

Review of the Educational Programme in Group Analysis Section of Group Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, PO “APPU” (Ukraine)

I have reviewed the Educational Programme in Group Analysis developed by the Section of Group Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy of the Public Organisation “Association of Psychotherapists and Psychoanalysts of Ukraine” (PO “APPU”), together with its detailed appendices.

Reading this Programme, one can clearly recognise a long process of professional development and consolidation. The structure of the training, the emphasis on sustained group self-experience, the centrality of supervised clinical work, and the careful articulation of group-analytic concepts reflect a deep internalisation of the group-analytic tradition rather than a merely formal adherence to standards.

For me personally, this Programme also resonates with an earlier phase of its formation. I had the opportunity to contribute to the beginnings of group-analytic education in Ukraine through lectures on group analysis delivered to Ukrainian trainees in 2005, and later through participation as a lecturer and supervisor in the “Supervision of Supervisors” project (2007–2009), which played an important role in the formation of the trainer-supervisor staff of the Group Section of PO “APPU”. It is therefore particularly meaningful to see how these early initiatives have evolved into a coherent, self-sustaining educational system.

The Programme reflects a strong emphasis on group-analytic thinking as a lived practice: attention to the matrix, communication, translation, and the conductor’s multiple functions is consistently integrated across theory, self-experience, and supervision. The regulations concerning Diploma Cases show a serious commitment to depth of clinical work, long-term responsibility, and reflective writing.

I would also like to note with appreciation the continued international engagement of the Section. The involvement of the APPU training staff in conducting small analytic groups within the sandwich project “Walking Together Through Difficult Times”, which I lead as a response to the psychological impact of war on mental health professionals, illustrates the Programme’s openness to dialogue, cooperation, and shared professional responsibility in times of crisis.

In conclusion, this Educational Programme represents a mature and well-integrated model of group-analytic training. It embodies continuity with the classical group-analytic tradition while responding thoughtfully to contemporary challenges. I consider it a strong and credible foundation for the training of group analysts in Ukraine and beyond.

Date: 16 December 2025

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