

Ukrainian Peacebuilding School

> picture by Oleg Shuplyak

Social Intermediaries School

Training practitioners in transformative prevention for conflict resolution in Ukraine

www.peace.in/ua

We define social intermediary as an expert on preparation and organization of inclusive multi-stakeholder social dialogues in local communities in zones of ongoing or potential violent conflicts.

The main problem we address with our trainings is the absence of social practices for conflict transformation via nonviolent and non-repressive methods and for planning the common future in Ukraine.

The need for this training is caused by the ongoing Russian military and informational aggression against Ukraine.

Our Main Objective Is To Unite Ukraine



One of winners of young artists contest «I am a magician », organized by our alumni in March 2016 with 278 artworks from 74 locations.



Daryna Shevchenko, the youngest participant of our project. Her mother, Anastasia, manager of the Social Intermediaries School, does not want her kid to draw such pictures.

Social Intermediaries School started in 2015.

During the first year we trained 44 practitioners, in 2016 there are 24 students being trained.

Our students are civic activists, civil servants, educators motivated by previous social conflicts experience related to conflict affected areas of Ukraine.

We Do Not Want a Divided Future for Ukraine!



Students and trainers of the School in our training center in Kharkiv, September 24, 2016.



42 locations where our alumni work, including areas of potential and ongoing conflicts

Co-decision making and consensus building practices.

Conflict management basics, including forecasting, analysis, prevention and communication strategies.

Creating dialogue spaces for negotiations on conflict deescalation.

Best practices of reconciliation after violent conflict (including Good Friday Agreement, Polish Roundtable of 1989, CODESA negotiations in South Africa).

History of Middle East terrorism.

Negative outcomes of peacebuilding efforts in post-USSR space.

Best and worst practices of social transformations in postcommunist states (Poland, Czech Republic).

We provide trainings and workshops on



Past dependence and influence of historical narratives in conflicts (including USA, Poland, Germany and Ukraine).



Basics of social network analysis (human and electronic sociotechnical systems), dependence of information warfare on social networks, basics of behavioural economics.

Clubs for discussions of local conflicts, social transformations and reforms in Ukraine.

Lifelong education for informal inclusive learning of languages (Ukrainian, Crimean Tatar, Polish, English), conflict management, history, political sciences, human rights.

Arts and crafts - collective learning and practicing embroidery; music and dances; folk dolls and souvenirs; sewing; painting; pottery; making and promoting traditional dresses; collaborative street art. Promoting traditional arts and crafts of national minorities.

New media - internet radio stations in Kherson and Severodonetsk

Alumni achievements

They created new practices of dialogues and joint activities on community security and sustainable development, integration of internally displaced persons and displaced universities into local communities, psychological rehabilitation of victims of war, peacebuilding education in local communities, cooperation between civil and military.





Dialogue events should include people of different ages and views, to involve people who cannot meet in usual circumstances (e.g. civil and military, citizens and authorities, locals and internally displaced persons).

There should be artefacts created by participants as an outcome of dialogue. Sample artefacts - hand made arts and crafts, collaborated texts (plans, methodology, schemas), videos, photos.

Practices should be easily replicable and encourage replication by participants.



Our approach to dialogue practices



Collaboration is based on co-decision and consensus building.



People should leave dialogues in good mood, willing to continue their collaboration and to share the skills acquired.



Oleksa Tykhyj (1927 - 1984), one of founders of Ukrainian Helsinki Group, political prisoner of USSR, school teacher from this region.



Practical outcomes of dialogues organized by alumni



Oleksa Tykhyj Avenue - facilitating co-decision of local councils of 5 towns of Kramatorsk agglomeration and Donetsk oblast regional administration to give a name of a human rights activist for main street of each location in and the road between them, 46 km total, two years of negotiaions in 2015-2016.



Club «Fajno» - a platform for learning Ukrainian language while practicing traditional embroidery by people of different ages, locals, internally displaced persons and military. Started in Kramatorsk, replicated.

Green recreation zones in Severdonetsk , Berdyanks and Kherson maintained by local community as a space for dialogues about life quality improvement in the city.



Practical outcomes of dialogues organized by alumniby alumni



Kids are helping to plant a Peace Alley in Kherson. 2015



A Day of Crimean Tatar Flag in this Peace Alley. 2016



Public spaces - coworkings, social caffes, clubs - created by multi-stakeholder groups to improve communication in local communities in Severodonetsk, Berdyansk and Mariupol.

Practical outcomes of dialogues organized by alumni



Crisis Media Center in Severodonetsk is used for media events, trainings and future search sessions.





Starting their own public space with a mural in Berdyansk

Creation of the Donbas Ukrainne center was facilitated by Olena Znatkova of Luhansk National Agrarian University, located in Kharkiv.

Olena works on her doctorate thesis «Modern participative practices in public administration in Ukraine and worldwide» based on School practices.



Practical outcomes of dialogues organized by alumni



Donbas Ukraine - joint educational center by 17 displaced universities to facilitate education of people, who live in occupied territories and near the demarcation line. Purple markets - where the universities are relocated from, blue markers - where they settled now.



First training in communications for managers of these universities created by the School on their demand, Kharkiv, September 19, 2016.

Main objective of the project is to establish the social intermediary as an innovative institution in Ukraine.

Synergy with universities based on demand from 17 displaced universities we developed special trainings to manage conflicts between the staff of universities and host communities, between the students from Ukraine controlled and not controlled territories, problems with communication between people from occupied territories and staff and students of displaced universities.

Trainings developed withing the School are included into educational programs of universities as extracurricular activities.

Current state of institutionalization



Synergy with other education projects - best dialogue practices developed within the project are being promoted by our partners: EdCampUkraine - for school teachers, Ukrainian frontiers - for internally displaced persons.



Synergy with Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine - permanent communication aimed at adjusting strategic education plans to include basics of social intermediary methodology into formal education.



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Our mission: prevention and transformation of violent conflicts in Ukraine

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