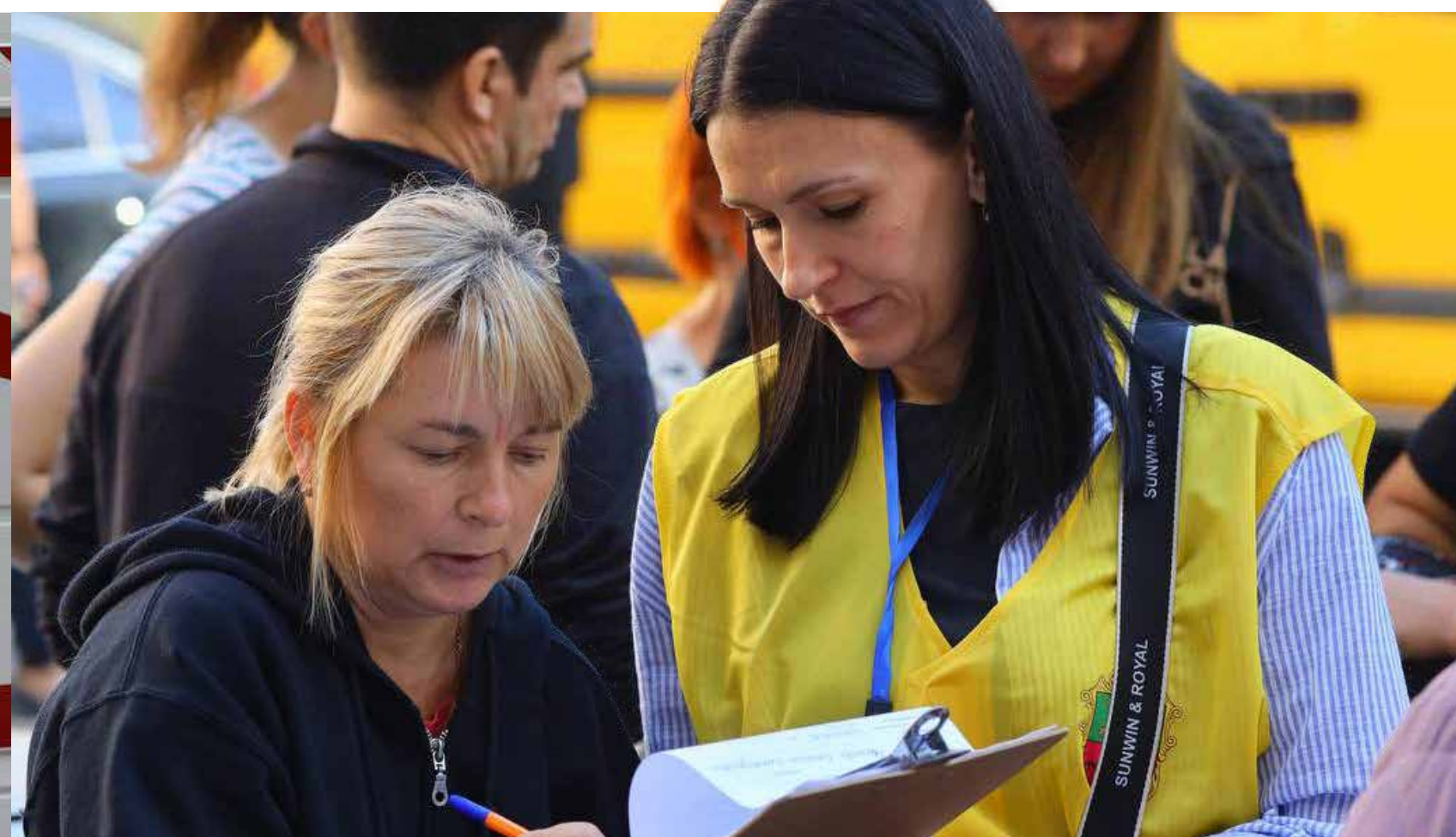
## City of indomitable spirit

Zaporizhzhia's community demonstrates a strong commitment to victory and recovery. Many citizens volunteer to assist the Ukrainian army or aid people and animals affected by the war.

After each attack against the city, many NGOs and charities work together with city authorities to assist affected people with hot meals, essential products, construction materials, and more.

### HOW PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE

- Humanitarian supplies
- Support for hospitals
- IDP shelters and temporary homes
- Working at sites of shelling
- Psychological support
- Free legal aid
- Volunteer initiatives





# CULTURE AND ART

## Power of culture against oppression

Zaporizhzhia continues to celebrate art and culture, hosting open-air exhibitions, theater festivals, and book forums that attract not only locals but also visitors from other regions.

The legendary Khortytsia is an essential part of the city's identity and still a famous tourist destination. As the birthplace of the Zaporizhzhia Cossacks, it is a sacred place for all Ukrainians.

### CULTURAL SPACES

- Zaporizhzhia Regional Philharmonic
- Music and Drama Theater
- Experimental theater "Actor's House"
- Municipal museums: Architecture; Sports
- Regional museums: Local Lore; Arts
- City Tourist Information Center





# CULTURE AND ART

## Major events in 2024



### **Book Festival “Read Forum”**

A two-day literary and art festival attracted hundreds of visitors for a book fair and presentations, art exhibitions, panel discussions, and various entertaining activities for children.



### **Zaporizhzhia International Film Festival**

Held for the first time since the full-scale invasion, gathering 1,500+ applications from 62 countries. ZIFF featured screenings of 50 films of Ukrainian and international production and meetings with producers and film crews.



### **GogolFest Pokrova 2024**

The GogolFest multidisciplinary festival of contemporary art returned to Ukraine and was held in Zaporizhzhia for the first time. The memory of fallen soldiers and civilians, the stories of destroyed cities through personal diaries and biographies, and musical performances united the city's residents and guests.



# YOUTH OF ZAPORIZHZHIA

## Re-inventing the city for and with youth

**In 2024**, the city took a significant step in youth empowerment by establishing its first municipal Youth Center. It is staffed by dedicated young citizens who completed special training and are truly committed to shaping the city's future.

The city also has an active Youth Council. They helped develop a city program, "Youth of Zaporizhzhia for 2025-2027," which is the main local document on youth policy.

**≈ 200,000 young people in Zaporizhzhia**

According to the U-Report survey, 68% of young residents of Zaporizhzhia want to build their future in Ukraine after the war.







# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## Sister Cities

Zaporizhzhia has a long tradition of sister city partnerships. Our collaboration includes humanitarian efforts and joint projects that strengthen civil infrastructure, promote cultural exchange, and share best practices in the public sector.

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### MAJOR COLLABORATIONS:

- Community vehicles for Zaporizhzhia—with Magdeburg, Oberhausen, and GIZ.
- Development of the Rehabilitation Clinic—with Oberhausen and Engagement Global.
- Summer camps for children from the frontline areas—with Lahti and Magdeburg.
- School partnerships—with Belfort and Oberhausen.
- Humanitarian aid—Belfort, Linz, Magdeburg, Oberhausen.



# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## Donors' contribution

Zaporizhzhia City Council is a reliable partner for international organizations, global agencies, foreign and Ukrainian municipalities, charitable, nonprofit and non-governmental organizations.

**Our joint efforts result in meaningful projects and measurable impact.**

### Our priorities:

- Strengthening utilities
- Improving public services
- Assisting affected populations
- Creating opportunities for youth
- Effective emergency response
- Safety measures
- Social housing





# KEY COOPERATION PROJECTS

What we achieved with our partners



**Restored** school shelters enabling safe learning for 15,000+ students and teachers | **with UNICEF.**

**Trained** 90 municipal employees, enhanced the city's administrative services center, and upgraded utilities with new equipment to provide better public services | **USAID's DG East project.**

**Renovated** the historical building in the city's constructivist quarter, and opened the Youth Center accessible for all young people there | **UNICEF.**

**Equipped** “crisis buses” from the municipal fleet—they operate as mobile aid points at sites affected by shelling | **USAID's UCBI project.**

**Launched** social taxi service and purchased rehabilitation equipment for children's center | **Kusanone program.**

Created a safe co-working for community groups in the shelter of the city's cultural center | **UNDP Ukraine.**





## WHAT WE OFFER

**Comprehensive support** at every stage of partnerships and strong engagement from the City Council and Regional Administration.

**City Development Institute of Zaporizhzhia** — municipal institution established by the City Council to foster international cooperation and promote innovative urban solutions.

**A vibrant civic sector** for collaborative projects, including the Municipal Youth Center, Youth Council, and active NGOs.

**Schools and universities** eager to exchange knowledge, do joint research, work on solutions for the future, and promote cultural dialogue between students.

**Urban Resilience Strategy** and Zaporizhzhia 2030 Vision, developed in collaboration with the Ro3kvit Urban Coalition for Ukraine, local experts, and the public.



# OUR GOOD PRACTICES

## Medical Expertise

Surgeons with unique expertise in diagnosing and treating polytrauma, war-related trauma, and children's trauma.

## Crisis Response

Emergency medical assistance, mobile aid points, "crisis buses" to help people, effective cross-sectoral coordination, and restoring public services after emergencies.

## School Education in Crisis Times

Zaporizhzhia leads the country in constructing safe underground schools, ensuring children can continue their education. Teachers successfully utilize "Mriia," the innovative educational state app that approaches learning in an inspirational way.

## Renovating Public Libraries

11 libraries transformed into modern and comfortable hubs for reading, creativity, communication, and public events.

## Invincible Cultural Hubs

Multi-functional, fully-equipped spaces created in underground shelters of municipal cultural centers as a response to Russian acts of aggression against Zaporizhzhia. The solution allows the city to hold and host cultural events, various training sessions, workshops, and public discussions in safe conditions.







# OUR GOOD PRACTICES

## Youth Center Managed by Youth

A unique municipal institution created from scratch, equipped through joint efforts of many partners, and staffed by dedicated professionals from active youth.

## Children's Orchestra "Sympho KIDS"

The only children's symphony orchestra in the south of Ukraine. Its repertoire includes contemporary arrangements of Ukrainian music, classics, jazz, and pop.

In 2024, Sympho KIDS played in a joint concert of classical Ukrainian and German music, performed simultaneously in Zaporizhzhia and its sister city Oberhausen via video broadcast.

## Craft Museums

Our "craft" museums are unique spaces with exclusive exhibits and interactive elements that bring the city's history closer and make you fall in love with it.

- Museum of Architecture of Zaporizhzhia
- Museum of Sports, a.k.a. Museum of Phenomenal Strength.

## Innovative Theater

The "Actor's House" is an experimental performance arts platform that unites actors, a jazz orchestra, ballet, and stunning modern technologies.





# WHAT WE SEEK

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- **Partnerships** with like-minded municipalities to exchange knowledge, expertise, and best practices, fostering a sustainable, democratic, and prosperous future.
- **New connections** with municipal companies, schools, universities, non-governmental organizations, youth-led initiatives, and businesses.
- **Collaborative projects** in education, healthcare, culture, public services, green transition, urban mobility, and other key sectors, including hard and soft projects, exchange programs, and policy learning.
- **Experienced partners** for joint participation in EU programmes and support for Zaporizhzhia on Ukraine's path to EU membership.
- **Humanitarian partnerships** to support those affected by war and strengthen social, healthcare, and other critical infrastructure.



# CONTACTS

Learn more about Zaporizhzhia  
and reach out to us

## CITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF ZAPORIZHZHIA

🌐 [irmzp.org.ua/en](http://irmzp.org.ua/en)

✉ [irmzpcity@gmail.com](mailto:irmzpcity@gmail.com),  
[reception.irmz@zp.gov.ua](mailto:reception.irmz@zp.gov.ua)

📘 @irmzpcity

## ZAPORIZHZHIA CITY COUNCIL

🌐 [zp.gov.ua](http://zp.gov.ua)

✉ [info@zp.gov.ua](mailto:info@zp.gov.ua)

📘 @zaporizhzhia  
citycouncil

