



INTERNATIONAL FORUM "VETERANS – THE PATH HOME"

*November 26-28, 2024, Lviv
Forum duration: 3 days*

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Committee on Social Policy and Protection of Veterans' Rights, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and the Interfactional Parliamentary Union "Rehabilitation Forces of Ukraine", Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine, with the support of the USAID RADA Program: Next Generation, the International Organization for Migration, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine, are organizing the International Forum "Veterans – The Road Home."

Objective of the forum:

To present a roadmap for the development of veteran state policies and to create a platform for interaction between veterans, their families, the families of the deceased, missing, or captured individuals, local communities, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and international partners.

Key goals of the forum:

1. Present and discuss the main provisions of the roadmap for the development of veteran policies.
2. Identify priority areas for cooperation between veterans, their families, the families of the deceased, missing, or captured individuals, local communities, government bodies, and international partners.
3. Establish a networking platform with specific mechanisms for interaction and coordination between government authorities, local self-government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations in the field of veteran policy.

Registration Of Participants / Welcome Coffee

Forum Opening.

Defining Expectations, Forum Goals, Survey, Welcome Speeches From Organizers

Veterans' Rights As A State Priority: Current Status And Prospects For The Development Of National Veterans Policy

The Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Minister for Veterans Affairs of Ukraine, Members of the Ukrainian Parliament, representatives of public organizations, and veterans will present their vision for veteran policy.

Coffee Break

Veterans' Policy Without Borders: Sharing Experiences And Solutions For The Development Of Veterans' Policy

Participants will discuss successful practices and solutions implemented in various countries and ways to adapt them for the development of Ukraine's veteran policy.

Lunch Break/Networking

Three Parallel Workshops

Workshop 1: "Physical Health/Rehabilitation"

Restoration of bodily functionality after military trauma and combat operations, long-term rehabilitation, developing of a rehabilitation system based on the nosology, and improving the rehabilitation plan through the strengthening of multi-disciplinary teams.

Workshop 2: "The Psychology Of Societal Trauma"

Development of psychological support in Ukraine, building of a mental health support system, innovative psychological practices, war-torn society and post-war society: mutual support and understanding, psychological trauma, PTSD, the "Gap" phenomenon, and addictions.

Workshop 3: "Economic Independence"

Veteran employment, two-way adaptation between the team and the veteran, the role of communities and businesses in veteran employment, starting and developing veteran-owned businesses, the role of the community in fostering veteran entrepreneurship, preconditions for successful veteran entrepreneurship, and systematization of approaches.

Cultural Evening

Day 2
November 27, 2024

Registration Of Participants / Welcome Coffee

Case Study: Practical Solutions In Veteran Policy At The Local Level

Discussion Platform: "Unified Strategy: Cooperation Between Communities And Authorities To Support Veterans"

The discussion aims to explore effective models for interaction between local communities and government authorities to ensure proper implementation of veteran policies at the local level. The goal is to identify priority areas for joint actions and mechanisms for cooperation.

Lunch Break

Three Parallel Workshops

Workshop 1: "Social Adaptation"

State policy and support for people with disabilities, assistive means for functioning, shifting in social consciousness in the Post-War Context, mutual support, family: new realities, and the transition from military life to civilian life.

Workshop 2: "Digitalizing The Veteran's Journey"

Digital services for veterans and their families, a nationwide digital service map, discussion of the potential for digital services to unify all state and non-state services on a single platform, and minimizing bureaucracy.

Workshop 3: "Families Of The Fallen, Missing And Those Captivity. Respect And Gratitude!"

Family rights – compliance and violations analysis, proposals for shifting the paradigm of family care, commemoration, memorialization, and addressing family trauma.

Day 3
November 28, 2024

Registration Of Participants / Welcome Coffee

Workshop 1: "Sports For Veterans"

Sports Festival "IRON WARRIORS SPORT HUB Lviv" – Sporting Activities (Sitting Volleyball, Wheelchair Basketball, Pickleball, Jiu-Jitsu, Athletics, Yoga, Knight Fights)

Exhibitions Are Planned During The Event On November 26-27

- *Exhibition of veteran art and art about veterans*
 - *Veteran businesses exhibition*
 - *Pitching of CSO' managed projects for the realization of a veteran policy*
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Visits to rehabilitation centers such as "Superhumans," "Unbroken," and other medical facilities for veterans will be possible with separate registration.