

COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND VETERAN REINTEGRATION

Helendzhyk: Veteran Reintegration Ecosystem

Mykhailo-Lukashivska Community • Zaporizhzhia Region

CHALLENGE OWNER

Mykhailo-Lukashivska
Community

PILOT

Epicentre of Regeneration

CORE PRINCIPLE

Reintegration, not isolation

THE CHALLENGE QUESTION

How can Helendzhyk create a realistic rural environment where veterans can live, recover, rebuild independence and reconnect with family and community without creating an isolated institution?

The municipal challenge

Mykhailo-Lukashivska Community proposes a veteran reintegration pilot on a real land plot in Helendzhyk village. The working concept, the Epicentre of Regeneration, is intended for veterans after severe combat injuries, amputations or psychological trauma, together with their families.

The municipality does not propose a closed rehabilitation institution. It seeks a lived environment where accessible housing, nature, qualified support, learning, voluntary livelihood opportunities and community participation support dignity and independence. The challenge is to turn this broad vision into a small, complete and implementable first phase.

WHEN THE WORK IS DEVELOPED

No drawings, analysis, budgets or other solution materials are required before the hackathon. Participants review the challenge and bring relevant expertise; teams develop every component described below during the hackathon with municipal and mentor input, then present one integrated proposal.

01 MUNICIPAL REQUEST

What the municipality wants to create

The proposed project connects three forms of regeneration. They define the municipal ambition and should be tested as one system rather than treated as separate projects.

REGENERATION OF	MUNICIPAL INTENT
People	Support veterans' recovery after severe injuries or trauma, rebuild daily independence and enable reconnection with family, work and community life.
Community	Create skills, services, jobs, local production and social-enterprise opportunities that benefit veterans and the wider rural community.
Territory	Use accessible green architecture, bio-based materials, landscape and resilient infrastructure to renew an underused rural site.

Elements proposed for testing

The municipal concept identifies housing modules, spaces for physical recovery and psychological support, workshops, learning areas, adaptive sport, an apiary, gardens, production spaces, a community kitchen, family houses and a barrier-free shelter. These are options to test and phase - not a requirement to build every element.

The wider concept connects the regeneration core with an Ethno-village or Cossack Farm setting. Any shared cultural, production, visitor or tourism activity should help veterans participate in ordinary community life while protecting privacy, safety and personal choice.

Why a first phase is needed

The current vision is larger than the evidence available. The number and profile of users, eligibility, length of stay, site conditions, service partners, capital cost and operating capacity are not yet defined. A first pilot phase must therefore prove the user pathway, essential programme and operating partnership before the wider complex is developed.

02 PILOT TO DEVELOP

The municipal pilot ambition

AN OVERALL COHERENT VISION AND A DEFINED FIRST PHASE

The first phase should be large enough to demonstrate a coherent daily journey - from arrival and professional assessment through supported living, learning, voluntary activity and community connection - but small enough to operate safely, staff responsibly and finance realistically.

Open task for hackathon teams

During the hackathon, develop an integrated concept and first-phase pilot that connects the veteran journey, essential programme, site and landscape, accessible housing, qualified support, learning and livelihood opportunities, construction and infrastructure, governance, finance and phased delivery.

The task is to design the physical, community and operating framework. Teams must not invent clinical protocols or present architecture, nature, gardening, work, social enterprise or tourism as substitutes for professional rehabilitation or psychological care.

Key decisions the proposal must resolve

- Who are the priority first-phase users, and how will the user journey work - arrival, length of stay, transition toward independent living and follow-up?
- What capacity and which housing, support, learning, community and shelter functions are essential in the first phase?
- How should the site balance privacy, trauma-informed space, accessibility, nature and voluntary community connection?
- Which voluntary activities and livelihood options respond to real user choice and demand?
- How will the pilot be built, operated, staffed, maintained, financed and expanded through a responsible consortium?

03 WORK DURING THE HACKATHON

What your team will develop

DEVELOPED DURING THE HACKATHON

The following six components form one integrated proposal. Teams develop them during the hackathon using the municipality's concept, available site information, consultations and support from mentors and community representatives.

1. **Veteran journey and support framework.** Define priority users, referral, arrival, professional assessment, daily support, family involvement, transition toward independence and follow-up. Distinguish professional care from community, learning and economic activity.
2. **First-phase programme and capacity.** Justify the number of residents and the essential housing, support, learning, livelihood, community, staff, service and shelter functions. Show which municipal ideas belong later or should not proceed without sufficient evidence.
3. **Site, housing and accessibility concept.** Develop zoning, circulation, privacy gradients, public connections and a recovery-supportive landscape. Propose accessible individual, shared and family accommodation and safe daily-life spaces.
4. **Construction and resilient infrastructure concept.** Set principles for bio-based materials, modular or phased construction, fire and moisture safety, energy, heating, water, sanitation, waste, digital access, utilities, emergency access and autonomous backup systems.
5. **Voluntary activity and community connection.** Test learning, adaptive sport, workshops, gardens, apiary, crafts, food production, social enterprise and visitor activity against user choice, safety, accessibility, demand, privacy and responsible operation.
6. **Governance, safeguarding and delivery pathway.** Define the operator, qualified service partners, staffing, consent, personal-data protection, quality control and community roles. Set phases, indicative capital and operating costs, funding sources, procurement, consortium needs, risks, indicators and replication logic.

Expected level of development

LEVEL	WHAT THIS MEANS
Expected	A coherent first-phase concept with a user journey, justified programme and capacity, site and zoning plan, representative spatial and system diagrams, housing and construction principles, activity and operating model, indicative costs, phases and delivery pathway sufficient to test feasibility.
Not required	Pre-hackathon solution work, clinical protocols, diagnoses or treatment plans, field and engineering surveys, structural certification, complete permit documentation, detailed working drawings, a final bill of quantities or other full technical documentation.

The final project should be packaged and presented in the format established by the official Rebuild Green Hackathon 2026 Rules. The Rules govern submission format; this brief defines the Helendzhyk challenge-specific work.

04 CONSIDERATIONS AND SUCCESS

People and partners

GROUP	CHALLENGE-SPECIFIC ROLE
People the pilot must protect and serve	Veterans with different physical and psychological needs, especially those recovering from severe combat injuries, amputations or psychological trauma; veterans' families; and people with disabilities. Local residents, youth and visitors are secondary participants and beneficiaries.
Actors needed to deliver it	Mykhailo-Lukashivska Community; veteran organisations; qualified rehabilitation and mental-health providers; social-service and safeguarding specialists; a future site operator; community organisations; architects and engineers; universities; contractors and bio-material producers; social enterprises, donors and local businesses.

Practical constraints and questions to verify

- Land ownership, planning status, access, security, utilities, emergency response and environmental conditions - information will be provided by the municipality.
- Rural transport, barrier-free movement and a protective shelter must work in real daily and emergency conditions.
- Privacy, trauma-informed design, safeguarding, consent and personal-data protection are non-negotiable.
- Work, apiary, garden, production, visitor and tourism activities must be voluntary, safe and demand-tested.
- Bio-based systems require regulatory compliance, verified performance, skilled construction and maintainable details.
- Capital and operating budgets, staffing and operating capacity are not yet demonstrated; tourism or social-enterprise income must not be assumed to fund essential support.
- Full implementation will require a capable consortium and external funding, not municipal finance alone.

05 EXPECTED OUTCOME

Starting material and support during the hackathon

- A real land plot in Helendzyk village proposed by the municipality for the regeneration core.
- The working Epicentre of Regeneration concept and its three linked ambitions: regeneration of people, community and territory.
- The Ethno-village or Cossack Farm context and a list of potential housing, support, learning, livelihood, production and shelter functions to test.
- Municipal ownership of the challenge and the opportunity to form a consortium of veteran, professional, community, academic, construction, donor and business partners.
- The proposed use of straw panels and other bio-based materials, subject to technical, regulatory, safety, durability and maintenance assessment.
- Consultation with municipal representatives and mentors during the hackathon. Where information is incomplete, teams should record the assumption and identify the evidence or decision required next.

What a strong hackathon result will provide

A DECISION-READY FIRST PHASE

The community should receive one coherent proposal showing who the pilot serves, how veterans move through daily life and toward greater independence, what should be built and operated first, which qualified partners are responsible for what, what the pilot is likely to cost, which evidence must be confirmed next and how a delivery consortium can move forward.

Pilot potential

Within one to three years, a first phase should be prepared or launched with accessible residential and support modules, a recovery-supportive landscape, selected learning or livelihood activities, a barrier-free shelter and a qualified operating partnership.

Veterans and their families should participate by choice in a safe daily environment that supports independence and community connection. Evidence from the pilot should guide later phases and a model that other Ukrainian communities can adapt without creating isolated institutions or financially unmanageable complexes.

Municipal challenge source: Mykhailo-Lukashivska Community concept provided for Rebuild Green Hackathon 2026.