

Fostering Interprofessional Collaboration to Strengthen Occupational Therapy in Ukraine:

A unified approach to rehabilitation profession recognition

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Introduction

Strengthening the rehabilitation workforce is a global priority to ensure quality care and universal access.

In Ukraine, this required a context-sensitive and sustainable approach to standardize education and professional practice amidst evolving national challenges.

Objective

To support the development of a robust workforce by aligning professional regulation, entry-level guidelines, and continuing professional development with international standards.

Methods & Results

Reflective review of Education, Regulation and Professional Development



We utilized the International Rehabilitation Education and Training Toolkit (IRETT) as a versatile resource suite, integrating its frameworks into Ukraine's national activities to standardize education, build local capacity, and enhance the overall quality of rehabilitation care.

Hybrid Support & Mentorship

3 In-Person Workshops: Poland (2022–2024)

86 Digital Sessions: 65 online trainings and 21 webinars

Expert Mentorship: Global mentors providing ongoing, tailored guidance.

High-Level Task Force: MoH, MoE, professional associations, and universities.

Theory to Practice: Mentorship in adapting global standards to Ukraine's unique reality.

Conclusions & Impact

Primary Conclusion

Through a strategic hybrid model, we successfully united government ministries and academic leaders to create a standardized national roadmap for Ukraine's rehabilitation workforce.

Key Takeaways

- **Unified Communication:** A single framework across all three sectors provided the essential "common language" needed to bridge communication gaps between ministries, professional bodies, and universities.
- **Semantic Clarity:** Utilizing specific tools for each sector clarified professional terms and roles, reducing interdisciplinary friction and aligning expectations.
- **Cross-Sector Synergy:** This shared vocabulary allowed stakeholders to move beyond silos, ensuring that policy, education, and practice are finally speaking the same language.

Workforce development is most sustainable when it is stakeholder-driven: breaking professional silos is not just a benefit, it is a requirement for healthcare resilience.

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