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INTRODUCTION OF COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SERVICES FOR BUILDING LIFE SKILLS INTO THE SOCIAL SERVICES SYSTEM OF UKRAINE

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Ukraine's current social policy is aimed at the systematic implementation of programs to support the population and improve the social services system. These processes are particularly relevant in the context of a full-scale war, which has caused significant social, economic, and psychological challenges for society. In such conditions, there is a growing need not only for emergency assistance, but also for the development of long-term mechanisms to support the population. One of the important areas of this work is the introduction of social services to build resilience, which are designed to meet the current needs of communities and help people adapt to difficult life circumstances.

The regulatory and legal basis for the implementation of this initiative is the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated November 19, 2025, "On the implementation of the project on the organization of social services for building resilience". The document specifies that this social service is a set of interrelated measures aimed at strengthening the psychological and social resilience of individuals, families, or groups of people within a territorial community [1]. Its main goal is to support people in overcoming difficult life circumstances, developing positive parenting skills, encouraging active civic participation, and strengthening social cohesion in society. The service is implemented through the activities of Resilience Centers, where citizens can receive individual and group counseling and psychological assistance.

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That is why, starting in December 2023, Resilience Centers began operating in local communities across Ukraine. This social service is being implemented as part of the nationwide mental health program "How Are You?", which aims to increase the availability of psychosocial assistance for various population groups and foster a culture of seeking support. As part of this initiative, Resilience Centers operate as open spaces accessible to all population groups: veterans and military personnel, civilians, children, the elderly, and families. An important advantage of these centers is that no special referral or prior appointment is required to visit them, making it possible to receive the necessary assistance exactly when it is most needed. Information about the work of the Resilience Centers can be found on the official websites of local communities, as well as on the websites of relevant Ukrainian ministries.

As of 2025, Ukraine has established a broad network of Resilience Centers operating in various communities across the country. There are approximately 287 centers in total, indicating a gradual expansion of the psychosocial support system at the local level. In the approximately one and a half years since the project began, there have been over 1.5 million visits to the centers, and around 850,000 different events have been held, including individual consultations, group sessions, training sessions, educational meetings, and other forms of support. These figures demonstrate the high demand for this social service among the population and confirm the relevance of its development in the context of prolonged social tension caused by military events and general social changes.

At the same time, the further effective functioning and expansion of the network of Resilience Centers require systematic support from the state, local authorities, and civil society. A pivotal role in this process is also played by information and awareness campaigns aimed at increasing public awareness of the opportunities to receive psychosocial assistance and at forming a culture of seeking support.

An important feature of this initiative is the active involvement of the non-governmental sector. Today, more than 150 public and charitable organizations across Ukraine provide social services aimed at building resilience. As part of their activities, interdisciplinary teams of specialists are formed, including social workers, psychologists, social managers, and other professionals in the social

sphere. This approach ensures comprehensive assistance and promotes a more effective response to the needs of different population groups.

Therefore, the introduction of social services for building resilience can be considered an important step in the modernization of Ukraine's social services system. This initiative contributes to improving the effectiveness of social support for the population, developing interagency cooperation, and strengthening the capacity of individuals and communities to adapt to contemporary social challenges. In our opinion, the further development of this service has significant potential to strengthen the psychosocial well-being of the population and to create conditions for the sustainable recovery and development of Ukrainian society. However, its effectiveness largely depends on continued support from the state, local communities, and partner organizations.

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