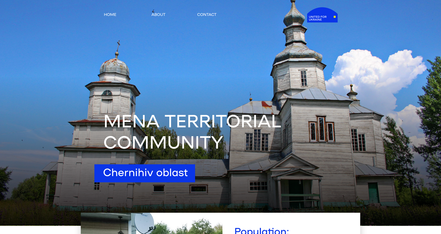


MENA TERRITORIAL COMMUNITY

Chernihiv oblast

Population:

(as of 01.01.2022) – **26 014** inhabitants

Men – **11 998**

Women – **14 016**

Children under 18 – **3 901**

Pensioners – **7 336**

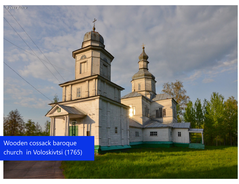
Internally displaced persons – **3 225**, including **716** – schoolchildren.

The Mena territorial community consists of 1 city, 1 urban-type settlement, 3 settlements and 34 village

Mena, a crossroad cossacks' land

Named after the Mena river, the central city of the Mena community has long been at the crossroads of important trade routes between Chernihiv, Kursk and the Don. In the olden days it was a city of the Zaporozhian Cossacks, who belonged to the Nizhyn and later the Chernihiv regiments.

Unique wooden churches of the 18th century in the Cossack Baroque style have been preserved in the community, among them the Church of the Assumption in Volokivtsi dated as back as 1765.



Wooden cossack baroque church in Volokivtsi (1765)

Church from Mena at the National Museum of Folk Architecture and Life of Ukraine in Pyrohovo, Kyiv region

The city received the Magdeburg Law in 1654. At different times it was ruled by different empires – the Commonwealth of Poland, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Russian Empire.

The city of Mena is located at the intersection of Ukraine's railway connection with Belarus and land routes with Russia. Prior to the Russian attack on Donbas in 2014, it was possible to reach Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk or the Crimea from the local station without any problems. However, due to Russia's occupation of Donbass, the number of shipments has decreased significantly.

Land of Chernikhiv bandura lyrics

Mena is the homeland of famous Ukrainian kobzars, singers-musicians, who accompany their singing by playing the national Ukrainian instrument – the bandura. It was here that the famous Chernihiv bandura and a special Chernihiv way of playing appeared. The Museum of Local History houses collections of banduras by local master-maker Oleksandr Kornievsky, who was known far beyond Ukraine.

Mena zoo

Mena Zoohouses about 560 animals, which represent 120 species, 17 of which are endangered . The area of the zoo is 9 hectares. It is visited annually by more than 30 thousand people.

Photos provided by the community

Photo from Wikipedia

Photo from Menshchyna informational resource

Environment protection and energy saving

The Mena community is one of the first in Ukraine to join the UN #RaceToZero climate change campaign, which aims to unite businesses, communities and regions to achieve zero carbon emissions. A special priority for the community is the preservation and restoration of local forests. That is why the community decided to allocate 500 hectares of unproductive agricultural land for afforestation.

Mena City Council has been a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors since 2013. During 2017-2019, the city implemented an energy efficiency project, which introduced almost 1,500 LED lights in the city, along with a lighting management system and energy monitoring.

There is a 9 MW solar power plant in the community.

Solar panel station in Mena community. Photo provided by the community

Mena city beach, photo from Menshchyna information source

Youth and cultural initiatives

Much attention in the community is paid to the development of youth initiatives. The Mena community is a candidate community in the UNICEF Child-Friendly Community project. The youth council has been working effectively for more than 5 years, and students are even involved in community governance.

Numerous cultural events are held here every year. In 2021, the annual open sports and entertainment festival "Hero-FEST" named after Terenty Savych Koren, a legendary Ukrainian wrestler and weightlifter, a native of the Mena community, was launched. During the festival one can get acquainted with ancient sports. About 5,000 people took part in the first Hero-FEST.

The Kumanets Pottery Festival is held as part of the annual Trinity Fair. The event annually hosts up to 15,000 connoisseurs of modern pottery. Also, at the exhibition «Ceramic Art Zoo» you can see ceramics with animal images.

Mena Trinity Fair

Youth LuMena festival during the City Day on August, 8 2021

Agriculture Land

Food processing, pulp and paper industry, wood processing as well as agriculture (mainly growing cereals, legumes, industrial and fodder crops – sunflower, wheat, nuts, canola, soybeans) and meat – dairy farming are well developed in the community.

The main resource of the Mena community is land, and the vast majority of land is black soil. There are over 87,000 hectares of arable lands in the community and there are more than 67 enterprises producing agricultural products work here.

Photo from local media resource Mena

One of the leading Ukrainian cheese factories, Mensky Syr, operates in the community, processing more than 500 tons of milk per day. Also, due to the untouched nature at a depth of 830 m, Ostrechenskaya hydrocarbonate-chloride-sodium mineral water is extracted and produced here.

Community and the war

Since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war, on February 26, 2022, fierce battles were fought in the Minsk direction, in particular, 20 units of enemy equipment were burned nearby. Russian occupation forces passed by, leaving the community cut off from the rest of Ukraine. Communications and bridges were destroyed by the occupying forces. Food and medicine under the blockade were delivered in small batches by selfmade river crossings. Residents of the community suffered from a shortage of gasoline and food.

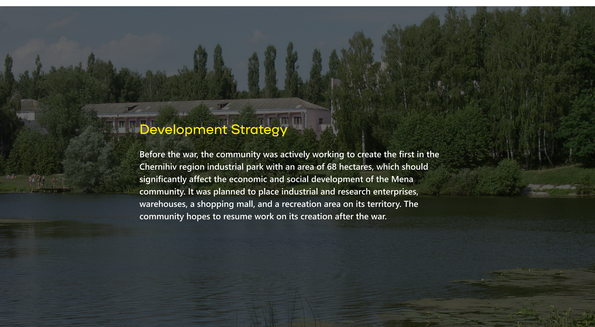
IDPs in the community

«Our native Mena community hosted more than 7,000 IDPs. More than 10,000 people passed through our river crossings. Much work has been done to set up crossings and provide assistance to those in need. We were and are constantly in touch with Chernihiv: we delivered aid to our soldiers and hospitals. Today it is important to start sowing, to help our companies resume production, to help businesses restart in the conditions of life on the «island».»

Hennadiy Prymakov, Mena community head

Hennadiy Prymakov, Mena community head

He was elected mayor three times in 2015, 2017, 2020. Prior to that, he was the first deputy head of the Mena district state administration. Economist by education. A native of Chernihiv region.



Development Strategy

Before the war, the community was actively working to create the first in the Chernihiv region industrial park with an area of 68 hectares, which should significantly affect the economic and social development of the Mena community. It was planned to place industrial and research enterprises, warehouses, a shopping mall, and a recreation area on its territory. The community hopes to resume work on its creation after the war.

If you wish to partner this community please write us an email to:
info@unitedforua.org