

# INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION



## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**WHAT WE  
DID TO  
SUPPORT  
FREE  
UKRAINE IN  
2023**

# CONTENTS

EUROPEAN  
INTEGRATION AND  
INTERNATIONAL  
SOLIDARITY 5

HELPING  
MILITARY AND  
VETERANS 18

JUSTICE IN TIMES  
OF WAR 36

HUMAN-CENTERED  
RECOVERY 54

PROMOTING SOCIAL  
COHESION 84

PRESERVING A  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEMOCRACY 97

# INTRODUCTORY WORD



**OLEKSANDR  
SUSHKO**

Executive director of the Foundation

What was the year 2023 like for us? The shock of the aggression and the beginning of a great war left behind, and we came to understand that resilience, endurance and properly balanced forces and resources would ultimately determine the outcome of this extraordinary challenge, to which we had become active participants.

At our parent global organisation, the Open Society Foundations, the process of handing over the reins to the next generation of the founding family has been completed. Alexander Soros, the Chairman of OSF, affirmed his unwavering support for Ukraine and visited our country three times within half a year, devoting time to meetings with the country's leadership, government officials, and frank conversations with civil society leaders.

The International Renaissance Foundation has undergone certain internal transformations, while remaining an autonomous, self-governing institution within the OSF. We got a new IRF Board headed by a brilliant intellectual, philosopher, writer and public leader Volodymyr Yermolenko.

We revised our programme structure, in particular, launched a new programme — “Civic Resilience” — which took on the mission of working with the rights and needs of military personnel, veterans, individuals and families affected by war.

We have released our large traditional programme direction — Public Health. The new foundation “Healthy Solutions for an Open Society”, founded in partnership with us, has inherited and is actively implementing human-centred approaches to health policy, human capital, and reintegration of the occupied territories.

We have opened a new modern office, bringing together the Foundation's staff, which was previously spread out in different locations, under one roof. Having passed the stage of targeted response to emergency threats, we have moved on to a strategy of promoting long-term resistance to aggression, strengthening the resilience of society and its democratic principles by supporting the most important and viable public initiatives, enhancing self-reliance and self-organisation of citizens, promoting Ukraine's interests in the world, and European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Ukrainian society has proven its ability to make miracles happen. However, there is still a long way to go from a miracle to sustainable success.

We believe that together we will overcome this path.

# FIGURES OF THE YEAR



## 653

million UAH



## 393

projects



## 236

organisations

In 2023, the Foundation's support for civil society organisations was the largest in its 33-year history, amounting to UAH 653 million.

Thus, over the past 10 years alone, the Foundation has spent about USD 110 million to support civil society.



### Important figures:



The minimum grant amount was UAH 100 thousand, and the maximum was UAH 20 million.. The average grant amount was UAH 1.8 million.



Most often, the Foundation provided grants in the amount of UAH 400 thousand to UAH 1 million.

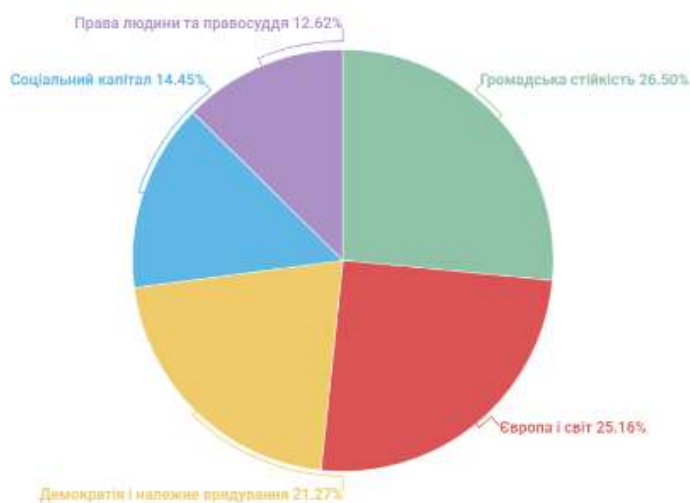


Most projects lasted from 3 to 6 months. Only 60 projects had a duration of more than a year.



In total, since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the foundation has supported more than 1200 projects

### Distribution of funds by programmes:







# EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

For Ukraine, the key to preserving democracy and strengthening it is the movement towards EU and NATO membership. We assume that European integration is not a project of the government or political class alone, but a matter for the whole society. We also recognise that integration into the EU is important not only for strengthening Ukraine's democracy, but also for consolidating the European Union's own strategic and political orientation.

## FOCUS AREAS:

- Supporting Ukraine's integration into the EU to promote democratic reforms;
- Promoting the transition to negotiations on Ukraine's membership in the EU;
- Addressing gaps in the protection of war-affected persons: refugees from Ukraine in Europe, IDPs, war veterans and families of the affected people;
- Ukraine's participation in the dialogue on reforming the EU's external and security policies and expansion policy.



## PROMOTING UKRAINE'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EU

In December 2023, the European Council made a historic decision to open negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the European Union. The Foundation, together with its partners — leading Ukrainian analytical centres — carried out comprehensive work with EU institutions and key capitals, and helped the Ukrainian government to implement the changes in legislation recommended by the EU.

### EU ADVOCACY

Advocacy visits of Ukrainian experts helped to convey to the key EU countries that Ukraine is on track with its European integration trajectory, as many decisions depend not only on Brussels but also on the decisions of the member states. Prior to the European Commission's report, the Ukrainian Centre for European Policy conducted advocacy visits to Paris, Berlin, Brussels and Madrid. During these visits, the experts met with local experts and diplomats to make a strong case for how far Ukraine has progressed on its way to the European Union.

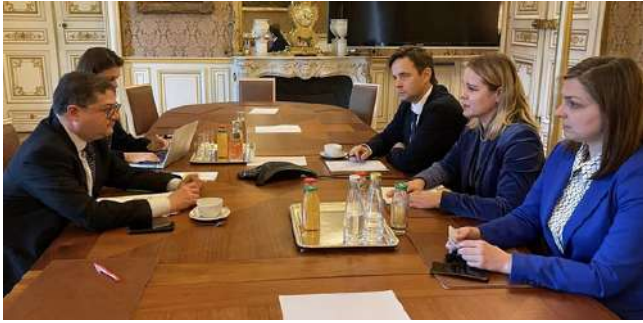


### “PRISM” IN BRUSSELS

The Foreign Policy Council «Ukrainian Prism» team also comprehensively promoted the idea of Ukraine's accession to the EU abroad. With the support of the Foundation, experts worked with the Scandinavian countries, Spain and Portugal. The Foundation and the Open Society Foundations also contributed to the opening of the Ukrainian Prism office in Brussels to provide easier and faster access to stakeholders.





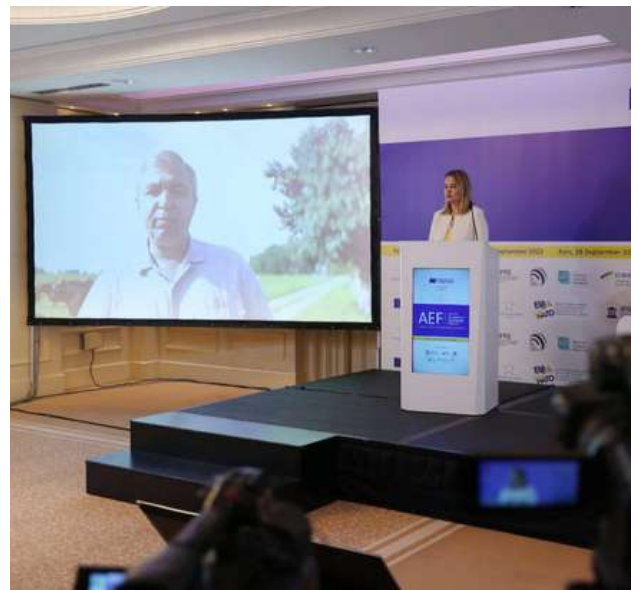


## WORKING WITH ALLIES

In 2023, the New Europe Centre provided systematic advocacy work with the EU member states. The organisation focused on working in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy, and the United States on Ukraine's accession to the EU, as well as political, financial, and military assistance from allies in order to defeat Russia. In addition to visits to meet with politicians and political advisers, the organisation's experts conducted surveys and published articles in the media of the allied countries.

## EU ACCESSION EXCHANGE FORUM

Also, the New Europe Centre team, together with the Foundation and with the financial support of the EU, managed to gather about 100 participants in Kyiv during the Second EU Accession Exchange Forum, a unique platform that brought together politicians, experts, influencers and officials from both candidate and EU member states. Ahead of the publication of the European Commission's annual report on enlargement, the forum became a platform for "synchronising the clocks" of European integration with those who, like Ukraine, are now moving from candidate status to full EU membership.



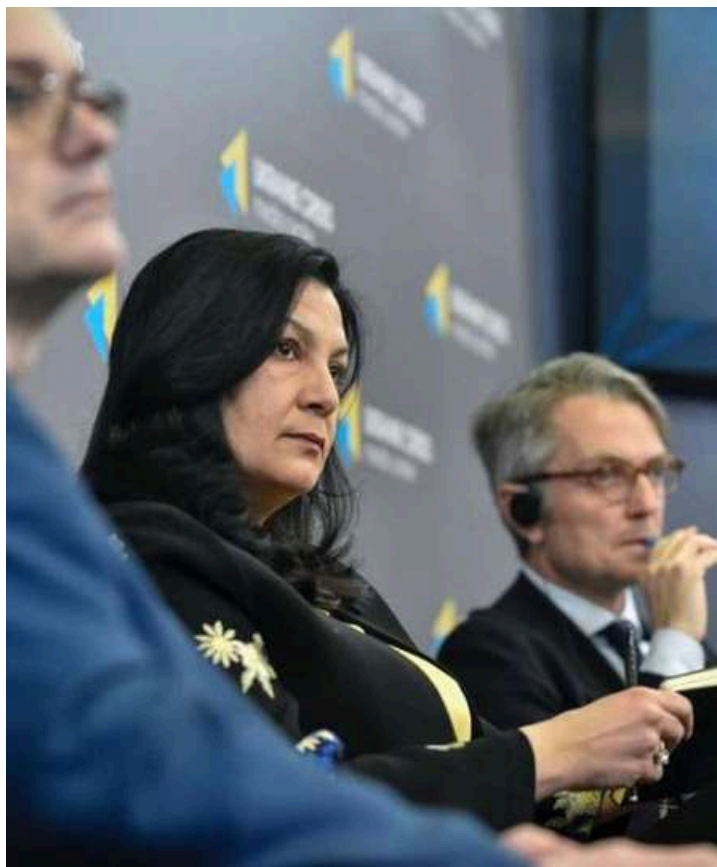
*"We are organising this meeting to discuss, first of all, the path of reforms in the candidate countries, and then to look closely at the lessons learned from the past experience of other candidate countries."*

Oleksandr Sushko

## “HOMEWORK” FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

Throughout the year, the Foundation and our partners worked to bring Ukraine’s legislation in line with EU standards and complete our homework for EU membership.

The EuroAtlantic Course NGO provided expert support to the Verkhovna Rada Committee on EU Integration to ensure that draft laws were assessed in a timely and efficient manner for compliance with our commitments as a candidate country for EU membership and the Association Agreement with the EU. In 2023, the organisation’s team helped the Committee analyse 120 draft laws and provide opinions on their compliance with Ukraine’s European integration commitments and EU law.



In order to prioritise their work, all ministries conducted self-screening in 2023, which is a check of national legislation for compliance with current EU law. The Foundation’s grantee organisations also contributed to the development of monitoring tools and resources to increase capacity to work with EU legislation. For example, the Resource and Analysis Centre “Society and Environment” has prepared a Mapping of Ukraine’s main tasks in the field of environment and climate change, which includes about 80 key EU directives and regulations, as well as hundreds of additional legal acts, various decisions, recommendations, policies, and court practice.



The experts also developed the Handbook of EU Acts in the field of environment and climate change and the web portal “Compass — Your Green Guide to EU Membership”. And Dixi Group experts presented the annual report “Ukraine and the European green route”, highlighting the country’s success in environmental sustainability and energy reforms. These resources were positively assessed by representatives of the government and the Environmental Policy Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as helpful in their work.



# SURVEY ON THE EU

At the request of the New Europe Centre, INFO SAPIENS LLC conducted a study of Ukrainians' opinions on Ukraine's movement towards the EU during the war. The results of the study showed that Ukrainians support reforms and the implementation of European standards as a key element of EU integration. The majority of respondents believe that the EU's requirements for reforms are justified and necessary for further accession negotiations. Ukrainians are also optimistic about future EU membership, with 55% believing it will happen in the next 1–5 years.



## STRATEGIC AUTONOMY



**easyBUSINESS** IN UA

Ми створюємо кращі умови для ведення бізнесу в Україні



Easy Business explores how Ukraine can contribute to the EU's concept of strategic autonomy, which implies independence in technology, resources, security and economic resilience. Analysts are looking at how Ukraine can be integrated into European value chains, helping the EU to reduce its dependence on Russia and China. The results of the research will be disseminated among EU stakeholders, and representatives of Eastern European countries will be invited to a joint conference to discuss in detail the role of Ukraine in the EU's strategic autonomy.

## ADVOCACY APPEALS

The International Renaissance Foundation has joined the [advocacy appeal](#) initiated by the Foundation's partners on Ukraine's accession to the EU. In this appeal, Ukrainian organisations called on European institutions and EU member states to support Ukraine's rapid accession to the European Union. They emphasised the importance of Ukraine's integration for ensuring stability and security in the region, and stressed the readiness of Ukraine to implement the necessary reforms and adhere to European standards.

# INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND ASSISTANCE

It is important for Ukraine to develop international partnerships with different countries during the war to ensure support in fighting the aggressor and rebuilding the country. International alliances facilitate military, humanitarian and economic assistance, which is critical to overcoming the consequences of war.

In its efforts to increase international assistance to Ukraine, the Foundation acts not only as a donor, but also as an active player that can engage in advocacy, bring together different actors and form new informal coalitions and partnerships. The Foundation acts as a kind of hub that both provides support and helps to find out what other organisations are doing, to synchronise watches, to understand what is happening in the environment.



*“We are not the ones who give any instructions or assign tasks, but those who can help, advise, guide, not only with grants, but also with knowledge and connections.”*

Dmytro Shulga

## UCEF 2023

The Foundation, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Prism analytical centre, continued the tradition of holding the annual Ukrainian Central European Forum (UCEF 2023), which brought together about 90 politicians, researchers, representatives of academia, media and civil society from 15 countries to create a common vision of the future of Central Europe. As the forum was held ahead of the European Commission’s decision to recommend the start of negotiations on the accession of the candidate countries to the EU, the participants discussed the prospects of Ukraine and Moldova joining the European Union and the trajectory of the EU enlargement process, as well as the need to build a sustainable military-industrial, diplomatic and economic partnership between the countries of Central Europe.

## UKRAINE-POLAND FORUM

We have strengthened cooperation within the framework of the Ukraine-Poland Forum. The two international meetings of the Forum were attended by civil society activists, analysts, academics and representatives of the business and economic sectors of Ukraine and Poland, as well as the Ukrainian government. The range of topics discussed demonstrated the rich content of Ukrainian-Polish cooperation: from volunteer movements to support the Ukrainian army and migration issues, to challenges in relations between Kyiv and Warsaw to ensure resilience in the face of war and Ukraine’s path to the EU from being blocked for political reasons. Also in September, the Forum participants responded with a joint statement on the peculiarities in Ukrainian-Polish relations, calling for de-escalation of political rhetoric on both sides caused by economic disputes.

## OPEN BORDER

The team of the analytical centre “Europe without Barriers” constantly monitored the work of the “EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes” and “Open Border” initiatives, which appeared after the outbreak of the great war and contain urgent measures to stabilise the movement of people and goods across the border and strengthen cooperation between Ukraine and the EU.

The experts have established stable professional relationships with most of the Initiatives’ stakeholders, and in 2023 held 23 in-depth consultations and 4 expert discussions with representatives of the Ukrainian side, as well as a number of independent, including international, experts. This made it possible to prepare analytical and awareness-raising materials, as well as specific proposals for the government and other stakeholders to improve the processes of effective development of the western border, as well as mechanisms for responding to emergencies on the borders of Ukraine and the EU.



## CENTRE FOR UKRAINIAN VICTORY



The International Centre for Ukrainian Victory was established in 2022 to increase advocacy pressure on European and American stakeholders. Their main goal is to explain the need for political, security and economic assistance to Ukraine.

The International Renaissance Foundation and the Open Society Foundation provide institutional support to the Centre, which helps its experts to choose the most urgent topics for advocacy. They participate in international events, hold meetings and communicate with politicians and experts. Although this activity has a wide range of topics, security assistance remains a key focus.





# COUNTRIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH



In 2023, the Foundation expanded the geography of its activities to convey the Ukrainian point of view and explain Russia's crimes to the whole world. The Foundation supported a number of organisations that developed new partnerships in Asia, Africa and Latin America by preparing analytical and informational materials aimed at the audience of these countries, and by holding joint expert and cultural events.

In particular, the Foundation supported two visits of delegations of journalists from the Global South.

## VISITS OF JOURNALISTS



Given the relevance of promoting Ukraine's arguments on the African continent, in particular on the Peace Formula, food security and other important areas of Ukrainian foreign policy, the NGO New Ukrainian Narratives in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine organised a visit of 15 journalists from 10 African countries (Angola, Botswana, Guinea, Zambia, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Senegal, and Tunisia).

And the Centre for Transatlantic Dialogue organised the visit of journalists from Latin America (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia) and Spain to reduce the spread of Russian pro-war imperial propaganda in the region's information space.

Both delegations had the opportunity to visit Kharkiv or Odesa, Irpin, Bucha and Borodyanka. The journalists talked to people in the frontline and affected communities, met with Ukrainian journalists, volunteers, activists and human rights defenders, and had meetings with government officials, MPs and President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy.







## ANALYTICAL CENTRES

“Ukrainian Prism” establishes partnerships between Ukrainian and foreign analytical centres in the UK, Poland, Canada, Brazil, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Singapore, South Korea, India and Australia. The experts of Prism establish information exchange with foreign analytical centres, participate in international conferences, presenting Ukraine’s position there, etc. In each of the countries, Prism is working to develop partnerships with one or more analytical centres. In addition, experts prepare analytical notes on the perception of Ukraine in different countries and produce English-language podcasts on this topic.

## ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES

The Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation develops partnerships with academic communities in Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, Qatar, Pakistan and Indonesia. Experts are in contact with universities, analytical centres and media in these countries and help them to convey truthful information to their government officials and citizens in general. This work is also supported by the Foundation.





## CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Cultural diplomacy is important for Ukraine because it helps to strengthen the country's positive international image, supports national identity, counteracts disinformation and propaganda, and creates opportunities for cultural exchange and partnership. This contributes to long-term diplomatic and economic integration, which is key in times of war and crisis.

## FRENCH MEDIA LANDSCAPE

France is one of the most influential and economically powerful countries in the EU, which plays an important role in the allied coalition supporting Ukraine in the war against Russia. The Russian lobby, historically powerful and influential in this country, has not disappeared and keeps misinforming the political class and public opinion through numerous materials in high-quality French. That is why in 2023, in addition to advocacy, we intensified our work with France through media cooperation and cultural diplomacy tools.



Ukraine Crisis Media Centre has set up the process of producing and distributing unique French-language content about Ukraine — audio podcasts and YouTube videos. Through the publication of exclusive short videos from the regions, including the frontline areas, UCMC managed to provide a wider French-speaking audience (over 200,000 people) with a unique opportunity to see and feel the war.



Through our cooperation with the Merytus Fund, we supported the launch of the French-language version of the Ukrainian Week website [tyzhden.fr](https://tyzhden.fr). Through the preparation and translation of more than 300 materials in 2023 alone and media appearances, the French audience and the readership of French-speaking countries of the Global South learned more about events in Ukraine, its history, politics and economy.



# UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE IN FRANCE

In November 2023, the Ukrainian Institute, a cultural diplomacy foundation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, opened its representative office in France. The establishment of this office was supported by the Open Society Foundation, of which the International Renaissance Foundation is a part. The Foundation also ensured the arrival of the Institute's team to Paris.



The opening of the representative office took place with the participation of high-level speakers from France, as well as with the participation of the Chairman of the Board of the Open Society Foundations, Alexander Soros, and First Lady Olena Zelenska. The representative office will make Ukrainian culture recognisable in France, create a demand for knowledge about it and demand for Ukrainian cultural products by presenting Ukrainian culture as a significant and integral part of European culture.



*"Efforts to rebuild Ukraine must also include art and culture in order to preserve its heritage and ensure a sustainable presence at the heart of the European cultural landscape."*

Aleksander Soros

# SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN STUDIOS

The Lysiak-Rudnytsky Ukrainian Studies Programme is a long-term programme of support for Ukrainian studies projects for educational, scientific, cultural institutions and analytical centres. The programme is implemented by the Ukrainian Institute in partnership with the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation with the financial support of the International Renaissance Foundation.

The Ilya Lysiak-Rudnytsky Ukrainian Studies Support Programme focuses on the development of knowledge about Ukraine, its past and present at the international level. The programme emphasises the importance of representing Ukrainian studies in the global academic space and contributes to strengthening intellectual ties between Ukraine and the international community.



## Winning projects:

-  Creation of a Polish-language version of the innovative educational platform “UCulture”
-  Holding the International Conference of Creative Industries “Kharkiv. Culture. Reinforced concrete: challenges, opportunities, prospects”
-  Translation and distribution of English-language sources on the history of Euromaidan and the Revolution of Dignity



## UKRAINE UNMUTED

As part of the Ukrainian Cross-section triennial, the collection **UKRAINE! UNMUTED** was published, which presents Ukrainian culture to a foreign audience, focusing on its identity and anti-colonial discourse. The collection includes texts by well-known Ukrainian artists, writers and philosophers, such as Mykola Riabchuk, Vitaliy Portnykov, Yaroslava Strikha and others.

The paper version of the book was published in English and Lithuanian, while the texts in Ukrainian are available online. The project was implemented by the Institute for Cultural Strategy with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation. In 2022, the triennial was held in Kaunas, Lithuania, with a wide programme that included exhibitions, discussions, and cultural events.



## COURSE ON UKRAINE

Course “Ukrainian Culture: Understanding the Country and its People”, on UdeMy, offers a deep dive into Ukrainian culture, history and society. The programme includes an overview of key historical events, an analysis of traditions, art and current trends in Ukraine. The course is designed for those who want to better understand Ukrainian society, its values and characteristics, as well as gain knowledge of the cultural aspects that influence the modern life of Ukrainians.

## IMMERSIVE EXHIBITIONS



On 20 February, an immersive exhibition «Ukraine : A Year of Resilience, a Culture of Resistance» was held at the Grand Palais gallery in Paris. The exhibition, created at the initiative of the Embassy of Ukraine in France, featured masterpieces by Taras Shevchenko and Maria Prymachenko, as well as journalistic photos of the war. The exhibition gathered more than 2,500 people, including diplomats, military attaches, museum directors and UNESCO representatives. The event was supported by the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, the National Taras Shevchenko Museum, the International Renaissance Foundation and other partners.



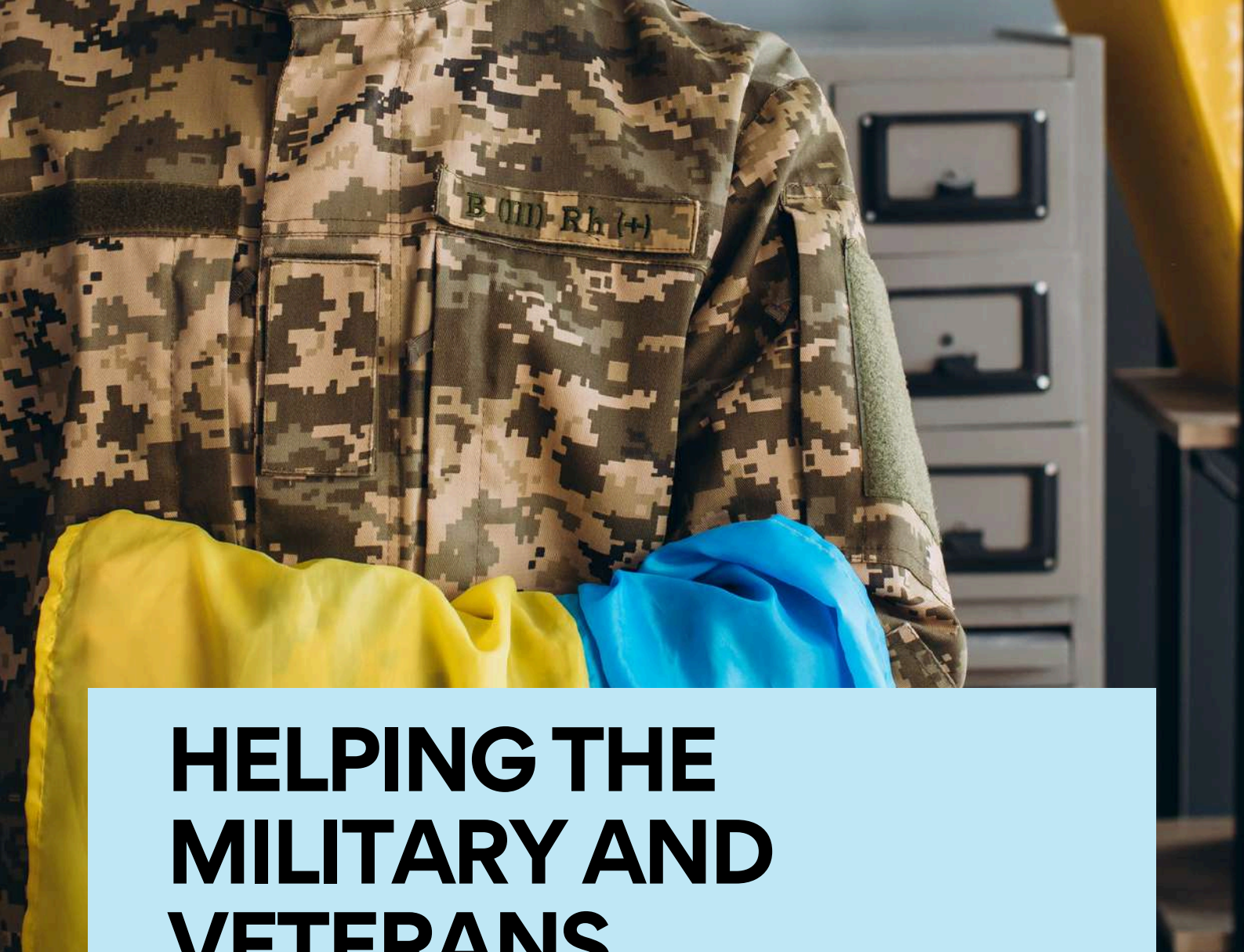
## IN SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

In Solidarity With Ukraine includes 4 delegations from Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and France. As part of the initiative, 20 foreign writers, journalists, publicists, cultural managers and opinion leaders held a series of meetings with Ukrainian cultural and human rights organisations, military journalists and artists, and visited de-occupied and frontline towns and villages affected by Russia’s war against Ukraine.



The project involves international writers and cultural figures in visits to Ukraine, showing them the consequences of the war. This helps to increase international support and disseminate objective information about the situation in Ukraine through cultural and media channels. The visits provide a direct dialogue between Ukrainian and foreign cultural representatives, deepening understanding and cooperation.





# HELPING THE MILITARY AND VETERANS

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The military and veterans risked their lives and health to protect the country and its citizens, so society has a moral obligation to help them in every way possible. Rehabilitation and social adaptation of veterans facilitate their return to civilian life, providing them with the necessary conditions for further development and integration.

## FOCUS AREAS:

- Developing psychological assistance and rehabilitation programmes for veterans;
- Providing opportunities for training, retraining and employment for veterans;
- Providing military personnel and veterans with free legal aid, support in resolving legal issues related to their status, rights and social guarantees;
- Organising events aimed at promoting the social integration of veterans and their active participation in community life.



# SPACES FOR VETERANS



Spaces for veterans provide legal, psychological, social and rehabilitation support, refer veterans to competent authorities and assist them in resolving their issues, support families of those who are waiting for and those who have lost loved ones, and implement sports/art/entertainment activities in the spaces. But above all, a space for veterans is a safe place to meet in a circle, agree on joint actions, and communicate effectively with local authorities.

## COALITION OF VETERAN SPACES

With our support, the NGO “Space of Opportunities” ensured the development and strengthening of the Coalition of spaces for veterans, training of veterans organisations’ leaders at the School of non-governmental sector management, opening of new spaces and involvement of new partners in providing quality services to veterans. The space for veterans “Protection 4.5.0.” was opened in Khmelnytskyi, the space for veterans “Sertsevir” was launched in Chernihiv, and the charity foundation “After Service” (Kyiv) joined the Coalition. Currently, consultations on the opening of new spaces have begun in Chernihiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro, Chernivtsi and Lviv regions.

The NGO “Space of Opportunities” supported communication and coordination between more than 20 Coalition spaces on the problems that arose in communities due to the war, ways to solve them, opportunities, exchange of good practices, the organisation developed joint plans for solving problems and implemented joint projects to ensure community resilience, social cohesion, support for veterans and their families.

Space of Opportunities also amplified the voice of the veteran community and helped to communicate effectively with the authorities. The organisation participated in the work of the coordination headquarters of state and local authorities, and provided support for closed thematic meetings on the development of veterans’ policies and relevant draft laws.



The Space of Opportunities also communicates on behalf of the Coalition at the national level, develops joint problem-solving plans, and implements projects to ensure community resilience, social cohesion, and support for veterans.

In early 2023, with the support of the Foundation, the organisation also created the first directory of spaces for veterans in Ukraine, which collected all the basic information about the existing centres in Ukraine at that time — 28 spaces in 16 regions.

Since 2023, within the framework of the joint competition with the European Union “Hold the line”, the Foundation has been providing institutional support to volunteer organisations, including spaces for veterans in Kyiv, Odesa, Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr and Rivne. We support two more spaces for veterans in Lviv and Mykolaiv from our own funds.

Almost every space for veterans has its own niche and topic that it promotes and specialises in. For example, the Lviv space for veterans is implementing a project with the Foundation to support the families of the missing. In Zhytomyr, they provide training for psychologists who work with veterans and their families in villages. Odesa space is developing leadership and civic awareness among veterans. In Mykolaiv, the Foundation supports the space for veterans in the work with prisoners of war and their families, as well as those released from captivity. A large catalogue of spaces for veterans in Ukraine, compiled by the Space of Opportunities, can be found [here](#), and some examples of spaces for veterans can be found on the following pages.



As the number of veterans grows many times over, the number of spaces for veterans will increase. The Coalition will be able to help new centres, explain how to better organise people and unite the community around them.

Today, spaces for veterans exist mainly at the level of regional centres. However, the first centres are already emerging at the level of smaller towns, such as Bila Tserkva and Irpin.



## RIVNE

The NGO “Psychological Service of Euromaidan” is a veteran space in Rivne, provided legal, social and psychological assistance to detained and convicted veterans and interacted with communities, probation centres, police, and the penitentiary service. As part of the project, three groups of graduates of the Rivne Patrol Police Academy were trained on the specifics of working with veterans. Recommendations for preventing offences and crime among veterans were prepared and disseminated



## VINNYTSIA

“The Vinnytsia Analytical and Educational Centre “Space for veterans”” Public union took over the assistance and support of the wounded, identified and systematised the most common problems at the level of hospitals, and developed algorithms for solving these problems. The corresponding manual was published and actively distributed both in the region and beyond. As part of the project, the organisation analysed the regional programme and submitted proposals for amendments to the regional comprehensive programme to support veterans and their families.



## KYIV

Charitable Foundation “Centre for Adaptation and Rehabilitation “YARMIZ”” is a veteran space in Kyiv. Kyiv – published a “Guide to mental health in times of war”, which brought together information and contacts on available quality psychological assistance providers for veterans and their families, reaching 1.5 million users



Additionally, “Yarmiz” formed a team of 19 active and professional psychologists with knowledge of military/veteran issues, developed and tested a training programme for military psychologists and students of the Military Institute of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. The project also successfully cooperated with Kyiv local authorities, with more than 70 officials receiving training on how to interact with veterans.





## WOMEN VETERAN MOVEMENT (VETERANKA)

The NGO Women Veteran Movement used the grant to build their team and fundraising strategy (they managed to raise more than UAH 10 million to help the army), to support the work of their workshop that makes military clothing, especially for women serving in the Armed Forces, to organise charity events and generally develop a culture of charity, reaching out to very different audiences through creative approaches.

Forum “Communities for Veterans”

## FORUM “COMMUNITIES FOR VETERANS”

NGO “Space of Opportunities” initiated and conducted the second all-Ukrainian dialogue “Communities for Veterans” in Khmelnytskyi, which brought together more than 500 participants online and offline. The dialogue was aimed at bringing together people who have an impact on shaping the agenda for veterans and their families in communities, society and the country, to develop new solutions in the field of rehabilitation and reintegration and to disseminate existing successful practices in different communities. The dialogue contributed to the actualisation of veterans’ issues and the formation of a unity of vision, goals and intentions to address veterans’ issues among representatives of government and local self-government, business, veteran and volunteer communities, and the non-governmental sector.



*“Veterans’ movements do not develop in a vacuum, but on the basis of real communities of people who unite in communities — people who care and feel involved in the country as a whole and in specific territories. This gives us hope that community development during the war, and especially after the victory, will be meaningful and systematic. And it will be based on constant public activism.”*

Oleksandr Sushko





# PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE MILITARY AND VETERANS

Protecting the rights of the military and veterans is extremely important to ensure fair and dignified treatment of those who have defended their country. Guaranteeing their rights helps to provide the necessary support and rehabilitation to facilitate their successful integration into civilian life after service.

## EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



The NGO Fulcrum UA and LGBT military personnel launched a campaign to support the introduction of registered partnerships in Ukraine. This initiative is aimed at ensuring the rights of the LGBT community, including military personnel, which will allow them to legalise their relationships and gain access to social guarantees.



The International Renaissance Foundation supported a strategic session on commissioners for veterans' issues. The main goal of the session was to create an effective system of support and integration of veterans, as well as to share experiences and best practices to ensure their rights and social protection.



The Human Rights Centre ZMINA and the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union held discussions on the protection of the rights of military personnel. Experts discussed topical issues of protecting the rights of the military, outlined the latest research and initiatives aimed at improving conditions for the military in Ukraine.



In Vinnytsia, experts from the space for veterans provide consultations in medical institutions on the subject of military qualification, combatant status and service after injury. This initiative aims to provide the necessary assistance to veterans and servicemen who need legal and medical advice to ensure they receive quality treatment and rehabilitation, as well as protection of their rights.



## #БУДЬ\_В\_КУРСІ (BE AWARE)

“Volunteer Association “VESTA””, the project #будь\_в\_курсі (be aware) was aimed at informing veterans and their families about the existing mechanisms for the implementation of rights and guarantees, explaining the procedures in clear terms, as well as providing information support to the above categories of population during military service, or adaptation after loss, or returning to civilian life.

The organisation created short animated videos for social media, developed after the conduction of focus groups. A total of 14 videos were created on the following topics: “Financial support”, “Free prosthetics”, “How to get a UBD status”, “Rehabilitation abroad”, “Burial of a serviceman”, “One-time payment to the family of the deceased”, “Registration of benefits for family members of the deceased”, “Provision of property for servicemen for the winter”, “Passing the military medical examination”, “Passing the medical examination commission”, “Breathing techniques for stabilisation”, “Leave abroad for servicemen”, “Missing person — what should the family do”, “Payments for families of prisoners of war”.

The videos gained considerable popularity through the use of TikTok (over 1 million views) and Instagram (over 30,000 views) and attracted the attention of media and influencers on veterans’ issues. As part of the project, the organisation set up a legal aid and psychological support referral service in response to a wave of requests from the target audience.



## LEGAL HUNDRED

The Legal Hundred project helped to improve the efficiency of the work and the quantity and quality of services provided by the Legal Hundred. Over the course of the project, the organisation’s lawyers provided 23,590 oral and written consultations to veterans and active military personnel. The project’s information materials on the protection of the rights of servicemen and servicewomen, analysis of draft laws and expert recommendations were viewed by more than 1 million people.

## EXPERIENCE RESEARCH

The project of the Human rights center for servicemen and veterans Pryncyp was aimed at protecting the rights of military personnel: developing solutions to improve the system of protection of active military personnel, standards of law enforcement agencies, pre-trial investigation bodies and standards of judicial proceedings. As part of the project, the organisation analysed court practice and developed a map of the main “pain points” for servicemen: difficulties in passing the military qualification commission, problems with leaves and transfers, issues related to demobilisation, and payment of financial support.

The experience of building a military justice system and mechanisms for protecting the rights of military personnel in 5 countries, including NATO members (the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, the Republic of Lithuania, Turkey and Israel) were also analysed.

The results of the analysis of military justice systems in other countries were used for comparison with the system in Ukraine. The organisation engaged more than 10 authorities in dialogue and work and developed recommendations for short-term and long-term changes in the context of building an effective military justice system in Ukraine and protecting the rights of military personnel in the security and defence forces. The project has contributed to civil society and the government having data on best practices that can be implemented in Ukraine.



## WORTH REMEMBERING



The Vinnytsia Veteran Hub has published a handbook for the military called "Worth remembering". This manual provides important information for military personnel, including legal matters, medical services, social support, and other important resources needed to ease the transition between military and civilian life.

The handbook contains contact information for helplines, recommendations for psychological rehabilitation, and detailed information on the rights of servicemen. It is intended to become an important resource for members of the military, helping them navigate difficult life situations and receive the necessary assistance.

# REHABILITATION OF THE MILITARY

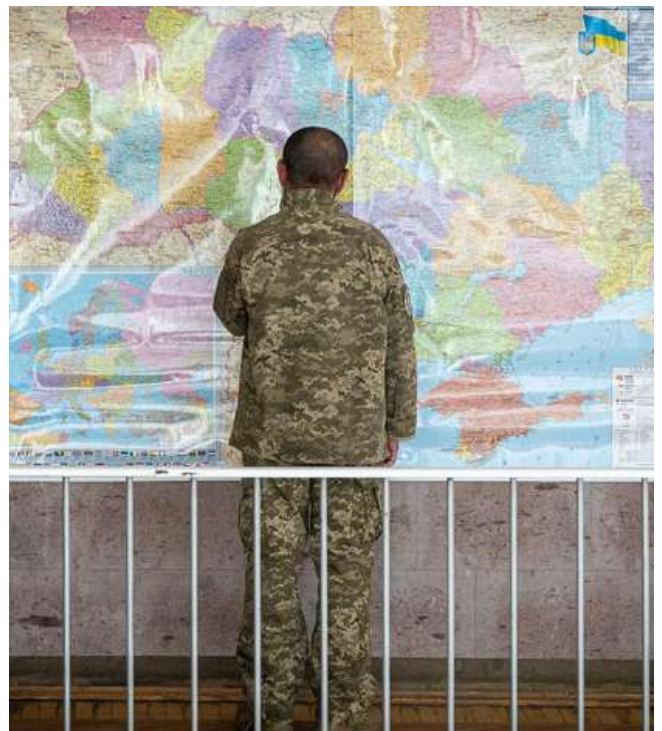


Veterans and servicemen and servicewomen returning from war often face physical and psychological trauma that requires specialised treatment and support. Rehabilitation projects help them adapt to civilian life, restore their health and improve their quality of life. Successful rehabilitation of the military facilitates their integration into society, reduces the risk of social isolation and helps them to become active participants in public life again.

## LISOVA POLIANA (FOREST GLADE)

Lisova Poliana is a state-owned institution run by the Ministry of Healthcare of Ukraine, which is the first medical centre in Ukraine to specialise in the recovery of veterans' mental health.

With the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, Lisova Poliana implemented a pilot project to develop the institute of clinical case managers, a new type of hospital staff who accompany veterans to resolve social and legal issues. Within the framework of the project, a model for the work of clinical case managers was created, a package of working documentation and reporting, a job description and a code of ethics were developed.



The work of clinical case managers was tested in Lisova Poliana, where 600 veterans undergoing treatment received such services (e.g. assistance in obtaining a certificate of injury, support when travelling to other medical facilities, communication with government authorities, overcoming bureaucratic procedures).





## REFERENCES

The YARMIZ Rehabilitation and Adaptation Centre is also one of the organisations supporting veterans and their families. The Centre has published a practical guide “Inclusive Society in Ukraine” for people who have been disabled as a result of the war. The book contains advice from physiotherapists, rehabilitation therapists, occupational therapists and psychologists for people with amputations, visual and hearing impairments, as well as their families. Chapters cover rehabilitation, self-reliance, dealing with phantom pain, legal advice and useful contacts. The supplement is provided by videos with practical tips available via QR codes.



## WINGS OF VICTORY

The Wings of Victory Charitable Foundation received a grant from the Foundation to support a team that transports severely injured, disabled veterans, provides them with patronage support, legal, medical and psychological counselling to wounded soldiers, and trains them in nursing or self-care for seriously affected patients. In addition, the organisation assists with the organisation of prosthetics. In just 6 months, 525 patients were treated and 329 transported by special vehicles, 200 patients received medical support, and three received necessary prostheses.

## REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR

The Coordination Centre for the treatment of prisoners of war presented the Concept for the creation of a system for the recovery of persons imprisoned as a result of Russia’s armed aggression. The concept includes medical, rehabilitation and psychological assistance to military personnel and civilians released from captivity. At the first stage, the emphasis is on high-quality diagnosis and rehabilitation. Upon completion of rehabilitation, military personnel will undergo a military qualification commission to decide whether to continue their service.





## REINTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Veterans face unique challenges, including physical and psychological trauma, which can make it difficult for them to integrate into the civilian economy. Projects that help them acquire new skills, find employment and adapt to civilian life not only support veterans, but also contribute to economic development and social cohesion.

### ASSOCIATION OF ATO VETERAN ENTREPRENEURS

The Association of ATO Veteran Entrepreneurs implemented the project “Reintegration of Veterans through Entrepreneurship”. The results and information developed under the project formed the basis for the draft law “On Veteran Entrepreneurship”.

At the same time, a draft programme for preferential financing of veteran entrepreneurship by the banking sector was developed jointly with the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ministry of Economy, and the National Bank. The concept of a regional policy to support veteran entrepreneurship and a model programme for financing the launch of a veteran business for communities were developed.

The Association promoted a UAH 300 million programme for grants for veteran entrepreneurs at the level of the Kyiv city government. The Association has provided more than 200 consultations on starting a business (in person and through a hotline) and conducted a training programme for 45 future veteran entrepreneurs.

This work contributes to the social and economic reintegration of veterans through entrepreneurship. Initiatives such as the development of a draft law on veteran entrepreneurship, preferential financing programmes and regional support policies are creating the conditions for veterans to be able to fulfil their potential and contribute to the country's economy.

## PILOT CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The Space of Opportunities NGO, with the support of the Foundation, is setting up a pilot career development centre based on a space for veterans. In addition, the organisation works with employers to promote the idea of employing veterans and works with HR professionals who help veterans.



## TRAINING PLATFORM FOR VETERANS



The Kruk UAV Operator Training Centre, with the support of the Foundation, is working on an online training platform to provide training, adaptation and psychological support for veterans.

It will be an online service that offers both training and retraining, as well as job search for veterans who complete these trainings. The first course to be launched will be a retraining course for demobilised veterans in the field of UAV operator, with courses for other specialities to follow. “Kruk” sees its platform as a meeting point for veterans and employers.

## UKRAINIAN VETERANS FOUNDATION

The Ukrainian Veterans Foundation has developed [a study on the needs and obstacles of veterans in employment](#). It holds regular competitions to support veteran-owned businesses and has already awarded around 400 mini-grants to small businesses.

We are helping the Veterans Foundation to promote this topic and have supported press tours of veteran businesses so that journalists can make stories and highlight how veterans are finding themselves in civilian life and helping communities.

*“Economic independence is a key element of reintegration. If a veteran has the ability to support himself and his family, we can assume that half the work on reintegration has already been done. Employers should be more motivated to hire veterans.”*

Olha Halchenko



## THE PATH OF RETURN

The conference “The Path of Return” was held in Kropyvnytskyi to support the Defenders of Ukraine in their reintegration into civilian life and maximise their labour and entrepreneurial potential. The event was attended by family doctors, crisis psychologists, prosthetic engineers, rehabilitation specialists and representatives of the Kirovohrad State Regional Administration. The conference was supported by the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation, uniting the efforts of various organisations to help military personnel and their families.



## RADIO ESSAY

Suspilne, with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, has announced an artistic competition for the creation of a radio project “Radio essays created by veterans in original performance on Suspilne”. The project aims to popularise the content of veteran artists by presenting their success stories. The programme will consist of 10 episodes of 15 minutes each, which will be broadcast on the Radio Kultura radio channel.

## RETURN TO LIFE



The Return to Life project in Zakarpattia region has supported more than 200 soldiers, veterans and their families by providing psychological and legal support. Over the course of six months, the team organised various events, including group sessions, individual meetings and online consultations. The events included photoshoots, workshops and excursions, as well as special attention to wounded soldiers.

The project culminated in a two-day retreat for military families in Nyzhnye Selyshche. The event brought together more than fifty families, giving them the opportunity to recover emotionally and strengthen family ties.



# RECRUITING

Lobby X is a successful recruitment agency that helps Ukrainians find interesting and progressive jobs. After the start of the full-scale invasion, the Lobby X team began to actively work with requests from the Armed Forces, helping to find specialists for specific units. This work is carried out free of charge, which allows the military not to be distracted from their main task — defending the country.



Thanks to the grant support from the Renaissance Foundation, the military recruitment department received the necessary funding for its work. Lobby X plans to further expand its support for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which will improve the employment process and ensure the country's success and progress.

*"We lacked resources, but the Renaissance Foundation stepped in to help. We asked them to provide one or two salaries, and we received even more than we needed. This is our first experience of grant funding, but it is 100% worthwhile."*

Vladyslav Greziev

## How does recruiting work?

- 🎯 Vacancies are posted on platforms or a full "turnkey recruitment" is provided
- 🎯 Selection of candidates based on the specifics of the vacancies and the needs of the unit.
- 🎯 Preference is given to highly motivated candidates, which is important for unit commanders.
- 🎯 In 2022, hundreds of specialists were employed by the Armed Forces of Ukraine
- 🎯 Lobby X plans to systematically support the Armed Forces of Ukraine by improving employment processes



# PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PRISONERS OF WAR



The project of the Media Initiative for Human Rights “Protection of the rights of prisoners of war: support for families and advocacy” is aimed at helping prisoners of war captured by the Russian Federation after the start of the full-scale invasion, as well as supporting their families. It aims not only to facilitate the release of prisoners of war, but also to provide sustainable support to their families during the hardship of being without their loved ones.

One of the key goals of the project is to create a strong network of connections between the families of prisoners of war from different units, allowing them to share information, experiences and provide each other with emotional support. Such communication is extremely important in an environment where information is limited.

The project also facilitates an effective dialogue between the families of prisoners of war and representatives of government agencies. This includes ensuring access to important information about the status and conditions of detention of prisoners, as well as the processes for their release. In addition, families are provided with legal advice and support.

Active media representation of the issue of Ukrainian prisoners of war also plays an important role in raising public awareness. Increased attention to this issue contributes to the growth of public pressure on the relevant governmental and international bodies to speed up the process of releasing prisoners and improve their conditions of detention.

In general, the project not only provides direct assistance and support to those who have faced the brutality of war, but also contributes to the formation of a stronger and more united community capable of effectively defending their rights and interests in extremely difficult conditions.





# ELECTRONIC ACCOUNT OF PRISONERS OF WAR

The International Renaissance Foundation has supported the development of a Personal Account for relatives of captured and missing soldiers. This online service allows relatives to receive advice, find out about the accountability category of defenders and provide additional information through a user-friendly interface accessible from any device.



## ONLINE TRAININGS

With the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, a series of online trainings on providing legal aid to families of missing persons were held. The trainings were attended by lawyers from the free legal aid system and lawyers.

The online training was conducted by Maka Shoniya, a lawyer, an expert in the protection of the rights of military personnel at the First Veteran Female Space “Rehab”, a member of the working group on law enforcement and rulemaking in the field of legal and social protection of persons missing in special circumstances.

## HOTLINE

With the support of the Foundation, a hotline was launched for relatives of missing military personnel. This line provides information and psychological support, helps to coordinate the actions of relatives and provides legal advice on finding and clarifying the status of missing persons.

In addition, the hotline facilitates the exchange of information between government agencies and families searching for their loved ones, providing quick and convenient access to the necessary support.

## INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

The relatives of the captured musicians met with representatives of human rights organisations to discuss the current issues related to the release of their loved ones. The meeting focused on ways of advocacy and international pressure that could be used to speed up the process of releasing the prisoners.

The participants had the opportunity to ask questions to the experts and share their experiences. An important aspect of the meeting was the discussion of support for the families of prisoners, including psychological assistance and legal advice to help them cope with current difficulties.





# SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

Support for the families of military personnel is critical as these families face unique challenges, including emotional stress, financial instability and social isolation. Providing support, both psychological and material, helps families adapt to change and maintain their integrity and stability.

## A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

The [TAPS Charity Fund](#) has prepared a guidebook “When waiting for a soldier from the war” for families and friends who are waiting for a loved one to return from the frontline.

The purpose of the [practical recommendations](#) is to answer the following questions: what happens to the physical and psycho-emotional state of a soldier, how to react and what to pay attention to for those who are waiting for and meeting their loved ones from the front. These guidelines will be useful for both families and friends of servicemen.

**КОЛИ ЧЕКАЄШ  
ВІЙСЬКОВОГО З ВІЙНИ**

## FAMILIES OF PRISONERS OF WAR

The City centre for support of war veterans in Mykolaiv is stepping up [assistance to defenders released from captivity](#) and families of prisoners of war. The project includes psychological, medical, social and legal assistance aimed at reintegrating released servicemen into society and supporting their families.

The project has created specialised rehabilitation programmes that include individual and group sessions, trainings and workshops. The project's goal is to provide comprehensive support to the released soldiers and their families, facilitate their rapid recovery and adaptation to civilian life.

# HELPING CIVILIANS IMPROVE WAR-RELATED SKILLS

The Foundation supports initiatives that promote the development of skills among civilians in Ukraine to help them cope with the challenges of the war waged by Russia. The Foundation focuses on several key areas within this framework.

One of the priority areas is tactical medicine and first aid training. This includes training in basic and advanced techniques to help the wounded on the battlefield and in extreme conditions. These skills can save the lives of both military and civilians who find themselves in a combat zone or under fire.

The Foundation also supports projects aimed at teaching civilian drone management. The use of drones has become an integral part of modern military and rescue operations. Civilians trained to fly drones can help in reconnaissance, searching for victims, monitoring the situation on the ground, and delivering necessary materials to hard-to-reach areas.

Another important area is mine safety training. The proliferation of mines and other explosive devices in Ukraine poses a significant threat to human life and health. Training on mine recognition, mine avoidance and safety rules can significantly reduce the risk of civilian injuries. In addition, the Foundation promotes training in weapons handling.

Finally, the Foundation supports other initiatives aimed at developing useful skills for civilians in the context of military operations.

These can include courses on survival in extreme conditions, self-defense skills, and knowledge of how to act during shelling and evacuations.

These initiatives are extremely important as they help to increase the safety and survival of civilians during conflict. The knowledge and skills gained through such exercises can save lives, reduce the risk of injury and help civilians respond more effectively to the challenges of war.

In implementing these initiatives, the Foundation cooperates with the Kruk UAV Operator Training Center, the Boryviter School, the Aerial Reconnaissance Support Center, and others.







# JUSTICE IN TIMES OF WAR

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Bringing Russia to justice will ensure fair punishment for the perpetrators of the war, help hold the aggressor accountable for the destruction and recover reparations, and create mechanisms that will protect Ukraine and the world from other manifestations of unmotivated military aggression in the future.

## FOCUS AREAS

- Demand the imposition of sanctions, ensure monitoring of their compliance, and expose sanctions evasion to increase the cost of the war for Russia;
- Promote the establishment of international mechanisms to ensure accountability for war crimes through documentation, legal mechanisms and bringing charges against Russia;
- Promote strategic cooperation of Ukrainian civil society and international coalitions to influence the agenda of judicial, political and economic accountability of Russia.

# DOCUMENTING WAR CRIMES



Projects aimed at documenting Russia's war crimes in the war against Ukraine help to collect evidence of crimes, which is necessary for further prosecution of the perpetrators in international courts. They also serve as an important tool for informing the international community about the scale and consequences of the aggression, helping to put pressure on the aggressor countries.

## ARCHIVE OF WAR

The Archive of War project, which is curated by Docudays, is an innovative initiative aimed at preserving the complex history of war. The digital platform developed for the War Archive is a huge database that includes millions of records in various formats — video, audio, photographs and text materials. These records cover a wide range of topics, from documenting crimes against civilians committed by Russian forces to stories of heroic resistance by Ukrainians, the activities of volunteer centres, examples of self-organisation of citizens, etc.

The detailed analysis and classification of materials is carried out by a specialised team of the Archive's specialists, who use a pre-prepared set of key terms and categories. Additionally, the content is translated into English and transcribed.

The Archive of War is a non-public resource, which is accessible after passing an integrity check and authorisation. The archive has a three-tiered system of access to information that guarantees the protection of personal data and confidential information. The archive has several secure copies, which are accessible through modern security protocols and cybersecurity tools. The platform provides the ability to filter content by keywords and matches, allowing research priorities to be set.



## OLENIVKA



The project of the [Regional Center for Human Rights](#) “In Search of Justice: documenting and prosecuting war crimes” also deals with the documentation of war crimes. The incident with the explosion in the living quarters intended for the detention of Ukrainian prisoners of war on the territory of the Volnovakha penal colony demonstrates the Russian Federation’s alleged violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law governing the treatment of prisoners of war. This tragic episode, which resulted in the deaths of more than 55 prisoners of war and the injury of approximately 140 people, occurred more than a year ago.

The Ukrainian national authorities face significant obstacles in conducting the investigation of this tragedy, as they are unable to gain access to the scene. In response to these challenges, the Regional Centre for Human Rights is actively working to collect evidence and information that could point to the involvement of individuals from the highest command of the Russian Federation in the organisation and execution of the criminal act in Olenivka. These efforts are aimed at preparing and submitting materials to the International Criminal Court to ensure justice and accountability for gross violations of international laws.

## OSINT INVESTIGATION

[Thuth Hounds](#) analysts document Russian war crimes using a variety of OSINT technologies. They submit the collected materials to both the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine and the International Criminal Court. In cooperation with the Foundation, Thuth Hounds analyses various OSINT tools for their capabilities and effectiveness in documenting war crimes, and develops a specialised map and compendium of such tools for prosecutors, investigators and non-governmental experts.



## ECOCIDE

The NGO “Environment People Law” deals with crimes against the environment. The organisation’s experts investigate Russian crimes against the environment, analyse them and explain their systematic nature. Their ambitious goal is to ensure that the concept of “[ecocide](#)” eventually appears in the Rome Statute, which would prevent states from committing such crimes in the future.





# TORTURE OF PRISONERS OF WAR

The Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR) documents the torture committed by the Russians against both prisoners of war and civilians. Currently, MIHR is actively implementing various initiatives aimed at supporting the families of prisoners of war and at studying the situation of captured and missing servicemen. The data collected in the process of communicating with families is also used to create journalistic investigations and case studies.

Their joint activities with the Foundation include three components: information and analytical, communication and legal. Information and analytical part includes the preparation of materials on the detention, custody and release of prisoners of war, as well as journalistic investigations. The legal component involves supporting the cases of prisoners of war in international institutions, preparing submissions to the UN Committee Against Torture and providing legal advice to the families of prisoners of war.



## PROTECTION OF RIGHTS

The Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group (ULAG) aims to help affected persons restore their rights. ULAG collects evidence of Russia's crimes, including sexual violence. Experts share their findings and facts of international crimes on international platforms, and within Ukraine, their research forms the basis of numerous projects to strengthen the capacity of Ukraine's legal system to protect and restore the rights of affected persons.

## TRAINING OF PROSECUTORS

In addition to the international level, the Foundation also supports national investigations. With the Foundation's support, Just Group works with the War Crimes Department of the Prosecutor General's Office to develop national capacity to deal with war crimes. They help to develop standards for investigating such crimes, and we also support training for prosecutors and investigators involved in investigations.



# SUPPORTING RESILIENCE

Working in wartime poses many challenges that are very different from normal everyday life. During this period, employees face increased psychological stress and physical uncertainty, which requires a special approach to performing their duties. Law enforcement officials, including police and prosecutors, regularly work in areas where tragic events have occurred, especially in frontline areas. This environment inevitably leads to increased emotional and physical stress.



The project of the Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation “Strengthening the system of psychological support for prosecutors and employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs” is aimed at psychological support for employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and aims to improve the methods of work of psychologists interacting with law enforcement officers, as well as to optimise the processes of interaction with civilians affected by the war. This initiative includes the design and implementation of training and development programmes for MIA psychologists to provide them with the necessary knowledge and tools to provide effective psychological assistance in conditions where conventional methods may not be sufficiently effective.

The initiative to support regional prosecutors is focused on studying the specifics of their work under martial law to identify opportunities for improving work processes, including adaptation to the difficult and risky circumstances caused by the hostilities. This involves analysing workloads and working conditions, as well as developing recommendations for optimising working procedures and support mechanisms for staff, including psychological training and access to resources to strengthen emotional resilience.

Both projects contribute to the stability and effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in times of war.

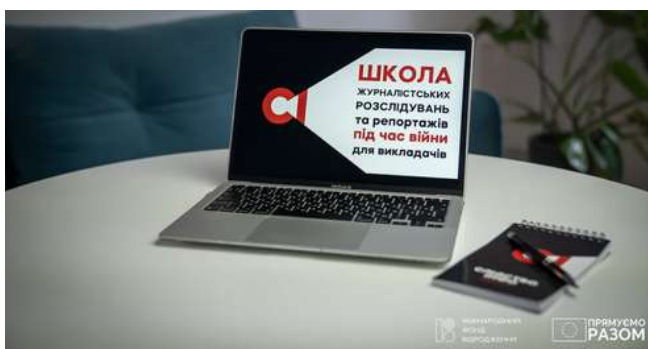
## COUNTING THE DAMAGE

The Kyiv School of Economics estimates that more than 4,497 social, educational and healthcare institutions have been damaged or destroyed as a result of Russia's full-scale aggression in Ukraine, causing more than USD 10 billion in losses. As of the beginning of 2023, the healthcare sector in Donetsk region suffered the most, with 36% of institutions destroyed or damaged.



## SCHOOL OF INVESTIGATORS

The School of Investigative Journalism and Reporting during the War, organised by Slidstvo.Info, has successfully completed, bringing together professors from Ukrainian higher education institutions for an online course. During the course, which lasted from 16 October to 13 November 2023, participants attended more than 30 webinars and received consulting and mentoring support from representatives of Slidstvo.Info. The participants updated teaching methods and content of their courses and received fees for doing so.



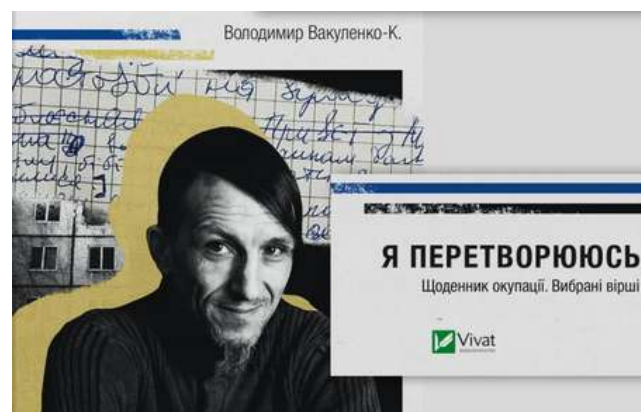
## DOCUMENTARY FILMS

A group of Ukrainian filmmakers called Babylon'13 have created a series of documentaries dedicated to Russia's war crimes. The aim of the films is to preserve the emotional memory of the events. One of these films is the short film "122 Beds. Based on the materials of the criminal proceedings", which documents the targeted attack by the Russian military on the Bashtanka Multidisciplinary Hospital in Mykolaiv region.



## "I AM TRANSFORMING" ("Я ПЕРЕТВОРЮЮСЬ")

The book "I am transforming" by Volodymyr Vakulenko-K, who was killed by the Russian occupiers during the temporary occupation of the Izium district, is not only a testament to his personal experiences but also documentary evidence of the atrocities committed by the Russian invaders. The diary, found buried in the garden after the de-occupation, reflects the realities of the war and the fate of Vakulenko, whose life was tragically interrupted.





# SANCTIONS PRESSURE

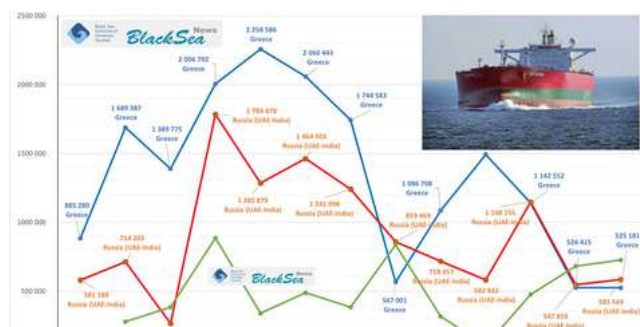


For almost 10 years, the Foundation has been advocating for the preservation and expansion of sanctions for Russia's armed aggression and annexation of Crimea. After the full-scale invasion, sanctions became an even more important element of influence on the aggressor.

## DATABASE OF SANCTIONED COMPANIES

Last year, with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, the Monitoring Group of the [BlackSeaNews](#) and the Black Sea Institute for Strategic Studies conducted a comprehensive analysis of the content and scope of sanctions against legal entities in 2022–2023. The analysis is based on the database of legal entities maintained by the Monitoring Group on a daily basis. The database currently includes more than 8,300 legal entities that have been sanctioned by Ukraine, the USA, the EU, the UK and Canada in connection with Russian aggression against Ukraine. The database continues to be the only open source of information on sanctions containing verified data on legal entities.

The database has become a reference for a professional audience of experts and specialists dealing with sanctions around the world. Based on the monitoring, the organisation's experts prepared proposals for expanding and synchronising sanctions against companies between countries, which were then submitted to Ukrainian state authorities and embassies of partner countries.



# ENERGY SANCTIONS

The DiXi Group analytical centre helps Ukrainian government officials improve Ukraine's energy security position and monitors the implementation of sanctions against Russia. Special attention is paid to such topics as compliance with the price ceiling rules for Russian oil, trade in Russian liquefied natural gas in the EU, sanctions against RosAtom and others. DiXi communicates to foreign stakeholders the need to strengthen sanctions and backs it up with specific calculations.

Based on its research, DiXi Group prepared advocacy proposals that were presented during the annual international conference Ukrainian Energy Security Dialogue 2023 and during working trips to the United States and Brussels.



DiXi Group conducted two important advocacy trips dedicated to green recovery and sanctions against the aggressor. During their visit to Berlin, Ukrainian experts discussed with representatives of the German government and NGOs the restoration of Ukraine's energy sector and the strengthening of sectoral sanctions against Russia, including asset confiscation. During the EITI Global Conference in Senegal, experts discussed the need to control the use of oil and gas revenues to prevent Russia from financing military conflicts and terrorist activities.

The RuAssets Watch project is an initiative of Dixi Group to monitor the confiscation of Russian assets for the reconstruction of Ukraine. It provides a detailed analysis of current actions, such as asset freezing and confiscation, the introduction of new sanctions, and the creation of mechanisms to support these measures. This project is important for ensuring justice, deterring the aggressor, and financing Ukraine's reconstruction through the use of illegally obtained Russian assets.

## DISCUSSION OF SANCTIONS

On 10 March 2023, the Centre for Global Studies "Strategy XXI" organised a roundtable discussion on "International sanctions against Russia: additional opportunities". Participants discussed conceptual views on the development of sanctions policy, problems with monitoring the implementation of preventive measures, the results of energy sanctions and ways to circumvent them.



## DRAFT LAW ON SANCTIONS



Experts of the Eastern Europe Security Institute, with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, prepared a draft law “Expanding the legal grounds for imposing sanctions and confiscation of aggressor property”. This draft law is aimed at improving the mechanisms for blocking and confiscating assets, expanding the grounds for sanctions, and unifying the definition of an aggressor, including an additional mechanism for blocking assets of Russian residents. The draft law also provides for detailed procedures for state institutions involved in the implementation of the sanctions policy.

## MONITORING THE EXIT OF FOREIGN COMPANIES

The project “Self-Sanctions/LeaveRussia”, implemented by KSE Institute with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, monitors the exit of foreign companies from the Russian market and their impact on the Russian economy. After more than 21 months of full-scale invasion, only 302 foreign companies have completely ceased operations in Russia, which is only 8.3% of the total number of companies in the KSE database. The study also shows that 1,563 companies continue to operate in Russia without changes.



## DEVELOPMENT OF COMPENSATION MECHANISMS



The project “#Compensation4UA/ Compensation for war damage for Ukraine. Phase II”, implemented by the analytical and advocacy platform Dnistrianskyi Centre, aimed at improving the mechanisms for the seizure and confiscation of Russian assets in Ukraine and included the creation of analytical materials and advocacy events. For example, on 4 April, this project will host a discussion on the Effectiveness of mechanisms for the seizure and confiscation of Russian assets in Ukraine.



# CREATING LEGAL MECHANISMS



The creation of unique new legal mechanisms aimed at punishing Russia as an aggressor is crucial for ensuring international justice and maintaining global law and order. Traditional legal instruments may be insufficient to adequately respond to the current challenges and the scale of violations of international law that occur during aggression.

## REPATRIATION OF KIDNAPPED CHILDREN

The Russian Federation deports and detains Ukrainian children on the territory under its control, preventing their repatriation, in particular through a policy of forcibly imposing Russian citizenship and adoption into Russian families.

The Regional Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Lemkin Institute in the United States, initiated the submission of a Communication to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to draw attention to this critical situation and help restore justice. The appeal to the ICC carries an important strategic goal — not only to provide a legal assessment of the actions of the Russian Federation, but also to encourage the international community to act to protect the rights of children who have become victims of military conflicts and political manipulation.

The actions of the Regional Centre for Human Rights and the Lemkin Institute are important not only for the immediate resolution of the problem of repatriation of Ukrainian children, but also for preventing future similar situations, setting a precedent for the inadmissibility of violations of children's rights in conflict zones, and strengthening international standards for the protection of human rights.



The Regional Centre for Human Rights actively communicates with the International Criminal Court in The Hague (ICC). In fact, the RCHR was the first to systematically document and disseminate information on international crimes against children. Relevant materials were also sent to the International Criminal Court.

It is difficult to say whether the contribution of the RCHR was decisive, but it was definitely significant in that it was the information about the deportation of Ukrainian children that set the wheels in motion to bring the perpetrators to justice. The ICC's arrest warrant for the Russian president and the Russian ombudsperson for children's rights has dispelled doubts that the country's top leadership's responsibility for international crimes is possible and real.

And although Putin has not yet been brought to justice, the geography of his safe movement has simultaneously narrowed by 123 countries.



For its part, the Foundation is helping the RCHR to advocate at the international level for Russia's legal responsibility for the forced deportation of children, as well as to look for ways to work on a mechanism for returning these children to Ukraine. For example, during the UN General Assembly in New York, one of the events was dedicated to this very topic. One of the key speakers at the event was Kateryna Rashevskaya, an expert at the RCHR, and it was organised by the Open Society Foundations and the Renaissance Foundation.

*"If I were asked what was the biggest advocacy success over the past year, I would say that it was Putin's absence at the BRICS summit in South Africa. I think he would sacrifice a lot to be among the leaders of the countries he wants to have in his inner circle, and he could not do it because of the ICC arrest warrant."*

Roman Romanov

#### Consequences of the ICC decision:

- 🎯 Putin will not be able to travel to most countries of the world, as 123 states that are parties to the Rome Statute are obliged to arrest him and hand him over to the ICC
- 🎯 Putin's arrest warrant has destroyed the Russian propaganda narrative about the voluntary relocation of Ukrainians to Russia
- 🎯 Putin will have the status of a fugitive, which will complicate his international contacts and limit his diplomatic and political manoeuvres

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN INVESTIGATIONS

The Dnistrianskyi Centre is researching the prospects of using artificial intelligence to investigate war crimes, in particular in the context of Russian aggression against Ukraine. In cooperation with Ukrainian prosecutors and investigators, AI-based tools have been developed and adapted to help identify perpetrators of war crimes. Ukraine's experience in this area may be useful for other countries wishing to implement similar technologies.



## THE CONCEPT OF “ECOCIDE”

The war in Ukraine has become a catalyst for global legal changes, in particular in the formation of the concept of ecocide in international criminal law. Ukraine is actively working to bring Russia to justice for environmental crimes, qualifying them as war crimes and ecocide. The Office of the Prosecutor General is conducting procedural guidance in more than 190 criminal proceedings on environmental crimes, of which 14 have already been classified as ecocide. Internationally, the movement to recognise ecocide as a fifth international crime is ongoing, and events in Ukraine have contributed to this process.



## THE STATUS OF THE WAGNER GROUP

The International Renaissance Foundation, in cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor General, held a discussion on the status of the Wagner Group under international humanitarian law and its significance for accountability for crimes in Ukraine. The event, which took place on 13 November 2023, focused on bringing to justice the members of the Wagner Group and the Russian leadership that coordinated and supported their actions. Roman Romanov, Director of the Human Rights and Justice Programme at the International Renaissance Foundation, stressed Ukraine's unique opportunity to investigate and solve global crimes related to this group, which will help expose the instruments of influence of the Russian authoritarian regime.





# COOPERATION FOR GREATER IMPACT



The Foundation not only provides support to other organisations, but also actively works in this area. We promote the formation of common positions among a wide range of partners both within Ukraine and abroad.

Currently, there are two large human rights coalitions in Ukraine (“Ukraine 5 AM Coalition” and “Tribunal for Putin”), as well as many smaller organisations that aim to achieve justice for victims of international crimes and bring perpetrators to justice. We strive to establish a dialogue between them and help overcome the segmentation of civil society. The world is eager to hear the coordinated voices of Ukrainian human rights defenders on key issues.

This is how the “Joint Guidelines on Accountability for International Crimes Committed in Ukraine” appeared, which were agreed upon by a wide range of non-governmental organisations dealing with legal accountability for international crimes. For the Foundation, it is important that the ideas and proposals that Ukrainian civil society comes up with are coherent, professional and realistic. The guidelines are now available in Ukrainian, English, French, Spanish and Arabic, so that experts from different countries can understand the Ukrainian perspective on this topic.

A series of more detailed position papers are being developed to follow up on the Joint Guidelines, including on crimes against children, reparations, human rights in the liberated territories, etc. These are consolidated conclusions on the most important issues of concern to Ukrainian human rights defenders. The documents contain a description of the situation, goals and ways to achieve them, issues where compromises are possible and vice versa — where they are inappropriate and instead require maximum support in promoting these ideas.

There is also a closed knowledge base where all discussions, meeting summaries, and various thematic materials are uploaded. Only organisations that have endorsed the Joint Guidelines have access to the knowledge base.



# SUSTAINABLE PEACE MANIFESTO

“Sustainable Peace Manifesto” is a document presented at the Munich Security Conference by 24 Ukrainian intellectuals and public figures, which outlines a vision of the post-war structure of Ukraine and the punishment of the aggressor country. Its main goal is to create conditions for sustainable peace through deep internal changes in Russia, prevent future aggression and establish justice. The manifesto emphasises the importance of justice along with peace for international security and proposes a set of measures that include legal, political and economic aspects.



The Manifesto emphasises the need to punish the aggressor for war crimes, compensate for material damage, status losses of Russia and recognise legal acts in the occupied territories as invalid. It also emphasises the importance of Ukraine’s membership in the EU and NATO, decolonisation and demilitarisation of Russia, and the transition to green energy. The implementation of these measures should ensure sustainable peace in Europe and prevent the repetition of aggression.

*“The world will not be the same as it was before the war, so our goal is not to return to the pre-war state, but to take into account its defects that made the war possible and create a new, safer system that will make the next war completely impossible.”*

Sustainable peace manifesto

## Key positions of the Manifesto:

- 🎯 Punishment of criminals for aggression and war crimes;
- 🎯 Compensation for all material damage;
- 🎯 Withdrawal of the Russian Federation from international organisations such as the UN Security Council;
- 🎯 Membership of Ukraine in EU and NATO;
- 🎯 Deconstructing Russian imperial stereotypes in Western societies;
- 🎯 Derashization of Russia through decolonisation and rejection of historical exclusivity;
- 🎯 Demilitarisation and denuclearisation of the Russian Federation;
- 🎯 Refusal from Russian energy carriers.





## JUSTICE IN TIMES OF WAR

The issue of criminal prosecution for cooperation with the occupying authorities is of particular relevance in the context of preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state. This applies not only to persons residing in the territories controlled by the Ukrainian government, but also to those in the occupied territories. The definition of clear criteria and conditions for bringing to justice for collaboration, as well as the fair and objective application of the relevant provisions of the law, are key to the successful reintegration of the liberated territories.

## COUNTERING STEREOTYPES

NGO ZMINA conducts an in-depth analysis of both existing trends and potential problems related to the application of Ukrainian legislation on collaboration. This allows not only to identify shortcomings in the regulatory framework, but also to develop recommendations for its improvement. An important aspect of this work is the development of effective mechanisms for the rehabilitation of persons who were involved in collaboration with the occupiers under pressure or out of ignorance.

In order to develop a uniform and proper practice of handling such cases, it is important to ensure cooperation between law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and the public.

It is also important to take into account international experience and international law when formulating domestic policies on collaborationism. This can help Ukraine not only to effectively combat this problem at the national level, but also to secure recognition and support from the international community.





# CUSTODY RECORDS TRAINING PLATFORM

The Custody Records training and information platform, developed with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, was presented on 15 September 2023. This project aims to improve the level of human rights observance in the Ukrainian police. The platform includes two main components: a news portal about the work of the Custody Records system and a training platform for police officers offering special courses on professional development, human rights and freedoms and combating crime.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SCHOOL

The Educational Human Rights House in Chernihiv held a School on Human Rights in War for civil society activists. The school trained a group of active citizens to protect human rights in their communities and spread human rights ideas. The training consisted of two stages: online (April-May) and offline (June-July). The online training included three modules on human rights protection in times of war, while the offline phase focused on the practical application of knowledge, where participants developed their own projects. The best projects received expert and resource support. The 25 most motivated activists selected based on the results of the online training took part in the five-day training.



## PREVENTIVE MECHANISM

The Office of the Ombudsman's Office together with the NGO "Ukraine without Torture" successfully conducted a training for civic monitors of the national preventive mechanism. The training introduced the participants to the basic principles of the national preventive mechanism, standards of proper treatment in places of detention, and techniques of monitoring visits. The training took place in two stages: first, online, where all those who met the requirements took training courses and webinars, and then offline training.



# DIGITAL SECURITY



In today's world, technological innovations, in particular the development of artificial intelligence (AI), are finding more and more applications in various spheres of life, including law enforcement. In the context of Ukraine, where the National Police is actively exploring the possibilities of integrating AI and other technologies into its activities, there is an urgent need for in-depth analysis and assessment of these risks.

## TECHNOLOGY RISK ANALYSIS

The project of MINZMIN “Strengthening the Capacity of the National Police of Ukraine in Analysing the Risks of Technology Impact on Digital Security” aims to develop a comprehensive methodology for assessing the risks associated with the use of technology in the activities of the National Police of Ukraine. The aim is not only to identify potential threats to the rights of citizens, but also to develop an effective strategy for managing these risks. The project involves engaging experts in law, ethics, technology and cybersecurity to develop evidence-based recommendations that will help ensure the balanced use of AI while preserving fundamental human rights.

One of the key components of the project is the development of a roadmap that will include recommendations for minimising risks. This involves not only improving legal and regulatory frameworks, but also implementing best practices in the ethics of AI use.

The project is of great importance not only for the law enforcement system of Ukraine, but also for society as a whole, as it aims to ensure public confidence in technological innovations in law enforcement sphere. The protection of individual rights and freedoms through the use of the latest technologies is a key element of a democratic state that upholds the principles of transparency, accountability and civilian control.





# COUNTERING FRAUD

An information campaign developed by the MINZMIN with the support of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine and EUAM Ukraine offers a guide to safe donations. It is important to research organisations, check expense reports, registration documents and the correctness of the website address. The material was prepared with the support of the EU and the International Renaissance Foundation as part of the EU4USociety project and is available here: online donation fraud.



## “SECURITY 360°” COURSE



The “Security 360°” course for civil society organisations and charitable foundations has successfully completed, providing participants with knowledge on improving organisational security, protecting data from leakage and cyberattacks, and countering information and psychological operations. The event, organised by the Boryviter Military School NGO with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, included offline sessions in Kyiv and online classes where leading experts in cybersecurity and personal security shared their knowledge. The participants gained valuable skills and are ready to work more effectively in a high-risk environment.

## EXPLANATIONS FROM UHHRU



The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) has developed information materials highlighting the relationship between cybersecurity, human rights and new technologies. Particular attention is paid to the protection of personal information of users in social networks, the risks of privacy violations and the impact of modern technologies on human rights. The materials help to raise public awareness of personal data security and offer recommendations for preventing malicious misuse in cyberspace.



A collage of sticky notes, a map, and a line graph on a whiteboard. The sticky notes are yellow and light green. The map is a technical drawing of a building or structure. The line graph shows three data series: INTERSTATE (blue), INTERNATIONALIZED INTRASTATE (red), and INTRASTATE (green). The y-axis is labeled 'OF CONFLICTS' and ranges from 25 to 55. A hand is pointing at the graph with a pen.

# HUMAN-CENTRED RECOVERY

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The reconstruction of Ukraine must be people-centred, as people are the heart of the nation, and their well-being and psychosocial health determine the resilience of society. The war has caused enormous suffering, destruction and trauma. Civil society has direct contact with local communities and understands their needs. Even in times of war, it is important to start the reconstruction process, as it helps to strengthen social cohesion, restore normalcy and give people hope and motivation to fight for the future. It also provides the basis for the country's sustainable development after the war, as a strong, united society is able to overcome any challenges.

## FOCUS AREAS

- Assist in the development of recovery plans for Ukraine based on the values of transparency, accountability and civic participation;
- Promote accountable and transparent recovery that takes into account the principles of environmental damage reduction;
- Ensure the involvement of civil society representatives in the recovery of Ukraine;
- Overcome the negative consequences of the war.



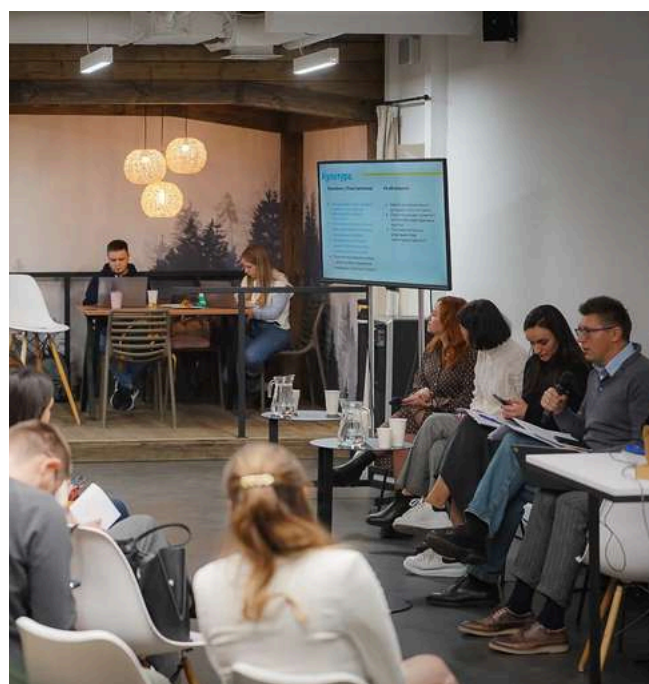
# INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE RECOVERY PROCESS

The participation of civil society in recovery processes contributes to more inclusive and effective solutions, taking into account diverse perspectives and experiences. This increases trust in the recovery process by ensuring transparency and accountability, as well as strengthening social cohesion and promoting active civic participation in the country's reconstruction

## UKRAINE FACILITY

Since August 2023, the International Renaissance Foundation, together with the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, has organised a series of meetings to discuss proposals for the Ukraine Facility Plan. The event was attended by representatives of civil society organisations, relevant ministries and agencies. They discussed issues of economic development, human capital, gender equality, housing policy, environmental protection, business environment and anti-corruption measures.

Oleksiy Sobolev, Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine, noted the importance of these meetings for reconciling the visions of the government and the public.



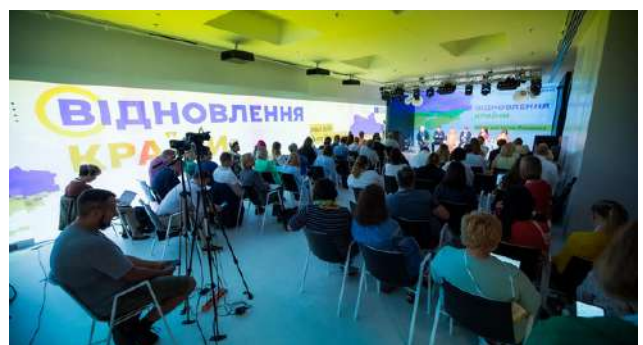
# BUILDING A VISION OF RECOVERY

It is important to understand how our partners — civil society organisations working in this area at the national, regional and local levels — see Ukraine's recovery. Therefore, in 2023, a qualitative study "[Restoring Ukraine: priorities, risks, inclusion](#)", was conducted by the independent research centre "Socioinform", commissioned by the Foundation and supported by the EU. The research helped to structure the way the public sector sees recovery; assess the effectiveness of recovery processes in Ukraine during the war, identify and present successful examples in communities, and outline a vision of the optimal architecture of recovery processes.



The research analysed 32 in-depth interviews with representatives of civil society organisations active in this field. The research covered civil society organisations that monitor the authorities, work with internally displaced persons, veterans, business communities, and those with anti-corruption expertise.

Then, [the Foundation brought together](#) leading experts and practitioners in the field of recovery from different regions and sectors to share the results of the research, while [discussing the results of the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2023](#) in London, which took place on the eve of the event. This discussion platform provided a frank debate on what challenges Ukraine faces in the future, comparing and analysing the visions of both the international audience and local communities.







## BUSINESS VISION

On 15 June 2023, an open dialogue “From Lugano to London: a vision of the virtuous business of rebuilding Ukraine”, organised by UNIC in partnership with the RISE Ukraine coalition, was held in Kyiv. The event brought together representatives of Ukrainian business, international experts and relevant authorities to discuss the challenges and opportunities of transforming the Ukrainian private sector. The main topics included criteria for responsible business conduct, attracting financial support, and preparing to participate in the country’s reconstruction and integration into the EU.



## RECOVERY AND THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

The Civil Society Forum in Kyiv hosted a visionary discussion on “How War and Reconstruction Are Changing the Social Contract in Ukraine?”, where experts discussed the role of the non-governmental sector in achieving victory and rebuilding the country. Oleksandr Sushko, Executive Director of the International Renaissance Foundation, emphasized the parallel strengthening of the country’s key institutions — the state and the civil sector, noting that the war helped to bridge the age-old gap between citizens and the state.



## CONFERENCE IN LONDON

With the support of the Foundation, representatives of civil society attended the Conference on Ukraine’s Recovery held in London and organised separate discussions and events within its framework.

In particular, the Foundation supported a roundtable discussion with civil society entitled “Recovering Ukraine Democratically”.

## IDEATON UNLOCK UKRAINE

On 18–20 September, Lviv hosted the Unlock Ukraine Ideaton, organised by the Prague Civil Society Centre and the International Renaissance Foundation with the support of the Lviv Media Forum. The event brought together more than 150 participants from Ukraine and abroad, including activists, volunteers, urbanists, environmentalists, artists, philosophers and sociologists. The aim of the event was to bring together people with the vision and skills to rebuild Ukraine, fostering partnerships and cooperation.



Over the course of three days, participants took part in presentations, trainings, webinars, mediations and excursions. Among the speakers were Roman Zinchenko, Fulco Trefers and Natalia Humeniuk. The Ideaton became a platform for discussing initiatives already underway in Ukraine and for jointly generating ideas for creating inclusive spaces in communities.

*“We wanted this platform to be a good opportunity to be inspired, to become a new ambassador for Ukraine’s recovery, to go beyond certain social bubbles. We believe that this is a good way to form partnerships, cooperation and be inspired!”*

Inna Pidluska

## ROADMAP FOR RECOVERY



The NGO “Anti-Corruption Headquarters” presented the Roadmap for Recovery of Regions, which identifies seven key problems and ways to solve them in the process of reconstruction. Challenges such as the lack of qualified personnel and insufficient transparency were explored in Zhytomyr, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia regions. Representatives of the Anti-Corruption Headquarters emphasise the importance of monitoring transparency, as it is a prototype for the future “great reconstruction”.

One of the main challenges is transparency and accountability, which is addressed by the implementation of the DREAM system.



# ENGAGING UNIVERSITIES IN RECOVERY

The Alliance of Ukrainian Universities (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, National Technical University “Dnipro Polytechnic”, National University of Water and Environmental Engineering, Sumy State University, Ukrainian Catholic University and Kyiv School of Economics) has launched an ambitious initiative focused on cooperation with local communities by using the expertise of educational institutions to plan and implement projects to rebuild Ukraine, taking into account the actual needs of communities. The selected 12 communities will have the opportunity to conduct a comprehensive assessment of their needs and, together with universities, develop pilot development projects, as well as improve the skills of local professionals and establish cooperation between communities and university experts.



The project also directly affects each higher education institution that is a member of the Alliance. For example, researching community needs and conducting community education programmes encourages universities to improve and develop new programmes focused on solving specific problems, as well as to form new partnerships with local governments, analytical centres and businesses.



The main principles of the Alliance are cooperation and openness, human-centredness, quality and effective management, responsibility, ethics, fair contribution, academic excellence, social responsibility and Ukrainian territorial and intellectual sovereignty.



# A VISION OF THE FUTURE FOR DONBAS







In 2023, the All-Ukrainian Association for the Promotion of Self-Organisation of the Population, in cooperation with the Centre of Policy and Legal Reform, the Luhansk Oblast Civic Initiative, and the Association for Renaissance and Development, launched a major joint project aimed at developing a vision of approaches to the institutional restoration of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts for the period after de-occupation.

The research work conducted allowed the coalition of NGOs to prepare analytical products and develop approaches to addressing these complex issues, which were presented at thematic roundtables with the participation of representatives of state authorities, local authorities of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, experts, NGOs, etc. In 2024, this activity will continue and will be more focused on drafting the necessary regulations and a broad information campaign.

The documents developed by the coalition of civil society organisations will not only help address the complex issues of recovery, but will also serve as a basis for the development of future legislation necessary for the full restoration and integration of these areas into the unified legal, social and economic space of Ukraine.

## **The analytical documents cover the following topics:**

-  Why the restoration of government in Donbas is critical to ensuring law and order and stability after de-occupation;
-  How to attract qualified professionals to restore governance structures and provide services to the population;
-  What should be the future administrative and territorial structure, taking into account the war destruction and demographic changes;
-  How local democracy mechanisms should work to ensure active participation of residents in the recovery and governance processes.



## ASSISTANCE TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

We are convinced that projects aimed at helping IDPs are essential for maintaining social cohesion and preventing social exclusion. IDPs often experience significant psychological and emotional difficulties due to the loss of their homes and places of origin. Psychological support, educational and vocational programmes help them integrate into new communities, find jobs and continue their lives. This helps to strengthen social ties and provides opportunities for recovery and development.

## COUNTERING STEREOTYPES

For almost two years, internally displaced Ukrainians have faced difficulties integrating into new communities and prejudice in employment due to stereotypes about their qualifications. The “You are home” campaign, launched by the Ukrainian Career Development Platform Happy Monday with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation and the EU, aims to break down these stereotypes and address the employment problems of IDPs. As part of the campaign, a platform with information on IDPs’ problems and video stories highlighting positive examples of successful integration and employment was created.



## DEVELOPMENT OF IDP COUNCILS

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the Rokada Charitable Foundation has been providing comprehensive support to those who were forced to leave their homes, providing them with psychological, legal, social and humanitarian assistance. Thanks to the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, the Foundation's work in ten regions of Ukraine has been strengthened.



One of the main areas of the team's work within the project is the creation, support, development and capacity building of IDP Councils at the community level. To do this, the organisation has launched a series of trainings and workshops, as well as strategic sessions. For many communities, this was the first step towards mastering new tools for the development of local organisations, uniting different community members around a common idea, and establishing cooperation with local government representatives. In particular, some communities submitted projects for consideration, and some communities have already received their first grant.

Rokada's lawyers advised IDPs on how to restore lost documents, informed beneficiaries of their rights to education during martial law, to receive compensation for destroyed property, to receive pensions and salaries. Since July 2023, more than 1,200 internally displaced Ukrainians have received professional legal assistance.



In addition, lawyers were involved in community activism, in particular, in the creation of NGOs with IDP Councils, and conducted a number of trainings for internally displaced persons and persons affected by Russian aggression. An important point was that the project helped to launch the development of the foundation's advocacy area (today, lawyers are working on issues of obtaining the status of a child of war/on the transition of the place of compact residence to the place of temporary residence/compensation for employers and remuneration for the employment of IDPs, etc.)



## IDP CHILDREN IN LVIV

On 12 December, the event “Advocating for the best interests of an IDP child in times of war” was held at the Lviv shelter “Tvoia Opora”, which gathered about 70 participants, including IDP parents, representatives of social services and the public. Participants discussed the safety of children, their rights to education, medical care and social adaptation. The event was part of a series of events dedicated to supporting IDP children. Further steps to improve conditions for IDP children were developed during the event.



## KIROVOHRAD REGION

ii. In August, the team of Nova Druzhkivka launched the project “Interaction for the Development of Local Democracy” in the Oleksandriia, Znamianka and Priutivka communities. Within four months, they conducted a local democracy analysis and organised a series of trainings for IDPs and local residents. In October, they held trainings on “Restorative Dialogue Practices” and “Local Democracy Tools” to promote effective communication and integration.



## ACCOMMODATION CENTRE IN TROSTIANETS

The first compact accommodation centre for IDPs was opened in Trostianets, accommodating 36 people in 8 one-room and 4 two-room rooms. The premises are equipped with all the necessary comforts, including a kitchen, laundry and recreation rooms. The total cost of the project was UAH 4.7 million, of which UAH 1.5 million was allocated by the Swiss company MedAir, UAH 730 thousand was provided by the International Renaissance Foundation, and the balance was financed by the Trostianets City Council.



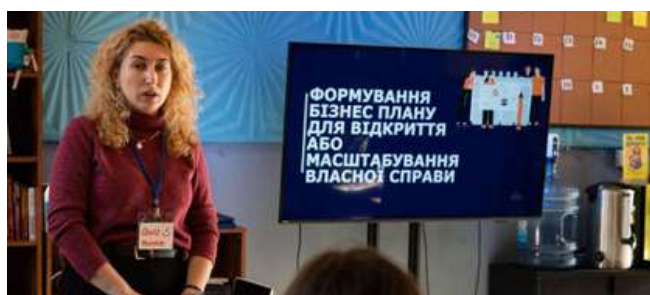
## KHMELNYTSKYI REGION

At the end of October, a joint meeting of the Coordination Council for IDPs and the Coordination Council for Volunteer Development was held in Khmelnytskyi. During the event, amendments to programmes and regulations on IDPs' participation in local democratic processes, including participatory budgeting and consideration of electronic petitions, were discussed. Presentations of NGOs' activities and discussions on further cooperation highlighted the importance of IDP integration.



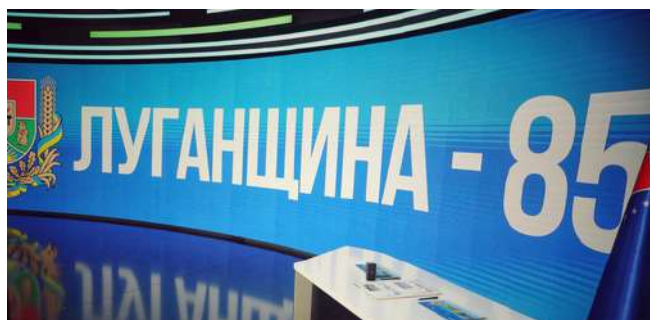
## VOLYN REGION

In Novovolynsk and other cities of Volyn region, trainings on writing business plans were held for internally displaced persons and local residents. The events were organised by the Volyn Institute of Law with the support of the EU and the International Renaissance Foundation. Participants, including both beginners and experienced entrepreneurs, learned how to create business ideas, analyse the market and risks, and receive feedback from an expert. This contributed to both competence development and social integration.



## IDPS FROM LUHANSK REGION

On 3 June, in Dnipro, the NGO “Luhansk Oblast Civic Initiative”, with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation and the Luhansk Oblast State Administration, held a forum “IDPs: not a burden, but a resource” on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the formation of the Luhansk Oblast. The event, which gathered more than 100 participants, discussed the reintegration and re-socialisation of IDPs, initiatives to restore life in the de-occupied territories, and attracting international assistance.



## DNIPRO

On December 12, Dnipro hosted an offline training “Professional Adaptation of IDPs: training and job search” for internally displaced persons. Organised by the NGO “Source of Support” with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation and the EU, the event brought together participants to discuss specialities, write CVs, and improve interview skills. Participants also developed individual action plans for job search. This is just one of a series of events aimed at integrating IDPs into communities.



## VINNYTSIA REGION

As part of the Vinnytsia Regional School of Participation “Integration and Socialisation of IDPs”, a four-day training for teams from Vinnytsia region was held to develop local democracy. The participants got acquainted with sociological research, learned how to build cooperation with local governments and develop project applications for donor organisations.



## CHERNIHIV REGION

The Mena community presented a short-term and long-term action programme for the integration of IDPs and community development, developed through facilitated meetings and workshops. This programme, which is the result of cooperation between local authorities, deputies, heads, IDPs and the public sector, aims to address pressing social, economic and security issues in the community. It is aimed at meeting the basic needs of IDPs and integrating IDPs.



## MYKOLAIV REGION

In the Koblivska community, working meetings were held based on the results of the public audit to discuss the integration of IDPs into community recovery. The main recommendations were to establish an IDP council, modernise local programmes for IDP integration, launch a housing fund and post information on employment on the official community website. Ideatons and other forms of interaction and engagement between local residents and IDPs were also organised.



## POLTAVA REGION

On 24 October, a training was held in Poltava for representatives of the Hradyzka, Zinkivska and Reshetylivska communities as part of the project “Internally displaced persons integrate into communities in Poltava region”. Participants learned CivicLab techniques to strengthen community capacity. The project, supported by the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation, aims to integrate IDPs and develop local communities.



## CHERKASY REGION

Kamianska community held meetings within the framework of the project “Cherkasy region unites: self-organisation of IDPs for the restoration and development of host communities”. NGOs and business representatives discussed ideas for raising funds, developing tourism and entrepreneurship. The first step was to identify unique places in the community to create tourist routes.





# RECOVERY BASED ON ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES



We are convinced that future recovery must be based on environmental principles. Such projects help to reduce the negative impact on ecosystems, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support biodiversity. They can also stimulate local economies by creating jobs in green technologies and renewable energy, and provide healthier living conditions for all residents.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN RENOVATION

DiXi Group and Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) presented the analytical report “Energy Efficiency in Green Renovation: best practices and opportunities for Ukraine”. The report highlights the importance of energy efficiency for sustainable recovery, reducing energy poverty and increasing energy independence. The document proposes to introduce the Energy Efficiency First principle, which is already in use in the EU, and emphasises the importance of energy efficiency certification for buildings. The report also supports the creation of decarbonisation funds to stimulate energy efficiency initiatives in the residential sector.



### Енергоефективність у «зеленому» відновленні

кращі практики та можливості для України



# ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS DEVELOPMENT



In 2023, the EPAIU Initiative (Environmental Policy and Advocacy Initiative for Ukraine) summed up the main results of its five-year activities, including its contribution to the development of Ukraine's environmental policy. In total, more than 40 civil society organisations have completed the EPAIU training programme since 2019. Of these, thirteen organisations have benefited from in-depth institutional development and capacity building in analytical and advocacy activities.

During this time, an informal community of environmental NGOs has been built that is influential at different levels and on different topics, and is able to develop partnerships between NGOs dealing with environmental issues.

During the implementation of institutional projects, EPAIU grantees developed recommendations for more than 10 draft laws based on their own expert assessments and monitoring (in particular, the law on state environmental control, industrial pollution, waste management, environmental impact assessment, the Emerald Network, and others). Proposals were submitted to 13 strategic documents and 10 environmental programmes of national, regional and local importance (in particular, the Strategy for environmental safety and adaptation to climate change until 2030, the Second nationally determined contribution of Ukraine to the Paris Agreement, the Kyiv city ecostrategy until 2030, the Lviv City Waste Management Strategy, and many others). It was also important that the grantees developed materials on strategic environmental court proceedings, monitoring data on the ecosystem of the occupied Crimea, ecomonitoring methodologies, educational materials, etc.

EPAIU also developed an important area of partnership with the ecocommunity from the regions of Ukraine with the most unfavourable environmental situation. A total of 27 “small” local grants were implemented, addressing important environmental issues. In particular, the small projects developed a methodology for calculating the damage caused to soils as a result of the Russian war and a GIS map showing the effects of the Russian war on the ecosystems of the Kharkiv region. It was also important to show how environmental projects help to integrate relocated NGOs and, together with local ecoactivists, solve environmental problems of host communities (in particular, in Cherkasy, Kalush, Drohobych, Khmelnytskyi and Kirovohrad regions).

The EPAIU initiative is implemented with the support of Sweden.









## MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT

A study conducted by the L.B.I. agency has revealed an increase in attention to the environment in the Ukrainian media space, despite the full-scale invasion of Russia. The report notes that environmental issues, especially the damage caused by military operations, are constantly present in the headlines of leading online media. The study emphasises the importance of information responsibility to avoid panic and analyses the dynamics of search queries, showing a parallel interest in the terms “environment” and “ecology”.

## GUIDE FOR COMMUNITIES

Manual “Adaptation to climate change: a quick guide for communities” was created to help local authorities adapt to climate change, even in the context of a full-scale war. It contains instructions on how to start adaptation measures, collect data, and involve the necessary stakeholders in vulnerability assessments. Developed as part of several projects supported by the European Union, WECF International, and the International Renaissance Foundation, this manual will help municipalities attract funding and find partners for future projects.



## AIR QUALITY

The study, conducted by the Save Dnipro NGO with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, analyses the impact of a full-scale war on air quality in Ukraine. The report was presented on 23 September 2023. According to the study, the war has had a significant impact on air quality due to emissions from destroyed oil depots, industrial plants and infrastructure facilities. It was found that air quality has deteriorated, especially in regions with active hostilities, but has improved in some industrial regions due to the shutdown of enterprises.



## SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

The School of environmental activism, supported by the EPAIU Initiative of the International Renaissance Foundation with the support of Sweden, aims to integrate and educate local activists and IDPs. The project was implemented by the Nova Druzhkivka organisation after it moved to Kropyvnytskyi. The school covered the communities of Oleksandriia and Znamianka, where participants took part in trainings, waste management exercises, and created the Recycle eco game for 6 months. The project also included the installation of waste sorting bins and battery collection, promoting environmental awareness and integration of IDPs.



## ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES IN FARMING

The Ecoaction Centre for Environmental Initiatives (Ecodiya) and the Sapienza agro-media agency conducted a survey among Ukrainian farmers on the implementation of ecopractices in agriculture. The results showed that most farmers are aware of the negative environmental impacts of agricultural production and are adopting sustainable practices such as crop rotation and organic fertilisers. However, they note that government programmes are needed to support greening. The study also highlighted the importance of a long-term approach and systemic policy at the state level to ensure sustainable agricultural development.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

On 24–25 May, the EPAIU Initiative of the International Renaissance Foundation held its fifth annual conference, on waste management reform. The focus was on the waste generated during the war and the need to reform the waste management system in the context of recovery and European integration. The conference was attended by environmentalists, representatives of the public, business and government, who were looking for optimal solutions for Ukraine, as well as sharing foreign experience from countries such as Sweden and Italy.



Civil society organisations play a key role in reforming the waste management system in Ukraine, working both on developing the legislative framework and on changing the attitudes of citizens towards waste sorting. For example, Zero Waste Lviv NGO is helping the Lviv municipality to implement tools on the way to becoming a zero waste city. Thanks to the activities of organisations such as Ecosense and Zaporizhzhia without Rubbish, applied solutions are emerging that promote waste recycling and reduce the environmental burden.





## COP28 CONFERENCE

At the COP28 climate conference, the Crimean Tatar Resource Centre presented a study on the impact of Russian aggression on the Crimean environment and indigenous peoples' rights. The Centre's team held three events focused on ecocide as an international crime, highlighting the environmental problems caused by the occupation of Crimea and the need to adapt to climate change. They also emphasised the importance of Ukraine's green recovery, attracting international assistance and supporting indigenous peoples in the context of environmental policy.



## ECOLOGICAL PROFILE OF KALUSH



Kalush hosted a presentation of the environmental profile of the Kalush community, including 10 sections, information on the nature reserve fund, socio-economic development, industrial emissions and waste management. The event was held as part of a seminar for grantees and partners organised by the Environmental Policy and Advocacy Initiative for Ukraine with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation and Sweden. The profile will greatly simplify the work of obtaining grants to address environmental issues.

## VOZNESENSK ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY



The Voznesensk community in Mykolaiv region, which suffered significant damage during the war, is already implementing environmental restoration measures. The project “Green Recovery of Mykolaiv Region” is implemented by the NGO “Mykolaiv City Development Fund” with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation. The project restores infrastructure, conducts environmental management trainings, installs solid fuel boilers, organises ecoactivities, and develops environmental restoration plans.



# OVERCOMING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR



Projects aimed at overcoming the consequences of war and developing social capital in frontline communities are crucial for restoring stability and well-being. They help to rebuild the economy, provide access to quality healthcare and education, strengthen social ties and increase the level of trust among the population. These projects help to return to regular life, restore infrastructure, support psychological rehabilitation and create conditions for sustainable development and prosperity of communities in the long term.

## HELPING AFFECTED CHILDREN

The International Renaissance Foundation actively supports projects aimed at helping affected children in Ukraine who have become victims of war. During his visit to Kyiv, Alexander Soros announced the allocation of USD 1 million to rehabilitate children affected by the war and provide them with the conditions for development. The supported initiatives include projects of the Olena Zelenska Foundation aimed at helping children from large foster families in the affected regions, as well as rehabilitation and psychological support programmes in cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.



*“Today, Ukrainian children experiencing the horrors of war need support. Their rehabilitation, which we will work on together with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, helps not only to restore their condition but also to secure their future, improve their opportunities and conditions for development. This is an investment in our common future as a country.”*

Oleksandr Sushko





Alexander Soros also took part in a meeting of the International Coalition of Countries for the Return of Ukrainian Children. The initiative is a logical continuation of the Bring Kids Back UA plan of President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and will facilitate the return of Ukrainian children who were deported or forcibly displaced by Russia from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.



On the sidelines of the Coalition meeting, Alexander held a series of talks with representatives of the Ukrainian government and civil society. In particular, he spoke with President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Andriy Yermak and other officials.

Alexander, together with the Executive Director of the International Renaissance Foundation Oleksandr Sushko, met with the First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska and the Director of her Foundation Nina Gorbacheva. The meeting resulted in the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between the Olena Zelenska Foundation and the International Renaissance Foundation.



Another meeting was held with Minister of Health Viktor Liashko, where the parties signed a memorandum of cooperation between the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the International Renaissance Foundation. Also, in the presence of Alexander Soros, the Foundation signed a memorandum with Daria Gerasymchuk, the Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights, on the rehabilitation of children affected by the war.







## SESSIONS WITH A PSYCHOLOGIST

The “Together with You” project, organised in Bucha with the support of the “Together for Ukraine”, “Direct Relief”, and the NGO “Institute for Sustainable Community Development” and funded by the International Renaissance Foundation, included a series of free sessions with psychologists, aimed at overcoming the consequences of the war. During the project, support and psychological relief groups for mothers with children, art therapy for children, trainings on overcoming the challenges of war, and salt dough modelling workshops were held. These activities helped many community members improve their mental health and adapt to new realities.

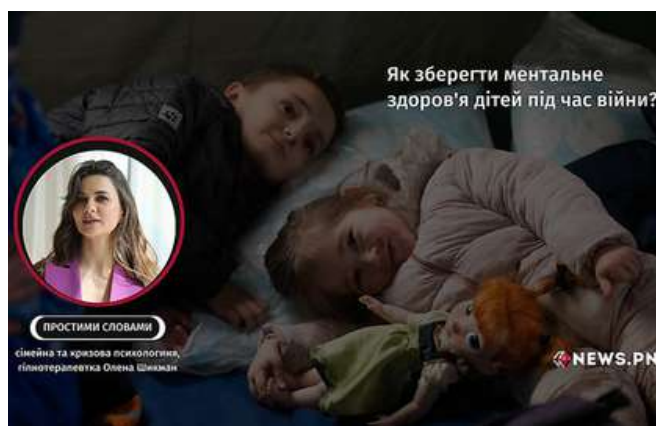


## GRIEF THERAPY

On 19–20 October, based at King Danylo University in Ivano-Frankivsk, the International Forum “Grief therapy. War and Psychological Recovery of Ukraine” was held. The event discussed topical issues related to helping people who have lost loved ones, overcoming the consequences of Russian aggression, and ways to psychologically restore the nation. Participants shared their experiences and discussed methods of dealing with grief, including support for families of missing persons, gender specifics, internet-based interventions, and cognitive-behavioural interventions.

## “IN SIMPLE WORDS”

The project “In simple words” is aimed at supporting the mental health of children during the war. It focuses on providing parents and caregivers with the necessary knowledge and tools to help children overcome the psychological effects of war. As part of the project, experts, including psychologist Olena Shykman, provide advice on creating a safe environment, discussing important topics, and supporting children in difficult times. The project also includes trainings and counselling for families to help children maintain emotional stability and develop despite difficult circumstances.





# OVERCOMING EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES

Projects that examine the impact of war on the education system and work to overcome the negative consequences help to identify key challenges faced by students and educators, such as educational loss, excessive workload, and insufficient resources for distance learning. Such projects develop recommendations to improve access to education and are critical to the recovery and development of the education system in times of war.

## THE IMPACT OF WAR ON EDUCATION

The study “War and Education: how a year of full-scale invasion has affected Ukrainian schools”, conducted by the Cedos analytical centre with the support of the international charitable foundation SavED and the International Renaissance Foundation, highlights the problems of access to general secondary education in the context of war. The main problems include educational losses due to the hostilities and occupation, lack of necessary means for distance learning, and excessive workload for children. It notes the need to review the development of the educational network, taking into account the movement of students and the NUS reform.



## THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

From 27 to 29 June, the national (un)conference “EdCamp VOLYA-2023” was held under the title “Pre-victory power for post-victory plans”. The event brought together leading education experts and stakeholders to discuss the fundamental changes in Ukraine’s education after the victory. Among the participants were Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Oksen Lisovyi, representatives of international organisations and others.

### Recommendations of the study:

- Continuously monitor access to secondary education in communities, especially for children studying remotely.
- Establish educational centres, modular schools and temporary premises for blended learning in communities with destroyed schools.
- Provide teaching and learning materials, as well as gadgets for distance learning, especially in regions with increased security risks.
- Construct and equip safe and comfortable school shelters with the necessary teaching facilities to provide several hours of classes.



## OVERCOMING EDUCATIONAL LOSSES



The “POVIR” (Believe), organised by EdCamp Ukraine, offers teachers additional paid employment through online consultations for students in grades 5–11 in Ukrainian, mathematics and English. The aim of the project is to help students identify and overcome educational losses and reduce educational gaps. The project participants will receive professional development, experience exchange, methodological support, and financial rewards. The project is based on the belief in the ability of every child to cope with challenges and solve problems.

## GUIDELINES

The NUS Club project presented the manual “Overcoming Educational Losses in Ukrainian Language and Literature. Guidelines and examples of lessons”. The manual, created by Ihor Hvorostianyi, contains recommendations for teachers on overcoming educational losses, changing pedagogical thinking, organising learning in times of war, preparing for online teaching, and includes examples of educational content for grades 5–11 that promotes effective teaching of the Ukrainian language and literature.



## OVERCOMING EDUCATIONAL LOSSES



The Smart Education NGO has created the [Resilience.help](https://resilience.help) psychological platform-catalogue for educators, parents and school psychologists. This free platform brings together educational resources, techniques, articles and information on psychosocial support training. The project aims to provide educators with the necessary tools to help themselves and their students in times of war, including materials for mental health.

# ECONOMIC LOSSES

## UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The final report of the Centre for Economic Strategy, prepared with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, examines the impact of the war on Ukrainian migration, their intentions to return and the economic consequences of this process. It is estimated that as of June 2023, 5.6–6.7 million Ukrainians are living abroad, the vast majority of whom are women and children. The study also revealed a significant impact of the war on the economic situation of refugees, most of whom have lost a significant portion of their income.



## PRESERVATION OF LABOUR RESOURCES

The project of the Ukrainian Association of International Employment Companies “Vision 2033” was launched with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation and is aimed at preserving and developing Ukraine’s labour resources. The main objectives of the project are to facilitate the return of Ukrainians abroad, reduce labour migration and attract foreign labour migrants. The project also envisages the preparation of relevant legislation based on facts and principles of non-discrimination and respect for human rights. The project’s discussion touched upon the problem of staff shortages in various sectors, including the public sector.

### Key conclusions:

- About 63% of Ukrainians abroad plan to return, but the actual return will depend on security.
- The main factors for returning are security, availability of housing, and the possibility of earning money.
- The duration of the war is increasing the adaptation of Ukrainians to life abroad, which reduces their likelihood of return.
- Economic losses due to the non-return of Ukrainians can range from 2.7% to 6.9% of Ukraine’s GDP annually.
- Recommendations include cooperation with EU countries, rapid reconstruction, and support for the affected regions.





## CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

On 20 February 2023, the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER) presented the results of the Seventh Annual Survey of Ukrainian Exporters and Importers “Trade Facilitation in Ukraine 2022: Customs procedures, problems and expectations of business during the war”. The survey covered 366 companies from most regions of Ukraine. The purpose of the study was to assess the efficiency of customs operations during martial law, identify the problems faced by businesses, and prepare relevant recommendations.

## BORDER SURVEY

On 8 June 2023, the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER) presented the results of the third issue of the public monitoring of border crossing from the point of view of entrepreneurs and citizens “Our Border”. The monitoring, conducted in April-May 2023, analysed the quality of services provided by the State Customs Service and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, citizens’ satisfaction with the conditions of crossing the border with the EU and Moldova, and obstacles to export and import activities.

# LOSSES IN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

## CHATBOTS

The NGO “Liki Control” with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation has launched 2 chatbots. “Breathing at full throttle” (На повні груди) on Telegram is intended for patients with lung cancer. It provides information on diagnostics, disease stages, treatment regimens, patients’ rights and free medical services under the Medical Guarantee Programme. “The Calendar of Healthy Ukrainians” in Telegram and Viber messengers aims to raise awareness of Ukrainians about free diagnostics and treatment, as well as patients’ rights.

## HEALTH FAIRS

Health fair initiatives in Ukraine are aimed at raising awareness of healthy lifestyles and providing healthcare services to the public. For example, health fairs were held in Bucha and Mukachevo, where visitors could get advice from leading medical specialists, have their blood pressure and blood sugar checked and undergo rapid tests for various diseases. In addition, the fairs featured children’s workshops, sports activities, tactical medicine training and entertainment for the whole family.

## INTRODUCTION OF PROFESSIONAL CHAPLAINCY

On 12 May, a press conference on the introduction of professional chaplaincy in the healthcare system of Ukraine was held, organised by the NGO Eleos-Ukraine with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation. Participants of the event, including representatives of the Ministry of Health, religious leaders and medical professionals, discussed the steps already taken and the prospects for introducing chaplaincy in medical institutions in Ukraine. The event also featured the presentation of the Book of Life manual, which helps to understand important aspects of spiritual care for patients, their relatives and medical staff.

# “HEALTHY SOLUTIONS” FOUNDATION



The “Healthy Solutions” Charitable Foundation was founded as a spin-off from the International Renaissance Foundation, inheriting the “Public Health” programme. Since its inception, the foundation has not only continued to implement existing projects aimed at supporting communities and new institutions, but has also significantly expanded its strategic directions to meet the social needs caused by Russia’s war against Ukraine. The mission of “Healthy Solutions” is to contribute to the paradigm shift from “surviving” to “living” through social transformation by engaging people with expertise in health, law, and social sciences to form partnerships to achieve the highest possible standard of living based on dignity and human rights. It strives to achieve the highest possible level of physical, mental health, emotional well-being and self-realisation for each person, which is the driving force for the further formation of a democratic open society and community development.

Reforming the medical profession and medical practice is at the forefront of the “Healthy Solutions” Foundation’s activities. They focus their efforts on the subjectivation of doctors and patients at the level of policies and practices, changing the status of doctors in the healthcare system, ensuring economic freedom, professional responsibility and preventing corruption. They are working to create an institute of medical self-government based on the example of European countries and developing a model for Ukraine.



Supporting new institutions such as the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU) is another important area of work. The aim of this area is to maintain the reform vectors and human capital for further implementation of changes. “Healthy Solutions” developed solutions and proposals for the NHSU, provided legal support, conducted educational activities, engaged communities and local governments in cooperation, and conducted a communication and advocacy campaign. An important achievement was the adoption by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of a resolution regulating the procedure for monitoring compliance with the terms of healthcare contracts. This improved the accessibility and quality of healthcare services and contributed to the protection of patients’ rights.

One of the important new institutions supported by “Healthy Solutions” is the Department of Health of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine (DoH MoD). This department emerged as a response to the study “A Man in the Army: A Comprehensive View”, held with the support of “Healthy Solutions”. We organised a training course for the department’s team, where experts in legal history, communications, military medicine and NATO doctrines delivered a series of lectures, followed by a strategic session. The aim of the course was to support the department’s capacity to work effectively.



The development of political leadership in communities through a focus on health as a component of human capital is another area of “Healthy Solutions” activities. The uniqueness of the foundation’s work is that they actively work with data. Ukraine does not have a developed culture of working with data, and the data on the health of the population and the needs of the system of change come from the communities. “Healthy Solutions” continued to promote the concept of a “healthy community”, using the successful experience of integrated care models and the organisation of preventive measures. Their team has created a “Dashboard” for data collection and exchange, the first iteration of which was presented at the final “Healthy Community” conference.

The Foundation is also actively working on the reintegration of the de-occupied territories and people, and the return of the Ukrainian healthcare system to the de-occupied territories in the post-war period. It is moving together with the Renaissance Foundation in a common direction and is working on a strategy, because Ukraine is a unique case and there are no analogues in terms of returning territories with a long occupation. Therefore, “Healthy Solutions” develops materials, gathers opinion leaders and experts to create an effective strategy.

Another important area of their work has been to encourage policy changes in the field of military medicine. They are working on implementing the principle “A soldier is a person, not a tool”. The study “Man in the Army” became the basis for developing new approaches and reforms in this area.



Another priority area of “Healthy Solutions” is the rehabilitation and return of veterans. They work on preserving human capital, social and economic reintegration of people with disabilities. “Healthy Solutions” is the coordinator of the coalition of NGOs “Healthy Solutions for Social Inclusion”, which exists with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation. Together with the coalition, they are developing a human-centred model of rehabilitation, social protection and integration of veterans based on international experience.

Other initiatives include the “Women’s Voice and Leadership” project, which promotes cooperation between organisations working to end discrimination against women, promote gender equality, and form coalitions for coordination and advocacy. Also of importance is the project “Ensuring Access to Vital Medical Care in Eastern Ukraine”, which aims to improve access to medical care for residents and IDPs of the Kramatorsk UTC, especially in remote areas. As part of the project, two ambulances and one mobile medical outpatient clinic will be running in the Kramatorsk UTC, which will allow developing a model of effective primary healthcare for the frontline and de-occupied territories.



“Healthy Solutions” also resumed the nationwide survey “Health Index. Ukraine”, which determines the actual level of satisfaction of Ukrainian citizens with medical care. This data is used to make strategic decisions in the healthcare sector.

In summary, the “Healthy Solutions” Charitable Foundation continues to actively develop an open society in Ukraine based on democratic values, responding to the challenges of war and the needs of society. It works at all levels, interacting with communities, politicians and international partners to redefine the category of health and move from the paradigm of “surviving” to “living”.



# OVERCOMING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE KAKHOVKA HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATION EXPLOSION

The occupiers' explosion of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station was one of the biggest Russian war crimes during the war. Immediately after the incident, the Foundation's team began working to help local teams cope with the consequences of the explosion and provide the local population with the necessary support. Together with the European Union, we provided emergency support to 7 organisations that were working in the region at the time of the disaster and with whom we had previous experience of cooperation.

## HUMANITARIAN HUB

The Eleos organisation has set up a humanitarian hub in Kherson called "I am at home", which functions as a centre for emergency social and psychological assistance. The relaunch of the office after the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station was blown up allowed it to provide assistance to more than 800 residents of Kherson, including legal advice, psychological support and evacuation assistance. The Centre also continues to distribute humanitarian aid and accommodate IDPs in its shelters.



## ANTONIVKA COMMUNITY

The "We Khersoners" business association helps residents of the Antonivka community, which has been severely affected by shelling. They provide the population with coal for heating, generators, water and other necessary resources, working with local authorities and volunteer hubs. The organisation also provides legal advice on compensation and assistance.



## HUMANITARIAN AID

The organisation, which grew out of the Kherson-based Kherson Plus TV and Radio Company, focused on humanitarian aid during the occupation of Kherson. Continuing to work even in difficult conditions, it helped 25,000 Kherson residents during the 255 days of occupation. Currently, about 30 people in "Alternative" are engaged in the distribution of humanitarian aid in communities under constant shelling.





## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AUTHORITIES

Rescue Now is not only engaged in humanitarian aid, but also in researching the problems and needs of communities in Kherson region. They provide recommendations to the local authorities, advise residents on how to get help, and coordinate the work of NGOs and volunteers. In addition, Rescue Now provides safety training in first aid, mine, fire and sanitary safety.



## EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE

The Ukrainian Peacebuilding School is developing local leaders and researching the situation in the Kherson region. The joint project with IRF includes monitoring community problems, formulating recommendations for local authorities, networking among activists, and sharing experience for high-quality planning after the liberation of the occupied territories.



## COVERING THE ISSUES

“Most” is a Kherson-based media outlet that continues to work and cover events in the region even after the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station was blown up. Thanks to the Foundation’s support, the media outlet has expanded its team of journalists and purchased the necessary equipment, allowing them to publish more materials about the lives of Kherson residents and work under constant shelling.



## EVACUATION

Since the first days of the invasion, the organisation “Help People” has been evacuating people from the war zone, combining it with humanitarian aid. During the war, they evacuated almost 33,000 people, including more than 1,440 people from the occupied territories. The organisation continues to evacuate despite the risks and shelling, ensuring the safety of many Ukrainians.







# PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Projects aimed at promoting social cohesion help people to feel supported and connected, which helps to reduce stress and psychological pressure. Social cohesion promotes effective cooperation and coordination of efforts to overcome the challenges of war, ensuring the integration of different groups of the population and strengthening public spirit and morale.

## FOCUS AREAS

- Development of social cohesion at the community level;
- Initiatives aimed at promoting national and cultural heritage and identity formation;
- Supporting cultural events, festivals, art workshops and hobby clubs to promote social cohesion;
- Training and consulting for NGOs to increase their capacity to work effectively and implement socially significant projects.

# SUPPORT FOR NGOS







NGOs are often the main drivers of change at the local level. They promote the integration of different social groups, implement projects that unite people around common values and goals, and provide assistance to vulnerable groups. Resilient organisations can resolve conflicts, facilitate social dialogue and provide support in times of crisis, thereby strengthening the social fabric and making communities more cohesive and resilient.

## ON THE CLOUD

The project “On the Cloud: Secure Resource and Recovery Environment for Civil Society Representatives”, initiated by the Institute of Leadership and Management of the Ukrainian Catholic University, is a response to the current needs of the civil society sector. The project selected 10 organisations to receive comprehensive support aimed at strengthening their internal resources, mental health, motivation and capacity for effective action.

This project creates a unique environment for knowledge and experience exchange, where the academic world, civic initiatives, and business expertise come together to support civil society leaders and activists. The main idea is to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the public sector.

### Examples of NGO support:

-  During the networking events for civil society representatives, participants exchanged contacts and discussed opportunities for cooperation.
-  Summer school on mental health recovery and support for civil society leaders focused on methods of mental health support.
-  During the project management training in Lviv, participants gained practical skills in project planning and implementation.
-  Participants of the training programme “Effective Communications for Non-Governmental Organisations” learnt key communication strategies and techniques.



## TRAINING ON COMBATING BURNOUT

A training session for activists on combating emotional burnout was held in Lutsk. The event brought together more than twenty participants working in the public sector to teach them effective self-help methods and stress management techniques.

At the training, conducted by psychologist Olena Dzem, the participants learnt various relaxation techniques, stress reduction methods and strategies for maintaining emotional balance. The event was aimed at providing activists with tools to prevent emotional burnout, which often occurs due to intensive work in crisis situations.



## RESILIENCE STUDY

The study “Revealing Resilience and Supporting Non-Governmental Organisations in Time of War”, conducted by the Institute of Leadership and Management of UCU in cooperation with the Department of Psychology and Psychotherapy of UCU, revealed the sources of psychological resilience of civil society representatives during the war. Representatives of more than 100 organisations and volunteer movements took part in the study.

## PHYSICAL SECURITY TRAININGS

With the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, a series of physical security trainings were held for various NGOs. The purpose of the trainings is to raise awareness and skills of activists in security issues in order to protect themselves and their colleagues while carrying out civic activities.

During the trainings, participants learn the basic principles of physical security, how to recognise potential threats and how to respond to them effectively. The series includes practical exercises where participants can apply the knowledge they have gained in real-life situations, helping them to be more prepared and confident in their safety.





# THE HUB OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS OF TEPLA MISTO

Charitable Foundation “Tepla Misto” has launched a “Hub of NGOs to strengthen capacity in post-war recovery” and a “Mentoring Programme to strengthen the capacity of civic initiatives in times of war”.

The first project, the “Hub of NGOs for Strengthening Capacity in Post-War Recovery”, was created as a platform for uniting the efforts of the public sector around important post-war tasks. The second project, the “Mentoring Programme for Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society Initiatives in Times of War”, focuses on supporting and developing civil society initiatives that have faced particular challenges in times of war.

The projects facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices between organisations working in various fields, from infrastructure reconstruction to psychological support for war-affected people. Through the organisation of trainings, workshops and lectures, the hub’s participants gain new knowledge and skills necessary for effective work in the post-war period.



Projects include the creation of an online course that helps participants gain important knowledge and understanding in project management, resource mobilisation, and effective communication. 331 participants have already successfully completed the course and received certificates confirming their competence.

In addition to educational activities, the Foundation also organised a Forum with more than 200 participants from different regions of Ukraine, where critical topics such as rehabilitation, mental health, the importance of human capital and strategies for bringing talented Ukrainians back to the country were discussed.

## COURSE ABOUT STRESS

The Human Rights Education Centre in Chernihiv has completed a series of trainings for civic activists, volunteers, journalists and human rights defenders. Participants gained knowledge and skills in managing stress and anxiety, as well as supporting others, building trauma awareness and overcoming secondary trauma. The trainings were held in two stages under the guidance of an experienced psychologist. This programme was an important step in the psychosocial rehabilitation of activists affected by the aggression.



## KCONFERENCES FOR YOUNG LEADERS

The UCU Institute of Leadership and Management held a series of roundtables for young leaders and experts on topics related to the war and how Ukrainians experience it, bringing together participants from different regions of Ukraine to discuss topical issues of justice, peace, and their impact on Ukrainian society. Participants had the opportunity to exchange views and ideas that will help develop new projects and initiatives based on the knowledge gained and discussions.



## BURSA HUB

У Києві, the Bursa Hub has opened for volunteers, offering free workspace upon prior registration. Located in Podil, the hub, created by the CF “Dead Lawyers Society” together with the volunteer initiatives “Brave to Rebuild” and CF “UA First Aid”, provides stable internet, a generator and a safe environment for planning logistics and assistance.



## RESPONSIBILITY AWARD

The Bohdan Hawrylyshyn Family Foundation presented the Responsibility Award 2023, which recognises civil society organisations for their stories of responsible partnership. To participate, applicants must have projects implemented by at least two partners from different sectors and fill out an application form on the website. The jury selected 10 finalists and three winners who received cash prizes and media support.







## CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

The International Renaissance Foundation supports the work of the Ukrainian Community of Dialogue Practitioners, which held an online conference “Conflict Management in War as a Factor in Strengthening Community Cohesion”. The aim of the conference was to create a platform for the exchange of experience between specialists working with conflicts in time of war and to discuss processes that promote social cohesion.

During the five days of the conference, which included 18 sessions and 50 speakers, participants received valuable information about the social, psychological and identity aspects of conflicts. They also discussed tools for dealing with conflicts and involving internally displaced people in community life. The event attracted a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of state authorities, local self-government and civil society organisations.

## STRONG AS SOIL

The International Renaissance Foundation supported the documentary film “Strong as soil”, which promotes social cohesion by showing the lives of Ukrainians who continue to create life in Ukraine despite the war. The film tells the story of people from Kyiv, Chernihiv, Lviv and Rivne regions, including internally displaced people, entrepreneurs and workers, who are rebuilding their homes and infrastructure.

The project emphasises the revival of human strength and dignity by focusing on the contribution of ordinary people to the preservation and development of the country during the war. Through the stories of these heroes, the film shows how they support the home front, helping the frontline and bringing Ukraine’s victory closer.







## BUILDING AN IDENTITY

Projects aimed at maintaining or shaping national identity contribute to social cohesion by uniting people from different regions and social groups around common cultural values and traditions. They also play an important role in the education of the younger generation, shaping their understanding of national identity and raising their cultural awareness. Supporting Ukrainian culture is a key element in strengthening the state and its resilience to external and internal threats.

## DIGITISATION OF ARCHIVES

The Dmytro Yavornytskyi Historical Museum in Dnipro has started digitising archaeological exhibits, by creating 3D models. This initiative, supported by the International Renaissance Foundation, allows preserving digital copies of valuable artefacts that may be lost due to destruction during armed aggression.

The project began with an archaeological collection of more than 100 stone figures, including stone women — anthropomorphic sculptures depicting women. The digitisation will allow people to see these exhibits in a three-dimensional format, even if they cannot visit the museum in person.



## DIGITAL SHEVCHENKO AT GULLIVER

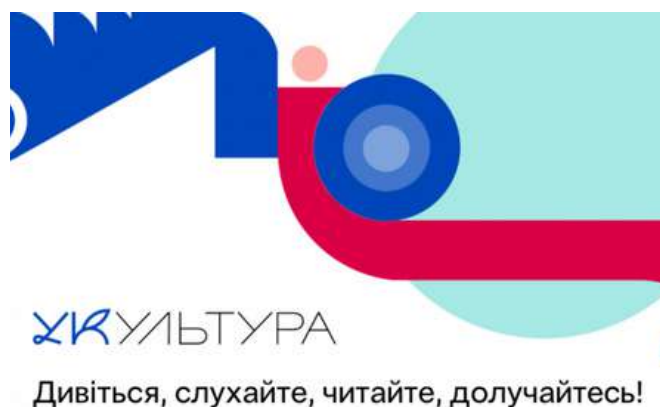
The “Immersive World of Taras Shevchenko” project has presented a multimedia show on the main screens of the Gulliver shopping mall in Kyiv for the first time. Ukrainian developers have created the first artificial intelligence-based avatar of Taras Shevchenko, which has knowledge of the Kobzar’s work and speaks with the voice of Dmytro Stus, Director General of the National Taras Shevchenko Museum.



## UCULTURE

The “UCulture” project, supported by the International Renaissance Foundation, is an innovative educational platform that disseminates knowledge about Ukrainian culture through video lectures, interviews and a library. Created by professors of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, it serves as a modern alternative to textbooks, offering informative and engaging lectures that are in line with the MES curriculum.

The platform, created with love and without clichés, provides free access to materials from leading researchers of Ukrainian culture. The project has also launched a Polish-language page for foreign audiences.



## BABYLON'13 FILMS

The International Renaissance Foundation supported the distribution of two documentaries by the Babylon'13 creative association. The film “Iron Butterflies” directed by Roman Liubiyi, which tells the story of the downing of the MH17 flight by the Russian military, was released in July to mark the anniversary of the tragedy. The film had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival and its Ukrainian premiere at the Docudays UA Festival.

The second film, “Independence Day”, directed by Volodymyr Tykhyi, was released in cinemas on 24 August, Ukraine’s Independence Day. The film shows one day in the life of Ukraine through the prism of different people, including military and civilians. The world premiere took place at the Docudays UA festival.





# SUPPORTING CULTURAL COMMUNITIES



In order to preserve the resilience of democracy in Ukraine in times of war, it is important to support resilient communities that drive positive social change in the country. That is why in 2023, we supported a number of projects that strengthen industry and regional communities.

## VIA CARPATIA

From 13 to 15 October, Ivano-Frankivsk hosted the Via Carpatia International Art and Intellectual Forum under the slogan “The Future of Tradition: Ukrainian in a Global World”. The forum brought together many well-known personalities to discuss important topics such as the fate of tradition in a globalised world, Ukraine’s positioning on the international stage, emigration, solidarity and national self-discovery through war. The event supported a community of intellectuals, public figures and artists aimed at restoring and developing Ukrainian culture.



## CULTURE CONGRESS



The III Ukraine Unmuted Cultural Congress took place in Lviv on 7–9 September, focusing on rethinking the new realities and challenges for society and the cultural sector after 24 February 2022. The Congress aimed to articulate the experience and current situation in the context of the ongoing war. Each day of the congress was dedicated to a different topic, facilitating the discussion of important issues.







## PROTASIV YAR

The Protasiv Yar festival was organised in honour of Roman Ratushnyi, a civic activist and soldier who died in 2022. From May to summer, discussions, lectures, literary readings, film screenings and concerts took place every two weeks on Saturdays, attracting more than 2,000 participants and 100 speakers, including activists, politicians, volunteers, artists and others. The festival has become a significant event in Kyiv, highlighting the heritage of Ratushnyi and his contribution to civic and cultural life.

## TRANSLATORIUM

On 27–28 October, Khmelnytskyi hosted the VI Translatorium Literary and Translation Festival dedicated to literary translation. This year's theme was “Through Silence to Conversation”, highlighting how extreme circumstances affect human behaviour and communication. The festival organisers sought to explore new forms of expressing the experience of war, including not only verbal but also visual and choreographic means. The festival programme included seminars, workshops, exhibitions, discussions, book presentations, performances and talks.



## VYDELKAFEST

The Foundation supported VYDELKAFEST — a non-profit festival of Ukrainian culture in Vylkove, Odesa region. The programme is built around books, music and cinema. The festival was attended by directors Maksym Nakonechnyi, Nariman Aliyev, and Vasyl Barkov. Poetry was read by Kateryna Kalytko, Svitlana Povalyaeva and Mariana Savka. The music programme included: “Pyrih i Batih”, who set poetry to music, the punk rock band “Stepan Pantera”, singer and composer Borys Sevastyanov, and the Lviv trio “Marianychi”.



## FIFTH KHARKIV



Fifth Kharkiv — is a joint project of the Kharkiv Literary Museum and Serhiy Zhadan. Its goal is to bring together intellectuals, scholars, writers, musicians, artists, and the community of Kharkiv to reflect on the history and future of the city, which is shelled by Russian missiles almost every day. The project began in 2022 with a three-day offline festival, and in 2023, in addition to the usual project activities, such as exhibitions, public lectures, and music concerts, there were organised public discussions with writers and intellectuals from the Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania, Germany, France, and Serbia and their Ukrainian counterparts in Kharkiv.

The project held 12 events with 10 foreign and 75 Ukrainian cultural figures as public speakers. The total audience of the events, despite the constant security threats in Kharkiv, was about 1000 participants.



## THE LACE



Between September 2023 and February 2024, the fourth season of the project “The Lace. Literary readings in Ukrainian towns and cities”. Writers, journalists, literary critics and cultural managers visited cities and towns in seven regions of Ukraine, including Khmelnytskyi, Poltava, Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Kirovohrad, Vinnytsia and Odesa, to raise the prestige of reading and introduce contemporary Ukrainian literature to the local population.



The project included numerous meetings, readings, and discussions that supported local cultural managers, civic activists, and volunteer communities. The main topics were the role of literature during the war and the discussion of the war experience.





## STAYING AFLOAT

The “Staying Afloat” is aimed at supporting culture in Kherson, which continues to suffer from shelling. The project unites Kherson artists who stayed in the city and those who were forced to leave through street exhibitions that fill the void of broken windows and shop windows. The aim is to re-establish the presence of Ukrainian culture in the city, emphasise its resilience and ensure that art interacts with the environment.

After the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station was blown up, the artists continued their work, which shows their resilience. Street exhibitions, such as Anastasiia Tereshchenko’s “To Deliver a Photo” (“Донести фотографію”) project and Oleksandr Tanasiuk’s exhibition in a seized shop, contribute to the city’s revitalisation. These events not only revive cultural activity, but also strengthen the connection between Kherson residents and their city, despite the war and destruction.



## PORTRAITS OF MARIUPOL

The “Portraits of Mariupol” collected 27 stories of IDPs whose lives were changed by Russia’s full-scale invasion. The aim of the project is to preserve and share these stories by creating new portraits of heroes that symbolise new beginnings and new photo albums to replace lost family heirlooms.

The project is being implemented by the NGO Maria’s Space, whose members are also IDPs from Mariupol. Since May 2023, “Portraits of Mariupol” exhibitions have been held in Kyiv, Lviv, and Ternopil, where 18 thematic events, including workshops, tours, and public talks, have taken place. The project not only tells the story of the past, but also promotes the integration of IDPs into new communities, supporting them in this difficult time.





## KHARKIV. CULTURE. REINFORCED CONCRETE

The “[Kharkiv. Culture. Reinforced concrete](#)” brought together Ukrainian and European artists in discussions about cultural identity, decolonisation in culture, and cultural diplomacy. The conference brought together heads of creative teams, directors, journalists, music and theatre critics to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing Ukrainian culture during the war.

The meeting highlighted the issues of how to support artists who have left because of the war, how to involve business in cultural initiatives, and how to develop Ukrainian culture without Russian layers.

## BETWEEN WITHOUT BORDERS

The “[Between without borders/Both Sides of the Border Face East](#)” project was implemented in Ukraine from 23 June to 2 July 2023. It brought together Ukrainian and international artists, translators, and scholars to discuss issues of responsibility, identity, and decolonisation in the culture of Central and Eastern Europe. The project included an international conference, a workshop at the Nazariy Voitovych Art Residence in Ternopil region, and a series of public events in Lviv. The exhibition, which took place at the HallArtHall of the Hnat Khotkevych Palace of Culture, presented artworks that reflect on the texts and translations of the programme.



## HOW UKRAINIANS READ

The study “[How Ukrainians read during a full-scale war — 2023](#)”, supported by the International Renaissance Foundation, showed that the number of Ukrainians who read regularly has doubled over the past three years. According to the survey, 16% of citizens aged 16 and over read printed or electronic books and listen to audiobooks on a daily basis. This research, conducted by Info Sapiens and commissioned by the Ukrainian Book Institute, highlights the importance of leisure reading as an alternative to social media and other types of digital content.







Photo courtesy of the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War

# PRESERVING A SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

We believe that Ukraine should emerge from the war stronger as a democracy, and we place great expectations on the active role of civil society in restoring and developing democratic reforms after the victory. Therefore, even under the numerous restrictions of martial law, we are making efforts to preserve democratic practices and processes.

## FOCUS AREAS

- Strengthening broad civic participation as a guarantee of the sustainability of Ukraine's democratic course;
- Preservation and development of democratic reforms (decentralisation, openness and accountability of the authorities, access to information, anti-corruption, etc);
- Support for objective, accessible and pluralistic information systems.



# BROAD CIVIC PARTICIPATION

## LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Supporting local democracy in Ukraine in a time of war is important for ensuring stability and effective governance at the local level. Local authorities have a better understanding of the needs of their communities and can respond more quickly to the challenges posed by the war. Continued decentralisation reform helps to strengthen local governance, which helps to use resources more efficiently and provide necessary services to the population. It also strengthens public trust in the government and promotes democratic processes, which is key to the country's post-war recovery.

The Foundation has supported numerous projects aimed at developing local democracy.

Two important emphases were the promotion of the use of local democracy tools and the involvement of community residents in the recovery process.

For example, with the support of the Foundation, experts from the NGO Dobrochyn Centre worked in the Bakhmach community to create and adopt a Charter, emphasising the importance of a high-quality process of its development and public involvement. The Charter should become a tool for community development, taking into account the interests of all its members.



The NGO “Association for the Promotion of Self-Organisation of the Population” conducted a training programme for representatives of grassroots self-organised communities and newly established civil society organisations. Participants improved their knowledge in the areas of social self-organisation, project management, fundraising, public communication, and advocacy, and received certificates of completion.



The Lyublynetska community hosted a local government week for schoolchildren, during which high school students were trained in a local government body. They got acquainted with the work of deputies, departments and commissions, gained practical knowledge and shared their ideas at the roundtable.



The involvement of local communities in recovery is important because they have the best understanding of the needs and problems of their areas, which contributes to effective and sustainable recovery. It also builds trust in the authorities and increases civic engagement. Therefore, the Foundation has supported numerous projects aimed at this.

For example, the Dobrochyn Centre in the Bakhmach community implemented a project for the development and recovery of Chernihiv region after the liberation, developing and implementing a social and economic development programme for 2024. The community has also successfully implemented climate neutrality initiatives and modernised its energy system. As a result of these efforts, local residents have enjoyed significant improvements in infrastructure and increased safety and quality of life.

The Novobilouska community in Chernihiv region has also completed its recovery and development plan. A working group led by the village head, Dmytro Fedorov, identified the main needs and priorities of the community. Through the active involvement of local residents, including IDPs, veterans and youth, a plan was created that takes into account the interests of different social groups and meets the requirements of the current legislation.

A public session on designing regional development projects was held in the Uman community with the participation of the leadership, specialists of the Uman City Council, representatives of Cherkasy region communities, business, and project managers.

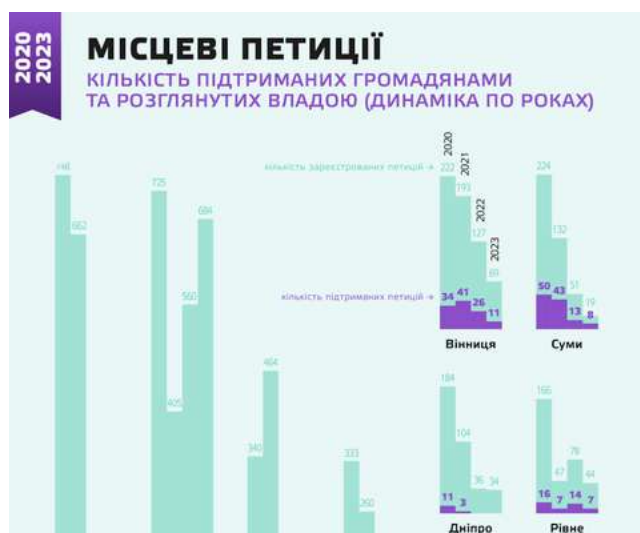
City Mayor Iryna Pletnyova and expert Halyna Potopalska discussed the best practices of governance and cooperation for regional development.



As part of one of the projects supported by the Foundation, a meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee discussed the state of legislative support and prospects for improving the self-organisation of the population. Representatives of state authorities, local self-government, and experts reviewed the draft law on amendments to the legislation on self-governed bodies, stressing the need to reduce burdensome regulations for their establishment.

The NGO “Point of Access” conducted an analysis of local democracy tools that strengthen communities and influence the development of modern Ukrainian society. The analysis showed how effectively these tools are used in communities for the integration of IDPs and the development of local self-government.

Another study by the “Chesno” public campaign showed that in 2023, a record low number of local petitions were submitted in Ukraine, and this number is decreasing every year. This indicates a decrease in the citizens’ involvement in using the electronic petition tool, which is important for local democracy. The analysts proposed solutions to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of this mechanism to strengthen public participation.





# CONFLICTS IN COMMUNITIES

In Lutsk, public activists learnt how to work with conflicts during a two-day training on “Dialogue as a way to find common solutions”. Professional mediator Olena Matviychuk taught conflict resolution techniques, including the “I statement” for effective communication. Participants learnt about different strategies of behaviour in conflicts and took a self-examination test. The training helped activists gain practical knowledge to resolve conflicts and improve communication in communities.



# ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN COMMUNITIES



## Key conclusions:

- Communities need more funding and clearly defined powers to ensure security.
- Systematic financing and effective management of local budgets are critical for stability in times of war.
- Development of legal services at the community level is important to ensure access to justice.

The Legal development network, together with the Association of Ukrainian cities and with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation and the EU, presented a study on access to justice, security and local budgets in Ukrainian communities during the war. The participants of the discussion reviewed the results of the work of local governments in these areas, focusing on the problems and ways to solve them. The study showed the need to improve legislation and financial support for communities to effectively respond to the challenges of war.

*“We chose small and medium-sized communities because we observe the greatest synergy between civil society and local authorities, and a quick response to challenges and needs.”*

Vitaliy Okhrimenko



# SUSTAINING AND EXPANDING REFORMS

Sustaining and expanding reforms during wartime is important to ensure stability and good governance, which is crucial in times of crisis. This helps to strengthen public trust in the government and creates a foundation for rapid post-war recovery. The implementation of reforms also facilitates the integration of international support and resources needed for the country's development.

## REFORM OF THE MSEC

With the support of the Foundation, the “League of the Strong” NGO developed amendments to legal acts to improve the work of medical and social expert commissions (MSECs). The project focuses on facilitating the process of obtaining a disability status and improving the quality of rehabilitation.

### Key conclusions:

- Three key changes are proposed: the abolition of the division between specialised and general commissions, the mandatory presence of a rehabilitation expert in commissions, and the assessment of loss of functionality according to the international classification.
- The international classification of functioning will not reduce but expand the number of people who can receive disability and social benefits
- The transition to the new disability assessment system is scheduled for 2025, with a five-year transition period.
- Digitalisation of processes and improved interaction between agencies are needed to facilitate the receipt of services



# ENERGY SECURITY

On 12 December, the third annual international conference Ukrainian Energy Security Dialogue took place in Kyiv. The theme of the event in 2023 was the sustainability and recovery of the energy sector. The conference was organised by the DiXi Group analytical centre under the auspices of the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine and with the financial support of the International Renaissance Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation office in Ukraine.



The conference was attended by representatives of the government, energy companies, international organisations and analytical centres, including Volodymyr Kudrytskyi, Chairman of the Board of Ukrenergo, Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director of the Energy Community Secretariat, Svitlana Hrynychuk, Deputy Minister of Energy of Ukraine, and others.

*“Everyone is working to keep Ukrainians supplied with electricity and heat – the government, companies, donors, and NGOs. That is why the topic of our conference this year was chosen naturally – how to maintain the sustainability and security of the energy sector.”*

Olena Pavlenko

## Key conclusions from the Conference:

- Investments in new generation should be attracted instead of endless repairs of outdated infrastructure.
- Investments in renewable energy and energy storage systems are a priority for future resilience.
- Decentralisation of the energy sector is needed to reduce vulnerability to attacks and increase the flexibility of the energy system.
- Local communities should design development and recovery strategies to attract funding and support at the state level.

# EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MACROFINANCE PROGRAMMES

The RRR4U consortium is dedicated to minimising corruption risks in reconstruction projects, focusing on a fair, green and people-centred economic recovery in Ukraine.

RRR4U brings together four Ukrainian public sector organisations with the financial support of the International Renaissance Foundation. The members of the Consortium are the Centre for economic strategy, the Institute for economic research and policy consulting, the Institute for analysis and advocacy and DiXi Group.

The association aims to analyse policy, conduct advocacy, and ensure dialogue between researchers, business, public, and government to identify effective strategies for economic recovery.

Among other things, the consortium analysed the conditions for receiving financial assistance from partner countries and organisations, and provided advice to the authorities. The #RRR4U consortium initiated regular monitoring of Ukraine's compliance with IMF benchmarks and commitments to the EU, which are part of loan memoranda aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability and stimulating economic growth.



For example, the monitoring of the implementation of the EU's macro-financial assistance programme, presented by the RRR4U consortium, showed that Ukraine is actively working to implement agreements with the EU, having successfully implemented a significant part of its commitments. However, there are challenges, including the political risk of missing the deadlines. Positive results in the banking sector, law enforcement and energy reforms point to Ukraine's ability to achieve macroeconomic stability and create conditions for economic growth.



## COUNTERING DANGEROUS INITIATIVES

The International Renaissance Foundation has joined the statement on the need to ensure transparent, meaningful and inclusive public consultations on draft laws on lobbying. The statement emphasises the importance of open discussion and public involvement in order to create an effective and fair legislative framework for lobbying in Ukraine.

The International Renaissance Foundation also joined the joint statement of the Ukrainian public on the incompatibility of elections and full-scale war, prepared by the Civil Network “OPORA”.

## RISKS OF DECENTRALISATION



Experts of the Association for the promotion of community self-organisation conducted a retrospective analysis of public policies and initiatives that could threaten the decentralisation process in Ukraine. The study included an assessment of the justification of emergency measures introduced during martial law and the development of recommendations for their correction. As a result, a set of cases and recommendations was generated, which were distributed online and presented at a one-day conference in a hybrid format.

## BORDER MANAGEMENT

The NGO “Europe without Barriers” organised online discussions related to the border with the EU. For example, during the online discussion of the programme “Ukrainian-Romanian border: revitalisation after stagnation”, the participants, including Vadym Sozonyk and Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, discussed the development of border infrastructure and the expansion of Ukraine’s export opportunities. The programme contributes to improving the conditions for bilateral cooperation with Romania and the realisation of Ukraine’s Euro-Atlantic aspirations.



Throughout the year, the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER) conducted a border crossing monitoring called “Our Border”, as well as held public presentations and discussions of the monitoring. Such monitoring is important as it helps to identify problems and improve border crossing processes to increase efficiency and transparency.





# DEINSTITUTIONALISATION REFORM

The deinstitutionalisation reform envisages a transition from the system of boarding schools and orphanages to support family-based forms of childcare, including foster care and family-based children's homes. It aims to ensure the right of every child to live in a family environment that promotes their harmonious development and socialisation. The importance of this reform consists in the fact that it helps to avoid the negative consequences associated with institutional care, such as psychological trauma, social isolation and problems with integration into society.

## ANALYTICS

A study by the DEJURE Foundation and the sociological agency "Vox Populi Ukraine", supported by the Foundation, revealed the problems and challenges of adoption in Ukraine during the war. Experts stressed the need to support families, simplify adoption procedures, and improve communication with potential adopters, in particular with regard to older children and children with disabilities. The results were discussed in three blocks to ensure the right of the child to have a family.

## FINDING SOLUTIONS

In 2023, the project "Take back Ukraine for all children" was launched to create a Children's Roadmap with recommendations for strengthening state policy to protect children's rights. The project is implemented by the Ukrainian Children's Rights Network with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation. The map will be presented to state institutions for inclusion in the Recovery Plan of Ukraine, contributing to the protection of children, especially those affected by the war.

## STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

The Fight For Right organisation has launched a new study on mapping stakeholders in promoting deinstitutionalisation (DI) and community-based services for people with disabilities. This study aims to identify support, partial support or opposition to the reform among various stakeholders. The results of the analysis of programmes, policies and consultations will help to identify potential partners in implementing the reform or advocating for its individual components.



# SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



Freedom of information allows citizens to receive objective and up-to-date information about the situation, which contributes to the formation of public opinion and support for democratic processes. In times of war, this helps to counter disinformation and propaganda that can be used by the enemy to undermine morale and manipulate society.

## SUPPORT FOR THE MEDIA

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, there has been an urgent need for truthful and high-quality information due to the dominance of unverified sources. The National Association of Media, together with the International Renaissance Foundation, has launched an emergency assistance project for regional media companies from the frontline areas, providing grants to support their activities. The main goal is to provide local communities with objective coverage of events.



## MEDIA CAMP

On 21–23 August, Ivano-Frankivsk hosted a media camp for public journalists from the de-occupied and frontline areas, organised by the Nakypilo Educational Centre. Participants received training in financing, digital security, mobile photography and video, social media promotion, risk assessment, first aid, and psychological support.

# COUNTERING PROPAGANDA IN UKRAINE AND BELARUS

On 24 July, the International Renaissance Foundation supported a discussion on “Opportunities to combine strategic communication capabilities to counter Russian information influence” in Kyiv. Ukrainian and Belarusian experts discussed anti-Ukrainian propaganda of the Lukashenko regime, synchronisation with the Russian information system, and ways to counteract propaganda. Recommendations were developed to improve cooperation between Ukrainian civil society and the democratic Belarusian opposition.

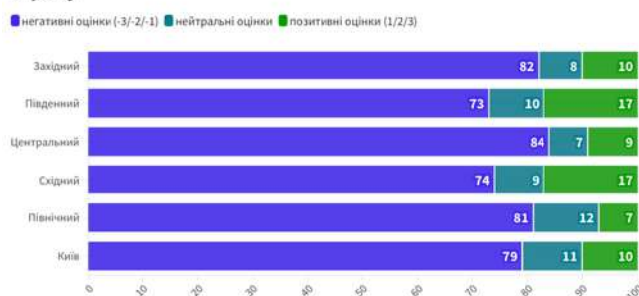
## RESEARCH ON THE ABILITY TO DISTINGUISH PROPAGANDA

VoxCheck has completed the project “Ukrainians’ ability to distinguish propaganda messages: results of public opinion research”. The study identified the topics most sensitive to Russian propaganda and ways to counteract it.

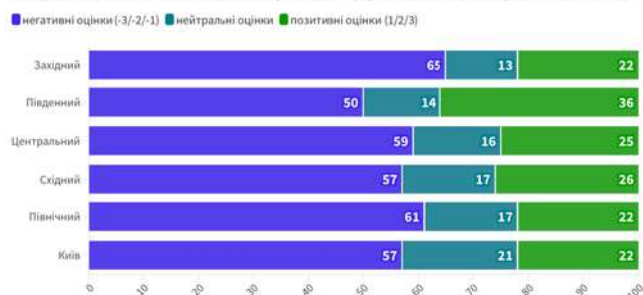
### Key conclusions from the study:

- 43% of respondents in Ukraine and 36% abroad disagreed with the statement that Nazi ideology is not widespread in Ukraine.
- 29% of respondents in Ukraine and 35% abroad disagreed that the Revolution of Dignity was not a coup d'état.
- 26% of respondents in Ukraine and 29% abroad agreed that Russia is at war with the West/NATO in Ukraine.
- 25% of respondents in Ukraine and 29% abroad agreed that the West uses Ukraine in the war with Russia for its own purposes.
- 32% of respondents abroad agreed with the statement about the oppression of Russian speakers in Ukraine, which indicates that Russian propaganda is more effective among Ukrainians abroad.
- Residents of the South and East of Ukraine are more likely to believe Russian propaganda about Nazism and Western influence.
- People with low incomes are more likely to accept pro-Russian statements.
- Ukrainians who rely more on information from foreign media are more likely to accept pro-Russian narratives.

Твердження: НАТО спровокувало повномасштабне вторгнення РФ в Україну



Твердження: Захід використовує Україну у власних цілях у війні з Росією





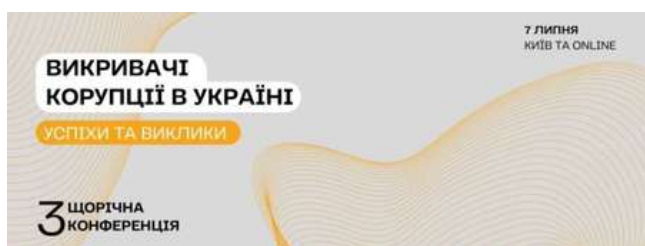
# PREVENTING CORRUPTION



Even in a time of war, it is important to maintain anti-corruption reforms and work on corruption prevention, as corruption undermines trust in state institutions and the efficiency of using limited resources. This ensures transparency and accountability, which helps attract the international support needed to fight the war and rebuild the country.

## WHISTLEBLOWERS CONFERENCE

On 7 July, the third annual conference “Whistleblowers of Corruption in Ukraine: successes and challenges,” organised by the NACP, was held with the Foundation’s support. Participants discussed the achievements and challenges of corruption whistleblowers, including issues of protection and support. The event contributed to raising awareness and effectiveness of the fight against corruption in Ukraine by identifying new strategies to improve the environment for whistleblowers.



## CORRUPTION PREVENTION PROGRAMME

The first edition of the certificate programme “Minimising corruption risks at all stages of the work of the anti-corruption authorised officer in reconstruction projects” was held, the first training programme in Ukraine to improve the skills of authorised persons, which provides participants with tools for implementing infrastructure projects as part of Ukraine’s reconstruction process. The Foundation supports the work of this programme.

# SURVEY ON OFFICIALS' SALARIES

The Centre for Economic Research and Policy Consulting conducted a survey to study the opinions of stakeholders on the relationship between the size of officials' salaries and corruption in public authorities. The survey also covers attitudes towards raising salaries for civil servants to reduce corruption risks. This question has become relevant after recent corruption scandals in the judiciary, which have sparked a debate on whether high salaries are justified to ensure the independence and integrity of officials.

## THE ANTI-CORRUPTION SCHOOL

The IZI Anti-Corruption Centre, CHESNO Movement, Statewatch analytical centre, Anti-Corruption Headquarters, Centre for Fiscal Policy Studies with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation held an Anti-Corruption School for regional journalists, activists and NGO representatives.

The Anti-Corruption School is a 5-day intensive course from experts in the field of anti-corruption, public control, and investigative journalists, during which journalists and activists improve their knowledge and practical skills.

23 alumni, including military officers, journalists, civil society activists, volunteers, and lawyers, joined the School's community. They represent 20 cities of Ukraine. They will conduct anti-corruption investigations, monitor how and where the funds are spent, where price overcharges are possible, and who will be appointed to the positions being rebuilt.





# EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE

In 2023, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI or EITI) celebrated the tenth anniversary of the implementation of its standards in Ukraine. The EITI is an independent international transparency standard that is voluntarily implemented in 57 countries. Ukraine joined EITI in October 2013 and has implemented the standard in its legislation.



## EITI CHAIRS AWARD 2023

Over the 10 years of its work, Ukraine has made great progress in implementing the EITI Standards and has become one of the world's leading countries in this area. Ukraine has prepared 8 progress reports and is currently working on the 9th, created an open Register of Ultimate Beneficial Owners, and much more. In 2023, Ukraine was recognized as one of the three countries that received the important [EITI Chairs Award 2023](#) for continuing to implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Standard despite numerous difficulties and restrictions caused by the Russian war.



## КОНФЕРЕНЦІЯ “10 РОКІВ ІПВГ В УКРАЇНІ”

On November 1, Kyiv hosted [the conference “10 Years of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Ukraine: Achievements and Prospects”](#). Representatives of the Government, extractive companies and civil society discussed the 10-year path of implementation of the EITI standards in Ukraine and jointly sought a way to further enhance transparency in the extractive industries. The International Renaissance Foundation became one of the key partners and co-organizers of the Conference.



# CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

In December 2022, George Soros handed over his functions as Chairman of the Board of the Open Society Foundations to his son, Alexander Soros. Alexander has been working on the Network's charitable projects for many years and is deeply familiar with the principles of its activities.

Alexander Soros graduated from New York University in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in history and received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in 2018. He is an honorary fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at the Central European University in Budapest and a visiting fellow at the Institute for the Humanities in Vienna.

The network itself is also changing its operating model. In June 2023, the Board of the Open Society Foundations approved significant changes to the way the Foundations operate and tasked the management team with the necessary work to implement them in the coming months.

These changes are aimed at maximizing the impact of the Network in countering the forces that currently threaten open and free societies. The Board hopes that the new model will create a culture of "strategic opportunity orientation" within the Foundations and among the grantees they support.

Through this new model, the Board aims to transform the way the entire global network operates to create a more flexible organization that can properly capitalize on past achievements and face pressing and new challenges.

At the same time, the International Renaissance Foundation, as part of the network, continues to operate as an independent charitable foundation operating under the current Ukrainian legislation with its own governing bodies consisting of Ukrainian citizens.





## BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

The Board of the International Renaissance Foundation consists of public figures who have outstanding achievements in promoting an open society, are independent of the Foundation, do not receive a salary and comply with the provisions on preventing conflicts of interest.

As of 2023, the Foundation's Board includes: Volodymyr Yermolenko (Chairman of the Board), Alim Aliyev, Olena Halushka, Mykhailo Honchar, Pavlo Klimkin, Oleksandra Matviichuk, and Liubov Tsybulska.



**VOLODYMYR YERMOLENKO,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

Ukrainian philosopher, writer, journalist, President of PEN Ukraine, Director of Analytics at Internews Ukraine, one of the initiators and editor-in-chief of the UkraineWorld initiative.



**OLEKSANDRA MATVIYCHUK,  
BOARD MEMBER**

Human rights activist, chair of the board of the Center for Civil Liberties, Nobel laureate in 2022, winner of the Vasyl Stus and Democracy Defender awards.



**PAVLO KLIMKIN,  
BOARD MEMBER**

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, statesman and diplomat. Co-founder of the Center for National Resilience and Development. Member of the Supervisory Board of the Come Back Alive Charitable Foundation.



**LIUBOV TSYBULSKA,  
BOARD MEMBER**

Former head of the Center for Strategic Communications and Information Security at the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, journalist, strategic communications expert.



**MYKHAILO HONCHAR,  
BOARD MEMBER**

President of the Center for Global Studies "Strategy XXI", expert on international energy and security relations, editor-in-chief of the Black Sea Security magazine.



**OLENA HALUSHKA,  
BOARD MEMBER**

Co-founder of the International Center for Ukrainian Victory (ICUV), Head of International Relations at the Anti-Corruption Action Center. Formerly a member of the Kyiv City Council.



**ALIM ALIYEV, BOARD MEMBER**

Deputy Director General of the Ukrainian Institute, journalist, human rights activist, manager of educational and cultural projects. He is a co-founder of the NGOs CrimeaSOS and Crimean House.



# AUDIT REPORT

## **INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION**

### **Summary Financial Statements**

As at 31 December 2023 and  
for the year then ended

# INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT	
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023:	
Summary statement of financial position	3
Summary statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income	4
Summary statement of changes in fund balance (equity)	5
Summary statement of cash flows	6
Notes to summary financial statements	7



# Independent Auditors' Report on the Summary Financial Statements

## To the Boards of Directors of International Renaissance Foundation

### Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the summary statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in fund balance (equity) and cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of International Renaissance Foundation (the "Foundation") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

### Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IFRS Accounting Standards). Reading the summary financial statements and our report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and our report thereon.

### The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 4 June 2024. Our report on the audited financial statements dated 4 June 2024 includes a section titled "*Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern*", which draws attention to Note 16 of the audited financial statements, which describes the negative effects on the Foundation's operations of the military invasion launched by the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. As also stated in Note 16 of the audited financial statements, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in that Note, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern.

### Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Private Joint-Stock Company "KPMG Audit"

32/2 Kniaziv Ostrozkykh Str., Kyiv, Ukraine 01010  
tel. +380 44 490 5507, fax +380 44 490 5508, kpmg.ua

PJSC "KPMG Audit", a company incorporated under the Laws of Ukraine, a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee.

Registration No. 31032100 in the Unified State Register of Legal Entities, Individual Entrepreneurs and Public Organizations.

Registration No. 2397 in the Register of Auditors and Auditing Entities.

## Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), *"Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements"*.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditors' report is:



Tetyana Fedchuk

Registration No. 101452 in the Register of Auditors and Auditing Entities

Deputy Director

## PJSC "KPMG Audit"

4 June 2024

Kyiv, Ukraine

**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION**  
**SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

*(in US dollars)*

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, equipment and intangible assets	1,524,352	1,445,330
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Prepayments	1,553	-
Receivables	6,600,997	3,977,896
Cash and cash equivalents	2,926,994	814,916
	<b>9,529,544</b>	<b>4,792,812</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>11,053,896</b>	<b>6,238,142</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)</b>		
<b>FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)</b>	<b>2,661,014</b>	<b>3,325,318</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accruals	7,083,633	2,610,267
Deferred revenues	1,091,582	120,632
Provisions	217,667	181,925
	<b>8,392,882</b>	<b>2,912,824</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)</b>	<b>11,053,896</b>	<b>6,238,142</b>

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

Oleksandr Sushko  
*Executive Director*

3 June 2024



Natalia Sannikova  
*Finance Director*

3 June 2024



**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION**  
**SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

*(in US dollars)*

	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
CONTRIBUTION INCOME		
OSF income	17,223,101	14,179,694
Third parties funding	2,817,934	6,081,141
	<u>20,041,035</u>	<u>20,260,835</u>
EXPENSES		
OSF related expenses	(17,182,471)	(14,227,431)
Third party related expenses	(2,818,391)	(6,112,487)
	<u>(20,000,862)</u>	<u>(20,339,918)</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus of contribution income over expenses	<u>40,173</u>	<u>(79,083)</u>
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)		
Other expenses	(655,893)	(18,654)
Foreign exchange gain/(loss), net	(48,584)	144,077
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	<u>(664,304)</u>	<u>46,340</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	<u>(664,304)</u>	<u>46,340</u>

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

*(Signature)*  
Oleksandr Sushko  
Executive Director

3 June 2024



*(Signature)*  
Natalia Sannikova  
Finance Director

3 June 2024

**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION  
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2023**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

*(in US dollars)*

<b>Fund balance (equity) as at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>3,278,978</b>
Surplus for the year	46,340
<b>Fund balance (equity) as at 31 December 2022</b>	<b>3,325,318</b>
Surplus for the year	(664,304)
<b>Fund balance (equity) as at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>2,661,014</b>

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

  
Oleksandr Sushko  
Executive Director  
3 June 2024



  
Natalia Sannikova  
Finance Director  
3 June 2024

**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION**  
**SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

(in US dollars)

	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(664,304)	46,340
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation/amortization	171,326	94,947
Foreign currency exchange (gain) loss, net	(133,755)	(347,239)
Loss (gain) on disposal of property, equipment and intangible assets	-	17,991
Decrease (increase) in receivables	(2,623,101)	(779,694)
Decrease (increase) in prepayments	(1,553)	1
(Decrease) increase in deferred revenues	1,030,943	(1,052,964)
(Decrease) increase in accruals	4,729,467	(241,134)
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities and provisions	35,742	(2,443)
Cash used in operating activities	<u>2,544,765</u>	<u>(2,264,195)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property, equipment and intangible assets	(250,348)	(259,430)
Cash used in investing activities	<u>(250,348)</u>	<u>(259,430)</u>
<b>NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<u>2,294,417</u>	<u>(2,523,625)</u>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>	814,916	2,935,793
Effect of movements in exchange rates on cash held	(182,339)	402,748
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	<u>2,926,994</u>	<u>814,916</u>

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

Oleksandr Sushko  
*Executive Director*

3 June 2024



Natalia Sannikova  
*Finance Director*

3 June 2024



**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION  
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2023**

**NOTES TO SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**1. BASIS FOR PREPARATION**

These summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements of International Renaissance Foundation as at and for the year ended 31 December 2023 prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the summary statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in fund balance (equity) and cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes.

The Foundation maintains its underlying accounting records in US Dollars ("USD"). Management identified the USD as the functional and presentation currency. Accordingly, all currencies other than USD are treated as foreign currencies.

**2. UKRAINIAN OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND GOING CONCERN**

The Foundation's operations are primarily located in Ukraine. Consequently, the Foundation is exposed to the economic and financial markets of Ukraine, which display characteristics of an emerging market. The legal, tax and regulatory frameworks continue development, but are subject to varying interpretations and frequent changes which together with other legal and fiscal impediments contribute to the challenges faced by entities operating in Ukraine.

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation launched a full-scale military invasion to Ukraine. The ongoing war has led to significant civilian casualties, massive dislocation of the population, damage to infrastructure, electricity outages, and overall significant disruption to economic activity in Ukraine. This had a detrimental and long-lasting impact on the political and business environment in Ukraine, including on the ability of many entities to continue business as usual. In response to the military invasion, the President of Ukraine introduced the state of martial law, which is currently extended until 11 August 2024.

In 2023 and 2024, active military actions remain intense, albeit concentrated in eastern and southern Ukraine, with the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the major parts of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia regions still under occupation. In addition, since October 2022, the Russian Federation started missile and drone attacks that impacted power grid as well as other critical civilian infrastructure all over Ukraine.

Despite the ongoing war, the macroeconomic indicators have proven to be more robust than initially anticipated. In January 2024, the National Bank of Ukraine (the "NBU") improved its real GDP growth forecast for 2023 to 5.7%. Annual inflation decreased to 5.1% in 2023. This was accompanied by the decrease of key policy rate of the NBU from 25% to 15% and cancellation of exchange rate peg policy. However, there is an anticipation of a softening in growth due to the ongoing war. Meanwhile, the fiscal balance continues to show a large deficit resulting from the expenditures related to defense and national security. The overall outlook is subject to significant risks, primarily stemming from the heightened uncertainty resulting from war and potential delays or shortfalls in external financing.

With the beginning of war, the NBU introduced certain administrative restrictions on currency conversion transactions and capital movements, including restrictions on interest and dividend payments abroad. Due to these restrictions the Ukrainian hryvnia (the "UAH") lacks exchangeability and is not freely convertible.

After invasion, all global rating agencies lowered Ukraine's ratings: Fitch – to CC, Moody's – to Ca with a stable outlook, and S&P – to CC with a negative outlook.

In the current circumstances, the Foundation continues its operating activities. In conjunction with its going concern assessment, management concluded that it is reasonably possible that the Foundation will be able to continue as a going concern based on the following considerations, among other things:

- Although it is extremely difficult to forecast the duration of war, the Foundation assumed that the war will continue for the following year. The Foundation concluded that it has sufficient confirmed

**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION  
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2023**

**NOTES TO SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

- financing from its donors to conduct full-scale operating activity during this period;
- The Foundation retains necessary human resources to operate at full-scale currently and in the foreseeable future;
  - The Foundation's major assets, such as property and equipment, are located in Kyiv and are not damaged;
  - As at the date of the financial statements, the Foundation's management does not intend to suspend or liquidate the Foundation's activities in Ukraine.

However, as at the date of these financial statements have been authorized for issue, military activities in Ukraine continue to develop. Prolongation of military activities may result in the Foundation's inability to continue its full-scale operating activities, caused by potential significant reduction of the Foundation's financing provided from donors, as well as there may be insufficient human resources necessary to conduct the daily operating activities of the Foundation. The above events or conditions indicate the existence of a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt about the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, and therefore it may be unable to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business.

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and do not include any adjustments that would be necessary if the Foundation was unable to continue as a going concern.

Whilst management believes it is taking appropriate measures to support the sustainability of the Foundation's business in the current circumstances, a continuation of the military activities in Ukraine could negatively affect the Foundation's results and financial position in a manner not currently determinable, including its ability to continue as a going concern. These financial statements reflect management's current assessment of the impact of the Ukrainian business environment on the operations and the financial position of the Foundation. The future business environment may differ from management's assessment.

**3. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Subsequent to 31 December 2023, no events that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, these financial statements have occurred.

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

  
Oleksandr Sushko  
Executive Director  
3 June 2024  


  
Natalia Sannikova  
Finance Director  
3 June 2024



# OUR CONTACT DETAILS:



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