



UKRAINIAN MUNICIPALITY INTERESTED IN INITIATING PARTNERSHIP CONTACTS

Municipality	Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community
Mayor	Volodymyr Sosunovskyi
Location	The area is 321.285 km ² . The Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community is situated on the bank of the Dnipro river to the south of Zaporizhzhia City. Highway M18 Kharkiv-Simferopol (which is a part of European E105 highway) runs through the territorial community.
Population	The population of the Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community is 18,112 people (15,700 – economically active).
Short overview (1-5 sentences)	<p>The Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community comprises three localities: Balabyne, Kushuhum (administrative center) and Malokaterynivka.</p> <p>All three localities were founded by Zaporizhzhia kozaks. There are several barrows (the so-called Orphans' graves) on the territory of the community, in which burials of the Bronze Age, Scythian times and nomads of the X-XI centuries were found.</p>
Website	http://kushugum-rada.gov.ua/
Expert knowledge in some fields (example Energy, Water, Education, Technology etc.)	The Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community was one of the first territorial communities that implemented effective management of medical institutions within decentralization reform. The community has experience of attracting private investors to improve the quality of healthcare. Three medical institutions function in the territorial community, including primary healthcare, secondary healthcare and an inpatient hospital.
Desired areas of future cooperation with the European municipality	<p>The main directions of future cooperation for the Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Exchange of experience and best practices. Representatives of the Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community are interested in acquiring new skills and competencies in areas such as local governance, sustainability, energy efficiency, social policy, transportation system, and others. Exchange can take place through organizing seminars, conferences, visits, and internships.2. Tourism and cultural exchange development. Implementation of joint projects aimed at making the territory attractive to tourists, cultural exchanges, festivals, and exhibitions. This can enhance the level of tourism potential and increase cultural diversity.3. Infrastructure development. Joint projects for the development of municipal infrastructure (water drainage and supply facilities, heating systems, energy consumption, gas supply, communication, hydro-technical structures); transportation infrastructure (road networks, public transportation, sidewalks, bicycle lanes); social infrastructure (healthcare, education, culture, sports, trade

	<p>facilities); recreational infrastructure (parks, squares, game and leisure areas), and administrative infrastructure. They can contribute to modernization and improvement of the quality of life for the population.</p> <p>4. Collaboration in green energy. Implementation of innovative programs and projects aimed at green energy development and utilization of renewable energy sources.</p> <p>5. Joint development of energy efficiency. Implementation of advanced energy-efficient technologies and programs aimed at reducing energy consumption, utilizing renewable energy sources, and improving energy efficiency in construction and public facilities.</p> <p>6. Implementation of joint environmental conservation initiatives. Collaborative implementation of initiatives for nature conservation, biodiversity preservation, and creation of environmentally friendly zones. This may include the establishment and development of parks, recreational areas, bicycle paths, and pedestrian walkways.</p> <p>7. Implementation of youth programs and modern educational initiatives. Development of joint educational programs and projects for children and youth. Implementation of innovative approaches to enhance the effectiveness of the educational process. Involvement of young people in active civic engagement in identifying community problems and their innovative solutions.</p> <p>8. Implementation of new initiatives in the social sphere. Joint development and implementation of programs aimed at reducing social inequality, supporting vulnerable population groups, and developing social services. This may include exchange of experiences in the fields of social work, healthcare, rehabilitation, and inclusive development.</p> <p>9. Collaborative projects to support small businesses and innovation. Collaboration in creating a favorable environment for the development of small and medium-sized businesses and innovation. This may include the establishment of incubators, startups, organization of educational programs and competitions for young entrepreneurs, as well as joint financing and support of innovative projects.</p> <p>10. Joint development of digital technologies and innovation. Collaborative efforts in implementing digital solutions and innovative technologies to improve the efficiency of public administration, electronic services for residents, and the overall standard of living. Joint projects may involve the development, implementation, and enhancement of digital platforms, the Internet of Things (IoT), and smart community management systems.</p> <p>11. Collaboration in sports and recreation. Joint cooperation in the development of sports programs, organization of sports competitions, and other recreational events. This can contribute to promoting a healthy lifestyle, popularizing sports, and creating an active sports environment.</p>
<p>Challenges that the territorial community has faced since the full-scale russian invasion</p>	<p>Since the full-scale russian invasion, the Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community has faced the following challenges:</p> <p>1. Increase in the number of internally displaced persons in the community.</p>

As of today, there are 1670 internally displaced persons registered in the community. There is a need for quick and effective resettlement of the displaced individuals, providing them with housing, food, and hygiene supplies. Additionally, internally displaced persons are in a vulnerable position, having lost their homes and families, and require assistance in adapting to new living conditions. The community should support the process of social integration by providing psychological, legal, and medical support, as well as creating opportunities for employment and education.

2. Destruction of infrastructure and housing stock in the community.

The Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community has been repeatedly shelled by Russian forces during the war, resulting in damage to nearly 280 private houses and 4 businesses in the three villages of the community. Five houses are beyond repair. Currently, repair work is underway on the damaged private houses.

3. Economic challenges.

The Russian invasion has caused significant economic losses. Infrastructure, businesses, agricultural lands, and other sectors have been damaged or destroyed. The community is facing a decrease in job opportunities, increased unemployment, and economic instability.

4. Suspension of social sector development.

The conflict and the needs of displaced persons have caused financial strain on the community. The increased expenses for humanitarian aid, resettlement, food, and other needs of the displaced population have led to limitations in funding social programs and projects.

5. Suspension of agricultural development.

The damage to agricultural infrastructure, roads, grain storage facilities, and other agricultural structures has hindered agricultural production. Moreover, many local residents have been forced to abandon their lands and relocate to safer areas, resulting in reduced production, labor shortages, and decreased productivity in the agricultural sector.

6. Population migration.

Some residents are leaving the community due to the security situation resulting from the conflict. The danger to life and inadequate protection force people to seek safer places to live, leading to a loss of human capital in the community.

7. Flooding of the community's territory.

Due to the spring flooding through the reservoirs of the Dnieper cascade, the populated areas of the Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community are currently experiencing flooding. Approximately 230 households have been flooded. Flooding has a serious impact on the ecological balance of the territory, causing water pollution, loss of rare animal and plant species, and destruction of aquatic ecosystems, among other environmental consequences.

8. Electricity supply disruptions.

Since the full-scale Russian invasion, the Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community has faced frequent power outages. Damage to the electrical grid poses a threat to the safety and well-being of the population. The lack

	<p>of electricity hampers the functioning of hospitals, schools, and worsens living conditions for the residents, especially during cold periods.</p> <p>9. Remote organization of the educational process. Due to the security situation in the Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community, recipients of general and preschool education have had to carry out learning and communication in an online environment using electronic platforms. Additionally, the community is facing new challenges related to the material and technical support of all participants in the remote educational process.</p> <p>10. Insufficient number of basic shelters in the Kushuhum Settlement Territorial Community. The community has established basic shelters in general and preschool educational institutions, as well as in the medical facility. However, there is a need to organize basic modular shelters in areas with the highest concentration of people.</p> <p>11. Medical assistance. The conditions of the conflict have led to instability in the healthcare system and limited access to medical care. The number of healthcare professionals available to provide adequate assistance has significantly decreased, especially in the secondary level of care. This can pose a threat to the health and lives of the community's residents.</p> <p>12. Environmental problems. A military conflict has a serious negative impact on the environment. Military actions cause pollution of soil, water, and air, destruction of ecosystems, and loss of biodiversity. This can have long-term consequences for the health of residents and the natural environment of the community.</p> <p>13. Psychological consequences. Military conflict leads to severe traumatic stress, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other psychological problems among community residents. The loss of loved ones, property damage, and constant fear significantly affect mental health and overall well-being of the population.</p> <p>14. Decline in entrepreneurial development. Reduced pace of entrepreneurial development results in economic losses for the community. Limited opportunities for creating new businesses and expanding existing ones lead to decreased production, employment, and profit generation.</p>
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<p>Language for communication (мова комунікації)</p>	<p>Ukrainian</p>

Photo of municipality view
(фото громади)

