

СЕКЦІЯ 6.
Реабілітація та реінтеграція ветеранів:
міжнародний досвід і вітчизняна практика

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**REHABILITATION OF VETERANS -
LESSONS FROM THE POLAND EXPERIENCE**

The Polish armed forces' development history is determined by the country's history and geopolitical factors. The Polish armed forces have participated in international missions since 1953, with more than 120,000 soldiers and service members participating in more than 89 operations.

New political and military conditions, in particular the accession to NATO and the EU, and the growing threat of terrorism led to a rethinking of the role of the armed forces and Poland's participation in missions abroad. In particular, in 2002, a decision was made to send a Polish contingent to participate in the anti-terrorist operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. In 2004, Poland expanded its involvement in this country, and on June 30, 2021, the military contingent completed its mission in Afghanistan, and all Polish troops returned home.

Currently, participation in international military operations and national defense is the main element of the national security strategy.

Modern operations are complex issues that must consider the importance and influence of various political, military, economic, and social factors. Poland is participating in 9 international operations conducted under the auspices of the UN, NATO, and the EU. About 1,400 soldiers and service members participate in them.

In 2022, after a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Poland updated its defense perspective in 2016, and 13,742 soldiers joined the Polish army, a record number since the abolition of conscription in 2008. According to the Ministry of Finance, budget expenditures for national defense in 2024 should amount to 113.349 billion zlotys (3.0% of GDP), 16.3% more than last year's allocation.

Initiatives to support veterans. The Center for Veterans Activities Outside the State Border in Warsaw (CWDPGP) is an organizational unit subordinate to the Minister of National Defense and the Secretary of the Ministry of National Defense. The organization was created to provide assistance, advice, and consultation, particularly legal and psychological, to combatants, veterans, and their family members. The Center actively cooperates with relevant ministerial and non-ministerial institutions and non-governmental organizations and associations. The Center also collaborates with the veteran community around jointly implemented projects and initiatives.

The Center for the Activation of Professional Activities (COAZ) is an executive body of the Ministry of National Defense. The Center is engaged

- planning, organization and conducting of activities related to the professional activation of military personnel;
- determination of professional abilities of servicemen and former professional servicemen;
- conducting individual career counseling and employment;
- cooperation with local labor market institutions, employers, institutions, and organizations engaged in professional activation, employment, combating unemployment, etc.

The Center for the Treatment of Combat Veterans at the Military Medical Institute began work in 2021. According to the words of the

Minister of National Defense, Mr. Mariusz Blaszczak, the purpose of its creation is to respond to the expectations of the veteran community regarding improved access to comprehensive and coordinated medical care.

In conclusion. Polish veterans' policy is centralized and subordinated to the Ministry of National Defense, which allows for a holistic view of changes, problems, and opportunities. At the same time, this approach is ineffective for Ukrainian realities because politics is currently de facto decentralized from the bottom up.

Another problem with Polish initiatives on adapting veterans to civilian life is the low interest in the proposed programs to support veterans' business initiatives. It is partly due to the insufficient coverage of such problems and opportunities in the country's information space.

However, there is a positive experience that can be adopted. Discuss veterans' policy with the veteran community. Such active involvement guarantees the effectiveness of the proposed measures and the support of decisions. It is creating initiatives to unite veterans to intensify mutual communications, mutual support, and sharing of experiences, including integration, starting a business, etc. Active involvement of veterans in psychological and rehabilitation programs, including access to sports activities.