

ACTIVITY REPORT

Institute for Peace and Common
Ground (IPCG)

2025

<https://imip.org.en>

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ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The **Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG)** is a leading Ukrainian civil society organization dedicated to strengthening social capital and rebuilding the social fabric of communities. Our work is grounded in dialogue-based and restorative practices that foster positive, sustainable change and strengthen communities' ability to respond to the challenges of war and recovery.

OUR MISSION

“ We strengthen Ukraine's social fabric by promoting a culture of dialogue and constructive conflict transformation, enhancing the resilience of communities as they face the challenges of war and contribute to building a just and lasting peace.

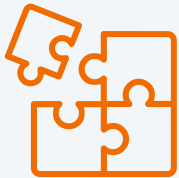
WE ACHIEVE THIS BY:

- Creating safe spaces for constructive dialogue
- Strengthening communities' capacity to address conflicts independently
- Implementing restorative practices adapted to wartime realities
- Building resilient social connections among diverse groups
- Supporting participatory approaches to decision-making for recovery and development
- Integrating trauma-informed approaches into reconciliation and recovery processes

OUR VALUES



Trust — we create spaces where people can speak openly, build transparent processes, counter disinformation, and restore connections between civilians, military personnel, and internally displaced people.



Understanding — we recognize the needs of vulnerable groups, acknowledge collective trauma, and view conflict as a natural response to crisis, addressing it through dialogue and facilitation.



Respect — we treat every individual with dignity, recognizing diverse experiences, different paces of adaptation, and every contribution—from military personnel and volunteers to those who continue supporting their communities in everyday ways.



Care — we support people affected by war as well as those who care for others, fostering mutual support networks and strengthening psychosocial support practices.



Responsibility — we promote shared responsibility, combining individual action with collective commitment—from rebuilding infrastructure to preserving memory and strengthening social cohesion within communities.

Our values guide every aspect of our work, enabling us to respond effectively to the realities of war while maintaining a strong human-centered approach. Through dialogue, restorative practices, and community engagement, we contribute to building a resilient, cohesive society capable of overcoming external challenges and recovering sustainably.

ACTIVITIES IN 2025

In 2025, the Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG) continued its work to advance a culture of dialogue, strengthen social cohesion, and promote restorative practices across Ukraine. The organization's activities focused on supporting communities, advancing peace education, addressing the memory of civilian victims of war, developing practical methodological resources, and strengthening the professional capacity of practitioners.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the year, IPCG supported communities in implementing dialogue-based approaches, developing local initiatives, and strengthening collaboration among residents, local authorities, educational institutions, and civil society organizations. Particular attention was given to addressing the social challenges communities continue to face as a result of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.



RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS

During the year, the organization continued to develop the Peaceful School model, educational programmes, and its online resource platform. Educators gained practical tools for implementing restorative practices, addressing conflict constructively, and creating safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments.



MEMORY AND DOCUMENTATION OF WARTIME EXPERIENCES

Another key area of work focused on preserving the memory of civilian victims of war. The team developed dialogue-based approaches to memorialization, explored international practices, and documented the personal stories of Ukrainians affected by the war. Development of the Sylanka platform also continued, providing a dedicated space for sharing and preserving these stories.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, the team continued its professional development and international knowledge exchange in the fields of peacebuilding, dialogue, restorative justice, and social recovery. These efforts strengthened the organization's expertise and expanded collaboration with international partners.



All areas of the Institute for Peace and Common Ground's work were closely interconnected and mutually reinforcing. By combining community engagement, educational programmes, documentation of wartime experiences, development of practical resources, and support for a growing professional community, the organization continued to strengthen a culture of dialogue and promote social cohesion across Ukraine.

PROJECT PORTFOLIO

This section presents the projects implemented by the Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG) throughout 2025. It includes both new initiatives launched during the reporting year and projects that were successfully completed or continued as part of the organization's ongoing efforts to strengthen dialogue, social cohesion, and restorative practices in Ukraine.

PROJECT "DIGNITY AND MEMORY: RECOGNISING CIVILIAN VICTIMS OF WAR"

Implementation period: September 2025 – May 2026

Russia's full-scale invasion has caused immense civilian suffering. Yet the experiences of civilian victims of war and their families are not always adequately reflected in public memory or local memorialisation practices. Many communities across Ukraine are still seeking a shared understanding of how to honour civilian victims with dignity and how families, local authorities, civil society organisations, and cultural institutions can work together in this process.

Memory remains a particularly sensitive issue, as communities have experienced the war in different ways and hold diverse perspectives on how civilian victims should be commemorated. This created a need for safe spaces where communities could openly discuss their experiences, reflect collectively on loss, and develop inclusive approaches to remembrance.

To address this challenge, the "Dignity and Memory: Recognising Civilian Victims of War" project was launched to promote an inclusive approach to memorialisation that acknowledges the experiences of civilian victims and contributes to restoring justice through public recognition.

KEY ACTIVITIES

As part of the project, the team created dialogue spaces within communities, developed practical approaches to commemorating civilian victims of war, and documented the personal stories of people affected by the consequences of the war.



Working together with an expert team, IPCG developed a dialogue facilitation methodology and delivered a workshop for four facilitators, who subsequently led dialogue sessions in four communities:



Ivanivka Community, Chernihiv Oblast



Trostianets Community, Sumy Oblast



Kremenchuk Community, Poltava Oblast



Sursko-Lytovska Community, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast

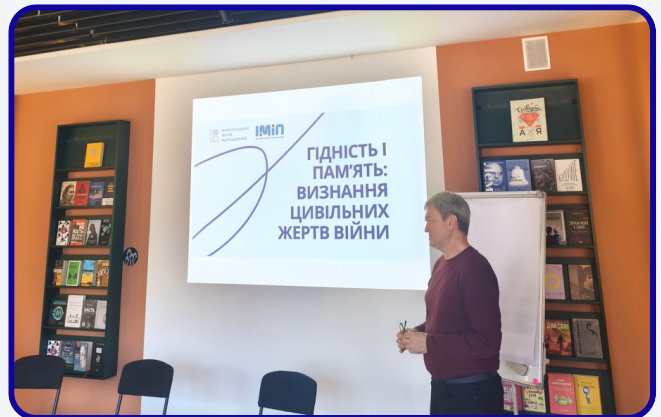


56
participants

A total of 56 participants took part in the four dialogue sessions, including family members of civilian victims of war, representatives of local authorities, civil society organisations, cultural institutions, educators, artists, librarians, and active community members. Together, they explored local needs, discussed possible forms of commemoration, and identified ways to better support affected families.



Alongside the dialogue process, the team analysed Ukrainian and international memorialisation practices, developed recommendations for building an inclusive memory policy, and published 10 personal stories on the Sylanka platform. These stories document experiences of occupation, loss, forced displacement, and other consequences of the war.



IMPACT

The project created safe spaces for open conversations about loss, memory, and justice in four Ukrainian communities. For many participants, these dialogues provided the first opportunity to collectively reflect on how civilian victims of war should be commemorated and what role local communities can play in this process.

The dialogue sessions generated ideas for community memory books, digital archives, memorial spaces, educational initiatives, and "living memorials." The recommendations developed through the project have also informed further planning by local authorities responsible for memory policy and community development.

- **Sursko-Lytovska community** supported the need for continued systematic work with the families of those killed and the development of a local memory policy.
- **Kremenchuk and Ivanivka communities** discussed the creation of digital books of remembrance, information campaigns, and support mechanisms for families.
- **Trostianets community:** discussions focused on the "Khvyliia" memorial space, digital archives, oral histories, and educational initiatives.

Several of the project's recommendations have already informed local decision-making processes, while others continue to be refined through further consultations and collaborative planning.

The "Dignity and Memory: Recognising Civilian Victims of War" project is implemented by the Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG) with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation.

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

Implementation period: March 2024 – July 2025

Russia's full-scale invasion has significantly affected the social cohesion of communities across Ukraine. Forced displacement, collective trauma, and demographic changes have challenged community interaction, self-organisation, and collaborative decision-making. At the same time, communities needed safe spaces for dialogue, while educators, community leaders, and local government representatives required practical tools to address trauma, strengthen cooperation, and engage people of different generations in the recovery process.

To respond to these challenges, the "Joint Initiative of Ukraine and Romania for the Social Recovery, Inclusion, and Cohesion of Ukrainian Communities" project brought together partners from Ukraine, Romania, and Italy. Supported by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the project aimed to strengthen social cohesion by promoting dialogue-based approaches, supporting educational institutions, and enhancing the capacity of communities to design and implement their own local initiatives.

KEY ACTIVITIES



The project established community dialogue initiative groups, bringing together local stakeholders, including educators and community representatives. Participants took part in both online and in-person training programmes and received ongoing mentoring throughout the development and implementation of their local initiatives.



The project equipped 25 schools with dedicated dialogue spaces, each supported with equipment valued at up to €1,000. In addition, 15 communities received grants of €2,250 each to implement locally identified initiatives addressing their specific needs.



The project also included specialised training programmes for educators, online resilience training for students, and mine risk education.



Activities were implemented across 25 communities in the Vinnytsia, Volyn, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv, Poltava, Sumy, Kharkiv, Chernivtsi, and Chernihiv regions of Ukraine.



IMPACT



The project established **community dialogue platforms** that brought together educators, students, parents, civil society organisations, local authorities, and active residents. Schools evolved into spaces not only for education but also for community dialogue, collaborative problem-solving, and the implementation of locally driven initiatives.



As part of the project, **12 safe, inclusive, and educational community spaces were created**. Communities also introduced psychosocial support practices for teachers, students, and parents, organised training sessions, and established dedicated wellbeing and recovery rooms.



Local initiatives addressed a wide range of community priorities, including education, safety, mental health, environmental protection, youth engagement, and entrepreneurship. Implemented solutions included community safety hubs, learning spaces, environmental projects, waste sorting initiatives, and cycling campaigns.



By working together on locally **designed initiatives, communities** strengthened collaboration among schools, local authorities, civil society organisations, and residents. The project fostered new models of partnership while providing participants with practical experience in identifying community needs, making collective decisions, and implementing meaningful local change.

The project "Joint Initiative of Ukraine and Romania for the Social Recovery, Inclusion, 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 "PEACEFUL SCHOOL"

Implementation period: May 2024 – April 2025

The educational process in Ukraine continues amid the full-scale war, creating new challenges for school communities. Teachers, students, and parents face the consequences of stress, loss, forced displacement, and the need to maintain a safe educational environment on a daily basis.

This is why the Peaceful School model continued to be developed as a comprehensive approach that helps educational institutions implement restorative practices, foster a culture of dialogue and mutual respect, and promote non-violent conflict resolution.



The Peaceful School model is a comprehensive approach to building a safe environment based on restorative practices, dialogue, and non-violent communication among students, teachers, and parents.

The Peaceful School project is supported by the German Government through the joint contribution of the forumZFD Programme Office in Ukraine.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, the project team expanded the Peaceful School model, updated educational courses, further developed the online resource centre, and provided continuous professional support to educators. Several online courses were revised and enhanced, open supervision sessions were organised, and new opportunities for peer learning and professional exchange were created.

One of the year's key milestones was the presentation of the "**Peaceful School 2.0: What Should the Ukrainian School of the Future Look Like?**" model. The hybrid event, held in Kyiv, brought together approximately **100 participants**. An online presentation of the updated model attracted **225 registered participants**, while a roundtable discussion on integrating peace education into Ukrainian schools convened representatives of government institutions, civil society organisations, and education experts.

PEACEFUL SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER

The Peaceful School online resource center continued its work, providing access to training courses, materials, a forum for sharing experiences, and supervision support.



629

registered
users



2 954

views of training
lectures



99

certificates
issued

The platform offered **11 training courses**, several of which were substantially updated with new video materials. **Five thematic workshops** were also held, while participants received mentoring support, practical assignments, and interactive guidance from trainers.

IMPACT

The project further expanded the implementation of the Peaceful School model across Ukrainian educational institutions and strengthened the professional community of educators applying restorative practices.

As a result of the educational programme, 430 participants received certificates confirming the successful completion of the training.

During the year, additional schools joined the initiative, while a number **of educational institutions integrated the principles of the Peaceful School** model into their internal policies and professional development programmes. Restorative practices were applied in summer camps, school mediation spaces, educational activities, and everyday interactions within school communities.

The online platform, updated courses, regular supervision sessions, and an active professional community created a strong foundation for scaling the model and expanding its implementation in educational institutions across Ukraine.



SYLANKA: STORIES THAT CONTINUE TO RESONATE

In 2025, the Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG) continued to develop and maintain the **Sylanka platform**—a space dedicated to sharing the personal stories of Ukrainians who have witnessed, experienced, or continue to live with the consequences of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Throughout the year, the team published new stories, preserving people's voices and documenting their experiences for society and future generations.

At the heart of these stories are resilience, solidarity, the power of culture and memory, and the ability to find hope even in the darkest moments.

 **We invite you to watch several video stories in Ukrainian.**



PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

The team developed practical methodological materials for professionals, communities, and civil society organizations. The publications combine the team's practical experience, project results, and recommendations that can be applied in everyday work.

They support efforts to address complex challenges arising from the consequences of war, foster dialogue within communities, support remembrance processes, and strengthen local security.

The materials provide practical approaches and tools adapted to the Ukrainian context and the real needs of communities.



Methodology for Dialogue Sessions on the Memory of Civilian Victims of War

This practical guide presents a methodology for facilitating dialogue sessions focused on the memory of civilian victims of war. It supports communities, facilitators, and local authorities in addressing issues of remembrance through voluntary participation, safety, inclusiveness, and trauma-informed approaches.

The publication is intended for facilitators, mediators, psychologists, civil society organisations, local government representatives, and everyone working at the intersection of memory, trauma, and community development.



Memorialisation Practices for Civilian Victims: Dialogue-Based Approaches

This research-based publication brings together international experience from eight countries that have experienced war and large-scale human rights violations, alongside practical tools for working with memory in community settings.

The guide is designed for representatives of national and local government, civil society organisations, psychologists, facilitators, educators, and other professionals engaged in memory work, recovery, reconciliation, and social cohesion.



Community Safety: Identifying and Addressing Key Security Risks Caused by the Full-Scale Invasion

The guide focuses on approaches to strengthening community security in the context of the full-scale war. It covers risk analysis, preparedness and response planning, as well as cooperation between local authorities, public services, civil society organizations, and other partners.

The publication will be useful for representatives of local authorities and civil society organizations, security and civil protection professionals, facilitators, social workers, and anyone working to strengthen community security, resilience, and social cohesion in wartime.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

The Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG) continues to invest systematically in the professional development of its team and in international knowledge exchange. In 2025, **Alona Horova**, Chair of the Board, participated in a series of international events focused on restorative justice, peacebuilding, dialogue, and community recovery. These engagements created opportunities to exchange expertise with practitioners from around the world, explore international approaches, and strengthen professional partnerships in the field of peacebuilding.

"International exchange is not a luxury—it is a necessity for a country that is learning how to recover while still at war. When we bring back approaches refined through decades of experience from colleagues around the world, while also sharing the realities of Ukrainian communities that are simultaneously enduring loss and rebuilding, we do more than exchange practices. We build a common language with the global peacebuilding community, and that shared language helps Ukrainian communities find their own responses to the challenges of war more quickly."



Alona Horova
Chair of the Board
Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG)

Restorative Justice: International Workshop in the Netherlands



Participation in a restorative justice workshop in The Hague and Utrecht (the Netherlands), held as part of the Just Peace Festival, provided an opportunity to discuss contemporary approaches to restorative justice, the role of dialogue, and social recovery.

Dialogue: International Roundtable in South Africa



The international roundtable in Pretoria focused on community dialogue, reintegration, and restorative justice. The event brought together experts and practitioners working with societies affected by conflict to discuss approaches to rebuilding trust, strengthening social cohesion, and supporting communities.

Sharing Ukraine's Experience at an International Conference in Rome

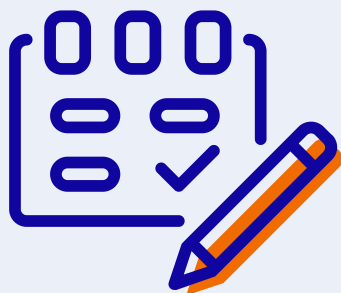


The conference “Security and Defence Days: Three Years of War in Ukraine,” organized by Fondazione De Gasperi, provided an opportunity to contribute to discussions on security, Ukraine’s recovery, and European cooperation. The Ukrainian experience in dialogue, rebuilding social trust, and supporting communities was also presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2025, the Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG) implemented its activities under three international donor-funded agreements.

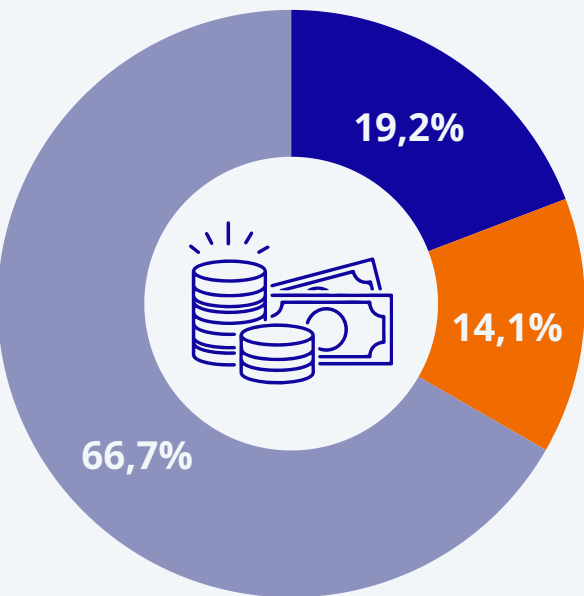
All funds received during the reporting period were used in accordance with the terms of the respective grant agreements and exclusively for their intended purposes.



The organization's total income for the reporting period amounted to

12 746 415,00 UAH

Including:



under the agreement with
forumZFD Programme
2 446 100,00 UAH



under the agreement
with the International
Renaissance Foundation
1 800 000,00 UAH



under the agreement with
the Italian Agency for
Development Cooperation
(AICS)
8 500 315,00 UAH

PRIORITIES FOR 2026

In 2026, the Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG) will focus its efforts on three interconnected priorities—ranging from schools and communities to the development of restorative justice approaches for a country living through war.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS

The organization will continue to expand the Peaceful School model by engaging new schools, updating the online resource centre and learning courses, training a new generation of facilitators and educators, and strengthening supervision and professional support for teachers implementing restorative practices.



RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN COMMUNITIES

IPCG will further develop dialogue-based support for territorial communities by assisting local governments, facilitating inclusive decision-making related to recovery and reconstruction, and strengthening trust among residents, veterans, internally displaced people, and local authorities.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TOOLS FOR UKRAINE IN TIMES OF WAR

The organization will continue adapting international restorative justice approaches to the realities of Russia's full-scale invasion. This work includes developing practical tools to address the consequences of war crimes, support survivors and affected communities, and advance pathways toward justice and recovery without waiting for the end of the war.

