



Germany
Ukraine



Topic:
Transformation

Achievement:
Cross- Sectoral
Pioneers Cross- Sectoral
Policies and Governance

Sector:
All CCS and Cross-
sectoral Architecture

Rebuilding War-Torn Ukraine with Renewable, Community-Led Materials

In the breadbasket of southern Ukraine, a transdisciplinary team is reimagining reconstruction — using straw, hemp, wool, and mycelium. They're not only rebuilding houses but also communities, traditions, and most importantly, the sense of home in the war-devastated country.



creativeflip.eu



Co-funded by
the European Union

Challenge

War in Ukraine has destroyed homes, communities, and psychological security, while conventional reconstruction relies on carbon-intensive materials like concrete and steel. In rural southern Ukraine, rebuilding also required overcoming distrust of traditional materials, limited aid focused only on partial repairs, and the need to restore local agency, livelihoods, and a sense of home after trauma.

Solution

HOPE HOME launched a community-led reconstruction model in Mykolaiv using renewable materials such as straw, hemp, wool, clay, and mycelium. By combining local traditions like Toloka with international expertise, the project linked ecological building, trauma-sensitive recovery, open-source learning, and hands-on participation, enabling residents to rebuild homes, skills, and confidence together.

Impact

The project proved ecological reconstruction is possible even in wartime conditions. It restored self-efficacy, practical skills, and community cohesion while promoting low-carbon local materials. Residents gained confidence to repair homes and imagine new livelihoods. Through research labs, exhibitions, and open knowledge, HOPE HOME positioned Ukraine as a potential leader in regenerative, community-based rebuilding.

Milestones & Learnings

Emerged from the travelling exhibition **EXAMPLES TO FOLLOW!** as an applied reconstruction initiative

Signed cooperation memorandum with Mykolaiv military administration

Built a transdisciplinary network across Ukraine and Germany involving universities, NGOs, farmers, businesses, and councils

September 2024 Kyiv exhibition showcased panels made from wool, straw, reed, hemp, mycelium, and recycled war waste

Established mycelium lab with Kyiv National University and Ostriv Platform

Produced free multilingual open-source materials guide on natural building resources

Key Takeaways

- Rebuilding homes can also rebuild confidence, belonging, and community.
- Local renewable materials offer strong alternatives to carbon-heavy construction.
- Hands-on participation changes attitudes faster than top-down instruction.

Read more about HOPE HOME on the [official website](#).



creativeflip.eu



Co-funded by
the European Union