

# ANNUAL REPORT





# INTRODUCTORY WORD FROM THE "SMART OSVITA" TEAM

# 2024 and "Smart Osvita" have certainly clicked.

Yes, there were challenges along the way, but looking at our shared results, we realize just how productive, meaningful, and beneficial this year has been for Ukrainian education.

We celebrated victories: launching Ukraine's first project for young schoolchildren learning Ukrainian abroad while immersed in a foreign-language environment. We secured third place among historical podcasts in the SLUSHNO awards by Megogo. Our media platform, NUS, was included in the Map of Recommended Media by IMI and Detector Media. We felt sorrow and frustration: reading the headlines of national news outlets, facing obstacles that prevented us from realizing our plans—this year, we were unable to launch our key project, Staying with Ukraine. We felt it when the terrorist state targeted our energy infrastructure, making it difficult for children to access our educational recovery program. But we grew and built motivated teams that continue to drive our initiatives forward. Thanks to this, we improved our projects, enhanced communication, and brought more people into our communities.

We helped teachers develop their qualifications effectively, collaborated with experts, and engaged new partners. But most importantly, we learned to better support each other, care for our resilience, and maintain clarity of mind even in challenging times.

Thank you to everyone who read our work, wrote to us, created unique products, implemented projects, supported us, and believed in us. We are grateful to children and parents, educators, partners, and donors for their trust. Our appreciation goes to those who offered help and reinforced our chosen path. And above all, a profound thank you to everyone who has defended and continues to defend us and Ukraine.

> With gratitude and respect, Your "Smart Osvita" Team



# INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

# Thanks to institutional support in 2024, we:

• Created numerous materials for the NUS media platform, including legal explanations, analytical articles, and lesson plans.

• Secured funding for the Staying with Ukraine project team, allowing us to reach 1,700 children from January to May 2024—over 20% more than last year—across 80 learning groups in more than 25 countries.

- Recorded and published 124 lessons as part of the Learn by Ear project.
- Held a strategic session for the NUS media team.
- Developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the organization's activities.
- Updated our operational plan for 2024–2025.

Institutional support is provided under the «Engage!» Civic Engagement Program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Pact in Ukraine.



# COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY OF EDUCATION REFORM

# MEDIA ABOUT EDUCATION: NEW UKRAINIAN SCHOOL

The New Ukrainian School website, created in 2017 to support communication and advocacy for the NUS reform, now provides in-depth coverage of preschool and general secondary education in Ukraine. It also explores and shares best international educational practices.



Today, nus.org.ua is one of the largest education-focused media platforms in Ukraine.

In the third year of full-scale war, when some lessons take place in school shelters due to air raid alarms or are held remotely, when teachers must be prepared each morning for changes in schedules, formats, or curricula, and when both children and educators attend classes after sleepless nights due to shelling - our main focus remains care, support, and providing ready-to-use, high-quality solutions.

### In 2024, we achieved:

- 12 million website views;
- · An average of 588,000 unique users per month;
- 8.3 million reach on Facebook (273% more than in 2022);
- 1.2 million interactions with Facebook content.

# Also, over the past year:

- The NUS media platform was included in the Map of Recommended Media by the Institute of Mass Information (IMI) and Detector Media. Among 205 Ukrainian media outlets that meet transparency criteria, adhere to professional standards, and follow journalistic ethics, we are now officially recognized.
- The website team launched the NUS Reading Club, where we analyze literary works included in the model Ukrainian literature programs for 7th–8th grades.
- Together with our partners, we presented a major analytical study, "New Ukrainian School in 5th–6th Grades: Implementation Challenges," which we had been working on since September 2023.
- With partner support, we created a **collection of exercises** covering key topics in the natural sciences for 4th–6th grades.
- We continued to produce detailed analytical materials (examining curricula, legislation, and international practices), develop lesson materials (lesson plans to support teachers), and provide legal explanations answering readers' pressing questions.
- We launched a new section, **"And Recently We...",** where we share the team's achievements beyond media work.

### **Project Support:**

- Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom in Ukraine
- Pact/Engage in Ukraine
- European Wergeland Centre
- All-Ukrainian Foundation Step by Step
- Lviv Media Forum (and National Endowment for Democracy (NED))
- Institute of Mass Information
- EdCamp Ukraine NGO
- Docudays NGO





# **FEEDBACK**

And I would also like to thank you for your work, because, for example, when I first came to the Ministry of Education and Science and started to understand the reform developments, almost all the answers to my questions were on the NUS website, you are the top).

11:26

#### Inna, congratulations. It's a pleasure. But you are all an important part of education. You help to find answers to questions. Shed light on what pains. So we can't do without you. Take care of yourself. Enjoy your work. I am grateful to fate that you are with me.

#### Olena V. Kniazeva

I don't know how the lessons will turn out, but once again, I'd like to express my admiration for the layout designers and authors of the NUS website. It is easy and pleasant to read.

I attended the first meeting and was inspired by Ms. Iryna's approach, so I want to study the text under her moderation.

The first meeting was like a "breath of fresh air" and I got positive emotions. I was very sorry that I joined the second one late. I am looking forward to the third one. I am interested in the opinions of others on a particular issue. During the discussion, ideas sometimes come up that I hadn't noticed on my own. I am grateful to the organizers.









# STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT



# STAYING WITH UKRAINE



The **Staying with Ukraine project** was implemented for the second consecutive year in 2024. In 2023, 750 children participated in the project, and in its second year, 1700 children joined. While studying abroad, Ukrainian children lacked the opportunity to receive quality education in the Ukrainian language, literature, and history. The Staying with Ukraine project provided not only the chance to continue studying these three subjects but also to maintain a close connection with Ukraine, communicate with peers, and interact with Ukrainian teachers. Our methodologists optimized the curricula for all three subjects so that students could fully grasp the material and avoid educational losses upon returning to Ukraine.

# In the 2023-2024 academic year:

- 54 teachers from different regions of Ukraine joined the project;
- 1700 children participated;
- · Classes were held three times a week (one lesson for each subject);
- Throughout the academic year, students underwent 4 tests at the end of each topic, with results reviewed by teachers, who provided feedback to students on areas that needed reinforcement;
- All lesson materials were stored on a disk, allowing students to review or download the presentations for reference;
- A psychologist was also involved in the project to provide support and assistance to children and parents;
- Throughout the year, training sessions for teachers were held, mostly focusing on psychological aspects;
- At the end of the academic year, the project team organized online graduations for all participating children;
- Additionally, children received certificates of completion for the course.

# **FEEDBACK**

#### аня

Thank you so much for this opportunity to learn new things! Alla Anatoliivna is the best! 🤀😅 💙

20:41

#### Halyna M

We are sincerely grateful for the organization and interesting lessons. We hope to see you next school year! Thank you for your patience, positive attitude, and motivation. Warmest wishes to all teachers and organizers!

#### Наталія Прохоренко

A huge parental gratitude for the opportunity for our children to stay with Ukraine at least in this way! All, absolutely all the lessons were interesting, meaningful, rich, and informative. You have a great team of professional teachers, and I would really like my son to have the opportunity to study with them in the future in the new school year! May Ukraine's victory come soon, and may we have the opportunity to learn from you - our best teachers

#### кот

Thank you so much for this project! If All the teachers and lessons were Wonderful! If I all the teachers is very easy to follow, thank you a lot. If hope this project will continue to be as cool and useful as it is now!

20:45

The project is implemented with the support of Global Giving, TheirWorld, and within the framework of the ENGAGE Civic Engagement Program (USAID/ENGAGE), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Pact in Ukraine. The content of this project is the sole responsibility of Pact and its partners and does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. government.



# STAYING WITH UKRAINE



# for younger schoolchildren

Staying with Ukraine for younger schoolchildren is our first project aimed at supporting younger children who are currently abroad. It provides an opportunity to acquire new knowledge in Ukrainian studies subjects, taking into account the children's foreign-language environment. The project targets children aged 8-10 years (although among this year's participants, we had a few 7-year-olds who had not attended Ukrainian elementary school or were joining online lessons and now study Ukrainian as a second functional language).

**The project started** in September 2024 and will continue for the entire academic year. We have engaged methodologists who developed a program for 5 categories of students, based on their knowledge levels. The children in the groups are divided not by age but by their knowledge level.

# Features:

- 142 students are participating in the project;
- Each group has a teacher assigned to lead them throughout the academic year, essentially acting as the homeroom teacher;
- For each level, the project methodologists developed a program (creating a calendar syllabus, selecting textbooks and workbooks);
- Teacher selection was based on a competitive process (we received over 150 applications). As a result of the competition, 10 educators joined the project;
- Throughout the academic year, teachers will attend 10 practical webinars;
- Diagnostic testing of students is conducted twice a year: in January and May.

- Three meetings with parents are also planned throughout the year;
- We have created an additional channel with interesting and useful Ukrainian-language content. New materials are published there twice a week;
- During the project, psychological support is provided to parents, children, and teachers as needed.

### The project supports not only children.

Parents who are eager for their children to know the language, love it, and use it also actively contribute. Families who previously spoke Russian in everyday life are becoming Ukrainian-speaking; parents spend more time with their children, helping them with assignments and supporting their learning.

# Feedback

"I also want to thank those involved in this project - Tetiana, Marina, and everyone. Thank you from me and Ilaria. We really value this, especially in England "

#### Forwarded from 💮 Luda PL

"Hello. Thank you very much for your lesson yesterday evening. I felt like I was little, taught by a nice and friendly teacher. Thank you. I didn't attend the parent meetings because I've seen the letter about enrolling my child too late. Could you tell me what is now needed?"

The Staying with Ukraine project is implemented by the NGO Smart Osvita with the support of Theirworld.







# AUDIO LESSONS "LISTEN AND LEARN"

The Learn and Learn audio lessons project offers learning opportunities for students in grades **6–11**. On the project website, you can listen to **603 audio lessons** across a number of school curricula and extracurricular subjects (**268 of these audio lessons were created in 2024**):

- History of Ukraine (grades 7–11)
- World History (grades 6–11)
- Civic Education (grade 10)
- Ukrainian Language (grades 8–11)
- Ukrainian Literature (grades 8–11, advanced level for grades 10–11)

### New courses launched in 2024:

- History of Crimea
- Sex Education
- Introduction to STEM
- Environmental Awareness

The project was launched in the spring of 2023. In nearly two years, we have reached **half a million plays** across all platforms, created **over 100 vertical educational-entertainment videos**, and gained **more than 400,000 social media impressions.** 

We are followed by 15,000 subscribers via:

- Instagram @vchysia\_vukhamy
- YouTube @vchysiavukhamy
- Podcast platforms: Spotify, Apple Podcasts, NV Podcast, Megogo



Our audio lessons align with the school curriculum and go beyond it: for example, the world history course includes information about the history of Oceania, while the Ukrainian history course covers prominent Ukrainian scientists and entrepreneurs, as well as the activities of the diaspora in the 20th century. "History of Crimea" tells about the Indigenous peoples of Ukraine and the long-standing close relations between our ethnic groups throughout many centuries.

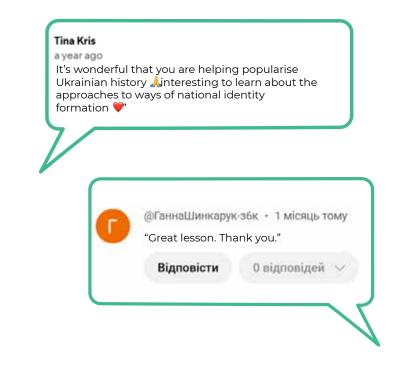
**"Sex Education"** answers questions about body anatomy and sexual relationships that teenagers may be too shy to ask their parents—and which adults themselves may lack the knowledge or experience to answer clearly and simply. **"Introduction to STEM"** offers insights into how humanity mastered and began using the exact sciences. And **"Environmental Awareness"** shows that ecology is not just biology—it's also economics, engineering, and the future of Ukraine's postwar recovery.

# Our audio lessons have been featured in the media:

Feedback



**READ ABOUT THE PROJECT** 

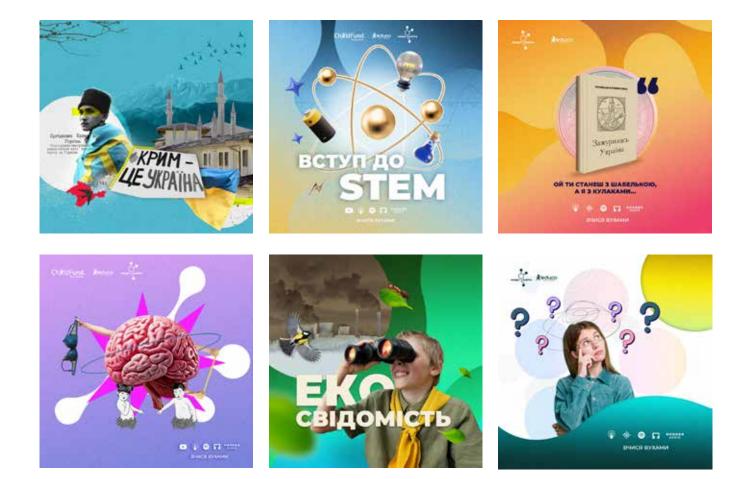


"And remember: you can listen while walking, on the road, in a café, alone or with friends. Just listen and learn!" The project "Listen and Learn" was implemented by NGO Smart Osvita within the framework of the Civic Engagement Program ENGAGE, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Pact in Ukraine. The content of this project is the sole responsibility of Pact and its partners and does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

The project "Listen and Learn" was also implemented by NGO Smart Osvita within the framework of cooperation with ChildFund

### **Project support:**





# **NOW I KNOW**



**"Now I Know"** is a free 5-week online course in Ukrainian language and mathematics for schoolchildren. The course is aimed not only at helping children catch up on missed material, but also at developing competencies that are important for future learning.

**The foundation** of the course is the competency-based approach to learning, which enables children to explore and understand various topics through highly practical tasks and real-life situations.

**The learning method** focuses on the development of core cross-curricular competencies.

# Key features of the project:

- Small groups of children (10–15 students each)
- Principles of competency-based learning
- Pre-course and post-course knowledge testing
- Participant access to learning materials on a platform that can be used at any convenient time
- Ongoing communication with teachers for questions and clarifications
- Motivational letters from teachers of both subjects after course completion
- Instruction is provided by Ukrainian teachers who have undergone methodological onboarding and psychological training



## Features of this year's course:

- Teacher training (digital skills, working with the OpenLMS platform, psychological support, innovative teaching methods)
- Psychological support (supervisions, reflections, and training meetings)
- Verified tests (designed based on recommendations from experts at the Ukrainian Center for Educational Quality Assessment)
- Learning materials developed with consideration of the results from the international PISA student assessment program
- Learning takes place via Zoom and the OpenLMS platform, to which students have constant access

# This year:

- The course was delivered in two waves: the first for grades 4–6, the second for grades 7–10
- A total of 838 children participated in the course, 24% of whom were children abroad and 76% living in Ukraine
- 621 students (74% of all participants) received a certificate and a motivational letter from a subject teacher, indicating their competency achievements and personalized feedback based on their performance during the course
- Over 70% of participating children improved their scores in the final assessment compared to the initial test
- 57 teachers joined the project after completing preparatory training

# Feedback

#### Lila

Оля Олійник Добрий день. Всі сертифікати розіс…

"Thank you, I also received it V A very cool project with many possibilities, THANK YOU!!!!!"

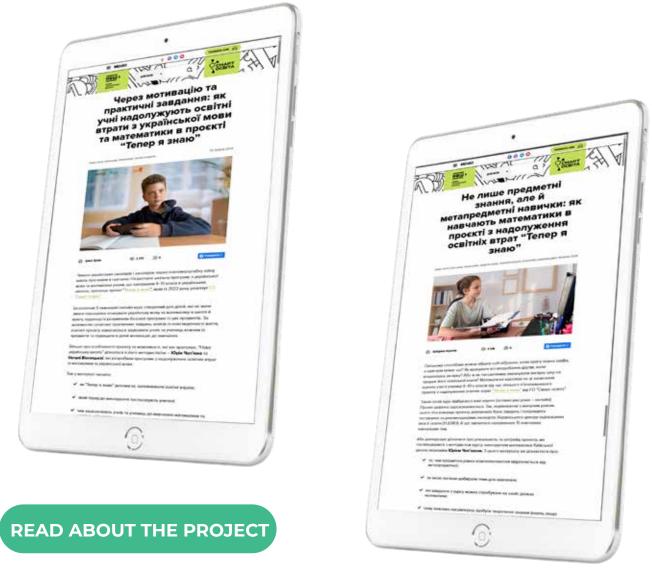
#### Люда Манжай

"Thank you very much for your work, your project is helping children in this difficult time. I wish you success and a peaceful sky above our heads for us all."

#### Aljonka

"Thank you for an interesting and very useful project! The holidays passed with benefit! We would like to wish the teachers and organizers inspiration, creativity, success, good luck, self-realization and inspiration!"

### **Publications:**



# **READ ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The "Now I Know" project is implemented by the NGO "Smart Osvita" in cooperation with ChildFund Deutschland and EDUCO, and is funded by Sternstunden.

# Project supported by:





# UKRAINE SPEAKS ENGLISH

These are free online sessions in English with international volunteer teachers for Ukrainian children aged 4 to 18. The goal of the project is not only to improve English language skills, but also to show global support, provide a safe space and community, offer opportunities for learning and leisure, and motivate children to shift from consuming Russian-language content to English-language content.

### Launch: March 2022

### In 2024:

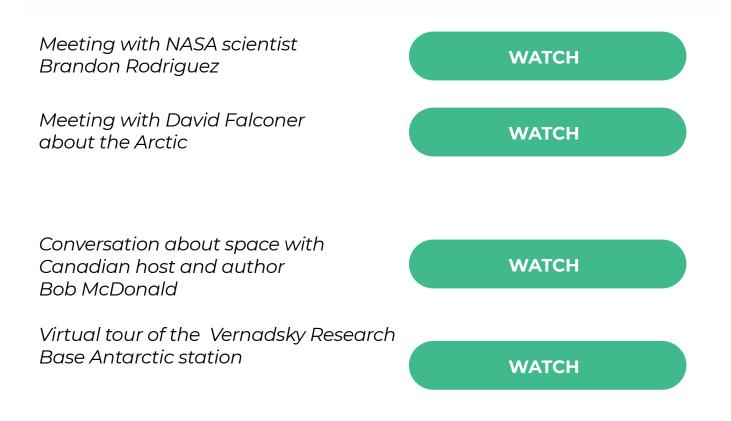
- We organized 866 lessons
- Children joined the lessons 26,000 times
- +27 new volunteers joined in 2024
- 14 courses held with volunteers in schools
- Over 170 volunteers have participated since the start of the project
- 2200 lessons conducted since the start

### Two directions:

- Open online classes for all interested children without registration, on various topics in English: conversation clubs, drawing, yoga, book clubs, science, meetings with interesting and famous people, etc. We organize 15–20 open sessions every week. The schedule of open classes is shared in the project's Telegram channel.
- Weekly conversational English classes with volunteers in Ukrainian schools. These sessions complement the school curriculum and give students and teachers an opportunity to practice the language. In 2024, we organized 14 courses lasting from 3 to 7 months in schools from different regions of Ukraine: Kharkiv, Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Rivne, and Khmelnytskyi regions.

# Video Feedback:





**Project Support:** Classrooms Without Walls, Global Giving, Educo Foundation, Ocean Wise, Monash University.

**Disclaimer:** The project is implemented by the NGO "Smart Osvita" in partnership with Classrooms Without Walls.



# Feedback

#### **Tetiana Protsiv**

"This is a wonderful initiative for our children! You are the best!!!!!"



Олена Остапчук 19:03 кому: мені ~

"Thank you very much for the wonderful event. We listened with the whole family. We thank the entire team for their work, which makes such great opportunities for children (and parents;)

6

Ξ

Sincerely, Elena Ostapchuk"

#### Alice Alice

6

Відповісти

#### Україна розмовляє англійською Фдрузі, сьогодні ми святкуємо Міжнародний день в…

"I sincerely thank everyone who works on this project. Children need communication, support through communication, and knowledge. It is through communication with such amazing people. Your contribution cannot be overestimated. I wish this bright project sustainable development! THANK YOU!"

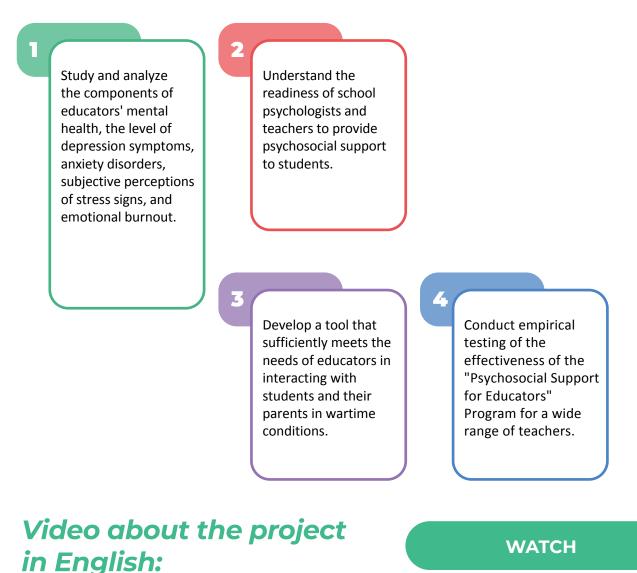
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# PSYCHOLOGICAL DIRECTION

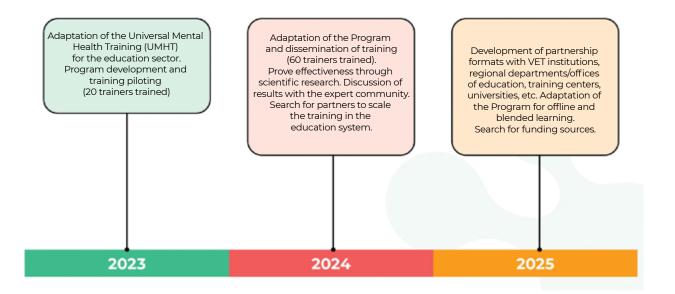


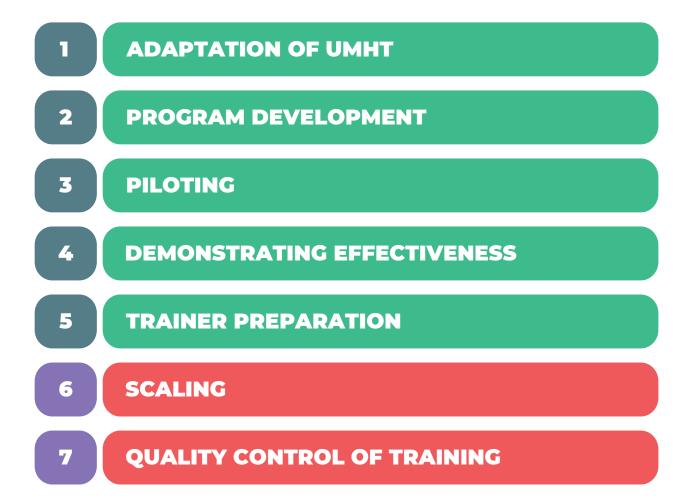
# PROJECT "PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR EDUCATORS"

In 2024, the NGO "Smart Osvita," in partnership with the international organization Americares and with the support of the Ministry of Education and Science (MON), launched a **project to study the psycho-emotional state of educators and their readiness to provide psychosocial support to students and their parents.** 



#### **PROJECT STAGES**





### The project included both educational and research components.

For training school psychologists and teachers, the psychological team of Smart Osvita collaborated with researchers from Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University—Nataliya Portnytska, Olha Savychenko, and Irina Tychyna—to develop an original training program "Psychosocial Support for Educators." Well-known Ukrainian psychologist Svitlana Royz also joined the project, recording a one-hour practical session for teachers with exercises on developing stress resilience.

"The uniqueness of our training, which is part of the project, lies in the fact that it was adapted for the education system and contains a substantial practical component. We didn't just take some good foreign programs and implement them, but we creatively processed them and scientifically proved their effectiveness. Our current task is to find common solutions for scaling the results achieved in the system of secondary, higher, and postgraduate education, as well as for improving qualifications," said **Oksana Makarenko, co-founder of the "Smart Education" NGO and project manager of "Psychosocial Support for Educators."** 





#### THREE VERSIONS OF THE PROGRAM HAVE BEEN CREATED

For psychologists of institutions of general secondary, preschool, and out-of-school education

For teachers and educators of general secondary, pre-school, and out-of-school institutions

For applicants for the first (bachelor's) and second (master's) degree levels of higher education in Psychology



From February to July 2024, as part of the "Psychosocial Support for Educators" program, **60 certified coaches** were trained from among school psychologists (compared to 20 trainers during the pilot phase of the course in 2023). Together with these trainers, the project team conducted training for **418 teachers** from various regions of Ukraine, including frontline areas. Additionally, **11 students** from Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University received certificates for completing the program.

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM** 

# Participant feedback:

**Oleksandra Atamas**, a program participant from the Cherkasy region, is working in a preschool education institution and a school:

"You always expect something new from the training. Given my 20 years of experience, I feel like I should have some knowledge, but you might forget some things. I liked that the information was presented in a clear and easy-to-understand way. It was convenient that the meetings were recorded and could be revisited... The materials were also conveniently posted on the website, which helped with self-assessment and reinforcing knowledge.

What I liked most were the materials related to the war, particularly the five-step model of support. As school psychologists, we're used to taking on a lot of extra responsibilities and trying to help to the very end. But it turns out that you actually have the right to refer a person to another specialist when you see that there's such a need." **Ksenia Lypko**, a program participant from the Chernihiv region, a practical psychologist, a specialist at the Center for Professional Development of Educators:

"As a psychologist who works daily with educators and practical psychologists, I became curious to see if I'm doing everything correctly or if there are other methods and techniques to help teachers and children. Since the demand for psychological support during martial law is quite high, I wanted to test myself and replenish my resources to continue working and helping people.

I gained new experience working in an online format, as the trainers used various online tools (such as Padlet, Mentimeter, and Jamboard) that helped optimize our work and made it more engaging by involving everyone. We saw that online platforms are not just for delivering lectures, but can also be used for group work, making the delivery of material really interesting using different tools."

In parallel with the training, a study was conducted on the effectiveness of the program and its impact on the psychological state of the participants, with Dr. Tara Powell, Associate Professor at the University of Illinois, serving as the scientific consultant.

The methodology and results of the study have already received positive feedback from the expert community in Ukraine and were published as a scientific article in the Ukrainian professional journal **"Journal of Social and Practical Psychology"** (2024 No.4, pp. 48-55). Additionally, a scientific article has been prepared for the international journal *Cambridge Prisms: Global Mental Health* (A virtual intervention to support educator well-being and students' mental health in conflict-affected Ukraine: A non-randomized controlled trial), with its publication expected in early 2025.

# **Expert Feedback:**

### **Expert Feedback**

Liliya Hrynevych

Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine (2016-2019), Vice-Rector for for Scientific and Pedagogical Work of V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University

"What we see today in this project is actually a model educational course for fostering the competencies defined in the professional standard of a teacher: psychological, emotional, ethical, and health-preserving."

More details about the results of the study can be found in the article by the NUS media:



Dr. Tara Powell

a consultant of the study on the effectiveness of the Psychosocial Support for Educators Program, Associate Professor at the University of Illinois (USA)



"During this program, teachers not only learned how to provide psychosocial support to participants in the educational process, but also improved their mental health and well-being."

ARTICLE

The next step of the project is the scaling of the training through the national educational system. To achieve this, the team from the psychological direction conducted a series of presentations of the program itself and the results of the study of its effectiveness for the scientific community, as well as various educational institutions responsible for the professional development of educators.

**Disclaimer:** The project was implemented thanks to the joint efforts of the specialists from the Resilience.help psychological platform at "Smart Osvita," scientists from Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University, and international partners such as the Americares organization. Additionally, family and child psychologist Svitlana Royz joined the project.

### **Project Support:**



# **SPARK RESILIENCE**

The "SPARK Resilience" project is a program consisting of 10 sessions for adolescents aged 10-13 years. The course is based on scientifically proven methods (cognitive-behavioral therapy, positive psychology, mindfulness psychology). The program was developed by British researchers Ilona Bonivell and Lucy Ryan.

The learning materials were provided by the Partnership for Children NGO.

**The goal of the program** is to help participants in the "SPARK Resilience" course develop stress resilience and emotional intelligence through psychological methods and techniques.

A total of **96 adolescents** participated in the project. The lessons were conducted online in small groups of 10-12 participants.

### Elements of working with children:

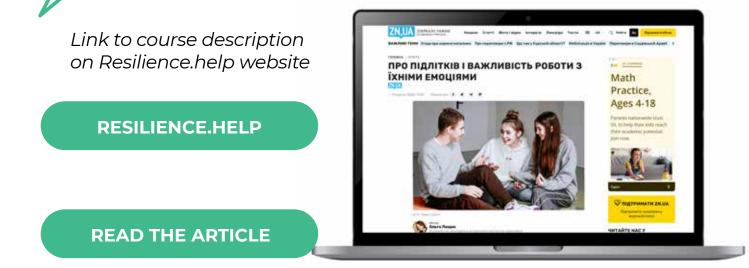
- Working with emotions;
- Addressing negative automatic thoughts;
- Developing assertive behavior skills.

The sessions were highly practical and encouraged active participation from the trainees.

During the adaptation of the program for Ukrainian adolescents, the specialists of Smart Osvita added exercises and activities tailored to the needs of the group. They also developed an additional guide for parents. This guide helps adults understand the essence of the program in which their children participate and includes exercises that can be done at home with the family. The guide can be used together with the student's academic journal.



"After completing the program, parents notice changes in their children's emotional state and say that the child has become less emotionally explosive. Often, it is mentioned that children are now more ready to socialize with their peers. This is especially true for children who have been forced to leave Ukraine or are transitioning from online to offline learning. Some of the most common issues include difficulties with emotional regulation, socialization challenges, excessive emotional sensitivity, coping with the experience of war, and relocating to another country," says psychologist, researcher, and trainer of the program, **Tetiana Shyriaieva.** 



# Feedback

### Nataliia B:

"My daughter found it very useful and looked forward to every session :) Thank you sincerely for providing such an opportunity for children! This is both useful and important for their development and growth."

### Oksana D:

"I really liked the course. My child started communicating more within the community. Before, they had lost the desire—or developed a fear—of socializing."

### Olha K:

"I don't know how the sessions went, as I wasn't present, but my child enjoyed them and shared that they were learning new things about themselves."

#### **Partners:**



All rights to the SPARK Resilience program are owned by PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN. "Smart Osvita" NGO is an official licensed partner of PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN. Use of the guide's materials outside of activities by "Smart Osvita" NGO is only possible with prior consent from PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN or "Smart Osvita" NGO.

# PSYCHOLOGICAL DIRECTION TRAINING CENTER

In 2024, 750 school teachers and psychologists participated in training sessions from our psychological direction. This year, the training was conducted by family and child psychotherapist (specializing in CBT, EMDR, and CCT) **Nataliya Podoliak**, based on the following training programs:

- "Professional Development Program for Teachers on Psychological Competency Development: "Losses and Ways to Cope With Them."
- Professional Development Program for Teachers on Psychological Competency Development: "Children of War and Working with Them." A total of **241 participants** attended these training sessions.
- "Professional Development Program for Educators to Improve Skills in Psychological Self-Help (EMDR)" was attended by **30** teachers.





"The training sessions by Nataliya Podoliak have been incredibly helpful for my work in the context of today's challenges. The program 'Children of War and Working with Them' helped me better understand the psychological characteristics of children who have experienced traumatic events and taught me how to support them in the learning process. I was also deeply impressed by the program on losses and how to cope with them – these are essential insights that I use not only in my work with students but also in communication with colleagues and parents. Nataliya did a wonderful job combining theory with practice. After the training, I felt more confident in my actions," – **Svitlana Honcharuk**, Ukrainian language teacher and school psychologist.

"The educational materials on psychological self-help that we received during the EMDR training were a real lifesaver for me as a teacher. In working with children, it's important to be emotionally resilient, and thanks to this program, I learned how to restore my strength even in challenging conditions," – **Yana Zinovieva**, teacher.

**Partners:** GlobalGiving, NGO "EMDR Association of Ukraine – a professional association for trauma therapy."



The training program was implemented with the support of the GlobalGiving platform. Informational support was provided by the portal "New Ukrainian School."

# "LAUGHTER AND PLAY"

In 2024, the psychological direction team, in collaboration with the charitable organization "Clowns Without Borders" from the UK, implemented the project "Laughter and Play." The organization has been working for over 10 years in regions affected by war, crises, and other dangers, to support children and create joyful moments for them. "Clowns Without Borders" shares advice on how to organize fun and engaging activities for children in schools or shelters, during breaks, or while celebrating.

As part of the project, Ukrainian teachers, educators, facilitators, and everyone working with children became acquainted with the method "The Cookbook of Clowns Without Borders" and participated in a study to assess the relevance of this course for Ukrainian realities. The program offers proven methods for creating moments of joy and resilience in children.

The project reached **7,755 participants** who were interested in the method due to its simplicity, accessibility, creative approach, and innovation.

# You can explore the method



### Reviews

"The video about improvisation in the kitchen is so metaphorical. It really is important; improvisation must be there because strictly following a template means not going with the children. I plan to use this methodology during sessions in the therapeutic toy room to relieve psycho-emotional tension in children," – Ms. **Halyna**, school psychologist.

> "I really liked the games 'Hands. Head. Heart,' 'The Celebration of Mistakes,' and the technique 'Stars and Wishes.' I made notes and plan to use them in my work with children with special educational needs," – Ms. **Nataliia**, teacher.

Partners: "Clowns Without Borders," "Smikhonosy" NGO.





## RESILIENCE.HELP PLATFORM

This year, the psychological direction team continued to develop the **Resilience.help** platform and launched a **feedback form for educators**, where they can ask questions to mental health experts and receive professional answers. Over the year, the site was visited by more than **20,000 unique readers** who viewed materials over **40,000 times**. The site hosts 150+ articles related to mental health for educators, parents, and children. Most of the texts will be useful for school psychologists.

We also created a Facebook page for the **Resilience.help** platform.

#### Over four months of working on the page, we achieved the following results:

- Over 1.5 million page views
- 1075 page followers
- More than 50 posts published
- 573,000 reach on Facebook
- 3112 interactions and 8727 clicks on links to the Platform



**Disclaimer:** The Resilience.help project was created by the NGO "Smart Osvita" with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation.

#### Partner:



PROJECTS WITH FAMILY AND CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST SVITLANA ROYZ

## **CHEST FOR SHELTER**

"Chest for Shelter" is an original initiative developed by the NGO Smart Osvita in collaboration with child psychologist Svitlana Royz. The chest contains items specifically selected to support children of various ages during their stay in bomb shelters: stress-relief toys and board games, coloring books, a curated selection of books, warm blankets, puzzle floor mats, flashlights, and more.

The aim of the project is to help children manage anxiety and stress, making shelter stays as comfortable as possible, while also equipping educators with materials that help create better learning and leisure conditions during shelter time with students.

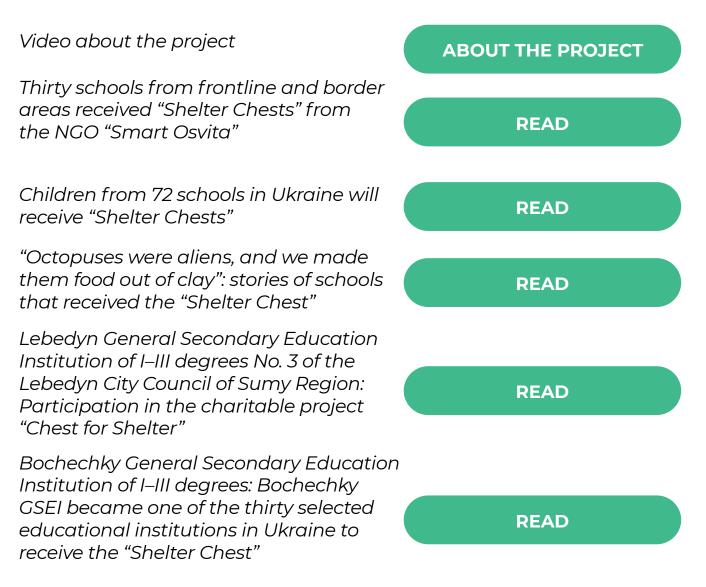
**To receive a chest**, an educational institution must work in person or in a blended format, have a functioning shelter that can simultaneously accommodate at least 100 students (the content of one chest is designed for more than 100 children). Priority is given to schools in de-occupied, frontline, and border territories. Currently, the project covers the following regions: Dnipropetrovsk, Zhytomyr, Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Sumy, Kharkiv, Kherson, and Chernihiv.

**The project started in 2022**. Since then, we have received over 1000 applications for participation. In 2023, the contents of the chests were tested by 15 pilot schools, and «Smart Osvita» analyzed the needs and made changes to the contents of the following batches. In the spring of 2024, 34 Ukrainian schools received «Shelter Chests» thanks to the legacy of Edmond Nielsen. And in the fall of 2024, a new iteration of the project in cooperation with ChildFund Deutschland and Educo, funded by Sternstunden, provided chests for another 72 school shelters.

#### Our results for 2024:

- 106 chests were delivered to schools;
- 48 out of the 106 chests were sent free of charge under the humanitarian program of NOVA POSHTA LLC;
- 1.2 tons of goods (sets of air-dry clay and anti-stress toys) were received free of charge from the "OKTO" CHARITABLE FOUNDATION IN HONOR OF NINEL LIBMAN and were added to the contents of the chests;
- 8.9 tons total weight of shipments sent during the year (the weight of one chest ranges from 50 to 100 kg, depending on packaging and specific contents).

#### Links to important publications about the project:







#### Наталія Кравченко 231

Адинистратор - 18 вересня - @

Завдяки нашій участі у проєкті «Скриня в укриття» від ГО "Смарт освіта" у співпраці з ChildFund Deutschland та Educo робить перебування наших здобуванів освіти в укритті максимально комфортним і допомагає дітям впоратися із тривожністю. #Сурсько\_Михайлівська\_гімназія #Солонянська\_ТГ #СкриняВУкриття #Безпека\_дітей





....

#### 12 вересня 🥹

В лютому 2024 р. ПУШКАРІВСЬКИЙ ЛІЦЕЙ подав заявку на участь в проекті від ГО "Смарт Ocsita" "Скриня в укриття ", який втіпюється FO «Смарт освіта» в межах співпраці з ChildFund Deutschland та Educo і фінансується Sternstunden і має на меті допомогти дітям впоратися з тривожністю та подолати стрес, зробити перебування в укритті максимально комфортним; надати освітянам матеріали для створення сприятливіших умов навчання й дозвілля під час перебування в укриттях з учнями. А сьогодні вона вже у нас. Ми сподіваємось, що наповнення скрині стане в нагоді внителям та сподобається учням.Це набір речей, що необхідні дітям різного віку під час перебування в укритті: антистресові іграшки та настільні ігри, розмальовки та книги, теплі пледи та карематипазли, ліктарики тощо. Дуже дякуємо команді ГО «Смарт освіта» особисто пані Катерині Isanosiši ta newonoriel Ceimaei Poža sa taky gonowory. Cašit[https://smart-osvita.org/] (https://smart-osvita.org/); abo couvepexi [https://www.facebook.com/smartosvita/? locale=uk\_UA](https://www.facebook.com/smartosvita/?locale=uk\_UA) [https://www.instagram.com/smart\_osvita\_ngo/] (https://www.instagram.com/smart\_osvita\_ngo/)





Конотопська початкова школа «Лідер» висловлює подяку ГО "Смарт освіта" за підтримку у проєкті «СКРИНЯ В УКРИТТЯ», у рамках якого здобувачі освіти отримали необхідні речі для навчання та розваг.

Щиро дякуємо Вам за Вашу важливу та цінну роботу, підтримку у складних та небезпечних умовах війни





Щиро дякуємо ГО "Смарт освіта" за надану допомогу нашому ліцею. Проєкт "Скриня в укриття" - це круто!!! Багато потрібних речей, книг, ігор..









#### **Project partners:**





charitable foundation



### The contents of the chests were developed by:

- the team of NGO "Smart Osvita";
- psychologist Svitlana Royz;
- the Children's Reading Laboratory "BaraBooka" of the National Center;
- "Minor Academy of Sciences of Ukraine" led by Tetyana Stus;
- illustrator Lidiia Holosko.

#### Donors in 2024:

- In the spring, the project was implemented thanks to the legacy of Edmond Nielsen;
- In the fall, the project was implemented by NGO "Smart Osvita" within the framework of cooperation with ChildFund Deutschland and Educo and was funded by Sternstunden.

## SET OF GAMES AND PRACTICE MATERIALS

3,000 municipal general secondary education institutions of Ukraine and resource-inclusive centers will receive **therapeutic games** and practical materials for free for younger school-age children, teenagers, and adults from "Smart Osvita" and psychologist **Svitlana Royz.** 

The materials will support students' emotional development and help educators and school psychologists implement practices for psychological support of children in the school environment.

The set includes **8 therapeutic board games and practice tools** designed to develop emotional resilience, self-regulation, and personal resources:

- 1. Game "Power of a Smile"
- 2. Game "Invisible Gifts: Find Your Strength"
- 3. Practical tool "Power Cards"
- 4. Practical tool "Breathing Cards"
- 5. Game "Huggables"
- 6. Game "Tell Me: Power of Questions"
- 7. Practical tool "Your Power"
- 8. "Resource Chest" (a set of various tools for working with emotions)

**The games were developed with the support of**: UNICEF, GBC, EDUCO, Renaissance Foundation, Eastern Europe Foundation, Terre des hommes, Eurasia Foundation. The printing of the game sets for municipal educational institutions is carried out with the support of Switzerland.







## TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS





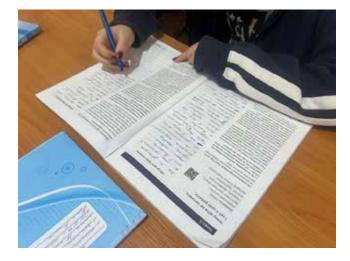
### NATIONAL PROJECT: WRITING ESSAYS

Launched in 2021, the writing skills development project aimed to create effective educational materials for teaching essay writing. From the very beginning, the project has already achieved significant results.

#### Key project achievements in 2024

# Together with a team of writing experts and methodologists, we created a unique methodological guide for teaching essay writing:

- Our team of methodologists and authors developed an innovative guide for teachers, which includes a theoretical section, 9 learning modules, instructional frameworks, practical exercises, and other useful resources.
- We collaborated with experts from the **National Writing Project** to ensure the materials meet international standards.





# Together with a team of authors and methodologists, we created a collection of journalistic texts for students and developed methodological tools for working with literary texts:

- In 2024, we compiled a collection of 57 journalistic texts that help develop students' critical thinking and ability to analyze current topics.
- Based on this collection, we created a guide for students in grades 8–11 that not only allows them to read and analyze texts but also to note their own ideas, fostering self-expression skills.
- Additionally, the team of methodologists reviewed contemporary Ukrainian literary works and developed 40 methodological tools that integrate these texts into the educational process.



#### We created an interactive web platform:

- We launched the interactive webpage of the "National Project: Writing Essays," where all educational materials are available: modules, text collections, presentations, methodological recommendations, and other resources.
- As of December 2024, the page was visited by over 3,000 unique users, and this number continues to grow.

### Together with our partners, we organized offline training for teachers:

- In August 2024, we held large-scale training for 50 top teachers from various regions of Ukraine.
- Our trainers, including the authors of the guide and project methodologists, shared practical knowledge and skills.
- We provided participants with printed guides and tools for the effective implementation of materials in schools.

#### Together with our partners, we supported pilot schools:

- Thanks to the support of our partners, we printed and distributed the guides to the project's pilot schools.
- Students of the pilot schools are already actively working with these materials, and we are receiving valuable feedback from teachers for further improvement.

#### We ensured the scaling and accessibility of the project:

 We are focused on providing broad access to materials in both digital and printed formats.

In total, the "National Project: Writing Essays" reached **2,560 students, 53** schools, and 60 teachers.

Most educators are now actively spreading the word about the "National Project: Writing Essays" among their colleagues. In doing so, they become ambassadors of the project.

At the end of the year, the team came up with the idea to organize the "National Contest: Writing Essays" for students in grades 8–11. This contest aimed to develop creative skills, critical thinking, and the ability to formulate and express thoughts on important social topics. Within a month, we received 299 essays from students eager to participate in the contest. The jury included experts in the fields of education and journalism: Tetiana Stus, Mariia Tytarenko, Halyna Tytysh, Kateryna Molodyk, Serhii Omelchuk, and Vasyl Tereshchenko. The contest results were announced in January 2025.





#### Winners and Laureates of the National Contest: "Writing Essays"

#### Category: Grades 8–9

- First Place Andrii Anikin, Grade 9 (creative essay / free topic)
- Second Place Daryna Amelina, Grade 9 (argumentative essay / topic: "Do social media strengthen relationships or, on the contrary, create a generation of the 'lonely online'?")
- Third Place Kateryna Vakulenko, Grade 9 (creative essay / free topic)

#### Category: Grades 10–11

- First Place Anna Kupriĭchuk, Grade 10 (creative essay / topic: "National identity: what does it mean to 'hear yourself as a Ukrainian'?")
- Second Place Kamila Horbachova, Grade 11 (creative essay / topic: "Do social media strengthen relationships or, on the contrary, create a generation of the 'lonely online'?")
- Third Place Marharyta Kostenko, Grade 11 (argumentative essay / topic: "Do social media strengthen relationships or, on the contrary, create a generation of the 'lonely online'?")

#### Contest Laureates:

- Arina Cherniuk
- Daryna Kurash
- Anastasiia Dron
- Olha Dementieva

#### Partners of the "National Project: Writing Essays":

- International Renaissance
   Foundation
- Grammarly
- National Writing Project
- Theirworld
- Global Business Coalition for Education
- Embassy of Switzerland in Ukraine



ABOUT THE PROJECT

## Feedback from teachers participating in the project:

"In the classroom, my young authors work on free and fluent writing techniques, learn to read texts thoughtfully and effectively, mark signal phrases, and make thought trackers and graphs after reading texts. The next step is writing an essay! But what an interesting way to get there! The process is important, not the result! Supervision materials within the project are useful for both teachers and children. Thanks to K. Molodyk, H. Tytysh, I. Palko and H. Novytska, M. Titarenko, S. Royz. The meetings with our American lecturers, Tom Fox and Robin Atwood, were deep and effective for me as a teacher. Every word, every exercise resonated, group work was useful, and the speeches of colleagues and project participants were interesting."

**Olena Avilova**, project participant, teacher of Velykonovosilky secondary school No. 2 of the Velykonovosilky village council, Donetsk region.

"I didn't even expect that the children would be so excited about learning. At the first lessons, the children were surprised by some "strange" (i.e. non-standard) tasks. But they were interested in this format. At first, cautiously, and then more and more actively, the students began to engage in the tasks and discussions. I could see how much they were engaged in the creative process. I started using elements/exercises from the project in regular classes. So, when we finish an exercise, the children ask, "Let's do it again!". I would like to note that children are no longer afraid of a blank page. They take on creative tasks."

**Nataliia Vlasyk**, project participant, teacher of the Smila Secondary School named after V. T. Senator (with a preschool division).

"The National Project: Writing Essays is the best thing that has happened to me in the last three years. It's not just learning some new methodology (although this is undoubtedly important, because I've long wanted to teach children how to write essays properly). You have created such a warm educational circle, you provide so much support and put so much care and love into each participant that I can't dream of anything better. Supervisions allow you not to get lost, to calibrate, to gain energy to move on. Meetings with foreign colleagues are fantastic. It is so valuable that they found time to cooperate. In addition, to receive knowledge from the authors of the methodology is to receive information from the original source, without distortion, without layering someone else's vision. And this is what makes it possible to pick up important nuances that will affect the result. Your (and our) project gives you wings! Children ask: "Will there be a continuation in the second semester?" And this seems to be the best demonstration of the importance and practical significance of our joint actions. Thank you very much! And let there be a continuation, a scaling up, so that the essay can happen to all Ukrainian schoolchildren!"

*Iryna Sitkova*, project participant, teacher, Lviv. Lyceum "Hrono" of the Lviv City Council

"National Project: Writing Essays" is implemented by "Smart Osvita" NGO with the support of Grammarly, National Writing Project, Theirworld, and the Global Business Coalition for Education.

The piloting of the materials is supported by the International Renaissance Foundation. The printing of the collections for students was supported by Switzerland:

Read more about the "National Project: Writing Essays" here:



### **"DOPAMINE FOR EDUCATION" PODCAST**

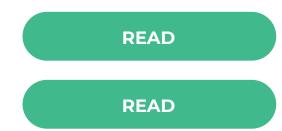
This year we released the 4th season of "Dopamine for Education". **10 new episodes** with new and well-known, beloved characters reached **more than 100 thousand people** in total: on the website, podcast platforms, and social media. This season, we continued to explore the challenges of the New Ukrainian School reform, the motivation of teachers and students, and new ways of teaching and assessment.

The most popular episodes were about higher education with Mykhailo Vynnytsky and integrated learning with Inna Dyomina. And the favorite episode of the NUS editorial team this season was about "healthy human biology" with teacher Ruslan Shalamov (Mr. Shalamov's quotes were circulating in internal chats long after the episode was released)

Our team continued to prepare text versions of each conversation for the NUS website audience. The episode about reading literacy among adolescents with Vasyl Tereshchenko received the most views.

## Publications about the podcast:





## FINANCIAL REPORT



## RECEIPT OF FUNDS

PACT INC	12 684 622,90
FUNDACIÓN EDUCACIÓN Y COOPERACIÓN Ta Childfund Germany	9 700 455,64
Americares Foundation	2 260 633,78
LOUISE VON WURSTEMBERGER	952 620,44
THEIRWORLD	1 580 745,01
GLOBALGIVING FOUNDATION	4 713 117,96
INTERNATIONAL RENNEISANCE FOUNDATION	1 597 835,00
INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SUPPORT	212 445,80
ISAR Ednannia	60 000,00
Institute of Mass Information	119 959,00
LVIV MEDIA FORUM	266 250,00
Charity assistance	694 585,83
Social entrepreneurship	251 471,63
TOTAL	35 094 742,99

### PROJECT COSTS

Institutional support for Smart Osvita	13 515 470,07
Psychological direction	3 628 383,0
Educational and psychological support for IDP school-age children Activities: creation of audio lessons, "Ukraine Speaks English", psychological game, "Now I Know" project to catch up on educational losses	648 478,41
Humanitarian support with a focus on education and protection measures for internally displaced schoolchildren in Ukraine:	
<ol> <li>"Now I Know" kits (period: 06-11.2024)</li> <li>"Listen and Learn" audio lessons (period: 06-12.2024)</li> <li>"Chest for Shelter" (period: 06-11.2024)</li> </ol>	
	9 840 736,04
"Stay with Ukraine" with the support of GlobalGiving	3 975 020,48
Psychological training for Ukrainian teachers	806 254,90
<ul> <li>Support for new project iterations:</li> <li>"Staying with Ukraine" for younger students</li> <li>"Ukraine Speaks English"</li> <li>"Stories for Children"</li> </ul>	1 615 486,55
Creation of collections of articles on secondary education in Ukraine and professional development of the editorial staff (IMI)	121 693,75

Conducting a financial audit of the organization for 2023	60 000,00
Strengthening independent media for a strong democratic Ukraine	164 388,37
Human-centered recovery of Ukraine: evidence-based data for planning changes	931 987,48
Development of critical thinking, information, and reading literacy of schoolchildren through essay writing	1 821 712,64
"Chests for shelter"	966 396,49
Online classes to improve the knowledge of school-age children	130 327,16
Development of NUS media	230 929,72
TOTAL	38 457 265,12



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