

Посольство України
у Фінляндській Республіці

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Ukrainan suurlähetystö
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Mayor of the City of Joensuu
Jere Penttilä

Dear Mayor Penttilä,

My visit to Joensuu was one of the most successful trips around Finland. I had the opportunity to get to know the city, your activities, learn the success secrets of the numerous companies located in Joensuu and meet your wonderful residents.

One more time, I would like to thank you for your unwavering support of Ukraine and Ukrainians. I was impressed with the level of support provided to the Ukrainians who fled the war to Joensuu. I am grateful for your activities to make my fellow citizens feel safe and welcomed in Finland, as well as humanitarian and cultural initiatives.

Following our discussion during my visit to Joensuu, I would like to propose you a candidate for the sister city in Ukraine. In my opinion, the most promising and successful partnership for both sides could be built with the city of **Zhytomyr**.

Zhytomyr is one of the oldest cities in Ukraine and has been the administrative centre since the Middle Ages. The city is located in one of the most forested regions of the country and is interested in implementing projects in the field of development of woodworking, light and food industries, energy efficiency. Zhytomyr also has 4 universities and 40 other educational institutions of all levels, including 9 colleges and 5 vocational technical schools, industrial park "Zhytomyr-east", international airport.

Establishing Joensuu's partnership with the Ukrainian city will be another important step of supporting Ukraine, I believe it will be beneficial for both sides, and will positively contribute to the Ukrainian-Finnish cooperation in many areas.

Attachment: presentations of Zhytomyr

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador
Olga Dibrova

24 March 2024