



UIPHP
UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE
ON PUBLIC HEALTH
POLICY

ANNUAL REPORT

The Ukrainian Institute on Public Health Policy

2015

The Ukrainian Institute on Public Health Policy (UIPHP) is a non-profit organization created to develop and implement modern approaches to public health, especially HIV/AIDS, drug dependence and rehabilitation of addicts, including those living with HIV/AIDS.

The goal of all the Institute activities is implementing the organization's mission: to create a scientific basis for the development of strategic decisions in the field of public health (PH).

During the functioning of the UIPHP (2003-2015) we were able to significantly influence the changes in the public health policy of Ukraine. And the year 2015 was not an exception. Thus, a significant impetus for the realization of access to opioid substitution therapy (OST) for prisoners will be expected joint order of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Interior *“On approval of the interaction of healthcare institutions, of National Police, jails, prisons and penal inspections to ensure provision of substitution therapy for patients with opioid dependence”*, which was developed by the UIPHP together with partners. The draft order, which is currently undergoing approval of the Ministry of Justice and relevant agencies, is the result of years of the team of the Institute efforts; it regulates the implementation of substitution treatment in detention facilities and ensures continuity of substitution therapy. One of the important steps to issue this order was the organized in December 2015 by the UIPHP round table *“Effective drug treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS in the institutions of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine. From research to good practice”*.

The implementation of the UIPHP strategic plan for 2015-2017

To strengthen the commitment and capability of people responsible for the making decisions in public health:

1. The UIPHP has developed a training program for personnel of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine on implementation of substitution therapy of drug dependence.
2. The UIPHP together with partners has drafted a joint order of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Interior on the implementation of OST to the institutions of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine.
3. The analytical report “Drug Situation and Drug Policy” was prepared for the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe (T. Kiryazova, S. Dvoriak).
4. More than 10 presentations and round tables to present the UIPHP ideas, visions and results of research and analysis. Some of them:
 - Round table “Effective drug treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS in the institutions of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine. From research to good practice”, Kyiv, December 2015
 - 2015 NIDA International Forum, June 12-15, 2015, Phoenix, Arizona, USA. Presentations K. Dumchev, T. Kiryazova, A. Zezyulin, V. Chtenguelov & S. Dvoriak.
 - The Sixth National Scientific Conference on Monitoring and Evaluation “Reinforcement of united system for monitoring and evaluation of HIV-infection in Ukraine: new models and best practices”, Lviv, December 7-9, 2015, oral presentations K. Dumchev T. Kiryazova, O. Neduzhko.
 - International scientific and practical conference “Primary health care influence on behavioral determinants of population concerning prevention of socially dangerous and chronic noninfectious diseases in publicly funded and insurance health care systems”. Uzhhorod, 21-22 April 2015, an oral presentation O. Neduzhko.
 - The technical working group of Ministry of Health of Ukraine to develop a unified clinical protocols on HIV-infection (participants – S. Dvoriak, O. Neduzhko, K. Dumchev).
 - Public Board attached to the office of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine in the Odessa region, Olexander Neduzhko - deputy chair.

To implement the plan to increase the number of scientific publications of UIPHP in 2015:

Number of research publications in peer-reviewed journals in 2015 corresponded proposed in the strategic plan for 2015-2017:

- Dumchev K. Imported “Evidence-Based” or Locally Grown Interventions: A False Dichotomy and Some Hard Choices in Implementation Science. - *Subst Use Misuse*. 2015;50(8-9):1092-6.
- Polonsky M, Rozanova J, Azbel L, Bachireddy C, Izenberg J, Kiriazova T, Dvoryak S, Altice FL. Attitudes Toward Addiction, Methadone Treatment, and Recovery Among HIV-Infected Ukrainian Prisoners Who Inject Drugs: Incarceration Effects and Exploration of Mediators. - *AIDS Behav*. 2016 Mar 24. [Epub ahead of print]
- Polonsky M, Azbel L, Wickersham JA, Marcus R, Doltu S, Grishaev E, Dvoryak S, Altice FL. Accessing methadone within Moldovan prisons: Prejudice and myths amplified by peers. - *Int J Drug Policy*. 2016 Mar;29:91-5. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2015.12.016. Epub 2015 Dec 23. No abstract available.
- Booth RE, Davis JM, Brewster JT, Lisovska O, Dvoryak S. Krokodile Injectors in Ukraine: Fueling the HIV Epidemic? - *AIDS Behav*. 2016 Feb;20(2):369-76. doi: 10.1007/s10461-015-1008-z.
- Azbel L, Wickersham JA, Wegman MP, Polonsky M, Suleymanov M, Ismayilov R, Dvoryak S, Rotberga S, Altice FL. Burden of substance use disorders, mental illness, and correlates of infectious diseases among soon-to-be released prisoners in Azerbaijan. - *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2015 Jun 1;151:68-75. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2015.02.034. Epub 2015 Mar 19.
- Polonsky M, Azbel L, Wickersham JA, Taxman FS, Grishaev E, Dvoryak S, Altice FL. Challenges to implementing opioid substitution therapy in Ukrainian prisons: Personnel attitudes toward addiction, treatment, and people with HIV/AIDS. - *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2015 Mar 1;148:47-55. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2014.12.008. Epub 2014 Dec 22.

For the purpose of staff professional development:

- A cycle of seminars conducted to improve the computer skills of the Institute staff.
- Six researchers of the Institute became participants of the training “Analysis and visualization of epidemiological, statistical and sociological data on HIV-infection using MS Excel” (supported by Alliance for Public Health).

Project activities of the UIPHP in 2015

“Feasibility Study of Opiate Substitution Treatment in Primary Healthcare Settings in Ukraine”

partners	Healthcare facilities in Mykolayiv and Poltava oblasts; Narcological clinic “Sociotherapy”, Kyiv
sponsor	Pact Inc. USAID “RESPOND”
duration	01.06.2015-31.05.2016
approximate budget	324 740,32 (US dollars))
the purpose of the program	Formative research, main goal of which is assessment of opportunity to organize and provide integrated services for patients with opioid dependence at the base of Centers for primary health care (CPHC) in Ukraine.
achievements and results	<p>A new model of OST and integrated care is introduced at the primary healthcare in the following facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CPHC #1, Poltava;• CPHC #2, Poltava;• CPHC #4, Mykolayiv. <p>A data collection: interviews with patients and doctors-narcologists of drug treatment clinics in Poltava and Mykolayiv, interviews with patients of CPHC #1 and #2 in Poltava, CPHC #4 in Mykolayiv, with general practitioners, family doctors and administrative staff of these facilities.</p> <p>The UIPHP researchers are analyzing the data reports and are developing the guidelines on introduction of OST and integrated care to the activities of general practitioners and family doctors.</p>

“Prison Interventions and HIV Prevention Collaboration”

partners	The State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine
sponsor	Yale University, New Haven, USA
duration	01.08.2015-31.07.2016
approximate budget	124 263,00 (US dollars)
the purpose of the program	Study of spread of socially dangerous infection diseases, including HIV-infection, virus hepatitis B and C, syphilis; and use of injection drugs and other psychoactive substances and mental disorders due to psychoactive substances use among imprisoned people in Ukraine.
achievements and results	The study protocol is finalized. Surveys and training for MATLINK project is conducted in Moldova. A pilot study done in Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. Piloting for tools of MATLINK project is finished in Kyrgyzstan. Analysis of the PUHLSE project data is completed for Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaidzhan. 5 publications prepared after the research materials. A seminar for the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine staff is conducted in December 2015.
publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015. Polonsky, M., Azbel, L., Wickersham, J., Marcus, R., Doltu, S, Grishaev, E., Dvoryak, S., and Altice, F. “Assessing methadone within prison: prejudice and myths amplified by peers.” International Journal of Drug Policy. • 2015. Polonsky, M.; Rozanova, J.; Azbel, L.; Bachireddy, C.; Izenberg, J.; Kiriazova, T.; Dvoryak, S.; Altice, F.L. ”Attitudes toward addiction, methadone treatment, and recovery among HIV-infected Ukrainian prisoners who inject drugs: Incarceration effects and exploration of mediators.” AIDS and Behavior. Under review. • 2015. Azbel L., Grishaev, Y., Wickersham J.W., Chernova O., Dvoryak S., Polonsky, M., Altice F.L. “Trials and tribulations of conduction bio-behavioral surveys in prisons: Implementation science and lessons from Ukraine.” International Journal of Prisoner Health. In press. • 2015. Azbel L., Wickersham J.W., Wegman M., Polonsky M., Suleymanov M., Ismayilov R., Dvoryak S., Altice F.L. “Burden of substance use disorders, mental illness, and correlates of infectious diseases among soon-to-be-released prisoners in Azerbaijan.” Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

“Improving Treatment Engagement and Adherence for People Who Inject Drugs in Ukraine”

partners	AIDS centers and narcological dispensaries in 7 oblasts of Ukraine
sponsor	Alliance for Public Health
duration	01.06.2015-31.05.2016
approximate budget	324740,32 (US dollars)
the purpose of the program	<p>Evaluation of effectiveness of two strategies – Community Initiated Treatment Intervention (CITI) and medication-assisted treatment – and its influence to the indexes of involvement of patients to the programs of HIV treatment and ART, comparing with standard services.</p> <p>Detection of connected with a client and with service provider barriers, which impede involving people who inject drugs to the programs of treatment of HIV-infection, ART, and as well affect the retention rate.</p> <p>Determination of expenses for every participant of the program including distribution of cost components in the frame of cascade model, which represents the results of ART accordingly for CITI and for MAT.</p>
achievements and results	<p>Preparation for the field phase: research and administrative procedures developed; research teams in 8 regions of Ukraine (9 sites) formed; training for research teams conducted; research tools tested; data management arranged.</p> <p>In January 2016 the field phase of the study started.</p>

“Enhancing linkage to HIV care for newly detected HIV-positive persons in Ukraine”

partners	Departments of Health of Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolayiv and Odessa oblast administrations
sponsor	CDC/ATSDR, Atlanta, USA
duration	12.07.2015-29.03.2017
approximate budget	494 477,00 (US dollars)
the purpose of the program	The study goal – to evaluate the effectiveness of MARTAS intervention, which is a modified ARTAS intervention (ART and access to services). The intervention is intended for people who were recently diagnosed with HIV-infection at the specialized healthcare facilities (regional narcological dispensaries, dermatovenerological dispensaries, infection hospitals) in Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolayiv and Odessa oblasts of Ukraine, with the aim to help them to get access to medical HIV-services.
achievements and results	As of December 31, 2015 there are 9 of 9 active research sites in the 3rd phase of the study; 70 patients screened, 69 included in the study (52% of the planned 132). The pace of participants recruitment was lower than planned.

“Cooperation in the field of TB between Brown University and Ukraine”

partners	Department of tuberculosis and pulmonology of Bohomolets National Medical University (NMU); CP Laboratory of Kyiv Regional Tuberculosis Dispensary (Boyarka, Kyiv oblast)
sponsor	Brown University Ukraine Collaboration, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
duration	01.11.2015-31.08.2016
approximate budget	6 546,15 (US dollars)
the purpose of the program	Setting of molecular and epidemiological study of resistant tuberculosis in collaboration with. Bohomolets NMU and Brown University, USA. Objective: to study the resistant tuberculosis genome.
achievements and results	Preparation of the study field phase.

“Systems to improve access to medicines and pharmaceutical services”

partners	SIAPS, Center for Socially Dangerous Disease Control at the Ministry of Health of Ukraine; Kiev city AIDS prevention and control center, Chernihiv city AIDS prevention and control center State Enterprise “The State Expert Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine”
sponsor	Management Science for Health (MSH)
duration	15.12.2015-15.03.2016
approximate budget	11 407,00 (US dollars)
the purpose of the program	Study of drugs utilization for ART was conducted to significantly improve treatment quality, optimize costs and improve the condition of patients as well as for professional development of physicians involved in the treatment of HIV-infection. This is to be achieved by pharmaco-therapeutic commissions involvement in the process of systematic collection of data on drug prescription, analysis of these data and on the base of the information received making the necessary changes in the treatment process and develop proposals for improvement of existing clinical protocols and formularies of pharmaceuticals.
achievements and results	Developed: The study protocol Forms for data collection Training for data collectors Data collected in the AIDS centers in Kiev and Chernihiv Data analysis and development of the report

**“Evaluation of the implementation of the two local promising interventions for PLHIV:
“TB is curable” and “Steps to Health”**

partners	Charitable Organization “Charitable Fund “Everything is possible” (Melitopol), Divisions of the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV in Mykolayiv and Kryvyi Rih
sponsor	Pact Inc. USAID “RESPOND”
duration	01.03.2015-30.11.2016
approximate budget	149 935,77 (US dollars)
the purpose of the program	Randomized perspective study, main goal of which is evaluation of conscientiousness of implementation of perspective behavioral interventions “Steps towards health” and “TB is curable”, as well as its effectiveness and cost.
achievements and results	Researchers have developed the study design and protocol, performance indicators, monitoring and data collection tools. The training for staff was organized. During 2015 the research data collection started.

“Revision and improving of financial mechanisms for provision of HIV-services to key populations”

partners	The Center for Socially Dangerous Disease Control at the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Healthcare facilities and NGOs that provide services related to the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS
sponsor	USAID project HIV Reform in Action/ Deloitte Consulting Overseas Projects LLC.
duration	01.10.2015-31.08.2016
approximate budget	132 328,30 (US dollars)
the purpose of the program	Improvement and optimization of resource and funding allocation for national and some regional programs to fight HIV/AIDS in the most vulnerable groups. 1. Calculate the share price (unit costs) of models existing in the country and comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support for adults and children – patients/clients of HIV/AIDS services. 2. Identify and evaluate factors that affect the general and line-item expenses and to study how these factors vary by services model, regions and settings of services.
achievements and results	Data collection procedures are developed, description of service models for HIV-services in Poltava, Zhitomir, and Mykolayiv oblasts is prepared as well as a list of sites for data collection.

“HIV prevention trials network” (HPTN 074 project)

partners	Gromashevsky Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases at the Academy of Medical Science of Ukraine “, NGO “Club 'Aenei" Kiev
sponsor	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), USA
duration	01.06.2014-31.05.2017
approximate budget	1 645 871,00 (US dollars)
the purpose of the program	The goal of study is evaluation of possibility of conducting of further randomized clinical research, which will evaluate if the level of reduction for HIV transmission to uninfected injecting partners as a result of using integrated approach, which includes psychological consultations and redirecting patients to ART and drug abuse treatment comparing with standard programs, which were developed according to national standards of treatment and preventive interventions for HIV-infected people who inject drugs.
achievements and results	As of 31/12/2015: Registered 112 index participants (of 167 planned) and 178 partners; 28 of 112 indexes were randomized into intervention group (42 of 167 planned). 15 indexes started ART; 3 persons completed TB treatment before ART; two indexes started OST treatment. 7 indexes are examined for ART prescription.

“Peer Leaders as HIV Risk Reduction Change Agents Among IDU’s in Ukraine”

partners	NGOs: “Vira, Nadiya, Lyubov”, Odessa; “Vihid” Mykolayiv; “Health of the nation” Makiivka
sponsor	University of Colorado Denver (USA)
duration	01.06.2010 – 31.03.2015
approximate budget	1 418 873 (US dollars)
the purpose of the program	The two-component randomized controlled study for comparison of two kinds of intervention with the goal to increase level of knowledge of all participants about HIV, correction of behavior using the strategy for reduction of risk, related to HIV, correction of behavioral aspects of life, which are associated with risk to be HIV-infected.
achievements and results	Data collection completed, quality verified. Database sent for analysis to the donor.

“The study on implementation and effectiveness of interventions Street SMART in Ukraine”

partners	NGOs: “Vira, Nadiya, Lyubov”, Odessa; “Unitus” Mykolayiv; Branch of the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV, Mykolayiv
sponsor	Pact Inc. USAID “RESPOND”
duration	09.2013 – 05.2015
approximate budget	151 809,14 (US dollars)
the purpose of the program	The study on implementation and effectiveness of interventions Street SMART in Ukraine based on a mixed methodology using observation. Research Objectives: To assess the process of implementing interventions Street SMART; Rate of eligibility and compliance with Ukrainian context; Evaluate the effectiveness and results of short-term interventions in the target group.
achievements and results	Data collection completed, research report is prepared. The project results were presented at the Scientific and Practical Conference on Monitoring and Evaluation in Lviv, December 7, 2015.

“The study on implementation and effectiveness of intervention Project START in Ukraine”

partners	Dnipropetrovsk NGO “Dnipro Road of Life”; Kryvyi Rih Branch of All-Ukrainian Network of People living with HIV; Lviv City NGO “Center “The Road””; Mykolayiv Oblast Public Youth Movement “Penitentiary Initiative”
sponsor	Pact Inc. USAID “RESPOND”
duration	01.09.2013 – 30.11.2015
approximate budget	150 100,75 (US dollars)
the purpose of the program	Implementation randomized study START was conducted in Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Mykolayiv and Odessa oblasts of Ukraine. Objective: to examine the completeness, quality, barriers and opportunities for implementation of effective behavioral intervention Project START in Ukraine and assess its effectiveness in the Ukrainian context. Study participants - men released from prison.
achievements and results	Research has proven the effectiveness of interventions START in Ukraine. Results of the study have shown a significant reduction in risky sexual behavior, a higher level of seeking for harm reduction services and counseling and testing for HIV, and improvement of the level of knowledge about HIV among men in the intervention group compared with the control group. The project results were presented at the Scientific and Practical Conference on Monitoring and Evaluation in Lviv, December 7, 2015. Abstract “Project START intervention increases HIV testing uptake and decreases HIV risk behavior among men released from prison: a randomized study in Ukraine” was selected for oral poster presentation at the International AIDS Conference 2016 in Durban (South Africa).