



# Capability Overview

**Open Space Works Ukraine | 2024**

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# Company profile

**Open Space Works Ukraine** is a female-headed consulting firm that originated from the Open Space Works Cooperative, a collective of independent consultants in Ukraine, established in 2016.

**We support development, humanitarian, and civil society actors in evidence-based decision-making by qualitative research and facilitation of participatory stakeholder dialogues.**

The Open Space Works Ukraine team brings over 15 years of experience tackling complex issues across various social change sectors.

Since the onset of the full-scale invasion, our team has been focused on conducting studies in the humanitarian sector in collaboration with leading and internationally recognised research organisations, such as Ground Truth Solutions (Austria) and Humanitarian Policy Group/ODI (UK).



# Our Core Competencies

## **Qualitative Research**

We conduct in-depth studies for humanitarian and development sectors to better understand landscape, behaviours, relations and experiences of different stakeholders and social structures.

## **Organisational Development**

We provide a comprehensive suite of services, including Program/Project Evaluation, Organisational Assessment, Strategic Planning, RBM, MEAL, Performance Management, Facilitation Skills Training, Change Management, and Needs Assessment.

## **Large Group Facilitation**

We employ participatory methodologies such as Open Space Technology and Future Search Method to facilitate meaningful group interactions and collaborative decision-making.



# Our expertise in thematic areas

- Humanitarian Research
- Civil Society Development
- Resilience and Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus
- Livelihood and Economic Diversification
- Civic-Military Cooperation and Veteran Policy



# Our Approach

**We prioritise strategic partnerships,** guided by our core values, aiming for flexibility to meet partners' needs.

Our approach fosters **transparency, honesty, and adaptability, welcoming feedback and adjustments throughout projects.** We actively engage partners in the design, implementation, and evaluation phases, drawing on their insights for decision-making.

**Central to our mission is empowering local leadership.** We leverage our platform to amplify the voices and expertise of regional and national organisations, supporting their growth and priorities within their communities through engaging them in our projects.

**We invest our time and resources** into the development, humanitarian, and civil society sectors, where they are most needed and valuable. We do this through independent research, events, mentoring, supporting local partners, and promoting ethical business practices.



# We collaborate

**Research&ThinkTanks:** Ground Truth Solutions, HPG-ODI.

**Humanitarian actors:** AWO International, Volkshilfe, Civilians in Conflicts, Save the Children

**Ukrainian CSOs:** Mykolaiv Development Agency, Adult Education Centre "Persnyi", Divchata NGO, Ukrainian, Cyclists Association, Union of Civic Initiatives of Ukraine.

**Government:** Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers (Ukraine), Ukrainian Social Investments Fund, National Qualification Agency.

**Development & Technical Assistance Projects:** DVV International, DOBRE (Global Communities), GIZ, ENGAGE (Pact), HOVERLA (DAI), BRAMA (Pact), IREX, British Council, IM Swedish Development Partner (Moldova), International Renaissance Foundation, UNDP, Deutsche Welle, Germanwatch, EU4Skills.

**Political Organisations:** OSCE, Council of Europe, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Hanns Seidel Foundation.

**SME & Corporations:** Ukrmilkinvest, Google, World of Communities.



# Civil Society Development in Ukraine



# Latest projects

- **Impact of War on Environmental CSOs Study (Sept 2022-Jan 2023):** OSWU assessed the organisational development and war's impact on environmental organisations and the potential of EPAIU partners - leading Ukrainian environmental CSOs.
- **Evaluation of outcomes and short-term impact of the Supporting Young People to Build a More Cohesive Society (Active Citizens) Project.** British Council, 2023.
- **Organisational capacity assessment and organisational plans development of All-Ukrainian association of local governments and regional CSOs** providing humanitarian and medical support in war- affected regions (2023-2024).
- **Mentorship support** for participation processes in Dnipro and Kharkiv regions for **Strengthening Ukrainian municipalities hosting IDPs Initiatives of the Infrastructure Programme for Ukraine** Project. GIZ / Initiatives of the Infrastructure Programme for Ukraine.



# Development / Humanitarian / Civil Society Research



# Latest projects

- **Humanitarian Aid Perception Study (Sept 2022-July 2023):** In collaboration with GTS and funded by the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC), OSWU explored community and aid workers' perceptions of humanitarian aid in Ukraine. As an outcome of this study two reports were produced: Call for communication, collaboration, and cash: Perceptions of aid in Ukraine (March 2023) and "Keep in touch with the people." Perceptions of aid in Ukraine's changing context (July 2023);
- **User Journey Experience Study (Jan-Apr 2023):** OSWU explored user experiences based on perceptions of humanitarian assistance provided to Ukrainian refugees in Poland, Romania, and Moldova.
- **Cash Assistance User Journey Study (Feb 2023-June 2024):** OSWU, in partnership with the Collaborative Cash Delivery (CCD) Network, explored community perceptions of cash assistance in Ukraine. OSWU conducted two rounds of qualitative data collection. As an outcome of this study two reports were produced: Cash is king –if you can get it. Mapping the user journeys of cash recipients in Ukraine (July 2023) and "No-one has ever helped me like this." User journeys of cash recipients in Ukraine (December 2023). OSWU is currently implementing a third round of data collection.



# Latest projects

- **Feasibility Study of PT/BENGO Project in Ukraine** focuses on the Buchansky district in Kyiv Oblast, targeting the communities of Bucha, Irpin, Makariv, and Hostomel. Conducted by Open Space Works Ukraine in November 2023-February 2024 on AWO International request, the study addresses the severe socio-economic implications for post-war recovery and community-led economic development following the Russian full-scale invasion that began in February 2022. The project aims to contribute to the recovery and reconstruction of the Kyiv region, empowering targeted communities toward sustainable rehabilitation by developing and implementing executable recovery plans, promoting social cohesion and economic revitalisation, and tapping into new investment and development opportunities.
- **Narratives on Ukraine's War (2023):** In partnership with the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG), OSWU focused on narratives of the humanitarian response to Ukraine's war, handling data collection, analysis, and stakeholder workshops;
- **Volkshilfe Austria Partnership (2022):** OSWU conducted a feasibility study on IDP need assessment in Lviv, trained staff on Core Humanitarian Standards, and launched humanitarian recovery projects in Kyiv and Kharkiv.



# Stakeholders's Dialog Facilitation



# Latest projects

- **Participatory strategic planning on the Future of the Veterans' Movement and stakeholders cooperation in Ukraine.** CSO/USAID funded initiative, 2023.
- Design and facilitation of an online multistakeholders learning sharing workshop on **strengthening the civic education system in Ukraine.** USAID/ENGAGE, 2021.
- Design and facilitation of series of regional multistakeholders learning sharing workshops (CSO, local authorities, educational institutions, IDPs, media) on **adult education's role in post-war recovery** in Sumy, Lviv, Nikopol, Poltava, Mykolaiv (Nov 2022-Mar 2023).
- Facilitation of the Open Space "**How to make cooperation between government institutions and the general public in the decision-making process more effective?**" as a part of the II National Forum of Government Professionals in Public Consultations. OSCE / Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers (June 2019).
- Design and conduction of **community participatory multistakeholders meetings** in cooperation with GIZ partners in Dnipro city and Petropavlivka town. GIZ, 2019.



# Our Core Team



**Maryana  
Zaviyska**  
Executive  
Methodologist  
Facilitator



**Taras  
Tymchuk**  
Executive  
Connector  
Facilitator



**Sasha  
Tselishcheva**  
Evaluator  
Methodologist  
Facilitator



**Tania  
Danyliv**  
RBM & Logframe  
Specialist  
Evaluator



**Oleg  
Ovcharenko**  
Interviewer  
Facilitator



**Olga  
Kuno**  
Interviewer,  
Analyst



**Svitlana  
Zuieva**  
Administrative  
Support



# References

- **David Starke** / Programme Coordinator Ukraine and Humanitarian Action / AWO International e.V. (Germany) / david.starke@awointernational.de.
- **Philippa Young** / CCD Network Collaboration Facilitator for the Ukraine Response / philyoung77@hotmail.com.
- **John Bryant** / Senior Research Officer, Humanitarian Policy Group / ODI (UK) / j.bryant@odi.org.uk.
- **Eva Soltész** / Programme Manager / Ground Truth Solutions (Austria) / eva@groundtruthsolutions.org.
- **Tetiana Kukharenko** / International Renaissance Foundation / EPAIU / Program Director / kukharenko@irf.ua.



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