

International Workshop “Resilience and Sustainable Reconstruction of Ukrainian Cities” (30-31 January 2025, Humboldt University of Berlin)

On January 30-31, the Georg Simmel Center for Urban Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin hosted the international workshop "Fostering Resilience and Sustainable Reconstruction of Ukrainian Cities," organized by the Urban Futures at Risk Research Group, supported by the Einstein Foundation, in collaboration with the EMBRACE project, led by the Chair of Urban Design and the Institute for Urban Design and European Urbanism at RWTH Aachen University. The event gathered leading scholars and experts from European and Ukrainian institutions to explore innovative approaches to urban resilience and post-war reconstruction.

The first day was dedicated to the EMBRACE project workshop, focusing on the conceptualization of emergent resilience. Experts from various disciplines engaged in interactive discussions on the evolution of resilience in the Ukrainian context and its broader relevance. Key sessions explored trans- and interdisciplinary learning methods for understanding resilience in war-affected urban environments.

The second day featured the GSZ Seminar "Cities After the War: Integrating Sustainability into Ukraine's Rebuilding," which examined post-war urban transformations. A keynote lecture by Dr. Haris Piplas (Zurich) provided insights from past reconstruction efforts worldwide. Panel discussions addressed critical topics, including displaced populations and urban transformations, social sustainability, inclusive urban development, and sustainable decision-making for post-war recovery. The seminar also highlighted international case studies, offering comparative perspectives on rebuilding strategies.

Beyond discussing theoretical and practical aspects of resilience and sustainability, the workshop also served as an important platform for expanding academic and professional networks and exploring new avenues for collaboration. Several strategies for future partnerships and cooperative projects were developed, strengthening the foundation for interdisciplinary research and action in post-war urban recovery.

The workshop fostered cross-disciplinary dialogue and collaboration, aiming to shape resilient, sustainable, and inclusive urban recovery strategies for Ukraine. Experts from institutions including RWTH Aachen University, Humboldt University of Berlin, the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, the University of Oxford, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, the University of Luxembourg, the Centre for East European and International Studies in Berlin, the Silesian University of Technology, the European Society of Emergency Medicine, the Institute of Geography of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv National University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, the Institute of Industrial Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and the Institute of Urban and Landscape Studies in Zurich attended the event. In addition, representatives from the Ukrainian national government and municipalities contributed to discussions on policy frameworks and practical approaches to urban reconstruction.

As Ukraine continues its path toward reconstruction, the insights and networks formed during this workshop will serve as a foundation for future research and policy initiatives in urban resilience and sustainable development.