



Health Research Without Borders: Horizon Europe Partnering Event for
Ukraine, Baltics, Poland, Canada and United Kingdom

From Rehabilitation to Independent Living and Inclusion

Building a European – Ukrainian Partnership Across the Life Course

Olha Kostetska

Swiss TPH, Associated Institute of the University of Basel

Local Office, 6b Ivana Mazepy, 01010 Kyiv, Ukraine

olha.kostetska@swisstph.ch

www.swisstph.ch



estDev
From the people of Estonia



About Swiss TPH

Swiss TPH advances global health through research, education and impact. For over 80 years, we have generated scientific evidence, strengthened capacity, and created solutions that reach millions.

From malaria and tuberculosis to cancer and climate-driven health risks, we tackle the most pressing challenges of our time. Associated with the University of Basel, 950 people from 90 nations work in partnership across 120 countries, taking science to impact in Switzerland and worldwide. Our partnership with Ukraine began 30 years ago.

www.swisstph.ch



Building a European - Ukrainian Research Partnership

Aiming at: HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-STAYHLTH-01. Addressing disabilities through the life course to support independent living and inclusion

Our ambition: To build on existing research and implementation platforms in Ukraine and co-create a strong European consortium around disability, rehabilitation, independent living and inclusion across the life course.



Why Ukraine? A unique setting for disability innovation & implementation



High and evolving needs

- Very heavy burden of war-related trauma
- Chronic, developmental and age-related conditions
- Growing number of people living with disabilities
- Fragmented journey towards independent living:
Healthcare → Rehabilitation → Home & community →
Social support → Education / employment →
Participation

Major system transformation underway

- Rehabilitation and disability reforms
- Community-based service development
- Assistive technology and prosthetics
- Barrier-free and inclusion policies
- New health & social care models

The opportunity

Use Ukraine's ongoing system transformation as a real-world platform to co-design, test and evaluate integrated solutions supporting rehabilitation, independent living and inclusion to *inter alia* generate scalable models and implementation lessons transferable to other European contexts.



A strong foundation to build on with other partners

Swiss TPH works in Consortium with **Patients of Ukraine** on the below 2 initiatives. For the Twinning Seed Grant, we are also in partnership with **Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University** and receive technical inputs from Coventry University, UK

Ukraine Twinning Seed Grant

Evidence, methods & research capacity

- Systems thinking & patient pathway analysis
- Understanding the continuum of care for patients with acute and critical conditions
- Continuity of care and critical transitions
- Patient-centered approaches
- Research and academic capacity strengthening

TRUE – Trauma Rehabilitation for Ukraine Real-world implementation & system-strengthening platform

- Policy and governance
- Rehabilitation networks and pathways
- Workforce and education
- Assistive technologies
- Community-based rehabilitation
- Disability inclusion and participation

Building a European - Ukrainian Research Partnership

Swiss TPH



Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

Swiss consortium partner

Swiss TPH is a non-profit institution associated with the University of Basel, Switzerland, that conducts public health and basic lab research (new drugs and vaccines), provides education and training, and has an in-house services department working to industry standards.

Swiss TPH has been operating in Ukraine since 1997, supporting MoH/UPHC with health and public health sector development through various projects and research activities for SDC, the Alliance for Health Policy & Systems Research (WHO), SECO, Pact /USAID amongst others



PATIENTS OF UKRAINE

Ukrainian consortium partner

CF "Patients of Ukraine" (PofU) is one of the strongest and the most experienced civil society actors in the healthcare field in Ukraine. Established as a patients-driven organization, uniting communities of patients with severe, chronic and rare diseases to stand up for their rights, PofU is recognised as a driving force for the development of a more patient-oriented healthcare system.

Since 2022 PofU has been implementing the War Trauma Rehabilitation initiative, supported by SDC and other partners, with the primary goal to improve quality and increase access to physical rehabilitation services in Ukraine



PROTEZ HUB

Subcontractor mandated by Consortium

Plays a crucial role as an impartial and neutral organization within Ukraine's prosthetics sector and an official continuing education provider in prosthetics and orthotics. With a wide-ranging network that connects professionals from various regions, Protez Hub actively collaborates with the Government of Ukraine to drive essential reforms in the prosthetics field.



Potential directions for co-creation

Integrated models for independent living

Connect rehabilitation, health, social care, assistive technology and community support around individual needs

Critical transitions across the life course

Develop and evaluate solutions supporting transitions between care settings and life stages

Inclusion into education and work as a final goal of the rehabilitation project

Develop and evaluate solutions supporting inclusion into education and work for PwDs

Community-based solutions

Enable people with disabilities to live and participate in their communities through coordinated, accessible and person-centered support

Assistive and accessible solutions

Explore technologies, digital tools and environmental adaptations that strengthen autonomy and participation.

Let's build the Horizon Partnership



We bring

- An established Ukraine - European collaboration
- A real-world rehabilitation and disability system-strengthening platform
 - Access to national, regional and community implementation settings
 - Health systems, rehabilitation and implementation expertise
 - Patient and civil society engagement
- Existing research methods, data work and international networks

We are looking for expertise in

- Disability and independent living
 - Community and social care
- Life-course approaches to disability
- Assistive and accessible technologies
- Social participation, education and employment
- Comparative European implementation settings
- Organisations representing persons with disabilities

Thank you!