PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Global virtual workshop:
"Building Urban Economic Sustainability
during and after COVID-19"

Kharkov is the administrative, economic and cultural centre of the Kharkov region. The area of the city is 350.0 sq. km.
The population of the city as of June 1, 2020 was 1,439,900 people.
The industrial capacity of Kharkov is represented by enterprises of almost all sectors. Machine-building and food processing enterprises have the greatest impact on the performance of the city's industry. Electric power, fuel, chemical and construction sectors are well developed.
The city is one of the ten largest university centres in Europe, the leading research and development centre of Ukraine, the main exporter of high-tech goods and services in engineering, offshore programming and IT outsourcing in Ukraine.
The scientific potential of the city is represented by research and design institutes, and design bureaus. Kharkov is home to the North-East Research Centre of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.
The research works of Kharkov scientists in the field of solid-state physics, cryobiology and cryomedicine, radio electronics, crystal production, low-temperature physics, genetics and plant selection are known all over the world.
As of 11 August 2020, the number of people who fell ill with Covid-19 in the city was 3,901 with 1,890 recoveries and 102 deaths.
In connection with the adoption of quarantine measures, the following rules apply in the city:

- wearing face masks in public areas;
- no more than 1 person per 5 m² at public events;
- maximum 50% occupancy rate in cinemas and theatres;

number of passengers in public transport must not exceed the seating capacity.

The quarantine measures and temporary closure of the city's businesses have deprived many people of the opportunity to work. Restrictive measures have resulted in an increase in unemployment.

The level of registered unemployment in Kharkov has increased almost 3-fold; and the first half of the year saw an increase in the number of unemployed registered with the Employment Centre from 4,600 to 13,500 people.

The industrial product sales over the period from January to June decreased by 6.7% as compared to the same period of the previous year.

Total revenues to the Kharkov city budget decreased by 15.7%.

Kharkov declared 2020 the Year of Health Care, and much attention is paid to equipping health care facilities in the city. Kharkov has a shortage of doctors, including anaesthetists and other specialists, and work is underway to solve this problem.

Mobile teams have been set up in the city to collect biological material for coronavirus testing.

Kharkov city budget allocated a subsidy to the tune of UAH 2 million to the regional budget for additional payments to medical personnel working with Covid-19 patients. UAH 76,2 million was allocated from the reserve fund of the Kharkov city budget for the prevention of the spread of acute respiratory infections caused by Covid-19 in the city. These funds were used to purchase lung ventilators, ambulances, biohazard suits, respirators and necessary drugs. Besides, during the period of acute shortage, 2 million face masks were purchased at the expense of the city budget, of which 1.5 million were distributed free of charge to Kharkov citizens through schools and kindergartens, 300,000 were given to health care workers, and another 200,000 were distributed to social workers.

Kharkov citizens requiring social support were provided with food packages.

To stabilise the labour market, a set of measures was implemented to preserve jobs. Assistance is provided to employers to overcome suspensions during the quarantine period; as of 01.07.2020, UAH 23.2 million was disbursed as such monetary aid.

In May 2020, the first small and medium-sized business support centre in Ukraine was opened in Kharkov, which since then has been operating in pilot mode.

A designated section containing quarantine-related information for businesses was launched on the website "Entrepreneurship and Consumer Market of Kharkov".

Since April 2020, a simplified procedure for registering with the Employment Centre has been in place.

Despite the decline in business activity in the first half of 2020, the Kharkov City Council has not suspended the implementation of any of the more than 50 target programs aimed at the development of the city's economy, social sphere and urban infrastructure.

As instructed by the Mayor, an SME loan compensation programme is being developed to stimulate the development of small and medium-sized businesses, which should reduce the debt burden of companies and thus support and/or encourage their development.

In addition, the city continues to implement its affordable housing construction (purchase) programme, which can be used by doctors, teachers and other representatives of budget-funded institutions and public utility companies.

On the basis of the "Kharkov Tractor Plant Ecopolis" the future all-Ukrainian virology centre is being created in Kharkov. The first consignment of equipment for the Expert Laboratory and Diagnostic Centre for Infectious Diseases and Sanitary Protection has been purchased.

The City Mayor has decided to create a communal laboratory to conduct tests of all types, including those to detect COVID-19.