

Interim report

Date of sending out the form:

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Contact person/applicant:

Olena Burlaka

Country

Ukraine

E-mail

burlakaolena@gmail.com

Title of the granted project

Actual issues of contraception and reproductive health of Ukrainian military women in the zone of armed conflict

Amount granted by the ESC (in euro)

7.250

Initial funding (part of the grant received already) in euro:

5.250

Final amount to be paid by ESC (in euro):

2.000

Project number:

P-2018-A-03

Allocated mentor:

Dr. Sarah Randall

Date project actually started:

Saturday, December 1, 2018

Planned date of completion:

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Have there been any problems or issues with starting or continuing this project? If so, what impact will that have on your planned completion date?

no

Have you discussed the project status and any problems with your Mentor?

no

Please provide a synopsis of your findings and data so far (max 500 words)

At the time of the interim report, 451 military women, serving in the Joint Forces Operation zone in eastern Ukraine, took part in the survey. According to the preliminary results (based on analysis of first 300 profiles), $49.1 \pm 5.79\%$ female soldiers used methods of contraception. In the age group under 25 years, methods of contraception were used by $54.5 \pm 11.92\%$ of women; 25-34 years – $50.6 \pm 10.76\%$; 35-44 years – $51.5 \pm 9.80\%$; older than 44 years old – $28.9 \pm 14.23\%$. The frequency of use of contraception did not have a statistically significant difference between different female age-groups ($p=0.08$).

Among women using contraception, the most commonly used method was one of barrier contraception – 66.4%, which accounted for 29.3% of the total number of respondents. In the age group under 25 barrier methods were used by $77.8 \pm 13.58\%$ of women; 25-34 years – $64.3 \pm 14.49\%$; 35-44 years – $56.0 \pm 13.76\%$; older than 44 years old – $36.4 \pm 29.82\%$ correspondently.

More frequent questions military women were asking were about hormonal contraception (in $26.4 \pm 5.64\%$ of cases), namely the choice of contraceptive method, side effects and menstrual control/menstrual suppression. Menstrual cycle control issues were of particular importance to military women in relation to the professional need for support of physical form at the level of male colleagues without periodical menstrual bleeding, cyclic complaints, and complications, what is especially relevant during military deployments.

Despite the evident advantages of using hormonal contraceptives for military women, according to the obtained data, the use of various methods of hormonal contraception was $4.0 \pm 2.26\%$ and for menstrual suppression $1.5 \pm 1.47\%$. In the age group up to 25, hormonal contraception used – $1.5 \pm 2.91\%$ of women; 25-34 years - $4.8 \pm 4.60\%$; 35-44 years - $7.0 \pm 4.98\%$; older than 44 years old - $0 \pm 13.69\%$.

According to the preliminary survey results, determination of not very high level of awareness and use of hormonal contraception in the age group up to 25 years, especially among military women from the eastern region, may be associated with their rather young age (15-20 years) and limited access to gynecological care at the beginning of the combat conflict in the area of their residence.

Concerning the STIs prevention methods, the most frequently reported method is the barrier contraceptive methods. The most common causes of non-use of STIs preventions were the absence of sexual activity, marital status, and pregnancy planning.

Contraceptive and reproductive health issues are extremely important for interviewed military women, not only in medicine but also in professional terms, especially during military deployment. The applying of different methods of hormonal contraception in women of this socio-professional group, besides the contraceptive and therapeutic effect, has a prophylactic value. This allows preventing the development of menstrual-associated and cyclic complications, bleeding and anemia, which according to the statistics, are almost 2 times more widespread in military women than in civilians, even in peacetime.

Please provide a current budget on how much you have spent to date. Receipts may be requested.

Initial ESC funding, as was planned, was applied for the organization and management, development and adaptation of questionnaire, conducting surveys and counseling in the zone of armed conflict, development of the database and conducting statistical analysis, printing costs and translations. According to the Ukrainian legislation, 19.5% of the received amount (1023€) was paid for taxes (18% - a tax on foreign income of an individual, 1.5% - military fee).

Our project is not supported by other partners as has been planned earlier.

Add any other information you feel we should have at this stage.

During the remaining time, we plan to complete the survey and conduct a final statistical analysis of the obtained results. Due to the requests and in the interests of military women, we spend more time on individual counseling than we have planned before. The work plan depends on many factors and the need for an agreement to disclose certain information, taking into consideration the special conditions of the survey and counseling.

Full Name

Olena Burlaka

Date

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Questions? ESC Central Office: info@escrh.eu / Tel. 0032 2 582 08 52

Once received and assessed, you will be contacted regarding the final payment.

Type a question

info@escrh.eu