

Further information

Speakers



Philipp Reder, Head of the GIZ Representation in Berlin

Philipp Reder has more than 15 years of experience working on international crisis and conflict contexts. He has worked in various crisis regions, including Afghanistan, where he served with the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kunduz. In Berlin, he worked closely with the German Federal Foreign Office for many years, most recently as Head of the “Stabilisation Platform.” His work focuses on the interplay between political steering and operational implementation, as well as on fostering cooperation among different actors in crisis and conflict contexts.



Colonel Oleksandr Ivanovych Farmahei, Head of the Psychological Support Department, Directorate of Physical and Mental Health, Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine

Has been serving in the military since the age of 18; a combatant since 2014 and a military service veteran; doctor of Psychological Sciences, Professor, Clinical Psychologist; areas of scientific research: psychodiagnostics, psychological training for activities in special and extreme conditions, and psychological counseling; author of scientific publications on the diagnosis of personality accentuations based on handwriting analysis; psychological training of military personnel for combat conditions; the use of psychoregulation techniques in extreme conditions; and the use of mental psychotraining methods in the organization and delivery of psychological training for activities in extreme conditions.



Inga Niere, Head of Project “Gender-Responsive Approaches to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Ukraine”, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Inga Niere is a social scientist with a focus on development policy. For many years, she has worked at the intersection of international cooperation, crisis and conflict response, and mental health and psychosocial support. She has held leadership positions in, among others, Afghanistan, Iraq and Yemen. Her current work focuses particularly on how mental health and psychosocial support can be designed in a sustainable and socially embedded way in crisis- and conflict-affected contexts.



Oksana Zbitnieva, Head of the Coordination Center for Mental Health at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

By education, Oksana Zbitnieva has a degree in philology and political science. She is an expert on social transformations, strategic communications, and political consulting. She is Head of the Coordinating Center for Mental Health at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as well as the head of the Ukrainian NGO “Barrier-Free”. She previously held management positions in media, government sector, and NGOs.



Valentyna Mazhbits, PhD, psychiatrist, psychotherapist, and researcher in the Global Mental Health division at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, co-coordinator of the “SOLOMIYA” project

Valentyna Mazhbits completed her residency in psychiatry in Ukraine. Most recently, she worked as a consulting psychiatrist and psychotherapist at major private clinics in Kyiv and spent more than five years as a consulting psychiatrist with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). She came to Germany due to the war and has been working as a research associate at Charité and as co-coordinator of the SOLOMIYA project since mid-2022.

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Alena Mehlaui, psychologist, Co-Chair GIZ Working Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Advisor at GIZ Lebanon

Alena Mehlaui is a clinical psychologist and trauma-focused therapist. Since 2019, she has worked for GIZ as a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) expert in various functions, ranging from advisor to project lead. Her engagement with the security sector began in 2013, when she conducted field research on security sector reform in West Africa on behalf of the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt. In her subsequent work as a trauma expert for medica mondiale, she contributed to preparatory trainings for UN missions at the Baden-Württemberg Police Academy, covering trauma sensitivity and gender-based violence. In her current role in the Lebanon-based GIZ project Rawabet, she is responsible for capacity development measures for units of the Lebanese Armed Forces, focusing on psychological assessment skills, stress management and trauma sensitivity.



Kseniia Voznitsyna, Founder and director of the Forest Glade rehabilitation center for veterans in Ukraine

Kseniia Voznitsyna is a neurologist. She graduated from Kharkiv State Medical University. She is a leading figure in the development of mental health rehabilitation services to veterans in Ukraine. She is a trainer, and the author of manuals and publications on work with war-related trauma and (re-)integration of veterans to society. Her expertise is focused on study and treatment of post-concussion syndrome.



Olha Kukharukh, PhD, psychologist, psychotherapist (BT) and expert in trauma-sensitive approaches (EMDR) and VR-based therapy

Olha Kukharukh has a PhD in Psychology, is a psychotherapist and expert in trauma-informed support. She is the author of professional training programmes in psychosocial support for military personnel, veterans and their families (e.g. in projects for the NGO “Yarmiz”), and co-author of VR-based rehabilitation programmes.



Oleh Bereziuk, PhD, MD, Head of the Mental Health Rehabilitation Department, UNBROKEN National Rehabilitation Centre, Lead Psychiatrist at St. Leo the Great Mental Health Center

Oleh Bereziuk holds a PhD from Lviv National Medical University. He is the Head of the Mental Health Department at the UNBROKEN Rehabilitation Center in Ukraine and Lead Psychiatrist at the St. Leo the Great Mental Health Center. He also serves as an Assistant Professor at Lviv National Medical University. In addition, he has several years of experience working in the Lviv city administration and the Ukrainian parliament.

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Lesia Sak, PhD, MD, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, and Associate Professor at Bogomolets National Medical University

Lesia Sak works as a psychiatrist at the Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, providing psychiatric care to severely wounded Ukrainian service members. Her clinical work focuses particularly on PTSD, and other psychiatric symptoms occurring in the context of severe polytrauma and repeated traumatic brain injuries. She is an Associate Professor at the Department of Medical Psychology, Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy at Bogomolets National Medical University in Kyiv. Her research interests include

innovative approaches to trauma treatment, such as virtual reality-assisted exposure psychotherapy and multidisciplinary rehabilitation programmes for civilians and military personnel affected by war.

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Daryna Taran, clinical psychologist, Charitable Foundation „Vesta“

Daryna Taran is a clinical psychologist working at the Ukrainian Charitable Foundation "Vesta". She is a specialist in working with traumatic experiences. She works with adults and adolescents, including veterans, military personnel and their family members. Her main areas of professional activity are the psychological consequences of trauma, PTSD, complex forms of grief and loss, emotional regulation problems, interpersonal difficulties and relationship problems. She uses EMDR, cognitive-behavioral, somatic and integrative approaches in her work.



Andrii Herasymov, member of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, former prisoner of war

Andrii Herasymov is originally from the Mykolaiv region in Ukraine. After completing his studies at the Mykolaiv College of Musical Arts, specializing in the trumpet, he served as a soldier and in the military band of the 36th Separate Marine Brigade. During the defense of Mariupol in 2022, Andrii was taken prisoner and spent 3 years and one week in Russian captivity, where he suffered both physical and psychological abuse. After his release, Andrii returned to Ukraine, went through therapy at Lviv Habilitation Center HAB and resumed his military service.



Yevhen Taranenko, former member of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, former prisoner of war

Yevhen Taranenko is a former member of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Following his return from Russian captivity in 2024, he underwent treatment and rehabilitation at the St. Panteleimon's Hospital in Lviv, which is part of the UNBROKEN ecosystem. He was also a resident of the Lviv Habilitation Center HAB. In October 2025 he was discharged from military service.



Iryna Holubetska, Psychologist at UNBROKEN National Rehabilitation Centre and Art Therapist at St. Leo the Great Mental Health Center

Iryna Holubetska holds an MA in Psychology from Lviv Polytechnic National University. She is a psychologist, art therapist, and psychotherapist in training with experience working with military personnel, civilians, and survivors of captivity and torture. She has expertise in trauma-sensitive therapy with a focus on art therapy.

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Institutions and organizations



Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
und Entwicklung

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is responsible for Germany's official development policy. Politically and financially, the focus of German development policy is on intergovernmental cooperation with selected developing countries.

The BMZ commissions implementing organisations to carry out projects and monitors the results of their work. The BMZ advocates for a forward-looking approach to international development cooperation at both European and global levels. The ministry represents the Federal Government's positions within multilateral institutions and works to ensure its working methods are more efficient. In addition, the BMZ cooperates closely with non-state stakeholders such as political foundations, church organisations and other non-governmental organisations.

Website: <https://www.bmz.de/en>



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a federal enterprise with worldwide operations. It supports the German Federal Government and many other public and private clients in achieving their goals in international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work. Together with its partners, GIZ has been developing effective solutions that offer people better prospects and improve their living conditions for more than 50 years.

GIZ is wholly owned by the German Federal Government. As a shareholder, the Federal Government is represented by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Ministry of Finance (BMF).

Website GIZ: <https://www.giz.de/en/>

Website GIZ Ukraine:

<https://www.giz.de/en/regions/europe/ukraine>

Instagram GIZ Ukraine: https://www.instagram.com/giz_ukraine/



Forest Glade

The NGO “Lisova Polyana Center for Mental Health and Rehabilitation” (Forest Glade) was established in 2022 by a team of multidisciplinary professionals, aiming at the recovery and rehabilitation of Ukrainian military personnel, veterans, and civilians affected by the war. Forest Glade offers a comprehensive system of mental health and rehabilitation services to those who have experienced captivity, torture, or conflict-related sexual violence. An additional focus lies on the provision of training opportunities, collaboration and knowledge exchange within the mental health and psychosocial support sector to strengthen institutional capacities of service providers in Ukraine.

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/ForestGladeHosp/?locale=uk_UA

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lisova.poliana/>

ТИ ЯК

Mental Health at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

The Mental Health Coordination Centre at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine is the central steering body for the nationwide Ukrainian health programme ‘How Are You?’ (Ukrainian: ‘Ти як?’). This campaign was launched by the First Lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska, to strengthen the population’s mental resilience in the face of the traumatic impacts of the ongoing war. The Coordination Centre acts as an interface between Ukrainian ministries, regional administrations and civil society organisations. It receives significant support at international level through the technical expertise and resources of partners such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF and the Red Cross.



SOLOMIYA

The SOLOMIYA project aims to strengthen mental and psychosocial health care in Ukraine in the long term through a network of hospital partnerships. SOLOMIYA builds on existing collaborations between Ukrainian and German medical institutions to ensure the further development of services in the areas of mental health, digital interventions, and rehabilitation care. SOLOMIYA is supported by the GIZ Hospital Partnerships funding program and financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Website: [SOLOMIYA project](#)



UNBROKEN

The UNBROKEN National Rehabilitation Centre is the largest medical facility in Ukraine. Civilians and military personnel affected by the war receive a full cycle of treatment from emergency care to prosthetics and psychological rehabilitation: from emergency care to prosthetics and psychological rehabilitation. The Center's areas of focus include reconstructive surgery, orthopedics, and prosthetics. UNBROKEN works as a part of the First Lviv Medical Union — the largest medical institution in Ukraine, which includes two adult hospitals and one children's hospital.

Website: <https://unbroken.org.ua/>



Vesta

Charitable Foundation Vesta is a Ukrainian civil society organization supporting veterans, service members, their families, and families of fallen and missing persons. The organization provides free psychological, social, and legal assistance, with a particular focus on making support accessible at the community level. Vesta also operates mobile teams that bring multidisciplinary services directly to communities, including areas where access to specialized support is limited. Through its practical experience, Vesta contributes to strengthening community-based support systems and facilitating the reintegration of veterans and their families into civilian life.

Website: <https://www.ngovesta.org/>