



Шацька селищна рада

Shatsk Town Council

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на № \_\_\_\_\_ від \_\_\_\_\_

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Dear Sir/Madame,

I am pleased to express highest appreciation of Ukrainian people for all people's efforts in helping Ukraine at this challenging time. With their help we now are able to fight for freedom and our motherland.

Regarding this I am referring to you on behalf of the Shatsk Town Council and the residents of Shatsk municipality to report our great interest in cooperation between our our towns and municipalities.

Shatsk town hosts the administration of Shatsk territorial community (municipality) which includes 31 settlements. Our community is situated in the north-western part of Ukraine and has border with Republic of Belarus and Poland.

2022 turned our lives upside down and Shatsk community was engaged into providing fast and efficient response to emergencies and became an important logistical hub for people transportation to safe territories. Our municipality – a true pearl of nature with the lace of 30 lakes and wide diversity of flora and fauna – became a shelter for thousands of internally displaced persons where they got assistance and temporary accommodations. Hundreds of them have been living here till now.

Shatsk itself and the municipality in general has got a long history and some cultural attractions. On the territory of Shatsk municipality Shatsk national nature park is located. It contains a varied flora and fauna and is a part of "West Polesie" Transboundary Biosphere Reserve which is under UNESCO protection. 30 lakes, cover an area approximately 8 000 hectares and it is one of the biggest lake-groups in Europe. The largest lake in the park is Svitiaz lake, its area is 2622 hectares and 58,4 meters deep. Unique nature of our region advantages approximately 80 thousands of migrating swimming birds to do stop on the lakes. This makes Shatsk national nature park a perfect location for watching different kinds of birds including some certain threatened ones. The park is not only environment protective object but also a scientific institution where the scientific department of it together with specialists from the other scientific institutions perform constant research to provide stable ecological processes, disturbed natural ecosystems optimization and recreational usage of the territory improvement.

Many people come here to swim in the lakes. We develop tourism within our capabilities. There are bike paths, developed routes for cycling in the forests which occupy a big territory of our town and neighbouring villages. A sport school with a canoeing department operates in our town. Children and teenagers have an opportunity to go in for canoeing and spend their free time actively. Besides that, our tourists can row canoe themselves or with a guide. According to the complex plan of spatial development of the municipality, a sports centre is expected to be built on our territory to train the Ukrainian Olympic and Paralympic team.

The Shatsk municipality is also proud of its craft production - cheeses with different flavours, unique honey, special tasty sausages, and fish from local lakes are cooked here in various ways. There is also a reason to be proud of our berry growing, as our municipality has one of the largest berry fields in Europe.

We also target our activities at young people, so Youth Council acts in Shatsk town. It includes active young people aimed at doing their town or village better. Some of them are interested in political life of the territorial community, other try to realize their creative talents and all of them are keen in getting opportunities to learn new disciplines in IT-sphere, journalism, foreign languages etc.

Our citizens are keen to make positive changes in Ukraine so the experience of your country and particularly of your town's social, educational, ecological, economic, political and other spheres functioning would be valuable for us. We suggest establishing citizen diplomacy and would appreciate if you make a decision to enter a sister city relationship with Shatsk municipality.

Today much depends on Ukrainians but with your help, I'm sure, freedom will win. And we eagerly await your response and would be happy to address any questions or reservations you might have.

Sincerely, Serhii Karpuk, Shatsk Town Mayor

