



EIPHP

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE
OF PUBLIC HEALTH
POLICY



Report on scientific and project activities

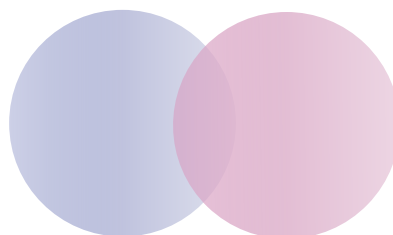
LLC “European Institute
of Public Health
Policy”

2024

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RESUME

Limited Liability Company “European Institute of Public Health Policy” (EIPHP) is a leading non-governmental research organization in Ukraine in the field of public health. The main areas of the Institute's activity include conducting applied research, developing and implementing innovative interventions, providing analytical support for reforms, developing digital solutions for the health care system, and strengthening human resource capacity. In 2024, EIPHP implemented eight research and operational projects — IMPACT, ExMAT, PHS R&R, KPNEEDS, PORADA, RISE, MINDFULNESS, and “8 Communities” — some of which were completed, while others remain in the implementation phase. Their topics cover the integration of opioid agonist therapy into primary health care, adaptation of psychosocial support, access to HIV services in regions with varying intensity of hostilities, the needs of people living with HIV of older age, implementation of digital solutions, and evaluation of mobile services in communities. Nine trainings were conducted for facilitators, interviewers, coordinators, and recruiters, including under the World Health Organization's “Self-Help Plus” program, as well as forty-two ECHO sessions for healthcare workers and psychosocial service providers. Four scientific articles were published in peer-reviewed international journals, dedicated to the transformation of the health care system under wartime conditions. EIPHP also ensured expert participation in five thematic working groups of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. The main challenges of the year included security restrictions, limited access to field locations, fragmented funding, the need for rapid response to the health system's requests, and maintaining high quality of research and analytical work. Despite the difficult circumstances, EIPHP maintained scientific productivity, strengthened partnerships, and reaffirmed its leading role in shaping public health policy.



RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

Throughout 2024, EIPHP implemented **8** projects and studies in the field of health care, all **8** of which had international significance and were aimed at addressing pressing public health issues (see Table 1).

Research and project details



RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

Thematic areas

In 2024, the Institute implemented interdisciplinary research and analytical initiatives in three key areas. The first was the integration of HIV services and care for people who use drugs, including digital solutions, quality improvement, and model adaptation in the context of war (projects IMPACT, ExMAT, KPNEEDS). The second focused on the development of the mental health system, emphasizing primary psychosocial support services within communities (PHS R&R). The third addressed support for HIV status disclosure processes among people aged 50 and older through decision-making tools (PORADA).

Population groups

Within the projects, both qualitative and quantitative studies were conducted, covering the general adult population as well as priority target groups: people living with HIV; representatives of key populations (people who inject drugs, sex workers, men who have sex with men, and transgender people); older adults living with HIV and chronic non-communicable diseases; internally displaced persons; residents of communities with varying levels of access to health services; patients of mobile medical teams, pharmacy points, and transportation services; as well as participants of psychological support initiatives, including psychosocial support spaces and health ambassador programs.

Relevance and practical application

The themes of the projects implemented by EIPHP in 2024 reflected the real needs of the health care system, driven by the full-scale war, changes in access to medical services, the need for digitalization, and the necessity to adapt services to crisis conditions. The IMPACT project strengthened the practical integration of opioid agonist therapy into primary health care in 13 cities of Ukraine through structured assessments, medical staff training, and the implementation of local interventions. ExMAT introduced a digital clinical decision support tool for primary care and adapted the NIATx approach to the Ukrainian context. KPNEEDS conducted an analysis of access experiences to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services among key populations in regions with varying intensities of hostilities to develop evidence-based and empirically grounded recommendations. PHS R&R launched systematic training for multidisciplinary teams providing primary psychosocial support and piloted innovative models of interventions in the field of mental health. PORADA laid the foundation for the development of research-driven interventions aimed at supporting older people living with HIV, focusing on physical activity and its relationship with chronic non-communicable diseases.

Methodology

To implement the research components of EIPHP projects in 2024, mixed methods of data collection were used, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches. Standardized structured interviews, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, as well as self-reported assessments of access to services were applied. In several projects, digital tools were used for conducting surveys, remote training, and intervention support, including mobile platforms and online questionnaires. For data interpretation, descriptive statistics, inductive content analysis, and approaches to analyzing changes in experiences and behavioral patterns over time were applied. The involvement of representatives of target groups, NGOs, and field teams in the development of instruments and procedures helped enhance the sensitivity and validity of the studies.

Community significance and future prospects

The results of EIPHP projects form a foundation for scaling up effective approaches within Ukraine's health care system, aimed at achieving long-term impact. IMPACT and ExMAT support institutional changes in the practice of providing opioid agonist therapy by integrating it into primary health care and expanding the use of digital solutions to assist clinical decision-making. KPNEEDS ensures evidence-based service planning grounded in the experiences of key populations in regions with varying intensities of hostilities. PHS R&R represents the first systematic attempt in Ukraine to implement primary psychosocial support within the framework of public health. PORADA establishes a scientifically grounded basis for the development and implementation of interventions aimed at supporting older people living with HIV, taking into account their physical, psychological, and social needs. All these directions demonstrate strong potential for scaling up, adapting to regional contexts, and integrating into national health policies and service delivery standards.

RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

Table 1. List of research and projects

No.	Short name	Full name	Status at the end of 2024
1.	ExMAT	Expanding MAT in Ukraine	Completed
2.	IMPACT	Integrating addiction treatment and HIV services into primary care clinics in Ukraine	Completed
3.	PHS R&R	Public health system recovery and resilience activity	Active
4.	PORADA	Adapting peer navigation for out-of-care older persons with HIV in Ukraine	Active
5.	8 Communities	Operational analysis and assessing the impact of mobile health teams, mobile pharmacy points, psychological support spaces and health ambassadors program to address the needs of served populations and document the changes in access to essential health services in selected communities	Completed
6.	KPNEEDS	Operational analysis and assessment of the impact of the full-scale war in Ukraine on the needs and access of key groups to the cascade of HIV prevention, testing and treatment services within the framework of the project "Innovations to Overcome the HIV Epidemic"	Completed
7.	RISE	The effects of complex humanitarian disaster on HIV care engagement and health outcomes among HIV-positive people who use drugs in Ukraine	Active
8.	MINDFULNESS	Understanding mental health needs of Ukrainians receiving MOUD treatment amid war	Active

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Training and education details

In 2024, EIPHP organized nine trainings that engaged a total of **157** participants. The topics covered mental health, facilitator training under the WHO “Self-Help Plus” program, and the preparation of interviewers, coordinators, and recruiters for the implementation of components of several large-scale studies, including hybrid interventions, in-depth interviews, focus groups, and structured interviews. The trainings were conducted both in person in Kyiv and remotely, including under challenging wartime conditions. The activities were implemented within four projects — PHS R&R, KPNEEDS, 8 Communities, and PORADA — and involved both health professionals and representatives of non-governmental organizations, ensuring an interdisciplinary approach to capacity building in the health sector.



This series of trainings organized by EIPHP reflects a comprehensive approach to promoting health and well-being in Ukraine, particularly in light of the challenges associated with the war and HIV/AIDS.



TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Within the PHS R&R project, four in-person trainings for facilitators under the WHO “Self-Help Plus” program were conducted in Kyiv: January 23–26 (18 participants), February 6–9 (18), February 27 – March 1 (20), and another on September 17–20 (22). In total, 78 participants were trained to conduct group psychosocial interventions focused on mental health among vulnerable populations. Additionally, within PHS R&R, two remote trainings for coordinators, interviewers, and recruiters were held: on November 18, 2024 (10 participants) and January 31, 2025 (22), dedicated to preparing for the implementation of hybrid interventions and research components.

As part of the KPNEEDS project, on March 6, 2024, EIPHP conducted a one-day online training for 25 interviewers and NGO representatives on collecting qualitative and quantitative data among key populations in regions with varying levels of hostilities.

Under the “8 Communities” project, on October 4, 2024, a remote training was held for 16 interviewers and recruiters on conducting in-depth interviews and focus groups, aimed at preparing field staff to document the impact of mobile services on access to basic health care in communities.

Within the PORADA project, in March 2024, a three-stage training was implemented (March 11–13): the first two days remotely and the third in person in Kyiv. Six participants were trained to collect primary data on the health and daily activities of older people living with HIV.

All activities contributed to high-quality staff preparation for implementing research and psychosocial tasks, with special attention to the challenges posed by the war, the needs of specific target groups, and adherence to ethical and methodological standards.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Table 2. List of trainings

Nº	Event name	Participants	Venue	Date of event
1.	Training for facilitators under the WHO program "Self-Help Plus" (PHS R&R)	Healthcare workers from focal areas	Kyiv	23.01.2024 - 26.01.2024
2.	Training for facilitators under the WHO program "Self-Help Plus" (PHS R&R)	Healthcare workers from focal areas	Kyiv	06.02.2024 - 09.02.2024
3.	Training for facilitators under the WHO program "Self-Help Plus" (PHS R&R)	Healthcare workers from focal areas	Kyiv	27.02.2024 - 01.03.2024
4.	Training for facilitators under the WHO program "Self-Help Plus" (PHS R&R)	Healthcare workers from focal areas	Kyiv	17.09.2024 - 20.09.2024
5.	Training for site coordinators, interviewers and recruiters to conduct pilot IDIs and implement other research components at 2 sites (PHS R&R)	Project staff, research team	remotely	18.11.2024
6.	Training for site coordinators, interviewers and recruiters to conduct IDIs and implement other research components (PHS R&R)	Project staff, research team	remotely	31.01.2024
7.	Training for interviewers and NGO representatives on conducting IDIs and SI and implementing other components of the survey (KPNEEDS)	Project staff, research team	remotely	06.03.2024
8.	Training for interviewers, recruiters on conducting IDIs, FGD and SI and implementing other components of the study (8 communities)	Project staff, research team	remotely	04.10.2024
9.	Training for interviewers, recruiters on conducting SI and implementing other research components (PORADA)	Research team	2 days remotely, the third day - Kyiv	11.03.2024 - 13.03.2024

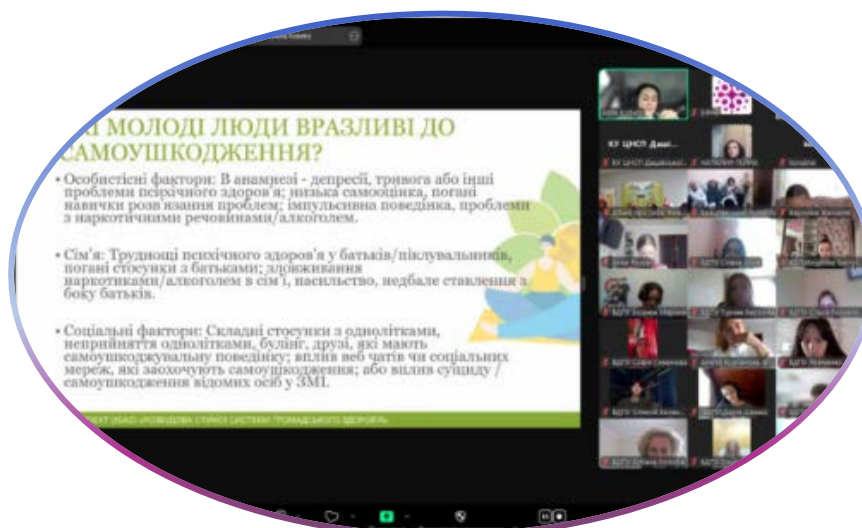
TRAINING AND EDUCATION

ECHO Component

In 2024, EIPHP continued training healthcare workers using the innovative online ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes) model. ECHO sessions combine lectures with multilateral discussions of specific clinical cases, enabling participants to exchange practical experience with one another.

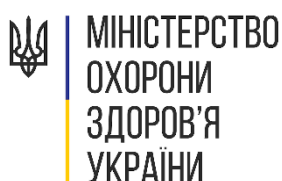
Within the IMPACT project, **8** ECHO sessions were conducted, aimed at providing a shared professional environment for communication between primary healthcare providers and specialists in addiction medicine, psychiatry, phthisiology, and infectious diseases, who served as trainers and mentors. The final IMPACT ECHO session took place on 19 June 2024. In total, 118 ECHO sessions were held within the IMPACT project between 2018 and 2024, with the participation of 21 experts. Systematic training (twice a month, later once a month) covered more than 150 doctors and nurses from nearly 30 healthcare facilities representing 13 Ukrainian cities.

Within the PHS R&R project, **34** ECHO sessions were conducted in 2024 (including two open sessions), covering 19 relevant topics with the participation of mental health and psychosocial support experts. Over the course of the year, ECHO-format activities reached around 400 specialists from more than 200 institutions across 13 regions of Ukraine — healthcare workers previously trained under the mhGAP programme, as well as other psychosocial service providers.



PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUPS

Throughout 2024, EIPHP actively participated in the work of **5** working groups under the auspices of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Participation in these groups was key to the joint development and implementation of strategies and measures aimed at improving the situation in the field of health care.



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Key aspects of EIPHP's participation in the working groups included:

- Involvement of **5** EIPHP staff members in the work of these groups, demonstrating a high level of engagement and commitment of the team.
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Center in areas related to population health and medical research.
- Facilitation of experience sharing and dissemination of best practices in the field of health care.
- Development and implementation of strategies and programs aimed at improving public health and treatment outcomes.



Participation in the working groups demonstrates a cohesive team ready to work collaboratively with key partners to achieve important goals in the field of health care.

DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

Table 3. Participation in national and international scientific events and presentation of research findings

Event	Participants and type of activities
Academic Conference “A Community of Practice for Psychosocial Interventions” Organizer(s): USAID, Pact, Swiss TPH, EIPHP March 28-29, 2024 Kyiv, Ukraine	Olena Makarenko , EIPHP researcher Moderation of the event Marta Melnyk , Mental Health Team Lead, PHS R&R Project Facilitated exercise: “Integrating a trauma-focused approach into the work of frontline service providers” Tetiana Kiriazova , EIPHP researcher Moderation of the panel case presentation “Experiences of implementing psychosocial support interventions in communities”
CIRA Visiting Fellow Seminar Organizer(s): Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University April 23, 2024 New Haven, Connecticut (USA)	Iryna Zaviriukha , EIPHP researcher Oral presentation “Resilience of Peer Navigation among HIV-Positive Older People (50+) in Multi-Crisis During the War in Ukraine”
25th International AIDS Conference “AIDS 2024” Organizer(s): International AIDS Society (IAS) July 22-26, 2024 Munich, Germany	Iryna Zaviriukha , EIPHP researcher Poster presentation “Resilience of Peer Navigation among HIV-Positive Older People (50+) in Multi-Crisis During the War in Ukraine”
Mental Health Forum “Human Resilience – System Resilience” Organizer(s): WHO, Coordination Center for Mental Health of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine November 26-28, 2024 Kyiv, Ukraine	Marta Melnyk , Mental Health Team Lead, PHS R&R Project Oral presentation at the thematic session “Trauma-informed approach and communication: what everyone needs to know”



PUBLICATIONS

Throughout 2024, based on the results of research and projects, EIPHP staff published 4 articles in peer-reviewed international journals that highlight the challenges and adaptations of Ukraine's health care system under wartime conditions (see Appendix "List of Publications").

The article in **Addiction** analyzes the human costs associated with maintaining the operation of opioid agonist therapy and HIV service programs during the full-scale invasion.

The publication in the **Journal of the International AIDS Society (J Int AIDS Soc)** interprets the experiences of people living with HIV through the lens of the bioecological model of mass trauma, demonstrating profound disruptions in continuity of care.

The article in the **Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (J Int Assoc Provid AIDS Care)** focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of HIV services, emphasizing organizational changes that have remained relevant during wartime.

Finally, the publication in **BJPsych International** provides a detailed account of the experiences of Ukrainian health care workers during the first year of the full-scale war, including risks, professional burnout, and adaptation strategies. All materials are based on empirical data collected within the field components of EIPHP projects and demonstrate the institution's significant contribution to the international academic discourse on health care in crisis conditions.

The list of publications demonstrates EIPHP's high level of expertise and commitment to addressing pressing health issues in Ukraine, particularly among vulnerable population groups. The evidence-based approach highlights important aspects of treatment, prevention, and social support, contributing to the improvement of the quality of health care and the well-being of target populations.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2024, EIPHP achieved significant results in implementing research and analytical initiatives, completing several studies, maintaining the operation of training programs, and preparing four scientific publications in peer-reviewed international journals dedicated to the impact of the war on HIV services, opioid agonist therapy, mental health, and the work of health care professionals.



At the same time, the year was extremely challenging due to the need to work under conditions of prolonged war, an unstable security situation, and limited access to field locations. EIPHP faced difficulties in data collection, coordination of multi-component studies, maintaining human resource capacity, and ensuring the quality of analytics amid irregular funding. A considerable part of the efforts had to be directed toward adapting instruments, revising research designs, and shifting part of the activities to remote formats. Despite these constraints, the Institute's team maintained scientific productivity, responded promptly to the needs of the health care system, and continued to focus on research aimed at the practical transformation of health services.



APPENDICES

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

1. Rozanova J, Zaviryukha I, Deac AA, Zeziulin O, Kiriazova T, Earnshaw V, Rich KM, Shenoi SV, Skipper H, Yariy V, Strang SJ. Human costs of healthcare resilience during the war in Ukraine: Lessons from addiction and HIV treatment. *Addiction*. 2024 Jun;119(6):980-983. doi: 10.1111/add.16406.
2. Owczarzak J, Monton O, Fuller S, Burlaka J, Kiriazova T, Morozova O, Dumchev K. ""Will you need this health at all? Will you be alive?"" using the bioecological model of mass trauma to understand HIV care experiences during the war in Ukraine. *J Int AIDS Soc*. 2024 Jul;27 Suppl 3(Suppl 3):e26307. doi: 10.1002/jia2.26307.
3. Neduzhko O, Kiriazova T, Zeziulin O, Legkostup L, Riabokon S, DeHovitz JA, Dumchev K. The Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on HIV Service Provision in Ukraine. *J Int Assoc Provid AIDS Care*. 2024 Jan-Dec;23:23259582241277649. doi: 10.1177/23259582241277649.
4. Deac, A. A., Zaviryukha, I., Zeziulin, O., Peycheva, A., Solórzano de Souza, R., Skipper, H., Abubakar, A., Gustilo, V. B., Shenoi, S. V., Thornicroft, G., & Rozanova, J. (2024). Ukrainian healthcare providers under siege during the first year of war: challenges and adaptations. *BJPsych international*, 21(2), 35–37. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bji.2023.43>.