

# Letter N1

## Faith in the future

It is not easy to look ahead. To do it despite all the horrors of destroyed houses and shattered people's lives overcoming despair, fear and panic. We need to keep our heads cool and analyze the level of importance of each single case, each situation. Because we've taken on this mission of sheltering people.

### The sense of guilt

Yes, every morning. You feel like you aren't touched deeply enough by the pain of each person. Like you don't pay enough attention to their needs. Because you have to prioritize the main thing from the temporary, the critically emotional one. You distance yourself trying not to make careless steps.

Some people say thanks and some do not have enough time. for that.

Sometimes I lose my temper and help directly without contacting the coordinators. Although at times it is necessary too. Because that is how you can feel, identify the ultimate need better.

### Identify the need

That is our main goal and task now! Not only of each individual, but of ten or even dozens of people in each community. What are their real needs other than boots and mattresses?

No, no — everything is OK, we have enough.



We have everything we need. That is the worst phrase, and you hear it the most frequently. You have nothing! That is what I am so eager to shout. Where are your dreams? What is next? What would you really like to do?

Sure, this war is not the best time to contemplate those things. But it happened that way. And such a deep crisis actually IS the best time to do that.

We are sheltering people in the ecovillages. People are staying and they have nowhere to go. We are making lists. We are asking to fill the questionnaires.

The most productive in this, strange as it may seem, are entrepreneurs. It is a real win for an ecovillage to have one. They easily adapt to expanding capacities. You will not spook them by the amount of humanitarian funding. They keep everything in order. They have warehouses, transport, everything you need for rapid support, logistics and process organizing.

## **What's next**

We are looking into the future despite that all. We have the spring season of gardening and agriculturing ahead of us. Gardening is the best therapy and also a way to keep the sheltered people busy.

We were reached by UNDP saying our ecovillages and centers of permaculture are the best locations to involve the refugees and provide food security. What do you need?

## **We need everything**

We need greenhouses, Mittleider gardening houses, two—wheel tractors and their parts (cultivators, mowers, trailers etc), row seed drills, drip irrigation systems, drying cabinets, food preservation equipment, blenders, packing tools for grains, beekeeping tools (honey extractors, honey creaming machines, honey packing equipment etc).

We also need building tools such as accumulators, cement and solution mixers, woodworking machines (thickness planers, bench grinders, sanders, planing machines, miter saw) and possibly a welding machine. That was written by Kolya Fedorovsky and it was not generalized.

The Danes are telling us — ask for it. And you will have it. The only thing left to do is to learn to ask, dream, let yourself want.

We also need to provide new homes with kitchen equipment, shower cabins and main living needs. Life prospers in a decent environment. People will not seek better life in Poland but will choose to stay in our ecovillages.

## **Three problems of our ecovillages**

I named them during the winter gathering: lack of people, lack of financing and lack of coexistence culture.

Normal community functioning requires more than 3—5 families. The war, as it happened, solved this age—old problem. Each village now has more than 30 people and that is how we are dealing with the first problem.

People adapt to the stress of war after the 20th day and are ready to take action. They need to be involved in common work. That includes preparing houses for newcomers, new agricultural season. They are not guests anymore, they are full community members.

## A new question arises

Provision of resources. That is why we actively demand plans, lists, stages of those plans realization. We have no time, we must shelter new people.

At the same time we need to plan the cultivation process. We have enough land. We need greenhouses, seeds, gardening tools and their components. Oil, generators, everything should work. No standing, no waste of time.

We need to create functioning logistics. And deeply understand everything. Calls and calls again.

Because somewhere a mom with kids is still recovering after the shock, some places are heavily bombed and the only wish there is to survive, and somewhere else the agricultural season is in bloom. We must not push too hard where it is not needed. Listen. Hear. Support. Give hope that the best is yet to come.

That spring will come. Peace will come. That our forces have almost pushed away the bastards that were shelling the residential areas.

There is a great wish to create retreat centers in the ecovillages. To put out domes for yoga and meditation. With wonderful views that we have plenty of in our ecovillages. To provide the help of psychologists and mediators. To shelter each one and to hug each other. To give the opportunity to plant the seed and to listen to a bee. To feel nature's awakening and rebirth.

To give hope that everything will be alright. But who are we to provide all of the above. It is not the best time. There is always a question of self—esteem beside the sense of guilt.

Everybody learns. So do we. And we will do our best.

