National Rehabilitation Plan in Ukraine

**Involved actors**
- Ministry of Public Health of Ukraine
- Professional organizations (e.g. Ukrainian Society for Neurorehabilitation)
- Organizations of people with disabilities (e.g. Coalition for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities)
- Scientific Institutions (e.g. Institute of Emergency Surgery and Rehabilitation)
- Veteran organizations (e.g. Ukrainian Association of Disabled Military Men)
- International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine
- World Health Organization
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- International NGOs (e.g. UCP Wheels for Humanity; Humanity: Humanity and Inclusion)

**Best practice description**
In 2015, Ukraine developed a National Disability, Health and Rehabilitation plan to improve rehabilitation services within the health care system, based in a technical consultation process conducted by a rehabilitation advisory team. Main actions and implementation projects included:
1. Establishment of new rehabilitation department within the Ministry of Health and an inter-ministerial committee.
2. Translation and local adaption of rehabilitation terminology of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) into Ukrainian.
3. Establishment of procedures to conduct a population-based disability survey using internationally recognized methods.
4. Establishment of new curricula and rehabilitation professionals (physical and rehabilitation medicine (PRM) physicians, prosthetist-orthotists, speech and language therapists, physical and occupational therapists).
5. Implementation of model rehabilitation services for acute, post-acute and long-term phases.

**Origin / impetus for best practice**
- Since 2014 the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine has resulted in an increased demand for rehabilitation services.
- Ukraine had a rehabilitation system predominantly based on a biomedical model of disability and therapy focused on compensation of functional deficits and different kinds of social support.
- Essential rehabilitation professionals were absent and there was a lack of intersectoral coordination between governing bodies providing rehabilitation services.

**Impact / results of implementing best practice**
- PRM physicians of the European Society conducted 26 courses (60 hours) to train 26 regular trainers from Ukrainian Medical Universities; in 2020, Ukraine had 283 local PRM physicians.
- The first class of Occupational Therapy Master students enrolled in September 2019.
- Since 2020, three packages of rehabilitation services are included in the national Programs of Medical Guarantees.

**Critical success factors for best practice**
- Ongoing health care reform of secondary and tertiary levels of care.
- High level of political will and commitment of experts.
- Participation of people with disabilities in the technical consultation process.
- Collaboration with European and internationals partners.
- Raising awareness and information campaigns about the importance of rehabilitation services.

**Impact statement**

**Lessons learned**
- Appropriate health care legislation is required for developing modern rehabilitation services.
- Continuing education for rehabilitation professionals is needed.
- ICF and its biopsychosocial approach, should be implemented at a higher pace and at all stages of the rehabilitation process.

**Sources**

**Further links & information**
- Strengthening Rehabilitation Services in Health Systems - 2019.