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| Danish organisation | Landsforeningen for Økosamfund |
| Title of the intervention | IDPowerment |
| Partner name(s) | GEN Ukraine |
| Amount applied for | 500.000 kr. |
| Country(ies) | Ukraine |
| Period (# of months) | 7 months |

1. **Objective and relevance (the world around us)**

The ‘Global Ecovillage Network Ukraine’ (GEN Ukraine) is a network of ecovillages and ecological initiatives. With the support of the Danish Ecovillage Network (LØS) and through the CISU funded project “LAUNCH AND THRIVE - AWAKENING UKRAINE” in 2019, the organisation successfully took off creating a strong network which facilitates the adoption of ecovillage values, ecovillage strategies and civil participation as models for citizen-led sustainable development in Ukraine. In the last couple of years, GEN Ukraine has become the lead organisation in Ukraine within the field of sustainability, as it has united before unorganised eco-communities and initiatives throughout the country and has built its capacity to be able to empower communities and individuals for sustainable development.

When the war broke out in Ukraine in February 2022, GEN Ukraine immediately got engaged offering assistance as a civil society next to the major players. It was named Green Road of Ecovillages, a network of locations in the countryside hosting internally displaced people (IDP’s). With the DERF project (Title: Ukrainian Ecovillages for Peace) and additional help from other sources more than 2500 people have found refuge in the locations. The intervention includes arranging sleeping places (mattresses, linen, blankets etc), improving infrastructure (stoves for heating, refrigerators, cooking and washing machines etc), building materials and tools for renovation of old houses where the IDPs stay, feeding and medical support, but also coverage of electricity and fuel for the hosting communities, to compensate a bit for their enormous civil society effort. After the first phase of these very agile emergency actions GEN Ukraine needs to consolidate its efforts and catch up on the intervention for it to continue to be a true success story.

This support from DERF (and later other donors) was crucial for GEN Ukraine on different levels:

* real help to IDP’s who have found short-term or long-term refuge in locations that are different from other shelters, with much higher levels of human connection in ecovillages. The locations in the calm countryside areas are sad to be healing in themselves;
* support of the communities with material resources, improving infrastructures and ability to host
* bringing the existing members of the communities closer: they have IDPs to take care of and had to quickly adapt and also learn to distribute and share material goods like tools and equipment;
* some of the many IDP’s have decided to join the hosting communities like real members and stay and live there for long, meaning the communities have become drastically bigger;
* the hosting communities have developed their activities or adopted new ones like rehabilitation weekends for volunteers from the cities, hosting war abandoned animals, children summer camps;
* the network have become larger and stronger: there is a high level of solidarity and mutual support where different locations share goods with each other goods, the common chat and weekly zoom calls of the coordinators of the hosting locations plays a team-building role, and from there other initiatives like weekly zoom calls of psychological support, groups of fundraising and grant application writing, women circles etc have started to evolve;
* the Green Road project has been noticed by other funders and initiatives that proposed their support and upscaled the immediate emergency intervention, with needed infrastructure.

Summing up, the result of the DERF intervention is a much stronger network of eco-communities with new connections and perspectives than before the war. For the future, there is a unique chance to form a multifaceted public voice with new members, greater involvement of new leaders in governance, the proclamation and realisation of civic needs, and the strengthening of GEN Ukraine as a network, to create a democratic system for active civil society and secure a green transformation in the rebuilding of Ukraine. Also, GEN Ukraine currently has the opportunity to capitalise on this leading position on the national level of NGOs by taking leadership and demonstrating that civil society actors take responsibility and show ways to a more sustainable transition after numerous crises.

But here and now, four and a half months into the war, there are constant immediate needs still to be attended to, people keep coming after each bombing and the future is still very unclear. Nevertheless, the IDP’s and their ecovillage hosts are doing their best to continue to live their lives. This project seeks to direct attention and support to both the host communities and their IDP’s, improving their ability to continue to live in coherence and with mutual respect, as a ‘best practise’ example for the future of Ukraine

The war in Ukraine continues and the ecovillages now must develop strategies of living in the context and conditions of long-lasting aggression, with their many new inhabitants. The major direct challenges are:

1) DOUBLED POPULATION IN ECOVILLAGES - NON SKILLED NEWCOMERS

The many new people that have settled down in the ecovillages do not have many skills of community life. 60 locations of the Green Road of Ecovillages have hosted around 2500 persons since February. Some of these IDP’s stayed for several nights, but many for several months. Here in the beginning of the summer lots of people whose homes were not damaged have left back to their homes even if their cities are still not secure. But others stay in the ecovillages and plan to stay for the wintertime or even more, becoming full members of the communities instead of being refugees/IDP’s. The 35 most active locations in the network of Green Road are hosting around 450 long staying IDPs and have already the same number in their communities. This means a double up of the ecovillage inhabitants. These people seriously need skills of community life as they have arrived from a totally different setting and must settle in a new environment. When resources are scarce, tensions can become high, and the situation can easily become conflict prone.

2) EMERGING FOOD CRISIS IN UKRAINE

Prices for food are constantly rising and there is a high risk of severe lack of products in the very near future. Eco-communities already grow food, but the storage rooms are now getting empty. GEN Ukraine has provided help from other donors scaling up this activity: greenhouses and small-scale agriculture equipment was given to the locations and IDPs are increasingly being involved in the process of food growing. But the IDPs coming from the cities often have no useful experience in food growing and hosts are not always capable of transferring this important knowledge during their daily - and many new - chores. Training in permaculture growing methods is proposed as a capacity building intervention for IDP’s as it will give skills in planning plots, usage of resources, growing food in an organic way etc. to strengthen food security and make them more resilient and less dependent on the already exhausted host-communities and international funding.

3) LIVING IN A STATE OF CONSTANT INSECURITY

The situation in the country is unstable and the end of the war is unpredictable. People are seeking answers and want to plan their lives, but the context makes this difficult. Ecovillage hosts are completely exhausted and have done their best to stand up for their fellow Ukrainians in need. Many newcomers arrive without their men. In this situation there is a constant search for meaning, hope and something to be able to do and believe in - to get relief from the pain, sorrow, and desperation this situation naturally causes. But everything has been put on halt, as schools and educational institutions unavailable, people have lost their jobs etc.

GEN Ukraine as an organisation feels responsible for the processes that were launched with the Green Road project and for accompanying the ecovillages together with IDPs in their adaptation processes. Wherefore this project seeks to try and mitigate the challenges occurring when doubling the ecovillage population in a war context, supporting both the host communities and the IDP’ becoming members of the communities, through a smooth integration process. It can be achieved through a number of trainings and gatherings that will bring together leaders of hosting communities, learning from their experiences so far, and IDPs interested in ad able to learning the tools of effective communication and community life (SOFT SKILLS), and becoming change actors also in the food growing interventions needed (HARD skills).

The purpose of this intervention is therefore to accompany hosting eco-communities in building new forms of strong and sustainable relations inside themselves involving IDPs in these processes and through the active involvement of both host communities and IDP’s to consolidate GEN Ukraine as an organisation able to provide not only emergency assistance (DERF), both SOFT and HARD skills to survive crisis situations.

* Describe the context of the intervention:

The context is the uncertainty of war where nothing works the way it used to do, and the future is unsure.

The war in Ukraine has been going on for four months already. The battles are going on at the eastern and southern borders of Ukraine and part of the territory is occupied. The big cities all over Ukraine are at risk of shelling. The countryside remains a relatively safe zone (despite five eco-communities being attacked, till now), without alarms, where people live normal life as much as it is possible in a war-torn country.

The ecovillages and other locations of the Green Road are different from other shelters for refugees as there is an ambience of friendship and support, togetherness. While in the country in general the mood could be described as depressive, in the ecovillages one could feel a more positive atmosphere, looking ahead, working on inclusion of new members, and slowly starting to think of the next phase and the good life.

The economic context however influences the ecovillages as well as the rest of the country. The drastic increase of prices and loss of income for lots of people put them in tough living conditions. They try to survive without jobs, money and security. Also, men are absent in the families as they fight for the country.

But the support provided by GEN Ukraine from different sources helps members of the eco-communities and IDPs to look into the future with hope. Conditions for scaling up agriculture activity and starting new small businesses are made, small agriculture equipment and food processing machines are appearing in the communities thanks to the support of different projects. It is this wave the project is riding on.

The intervention will take place in a fragile context as the proceedings of the war are still unpredictable and changes can happen every day, resulting in a constant adaptation and mitigation situation. GEN Ukraine as an organisation has limited room to manoeuvre than previously, there are roadblocks, increase in prices, lack of mobility options etc. In a nexus situation as this, the aim of this project is to strive for resilience in the eco-communities that started out as refugee centres offering immediate assistance, now ready to take the next step, alongside continuously attention to the emergency the country is still in.

* Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organisation – including active citizenship, volunteering, and public engagement – that contribute to social justice.

As the GEN Ukraine president stated in the beginning of the war: “You can choose to become a soldier, a refugee or a volunteer”. The voluntary effort from ecovillage members has been tremendous. With this intervention GEN Ukraine will not only continue its work hosting IDP’s in its eco-communities but will also try to make life as both hosts and IDP’s more resilient.

It is about active citizenship and about empowerment of people that many categorise as weak - women, children, and the elderly on the run, as refugees or IDP’s. Before the war, GEN Ukraine was a different organisation - which people from eco-communities could join if they wanted to, the usual organisational enthusiasts. Now, especially with the DERF grant, GEN Ukraine has shown the power of networking and the worth of standing together as civil society in a very agile way, from day 1 of the war. The project will potentially strengthen the voice of these communities as a network advocating for sustainability, in the upcoming rebuilding phase, as they are now part of the movement in a totally different way. As an organisation, GEN Ukraine is growing. By supporting the sustainable growth of the ecovillages and their distribution of land, housing, materials, and food in a time of war is strengthening the resilience of civil society and the participation in decision-making processes on the community-level, along with engaging members in the national and furthermore increasingly the European field, through the need for a very tight network and cooperation. This project will build on that, and the project will strengthen the involvement of these eco-communities for a later project targeting the rebuilding of Ukraine.

* Climate- and environmental conditions the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to

Ecovillages are examples of environmental consciousness and sustainable ways of living. By promoting ecovillages, GEN Ukraine and LØS are creating a holistic response to the current climate- and environmental conditions - and crisis. Now also in a war situation. During the previous interventions GEN Ukraine has continuously communicated and encouraged the communities to spread information about their sustainable practices, along with on-ground practical solutions, through online courses, festivals, publications and more. What can be done now is working directly with the IDP’s who are already there, on site, wanting to be skilled and contributors, instead of passive receivers. Growing food is the ultimate simplest way to grow resilience, both economically and ecologically. Related to the ecological footprint of the intervention at hand, GEN Ukraine and its partners will act with utmost care and consideration through actions such as limiting physical trips, which are also made difficult during the war.

1. **The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)**

**Global Ecovillage Network Ukraine (GEN Ukraine)** is a network of ecovillages and ecological initiatives, founded in 2018. GEN Ukraine is a part of the European regional network of the Global Ecovillage Network that actively fosters social resistance, environmental protection, and revival of nature with the ecovillage concept as a model of sustainable human settlements. Ecovillages of Ukraine are very diverse communities with bright social structures but share common environmental, economic, social, and cultural values and goals. GEN Ukraine promotes and creates the image of the ecovillages for the broader population, ensuring networking between Ukrainian communities. The organisation arranges and takes part in environmental education events on a wide range of subjects: climate change, circular economy, clean energy and effective buildings, ecovillages and sustainable communities, biodiversity, and ecosystems conservation. GEN Ukraine now has experience in managing large- and small-scale projects. The organisation has a successful management system - there are a team of experienced coordinators. The organisation has a website (in Ukrainian and English) with a map of ecovillages, very active pages on Facebook and Instagram, a Youtube channel, a mailing list and chats for the members on Telegram. The network officially counts 60 members of three types: communities, ecological initiatives and above that also individual members. The feedback from the network members shows that there is trust in the organisation and appreciation of its work. Which has been rising during the war. GEN Ukraine has experience in networking and built lasting partnerships with various other Ukrainian climate-organisations through the co-organisation of different conferences and trainings. These organisations are ‘Permaculture in Ukraine’, ‘Seed Treasury’, ‘Zero Waste’, ‘Organic Agriculture Association of Ukraine’, ‘Biodynamics in Ukraine’ etc. During the war, GEN Ukraine had many of its regular activities pending and has the GREEN ROAD project, hosting IDP’s in ecovillages, as its main activity.

**LØS (the Danish Association of Ecovillages)** is a national network of Danish ecovillages – actually the first of its kind in the world. LØS is referred to as Global Ecovillage Network Denmark (GEN Denmark) in the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN). We run national and international activities and are organised using sociocracy. We have a circle that engages LØS in international development activities and encourages strong engagement in and from Danish civil society. Part of this process is being a member of CISU. Being a founding member of Global Ecovillage Network Europe, great interest in working internationally exists in LØS. Furthermore, LØS is one of the founding members of the Baltic Ecovillage Network and ECOLISE, the latter positioning for a networked and advocacy-oriented approach. Currently, LØS is engaged in the Erasmus+ scheme from the EU primarily through mobility grants (capacity building), and strategic partnership projects. One is called ‘Launch & Thrive’, originating from the first CISU project with GEN Ukraine, indicating the curiosity of how to launch a new network and make it thrive. The two main partners are GEN Ukraine and LØS. During the war, LØS has been very active. Both staff and volunteers engage in various circles that seek to support GEN Ukraine in its efforts, be it with information work, hosting of refugees in Denmark, packing trucks, fundraising etc. More and new committed volunteers have joined the work. In the Green Road Project LØS has been the main supporter of GEN Ukraine and its interventions during the war. Every week we have meetings with the GEN Ukraine core team, we plan fundraising campaigns and send humanitarian aid through Keep Ukraine, one of the new partners to LØS. A team from GEN Ukraine is now based in Denmark, hosted in four different ecovillages. As the Ukrainian ecovillages opened their doors, so did the Danish (and European). Now every member of LØS knows GEN Ukraine and we are now 60 hosts in Denmark, which LØS is coordinating on a national level. It therefore comes naturally to understand the situation of the hosting communities in Ukraine, with the massive inflow of new people - even the people hosted in the Danish ecovillages are most often people connected to the GEN Ukraine network.

* Describe any previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners, and how these experiences have fed into the development of the proposed intervention.

Even before the war, LØS and GEN Ukraine have been cooperating on numerous projects:

“LAUNCH AND THRIVE - AWAKENING UKRAINE” (June 2019 - September 2020) which objective was creation of the GEN Ukraine network and increasing the capacity of key members. Two ecovillage conferences took place in Ukraine, along with a dozen of trainings (i.e. economy, sociocracy, community building, European Day of Sustainable Communities), tours and meetings. LØS was assisting GEN Ukraine throughout the project, guiding and suggesting solutions and strategies. Seven members of GEN Ukraine came to Denmark in September 2019 to take part in a training and to follow the functioning of LØS by attending the General Assembly and visiting several member ecovillages, to get a sense of the Danish network. In 2020 two Danish facilitators from LØS came to Ukraine in August 2020 to facilitate the Ecovillage Design Education course. 5 members from GEN Ukraine attended LØS’ Sustainability and Resilience Festival in Denmark to share Ukrainian experience in sustainable practices*.* During both visits in 2020, the partner organisations evaluated the previous intervention and clarified the need for the future organisational development.

"GROWING OUR NEW FUTURE" (May 2020 - September 2020) - with the beginning of COVID-19 pandemics GEN Ukraine reacted with this intervention and created a 9-week online video course designated for city dwellers, presentation videos from ecovillages, flash mobs in social networks and volunteer weekends in regional centers.The project aimed to promote life in sustainable communities, mainly in the countryside, as an alternative to the conventional approach of individualistic living in the cities that has shown its economic and social weaknesses in the face of the Corona- and related/enforced national crises. LØS was supporting GEN Ukraine with guidacance and GEN Ukraine's work inspired LØS to have the Sustainability and Resilience Festival in September 2020 as ecovillage responses to covid-19 where people from GEN Ukraine were invited as co-creators and speakers.

The project that is currently going on; "UKRAINIAN ECOVILLAGES FOR PEACE" (February 2022 - September 2022); have made the bonds between GEN Ukraine and LØS very strong. The partners are in continuous communication not only in questions of the project but also mobilising its members to host GEN Ukraine members seeking refuge abroad and collecting and sending humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Currently, at the time of writing this application, a core team from GEN Ukraine is in Denmark to inform the public about the DERF funded project in Ukraine and to strategize for the future. This project application seems like a logical continuation of the cooperation between the two organisations to make sense of the critical context of war and continue to grow both food and people, in a resilient direction. Both our organisations feel the need to act and do, even though it can be hard to strategize long term in a time of war. This project seeks to make use of what is there, on the ground, with the immediate needs of the target groups in mind and the opportunities we as partners can help provide.

* Describe the contributions, roles, and responsibilities of the partners and other actors.

LØS will continue its organisational guidance, utilising its networks and conduct the monitoring throughout the project, like we do with the DERF. A monitoring visit will be placed during the training in soft skills, where the Danish representatives will take part in the facilitation. It means a lot for both host communities and IDP’s to be ‘seen’. Already one woman from a Danish ecovillage has been on a tour in Ukrainian ecovillages, as well as members from Ukrainian ecovillages are now based in Denmark. The work we do together has never been tighter than now. Through continuous and almost daily contact with GEN Ukraine, LØS will continue to monitor compliance with objectives, through both narrative (reports and our Telegram groups) and verbal channels (through Zoom). GEN Ukraine staff will provide project implementation and management skills to ensure the successful achievement of the intervention and will oversee project management, supervision and reporting on the project, where LØS will provide technical and managerial training and capacity building to members in need. The same team from GEN Ukraine who implements the DERF project will continue as the main team for the IDPowerment project, as they are already very knowledgeable about happenings on the ground and have become used to the ever-changing dynamics. In Denmark, it will also be the same team that continues the project activities with GEN Ukraine.

* Describe how the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration between the partners.

This intervention will further strengthen and deepen cooperation between the Danish and Ukrainian networks of ecovillages. LØS will continue to give regular support to the GEN Ukraine team through not monthly, but weekly online meetings. LØS will support GEN Ukraine in implementing the intervention by its continuous support and will disseminate information in Denmark about the activities in Ukraine during the project. It is important that we do not only talk about the war, but about how to live through the war and after the war. This is what we do already with a documentary about the Green Road project, supported by CISU. Two Danish facilitators from LØS will come to Ukraine to co-facilitate the training - during the monitoring visit (if possible, depending on circumstances). GEN Ukraine will be responsible for the budget performance and reporting to LØS, in due time. Mutual inspiration and feedback are part of our partnership. We have become not only project partners, but friends.

1. **Target groups, objectives, and expected results (our intervention)**

There are two primary target groups for this intervention:

1. Hosts of the eco-communities
2. Internally displaced people (IDP’s) hosted in the communities

IDP’s form a new target group for GEN Ukraine that previously worked mainly with members of the eco-communities and ecological activists. People, who themselves sought new ways and had a living interest in eco-living. What happens now is that people arrive from all walks of life. It is a challenge, but also an opportunity to expand and strengthen the eco-communities and GEN Ukraine as an organisation as well, filling the gaps of team members with new people.

Primary target groups:

1. At least 40 direct participants of the main training activities (PDC - 20 people, Soft Skill Course - 20 people). The participants in the training programme will be primarily IDP’s and they will be seen as the upcoming leaders and facilitators that GEN Ukraine can count on, both in the eco-communities and in the organisation, both during the war and after. It will be primarily women as the men unfortunately are occupied elsewhere.
2. Around 700 IDP`s and ecovillagers, the participants in the home-seminars, where the knowledge and skills from the primary training programmes will be disseminated to a wider audience.
3. Host Exchange meetings (30 people). The host exchange meetings will be for the most significant people from the eco-communities. Those who have taken a role in the DERF project, stepping up to become agile coordinators and implementers. Now it is time for them to reflect, process and learn from their experience, to look forward. A mixture of men and women will take part.

The participants in the training programmes will be seen as ‘scouts’, who are going on a mission on behalf of their eco-community. They will therefore be nominated at a community meeting, as it is important that they feel ‘selected’ and acknowledged for their effort in building the capacity of not only themselves as individuals, but also their eco-communities and GEN Ukraine. It will be people who are given a task.

The task they have is to spread the knowledge and skills to wider circles. When they return from the initial training, they will be equipped by the facilitators to host a one-day seminar for their eco-communities, dealing with some of the topics of the training. Each participant is expected to host a seminar day with around 20-30 people in their communities, therefore 40 x 20 people, at least 800 people to be reached.

Secondary target groups:

* All the people who are living in the 35 selected project eco-communities from Green Road Project, that include both ecovillage hosts and IDP’s, who are not directly involved as participants in the trainings or the home seminars, but will hear about the project, know the people who were nominated for trainings and feel its presence in the daily life of the community.
* At least 5000 followers of the social network pages and websites of GEN Ukraine and the eco-communities will see that the IDP programme in the ecovillages are really creating agents of change, not keeping people in a passive, receiving ‘refugee’ status situation. This is important to show, giving hope and spreading optimism that work and life must go on, even during a war.
* People following the online/digital sessions produced during the training programmes, on the GEN Ukraine website. Targets are 500 people, primarily from the eco-communities and therefore with a natural overlap with the first mentioned secondary target group.
* Describe how the target groups will participate in- and benefit from the intervention.

All the training events are supposed to be with physical presence. It is important, even a bit unfamiliar these days, that people voluntarily move around, seek training opportunities, and gather for these purposes.   
It gives a sign of normality that GEN Ukraine insists to run such training programmes and not only host IDP’s but look ahead and act on urgent needs that are forward looking, yet needed for the present.

The project is about empowering IDP’s to contribute more to their new host communities. This is how they will benefit, through training and new skills, that they are to directly implement in their communities. It is a movement from passive to active, from unskilled to skilled. Or at last seeking to follow that path of thought.

Online sessions will be made possible as an unlikely exception in cases people cannot join due to the escalation of the war or travel restrictions in some areas. The programme is flexible, in that regard - as it is in a fragile context we are operating. Therefore, we have also chosen a quite limited group to gather, while others will benefit from the online sessions and the follow up seminars.

The aim of the training programme being proposed to the target groups is the development of skills that will help in organising communication and practical life in eco-communities and enable smooth cooperation between hosts and IDP’s. The IDPs will learn about ecovillage values and mechanisms of interaction as well as ecological food growing and sustainable technologies in agriculture. They will make themselves useful and the gap in skills, knowledge and attitude between the existing inhabitants and the newcomers will be actively worked on, through the project.

The host exchange meetings will empower the ecovillage hosts to be more efficient in their activities, prevent them from burning out and give instruments of conflict resolution. Offering a space, where also the more sensitive topics can be discussed, among fellow hosts. Which till now has only taken place online, but needs a physical space too, to be more effective and give room for processing.

The project is needs driven as the target groups have all expressed the needs, when being asked about ‘what to do no’, after the immediate phase of providing towels and toothbrushes. IDP’s want to be active contributors and need support in this process. As project partners we are reacting directly to these needs.

* Describe the objectives and expected results.

The objectives are the following:

* IDP’s are equipped with skills enabling them to integrate better in the eco-communities where they are hosted, thereby levelling the differences, and paving the way for a harmonic coexistence as community members, empowering the IDP’s to take active part.
* Improved capacity and practise in ecological food production has increased the overall resilience in the communities.
* Hosts in the eco-communities have gained confidence, pride and trust in their roles through an established peer support network.

The main expected results are:

* Not less than 40 (direct training participants) + 800 people (follow up home seminars) are empowered with hard and soft skills for ecovillage life
* Minimum 30 hosts from selected eco-communities have received psychosocial support and practical advice on how to communicate and engage with the around 450 IDPs wanting to become community members.
* A peer to peer network among hosts has been established.
* The story of the GEN Ukraine Green Road project is told and framed in a way where IDP’s are seen to be resourceful and active, enforcing the empowerment process.
* GEN Ukraine's organisational structure is expanded with new people from leaders of ecovillages and resourceful IDP`s.
* What is the strategy of the intervention?

To contribute to the purpose of the project and the direct objectives, the strategy of the intervention will be based on the following methodologies:

1. EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING - SOFT SKILLS

Providing soft skills of communication and coexistence inside the communities, for hosts and IDPs.   
This strategy and corresponding activity is deemed needed to support a situation of inclusion, harmony and acceptance of IDP’s to be welcomed as members in the communities.   
It is an empowerment strategy, making IDP’s more skilled in community life and active participation.   
ACTIVITY STREAM: A 2-week training in soft skills for 20 selected participants and 7 facilitators.

1. EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING - HARD SKILLS

Providing skills of growing food in an ecological way for enhanced food security, where IDP’s are empowered to take charge of their own plots and grow food, avoiding unhealthy dependency.   
Again, this is an empowerment strategy in that it can assist in lifting people out of unhealthy dependency and add agency and self-resilience.

ACTIVITY STREAM: An 8-day training in permaculture design methods, for 20 participants.

1. FOLLOW UP STRUCTURES AND PEER NETWORKS

After the initial training programmes the skills, knowledge and attitude, learnings from the training programmes, will be replicated by the participants, which is the next step of the empowerment ladder - not only to master the skills themselves, but to be able to share them with others.  
A wider audience within the hosting communities will also be reaches through online sessions available on the GEN Ukraine website.

ACTIVITY STREAM: Home seminars to be held by the trainees in 20 selected communities, at least one day seminar, but preferably repetitions. Assistance will be offered by training facilitators.  
Video productions leading to online sessions for inspiration for people not present at live trainings. As well the participants will be asked to cover the events in social networks and share the acquired knowledge.

1. HOST NETWORK - PEER TO PEER SUPPORT

These everyday heroes from the hosting communities need acknowledgement for their efforts and support in how to manage and deal with difficulties, challenges and when hope is low. Like what happens when the DERF funding ends and there will be less financial and material aid and support offered through GEN Ukraine. They are hit by exhaustment now, after four months of war and hosting. Hosts must be the strong pillars but are also just humans. To support their continuous journey, they are being acknowledged as leaders in GEN Ukraine and part of the organism that created the GREEN ROAD project.

ACTIVITY STREAM: Three regional host meetings will be held, each lasting 3 days. This is a strategy to gather hosts from a certain area, as they can be most supportive to each other in the continuous work. Here the hosts will exchange experiences and expertise and be offered psychosocial support. GEN Ukraine core team will be present and together the hosts and GEN Ukraine team will make plans for the next steps of the intervention during the war and touch upon how GEN Ukraine and its eco-communities can play a role in the reconstruction of Ukraine, after the war. The importance here is to feel part of a support network.

***TIMEPLAN:   
Permaculture design HARD SKILLS (8 days, 20 participants, 3 teachers, 1 facilitator), September 2022***

The 8 days PDC will give appropriate knowledge to both target groups, will contribute to providing food security, and will create additional opportunities for communication, interaction, and community building together. Three permaculture teachers and one facilitator will reveal the theoretical and practical aspects of permaculture in one of the permaculture training centers.

***SOFT SKILLS (14 days, 20 people), October 2022***

The soft skills course will improve the hosts' and IDP`s communication skills, interaction, and community life.

14 days course will be provided in one of the ecovillages. Two internal trainers will be invited for the whole course. 5 internal trainers will give the knowledge in non-violence communication, decision making, cooperation etc. Two LOS facilitators will be invited to co-facilitate during a monitoring visit.   
  
***Home seminars (November 2022-February 2023)***

***3-days Hosts exchanging meetings, 3 places, 30 participants in total + 6 facilitators, November-December***

There are several professional psychologists among the leaders of eco-communities. In the framework of the Green Road project, they organized weekly online meetings for psychological support to the hosts to discuss issues related to the adaptation of IDP`s in ecovillages, prevention of burnout of hosts, conflict resolution between ecovillage members and newcomers, etc. To level up and expansion their practices and experience exchange there will be held 3 offline trainings in small groups for 10 people in 3 different locations that already started their rehabilitation programs. These trainings will encourage people and mitigate the state of insecurity, bringing together the leaders of the hosting communities to exchange expertise and give mutual psychological support.

***Site, map and network membership support. September 2022-March 2023***

Since the war, all the processes for supporting and developing the website and membership in GEN Ukraine were suspended because of the lack of time and people. The Green Road map was created by volunteers.   
To resume work on the website, map and social networks the Network Manager and Webmaster will take charge. In tight cooperation with the hosts the information will be updated on website and the map. The new members of GEN Ukraine will be published and presented on the website and social media. The information about leaders, IDP`s, needs and plans will be gathered and structured and the most active and engaged people will be found for expanding GEN Ukraine. Through the project the organisation will grow.

* What are the plans for systematising experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention?

There will be close follow up by the two project coordinators following that the main training will give motivation and skills to lead the home seminars in the communities. Follow up sessions with training participants will be happening and points from the training evaluations will be handled.

As a consequence of the involvement of the Network Manager and Webmaster, it will be possible to collect, structure, and update information about existing active eco-communities and their activities with IDP’s on the website and conduct an information campaign in social networks how IDP status does not mean being idle, waiting and passive, but rather people progressing and creating a new, active culture, which can form a major force in the rebuilding phase in Ukraine.  
The hosts participating in the project will come up with a set of guidelines and lessons learnt, which can be shared with other hosts who did not take part of the programme. In that way the project learnings and results can reach a relevant wider audience. The coordinators will lead that process, supporting the host leaders to formulate key learnings and recommendations. This is important, as we have never experienced a time like this and have to catch the learning potential.

1. **Project-related information work in Denmark**

In LØS we will continue to disseminate as we have translated ‘10 letters from the first month of war’ and now also have a documentary to show. The IDPowerment project forms a new story in continuation of what we do already, together with the Danish based GEN Ukraine team.