

Dear Suporter

I've been home in Switzerland for a few days now, which means I'm in the cold. Even though it's not so good for my bones, I'm getting used to the climatic conditions - also thanks to Monique's support.

We were able to make some improvements during the construction of the shell. Seeing the shell, it almost looks like a Swiss house; it is generously sized and has a high quality of construction.

The big difference between a "Happy Home" for Ukraine and a Swiss house is the price and the time it takes to build it.

We were able to assemble the tubular frame within 3 days. It was no problem getting the posts and beams plumb. Thanks to our supplier's reliable work with the precision laser, all drilling and cutting was carried out according to the CAD drawings and as planned. It was worth it that we checked and eliminated in advance possible collision points in a simulation.

We spent 3 days planning the installation of the EPS cement panels. We had to determine how and where we could cut the panels and ensure we had a safe assembly process. This was particularly important because our employees on the construction site were NOT skilled workers.

At this point I would like to thank Prof. Felix Wenk, OST University of Applied Sciences in Rapperswil, for his technical and active support on site!

The work could be carried out quickly with 3 to 4 men. Here, too, we were able to learn a lot when planning the cutting of the panels and during assembly. We see EPS cement panels as a good solution for external walls; nevertheless, we are still evaluating other solutions to possibly achieve further cost reductions.

For Ukraine, I would personally plan for 150 mm panels so that we get a total insulation of 300 mm.

We started construction in the middle of the monsoon season. To make sure that we could continue working despite heavy rain, we first installed the roof. In the future, we will rather install the outer wall first, so that access to the tubular frame is easier and possible without obstacles.

Until my next visit, I will plan the interior finishing and prepare it accordingly with my colleagues.

Under the YouTube link, https://youtu.be/MjRc_jbsWps, you will find a video with photos of the shell construction of the "Happy Home" for Ukraine.

In the autumn semester, Prof. Peter Petschek, OST University of Applied Sciences, Landscape Architecture, carried out a class project with his students on the topic of 'Planning a Happy Home Village in Ukraine'. I have attached this work as a PDF.

Already in mid-January 2024, together with Prof. Martin Beth, also from the OST University of Applied Sciences, I will be able to present our "Happy Home" for Ukraine to the study participants of the 2nd CAS Ukraine.

As always, I am happy to answer any further questions and suggestions.

Let me thank the OST University of Applied Sciences and all supporters for making it possible for me to get this far with our project.

Now I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, good health, and a better world for everyone.

Kindest regards and best wishes also from the "Happy Home" Team Thailand

Franz