

**Studies and analytical products  
that were carried out within the  
framework of the Environmental  
Policy and Advocacy Initiative  
(EPAIU) during 2020-2023**



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One of the Initiative's goals was to strengthen the analytical and advocacy capacity of EPAIU grantees. After all, promoting eco-policy development, strategies, and programs becomes more effective when civil society organizations rely on their analytics.

The Initiative offered various formats for grantees to conduct research, analysis, and advocacy activities. During 2020-2023, separate calls for proposals were announced for a cohort of institutional partners to understand the cumulative impact of phenomena such as corruption, discrimination, pandemics, war, etc on the environment.

EPAIU encouraged the development of expert partnerships between environmental organizations and government agencies, communities, academia, socially responsible businesses, and other stakeholders. EPAIU created opportunities for interaction with civil society organizations and expert communities from different fields, including TTDI think tanks and CSOs that help communities with local development strategies.

These activities resulted in about 40 analytical products and advocacy actions.

The materials were created within the framework of the Environmental Policy and Advocacy Initiative for Ukraine (EPAIU), implemented by the International Renaissance Foundation with Sweden's support.

## Researches carried out within the EPAIU programme, 2019-2024

### International Renaissance Foundation (the IRF's share and initiative)

2019

- At the start of the EPAIU, IRF initiated the [Baseline Research on the Environmental Sphere in Ukraine](#). The idea was to capture the main problems, processes and needs, related to the protection of the environment in the national, local, regional and global dimensions, and analyze a level of engagement and a role of NGOs in shaping environmental policy and addressing environmental issues.

2019-2020

- Research "[Nature Protection in the Field of Mining in Ukraine: Regulatory aspects and Practice](#)".
- Research "[The Impact and Role of CSOs in the Use and Protection of Natural Resources in Ukraine](#)" focused on the role of CSOs in monitoring and public control over the use of the natural resources in Ukraine, e.g. water, air, forests, soil and subsoil.

2020-2021

- Special research on the EITI (Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative) focused on the role of public monitoring of extraction enterprises: "[Impact of Extractive Industries on the Environment and Climate Change – EITI](#)" (the Ecoaction was engaged as a member of the Ukrainian Climate Network).
- The field research "[Role of CSOs in Addressing Environmental Problems in the Donbas](#)" performed by the group of local researchers became a basis for the EPAIU activity rolling out in Donbas.
- Study "[Environmental Issues in Ukraine's Public Information Domain](#)" performed by LBI.

2022

- Media monitoring study of the environment topics presence in Ukrainian media space "[The Environment and the War in Ukraine](#)": how the environmental issues covered by the Ukrainian media scene during the full-scale war.

2023

- Media analysis on a [presence of environment issues in Ukrainian informational space](#), performed by LBI and presented at the EPAIU summarizing conference.
- Analysis of a level of involvement and the [role of civil society institutions of Ukraine in the formation of environmental policy and programs](#). This summarizing study provides insight into how EPAIU fits the theory of change that underpins the Initiative.

### Institutional grantees

EPAIU proposed several frames to the research/analytical and advocacy activity developing of institutional grantees. During 2020-2022, we initiated particular calls for the institutional partner cohort to develop thinking about cumulative effect of environmental issues and discrimination, environment and corruption, environment and pandemic. We tried stimulating an expert collaboration of environmental CSOs with authorities, communities, and socially responsible business. We created possibilities for interaction with other civil society organizations and expert communities, e.g. think tanks (TTDI), economists, academicians, etc. The efforts have resulted with the following analytical products and advocacy actions:

2020

- *Zero Waste Lviv* and *Ecoltava* addressed the urgent need to estimate risks of additional pollution of the environment caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. They produced [practical recommendations](#) for the waste management system and other stakeholders to mitigate the harmful effects on the environment.

2020-2021

- *Flora* conducted a study of negative [Impact of uranium mining industry](#) and natural factors on the environment and public health in the Kirovohrad region (the [Complex Program on people protection](#) in Kirovohrad region from the effects of ionizing radiation for 2021-2025 was designed)
- *Ecoaction* analyzed the [Impact of climate change on Ukraine's water resources](#), focusing on the need to reduce carbon emissions. The recommendations were taken by the Ministry of Environment to include in the Adaptation to Climate Change Strategy.
- *Green Wave* conducted the [Assessment of cities' adaptive conditions in the context of climate change](#) through using the i-Tree ECO tool to register and assess urban green areas
- *Stop Poisoning Kryvyi Rih* studied the practices of collection and utilization of fallen leaves and other waste of plant origin in industrial cities: "[Treatment of fallen foliage](#) and other plant remnants in industrial cities".

In 2021, the EPAIU main institutional partners also performed research & analytical activities within their institutional grants in accordance with their strategic directions, e.g.:

- *Green Wave* studied how to reduce resources wasting in offices and formed the "[Green office concept in Ukrainian companies: relevance and main priorities](#)"
- *Ecoltava* study on the [forest strips in Poltava region](#)
- *CTRC* prepared and sent to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment the report "[Impact of the irrational policy of the occupying power of the Russian Federation on the water balance of Crimea](#)."
- *Ecoclub* conducted a study to obtain an objective information about a [state of the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure](#) in Ukraine and to develop recommendations for its improvement so that the following management and political decisions are fair.

2021-2022

- *Stop Poisoning Kryvyi Rih* has formed recommendations and steps for further recovery of Ukraine, [preventing environmental discrimination](#) and maintaining a balance between the right to a clean environment and economic benefit. (The analytical paper was not published in full due to a sensitivity during the war time).
- *Crimean-Tatarian Resource Center* has lighted over their findings on [environmental and climatic discrimination in the occupied Crimea](#). Earlier the team published the [water issues study in Crimea](#) that caused by the occupation.
- *Ecoltava* conducted a study of environmental and social discrimination of the population by the factor of living near a landfill: "[My neighbor is a landfill](#)" on the example of the village of Makuhivka located near the Poltava landfill.
- *Ecoaction* analyzed options of a [just transformation & development of mining cities](#) in the East of Ukraine in a context of gender discrimination. The research was at the final stage when the war started.

Therefore, the team actualized their recommendations to adjust them for the post-war recovery period. The other analytic products are performed on the [Ecoaction site](#).

- *Save Dnipro* presented the research results about a [quality of life and environmental safety in cities](#) on Kyiv sample.
- *Ecopark Osocorky* (in partnership with the EPL CSO) presented findings of their [monitoring of the Kyiv environmental protection policy](#) and implementation of the “Comprehensive Target Program for Environmental Welfare of Kyiv city, 2019-2021”.
- *Flora* (in a partnership with New Energy CSO) studied corruption risks in the industrial waste management system of two regions of Ukraine and produced recommendations: [Industrial waste management in Kharkiv and Kirovohrad regions](#)
- *Teple Misto* in a partnership with Metalab analyzed the [factors of people’s behavior towards transport use](#) and elaborated recommendations on the Ivano-Frankivsk agglomeration development to reduce an environmental impact of the transport. In addition, they studied possibilities of the [circular design in public spaces of Ivano-Frankivsk](#) and analyzed strategies for the materials re-use.
- *Ecoclub* analyzed the an [ambition of the Action Plans for Sustainable Energy Development and the Climate of Ukrainian communities](#) (ПДЦЕРК) aimed at data collecting for a future adjustment of local plans on emission reduction due to the National Plan on Emission Reducing. The research resulted with a several publications explaining why it is important the communities to [influence on the environmental national policy](#). They also conducted a study [Assessment of climate change vulnerability of the Rivne community](#) and elaborated recommendations for adaptation measures.

In addition, in 2022, the EPAIU main institutional partners performed **analytical & advocacy activities** within their institutional grants relevant to documenting the environmental damages caused by the war:

- *Save Dnipro* launched the [SaveEcoBot functionality](#) just after the war beginning to document evidences of crimes against the Ukrainian environment caused by the russian occupiers (jointly with the Ministry of Environment and the General's Prosecutor Office). Later on it was transformed into a state platform [ecozagroza.gov.ua](#)
- *Ecoaction* is running the monitoring of environmental damages and mapping them: <https://ecoaction.org.ua/warmap.html>
- *Flora* conducted an ad hock study on how the war may affect water supply and water security in the Kirovohrad region and throughout Ukraine, and issues an [analytical report](#).
- *Stop Poison Kryvyy Rih* initiated an appeal with demand to recognize Russia a nuclear terrorist and to impose sanctions on the Rosatom. They pushed to make certain [amendment to the IAEA \(MAGATE\) Statute](#) that should restrict significantly the rights of Russian Federation as the nuclear aggressor country and unable its leading role in the IAEA.
- In May, the environmental community leaded by the *Ecoaction*, *EPL*, *Ecoclub* and others issued a Common Position “[Ukraine Green Recovery](#)” that focused on the main principles of sustainable development, mainstream of environmental and climate policy in all sectors, green transition, transparency, participatory principles, etc.
- *Save Dnipro* launched the [Environmental Informer](#) for a comprehensive public information on several data.

Eight EPAIU grantees took active part in common national and international environmental initiatives as leaders or signatories and communicated about the following issues:



- Documenting crimes against environment via the state platform, as well as within the framework of the [Crimean Platform](#) (crimes related to the occupied Crimea)
- Nuclear monitoring and fixing the pollution due to Russian attacks on Ukrainian nuclear power stations (in cooperation with civic initiatives and experts in Europe and the USA)
- Ban of Russian energy carriers (including the campaign [End global fossil fuel addiction that feeds Putin's war machine](#) that has attracted civic organizations from more than 60 countries of the world)
- Monitoring of air pollution by chemical substances as a result of the Russian Federation's use of chemical weapons or damage to chemical objects.

Besides, a range of CSOs including the EPAIU grantees (*Zero Waste Lviv*, *Ecoltava*, *Ecoclub*) advocated the framework Law on Waste Management. The *Save Dnipro* created an electronic system of permits for emissions into atmospheric air that will be launched due to the Law on Regulation of Emissions into Atmospheric Air, which they had advocated.

Five institutional grantees (*Ecoaction*, *Ecoclub*, *Crimean-Tatarian Resource Center*, *Zero Waste Lviv*, *Ecoltava*) performed their perspectives on the climate issues during the COP27 based on their own analytics.

## 2022-2023

- *Flora* performed the study [“Water supply and water security in the context of Russian aggression”](#) and issued the recommendations [“The road map of water resources management of the territorial community”](#) within their research project on prevention of water risks in the context of war and emergency situations in the Kirovohrad region.
- *Zero Waste Lviv* presented their findings and video documentary “Collectors” within the [“Research a group structure & role of informal collectors of recyclables in the waste management system of Lviv”](#) project.
- *Stop Poison Kryvyy Rih* presented [analysis of problems of processing and disposal of waste from destruction](#) within their project on documenting war crimes against the environment and the [“Public monitoring of the natural sources of water in the conditions of war”](#) researches.
- *Ecoltava* in a partnership with the *Zero Waste Lviv* delivered the [Study of a state of the solid waste management sector during the Russian aggression in Ukraine in the host communities](#).
- *Ecoaction* in a partnership with the Initiative on GHG Accounting of War and the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine has published the second part of the monitoring analysis part [“Climate Damage Caused by Russia's War in Ukraine”](#) as a follow up of a research started from the war beginning in 2022 year. [Added version](#) published in December 2023.
- *Save Dnipro* delivered a report [“Quality of Atmospheric Air in Ukraine before and during the full-scale invasion”](#) that is relevant to take into account while planning the recovery processes.
- *Ecoaction* delivered the [“Analysis of the state of agriculture in Ukraine and the implementation of EU regulations related to agrarian and environmental issues”](#) and a series of guides for the agrarian sector on the [Seeds site](#).
- *Flora* studied the [practices of handling medical waste during martial law among the citizens and small businesses](#).
- *Stop Poison Kryvyy Rih* conducted a [comparative legal study of the legislative field of Ukraine and the EU](#) in the relevant areas and elaborated recommendations to the Ministry of Environment.

2024

- *Ecoaction* in a partnership with the Initiative on GHG Accounting of War and the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine is going on to conduct the monitoring analysis of the Climate Damage Caused by Russia's War in Ukraine (the third stage of the research started from the war beginning in 2022 year). It will be published in the Summer, 2024.

#### Mini-grant grantees (2021-2022)

- *For People* CSO from Donetsk region performed their [analysis of actual state of documentation of the nature reserve funds in the Siversk community](#). Certain recommendations were elaborated on necessary steps for the full registration of the nature reserve fund objects according to the Ukrainian legislation. The research was conducted just before the war starting.
- *Impact Center CXID.UA* CSO elaborated an eco-profile for the Rubizhne community in Luhansk region. However, the war interrupted the project on a presentation stage. Later on in December 2022, the project team proposed the Kalush City Council to try the model and, as such, the work on the [eco-profile for the Kalush community](#) in Ivano-Frankivsk region, was started.

#### Mini-grant grantees (2022-2023)

- *"Together!" Initiative Group* from Mariupol published the "[The impact of a full-scale war on the environment of Mariupol](#)" study and recommendations on the first steps to eliminate consequences of the war for the environment of the city after its de-occupation and control by the Ukrainian authorities.
- *"To Clean Springs"* CSO from Kramatorsk delivered a [methodology of assessment of the state of soils](#) on a sample of the Kurakhiv amalgamated community of the Donetsk region, which were polluted due to the hostilities.
- *Ecosense* CSO from Zaporizhzhya performed their findings within the [Study of the influence of war and energy problems on the quality of air and water in Zaporizhzhia city](#).
- *Environmental Geoinformation Systems of Ukraine* CSO from Kharkiv performed their investigation on the [fixation of damages of the natural complexes and their components in the Kharkiv region](#), which occurred due to shelling, military fortification activities, etc. using the GIS tool.
- *Kinburn* CSO from Mykolaiv delivered a [report on the eco-crimes on the territory of Ochakivska and Kutsurubaska communities of Mykolaiv region](#) and e-mapping of received data (the report is in printed version).
- *Foundation for Mykolaiv City Development* designed the [Report on Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Voznesensk Territorial Community, 2019-2026](#), which is represented to the local City Council and Administration.
- *Renaissance and Development Association* delivered a [study review](#) on regulation, documentation, real state, functioning and problems of the local natural location of the Mytnytsia district of Cherkassy, the city embankment.
- *Ukrainian Institute for Anti-Crisis Management* CSO developed the Strategy for Ecological Development of the Kostyantynivska Urban Territorial Community of the Donetsk region. *(Has not been published due to the war)*