



i-Tree in a Warzone - Kyiv: Ukrainian communities caring about their trees in times of war

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Outline

1. About us and our project
2. Work conditions and project progress before and after 24 February 2022
3. Why the project is important for local communities in war times: an online survey 2024
4. Launching a new course based on iTree Eco in the oldest university in Sweden



Ukrainian Ecological Club
Green Wave
ecoclubua.com

- ▶ We are a team of ecology experts taking part in the ecological activism in Ukraine since 2008.

Our mission:

We educate people, aiming to minimize the negative impact on the environment while taking care of the present and the future of humankind.

Our strategic directions:

- ▶ Education for Sustainable Development
- ▶ Combating Climate Change
- ▶ Support of green community initiatives
- ▶ Advocacy of Environmental Education
- ▶ Environmental aspects of social corporate responsibility





Transparent and participatory green zones' inventory system in Ukraine: **iTree4UA**

- **Goal:** to enable a full functionality build-out of i-Tree Eco in Ukraine as an interactive, participatory, and transparent inventory system for urban green zones for the benefits of local communities and environment under climate change threats
- **Duration:** since September 2021
- **Funding:** USDA Forest Service International Programs, USAID
- **Partners:** Davey Tree Expert Company



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



DAVEY 
Proven Solutions for a Growing World



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Project timeline and tasks

- 1. September – December 2021:** to collect and to incorporate all minimum required data for the i-Tree Eco full country buildout for all 1438 hromadas (tertiary administrative division units) of Ukraine
- 2. January-February 2022:** national call for i-Tree Eco piloting in 4 selected communities from 4 regions of Ukraine
- 3. Spring-summer 2022:** to collect additional data for pilot communities, to train local volunteers, and to organize tree inventories
- 4. Spring 2023:** to launch the All-Ukrainian Academy i-Tree4UA
- 5. Until now:** to run at least 3 rounds of Academy studies



February 24, 2022: the russian invasion of Ukraine



- National call for i-Tree Eco piloting – reallocated to *Western regions only*;
- Trainings on i-Tree use were held *online* with field trips of our technical coordinator to the pilot communities for inventory try-out;
- Internal work organization has been modified to more *flexible / remote formats* (adjusting work schedules, using external co-workings and cloud technologies) due to:
 - Military actions in Kyiv and region, air radar sirens, and shelling;
 - Some team members reallocated with their families to safer places within Ukraine.



A national call for i-Tree Eco piloting

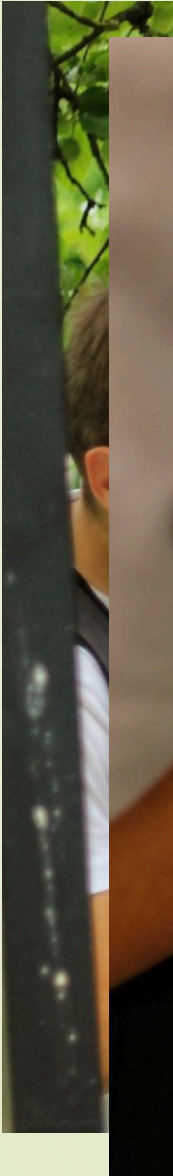
The national call:

- ❑ **28 applications**, including communities from Eastern and Southern Ukraine situated very close to active military operations;
- ❑ 5 applications received **on February 24 and later.**

1	Позначка часу	1. Назва ОТГ:
14	12.02.2022 00:10:12	Коблівська сільська тер М
15	15.02.2022 11:15:26	Марківська селищна ра, Л
16	15.02.2022 17:16:47	Бережанська міська ОТ Т
17	17.02.2022 10:43:22	Хустська міська територ 3
18	18.02.2022 13:08:09	Маріуполь Д
19	19.02.2022 20:47:00	Болехівська територіал Ів
20	21.02.2022 14:28:27	Новороздільська міська Л
21	22.02.2022 14:29:36	Великописарівська сели С
22	23.02.2022 00:06:40	Роганська селищна об'є Х
23	23.02.2022 11:29:50	Первомайська міська те М
24	23.02.2022 16:09:13	Надвірнянська міська т Ів
25	24.02.2022 14:34:51	Чернівецька територіал Ч
26	26.02.2022 13:37:35	Веселинівська селищна М
27	28.02.2022 09:10:29	Пирятинська міська тер Г
28	01.03.2022 15:08:09	Житомирська міська об'є Ж
29	26.04.2022 14:03:05	Ужгородська міська гро м

The piloting:

- ❑ **4** communities in Western Ukraine
- ❑ **4,3** hectares and **800** trees inventoried
- ❑ **350** local volunteers involved





All-Ukrainian i-Tree Academy 2023



- ✓ 8 zoom workshops and a homework
- ✓ Field inventories in local communities

2 Academy graduations

- ✓ *May-June 2023*: the first wave, 124 applicants, 20 certificates
- ✓ *August-September 2023*: the second wave, 120 applicants, 25 certificates

First iTree Conference in Ukraine

- ✓ Best practices of tree inventory, care and protection in Ukrainian communities using i-Tree tools
- ✓ Lviv, 18-19 November 2023, 40 participants



Inventory kit for 10 best Academia alumni



Why this project is important for local communities in war times



- Being a part of like-minded community
- Continuing life-long learning
- Shifting the focus from war related threats to public activism
- Building a better future locally
- Feeling alive
- Living a meaningful life under post-normal reality
- Taking care of yourself through caring the trees



Some citations

- ▶ Olena Kozak, project expert and the Academy lecturer:

During the Academy sessions and fieldwork I had a strong feeling that our students just needed to get it off their chest, speak out whatever they got inside.

- ▶ Yevheniia Mykytianska, Executive Director:

The last months were very difficult because of the war escalation. In May almost every night, the russian missiles and drones struck Ukrainian cities. It had a negative impact on the mental state and productivity of the project team. Nevertheless, we tried to support each other and spent some time reflecting on our feelings. It helped us to adapt to and accept a new reality. We are proud that despite all challenges we managed to keep the initial project activities. The team keeps working and we do our best to adapt to living and acting in the post-normal reality we all have in Ukraine.



National online survey, April 2024

- ▶ Open to general public, aiming to explore the importance of green areas in war times for local communities;
- ▶ **115** respondents from **9 regions** (oblast) of Ukraine;
- ▶ Mostly women (**83%**), two prevailing age groups: 26-39 y.o. **43%** and 40-59 y.o. **44%**
- ▶ Occupation: mostly secondary and higher educators, a bit of city planners, entrepreneurs, arborists, pensioners, and artists.



Survey results / 1

- Green zones are very important for comfortable life in local communities – **93%**
- It is more problematic to handle green zones in my community due to war – **53%** (not sure 30%):
 - City developers = occupiers
 - Massive trees' damage by shelling, fires, and lack of watering
 - Bad culture of greenery management worsened by war conditions (lack of financing, professionals, inaccessible plots due to mining)
- Green zones are very important for post-war recovery – **91%**
- Top 3 ecosystem services important for local communities in war times: **(1)** comfortable microclimate (shadowing, air humidity etc.) – **87%**; **(2)** air quality – **83%**; **(3)** mental health – **53%**; **(4)** biodiversity – **53%**.



Survey results / 2

- ▶ Urban green zones must be enlarged for better health and post-war recovery – **86%** (only after renovation of critical infrastructure – **12%**)
- ▶ Green zones are crucial to sustain mental health for my community, for me personally, and for post-war rehabilitation – **97%**
- ▶ The most important types of greenery for post-war recovery: a mixed set (**80%**), trees (**75%**), bushes (**39%**), flower beds (**34%**), grass (**25%**)
- ▶ I am ready to support green zones on my community: can work physically (**44%**), informational support (**30%**), can donate (**16%**), already do it (**51%**):
 - Plant trees, clean-up days, strategical planning, forest management, outdoor school education and school tree clubs
 - *I have planted 352 trees in 15 years*
 - *After returning to my liberated village, I will 100% participate in the post-war restoration of green spaces*

Adapting to Climate Change: Ecosystem Services of Urban Green Zones



ENLIGHT COURSE

T 5 ECTS, Uppsala University, blended format. Course dates: 13-31 May 2024 (Onsite week 27-31 May).

OBJECTIVES

R To explore the complexity of ecosystem services provided by urban green areas in relation to the well-being of citizens under climate change threats.

PRACTICE

E An outdoor trees inventory using i-Tree (USA) modelling tools with Uppsala municipal arborists.



APPLY NOW!

E Course video and more details:
Course collaborators:



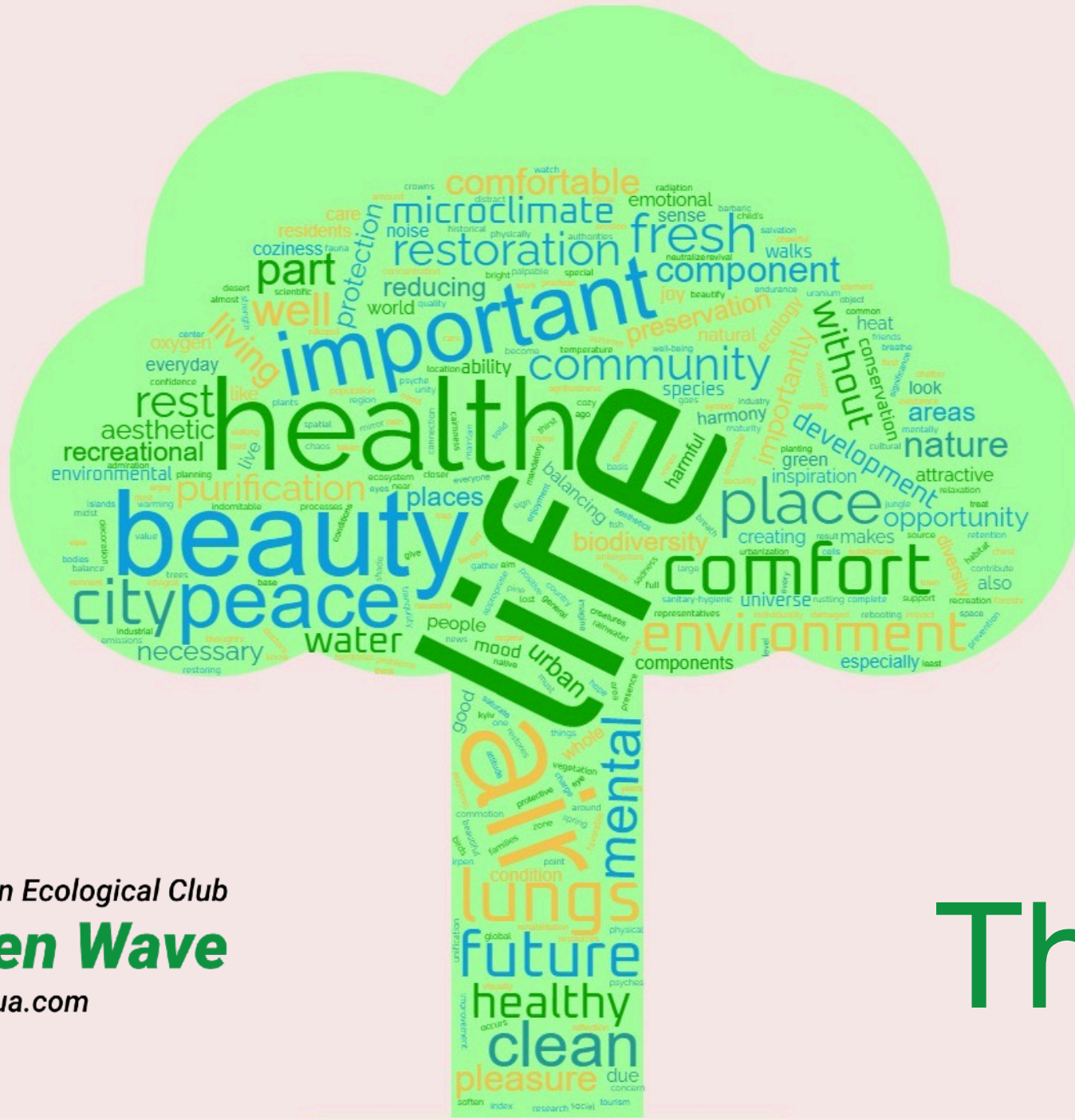
A new course in Uppsala University

Developed under **ENLIGHT**

European university **N**etwork to promote equitable quality of **L**ife, **s**ustainability and **G**lobal engagement through **H**igher education **T**ransformation

- **SWEDSD** - Sustainability Learning and Research Center, Department of Women's and Children's Health, Uppsala university, Sweden
- Representatives of **Uppsala municipality**, Sweden
- Urban forestry and i-Tree consultancy from **Trädkontoret AB**, Malmö, Sweden
- **Davey Tree Expert Company** (Davey Institute), NY, USA
- Teachers from **Enlight partner universities** – The University of the Basque Country, Quality of Life in Architecture research group; University of Tartu, Institute of Family Medicine and Public Health





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Thank