## New Veterans Support Centre opens in Chernivtsi with EU and UNDP support

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A new Veterans Support Centre has opened in Chernivtsi, serving the city and neighbouring communities in the region. The initiative to create the centre came from the NGO 'Dignity of Bukovyna' and local authorities. The European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine supported this initiative, allocating over €37,000 for its implementation as part of the 'EU4Recovery — Empowering Communities in Ukraine' project.

At the centre, veterans and their families will be able to receive professional psychological help and contact case managers. The latter will provide support to veterans and their families, guiding them to receive various services or redirecting them to relevant specialists.

The centre will also organise training sessions on grant opportunities and business management. A separate focus of the centre will be promoting the psychological and social adaptation of veterans, including group classes on communication skills and interpersonal relations. Experts at the centre intend to help veterans recover and adapt more easily to civilian life after their military experience.

Stefan Schleuning, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Ukraine, said the newly established centre would provide more services to veterans, both men and women, and to their families. "We are convinced that a network of such community-based centres will contribute to a comprehensive support system for veterans, helping in their transition to civilian life and offering effective re-entry practices," Schleuning said.

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