

Letter N7

About the magic of support

Yesterday I again shed emotional tears from the scale and the number of hearts and hands that do so much for us. Support that is coming from all directions.

I'll start probably from the farthest ones:

Yesterday, funds came from Nastia Volkova's (* a member of the GEN Ukraine team) friends from Japan, they are permaculture designers. GEN Asia has also joined the fundraising efforts. Meanwhile, our web analyst showed Vietnam's activity on our Green Road map. These are our long—standing contacts from the Thai Ecovillage Gathering.

During the lockdown, I once wrote that we spend most of our lives collecting firewood to ignite a bonfire of inspiration at some point. And in times of deep crisis, this spark can flare up and become one large flame.

Four years ago, I wrote a manifesto about Ukraine as an international hub of ecovillages between Europe and Asia. We have now become the epicenter of events that ignites the hearts of the whole world.

Funds come from everywhere — all the way from the States to Australia. Naturally, Europe is helping the most. The power of the ecovillage network is being felt more and more every day. It is like a pendulum that is just beginning to sway.

Yesterday, a community in Denmark collected the first humanitarian delivery. They dropped us a video of a hangar full of sorted and so necessary things: from mattresses and sleeping bags to clothes and medicines.

But who will accept the cargo in Rivne (* a city in Western Ukraine)? We have no one there... and the carrier only goes to Rivne. I am writing in the chat of our eco—community, which was formed with the Green School (* a program with lectures and discussions on sustainable topics). Yes, they know me there. Yes, they won't refuse.

Who can? In 20 minutes we had the contact of a person who had an unloading space and could help. And also a few more activists ready to ship the aid packages directly to our ecovillages.



“We and our children need summer clothes and shoes. We arrived in winter clothes and today it was +20 here. Please tell us where to get that»
We are creating mailing lists, looking for the nearest post office. Or a courier.

Max! What about mattresses? We've raised funds in Chisinau. Is your account still valid?

Yes, valid!

Our Sasha from Belarus writes.

Pay. There is always a need for mattresses now.

Verasen (* a downshifter from Belarus) also calls often, how are you? I will write. Now I have to write a lot, describe everything. To keep the world updated. A whole separate team is already translating my stories into English. Who could have thought that this would become such a necessity..

— Turnip! We have 4 tons of turnips here! Where to send it? Volodia from an ecovillage in Kropyvnytskyi writes (* Kropyvnytskyi — a city in central Ukraine).

— Send to the Vaisnava settlement, they've sheltered 200 sheltered migrants. And write about that in our chat, maybe people will order as well.

— Seeds! Who else to send a set of seeds!? Our incredible Ivanka planted 100,000 tomatoes and just as many cabbages. There will be seedlings for everyone.

Greenhouses are coming tomorrow, pumps will also come soon. Where to start the preparation? Wells, of course, have to be cleaned and deepened. The work is not easy, you need special clothes and tools. Collective work has started. For some, of course, the war is not a right time, but in the ecovillages water is a matter of food security.

We saw a photo from Denmark with 60 pumps, and everyone was inspired.

— Send 3 pieces to us too. There are crater lakes near our family estates, we need drip irrigation. And we would need tanks for storing water for at least 3 cubic meters, and a dryer for vegetables.

— We need food for cattle. Help as much as you can. Over the past weekend, we took 200 people for rehabilitation — most of them are children, after the bombings.

Yes, everyone needs recovery, at least a little bit of silence without war, explosions and sirens, the roar of planes. Our remote hamlets are probably the best places for this.



At the equinox, the shamans united with the call of the Prayer of peace. Everyone, everyone — from the ayahuasca guides to the servants of the sun. Of course, this is strange to some, but we have also joined them and shamanized. We believe in the magic of support...

Hooray! Our Tanya was released from occupation in a village in the Chernihiv region, she is already writing posts on social networks, she is safe. Makariv was released (* a city in Kyiv region), we are anxiously waiting for news from others. God, how we worry about them.

Obyrok, an ecovillage in the occupied territory in Chernihiv region, has sent some photos from the vegetable gardens. They are still working. So good that they are alive.

In Sumy (* a city in Northern Ukraine) they are still waiting for the evacuation corridor, how many of them still can't decide what to do next — to leave or to wait...

Advise where to go, we would go where there are more children... Maksym, we have written here a list of needs for children who have been forcibly displaced, we wrote it together with the children.

Myloslava from Vasylivka (* an ecovillage in Dnipro region) writes.
— First of all, we need a cauldron and a kettle for the bonfire. Metal utensils.

— Order. Bring a pile of sand for the children. 2—3 trucks. I saw that in Lithuania, in an ecovillage, it's very effective, children will spend all their time there.

A grant for us has just been approved! For the development of our ecovillages. We have been waiting for it for so long. Our girls wrote it in emergency mode for several nights without a break. And it seems that everything is coming together now. There will be motoblocks and generators.

— I have calculated here, Ira says (* a member of the GEN Ukraine team), and in any case, all this equipment costs the same, starting from a thousand euros. Those funds will only be enough for some inspiration.

— But inspiration is already quite a lot. We have enough potential, we don't need that much. Just a little more peaceful sky overhead.

Because the sowing season has already begun, we need to hurry. And we need to adapt people somehow, they now have nowhere to come back to. In spite of all the variety of choices, the central part of Ukraine has become a refuge for most people now. Without knowledge of English, they have nothing to do in Europe. And the western part is already full of people. We need more locations, more houses to build for life. And that means water, wiring, heating, basic conditions and time. Time, which we lack... Not everyone wants to be a refugee, people just want to live a normal life. At the weekend, my eldest son dropped a photo from our greenhouse. He had also started the sowing season together with his girlfriend. We don't communicate much now, but it seems to be my greatest magic of support. We'll break through, we'll win.

Everything will be Ukraine