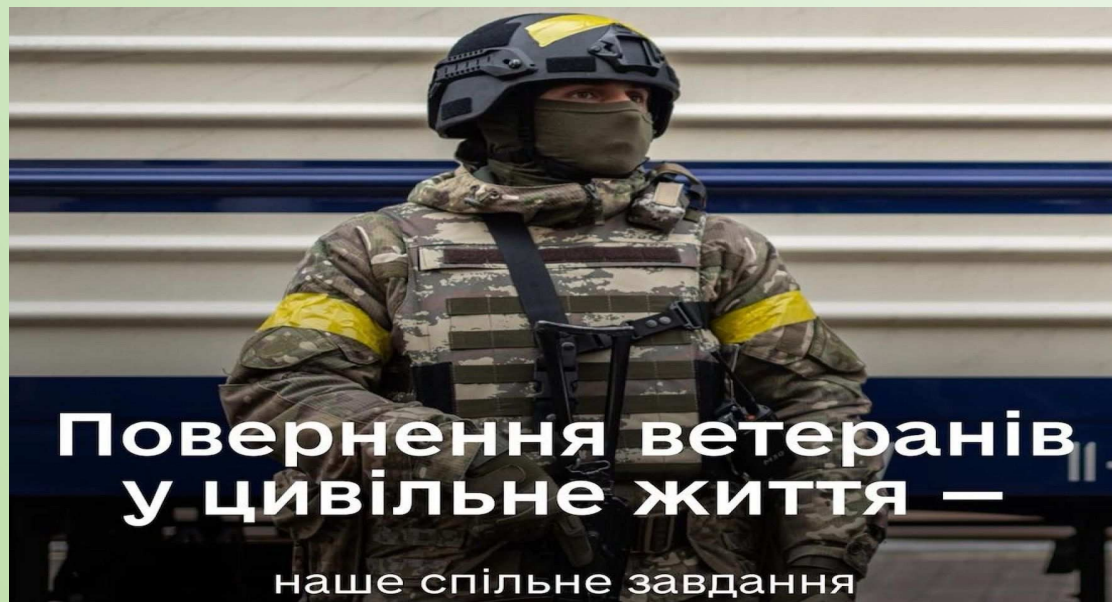


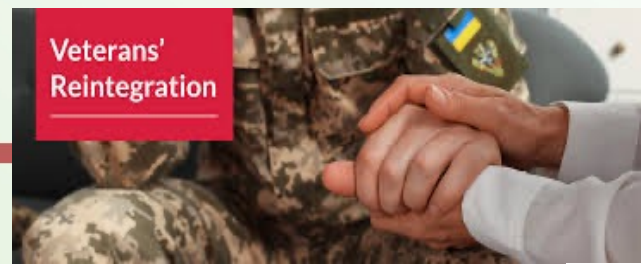
Educational Reintegration of Male and Female Veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian War in the Context of Socio-Humanitarian Transformations of Universities



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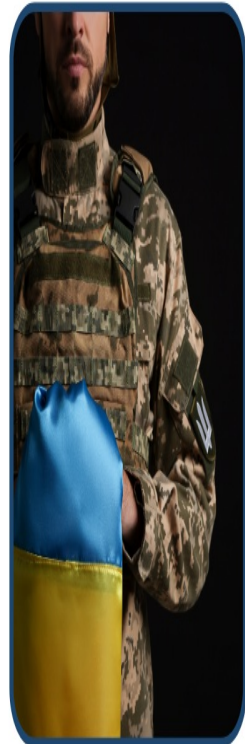
Praha – October 9-10, 2025



- **Dear participants of the international forum.**
- Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this scholarly event and to speak before you today.
- My academic interest in the topic of educational reintegration of **male and female veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian war**—within the broader context of sociocultural transformations in universities—is deeply rooted in personal experience.
- I am both a mother and wife of combat veterans who have collectively contributed nearly 17 years to Ukraine's defense, enduring captivity, repeated injuries, and other military hardships.
- Currently, following injuries sustained in the summer of 2025, my sons are undergoing treatment and rehabilitation. At the same time, they have enrolled this academic year in master's-level studies in *Public Administration*.
- Thus, the exploration of educational reintegration opportunities in our family is not theoretical—it is a lived experience.
- So, what are the unique features of educational reintegration in Ukraine? And how is it being implemented under martial law?



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МОЖЛИВОСТЕЙ





We are fighting for an educated nation!
*Fedir Shandor — veteran of the Armed Forces of Ukraine,
Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Hungary*

Veteran development begins with education and opportunity! A modern veteran should have access not only to medical, psychological, or social support, but also to knowledge. To new ideas. To an environment that empowers. After all, the development of a nation begins with the development of each individual — with the knowledge they acquire and how they apply it.

T. Tarasenko — veteran of the Russo-Ukrainian war



What is the legal and theoretical framework for the educational reintegration of male and female veterans in Ukraine?

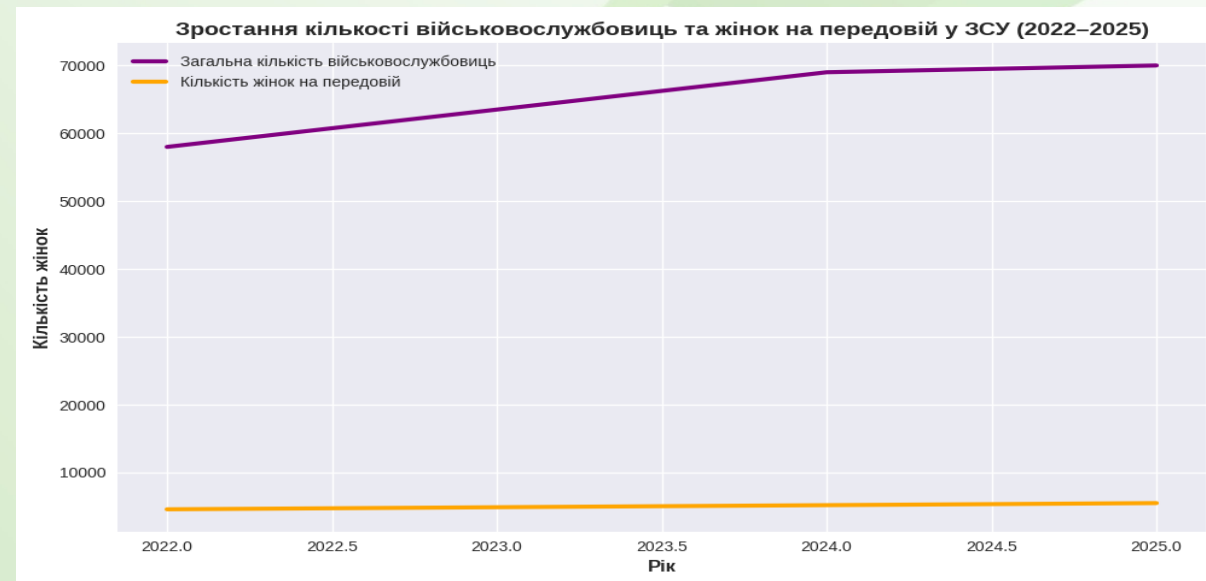
A veteran is a participant in combat operations; a person with a war-related disability; an individual who has demonstrated exceptional combat merit in service to the Homeland; or a fallen (deceased) Defender of Ukraine who carried out combat missions in defense of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.



According to the Unified State Register of War Veterans, published by the Ministry for Veterans Affairs of Ukraine, as of January 1, 2022, Ukraine had **851,000 individuals** in this category, representing **3% of the country's population**.

During 2022–2023, an additional **160,000 citizens** were officially added to the register.

As of January 1, 2025, the number of veterans in Ukraine reached **nearly 1.6 million**. Projections indicate that this number will continue to grow annually, potentially reaching **4 to 5 million individuals**, requiring the **active engagement of a wide range of societal institutions** in reintegration processes.



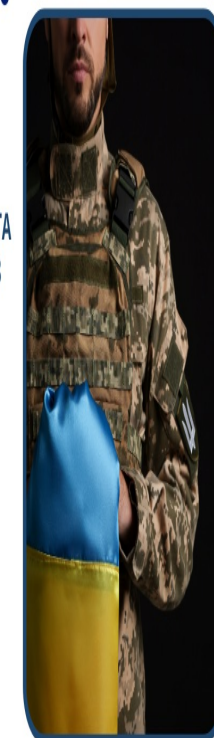
According to the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, there is a visible increase in the number of **women Defenders of Ukraine**. On January 1, 2022, there were **58,000 women** serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine; by December 2024, this number had risen to **69,000**, and as of January 1, 2025, **70,000 women** were in active service. More than **5,500 women** are fighting on the front lines — a **20% increase** compared to 2022.

Theoretical and legal foundations

- **Reintegration of an individual** is a complex and multifaceted process that involves returning, restoring, and rejoining a society or organization with which ties (or contacts) had been weakened, severed, or narrowed for a certain period.
Reintegration encompasses various dimensions, including: restoration of citizenship, return to family and community, social and educational adaptation, medical and psychological rehabilitation, and the reinstatement of rights and responsibilities.
Reintegration of Ukraine's Defenders is the process through which discharged service members move to civilian status, gain stable employment, and secure income.
This process is an integral part of the country's social and economic development, reflecting its social responsibility toward this group. It unfolds without clearly defined timeframes and requires long-term external support.
- **Educational reintegration** should be viewed from multiple perspectives — both as a process and as an outcome.
Each reflects the development and implementation of state policy at the national, regional, and local levels, aligning with the strategic directions and activities of higher education institutions.
Accordingly, it involves:
 - phased implementation;
 - engagement of a sufficient number of specialists and participants;
 - introduction of clearly defined plans, actions, and measures.



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In the context of socio-humanitarian transformations, integration of veteran-oriented

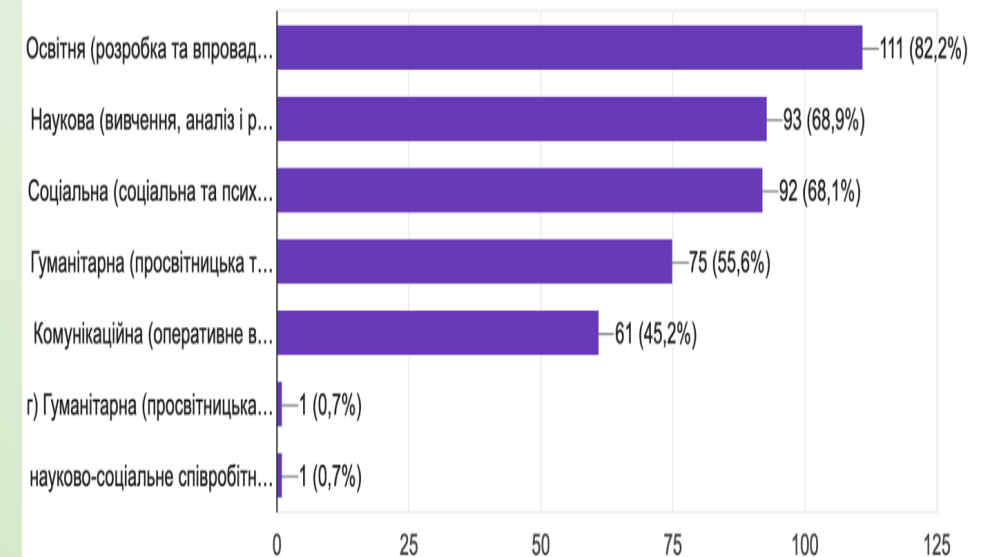
policy into core areas of institutional activity should be among the key priorities of higher education institutions.

This aligns with universities' implementation of the fundamental principles of their third mission — social engagement and service.

- **Results of the expert survey** on the topic «**Policies and Strategies for the Development of Higher Education Institutions in the Context of Ukraine's Postwar Recovery**», conducted in **June 2025** as part of the research project «**University Development in the Context of Postwar Recovery: Synergy of Social and Institutional Transformations in Higher Education, Science, and the Economy**» implemented by the Institute of Higher Education of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine.
- Experts (representatives of higher education institutions) confirmed that among the priority areas for university development within postwar recovery strategies, **53.3%** support the development and implementation of educational programs and courses focused on the reintegration and professional development of veterans of the Russo-Ukrainian war. This reflects a clear intention to implement veteran-oriented policies within educational institutions.

9. Які, на Вашу думку, політики розвитку ЗВО варто визначити пріоритетними у контексті післявоєнного відновлення України?

135 відповідей



Strategies of Veteran Policy until 2030 and the Operational Action Plan for 2024–2027 define a set of operational goals, including:

- **The third goal** — focused on ensuring civilian transition and education — envisions the creation of appropriate conditions for:
 - professional development of veterans (men and women) at all stages (during military service, in the process of discharge, and after completing service) to enhance their competitiveness in the labor market;
 - raising the level of education among veterans, their families, service members transitioning out of the military, and their family members;
 - access to quality education (non-formal, formal and informal);
 - development of a military (military-civilian) education system at all levels, including interdisciplinary, applied, dual, distance, inclusive, and lifelong learning — tailored to the needs and capacities of various categories of veterans, service members, their families, and youth within the framework of the “Youth Worker” program.



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дорослих
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та ветеранок війни
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МОЖЛИВОСТЕЙ: СВОЇ ДЛЯ СВОЇХ**

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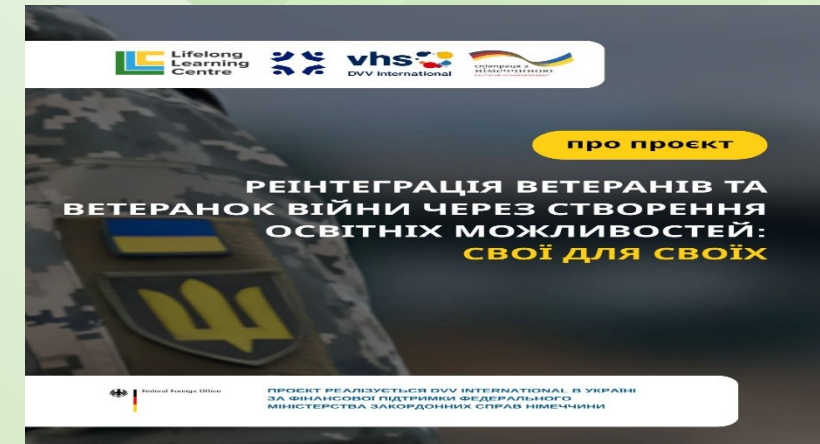
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федеральною
державою

про проект

**РЕІНТЕГРАЦІЯ ВЕТЕРАНІВ ТА
ВЕТЕРАНОК ВІЙНИ ЧЕРЕЗ СТВОРЕННЯ
ОСВІТНІХ МОЖЛИВОСТЕЙ:
СВОЇ ДЛЯ СВОЇХ**




PROJEKT REALISIERTECH DVV INTERNATIONAL В УКРАЇНІ
ЗА ФІНАНСОВОЇ ПІДТРИМКИ ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОГО
МІНІСТЕРСТВА ЗАКОРДОННИХ СПРАВ НІМЕЧЧИНИ

ПОРЯДОК НАДАННЯ ПРОФЕСІЙНОЇ АДАПТАЦІЇ (ПІДГОТОВКА, ПЕРЕПІДГОТОВКА, ПІДВИЩЕННЯ КВАЛІФІКАЦІЇ) ВETERANAM ВІЙНИ ТА ЧЛЕНАМ ЇХ СІМЕЙ



МІНІСТЕРСТВО
У СПРАВАХ
ВETERANІВ
УКРАЇНИ

ВИДИ ПРОФЕСІЙНОЇ АДАПТАЦІЇ

-  Підготовка, перепідготовка, підвищення кваліфікації
-  Отримання іншої спеціальності на основі здобутого раніше ступеня (рівня) освіти, зокрема зі скороченим строком навчання
-  Отримання другого (магістерського) рівня вищої освіти на основі першого (бакалаврського) рівня вищої освіти

(15 прожиткових мінімумів для працездатних осіб)

до 45 420 грн у 2024 р.

Прийом на навчання здійснюється згідно з умовами прийому до закладів вищої освіти

У разі виникнення питань звертайтеся до фахівців Мінветеранів

КРОКИ

- 1 Обрати навчальний заклад
- 2 Подати заяву до структурного підрозділу з питань ветеранської політики, районної, районної у м. Києві та Севастополі держадміністрації, виконавчого органу міської, районної у місті (у разі її утворення) ради, отримати (у разі потреби) направлення на професійну орієнтацію та пройти її
- 3 За результатами профорієнтації отримати направлення на навчання до обраного закладу освіти
- 4 Підписати тристоронній договір про надання послуг із профадаптації (місцевий орган з питань ветеранської політики/навчальний заклад/ветеран або член його сім'ї)
- 5 За результатами завершення навчання отримати документ установленого зразка

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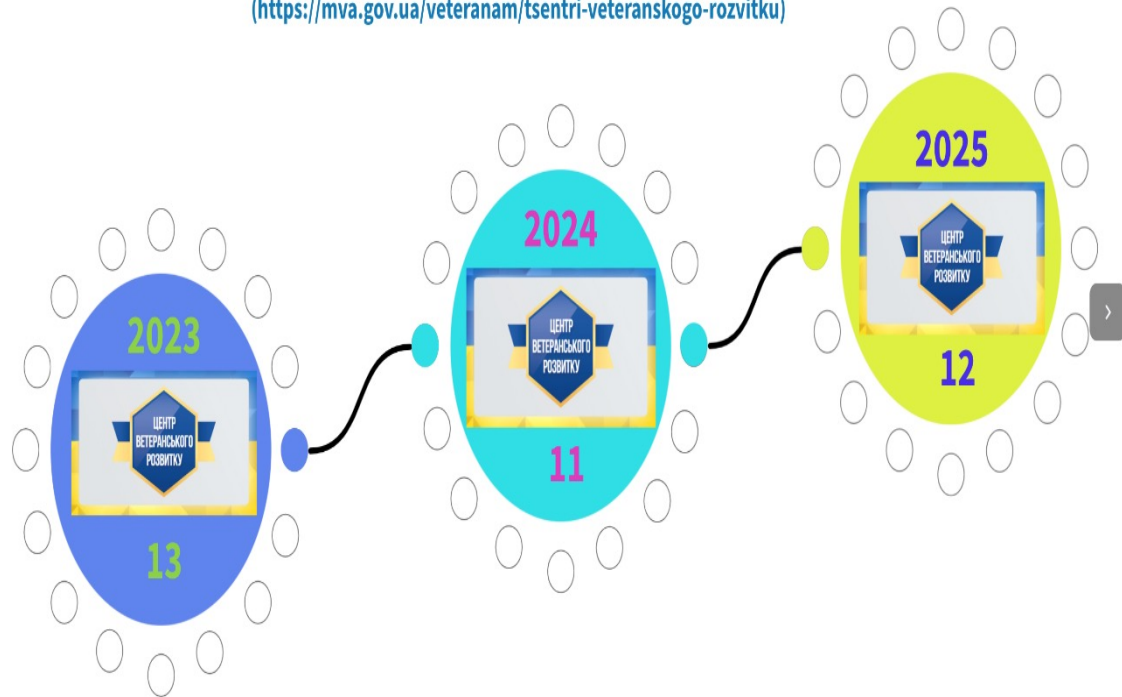
 dpi@mva.gov.ua

Veteran Development Centers

ЦЕНТРИ ВЕТЕРАНСЬКОГО РОЗВИТКУ В УКРАЇНІ (2023–2025)

Візуалізовано на основі даних Міністерства у справах ветеранів України

(<https://mva.gov.ua/veteranam/tsentri-veteranskogo-rozvitku>)



In May 2023, the **Ministry for Veterans Affairs of Ukraine**, in cooperation with the **Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine**, initiated the creation of a **network of Veteran Development Centers (VDCs)** based at institutions of vocational, professional pre-tertiary, and higher education.

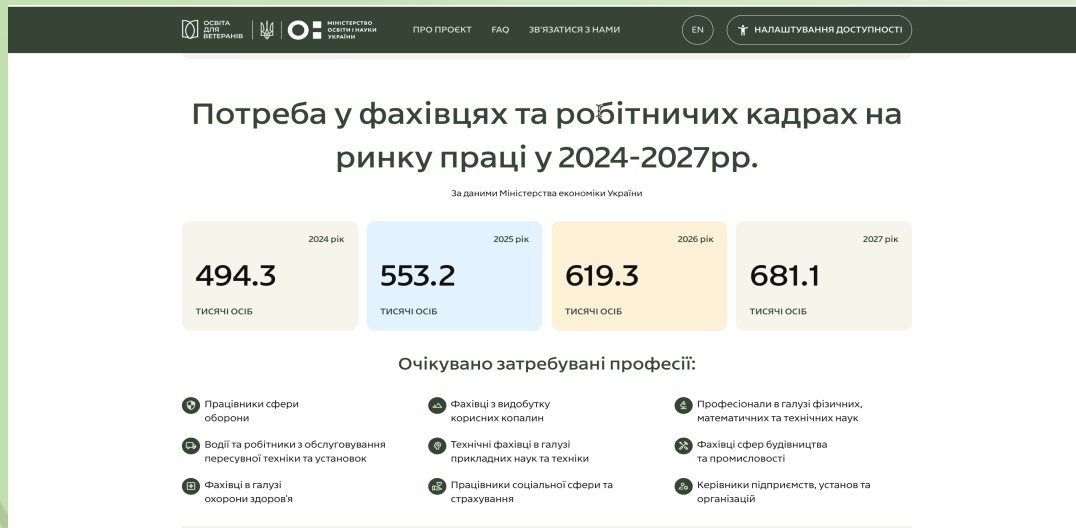
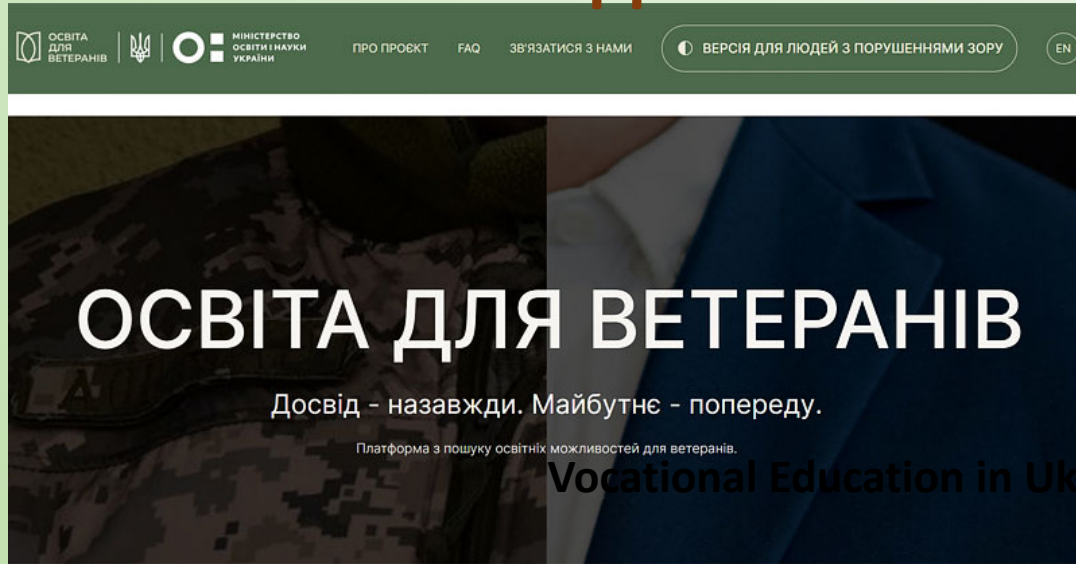
This initiative is part of the **National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine**.

The figure illustrates the **growth dynamics** of these centers.

Key areas of VDC activity include:

- support for social and psychological adaptation, restoration of professional skills, qualification upgrading, and professional retraining in civilian occupations and specialties across relevant educational levels and non-formal education programs;
- development and implementation of educational programs for training, retraining, and professional development;
- organization of qualification enhancement for specialists supporting war veterans and demobilized individuals;
- provision of legal and psychological counseling services;
- promotion of entrepreneurial skills;
- organization and facilitation of conferences, roundtables, trainings, seminars, webinars, workshops, and other communication platforms.

Education for Veterans (he platform for searching educational opportunities for veterans)



This resource was initiated by the **Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine** with the support of the «**Vocational Education in Ukraine / Skills4Recovery**» program by **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH**, commissioned by the **Federal Government of Germany**.

The online platform offers a broad range of opportunities for the **professional adaptation of Ukraine's Defenders to civilian life**, addressing educational needs through formal and non-formal programs offered by institutions of vocational (vocational-technical), professional pre-tertiary and higher education.

Successful cases of educational reintegration of male and female veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian war implemented by Ukrainian HEIs

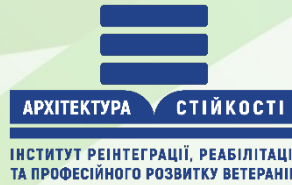
ІНСТИТУТ
ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ
НАПН УКРАЇНИ



- **National University of Physical Education and Sport, Lviv Polytechnic National University, Ukrainian Catholic University** and other higher education institutions have launched professional development programs for academic staff, training them in the fundamentals of teaching military personnel and veterans.



- **Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture** has established the *Institute for Reintegration, Rehabilitation, and Professional Development of Veterans* as a collaborative platform that fosters interaction between veterans and a wide range of governmental, business, and civil society organizations.



- At **Ukrainian Catholic University**, the **Veteran and Family Support Office** serves as a single point of contact, providing services and assistance. Its key priorities include:
 - counseling and support for discharged Defenders of Ukraine and their families within the university community;
 - collaboration with faculty, staff, and students to establish effective communication between them and veterans;
 - preparation and guidance for administrative and academic units to welcome veterans;
 - support in organizing educational opportunities for veterans, including both degree and certificate programs;
 - development and implementation of internal HR policies;
 - efforts to strengthen UCU's impact on external veteran communities.

These are only selected examples of initiatives undertaken by Ukrainian Higher Education Institutions to support the educational reintegration of veterans and veteran women of the Russian-Ukrainian war.



Successful Cases of Project Implementation by Ukrainian HEIs

- **Social Project:** *“Promoting Social Inclusion through Engaging Combat Veterans in Lifelong Learning”* is implemented by the Institute of Higher Education of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine as part of the research initiative of the Department for University–Society Interaction titled *“Social Inclusion in Higher Education in the Postwar Period.”*

Project Objective: To complement physical and psychological rehabilitation with activities conducted by higher educational institutions, aimed at the comprehensive development and motivation of patients for integration into society.

Among the activities carried out in 2024–2025:

- Social-emotional learning
- Familiarization with inclusive programs offered by Kyiv universities
- Aesthetic education, social and emotional learning ect.



House of Heroes



HOUSE OF
HEROES
Дім героїв
WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

Mission:

- to design and deliver **special-access homes** that allow disabled veterans to live with dignity and independence
- to create **safe, supportive environments** where veterans can heal, reconnect with family, and find renewed purpose
- to integrate housing with practical support — ensuring that each home provides not only shelter, but also a foundation for rehabilitation, social inclusion, and long-term stability.

Desired Outcomes:

- provide dignified, accessible living solutions
- facilitate social integration and community inclusion
- enhance the role of ex-combatants in Ukraine's postwar recovery



The House of Heroes is more than a building project. It is a national promise: that no Ukrainian veteran will be left behind, and that sacrifice will be honored with action.

Conclusions

- **In the context of martial law and in anticipation of Ukraine's postwar recovery**, higher education institutions, based on their own capacities and initiatives, are developing models of educational reintegration for **male and female veterans**. These efforts incorporate gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches and align with the broader concept of universities' third mission—active social engagement—as well as with the development and implementation of national veteran policy.
- **The educational reintegration of veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian war** should be viewed as an innovative manifestation of the sociocultural transformation of Ukrainian higher education institutions. It reflects the universities' commitment to their third mission: active service to society.
- We believe that the educational reintegration of **male and female veterans** should be considered an integral component of both veteran policy and the state's broader social and humanitarian strategies. Ukrainian universities are actively involved in shaping, developing, and implementing these policies.
- This process should be defined as a comprehensive set of measures aimed at supporting the transition of Ukraine's Defenders from military service to civilian life. Upon acquiring veteran status, they are provided with differentiated (veteran-oriented) conditions for professional adaptation—including training, retraining, and upskilling—and for acquiring new qualifications that are in demand on the labor market. These opportunities are offered through vocational, professional pre-tertiary, and higher education pathways.
- **Therefore, in the near future, it is strategically important for Ukrainian higher education institutions** to position the educational reintegration of **male and female veterans** of the Russian-Ukrainian war as a priority vision for institutional development. This should be embedded within postwar recovery policies and integrated into programs for the social and humanitarian transformation of academic institutions.



**WITH GRATITUDE TO THE ARMED FORCES
OF UKRAINE
FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE, WORK AND ADVANCE
UKRAINIAN SCIENCE!
TOGETHER — WE WILL WIN!**

