

ACTIVITY REPORT

*Institute for Peace and Common Ground
(IPCG)*

2024

<https://imip.org.ua/>

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG) - is a leading Ukrainian non-governmental organization engaged in the formation of social capital and strengthening the "social fabric" of society. The organization uses dialogic and restorative practices aimed at achieving positive and sustainable changes in communities.

The work is based on a restorative approach that helps to resolve conflicts and eliminate their consequences. It involves:

- building trust between the parties;
- involving participants in the discussion and decision-making process;
- Creating a non-violent environment that promotes common solutions and social cohesion.

Such approaches enable communities not only to resolve conflicts but also to form effective mechanisms for cooperation and development.

CORE VALUES AND MISSION

We strengthen the social fabric of Ukraine by developing a culture of dialogue and constructive conflict resolution to enhance the resilience of communities in confronting the challenges of war and in the process of building a just peace.

WE DO THIS THROUGH:

- Creating safe spaces for constructive dialog
- Building the capacity of communities to resolve conflicts on their own
- Implementation of restorative practices adapted to wartime conditions
- Formation of sustainable social ties between different groups of the population
- Supporting participatory approaches to decision-making on reconstruction and development
- Integrating a trauma-informed approach into reconciliation and recovery processes

OUR VALUES

Values are the compass that guides the Institute for Peace and Common Ground in its daily work with communities in times of war. They shape approaches, decisions and ways of interaction, giving meaning in times when society is experiencing deep upheaval.

Trust - we create spaces where people can speak openly, build transparent processes, counter disinformation, and restore ties between civilians, the military, and the displaced.

Understanding - we take into account the needs of vulnerable groups, recognize collective trauma, and perceive conflicts as a natural reaction to the crisis, which we support through facilitation.

Respect - we treat everyone with dignity, recognize different experiences, rates of adaptation and contributions - from the military and volunteers to those who are just holding on.

Caring - we care about the victims and those who support others, develop mutual aid networks and psychosocial support practices.

Responsibility - we divide it between personal choice and joint action: from rebuilding infrastructure to preserving memory and community cohesion.

This system of values helps the Institute to work effectively in the context of war, maintaining a focus on people and contributing to the development of a resilient and cohesive society capable of withstanding external threats and recovering.

AREAS OF WORK

1. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Basic information. Why is this area important in 2024?

Restorative justice offers an alternative to the traditional punitive system, focusing on restoring justice and repairing harm through dialogue and understanding. It aims to engage all parties to the conflict in the process of resolving the dispute, restoring trust and preventing repeat offenses.

In the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine, restorative justice is particularly relevant because of its focus on restoring the social fabric of society and healing collective trauma:

Working with memory

In 2024, the collective memory of the war is being shaped by the events themselves:

- Creating safe spaces for sharing war experiences helps to integrate different narratives and prevent fragmentation of collective memory
- A restorative approach ensures a person-centered process where individual stories become part of a broader societal narrative
- Facilitated dialogues about traumatic experiences contribute to the psychological healing of communities, turning painful memories into a resource for recovery

Memorialization

The processes of memorialization in times of war require a special approach:

- Restorative justice offers inclusive methods of creating places of remembrance that reflect the diverse experiences of war
- Participatory approaches to memorialization help communities to feel their own agency in shaping symbolic space
- Processes of commemorating losses become not only an expression of grief, but also a tool for restoring community cohesion

Developing publicly agreed approaches to transitional justice

It is in 2024 that the foundations for future transitional justice processes are laid:

- Dialogue practices help to build a common understanding of justice that goes beyond punitive approaches alone
- A restorative approach helps to balance the need for justice with the need for social healing
- Consensus on transitional justice principles is built through the involvement of different groups of society, including the most vulnerable

Restoring social ties

War tears the social fabric of society, so in 2024:

- Restorative practices bridge gaps between different groups with different experiences of war
- Reconciliation circles and dialogues provide a basis for rebuilding trust between citizens
- Creating a shared vision of a just future helps unite society around the reconstruction process

Healing collective trauma

A restorative approach in 2024 is especially important for:

- Creating an environment in which communities can confront collective trauma through dialogue and joint action
- Transforming the experience of suffering into collective resilience and capacity for recovery
- Shaping new positive narratives that recognize trauma but are not limited to it

This area of work lays the foundation for the future stage of Ukraine's recovery, when society will need not only physical reconstruction, but also the restoration of social ties, trust and a common vision of justice.

2. RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN COMMUNITIES

Basic information. Why is this area important in 2024?

Weakening social ties, growing distrust and conflict in communities complicate the recovery process. Often, local authorities make decisions without involving residents, and public initiatives are scattered.

In the context of war, the Ukrainian context is characterized by:

- **Large-scale internal displacement** - millions of people have been forced to change their place of residence, which puts pressure on host communities and requires new approaches to integration
- **Transformation of local governance** - military administrations and local governments operate under a special legal regime, which can limit citizen participation
- **Limited resources and high competition for them** - communities face the need for effective and fair distribution of humanitarian aid and other resources
- **New lines of potential conflict** - between locals and IDPs, between those who returned from abroad and those who stayed, between different groups by level of trauma

Implementation of restorative practices will allow:

- Establish effective communication between citizens and the government;
- Restore trust between different social groups;
- Ensure active participation of residents in the reconstruction and development of their cities and villages;

- **Create safe spaces for discussing complex issues of coexistence in times of war;**
- **To develop skills of constructive dialog in conditions of high emotional stress;**
- **To build new social bridges between different groups in communities** (including IDPs, veterans, people with different war experiences);
- **Prevent "aid fatigue"** in host communities through engagement in joint decision-making;
- **Transform conflicts over resources** into opportunities for cooperation and innovative solutions;
- **Support the formation of new local identities** in communities that have undergone significant demographic changes.

This approach will contribute to the formation of a cohesive society capable of responding effectively to the challenges of our time. Strengthening the social fabric of communities through restorative practices is becoming not just desirable, but a necessary element of maintaining social stability and building collective resilience in the face of prolonged war and future reconstruction.

Additionally, in 2024, the development of this area allows preparing communities for future reintegration of the de-occupied territories and large-scale reconstruction, which will require a high level of social cohesion and effective mechanisms for engaging citizens.

3. RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS

Basic information. Why is this area important in 2024?

The introduction of restorative practices in schools is aimed at creating a safe and peaceful educational environment where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and participants in the educational process acquire non-violent communication skills. Such approaches help reduce bullying, improve interaction between students, teachers, and parents, and promote responsibility and empathy.

Relevance in 2024:

The lack of constructive communication skills and emotional self-regulation makes it difficult for children to adapt to new environments.

The educational environment has undergone dramatic changes during the war:

- **Traumatic experiences of children and teachers** - a significant part of the school community has experienced traumatic events, losses, and displacement that affect their emotional state and behavior.
- **Changes in learning formats** - the introduction of face-to-face and distance learning, learning in shelters, and air raids create additional tension.
- **Integration of internally displaced students** - schools accept children from different regions who have different experiences of war and different educational trajectories.
- **Increased levels of anxiety and aggression** - as a natural reaction to stress, which can manifest itself in interpersonal relationships.
- **Changes in the composition of teaching staff** - teachers' relocation, burnout, new challenges of professional adaptation

Working with polarizing processes in schools

The war has significantly intensified polarization processes in the educational environment, creating new linear divisions:

- **Dividing into "us" and "them"** - especially noticeable in schools with a significant number of internally displaced students, where groups may form on a regional basis.
- **Different experiences of war** - children who have experienced occupation, hostilities or internal displacement may face misunderstanding from those who have had less traumatic experiences
- **Ideological differences** - families may have different views on war and ways to achieve peace, which affect children and their interactions.
- **Socio-economic inequality** - deepened war-related differences in the material wealth of families create additional grounds for conflict.
- **Language issues** - the integration of students from predominantly Russian-speaking regions can create tensions in the Ukrainian environment.

Restorative approaches to polarization include:

- **Circles of reconciliation**, where students can safely express their feelings and experiences, see the humanity and vulnerability of the "other"
- **Depolarization techniques** to help identify common values and needs behind perceived differences
- **Creation of inclusive narratives** that combine the experience of war into a common understanding of different kinds of experiences.
- **Development of critical thinking** to counteract black and white perception and stereotyping
- **Facilitated dialogues** on sensitive issues, where students learn to express disagreement without devaluation or aggression.
- **Joint action projects** that bring together children from "opposing camps" to solve common problems

The development of restorative approaches in schools is allowed:

- Create an environment where children feel heard and protected;
- Introduce effective mechanisms for resolving conflicts without violence;
- Strengthen the school community through trust and cooperation;
- **To help children and teachers integrate the traumatic experience of war** through safe disclosure;
- **Create tools to support the psychological well-being** of all participants in the educational process;
- **To develop a culture of non-violent communication** as a basis for safety in conditions of heightened anxiety;
- **Establish effective interaction between the school and parents** who are also stressed by the war;
- **Create school-based understanding services** where students can acquire skills in mediation and peaceful conflict resolution;
- **Transform polarization into a perspective of multiplicity** by teaching the value of diversity of opinions and experiences;
- **Prevent the perpetuation of traumatic fractures** in the next generation through the practice of inclusive dialogue;
- **Prepare young people for active participation in reconstruction and reconciliation** through the adoption of values and practical constructive dialogue.

The formation of a cultural dialogue in education will not only improve the atmosphere in schools, but will also become the basis for building a peaceful society in general. Schools that use restorative practices remain not only places of learning, but also centers of resilience and the development of skills that are essential to rebuilding a cohesive country that can overcome the polarization and division caused by war.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS IN 2024

PROJECT: HER PERSPECTIVE

The full-scale invasion has led to massive displacement of people, which has led to social challenges, including: a lack of communication between internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities; low involvement of IDP women in decision-making processes; and a lack of opportunities for dialogue and joint participation in community reconstruction.

The project aims to overcome these problems by developing social cohesion and supporting the active participation of young IDP women in public and political life.

The project aims to promote social cohesion between young IDP women and host communities in 5 regions of Ukraine, as well as to build women's capacity to participate in political processes aimed at reconciliation and reconstruction.

Description.

The project implemented a number of activities aimed at strengthening social cohesion between young IDP women and local communities. Participants were trained in video production, which allowed them to create media content on their own, and technical equipment was purchased for youth centers to support these activities. A study was also conducted on the involvement of IDP women in public life, which helped identify effective mechanisms for their integration.

To discuss key challenges and find common solutions, meetings were organized in communities where local residents and IDP women could share their experiences and suggestions. The final stage was the screening of video works and presentation of the study, which drew attention to the problem of social integration of IDP women and helped raise awareness at the national level.

The project demonstrated that IDP women can be a driving force for change, and that effective interaction between them and local communities contributes to building a sustainable and cohesive society.

The project "Her Perspective" is implemented by the Institute for Peace and Common Ground in cooperation with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict with technical support from UN Women in Ukraine and funded by the UN Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), a flexible and responsive funding instrument that supports quality interventions to increase the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

PROJECT: SYLANKA. «INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF THE JUDICIARY AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS TO OVERCOME THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE»

The full-scale invasion of Ukraine has caused massive psychological trauma, and according to the Ministry of Health, about 15 million Ukrainians will need psychological support. One of the key aspects of recovery is the opportunity to share one's own stories, receive support and find resources for further adaptation. The Sylanka project aims to create a self-organization platform that helps Ukrainians share their experiences, find mutual support, and engage in recovery initiatives.

The goal of the project is to create a space for people to tell/share their stories, help in the personal recovery of Ukrainians, encourage people to self-organize and help each other, and draw the attention of the international community to the problems caused by the full-scale invasion of Russia.

Description

The project implemented a number of activities, one of the key events being the presentation "Fragility of Society in the Second Year of War: Tools for Strengthening Resilience," which focused on analyzing the social vulnerability of the population and methods of countering divisive narratives. The Sylanka.org platform has already collected more than 500 stories of war eyewitnesses, which are organized by key topics. In addition, more than 60 initiatives have been integrated into the map, allowing users to find relevant volunteer projects and support. A convenient interaction mechanism has been created where everyone can add their story, get help, or join the volunteer movement.

The site is available in five languages - Ukrainian, English, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish - which expands its audience and engages the international community. An active information campaign allowed the platform to reach 650,000+ people, as well as receive 39,000 unique visits and 12,000 interactions on social media (Facebook, Instagram).

As a result, Sylanka.org has become an effective tool for psychological support, self-organization, and volunteer interaction.

The project "Strengthening the capacity of the judiciary and civil society organizations to overcome the consequences of the war in Ukraine" is implemented by the NGO "Institute for Peace and Common Ground" in cooperation with the NGO "DEJURE Foundation" and funded by the European Union.

PROJECT: SYLANKA «RAISING AWARENESS AMONG THE INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN UKRAINE»

With the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the international community's attention was focused on Ukraine, but over time, the focus shifted to other global events. As a result, the information space began to lose materials that reveal the real human stories of the war and its consequences for Ukrainians. The lack of such evidence makes it difficult to understand the true scale of the events and reduces the level of international support.

The project aims to disseminate truthful information about the war in Ukraine to an international audience and to consolidate the international community around the processes of rebuilding the social fabric and restoring Ukraine as a whole, which will help protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of Ukrainians.

Description

The project managed to translate 243 stories into English and publish them on Sylanka.org, which allowed us to expand the reach of the international audience and make Ukrainians' testimonies about the war available to foreign readers. The project also significantly increased user engagement: the number of new visits to the site from foreign IP addresses exceeded 12,000, which exceeds the planned target of 10,000. In addition, 18,000 users visited the site from Ukrainian IP addresses, which indicates an active interest in the platform's content.

The translation was prepared with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation.

PROJECT: SYLANKA. «INCREASING ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN UKRAINE FOR INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND ITALY»

Internationally, there is a lack of content covering the current situation in Ukraine from various aspects. In addition, the world's attention is gradually shifting to other events, which reduces the focus on the Ukrainian issue. To support Ukraine, it is crucial to raise international awareness by emphasizing human-centeredness and personal stories of war experiences. This approach contributes to a better understanding of the real scale of the war and may attract additional international assistance.

The project aims to increase access to information about the current situation in Ukraine for international audiences from the Global South and Italy and to consolidate the international community around the processes of ending hostilities in Ukraine and rebuilding Ukraine, which will help protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of Ukrainians.

Description

The project implemented a number of activities, including expanding the functionality of the Sylanka.org platform, preparing 20 new stories that demonstrate parallels between people's experiences during the war in Ukraine. In addition, 40 stories were translated and published in Portuguese, Italian and Spanish (120 if we count each language version separately).

In addition, a significant achievement was the addition of three new languages to the website, making the platform more accessible to a wider international audience and attracting new users. These steps have helped to spread truthful information about the war, emphasize its global context, and promote international support for Ukraine.

The translation was prepared with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation.

PROJECT: TRAUMA-SENSITIVE AND INCLUSIVE MEMORIALIZATION

In June 2023, the President of Ukraine announced a reset of approaches to memorialization policy. In response, the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, together with the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance (UINR), developed guidelines for authorities and civil society organizations to commemorate the participants, victims, and events of the Russian-Ukrainian war. However, an analysis of these recommendations revealed a lack of practical implementation mechanisms and clear tools to help communities effectively implement these principles. At the political level, the perception of memorialization approaches remains outdated, making it difficult to develop conflict-sensitive and inclusive models of memory.

The project was aimed at consolidating the efforts of different sectors to develop practical solutions in the field of trauma and conflict-sensitive memorialization.

The goal of the project is to develop recommendations for expanding the policy and practice of Ukrainian trauma and conflict-sensitive memorialization.

Опис

The project conducted an in-depth analysis of memorialization practices, including the views of key stakeholders in the process - experts, activists, and community representatives. The project included practical activities that allowed participants to discuss and develop modern models of memorialization adapted to social needs.

Four workshops were organized as part of the initiative, which contributed to the development of new approaches to memory preservation. In addition, 10 in-depth interviews with experts and activists were conducted to identify the main challenges and opportunities in this area. Preliminary research findings and recommendations were presented in partnership with the Maidan Museum, which allowed for valuable feedback and adjustments to the next steps.

The project contributed to raising awareness and practical understanding of modern approaches to memorialization, which is an important step in shaping an inclusive and trauma-sensitive culture of memory in Ukraine.

The project is implemented with the support of the Partnership for Resilience of Ukraine Foundation.

PROJECT: JOINT INITIATIVE OF UKRAINE AND ROMANIA FOR SOCIAL RECOVERY, INCLUSION AND COHESION OF UKRAINIAN COMMUNITIES

The full-scale invasion has had a significant impact on the social cohesion of communities, causing increased trauma and mistrust. Internal displacement has changed the composition of communities, making decision-making and self-organization at the local level more difficult. In addition, a lack of dialogue platforms has led to increased divisions between different groups, and insufficient skills in dealing with trauma limit the ability of educators, activists, and government officials to support community members. There is also a need to integrate different generations to work together on recovery.

The aim of the project is to promote social cohesion in communities through unification around educational institutions, by introducing dialogue tools and developing capacities for dialogue initiatives at the local level.

Description

The project involved 25 communities from Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, Volyn, Poltava, and Vinnytsia regions. They were given the opportunity to strengthen local interaction, involve residents in decision-making processes, and improve community safety.

Participants formed dialogue groups that were trained in trauma-sensitive approach and effective communication, which helped improve interaction between residents, educators, and local authorities. An important area was the training of educators as part of the Peaceful School project. In addition, communities have been given the opportunity to implement their own initiatives through a grant program that allows them to implement important projects in accordance with local needs. Online training on psychological recovery was also organized for schoolchildren to help them develop resilience to crisis situations. To ensure the sustainability of the results, project participants receive mentoring support, which provides support in the implementation of dialogue initiatives. A separate focus is on mine safety training, which is especially important for residents of the frontline and liberated areas and helps save lives.

The project "Joint Initiative in Ukraine and Romania for Social Recovery, Integration and Cohesion of Ukrainian Communities" (AID 012832/01/0) brings together partners from Ukraine, Romania and Italy in a joint effort to strengthen Ukrainian communities. The initiative is funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

PROJECT: COOPERATION IN COMMUNITY RECOVERY

The full-scale invasion has had a significant impact on social ties in communities, causing an increase in mistrust, social tension and the loss of effective mechanisms of interaction. The absence of constructive dialogue complicates decision-making, while insufficient interaction between the government and civil society slows down the recovery and reconstruction process.

The goal of the project is to support inclusive and participatory recovery in communities, as well as to promote the creation and strengthening of conflict mitigation and social cohesion tools.

Description

The project involved 15 communities from 11 regions of Ukraine working to restore and strengthen interaction between different social groups.

To achieve this goal, a set of activities was developed, including the creation and training of a network of facilitators, workshops and trainings, organization of introductory meetings in communities, and implementation of Community Engagement Plans. In addition, a Model of Public Involvement in Community Improvement was developed, which will become a tool for further implementation of democratic approaches in recovery processes.

The project resulted in the strengthening of the network of facilitators who gained knowledge of conflict management, dialogues, and facilitation principles. As part of the program, 57 community representatives took part in three-day trainings that helped expand their expertise in social cohesion and civic participation.

An important achievement was the implementation of 15 Community Engagement Plans, which included more than 45 offline meetings and 120 online events. This helped to increase the level of public participation, the use of dialogue tools by local authorities, as well as to establish cooperation between communities and attract additional resources for their development.

The Community Recovery Support Project is an important step in Ukraine's reconstruction, as it establishes sustainable mechanisms of interaction between citizens, authorities and civil society organizations, allowing for a more effective response to the challenges caused by the war.

The project "Cooperation in Community Reconstruction" is implemented by the NGO "Institute for Peace and Common Ground" thanks to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the generous support of the American people through the USAID GOVERLA Project.

PROJECT: PEACEFUL SCHOOL

The full-scale invasion has exacerbated tensions between educational stakeholders caused by stereotypes and prejudices, leading to an increase in violence and intolerance in schools. One of the key problems is the lack of a culture of peaceful conflict resolution, as teachers and administrators often lack the necessary knowledge and techniques for effective peace education. In addition, the lack of social cohesion between different groups of the population complicates the integration of internally displaced persons, which creates additional challenges for establishing interaction in schools. There is also a problem with the introduction of peacebuilding practices in the education system, as many educational institutions do not have sufficient training to systematically apply non-violent communication approaches.

The goal of the project is to create a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment in Ukraine through the implementation of the Peaceful School Model, which will help reduce violence, promote tolerance and increase social cohesion.

Description

The project included a presentation of the Peaceful School Model, which included a hybrid event in Kyiv, an online presentation, and a roundtable discussion on the implementation of peacebuilding practices in school education. To support teachers and educators, the Peaceful School online resource was created, which has already attracted 3,300 users and has been viewed more than 12,800 times. Additionally, 7 supervisions were conducted to provide methodological support to teachers. A key component was training courses, which included online and offline trainings on mediation, empathic listening, and psychological support. More than 300 people took part in the project, of whom 430 teachers were certified.

The project is supported by the German government through a joint contribution of the forumZFD Program Office in Ukraine (Forum Civil Peace Service - Ukraine) and the Civil Peace Service of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and implemented by the NGO "Institute for Peace and Common Ground" (IPCG) in cooperation with the Institute for Modernization of Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Research and Training Center for Practical Psychology and Social Work.

PROJECT: A PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL COHESION IN UKRAINIAN COMMUNITIES BY PROMOTING A SENSE OF UNITY AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN IDPS AND HOST COMMUNITIES, REDUCING DIVISION AND COMPETITION FOR SCARCE RESOURCES THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF DIALOGUE IN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Social tensions are increasing as IDPs and locals compete for resources. The full-scale invasion also has a powerful psychological impact, and its consequences are felt by students, teachers and parents, affecting their emotional state and the quality of their interactions. One of the key challenges is the lack of dialogue facilitation skills - communities lack qualified professionals who can organize safe discussions to promote reconciliation and strengthen social cohesion. In addition, schools lack the knowledge and techniques to effectively resolve conflicts and create dialogue initiatives that would facilitate the integration of IDPs.

Project goal to strengthen social cohesion in Ukrainian communities by fostering a sense of unity and understanding between IDPs and host communities, reducing division and competition for limited resources through the promotion of dialogue in school communities

Description

The project selected 16 facilitators and 8 schools that became platforms for organizing dialogues. The facilitators underwent 4-day offline training and 1 online session, which gave them the necessary knowledge and skills to work with communities. Later, they received supervision in the format of 3 group and 48 individual sessions, which provided methodological support and professional development. A key stage was the holding of 8 dialogues in schools, during which facilitators helped identify topics important to the community and organize constructive discussions between students, teachers, and parents. At the end of the project, a final event was held where participants shared their experiences, reflected, and developed methodological recommendations for further implementation of dialogue practices in schools. The project results show a significant improvement in communication in schools: 16 facilitators gained skills in conflict resolution, 8 schools received support in resolving problem situations, and more than 400 participants took part in dialogues. Students and teachers reported that for the first time they were able to discuss their problems openly without fear of judgment, and some schools have already begun to implement new peacebuilding practices. The facilitators were invited to work with other schools, which demonstrates the relevance and effectiveness of the approach proposed by the project.

MANUALS AND METHODOLOGICAL MATERIALS

In 2024, a number of manuals, methodological materials, and studies were developed as part of the activities aimed at supporting civic engagement, strengthening social cohesion, and implementing dialogic approaches.

These materials have become useful tools for civic activists, government officials, mediators, educators, social workers, and anyone working to change and build strong, cohesive communities.

- **A model of public engagement in community improvement: How David defeated Goliath**

The manual contains comprehensive tools and methodology for engaging citizens in active participation in the development of their communities. It provides practical recommendations on: strengthening social cohesion; establishing a dialogue between the authorities and the community; institutionalizing dialogue approaches; overcoming conflicts and preventing their aggravation.

Project: «Cooperation in community recovery»

- **Good practices of the model of public involvement in community improvement: when «Davids» overcome «Goliaths»**

The collection contains successful cases from different communities of Ukraine, which, thanks to active cooperation, dialogic approaches and involvement of residents, were able to effectively solve social problems. The book presents real-life stories of how communities: use public participation mechanisms for decision-making; strengthen social cohesion; successfully resolve conflicts; and implement social initiatives.

Project: «Cooperation in community recovery»

- **Manual «Peaceful School»**

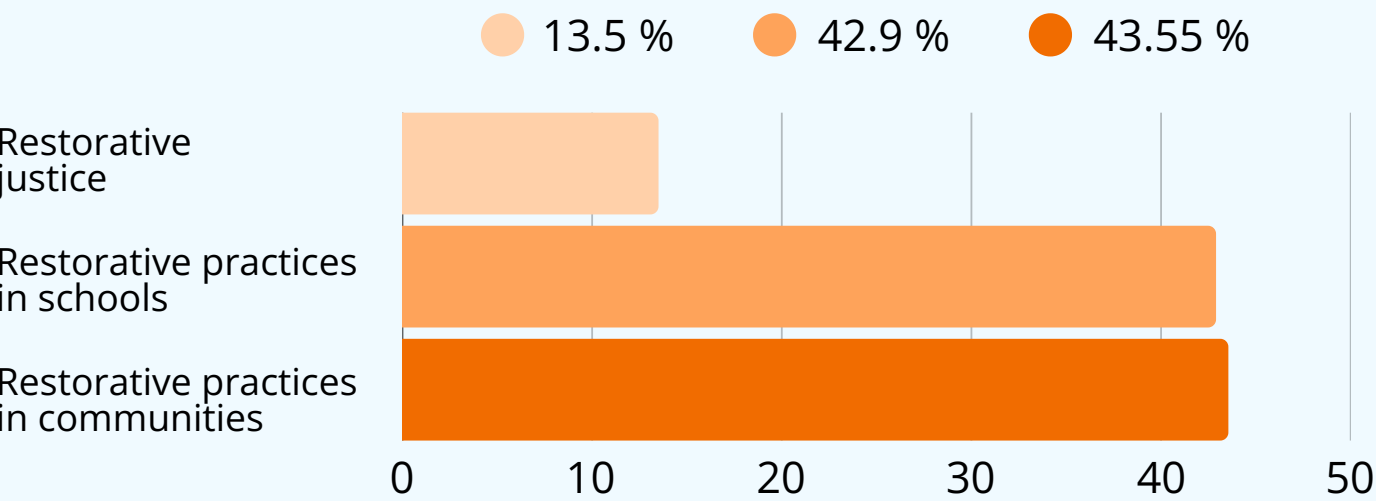
A practical guide to implementing a restorative approach in secondary education institutions in Ukraine. It is based on the experience of implementing the model in 10 schools in five regions as part of the all-Ukrainian experiment in 2019–2023. The main goal of the guide is to help create a safe, supportive, and diversity-sensitive school environment. The guide presents the principles of the model, key competencies, roles of participants (teachers, students, parents), and describes the steps for implementing the model in a school.

Project: «Peaceful school»

FINANCIAL PART

IPCG successfully raised funds for its activities in the amount of UAH **33 473 110.43 UAH** during 2024. The main sources of revenue are foreign and domestic and international donor agencies.

Distribution of funds by activity areas:



Spent in 2024 - 32 366 733.65 UAH

Balance at the end of the year 4 855 644.72 UAH

Our main donors:

- Renaissance Foundation
- GIZ
- Forum ZFD
- Embassy of Ireland
- USAID through HOVERLA, Chemonics, Ednannia
- Embassy of Switzerland through PCI and Swisspeace
- AICS
- WPHF through UN Women
- EUDEL
- The Sokka Gakkai Institute Otto Per Mille through UPP

THE MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ORGANIZATION

Security challenges

- The need to adapt dialogic and restorative practices to the conditions of constant danger (air raids, restrictions on movement)
- Difficult access to communities in the frontline and de-occupied territories, where the need for restorative practices is particularly high

High level of injuries

- Working with communities and schools where a significant number of participants have experienced traumatic events requires the integration of a trauma-informed approach into all restorative practices
- The need to support facilitators and mediators who are themselves experiencing the consequences of war, which leads to professional burnout

Strengthening of polarization processes

- Formation of new lines of separation in communities (based on war experience, IDP status, views on ways to achieve peace)
- In the school environment, there are difficulties in integrating children from different regions with different war experiences

Institutional constraints

- Changes in the formats of local government work during the war complicate the implementation of participatory approaches
- Limited resources for systematic work with communities in a situation where funding priorities are shifted to military needs

Methodological challenges

- The need to quickly adapt traditional methods of restorative justice to the Ukrainian wartime context
- The need to develop new approaches to memory and memorialization that take into account the incompleteness of the conflict

PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK FOR 2025

Strengthening the social fabric in communities

- Expanding programs to develop restorative practices in communities with a focus on host communities with a high concentration of IDPs
- Implementation of the "strengthening social fabric" model to restore horizontal ties between different population groups
- Training of local mediators and facilitators capable of independently supporting the processes of constructive dialogue in communities

Developing restorative practices in schools

- Scaling up programs to create school-based conciliation services with a focus on addressing polarization among students
- Developing and implementing depolarization techniques for the educational environment that help transform divisions into constructive dialogue
- Supporting teachers in applying a restorative approach as part of their daily pedagogical practice

Restorative justice and work with memory

- Developing inclusive approaches to the formation of common narratives about the war that take into account the diversity of experiences
- Development of methodologies for working with memory and memorialization based on a participatory approach, with the involvement of communities
- Developing elements of transitional justice that can be implemented while the conflict is still ongoing

Institutional strengthening and advocacy

- Promoting the practices and principles of the restorative approach at the level of policies and strategies for the reconstruction of Ukraine
- Advocating for the integration of participatory approaches into decision-making processes at the local government level
- Development of training programs on restorative practices for institutions involved in the processes of recovery and reintegration

Building capacities for future reintegration

- Preparation of methodologies to support the reintegration of the de-occupied territories based on a restorative approach
- Formation of a network of specialists ready to work with communities in the liberated territories
- Development of support programs for local leaders who will work with the consequences of the occupation in their communities

These priority areas are aimed at strengthening the resilience of Ukrainian society in the face of the ongoing war and preparing the ground for recovery, reconstruction and reconciliation. Strengthening the social fabric through restorative practices is becoming a key factor in preserving unity and building a just peace.