

Promoting social cohesion – preventing conflicts and supporting stabilization of Ukrainian communities

Background

Since 2018, GIZ Civil Peace Service Ukraine has been supporting conflict transformation, fostering the development of legal consciousness, and shaping a society where coexistence in diversity is possible. One of our main partners in these efforts is the Ukrainian NGO “Power of the Future”.

As a result of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, 10 million people left their homes. In this context, more than 300,000 IDPs moved to Dnipro city and region. In addition to material losses, IDPs lost a significant part of their social capital. The objective is to restore the social capital of the affected individuals through creative methods of conflict transformation, to create a supportive community and to help meet social-emotional needs through psychosocial support.



Partner Organization	Power of the Future
Location	Dnipro, Ukraine
Project Start	2022
Methods	Art as tool for MHPSS & Dealing with the Past

academically elucidate our methodology, making it accessible for humanitarian organizations both within Ukraine and worldwide. The mission of the organization centres around contributing to the advancement of a content and prosperous Ukrainian society.

Approach

Power of the Future organizes events that help participants restore their psycho-emotional well-being, establish social connections, and rediscover their lost identities. The organization provides them with knowledge and support, empowering them to conduct similar initiatives for their own groups, thereby expanding the circle of support. Primary methods and tools involve blending social art such as Playback Theater, drum and singing circles, and art practices to foster community development. All activities are designed to fortify inclusivity and mutual understanding among individuals, fostering enduring social relationships. Looking ahead, organization plans to

Impact in numbers

A community of IDPs and host communities with 400+ members was created. More than 100 workshops and events were held. The emotional state of the participants has been transformed: at the beginning of the project, they were anxious, full of fear and uncertainty, and now they are more confident about the future and feel comfortable in the local community.

Approach of the NGO “Power of the Future” is innovative for Ukrainian society, it has proven to be sustainable and effective. The project has an international dimension - their technique was successfully applied with Ukrainian refugees in Rome. The organization is planning to train other NGOs and government agencies in their approach.



L: Young participants of the art practice event in Dnipro

R: Survivors participating in the networking event in Dnipro



L: Contact2U project networking event in Dnipro

R: Actors of playback theater in action

Power of the Future will expand the project's active ties to other cities in Ukraine too. In the future, the project plans to scientifically assess its approach so that it can be used by humanitarian organizations in Ukraine and around the world.

Learn more on GIZ ZFD YouTube channel: [Contact2U](#)

An example from the field

"It so happened that in the Donetsk region in March 2022, an evacuation was announced. This was a frightening, alien, and cold word. It stirred up the same emotions as when, due to Russian aggression, we were forced to leave our home and became displaced persons. Endless tears, sadness, despair—life came to a standstill. Dnipro also faced various domestic problems during that time.

I can't recall the exact details of those two or three months, as the heartache didn't allow me to fully grasp reality. However, this couldn't last forever, and I was fortunate enough to encounter an incredible team from the NGO "Power of the Future". Interacting with these young men and women breathed new life into us. They also provided us with a wealth of useful information, new friendships, discoveries, and support. I eagerly attended meetings, workshops, excursions, and cherished the time spent with fellow immigrants like myself.

The Contact2U community comprises real, active, indomitable, and strong-willed people. Connecting with them possesses healing qualities and instils confidence. Over the past eight months, I have received support and assistance in adapting to this strange, unfamiliar city. Without these interactions, the stress I was under could have had unpredictable consequences. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful community."

Oksana, participant of the event organized by the Power of the Future project.

"For the development and peaceful transformation of society, we need to learn how to create sustainable and supportive inclusive communities. They will become the seeds that will turn into a garden, even if the land has been scorched by war."

Roman Kandybur, founder of the Contact2U project



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Webpage [Promoting cohesion – preventing conflicts and violence](#)

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