



ITTC

International Technology Transfer Center  
A program of the International Consortium of Universities  
for Drug Demand Reduction

# Creating Capacity to Address War-time Trauma in Military Veterans in Ukraine

**Prof. Irina Pinchuk**, Country director, ITTC Ukraine  
Thessaloniki, Greece 24-28.06.2024

# ITTC Ukraine



University of California San Diego



Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv



Prof. Igor Koutsenok



Prof. Irina Pinchuk



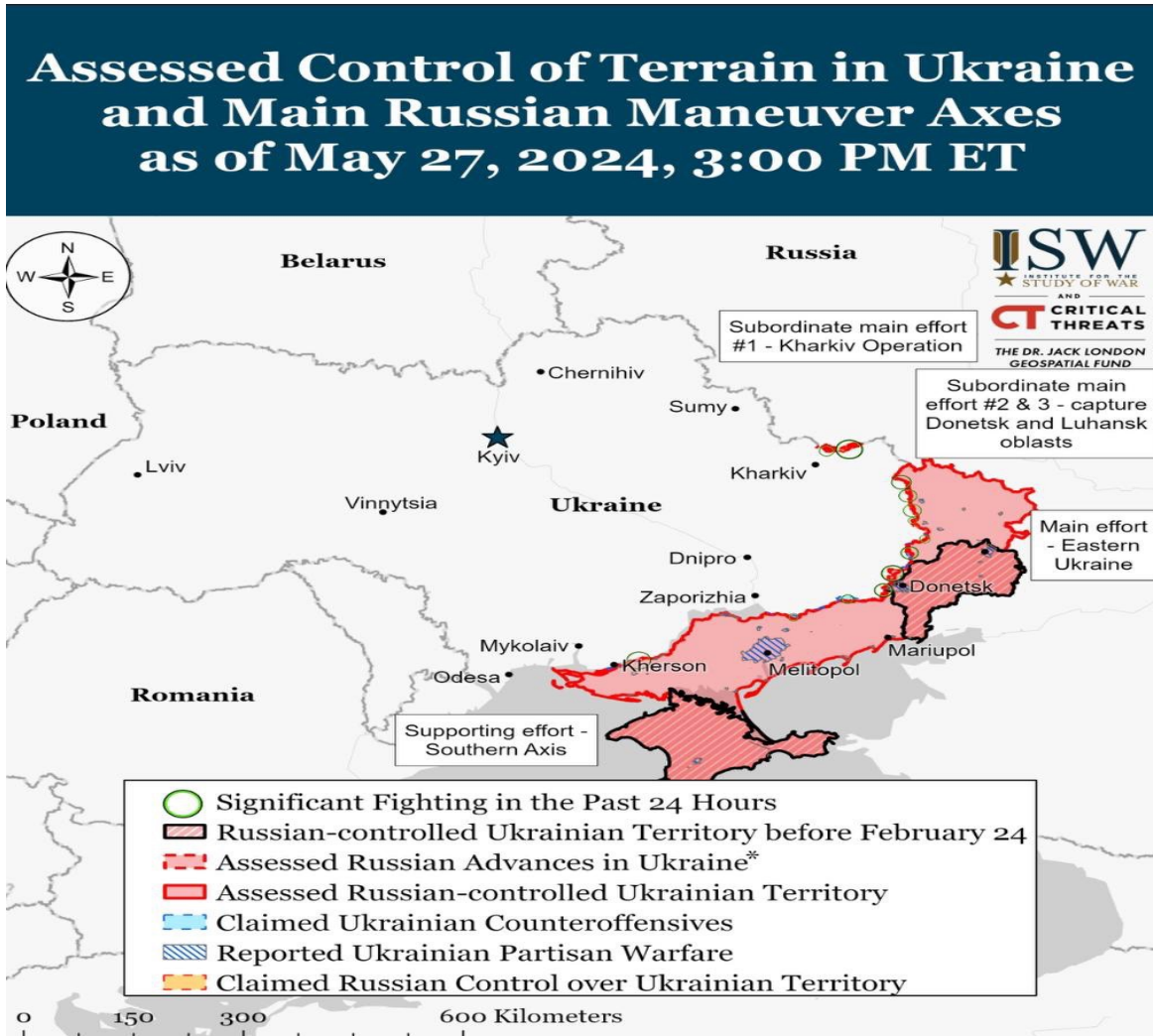
# Overview

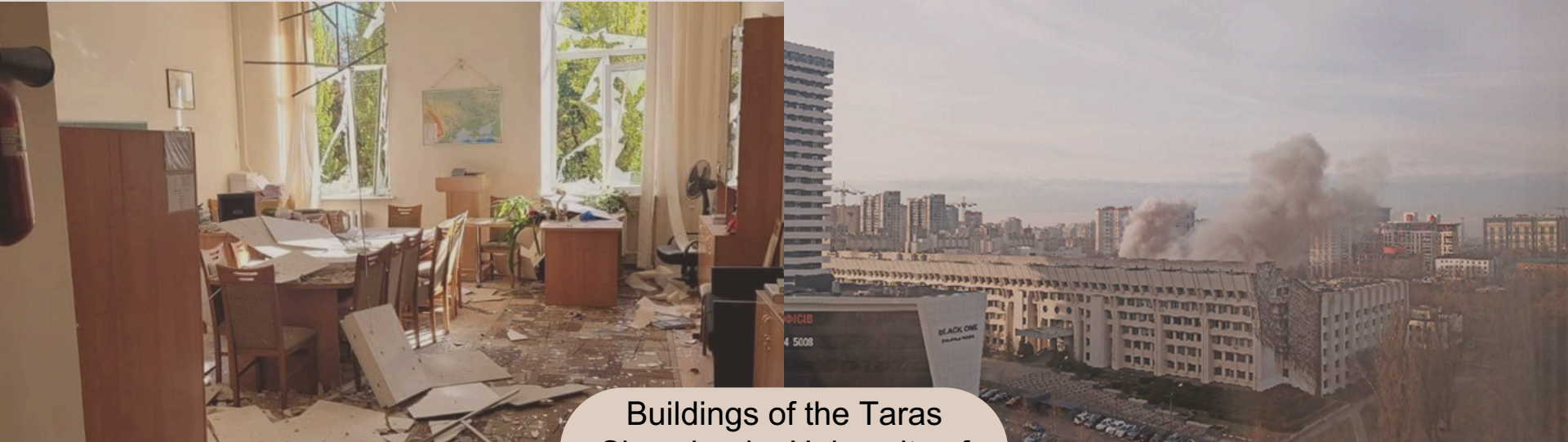
- Background
- Goals and Objectives of System Change
- Aligning the Project with Six Conditions



# War in Ukraine

May 27, 2024





Buildings of the Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv after Russian attacks



# Background

- 851,685 people according the Law of Ukraine have the Status of War Veterans
- The largest number of veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian war belong to the age group of 31-40 years old (43.5%)
- The share of women among veterans is about 9%
- There will be at least 4 million citizens who will be related to the veteran sphere



# Background

According to official registers (on November 19, 2023) the Commission on establishing the fact of captivity announced:

- 4337 persons (3574 militaries and 763 civilians) were found to be deprived of liberty
- Out of these, 1953 individuals were released from captivity
- The 4337 people also include persons who have been or continue to be held by the Russian Federation since 2014



# GOAL

**The goal of the project** is to establish a sustainable care system for combat veterans, especially those with a "Prisoner of War" experience.

**The primary objective** is to implementation of the peer-to-peer principle in the system of care as a component of a comprehensive system of care (prevention, treatment, recovery support) for the veterans in Ukraine.

**The expected outcome** is a capable workforce addressing post-war trauma challenges, contributing to Ukraine's national care system.





# Main activities. Training for Trainers

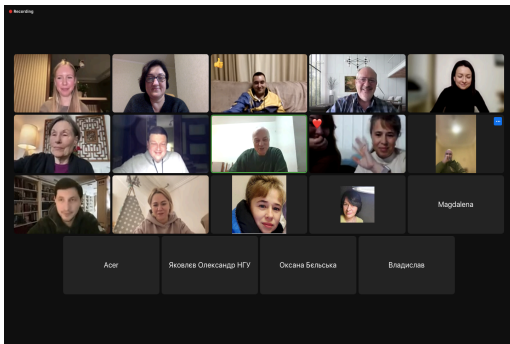
Development and training for trainers in addressing psychological trauma in combat veterans and POW in Ukraine



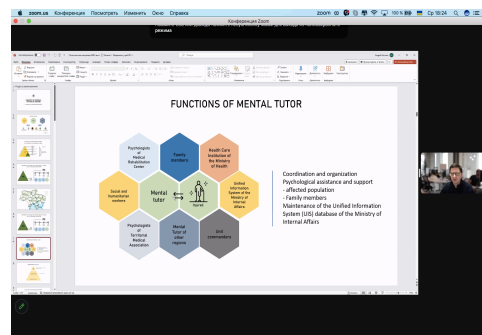
# Main activities. Supervisions

Conducting monthly supervision for the ToT group to ensure sustainability and impact on system change

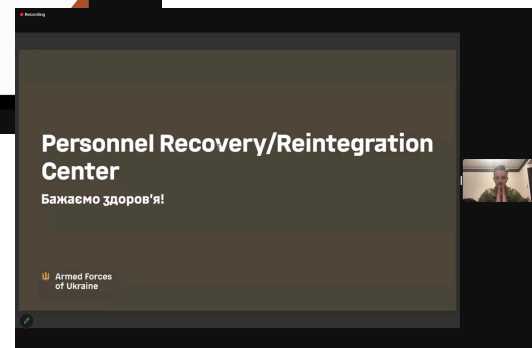
January, 10



February, 7



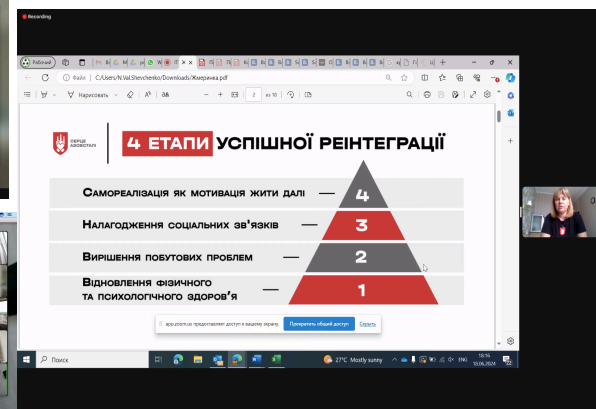
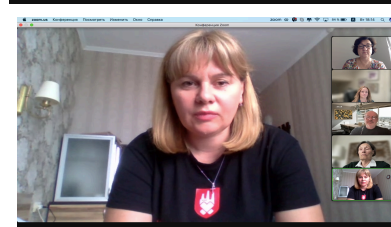
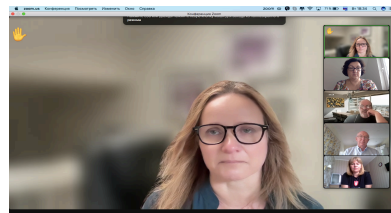
March, 12



April, 16



June, 18



May 16, 2024



# Main activities. Visit to US

Familiarization with the VA system in the US on nationally and locally for a group of key leaders from Ukraine



# Familiarization with the VA system in the US for a group of key leaders from Ukraine



# Establishing a care system for combat veterans

Policies

Relationships & Connections

Practices

The implementation  
of the peer-to-peer principle  
in the system of care  
for the veterans in Ukraine

Power Dynamics

Resource Flows

Mental Models



# Establishing a care system for combat veterans

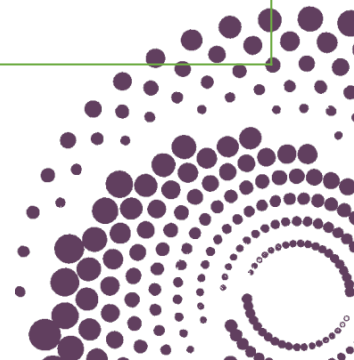
## ASSESSING SYSTEMS CONDITIONS

### Policies

1. **International Cooperation:** Exchange of experience and transfer of best practices with other countries with similar problems (+)
2. **Adapting Legislation and Policy:** Developing and implementing legislation and policy to support veterans and provide them with appropriate protections and opportunities (+; -)
3. **Networking and Collaboration:** Promote the creation of a network of organizations working with veterans to share experiences, resources, and coordinate efforts (+; -)
4. **Community and Veteran Engagement:** Including veterans in the development and implementation of programs and initiatives that support them, and mobilizing public support and understanding of veterans' issues (-; +)
5. **Legal Advocacy and Rights:** Ensuring that the rights of veterans and their families are protected, including access to legal assistance and fighting for social and economic rights (-; +)

+ conditions which are supportive of our work

- conditions that may be interfering with progress



# Establishing a care system for combat veterans

## ASSESSING SYSTEMS CONDITIONS

### Practices

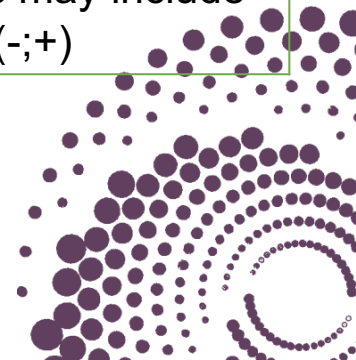
1. **Networking and Collaboration (+; -)**
2. **Research and Implementation:** Supports research and implementation to treat and rehabilitate war trauma and improve care for veterans (-)
3. **Community and Veteran Engagement (-; +)**

### Resource Flows

1. **Health Care and Rehabilitation:** Ensuring access to quality health care and rehabilitation for veterans with physical injuries (access to medical services, rehabilitation and adaptive technologies) (-; +)
2. **International Cooperation (+)**
3. **Social Integration and Support:** Providing veterans with social integration assistance, including vocational retraining, employment, and assistance in restoring social connections (-)
4. **Mental Health Support:** Providing access to mental health services for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), SUD and other problems. This may include the creation of specialized centers and support programs (-;+)

+ conditions which are supportive of our work

- conditions that may be interfering with progress



# Establishing a care system for combat veterans

## ASSESSING SYSTEMS CONDITIONS

<b>Relationships &amp; Connections</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Social Integration and Support (-)</b></li><li>2. <b>Networking and Collaboration (+; -)</b></li><li>3. <b>Community and Veteran Engagement (+; -)</b></li></ol>
<b>Power Dynamics</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Adapting Legislation and Policy (+; -)</b></li><li>2. <b>Community and Veteran Engagement (+; -)</b></li></ol>
<b>Mental Models</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Education and awareness:</b> Conducting educational campaigns about war trauma and its consequences for society. Reducing stigma. Understanding veterans' problems (-;+)</li><li>2. <b>Community and Veteran Engagement (+; -)</b></li></ol>

+ conditions which are supportive of our work

- conditions that may be interfering with progress





# Establishing a care system for combat veterans

## Policies

1. International Cooperation (+)
2. Adapting Legislation and Policy (+;-)
3. Networking and Collaboration (+;-)
4. Community and Veteran Engagement (-;+)
5. Legal Advocacy and Rights (-;+)

## Relationships & Connections

1. Social Integration and Support (-)
2. Networking and Collaboration (+;-)
3. Community and Veteran Engagement (-;+)

## Practices

1. Networking and Collaboration (+;-)
2. Research and Implementation (-)
3. Community and Veteran Engagement (-;+)

## Power Dynamics

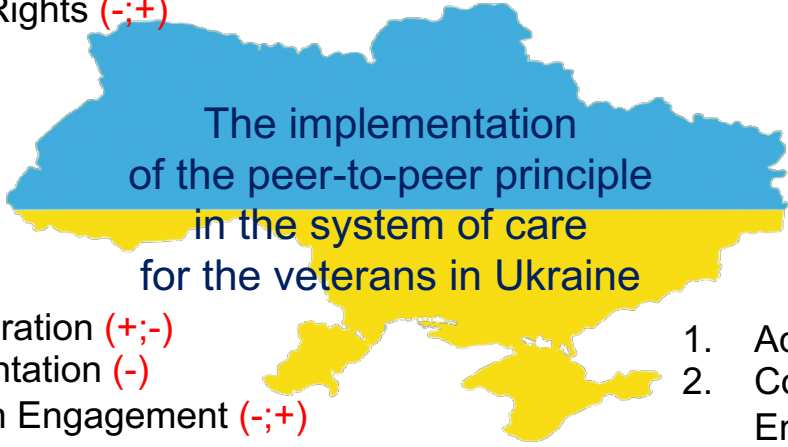
1. Adapting Legislation and Policy (+;-)
2. Community and Veteran Engagement (-;+)

## Resource Flows

1. Health Care and Rehabilitation (-;+)
2. International Cooperation (+)
3. Social Integration and Support (-)
4. Mental Health Support (-;+)

## Mental Models

1. Education and Awareness (-;+)
2. Community and Veteran Engagement (-;+)



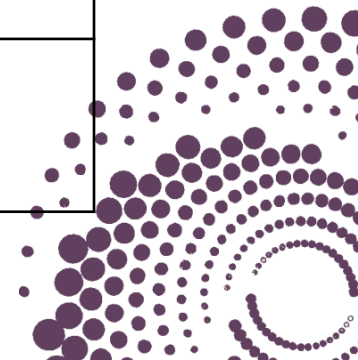
The implementation  
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+ conditions which are supportive of our work

- conditions that may be interfering with progress

# Establishing a care system for combat veterans

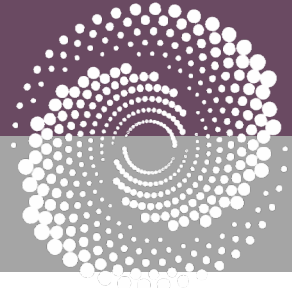
(+)	International Cooperation
(+;-)	Adapting Legislation and Policy Networking and Collaboration
(-;+)	Community and Veteran Engagement Legal Advocacy and Rights Health Care and Rehabilitation Mental Health Support Education and Awareness
(-)	Research and Implementation Social Integration and Support



# Key Principles of System Change for ITTC Ukraine

1. **Adaptability:** The current environment is rapidly changing, so it is important to remain flexible and adaptable in our approach
2. **Experimentation:** The System Change Model is currently theoretical for Ukrainian team, requiring experimentation to evaluate its usefulness for ITTC Ukraine
3. **Influence Assessment:** A crucial part of our work at ITTC Ukraine is assessing which parts of the system we can influence





# Thank You!

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