

The project “**PRO Neighborhoods**: strengthening local communities in large housing estates” is supported by the program “Expanding Cooperation with Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership Countries and Russia from German Foreign Office.

The project offers support for the residents of large housing estates in the large regional cities in Russia and Ukraine who want to improve their neighborhoods.

During the programs, participants acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to be active at the local level. They could strengthen local contacts, design and implement their own pilot projects. Around 60 local residents' meetings will take place by the end of 2021. Examples of the projects that residents are currently implementing are very diverse: the design of the museums for the large housing estates, art exhibitions, the publication of district newspapers, local discussions and so-called "Subbotniks" - when residents clean the city of rubbish together.

In some cities there is a focus on “youth participation”. The series of workshops and events is planned for teenagers so that they can get to know their settlements better. In the end, they produce art exhibitions about their large estates themselves.

The second goal of the project is to strengthen the exchange between Russia, Germany and the Ukraine on the subject of "The further development of large estates".

On October 14th, 2021 there was an online lecture by Ralf Protz on the topic "Large housing estates and citizen participation in Germany".

As part of the project, 3 online lectures are planned by the members of The Competence Center for Large housing estates.

Johanna Sievers (on 11.11.2021), Frank Adomeit (on 13.12.2021, registration form <https://clck.ru/ZCVZp>), Guido Schwarzendahl (on 16.12.2021 registration form <https://clck.ru/ZD997>). The recordings of these lectures will be available soon.

Dr. Bernd Hunger took part in the online discussion "Soviet Residential Heritage: Gift or Burden?" with Dr. Philipp Meuser, Mariia Melnikova, Kuba Snopek and the Russian expert

For the Competence Center and its members, the project enables the expansion of new and consolidation of existing networks in Russia and Ukraine. This also brings a younger audience closer to these important issue housing and urban development policy in all three countries.