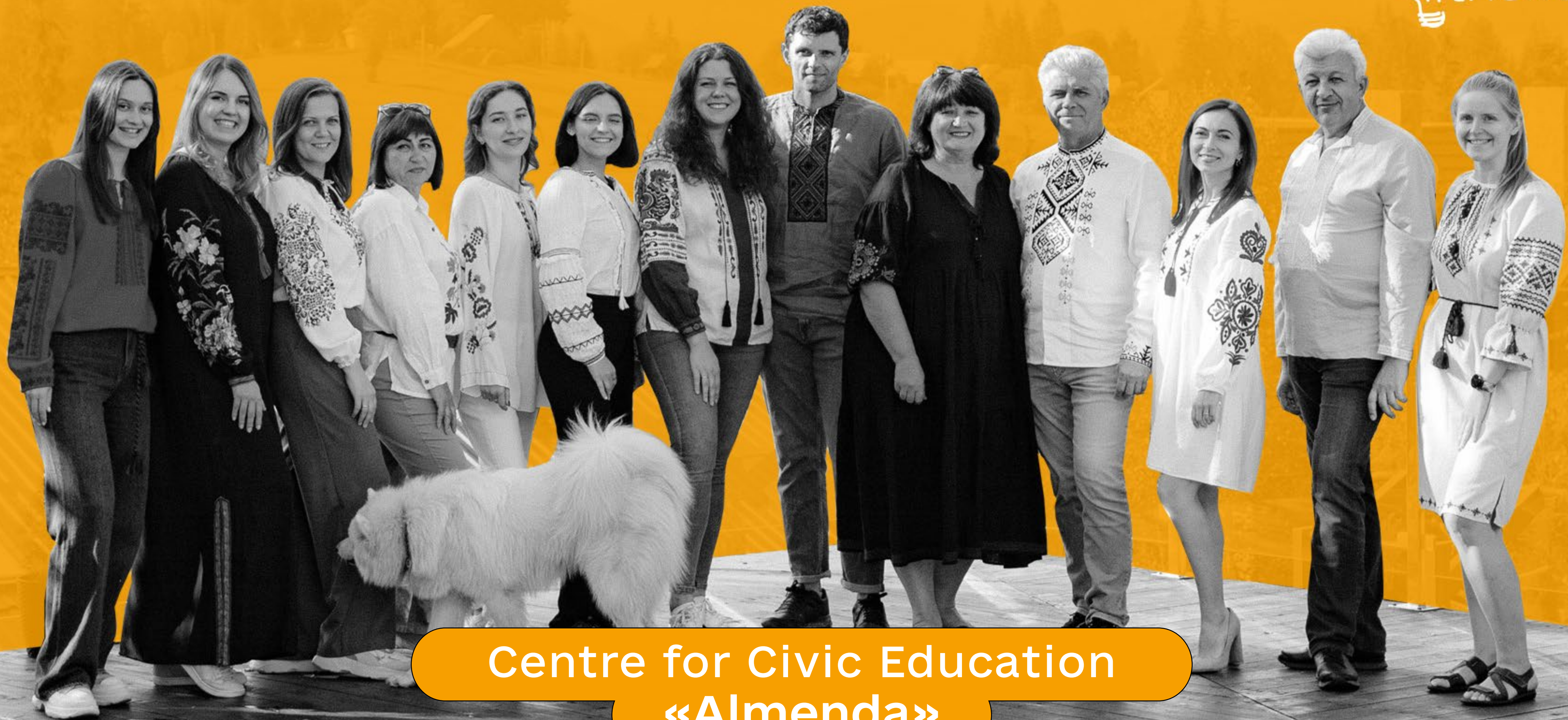


Annual Report 2024



Centre for Civic Education
«Almenda»

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1. Our Year 2024

In 2024, the team at the Centre for Civic Education «Almenda» focused its efforts on achieving four strategic goals:

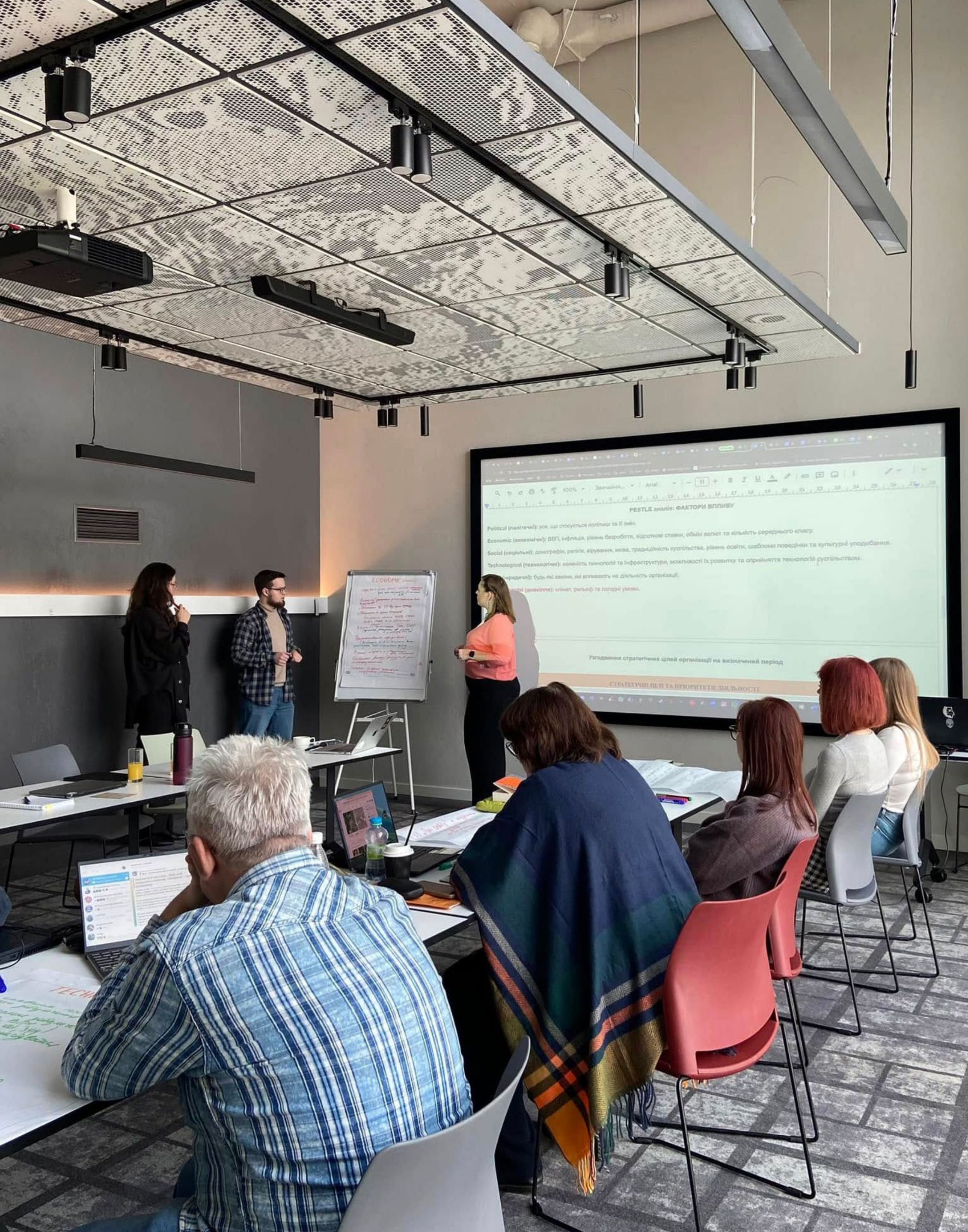
1. ensuring effective access to education for children and young people from the occupied and de-occupied territories;
2. laying the foundations for safe reintegration and sustainable development;
3. documenting crimes and violations of children's rights in the context of armed conflict, with the aim of ensuring accountability and upholding the right to truth;
4. strengthening the organisation's institutional capacity.

We implemented projects aimed at protecting the rights of children affected by occupation, including through efforts to increase international pressure on Russia for its violations of these children's rights and the destruction of their civic identity. A separate focus of our work was exposing Russia's policies of indoctrination and militarisation of children living in the occupied territories, as well as documenting crimes committed against children, including gathering evidence to ensure accountability for those responsible for violations of international law.

In addition, we focused on ensuring access to all levels of education for children and young people from the temporarily occupied territories, with particular attention to making it easier for children and young people to obtain official certificates confirming their basic and complete secondary education. We also worked to maintain the connection between children and young people from these territories and Ukraine, including by disseminating information about opportunities to pursue higher education in Ukraine and by organising educational activities for teachers.

An important part of our work was contributing to the development of a state policy model for the reintegration of young people who had long been exposed to Russian propaganda, with the aim of reducing societal polarisation during the transitional period.





2. Strengthening Institutional Capacity

In 2024, we placed particular focus on strengthening the organisation’s institutional capacity.

At the beginning of the year, we approved the organisation’s **Strategic Development Plan for 2024–2026**. As part of the review of the strategic plan, we adapted the organisation’s strategic objectives to reflect current needs and updated the relevant information on the organisation’s website.

We developed and adopted **five new policies** aimed at improving the organisation’s internal working systems, mitigating potential risks, and enhancing the transparency of our operations:

1.

Whistleblower protection policy

2.

Procurement policy for goods, works, and services within the organisation

3.

Human resources management policy

4.

Duty of care policy

5.

Safeguarding policy on protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH)



To strengthen the organisation's capacity, we conducted training sessions for team members.

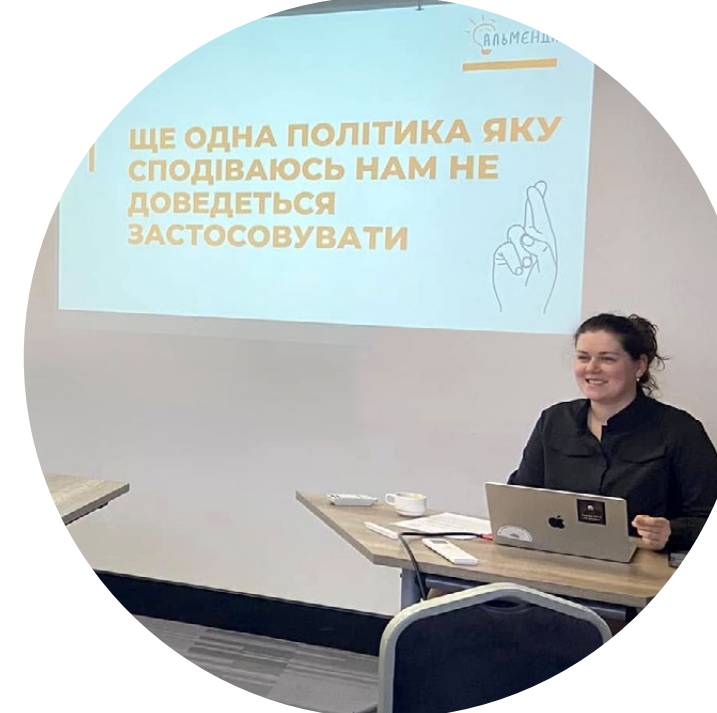
With the support of the NGO Digital Security Lab, the team received training on digital security.



Team members also developed their skills in providing first aid.



In October 2024, our organisation's Head, Mariia Sulialina, took part in the NGO Leadership Workshop, organised by the Slovakia-based NGO Hekima, in partnership with the Weiser Centre for Europe and Eurasia at the University of Michigan and the William Davidson Institute. Participation in this programme helped strengthen her leadership skills and supported the organisation's ongoing development efforts.



In addition, training sessions were held on the policies adopted in 2024, specifically the whistleblower protection policy and the safeguarding policy on protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH).



Oleh Okhredko, the organisation's analyst and trainer in non-formal education, took part in the training of trainers course «Facilitation in Conflict-Affected Settings: Building Conflict Transformation Skills for Staff Capacity Development».



The organisation's documentarians took part in the «OSINT Investigations of International Crimes» training organised by the Ukraine 5 AM Coalition.

Awards and Recognitions of the Organisation and Team Members



● In 2024, our organisation's Head, Mariia Sulialina, was honoured with the *Civil Rights Defender of the Year Award* for defending children's right to shape their own future.

● Valentyna Potapova, Head of National Advocacy, received a letter of appreciation from the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.

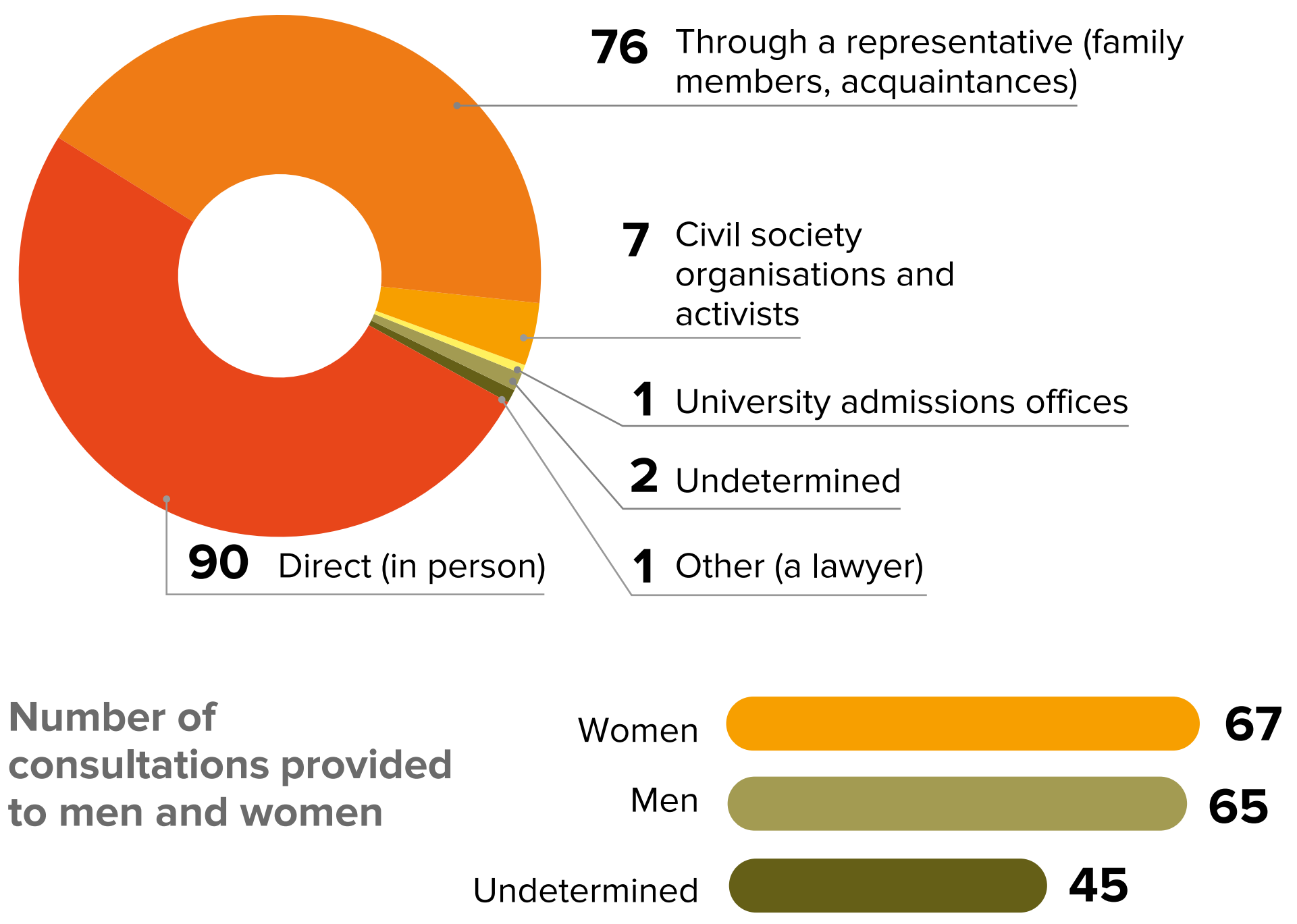
3. Ensuring Effective Access to Education for Children and Young People from the Occupied and De-Occupied Territories

Counselling and Support

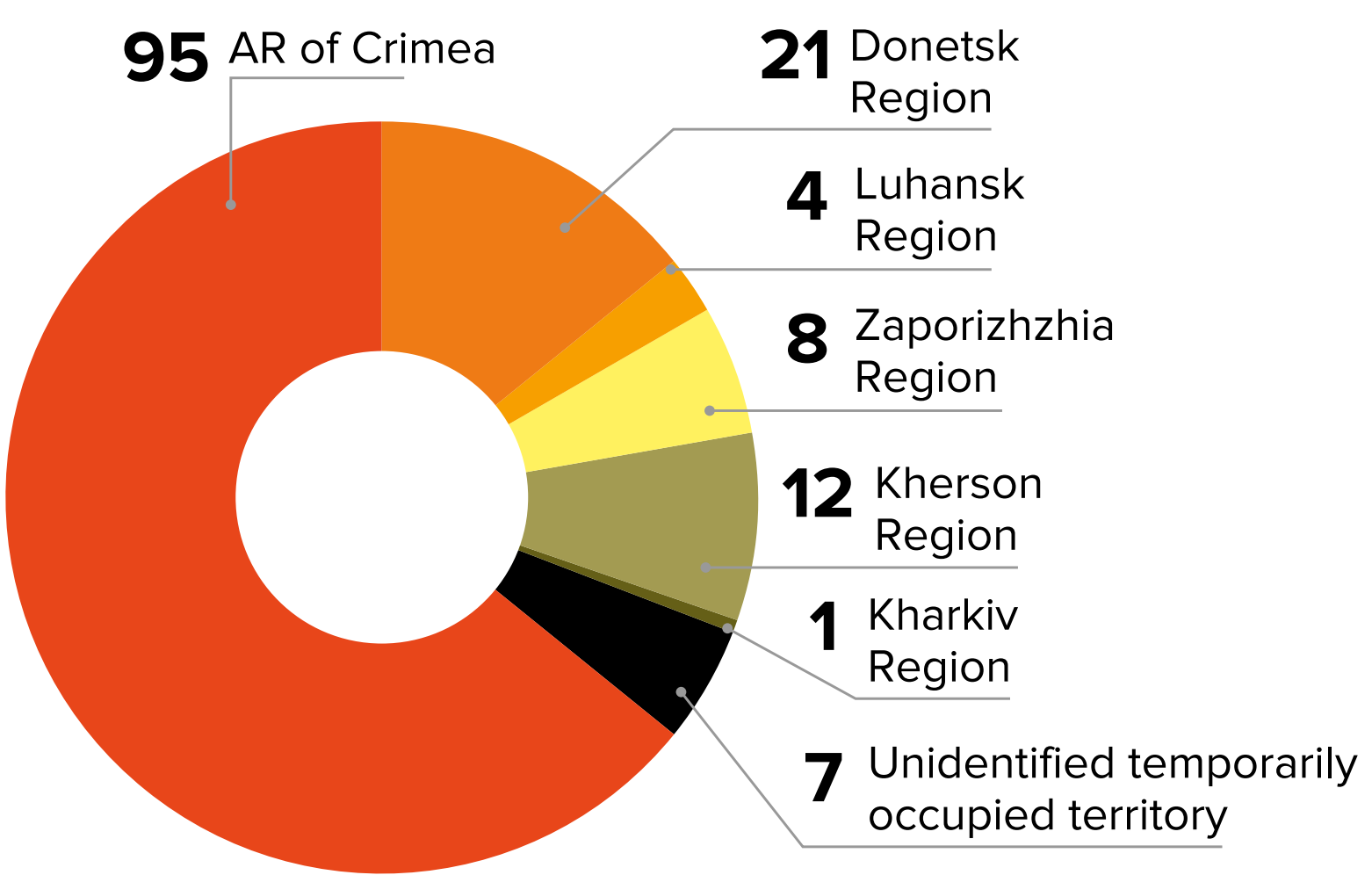
The organisation continued to provide counselling to children, their representatives, and young people from the occupied territories regarding opportunities to exercise their right to education, as well as offering support in complex cases.

In total, we provided **177** consultations in 2024.

Number of consultations by type of requester

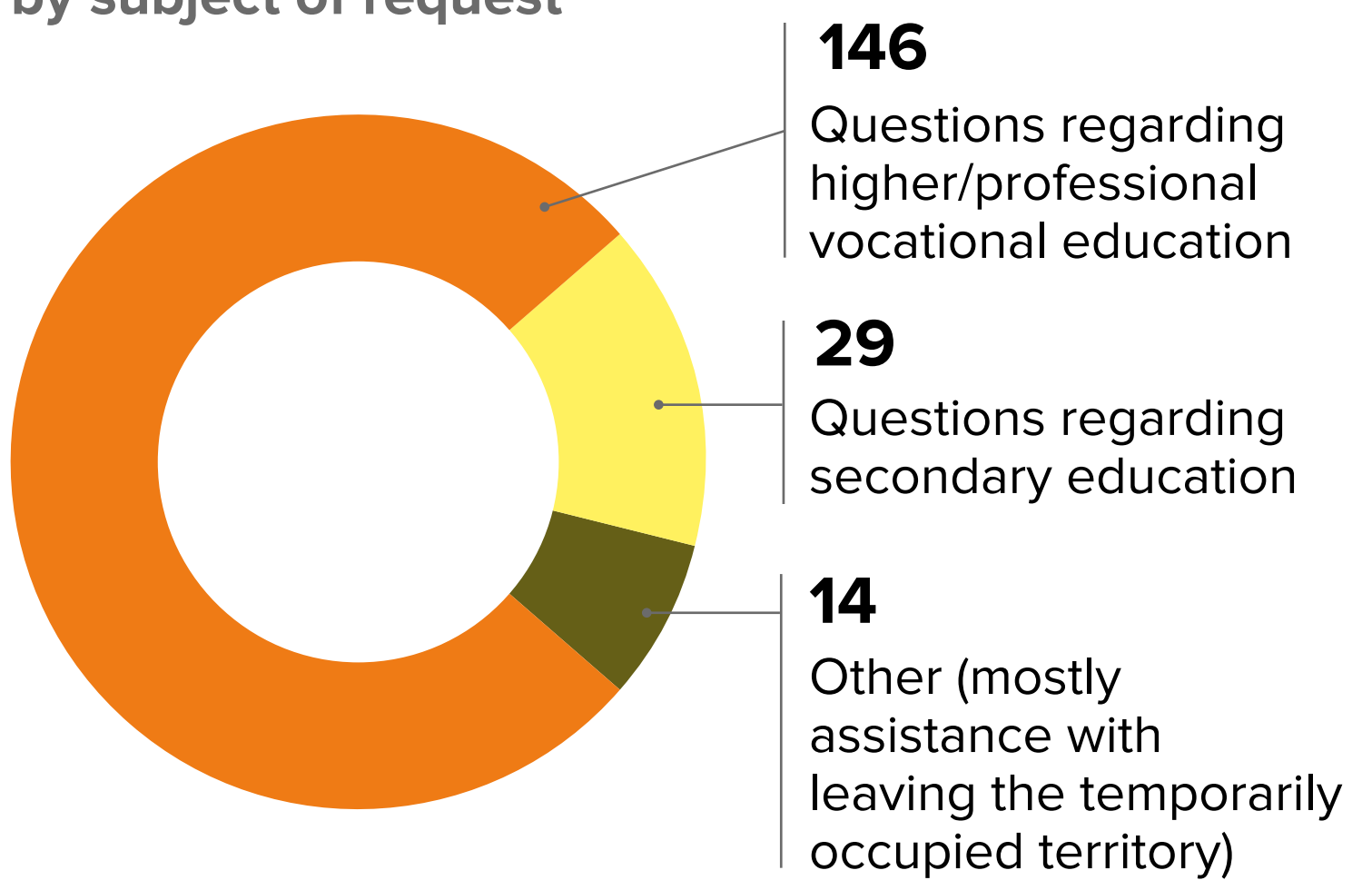


Number of consultations by place of registration of the applicant or the person concerned (as reported by the applicant), by region in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine or in territories where temporary occupation ended after 24 February 2022



* This diagram takes into account not only the area where the person was located at the time of the request, but also the area from which they were displaced.

Number of consultations by subject of request

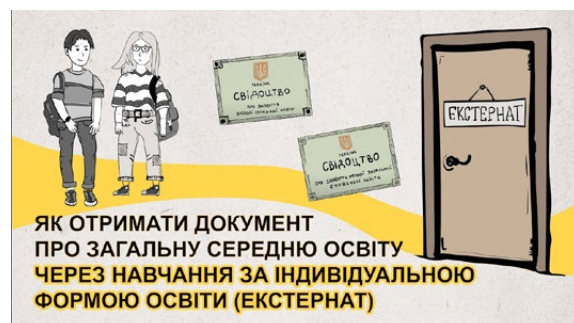


* Most of the consultations concerning higher and professional vocational education related to admission. Many of these also included questions about obtaining Ukrainian-standard certificates of secondary education required for admission. For this reason, the total number of consultations in this section does not match the overall figure of 177. Some consultations also addressed difficulties in communication with educational centres.

Information and Outreach

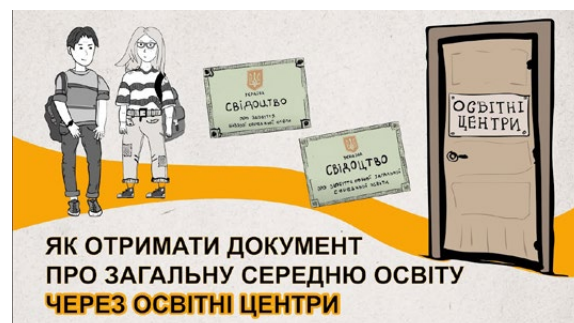
To improve the effectiveness of its efforts to explain the specifics of accessing education for children from the temporarily occupied territories, the organisation created a dedicated page on its website, bringing together information on access to education for children and young people from these territories, structured by levels of education.

The organisation also produced informational videos:



«How to Obtain a Secondary Education Certificate through External Studies?»

[View more](#)



«How to Obtain a Secondary Education Certificate through Educational Centres?»

[View more](#)

Reach of the videos on the organisation's social media platforms: **247 801**

YouTube: **82 785**

Facebook: **165 016**

The materials we produced were published on the websites of **40** higher education institutions in Ukraine that host educational centres, as well as on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine:

[View more](#)



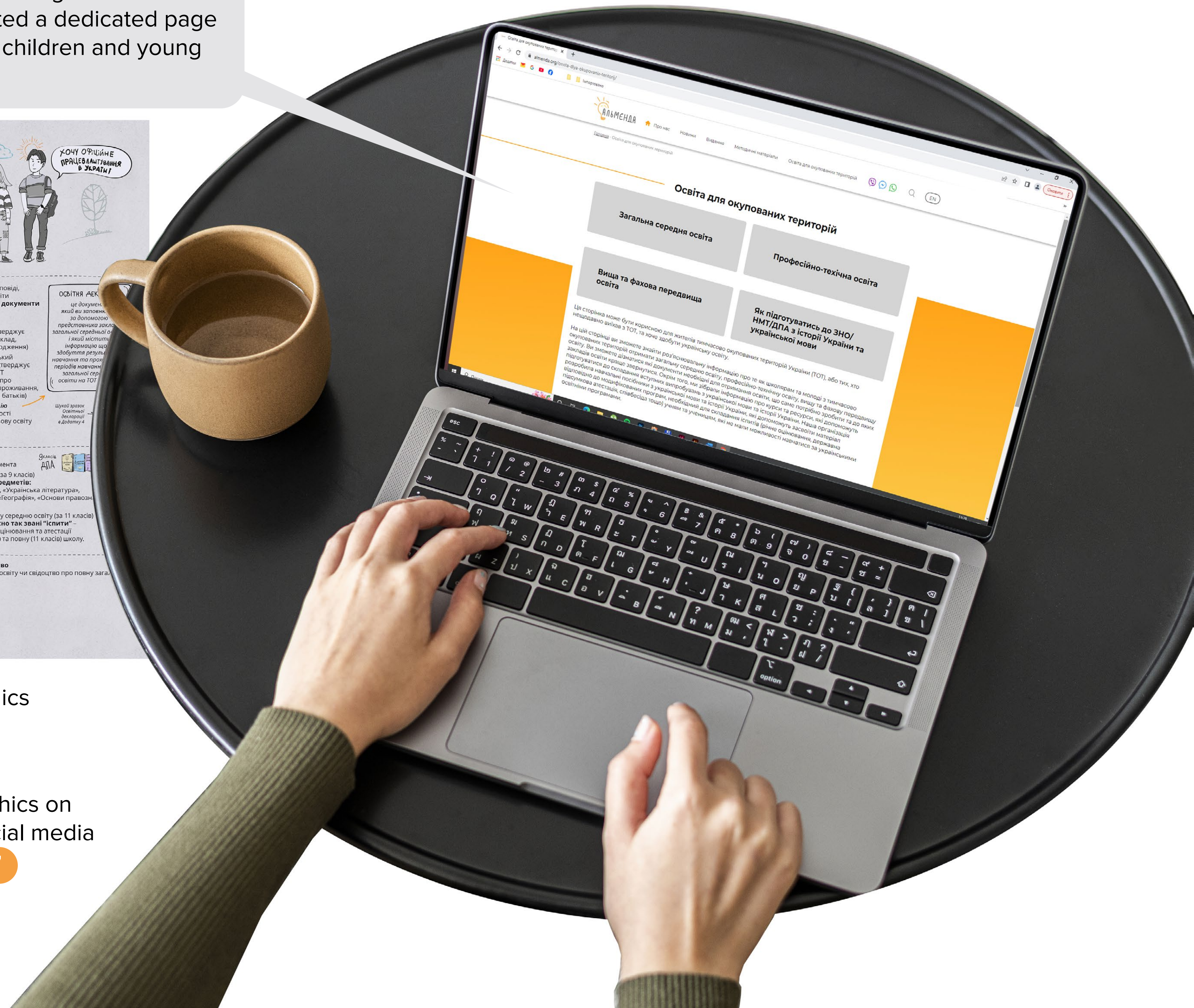
Explanatory infographics

[View more](#)

Reach of the infographics on the organisation's social media platforms: **140 807**

Facebook: **129 103**

Instagram: **11 704**



In 2024, we worked on developing clear guidance and materials to help children from the temporarily occupied territories prepare for entrance examinations in Ukrainian language and history of Ukraine.

The information has been compiled on a dedicated page of the organisation's website: «[How to Prepare for the External Independent Evaluation/National Multi-Subject Test/State Final Examination in Ukrainian History and Ukrainian Language](#)».

We also produced two explanatory videos:



Collection of History of Ukraine Courses for Preparing for the External Independent Evaluation, National Multi-Subject Test, and State Final Examination

[View more](#)

Collection of Ukrainian Language Courses for Preparing for the External Independent Evaluation, National Multi-Subject Test, and State Final Examination

[View more](#)

In 2024, the videos were viewed by **296 906** users:

YouTube: **36 176**
Facebook: **260 730**

We developed two guides for preparing for entrance examinations, taking into account the specific needs of children from the occupied territories:



Guide to the History of Ukraine for Preparing for Annual Assessment and the State Final Examination

[View more](#)

Guide to the Ukrainian Language for Preparing for Annual Assessment and the State Final Examination

[View more](#)

Reach on social media:
Facebook: **289 872**
Instagram: **155 069**

Information Campaign

The organisation, in partnership with the Charitable Foundation «East SOS», public organization «Donbas SOS», «Crimea SOS», the Civic Holding «Group of Influence», the ZMINA Human Rights Centre, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, and the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, carried out an information campaign on opportunities for individuals from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine to enter Ukrainian educational institutions.



As part of the campaign, a landing page was created, bringing together all the necessary information on the specifics of university admission for children from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine: <https://www.osvita-tot.com/>

Additionally, six videos and [four infographics](#) were produced and promoted through civil society organisations' platforms

Video 1

Video 4

Video 2

Video 5

Video 3

Video 6

Through the organisation's own channels alone, the information campaign reached

538 801

people.

The materials developed as part of the information campaign were published on the websites of **63** higher education institutions in Ukraine that host educational centres, as well as on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, in the «Educational Centres» section, under the block «How to Obtain a Certificate of General Secondary Education if You Are in the Temporarily Occupied Territories».



The information campaign contributed to an increase in the number of applicants from the occupied territories. According to data provided by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the number of applicants from the temporarily occupied territories rose from **4,981 in 2023 to 10,029 in 2024**.



In 2024, in partnership with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, the organisation conducted a survey among students from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine to explore their educational needs and the challenges they encounter in obtaining education. Based on the findings, an analytical report was prepared.

[View more](#)

In partnership with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and the civil society organisations the Charitable Foundation «East SOS», public organizations «Donbas SOS», «Crimea SOS», and the Civic Holding «Group of Influence», the organisation also conducted a monitoring to assess the readiness of educational institutions hosting educational centres to admit children and young people from the temporarily occupied territories. Based on the findings, an analytical report was prepared.

[View more](#)

The reports were presented during the forum «Educational Compass Towards a Ukrainian Future for Young People from the Temporarily Occupied Territories», organised in partnership with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. During the event, recommendations were provided to address the existing challenges, which gave momentum to overcoming barriers to education for children from the temporarily occupied territories.



We also produced **six analytical and informational articles** focusing on the protection of children's rights in the occupied territories and providing guidance on access to education.

«How Can a Child in the Temporarily Occupied Territories Obtain a Ukrainian General Secondary Education and Receive the Relevant Certificate?»

[Read](#)

«For Ukrainian Pupils in the Temporarily Occupied Territories, the Curriculum Has Been Reduced: Will This Really Ease Their Workload?»

[Read](#)

«A Ministerial Sleight of Hand: How Revoked Order No. 850 Simply Reappeared Under a Different Number»

[Read](#)

«Why Are Children in Occupied Territories a Vulnerable Group? Do They Have Equal Access to Education?»

[Read](#)

«Results of the 2024 University Admission Campaign for Applicants from the Temporarily Occupied Territories: What Should Be Taken into Account for the Future»

[Read](#)

«Access to Ukrainian Education in the Temporarily Occupied Territories: Changes in 2024»

[Read](#)

In 2024, we began work on analysing the state of teacher training in higher education institutions, focusing on the goals, content, and methodology of teaching during wartime and the restoration of the educational process following de-occupation.



Throughout 2024, the Centre for Civic Education «Almenda» consistently represented and advocated for the interests of children and young people living in or displaced from the temporarily occupied territories, drawing the attention of state authorities to the issue of limited access to education and promoting specific solutions to address this problem at the national level.

The organisation’s advocacy activities included a range of comprehensive measures.

1. Systematic **monitoring of access to education for children and young people from the occupied territories**

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| A total of 103 legal and regulatory acts governing access to education for children and young people from the temporarily occupied territories were analysed to identify barriers and gaps in the current legislation. | Monitoring of 191 Educational Centres was conducted to assess how they safeguard the educational rights of applicants from the temporarily occupied territories. | A comprehensive survey was conducted among 1,909 students from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine to explore their educational needs and the challenges they encounter in obtaining education. |
| Over 30 requests for public information were sent to relevant government bodies to collect up-to-date data on the realisation of educational rights. | Analytical briefs were prepared based on 177 citizen appeals , illustrating typical issues and systemic barriers. | More than 13 expert positions and recommendations were developed for inclusion in draft legal acts and policy decisions. |

2. The organisation’s proposals for the development of state policy on safeguarding the rights of citizens living in the temporarily occupied and de-occupied territories, as well as internally displaced persons, were incorporated into strategic documents.

■ [Action Plan](#) for the Restoration of Education in the De-occupied Territories for 2024–2027

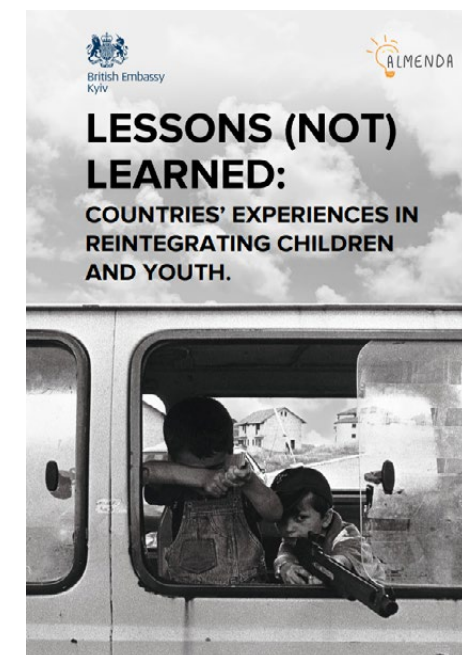
■ [Strategy for the Cognitive De-occupation of Crimea.](#)

3. **Advocacy campaigns** were developed and carried out to address the issues and challenges identified during the monitoring.

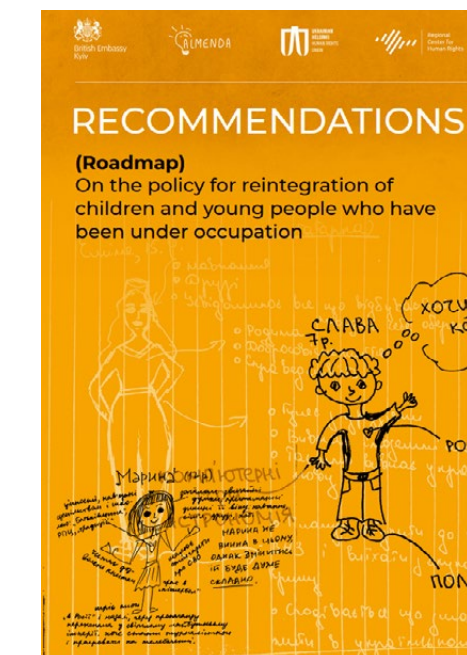
| Issue | Solution |
|---|--|
| Lack of a unified system for conducting annual assessments and/or the State Final Examination for individuals from the temporarily occupied territories | Adoption of Order No. 701 « On the Approval of Recommendations for the Use of Modified Curricula in Ukrainian Language, Ukrainian Literature, History of Ukraine, and Geography for General Secondary Education Institutions » |
| Restricted access to Ukrainian education for children in the temporarily occupied territories due to the reduction of the network of educational institutions relocated in 2022 and the dismissal of a significant number of educators (Order of the Ministry of Education and Science No. 850) | Postponement of the negative consequences of implementing Order No. 850 due to its cancellation and the adoption of interim Order No. 1112, « On the Approval of the Procedure and Conditions for Obtaining General Secondary Education in Municipal Institutions of General Secondary Education under Martial Law in Ukraine », as well as Order No. 1276, « On the Approval of Amendments to Certain Regulatory Acts of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine », which provided time to advocate for changes aimed at preserving ties with learners from the temporarily occupied territories. |
| Restriction of the right to education for children from the temporarily occupied territories due to the lack of adapted procedures for enrolment, withdrawal, and transfer of pupils to state and municipal educational institutions for obtaining complete general secondary education. | Order No. 714 of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, dated 20 May 2024, «On the Approval of Amendments to the Procedure for Enrolment, Withdrawal, and Transfer of Pupils to State and Municipal Educational Institutions for Obtaining Complete General Secondary Education», was adopted. |
| Insufficient pool of teaching personnel available for deployment to de-occupied territories. | Order No. 1786 «On the Approval of the Standard Professional Development Programme for Teaching Staff of General Secondary Education Institutions Included in the Personnel Reserve» was adopted. |
| In the context of an escalating armed conflict, there is a lack of effective mechanisms to ensure equal opportunities for exercising the right to general secondary education for individuals residing in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. | <p>A Concept has been developed for ensuring equal opportunities in exercising the right to general secondary education for individuals residing in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine: «Unified Online School for the Temporarily Occupied Territories».</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine has prepared proposals for effective mechanisms to ensure access to education for children from the temporarily occupied territories (Order No. 1504 dated 23 October 2024). The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights provided recommendations aimed at addressing the identified challenges and issues in the Special Report on Access to Education for Children and Youth from the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine.</p> |
| Restriction of equal access to higher education for learners residing in the temporarily occupied territories. | Amendments have been made to Order No. 230 of the Ministry of Education and Science « On the Approval of the Admission Procedure to Higher Education Institutions in 2024 », specifically introducing a clear requirement for the number of admission subjects (three subjects). |
| The threat of eradicating Ukrainian civic identity among children who are residing or have resided in the temporarily occupied territories. | Inclusion of Section 3, «Special Measures for Civic Education in the Context of Challenges Related to the Russian-Ukrainian War», in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Concept of Civic Education in Ukraine (Order No. 131 dated 7 February 2024). |

4. Laying the Foundations for Safe Reintegration and Sustainable Development

Laying the foundations for safe reintegration and sustainable development remains a cross-cutting focus of the organisation's work.



In 2024, we completed the study «Lessons (not) Learned: Countries' Experiences in Reintegrating Children and Youth».

[View more](#)

Based on the findings of the study, as well as discussions held by the organisation in 2023 and 2024 with students, educators, and experts, we developed Recommendations (Roadmap) On the Policy for Reintegration of Children and Young People Who Have Been Under Occupation.

[View more](#)

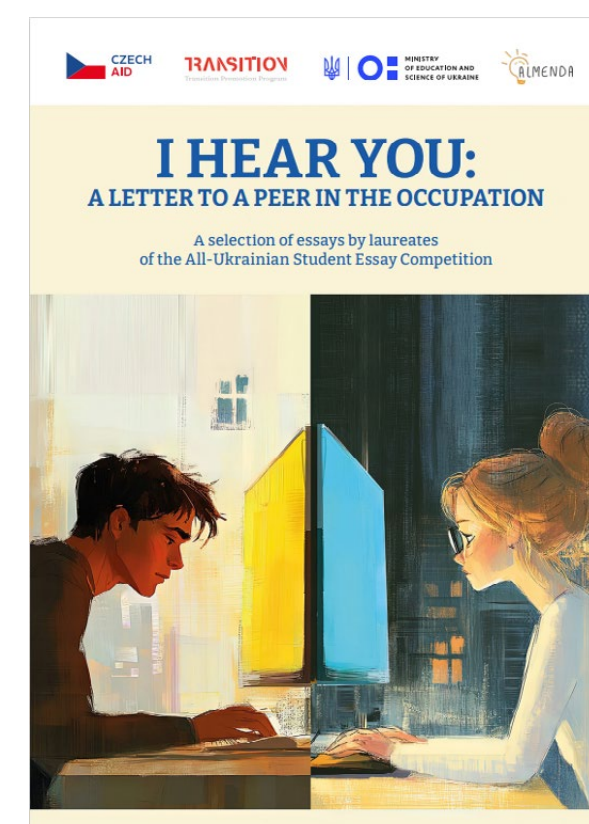
The organisation began work on promoting the implementation of these recommendations at the national level. At the same time, we started working on the implementation of several operational objectives:

- **Operational Objective 1.3:** Strengthening institutional capacity to bridge educational gaps;
- **Operational Objective 2.1:** Addressing the impact of Russian narratives. Shifting worldviews;
- **Operational Objective 4.1:** Overcoming negative stereotypes in society (among people from Ukrainian-controlled territories) towards those who have lived under occupation;
- **Operational Objective 4.3:** Promoting dialogue between children and young people with different experiences of war to overcome the division into «us» and «them».

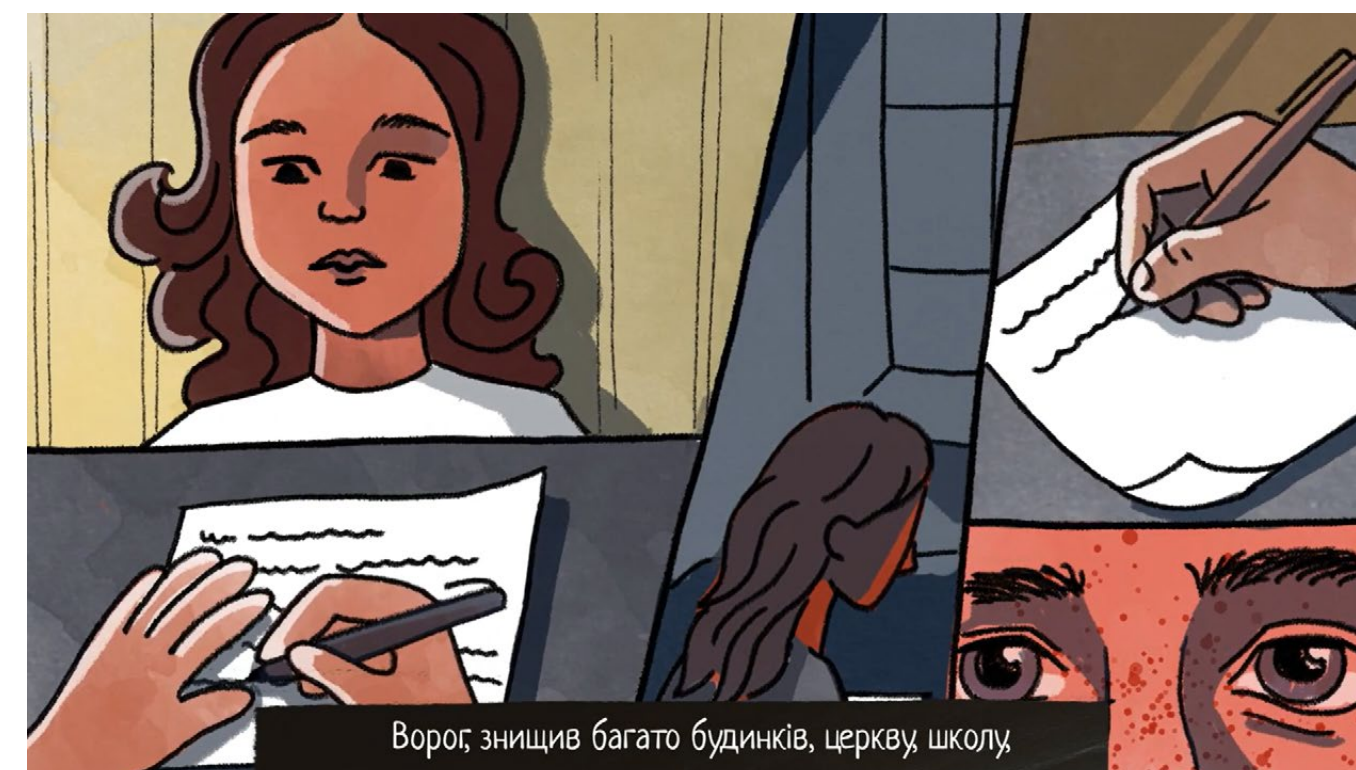


To increase public understanding of the realities of growing up under occupation and to prevent discrimination against children and young people from the occupied territories, the Centre for Civic Education «Almenda» organised **the All-Ukrainian Student Essay Competition «I Hear You: A Letter to a Peer in the Occupation»**.

A total of **241** children from various settlements across Ukraine took part in the competition. Based on the results, four winners were selected (one first place, one second place, and two third places). The award ceremony took place in Kyiv, with the participation of representatives from the Embassy of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Ukrinform agency.



A selection of essays by the competition laureates was published as a collection.

[View more](#)

An animated video was created based on quotes from the competition essays, aimed at fostering understanding and empathy within Ukrainian society towards the realities faced by children living in the temporarily occupied territories.

[View more](#)



A specific focus of our work was engagement with the teaching community. We conducted an express course for teachers titled «**Pedagogical Workshop: How to Counter and Overcome the Impact of Russian Narratives among School Pupils**».

A total of **144 teachers** took part in the webinars of the express course.

Based on the results of the express course, **25** teachers were selected to participate in an offline training, where they deepened their knowledge of children's rights in armed conflict, media literacy, and creating a safe classroom environment. They also developed their own activities to counter and overcome Russian narratives.

The training participants organised **42** events across **14** regions of Ukraine.



These events were attended by **1,089** people, including **539** pupils and **550** teachers.



In 2024, we also took part in the 21st Travelling International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA.

The festival took place from 18 to 29 November in the city of Chornomorsk. As part of the festival, 15 film screenings, one seminar, one workshop, and an exhibition were held.

Approximately **1,000** people attended the festival.

In 2024, we also continued working with children, young people, and adults through documentary film screenings as part of our film club, which is a member of the Docudays UA Human Rights Media Education Film Club Network.

During the screenings, we addressed topics such as human rights, dignity and tolerance, combating discrimination, the situation of people living in the occupied territories, the rights of persons with disabilities, environmental issues, the development of critical thinking, and media literacy.

We organised **19** screenings, which were attended by over **300** people.



5. Documenting Crimes and Violations of Children's Rights in Armed Conflict to Ensure Accountability and the Right to Truth

Documenting

In 2024, we documented

2,682 episodes of potential violations and/or crimes against children in the occupied territories.

We also gathered evidence of violations involving

18 individuals and

7 legal entities to support advocacy for the application of restrictive measures (sanctions) against them.

In 2024, we focused on collecting information about the activities of cadet classes in occupied Crimea, the use of summer camps for political indoctrination and the militarisation of children, as well as the role of Russian youth policy in eradicating the Ukrainian identity of children in the temporarily occupied territories, promoting their militarisation, and encouraging service in the armed forces of the occupying state.

The organisation shared the documented data with national and international institutions to support efforts to hold those responsible for the crimes accountable and to restore justice.



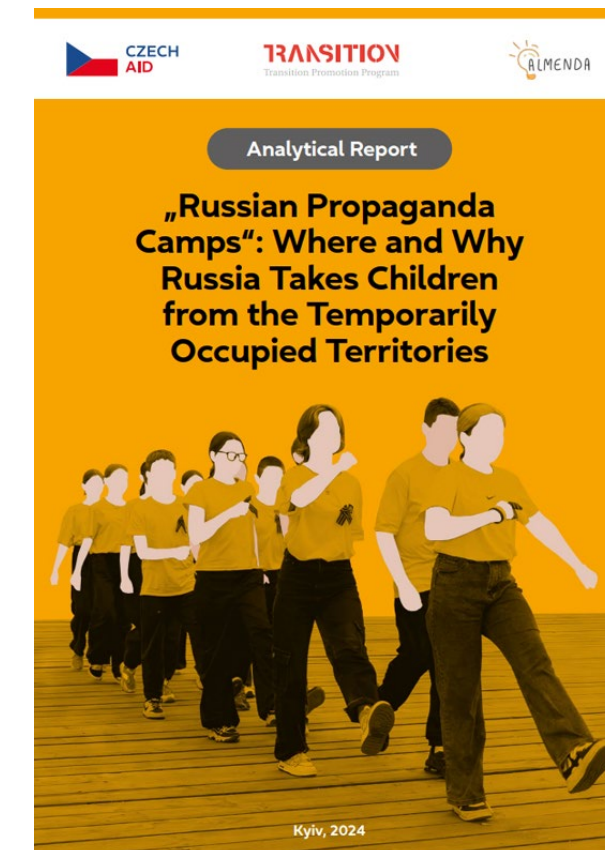
In 2024, we published five analytical reports and three monitoring reports.



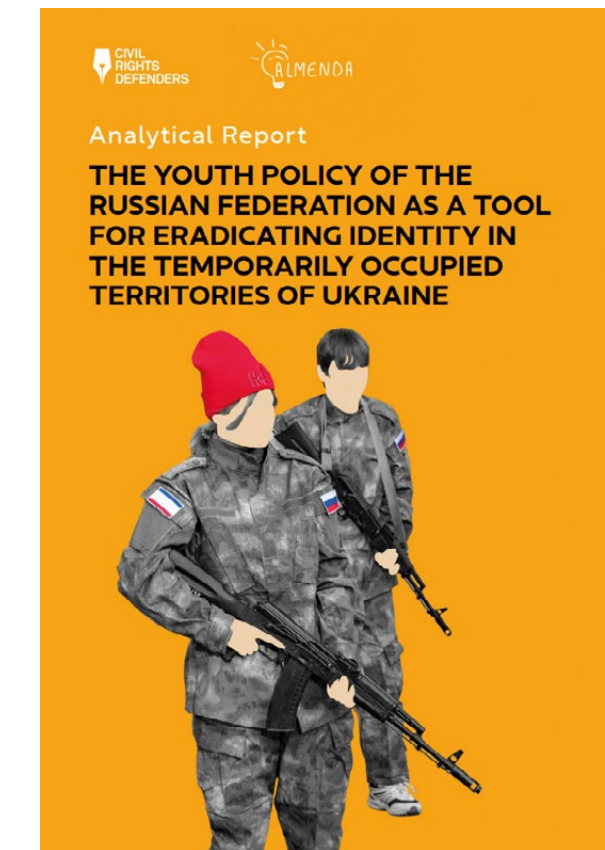
Analytical Report «The «University Sessions» Programme as a Tool for the Destruction of Ukrainian Identity and the Indoctrination of Children and Youth from the Temporarily Occupied Territories»



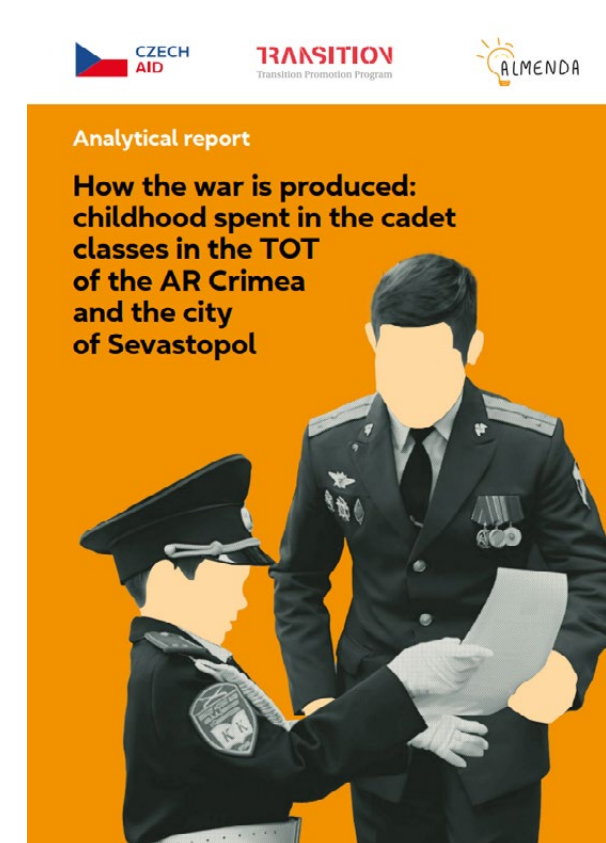
Analytical Report «Crimean Scenario 2.0: How the Russian Federation is Eradicating Ukrainian Identity in Children in Occupied Territories»



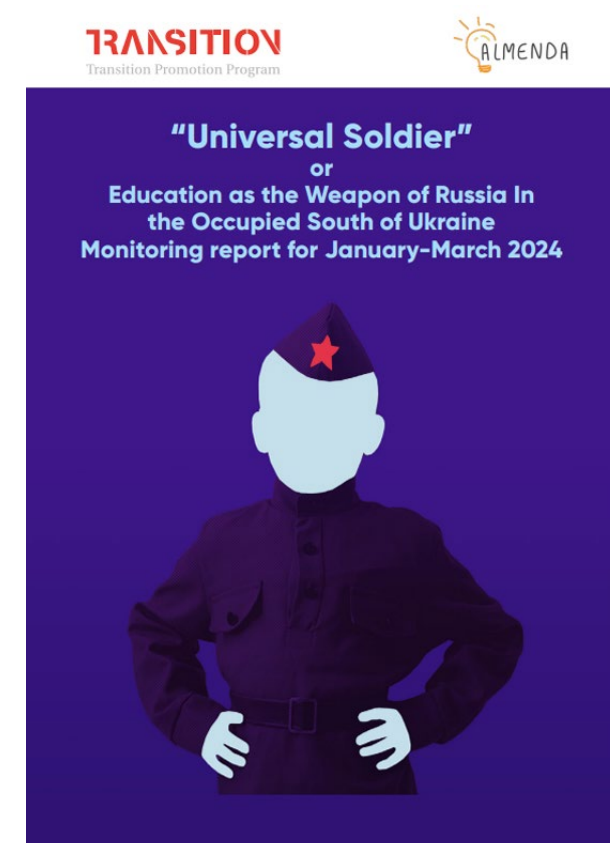
Analytical Report «Russian Propaganda Camps»: Where and Why Russia Takes Children from the Temporarily Occupied Territories»



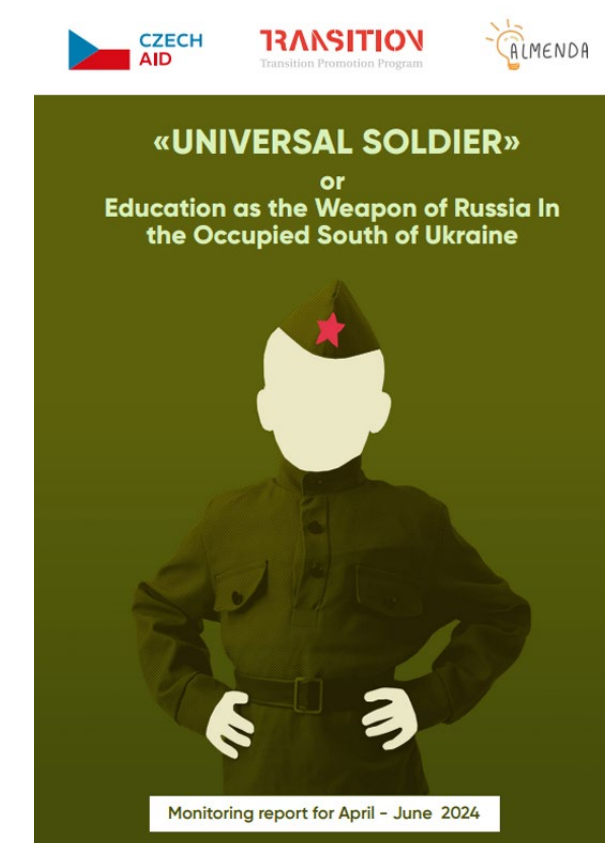
Analytical Report: «The Youth Policy of the Russian Federation as a Tool for Eradicating Identity in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine»



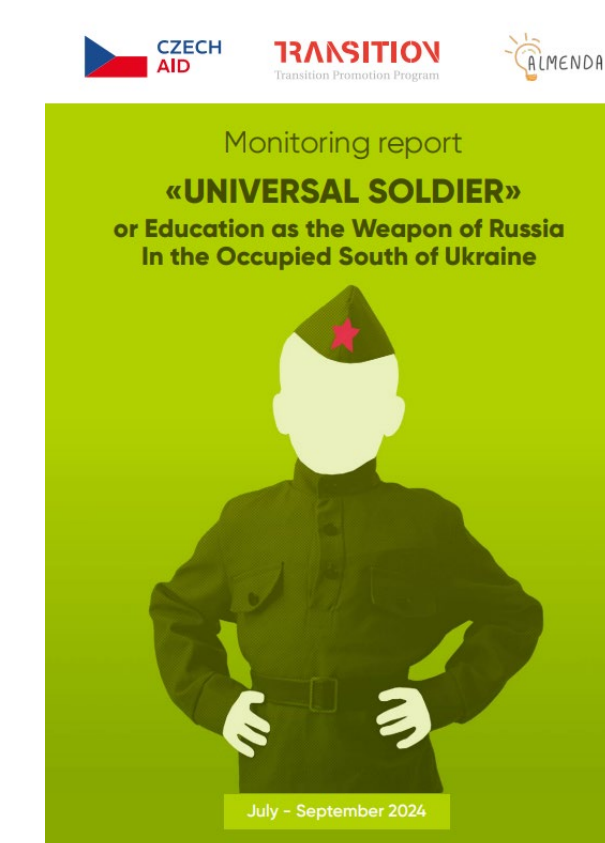
Analytical Report «How the War Is Produced: Childhood Spent in the Cadet Classes in the TOT of the AR Crimea and the City of Sevastopol»



Monitoring Report (January-March 2024). «Universal Soldier», or Education as the Weapon of Russia In the Occupied South of Ukraine



Monitoring Report «Universal Soldier», or Education as the Weapon of Russia In the Occupied South of Ukraine (April-June 2024)

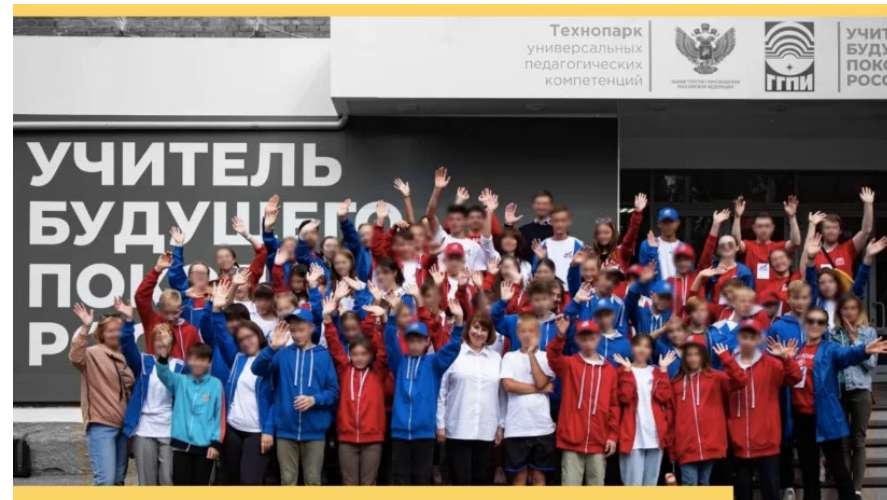


Monitoring Report «Universal Soldier», or Education as the Weapon of Russia In the Occupied South of Ukraine (July-September 2024)

We also prepared 16 analytical articles that explore various aspects of Russia's policy of indoctrination and militarisation in detail.



«Monopoly on Truth» or Why Russia Needs the «Znanie» Society



The «University sessions»: the Glazov State University named after V. G. Korolenko



University sessions: Bauman Moscow State Technical University and Plekhanov Russian University of Economics



How Russia Influences the Minds of Ukrainian Children from the Temporarily Occupied Territories: The Case of the «University Sessions» Programme



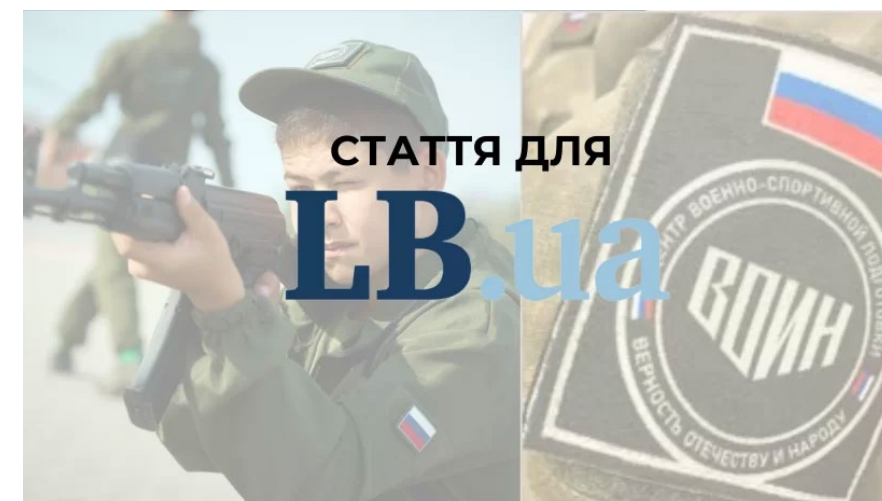
University Session: Shadrinsk State Pedagogical University



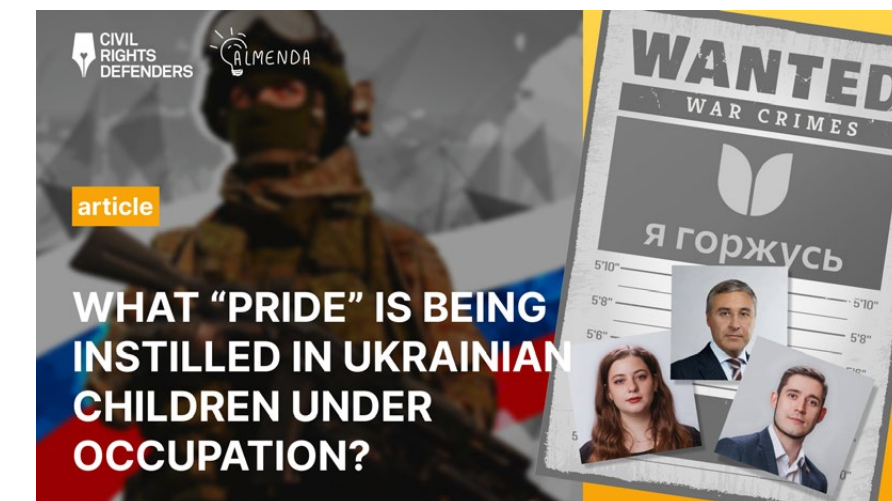
University Session: Saratov University



What Norms of International Law Does Russia Violate by Indoctrinating and Militarising Ukrainian Children in the Temporary Occupied Territories



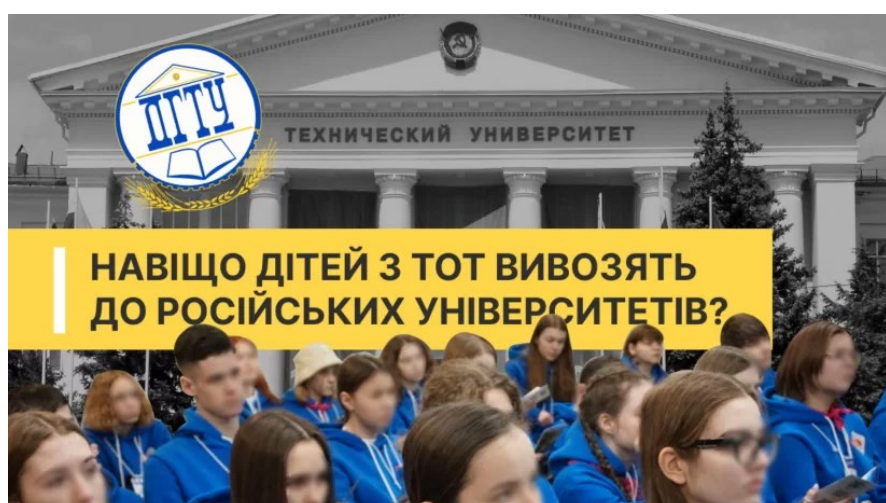
Warriors for the Russian Regime. How Russia Militarises Ukrainian Children From the Temporarily Occupied Territories



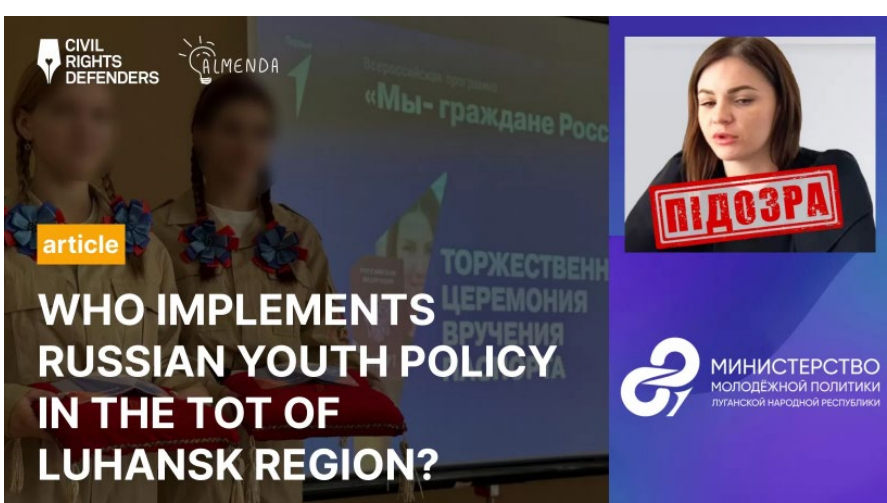
What «Pride» Is Being Instilled in Ukrainian Children Under Occupation?



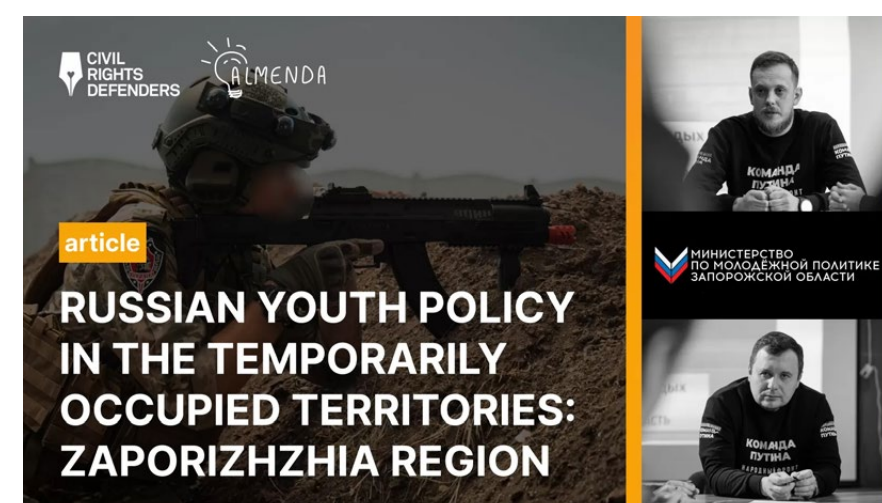
Russian Youth Policy in the Temporarily Occupied Territories: City of Sevastopol



University Session: Don University



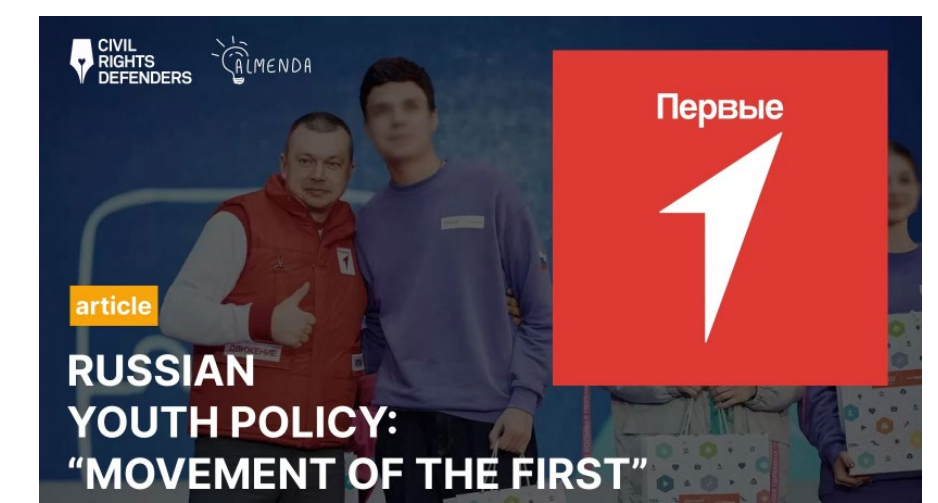
Who Implements the Youth Policy of the Russian Federation in the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Luhansk Region?



Russian Youth Policy in the Temporarily Occupied Territories: Zaporizhzhia Region



«Youth and Children»: changes in Russian youth policy



Russian Youth Policy: «Movement of the First»



In 2024, members of the organisation took part in **42** advocacy events at the national and international levels to promote justice for children from the occupied territories of Ukraine and to support efforts to hold those responsible for crimes and violations against children to account.

During these events, Almenda's experts focused on highlighting the following aspects:

- the Russian system for the eradication of Ukrainian identity in the occupied territories of Ukraine;
- the targeted policy of the Russian Federation to militarise and politically indoctrinate children and young people in the occupied territories;
- ensuring accountability — including through international mechanisms — for violations and crimes committed against children in the occupied territories;
- establishing effective guarantees of non-repetition and securing the reintegration and rehabilitation of children affected by the occupation.

In particular, throughout 2024, members of the organisation took part in **10** advocacy trips, including:

1. 26 February 2024 – Advocacy trip to Brussels (Belgium), during which the event «*10 Years of Resistance: Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in the Temporarily Occupied Crimea*» was held. Meetings were also conducted with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and DG NEAR.
2. 28 February – 1 March 2024 – Advocacy trip to Prague (Czech Republic), during which meetings were held with representatives of the Czech Parliament and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.
3. 18–19 March 2024 – Advocacy mission to Vienna (Austria) for bilateral meetings with country missions to the OSCE. During the trip, the organisation took part in the event «*A Human Rights Tour of the OSCE Region: Civil Society Human Dimension Event*», and held meetings with the missions of Ireland, Finland, and the EU Delegation to the OSCE.



4. 20–21 May 2024 – Advocacy trip to Stockholm (Sweden), during which meetings were held with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and leading think tanks.
5. 20–25 May 2024 – Advocacy trip to The Hague (Netherlands) and Brussels (Belgium), which included meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, representatives of political parties in the States General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as well as with DG NEAR and civil society organisations in Brussels.
6. 30 September – 2 October 2024 – Advocacy trip to the OSCE Warsaw Human Dimension Conference. During the conference, the organisation participated in the side event «*No Child Left Behind: The State of the Kids in Ukraine Due to Russia's War*» and held bilateral meetings.
7. 23–24 October 2024 – Advocacy trip to Riga (Latvia) for the Third Parliamentary Summit of the Crimea Platform.
8. 12–15 November 2024 – Advocacy trip to the United Nations in New York (USA), during which the organisation participated in the side event «*Addressing the Human Rights Situation in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine*», held a briefing for the EU Delegation to the UN and EU member states, and conducted a number of bilateral meetings in support of the Resolution on the human rights situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.
9. 19 November 2024 – Participation in the conference «*Enhancing Ukraine's Efforts to Investigate, Prosecute, Adjudicate, and Report on International Crimes*» (The Hague, Netherlands) as speakers on the panel «*Incorporating Child-Friendly Justice Standards into Investigations and Prosecutions of International Crimes.*»
10. 17–18 December 2024 – Advocacy trip to Brussels (Belgium), during which meetings were held with the EEAS, DG NEAR, and the permanent representations of various countries.

We worked to defend the rights of children under occupation and to restore justice in:

New York,
United States of America

Brussels,
Belgium

The Hague,
Netherlands

Stockholm,
Sweden

Riga,
Latvia

Warsaw,
Poland

Prague,
Czech Republic

Vienna,
Austria

Kyiv,
Ukraine



6. Cooperation with National and International Institutions

In 2024, experts from the CCE «Almenda» actively contributed to the work of committees and working groups established at the initiative of various state authorities, as well as those hosted by educational institutions. These included:

- International Council of Experts on the Protection of Children's Rights (Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine);
- Expert Council at the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea;
- Public Council at the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine;
- Interagency Working Group on the Implementation of the Concept of Cooperation Between Prosecutors and Communities («Community Council of the Prosecutor's Office of the AR of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol»);
- «Humanitarian Policy» Working Group of the Crimea Platform Expert Network;
- Working Group on the Preparation of the Special Report of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights on the Situation in the Territories of Ukraine Temporarily Occupied by the Russian Federation;
- Working Group on the Development of the Concept of Access to the Right to Education for Youth from the Temporarily Occupied Territories (Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights);
- Working Group on Developing Effective Mechanisms for Ensuring Access to Education for Children from the Temporarily Occupied Territories at the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine;
- Crimea Integration and Development Centre, a structural unit of Tavrida National University (Kyiv).

We also maintained close cooperation with international institutions, including:

- the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine;
- the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine;
- the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Commission;
- the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Ukraine Monitoring Initiative.



7. International Response to the Eradication of Ukrainian Identity, Political Indoctrination, and the Militarisation of Children in the Occupied Territories

Decisions of Judicial and Quasi-Judicial Bodies

In January 2024, the International Court of Justice ruled that the manner in which the Russian Federation implemented its Ukrainian-language school education programme in Crimea after 2014 violates its obligations under Articles 2(1)(a) and 5(v) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The UN Human Rights Committee confirmed that the forced imposition of Russian citizenship constitutes a violation of Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which prohibits discrimination. According to the applicants' representative, a key point is that the Committee established that Russian citizenship was imposed on Crimean residents by the Russian occupying authorities, which also constitutes a human rights violation in terms of personal identity.

On 25 June 2024, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) delivered its judgment in the case of *Ukraine v. Russia (re Crimea)*. First, the Court confirmed that the de facto impossibility for Crimean residents to refuse Russian citizenship constitutes a violation of the right to private life (Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights). Second, the ECtHR agreed with the International Court of Justice that the administrative practice of denying access to education in the Ukrainian language in occupied Crimea constitutes a violation of the right to education.



UN Reporting on the Eradication of Identity

The report of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, covering the period from 24 February 2022 to 31 December 2023 (published on 20 March 2024), provided an in-depth account of the eradication of Ukrainian identity in the temporarily occupied territories. For 2024, the Mission identified the following trends:

- since September 2022, the Russian occupying authorities have replaced the Ukrainian curriculum with the Russian one in many schools, in violation of the occupying power's obligation not to interfere with the functioning of institutions existing in the occupied territory;
- the Mission confirmed that members of the Russian armed forces threatened parents that their children would be taken into state care if they did not attend local schools that had been aligned with Russian educational standards;
- occupying authorities may resort to reprisals against teachers who refuse to work under the imposed educational framework;
- at the same time, the occupying authorities have obstructed access to Ukrainian education through remote learning;
- the Russian occupying authorities have pursued a policy of militarising children (para. 134), including through special lessons and extracurricular activities aimed at instilling «patriotic» values, enforcing loyalty to the Russian state, and preparing them for military service — even during summer holidays.

The UN Mission confirmed that, by introducing its own education system and curriculum in the temporarily occupied territories, the Russian Federation violated its obligation as an occupying power to respect the existing laws and institutions. Furthermore, the imposed Russian curriculum does not comply with the standards of international human rights law, which require education to be «culturally acceptable» and aimed at respecting the child's cultural identity, language, and values.

UN reports have made specific reference to the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, highlighting, among other concerns, the near-total absence of education in the Ukrainian language.

The situation regarding access to education in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol was also addressed in detail in a UNESCO report. In addition to the de facto lack of access to education in Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar, the report emphasised the unlawfulness of the militarisation of children and youth, the promotion of service in the occupying power's armed forces, and the establishment of Russian youth movements that promote Russian patriotism.



OSCE

The Fifth Interim Report on Reported Violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law in Ukraine highlights the following trends concerning education in the temporarily occupied territories.

- The introduction of the Russian Federation's curriculum in schools, along with military-patriotic education for school-aged children, violates international norms regarding education in occupied territories.
- The occupying authorities are obliged to respect institutions based on local legislation and may organise education for children only in cases where local institutions are insufficient.
- The widespread replacement of the Ukrainian curriculum with the Russian one, along with the introduction of Russian military-patriotic education for children, likely breaches these principles and significantly alters the previous status quo.

The European Union and the Council of Europe

It is worth noting that in 2024, under EU mechanisms, the practice of imposing sanctions on individuals and legal entities responsible for the indoctrination of children and youth in the temporarily occupied territories continued. In the same year, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution on the illegality of the deportation of children to the Russian Federation and Belarus, which specifically stated that the deported children were subjected to indoctrination and had a new (Russian) culture and language imposed on them.

In February 2024, a special report was published at the request of the European Parliament. It complements the April 2023 report by the European Parliamentary Research Service, as well as other investigations into the forcible transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children by Russia since 24 February 2022. The report highlights practices of «re-education» of deported Ukrainian children and the imposition of Russian identity.

8. Media

In 2024, the organisation's experts provided

194 comments or interviews to Ukrainian and international media outlets.

In particular, we collaborated with:

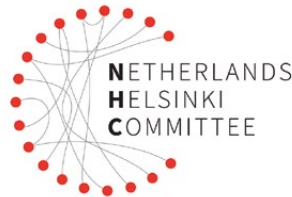
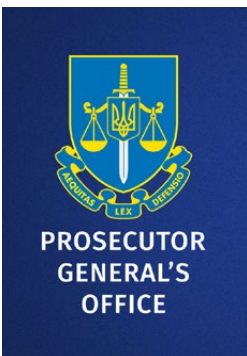


9. Donors and Partners

Our Donors



Our Partners



10. Financial Indicators

| Funds received | UAH 12,487,055.80 |
|--|-------------------|
| British Embassy Kyiv (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office) | UAH 164,357.95 |
| Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative (UCBI 4) | UAH 1,949,930.86 |
| Partnership Fund for a Resilient Ukraine | UAH 1,252,689.24 |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic – Transition Promotion Program | UAH 5,024,674.09 |
| International Renaissance Foundation | UAH 959,015 |
| People in Need | UAH 1,145,041.11 |
| Civil Rights Defenders | UAH 1,989,347.55 |

| Funds spent | UAH 12,019,588.48 |
|--|-------------------|
| Salaries for full-time staff and taxes | UAH 289,934.08 |
| Audit and banking services | UAH 69,035.48 |
| Office rent, maintenance, and supplies | UAH 255,024.70 |
| Equipment, software, and website support | UAH 482,539.87 |
| Organisational development, training, and team capacity building | UAH 392,919.50 |
| Organisation of events, working meetings, and advocacy trips | UAH 1,655,738.85 |
| Design and production of printed and promotional materials | UAH 105,661.64 |
| Experts' fees | UAH 6,819,528.15 |
| Other project-related expenses | UAH 2,016,376.73 |

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