



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Introduction

The Ukrainian people continue to write their full-scale history of struggle. The war rages on, its root cause being our desire for freedom and our age-old eastern neighbor's rejection of that desire. On this great front of freedom, Ukraine once again proved its strength in 2025.

Russia began this war convinced that the Ukrainian state would collapse, society would crumble, and democracy would prove to be a luxury incompatible with survival. Another year has passed, and we can say with confidence: this strategy has failed.

Ukraine has endured not only as a state. It has endured as a society of free people. The war did not negate the democratic nature of our society. On the contrary — it made it even more evident.

In 2025, the “cardboard Maidan” became the embodiment of Ukrainians' instinct for freedom — an unexpected, creative, and at the same time very serious manifestation of civic activism. There were no party flags, no large organizational structures, and no “cookies.” But there was what has always been at the heart of Ukrainian democracy: the conviction that citizens must be heard, and that the government must be attuned to its citizens. It was yet another reminder that freedom in Ukraine is not a gift from the state. It is an inherent trait of the social fabric.

Perhaps that is why all attempts to destroy Ukrainian democracy prove futile. Its roots do not lie in institutions per se. They lie in the people. In volunteers and soldiers, in journalists and human rights defenders, in local communities, in young people who refuse to remain silent, and in millions of citizens who, even in the darkest times, are not ready to give up their dignity.

At the same time, 2025 reminded us that freedom needs protection not only from an external enemy.



The world around us has become less predictable. Democracies are increasingly focused on their own domestic problems. Following the change in administration in the United States, the former flagship of the free world has been transformed into a grotesque caricature. There has been a significant reduction in the resources that for decades were directed toward the development of democracy, civil society, and independent media around the world. Many programs have been suspended or revised. For many of those working for freedom, human rights, and an open society, this has become a serious challenge.

But it is precisely at such moments that it becomes clear that the main resource of democracy is not grants or aid programs. The main resource is the people who practice democracy by taking responsibility for the country — each in their own way.

That is why the International Renaissance Foundation continued to work alongside those who defend the country and uphold human rights within it, who launch drones and develop independent media, assist military units and self-governing communities, who sustain education and foster trust in society, and who seek solutions for the country's future. We did this together with thousands of partners across Ukraine.

This report is not just about the Foundation's activities. It is about a society that has refused to live by the rules of fear. About people who, even during war, refuse to trade freedom for silence. About citizens who prove time and again that democracy is not a political technology or a borrowed model. It is part of our national DNA.

If you are holding this report in your hands, then you are likely a carrier of this DNA as well.

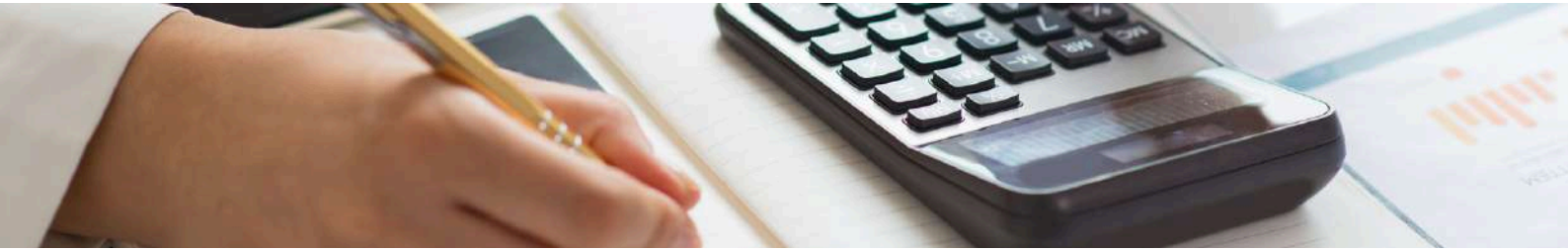
And that is precisely why we have a future.

Oleksandr Sushko

*Executive Director of the
International Renaissance
Foundation*



Key Figures of the Year



In 2025, the International Renaissance Foundation significantly expanded its support for civil society in Ukraine. Total funding amounted to nearly 900 million hryvnias (US\$21.6 million). These funds enabled the implementation of 522 projects from 312 organizations aimed at developing democracy, protecting human rights, supporting reforms, strengthening community resilience, and promoting European integration. This is the largest number of supported projects in the last three years and the largest total amount of support for civil society in the Fund’s history.

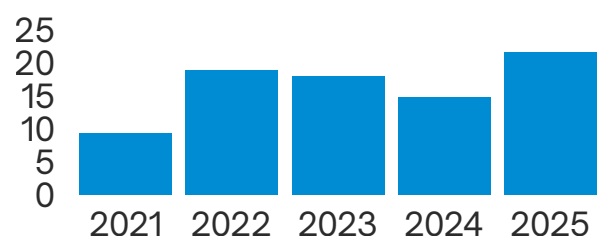
Five program areas covered a wide range of social changes. The largest program in terms of volume was “Democracy and Good Governance”—188 grants totaling 398.5 million hryvnias. The “Civic Resilience” program supported 102 projects with 140 million hryvnias. The “Europe and the World” program awarded 88 grants totaling 144 million hryvnias. The “Social Capital” program awarded 92 grants totaling 108.5 million hryvnias. The “Human Rights and Justice” program supported 54 projects totaling 86.5 million hryvnias.

The Foundation provided the largest number of grants in the range of \$25,000 to \$50,000. Most projects lasted between 6 and 12 months.

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The Foundation provided funding for the development of an open society in Ukraine

Support by year (millions \$)

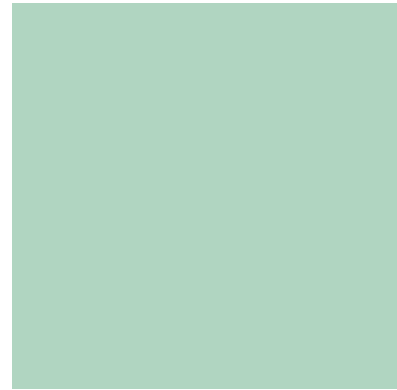
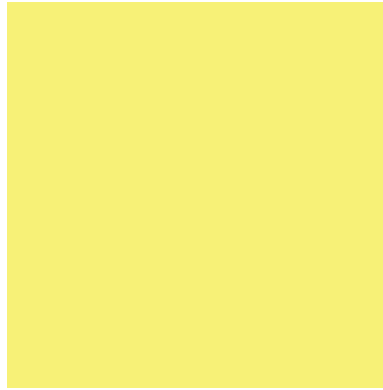


312

organizations received support from the Foundation

522

project was implemented with the support of the Foundation



The Irreversibility of Democratic Development

Together with its partners, the Foundation supports mechanisms that ensure the sustainability of Ukraine’s democratic development—even in the midst of war. This means meaningful citizen participation in decision-making, strengthening institutions that serve the public interest, and advancing the reforms necessary for EU accession. To this end, the Foundation collaborates with think tanks and civil society organizations to develop, test, and promote relevant policies. Transparency, accountability, and civic participation must become the norm, not the exception.

Why is this important?

Democracy cannot be put off until after victory. Without accountable institutions, decentralization, and an active civil society, reforms will remain mere declarations, and European integration will be nothing more than a formality. It is important to start creating an environment right now in which communities have a voice, local authorities are accountable, and civil society organizations are able to influence policy.

Our priorities



Strengthening local democracy



Inclusive decision-making



The capacity of civil society



Transparency and accountability



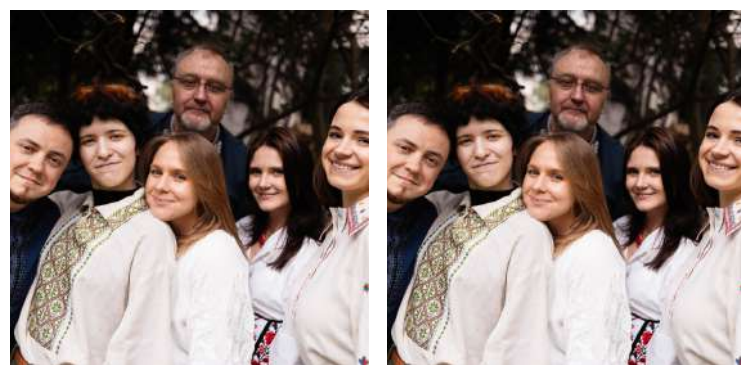
Community Charters as a Practical Tool for Participation

Once the Law on People’s Self-Governance takes effect in January 2025, every local community in Ukraine will be required to adopt its own Charter—a document that sets out the rules and mechanisms for resident participation in decision-making—by the beginning of 2027. The Foundation supports this process comprehensively: from developing methodological tools and model templates to working with specific communities on the ground.

The key risk is that communities will simply copy charters using a single template without adapting them to their own needs. That is why the Foundation funds both expert work on creating high-quality templates and recommendations, as well as direct support for communities. Following the results of the competition “Promoting the Development of Local Community Charters and the Use of Local Democracy Tools,” the Foundation supported 14 projects.

The National Center for Local Self-Government has developed a model charter for communities

In June 2025, experts from the Ukrainian Independent Center for Political Research drafted a model charter for rural, town, and city communities. The document also includes four mandatory appendices: regulations on local initiatives, public hearings, general assemblies, and public evaluation of local authorities.



New guidelines for drafting bylaws

In January 2024, the first class of the Anti-Corruption School graduated—23 participants from 20 cities across Ukraine joined the community of anti-corruption investigators. Among them were military personnel, journalists, lawyers, activists, and volunteers. They gained the knowledge and tools needed to expose corruption and monitor the use of public funds.



The Kamian-Kashyrsk community in Volyn has developed its charter in collaboration with residents

In the Kamin-Kashirsk community in Volyn, the process of drafting the Charter began with a sociological survey and focus groups involving residents and officials. This was followed by a working group, a series of training sessions for activists and officials, and two public hearings held both online and offline. The final step is consideration at a council session. The project is being implemented by the Volyn Institute of Law with support from the Foundation.

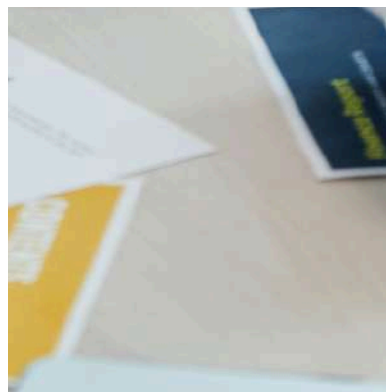
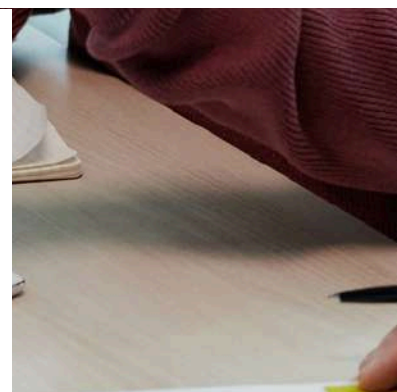
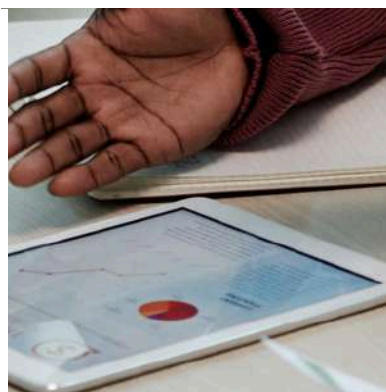


Five communities in Bukovina received expert guidance

In March 2025, a pilot project was launched in Bukovyna: the communities of Velykokuchuriv, Vyzhnytsia, Hlyboka, Nedoboyiv, and Ust-Putyla received support in updating their charters. Each working group will work on the document for six months—involving residents and holding public discussions before submitting it to the council session. The project is being implemented by the NGO “Ukrainian People’s House in Chernivtsi” with support from the Foundation.

The Kiptivska Community Adopted Its Charter

The Kiptiv Village Council in Chernihiv Oblast adopted its Charter at its 32nd session on May 2, 2025, following seven months of work on the document. The Charter establishes mechanisms for public participation and local government accountability. The work was carried out as part of a project supported by the Foundation.



The Myrhorod Community Presented Its Revised Charter

In December 2025, the Myrhorod community presented a revised draft of its Charter. The document significantly expands residents’ opportunities to influence local decisions, particularly through public hearings and local initiatives. A notable innovation is the participation of youth aged 14 and older. The draft was prepared in collaboration with the NGO “Agency for the Development of Regional Initiatives” with support from the Foundation.

Ternopil has approved a new community charter

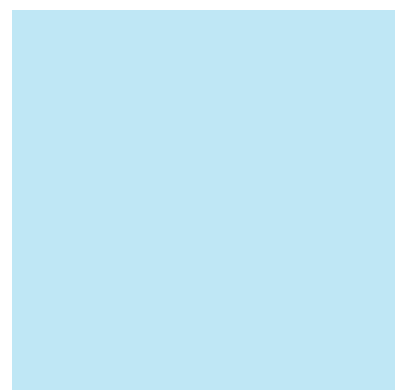
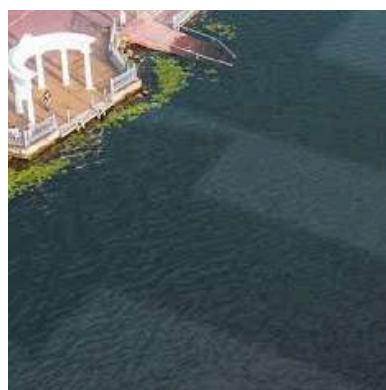
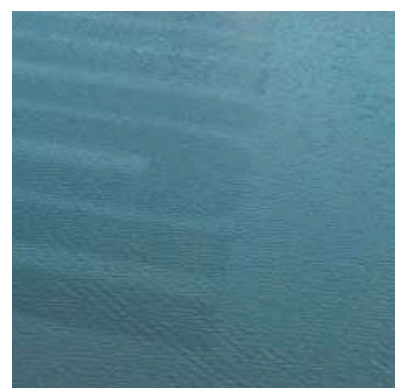
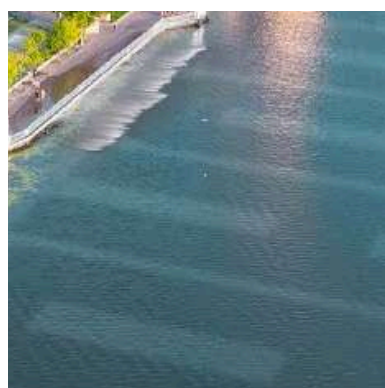
In March 2026, the Ternopil City Council approved the revised version of the Community Charter—the result of work carried out throughout 2025 with the support of the Foundation. The document was drafted with the involvement of city council departments, council members, representatives of the Youth Council, and experts from the Ukrainian National Center for Policy Development.

Prior to adoption, the draft underwent public hearings. The updated Charter enshrines the rights of IDPs to participate in local self-government, establishes clear procedures for public hearings, local initiatives, and general assemblies, and provides for mechanisms for residents’ participation in local budget planning and mandatory public reporting by authorities.

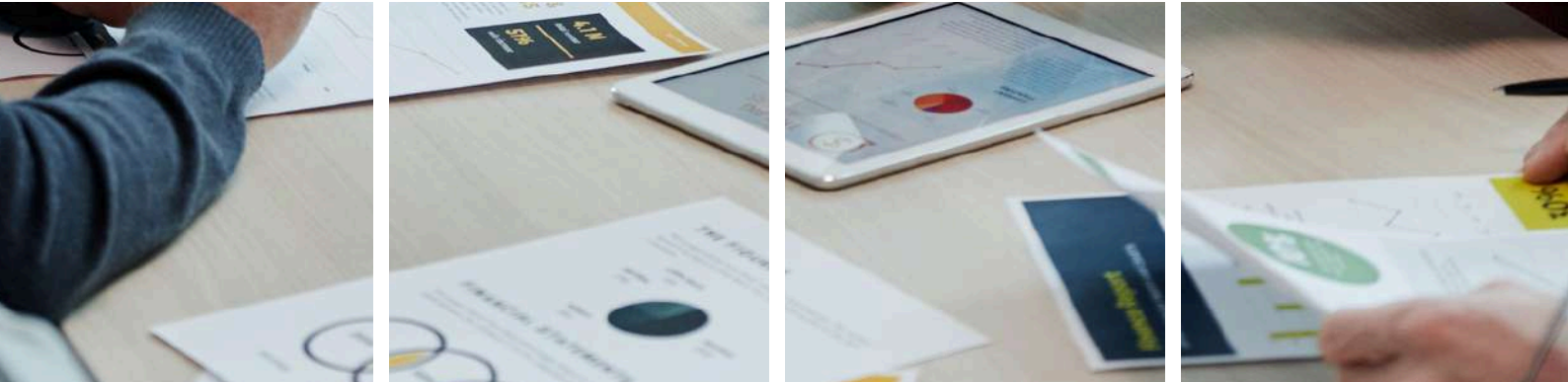
Two border communities in Chernihiv Oblast have adopted new charters

In October 2025, two border communities in Chernihiv Oblast—Ponornytsia and Kholmyn—completed the work initiated as part of a project supported by the Foundation and adopted new charters. The development process lasted several months and included resident surveys, working group meetings, public hearings, and training for about 35 participants in each community.

As a result of the project, an e-guide with practical lessons for other communities was prepared, and both communities were connected to the national e-petition platform.



Local Democracy in Action



Participatory budgeting, local initiatives, self-governing bodies, and development strategies—all of these are tools of local democracy. In 2025, the Foundation supported a number of projects that helped communities across Ukraine put these tools into practice—from Zaporizhzhia to Volyn, from Mykolaiv Oblast to Kyiv.

Four communities in the Poltava region have implemented tools for local democracy.

In May 2025, the project “Poltava Region Community Initiative: Local Democracy for the Protection of the Country” came to a close. The project was implemented by the NGO “Ltava Center for Civic Initiatives” with the support of the Foundation in four communities: Orzhitska, Chornukhy, Opishnia, and Kotelyevka. During the project, the Kotelevska community introduced a participatory budgeting mechanism; the Opishnianska community adopted regulations on local initiatives; and the Orzhytska and Chornukhy communities developed draft charters and prepared them for approval.

The key outcome was not only the implementation of specific tools but a qualitative change in the interaction between the authorities and residents: local government representatives and activists underwent training together, identified problems together, and sought solutions together.

Updated approaches to community strategic planning were presented in Kyiv

In June 2025, with the support of the Foundation, a presentation was held on updated methodological approaches to strategic planning at the local level—a joint initiative of the “Recovery for All” (RFA) project and the Ministry of Community and Territorial Development.

Participants discussed why the current methodological recommendations no longer meet the needs of communities and what needs to be changed: increasing resident participation in strategy development, synchronizing strategic and budget planning, and shifting the focus from infrastructure to the quality of services for people, particularly the most vulnerable. Shortly after the event, the RFA project submitted draft amendments to the methodological guidelines to the Ministry of Development for further review.

The Turiy community in Volyn has learned to communicate with the authorities

For nearly a year—from July 2024 to June 2025—the Volyn Institute of Law, with support from the Foundation, worked with the Turiysk Town Council to improve communication between the government and residents.

During this time, they jointly developed a draft charter and its regulations, conducted a study on the state of government-community interaction, held a series of trainings for officials and activists, and analyzed the community's website for user-friendliness. According to Zhanna Yakovynich, the deputy village head, the main outcome was that people—both officials and residents—learned to listen to one another.

Residents of Zaporizhzhia learned how to establish community self-governance bodies

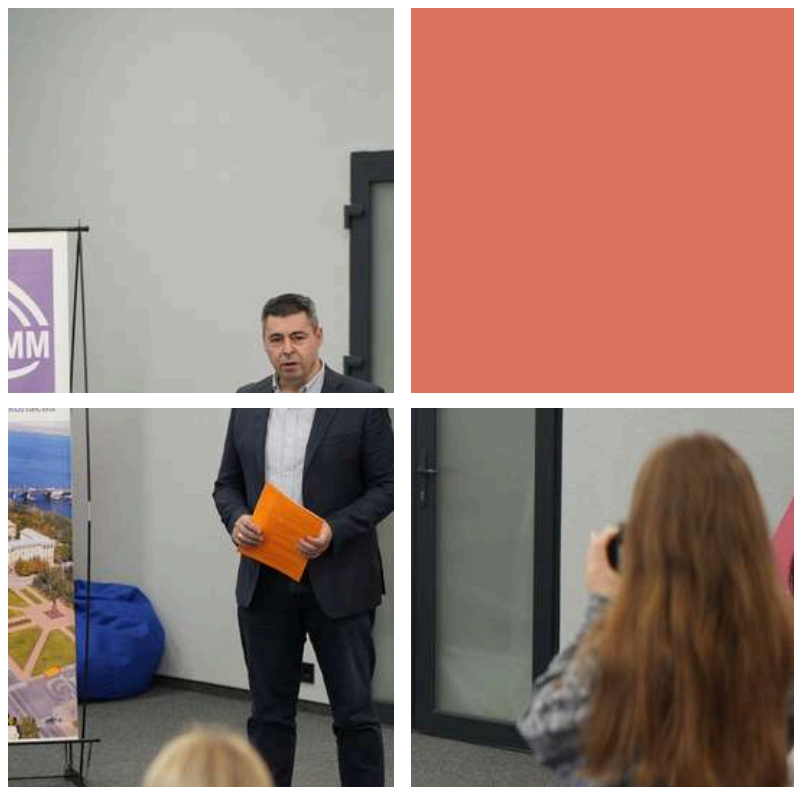
In February 2025, the NGO “Ecosense,” with support from the Foundation, held a training session in Zaporizhzhia on community self-organization bodies (CSOs)—officially recognized associations of residents that can represent the interests of the community and participate in local self-government. More than 30 participants—activists, heads of homeowners’ associations, representatives of civil society organizations, and IDPs—learned about the legal framework for CSOs, the registration process, mechanisms for communicating with authorities, and opportunities to secure funding through local programs and grants.



A forum on participatory democracy was held in Mykolaiv

In May 2025, the NGO “Mykolaiv City Development Fund,” with support from the Foundation, held the second forum on participatory democracy in Mykolaiv—in a hybrid format, with the “Hvylia” youth space serving as a venue for in-person participants. Activists, government officials, young people, and experts discussed how to develop democratic tools in communities.

The forum also addressed the topic of preparing communities for the return of veterans—how to make this process less traumatic for both the veterans themselves and society as a whole.



859 officials from 12 regions have been trained in personal data protection

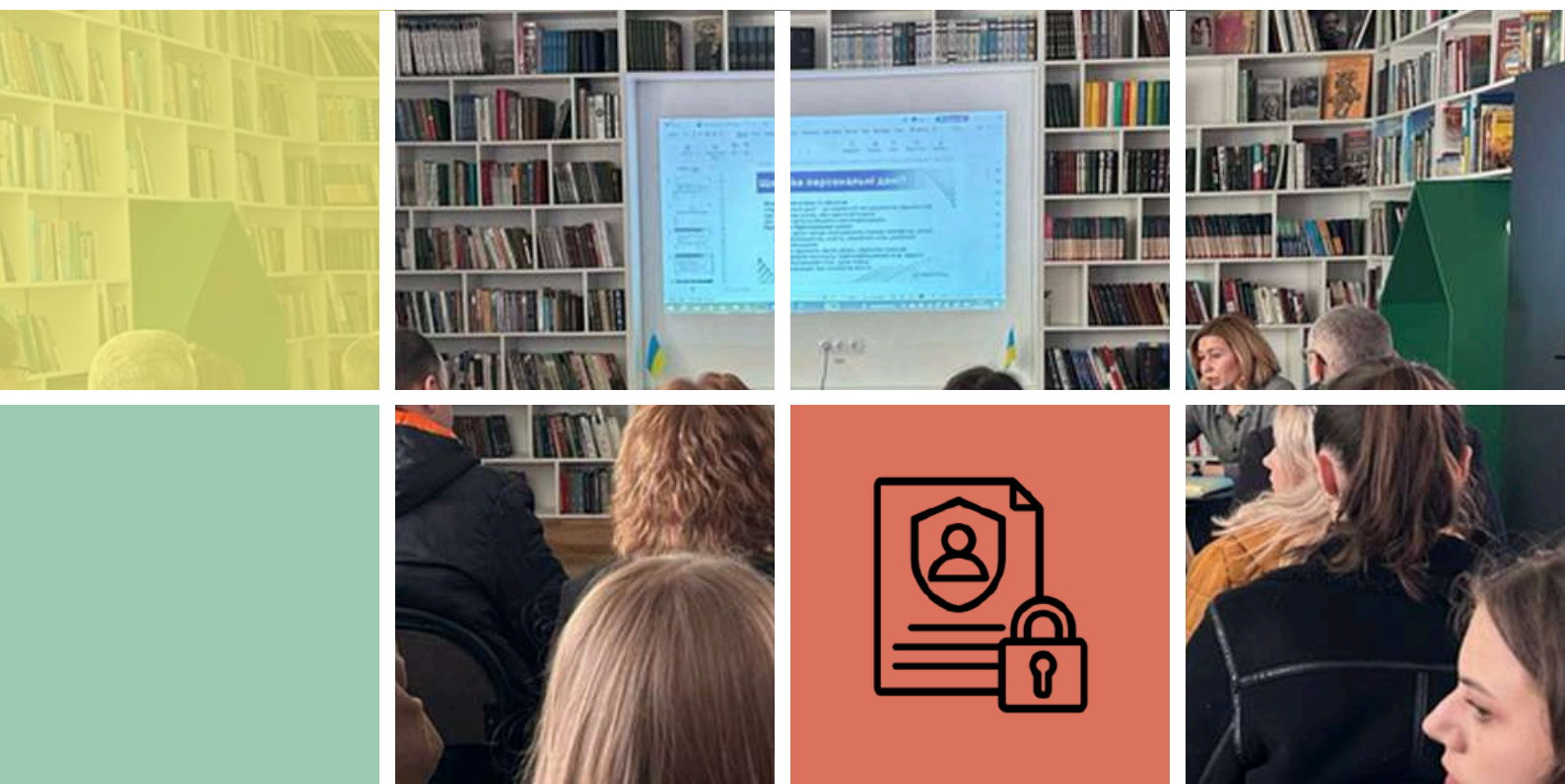
In 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the organization FREERIGHTS implemented the project “Protection of Personal Data in Wartime,” which aimed to help local governments better understand their obligations regarding the protection of personal data and comply with them in practice. A total of 859 local council employees from 12 regions of Ukraine participated in 54 events. Concurrently, compliance with relevant legislation was monitored, and based on the results, local governments received a summary report with specific recommendations.

The project was based on a “train-the-trainer” curriculum for regional coordinators of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. The six-module course covered both theory and practice: from international standards and GDPR requirements to risk assessment, internal organizational measures, and data protection in information systems. After the training, the coordinators /



They independently organized training sessions for officials in their regions—thereby spreading knowledge much more widely than a single centralized course could have achieved.

In several communities, actual violations were identified even during the training—and steps were immediately taken to address them. Dozens of councils appointed data protection officers, updated job descriptions, and began developing privacy policies and internal regulations. In one community in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, an instance of unintentional data disclosure was identified—and the local council promptly adopted a decision to streamline documentation.



Amendments to the Law on Community Self-Organization



Community self-organization bodies (CSOs) are officially recognized associations of residents through which people can directly influence local government decisions. The problem is that the basic law governing their activities is long outdated: the process of establishing a CBO can take up to nine months, and local authorities often block residents' initiatives without explanation. In November 2025, with the support of the Foundation, a roundtable was held by the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Local Self-Government, dedicated to the updated version of draft law No. 6319—a document intended to significantly change this situation.

The roundtable summarized the Working Group's months-long efforts: 13 meetings, over 800 amendments reviewed, and broad agreement on most contentious issues. The updated draft law simplifies the procedures for legalizing community-based organizations, clarifies their status, accountability, and funding. These changes are intended to make self-organization a truly accessible tool—rather than just a theoretical possibility on paper.

The roundtable participants emphasized that during the war, community-based organizations (CBOs) have already proven their practical value in matters of local security, volunteer coordination, and support for vulnerable groups. Research shows that communities with active self-organization mechanisms are more cohesive and recover more quickly from crises. The adoption of the draft law is also one of the conditions for EU support. Following the event, 160 civil society organizations from across Ukraine signed a joint letter of support, which was submitted to the chair of the committee.



Public Administration Reforms in a Time of War

Public administration reform is one of the key prerequisites for Ukraine's European integration and, at the same time, one of the most challenging: it is taking place in the midst of a war that has fundamentally altered how government functions at all levels. The Foundation supports work in this area through several initiatives—ranging from conceptualizing what governance should look like in de-occupied territories to developing a new generation of leaders.

Public Administration in Times of War: The Search for a New Model

In April 2025, with the support of the Foundation, an open meeting of the Platform for Temporarily Occupied and De-occupied Communities was held. The focus was on the challenges of public administration in the liberated territories of Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, and Kherson regions. Analysts from the Center for Political and Legal Reforms presented the results of their study: in de-occupied and frontline territories, there is still no clear division of powers between local self-government bodies and military administrations, and the regulatory framework for their interaction remains vague.

A separate topic was the reconfiguration of the administrative-territorial structure in the post-war period. Researchers emphasized that the future governance model must be flexible—taking into account demographic changes, new functional needs of communities, and security challenges.

Good Governance Forum: Leadership Challenges in 2025

In March 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the Good Governance Forum “Ukraine 2025: Leadership Challenges” was held for the second time in Kyiv—a joint initiative of the Aspen Institute Kyiv, the Frontier Institute, and CEO Club Ukraine. Over the course of six hours, 120 leaders from various sectors—politics, business, civil society, and local government—discussed how to make decisions and take responsibility in an environment where the rules are constantly changing.

The forum was structured not as a conference with speeches, but as a space for open dialogue: every participant could speak up and share their own perspective. The main idea is that today's leaders must proactively shape the agenda and coordinate efforts across sectors. According to the organizers, this determines not only the effectiveness of individual organizations but also the country's ability to navigate the recovery process with strong institutions.



Open Society Club: A Governance Crisis in the Fourth Year of the War

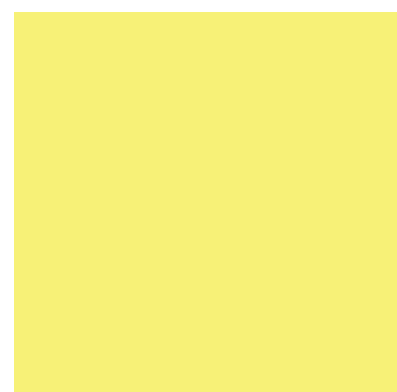
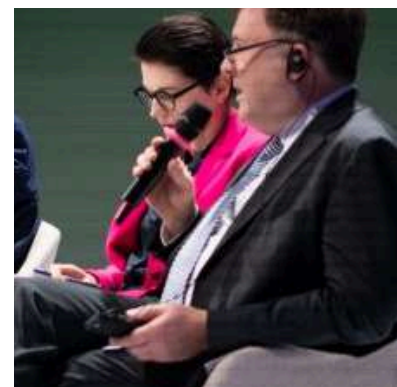
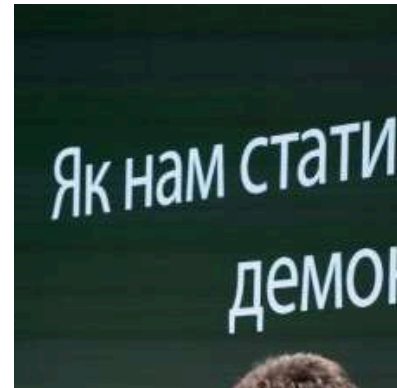
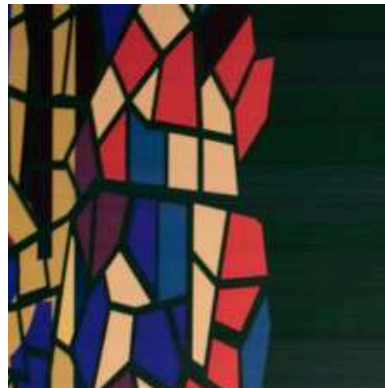
In December 2025, the Open Society Club held a meeting at the Foundation dedicated to the governance crisis in Ukraine. Four years into the war, the exhaustion of the state apparatus, the blurring of accountability, the centralization of decision-making, and the lack of strategic vision are becoming increasingly apparent. Participants discussed how corruption scandals—in particular “Mindichgate”—are eroding trust in the state at a time when a society making enormous sacrifices expects the highest standards from its government. The central question of the discussion was: what role can civil society play in overcoming this crisis?

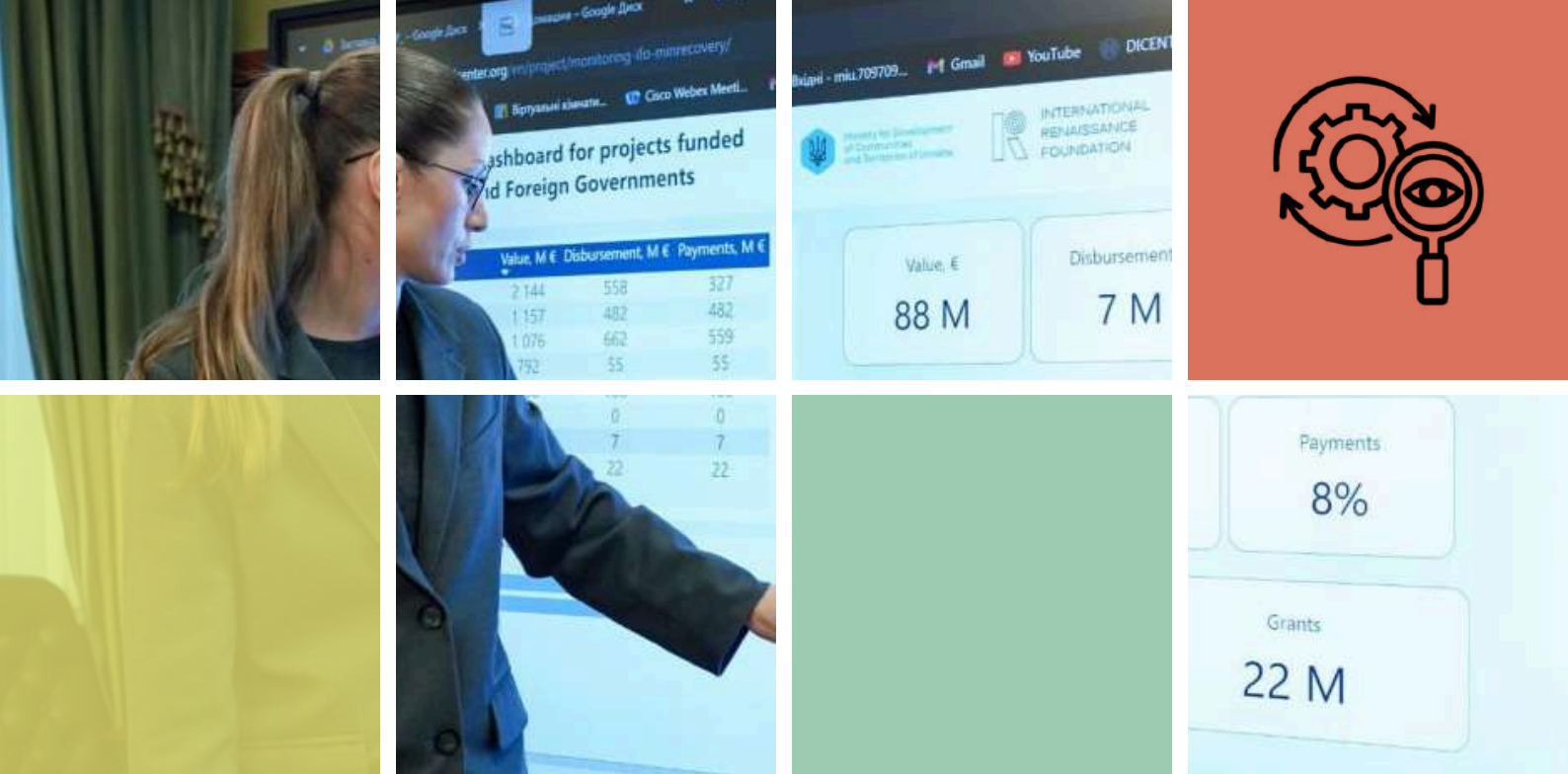
“Ukraine 3.0.,”: From Victim of Aggression to Architect of New Alliances

In December 2025, as part of the 13th Civil Society Development Forum organized by ISAR “Yednannia” in partnership with the Foundation, a panel discussion titled “Ukraine 3.0: How Can We Become the Hub of a New Geometry of Political Alliances?” took place. Participants—representatives from Chatham House, the Polish Batory Foundation, the German Council on Foreign Relations, and OPORA—discussed how the war is changing the rules of global politics and what place Ukraine should occupy in the new architecture. Key takeaway: Ukraine no longer merely seeks to integrate into the democratic world—it is an active shaper of it, and its experience with decentralization, civic mobilization, and responsible decision-making in wartime is becoming a benchmark for partners in Europe and beyond.

“Activist School 3.0., for the central regions

In 2025, with support from the Fund, the Regional Development Agency of the Tavriya Association of Territorial Communities announced a call for applications to the “School of Activists 3.0” for the Cherkasy, Vinnytsia, and Kirovohrad regions. The program is aimed at internally displaced persons and local activists and covers project management, social entrepreneurship, cultural initiatives, and leadership. The training took place in two sessions—in Tulchyn and Kryzhopil. The school already has experience from previous cohorts and is designed for those who are ready not just to learn, but to immediately apply their knowledge in their communities.





Accountability and Integrity

Corruption undermines trust in the state even in peacetime—during wartime, its consequences become critical. Non-transparent decisions, procurement abuses, and blurred accountability—all of this weakens the country's defense capabilities, alienates international partners, and undermines the social contract between citizens and the government. For the Foundation, anti-corruption work is not a separate initiative but a cross-cutting requirement for any reforms. Without transparency and accountability, neither recovery nor European integration will have a solid foundation. That is why the Foundation supports independent investigations, monitoring of public resources, anti-corruption institutions, and public pressure that keeps the government accountable.

Anti-corruption programs in Kharkiv, Fastiv, and Pryutivka

Throughout 2025, the NGO “Anti-Corruption Headquarters,” with support from the Foundation, implemented a project to develop anti-corruption programs in three communities—Kharkiv, Fastiv, and Pryutivka in the Kirovohrad region. Throughout the year, residents, activists, and officials underwent training together, conducted anonymous surveys, met weekly in working groups, and jointly identified “red flags”—areas where risks are highest. In total, the teams identified dozens of corruption risks in each community.

Following a review of its work, the Pryutivka Village Council voted in November 2025 to adopt an anti-corruption program for 2026–2028, while Kharkiv completed the drafting of the document and prepared it for consideration by the city council. For international partners and donors, the existence of such documents signals the community's readiness for transparent cooperation—which is particularly important in the context of reconstruction and attracting international funding.

The Fifth Whistleblower Conference: Institutional Development and Plans for 2026

In November 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the Fifth Annual Conference “Whistleblowers in Ukraine: Successes and Challenges” was held, organized by the NACP in collaboration with ACREC and NaUKMA. Over two years of operation, the Unified Whistleblower Reporting Portal has connected over 11,000 organizations, received more than 7,500 reports, and granted official status to 157 whistleblowers—and users rated it 8.1 out of 10. At the conference, the NACP presented a roadmap for the development of the whistleblowing institution through 2026: adapting legislation to EU Directive 2019/1937, expanding the definition of “whistleblower,” reforming the reward system, strengthening protections for military personnel, and modernizing the portal itself.



A separate issue raised was the need for a comprehensive bill that would extend protections for whistleblowers beyond reports of corruption alone. The NACP is prepared to coordinate this effort by engaging a wide range of institutions. The adoption of such a law is also one of the indicators of the negotiation process regarding Ukraine’s accession to the EU—thus, the development of the whistleblowing institution has not only an anti-corruption dimension but also a European integration dimension.

Master's Program in Anti-Corruption Studies at NaUKMA

The Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, in partnership with ACREC, offers the “Anti-Corruption Studies” master’s program—the only educational program in Ukraine that trains professionals in the field of anti-corruption: legislative analysts, investigative journalists, detectives, and anti-corruption officers. The program is implemented with the support of the Foundation. It provides not only a theoretical foundation but also practical skills—ranging from investigating corruption schemes to working with evidence and public advocacy.

Transparency in the extractive industries: DiXi Group has presented a draft bill

In February 2025, the DiXi Group think tank, with support from the Foundation, organized an event titled “Transparency in the Extractive Industry: Ukraine’s Successes and Necessary Changes to EITI Regulations.” At the event, the DiXi Group presented a draft law to implement the updated 2023 EITI Standard: it expands the range of agencies required to disclose information on extractive activities—specifically the State Customs Service, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources—as well as the reporting requirements for extractive companies themselves, including data on greenhouse gas emissions and social and infrastructure projects.



Parliamentary transparency under the watchful eye of civil society

Throughout 2025, the CHESNO Movement, with the support of the Foundation, conducted several important studies and training events aimed at increasing the transparency of the Verkhovna Rada's work. In February, CHESNO presented the results of its fifth monitoring of parliamentary committee transparency: the committees on human rights, digitalization, and energy were found to be the most transparent. In July, a study was published on how MPs communicate with voters during a full-scale war—concluding that some MPs still haven't provided accessible feedback channels, and official email addresses sometimes simply don't work.

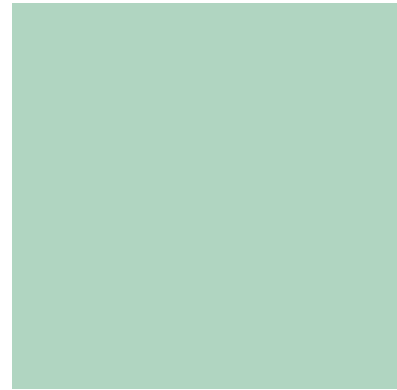
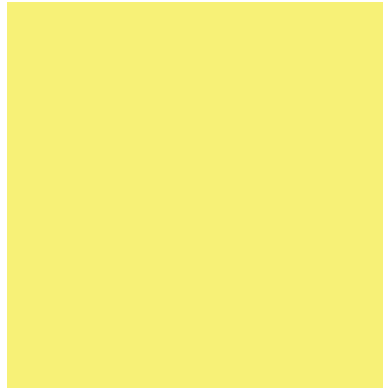
At the same time, CHESNO organized training for representatives of the secretariats of the Verkhovna Rada committees—so that the recommendations based on the monitoring results would translate into concrete changes rather than remain on paper. Redesigned websites for all committees, a unified structure, and verified social media pages—some of these changes have already taken place thanks to CHESNO's long-standing cooperation with parliament. Participants in the discussions repeatedly emphasized: the public needs to know what parliament is doing, even during wartime.

The Foundation's public stance: Democracy doesn't wait for the right moment

In 2025, the Foundation took a public stance on several key issues related to democracy. In February, the Foundation signed a joint statement by more than 100 civil society organizations asserting that democratic elections could not be held until a sustainable peace was achieved. The position was clear: elections must take place, but only under conditions of real security, the restoration of electoral infrastructure, and the ability for millions of displaced citizens and military personnel to participate in the voting. The legitimacy of the government is the exclusive prerogative of the Ukrainian people, not external demands.

In July, the Foundation responded to one of the most critical events of the year—the adoption of Bill 12414, which undermined the independence of NABU and SAPO. The Foundation called this a critical mistake and the first step toward dismantling the anti-corruption institutions established after the Revolution of Dignity. Together with nearly a hundred other organizations, the Foundation signed a joint statement demanding the repeal of the law and the restoration of the institutional independence of anti-corruption bodies. Both statements demonstrate that the Foundation does not limit itself to supporting projects but actively participates in defending democratic principles when they come under pressure.





Equal participation for war victims

War transforms society and gives rise to new actors who have something to say and the right to be heard. Internally displaced persons, families of the deceased and missing, and people from frontline and de-occupied territories—all of them are becoming active participants in civil society, rather than merely its beneficiaries. The Foundation supports their development as independent democratic actors: it provides resources, skills, and space for participation in dialogues and influence on policy.

Why is this important?

Social cohesion in Ukraine remains strong, but the prolonged war, economic pressures, and mounting losses are exacerbating tensions between different groups. At the same time, new forms of community organizations are emerging within civil society, driven primarily by those most affected by the war. The Foundation helps them develop a broader strategic vision and become co-architects of change.

Our priorities



Participation in decision-making



Reintegration of internally displaced persons



New forms of self-organization



Social cohesion in communities



Empowering internally displaced persons

Millions of Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes because of the war—and most of them still cannot return. Internally displaced persons face not only practical difficulties but also legal uncertainty, a lack of access to social services, psychological pressure, and a sense of isolation from the community.

IDPs are full members of the communities where they live, and they must have a voice in decision-making, access to services, and the ability to shape their own future. Without this, the country’s recovery will remain incomplete.

The “Shelter/Job,, Platform: Find housing and jobs in one place

In October 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the updated “Shelter/Work” platform was launched in Kyiv—a tool that helps internally displaced persons find both employment and housing. In its updated version, the platform already features over 47,000 job openings from businesses and government agencies, includes a built-in AI assistant for creating resumes, and covers retraining programs. The project is an example of how the public and private sectors can work together to create effective support tools.



The Voice of IDPs in Communities Across Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast



In 2025, the NGO “Access Point,” with support from the Foundation, implemented the “Strengthening the Voice” project in three communities in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast—Bolekhiv, Horodenka, and Otnyia. The goal was not merely to help IDPs adapt, but to make them full-fledged participants in local self-government. As part of the project, a study was conducted on IDP councils in the region’s communities: it turned out that such councils operate in 32 of 62 communities, but in many of them, the proportion of IDPs among council members remains insufficient. Participants underwent training in advocacy, communications, and dialogue-based approaches; together, they developed strategies for the councils’ development and received technical equipment for their work. According to the participants, the main outcome was not documentation, but trust—between the authorities, the community, and the IDPs.

Housing Crisis: Research and Recommendations from the Cherkasy Human Rights Center

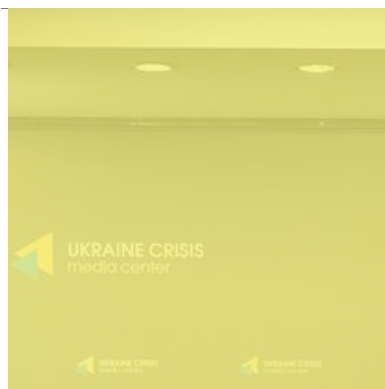
Between 2024 and 2025, the Cherkasy Human Rights Center, with support from the Foundation, conducted a large-scale study on the state of housing policy for IDPs and individuals who lost their homes due to the war. The data covered 721 communities and painted a dire picture: of the more than 4.3 million people in need of housing, only 35 received social housing from local communities. Half of the local governments were unable to answer a basic question—how much housing is under their municipal ownership.

In June 2025, the Center held a public presentation of the results with the participation of experts, members of parliament, and representatives of international organizations. The discussion revealed that the problem lies not only in a lack of funds—its roots lie in the outdated 1983 Housing Code, the absence of a national housing strategy, and the weak capacity of communities.



СТАН РЕАЛІЗАЦІЇ ПОЛІТИКИ ДЕРЖАВИ ІЗ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ЖИТЛОМ ОСІБ, ЯКІ ПОСТРАЖДАЛИ ВНАСЛІДОК ВІЙНИ

МІЖНАРОДНИЙ, НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ ТА МІСЦЕВИЙ РІВЕНЬ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ТА НАДАННЯ ДОПОМОГИ З ЖИТЛОМ



“Being Heard,,: IDPs as Agents of Change in Poltava Region



The NGO “Center for Community Development and Cooperation,” with support from the Foundation, implemented the project “Being Heard: Engaging IDPs in Decision-Making Processes” in the Poltava region, aimed at ensuring that displaced people become active agents of change in host communities rather than passive recipients of aid. The impetus came from telling statistics: about 80% of calls from IDPs to the regional hotline concern not humanitarian aid, but the quality of basic services—social, medical, utility, and educational. People want to influence decisions that affect their lives, but they don’t know how. The project trained civil society organizations and initiative groups to conduct advocacy campaigns—to build relationships with authorities, public opinion, and the media. One of the examples studied by participants was the GreenLab greenhouse at Poltava Agrarian University, where IDPs grow microgreens and vegetables and receive training in agricultural technologies: a small but illustrative case of how advocacy can lead to practical results.

Ukrainian language courses for internally displaced persons in Dnipro

Since February 2025, the “Center for Assistance to IDPs and Veterans” Charitable Foundation, with support from the Fund, has been offering free Ukrainian language courses for IDPs in Dnipro. Six groups of 15 people each—including many from the temporarily occupied territories—are learning spelling, grammar, and vocabulary under the guidance of experienced instructors. In addition to standard classes, the organizers invite local writers to teach, and the course concludes with a dictation. For many participants, this is not just a language course—it is a way to reconnect with their identity and feel like part of their new environment.



Training for Community Leaders in the Kropyvnytskyi Region

In May 2025, the “Oleksandriya Assistance Center” Charitable Foundation, with support from the Fund, completed a five-month training program titled “IDPs for Change: Advocacy and Development” in the Oleksandriya and Pryiutiv communities of the Kirovohrad region. About 60 participants—representatives of IDP councils and IDPs themselves—completed 48 hours of training on leadership, project-based thinking, tools for local democracy, and skills for influencing decision-making.

“Contact2U Recovery,,: Support Groups for Internally Displaced Persons in the Dnipropetrovsk Region



In early 2025, the NGO “Power of the Future,” with support from the Foundation and the “Bread for the World” agency as part of the “Resilience Lab” program, launched the “Contact2U_Recovery” project in Dnipro, Kamianske, Samara, and Oleksandrivka. Its goal is to help displaced persons overcome isolation and rebuild the social connections that people lose along with their homes. The project is based on small support groups led by trained facilitators who, through exercises, conversations, and creative techniques, help participants find support and make new friends. By mid-2025, about 130 people had participated in the project, and the feedback included specific examples of how forced interaction had grown into genuine human connections.



Strategies for Integrating Internally Displaced Persons

Since 2022, the organization has been operating two shelters for displaced persons and implementing the “IDP Service Card” project—a chatbot with a QR code that provides access to discounts at local businesses. As the organization’s director, Lyudmyla Dinnik, notes, about 50% of temporary housing for IDPs in Dnipro has been created by civil society organizations. At the same time, she highlights a systemic problem: IDP councils in many communities exist in name only, and their effectiveness depends on 1–2 activists without sufficient support. The only solution is synergy between civil society organizations, local authorities, and businesses; without it, IDPs risk remaining a burden rather than a resource for communities.



IDP Councils, Research, and a Consolidated Position



In May 2025, the Foundation organized a meeting of representatives from organizations that systematically work to protect the rights of IDPs. At the meeting, four organizations presented the results of their own research on the work of IDP councils across Ukraine—more than a thousand such councils bring together approximately 20,000 volunteers. The joint conclusion of the research is disappointing: most councils rely on just 1–2 activists, lack clear indicators of effectiveness, funding, and real influence on local policy. At the same time, in communities where councils received methodological support, the changes were noticeable—ranging from the initiation of public consultations to changes in the regulatory framework. In parallel, the Foundation supported the development of a consolidated advocacy position on IDP policy, covering recommendations ranging from housing strategies to the institutional recognition of IDP councils at the national level.

Regional Conference of IDP Councils in Cherkasy Oblast



In April 2025, with the support of the Fund, a regional conference of IDP councils was held in the Cherkasy region as part of the project “Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of IDP Councils in Cherkasy Region Communities,” implemented by the NGO “Sustainable Development of the State.” Community representatives from across the region gathered to share experiences, discuss challenges related to the integration of IDPs, and jointly seek solutions. The focus was on the interaction between the councils and local authorities, mechanisms for influencing decision-making, and plans for future work. According to the organization’s monitoring, out of 66 communities in Cherkasy Oblast, IDP councils were active in only 17 at that time, and their level of activity varied significantly depending on the availability of support.

In June 2025, the center held a public presentation of the results with the participation of experts, members of parliament, and representatives of international organizations.



Support for the families of defenders



Over the past three years of full-scale war, millions of Ukrainian families have been living in constant uncertainty: with husbands, fathers, and brothers at the front, while their loved ones at home bear a double burden—caring for children, managing daily life, and enduring the psychological stress of waiting. Supporting the families of defenders is essential to the resilience of society. When a family has access to psychological support, legal protection, and tangible community support, it benefits both the soldiers themselves and society's ability to endure a protracted war.

A Guide for Families of Missing Persons

Families of missing persons are in a state of total uncertainty—and at the same time are forced to navigate complex legal and procedural issues on their own, for which the state still lacks a unified approach. In 2025, with the support of the Foundation, experts from the First Women's Veterans' Space "ReHab" developed a practical guide-algorithm for such families: where to turn, how to interact with the military unit and the Regional Search and Rescue Center, what the legal consequences are of being declared missing under special circumstances, and how to navigate the search and identification process step by step. The document is addressed directly to family members—and is written so that anyone who finds themselves in this situation can use it.

Systematic training of professionals to work with families of missing persons

In parallel with the handbook, the Foundation supported systematic training for professionals who work directly with families of missing persons. Throughout 2025, three-day training courses for representatives of local government bodies and civil society organizations were held regularly at the Lviv Regional Council's "Warrior's House" facility in Lviv. The course covered four modules: search procedures, paralegal support, information hygiene, and psychological assistance. The training was conducted by the "ReHab" team, which has been working in this field since 2014. The course was held in regular sessions—just one of them, completed in January 2025, trained an additional 24 specialists for communities in the Lviv region.

A retreat in the Carpathians for mothers of fallen soldiers from Vinnytsia Oblast



In September 2025, with support from the Foundation, the EU, and the Vinnytsia City Council, “Veteran Space” organized a six-day retreat in the Carpathians for twenty mothers of fallen defenders from the Vinnytsia region. The trip was preceded by three preparatory meetings with psychologists—the retreat was conceived from the outset not as a vacation, but as intensive psychological work: group sessions, art therapy techniques, and physical practices to release emotional blocks and improve physical health. The team has been developing and refining this format for three years now—and every year it brings together new groups because it sees results.



The CHESNO Movement is teaching families of veterans how to influence local decision-making

In June 2025, with support from the Rukh Foundation, CHESNO held a two-day training session in Kyiv titled “Decision-Making at the Local Level” for the mothers, wives, sisters, and children of fallen defenders and veterans. The program covered the work of local self-government bodies, public advocacy tools, communication strategies, and monitoring of public finances through Prozorro and YouControl. Participants not only gained knowledge but also applied it to practical case studies—specifically regarding accessibility in communities. A particular value was the opportunity to find a community of people with similar experiences and lay the groundwork for future collaboration. As emphasized by Viktoriya Oliinyk, head of CHESNO’s veteran leadership program, family members of veterans are already ready to participate in nation-building processes—and the task of the Foundation and its partners is to help them do so.





The Rights of Vulnerable Groups and Inclusion

People with disabilities and members of other vulnerable groups in Ukraine face a double challenge: the barriers that existed before the war have only intensified since it began. The Foundation supports efforts to make the recovery process truly inclusive, ranging from legislative changes and deinstitutionalization to concrete tools for the participation of people with disabilities in community life.

Happy Monday and the Foundation have published a guide to inclusive employment

In May 2025, Happy Monday, in collaboration with the Foundation as part of the “Invisible Talent Market” project, published the catalog “25 Cases of Successful Inclusion in Ukrainian Business”—a collection of real-world practices from companies that are already building an inclusive environment for IDPs, people with disabilities, veterans, and older professionals. Among the companies featured in the catalog are Kyivstar, Silpo, Metinvest, Sense Bank, Starlight Media, and others. The document outlines specific mechanisms: how to adapt the office, how to modify the hiring process, and how to support a new employee who has gone through a difficult experience.

The goal is to show employers that inclusion is not an additional burden, but a real asset for team development, especially given that the labor market has changed significantly as a result of the war.



Accessibility Training for Local Government Officials

In February 2025, with the support of the Foundation, a training session titled “Accessibility: The Philosophy of a Society Without Barriers” was held in Oleksandriya for representatives of two communities—Oleksandriya and Pryiutivka. Participants included professionals from the fields of architecture, administrative service centers, social protection, culture, and youth centers. Participants learned how to identify barriers, conduct accessibility audits, and communicate effectively with people with disabilities and representatives of other vulnerable groups.

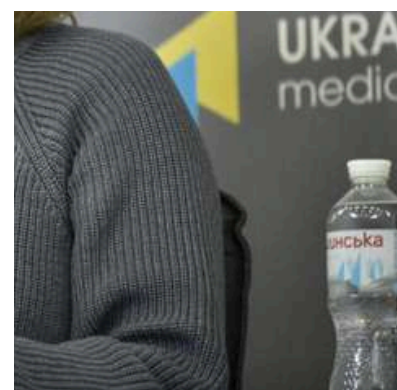
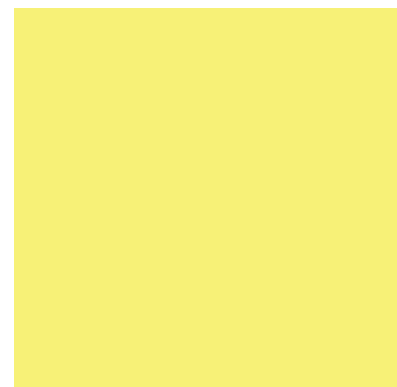
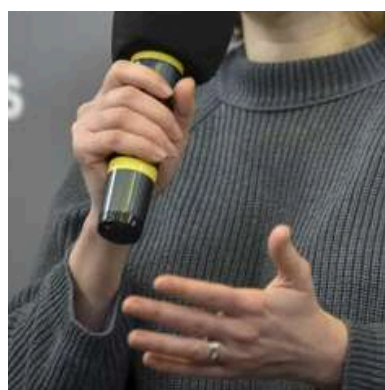
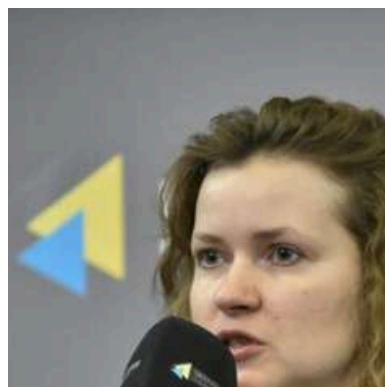
Fight For Right taught people with disabilities how to advocate for their rights during the process of European integration

In the summer of 2025, the organization Fight For Right, with support from the Foundation and the EU as part of the “Joining the EU Together” initiative, conducted an online course titled “Ukraine’s Accession to the EU: Advocating for the Rights of People with Disabilities.” The course ran from June to August and was aimed at people with disabilities, human rights experts, and representatives of organizations who want not just to observe the accession negotiations but to participate in them. Participants learned how the decision-making system works in Ukraine and the EU, how to analyze policies, develop advocacy strategies, and communicate with authorities and the media.

“League of the Strong,” Explained the New Disability Determination Procedure to 223 Medical Facilities

In February 2025, as part of the “Reform of the Medical and Social Examination Commission” project and with the support of the Fund, the public association “League of the Strong” distributed informational bulletins on the new disability determination procedure to 223 hospitals and primary healthcare centers in six regions — Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Ternopil, Odesa, Kirovohrad, and Cherkasy.

The materials are written in simple language and explain what documents are required, where to go, and how the procedure works—since the new system has raised many questions and concerns among people. At the same time, the “League of the Strong” emphasized the need to transition to the International Classification of Functioning (ICF), which shifts the very approach to disability—from medical to functional—and gives people access to a full range of social and rehabilitation services.



The Fifth Conference on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



In December 2025, Fight For Right and the Reanimation Package of Reforms Coalition, with support from the Foundation, held the fifth annual conference, “The European Future of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine.” Over 200 participants—representatives of government, international organizations, and civil society—discussed how to integrate the rights of people with disabilities into all stages of European integration and reconstruction.

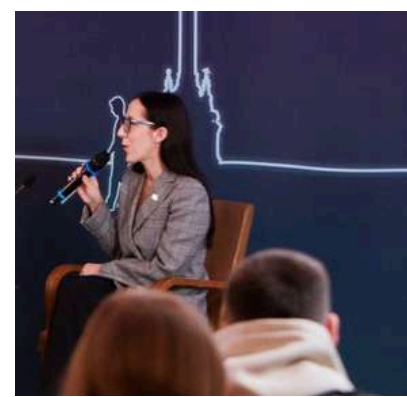
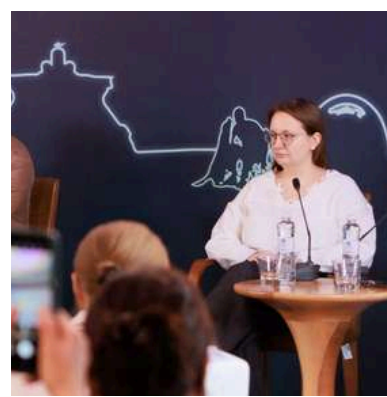
Key topics included: deinstitutionalization and the closure of residential care facilities by 2034, the reintegration of veterans and the accessibility of social services, and the participation of organizations of people with disabilities in the development—rather than merely the presentation—of government decisions. According to a survey of participants, one of the main achievements of 2025 was that the voice of the community of people with disabilities was heard much more clearly, and their organizations were increasingly involved in government working groups and international negotiations. The event concluded with the “Lights for Rights” rally on Independence Square.



Deinstitutionalization School for Allies

In 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the organization Fight For Right held two three-day workshops titled “From Institutions to Freedom” for human rights defenders, media representatives, civil society organizations, and businesses working in the field of human rights but not specializing in disability issues.

The key idea of the workshop was to help “allies” shift from a medical and charitable perspective on disability to a human rights-based one: not pity-driven aid, but equal rights and opportunities. Participants deepened their understanding of deinstitutionalization, learned to incorporate disability issues into their advocacy work, and built partnerships with organizations of people with disabilities to jointly advance reforms—especially in the context of European integration.



“The League of the Strong,” has examined the legal barriers to deinstitutionalization

In July 2025, the “League of the Strong,” with support from the Foundation as part of the “Deinstitutionalization Is Possible (DIP)” initiative, presented an analytical study on legislative barriers in the provision of supported living services. Researchers identified five systemic problems hindering reform: the absence of a single definition of the service in legislation, a lack of separate budgetary funding, fragmented coordination between ministries, a legislative focus on residential institutions rather than community-based forms of support, and the absence of quality standards and requirements for service providers. Changing this situation requires systematic coordination among all stakeholders involved.

Sensory room for children in Mykolaiv



In early 2025, with support from the Foundation and the NGO “Building Ukraine Together,” an inclusive sensory room called “Touch of Happiness” was opened in Mykolaiv’s Ingulsky District. The space is designed for children aged 2 to 14—primarily those with special educational needs. Children who have experienced displacement or other difficult situations due to the war can also receive support here.

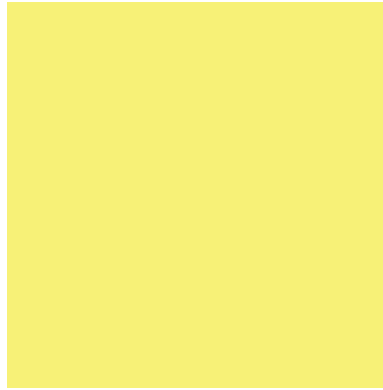
“Saint Olga,” Shelters: Comprehensive Support for Women Who Have Experienced Violence



Since 2022, the Foundation has been supporting the “Saint Olga” network of shelters, which is operated by the organization “Eleos-Ukraine.” As of the end of 2025, there are five such facilities in Ukraine—in the Kyiv, Chernivtsi, and Ivano-Frankivsk regions. They accept women who have suffered from gender-based violence: stays typically last from three to six months and include psychological, legal, and social support, assistance with employment, and work with children.

For those who do not need housing, day centers and “Women’s Hubs” are available. In the context of the war, the organization also assists victims of war crimes—providing medical care, evacuation, and documentation of sexual violence in coordination with the Office of the Prosecutor General. As program director Tetiana Ivanova emphasizes, the most important thing is to take the first step and reach out: the shelters are open 24/7.





Justice for War Crimes

War is a massive injustice, and Ukraine needs effective mechanisms to ensure accountability for the crimes committed. Together with its partners, the Foundation is working to ensure that the perpetrators are punished, the victims receive compensation, and the crimes are documented and not forgotten. This is a difficult task in a context where international support depends on political circumstances, and justice may be sacrificed for the sake of peace agreements. To prevent this from happening, the Foundation is stepping up its advocacy efforts at the international and national levels.

Why is this important?

Justice has practical significance for society. Without it, there is a growing risk of disillusionment and radicalization among victims. Therefore, the Foundation supports the establishment of compensation mechanisms, the documentation of crimes, investigations by the International Criminal Court, and the development of a memory policy that takes into account the voices of all affected groups. Separately, there is the exchange of experiences with civil societies in other countries that have experienced armed conflicts.

Our priorities



Liability for international crimes



Compensation and support for victims



Documentation and investigation



International Advocacy for Justice

Legal instruments of liability

Holding Russia accountable for its armed aggression is one of the most challenging legal tasks of our time. Existing mechanisms are not always suited to the realities of full-scale war. However, it is precisely now, while hostilities are ongoing, that the foundation for future justice is being laid: crimes are being documented, coalitions of states are forming, and new legal instruments are being developed.



“Ending Impunity for International Crimes,, Competition

In June 2025, the Foundation announced the results of the “Ending Impunity for International Crimes” competition—a grant program designed to support organizations that document war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and the crime of aggression, and work to hold perpetrators accountable. Of the 42 applications submitted, 9 projects received support.

The winners represent a wide range of approaches to the issue: the Kharkiv Human Rights Group is building an evidence base for law enforcement agencies, the Media Initiative for Human Rights is seeking evidence of violations of the right to a fair trial, JustGroup is developing victim-centered approaches to investigations, and the Human Rights Expert Center is creating an interactive system for modeling crime scenes following rocket attacks.

The Stanislav Dnistriansky Center for Law and Policy continues its work on reparations mechanisms for victims—now in the fifth phase of the project. A separate project by the NGO “Institute for Applied Humanities Research” is dedicated to an advocacy campaign in support of the Special Tribunal on the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.



Special Tribunal on the Crime of Aggression: The Foundation Supports the Establishment of an Accountability Mechanism

The issue of holding Russia accountable for the crime of aggression has been a priority for the Foundation since 2014. When Ukraine and the Council of Europe signed an agreement in Strasbourg in June 2025 to establish a Special Tribunal, this was the result, in particular, of many years of advocacy work that the Foundation supported together with the Open Society Foundations network.

During this time, the Foundation has supported consultations and advocacy efforts in various countries, helped consolidate Ukrainian civil society around the idea of a special tribunal, and, as early as 2022, prepared the first model indictment for the crime of aggression together with its partners. The tribunal, which plans to begin work in 2026, will focus on the criminal liability of Russia's top leadership for the decision to start the war—an issue currently outside the jurisdiction of the ICC. For the Foundation, this is not the end of the work, but a new phase: the next step is to make this mechanism as legitimate and effective as possible.



Involving countries of the Global South in the establishment of a special tribunal



In May 2025, the Media Initiative for Human Rights organized a discussion titled “Beyond the West: Global Perspectives on the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression.” The discussion was prompted by a specific issue: despite the fact that the Core Group—a coalition of states advocating for the creation of the tribunal—includes over 40 countries, most states in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have yet to join the initiative. Journalists from India, Japan, Kenya, and Chile, as well as Ukrainian diplomats and human rights activists, participated in the discussion.

Roman Romanov, Director of the Foundation’s “Human Rights and Justice” Program, emphasized: as the UN loses its effectiveness, regional mechanisms—the Council of Europe, the African Union, and the OAS—are gaining new significance, and it is precisely in this context that broader support for the tribunal must be sought. The Foundation is actively engaged in advocacy work in the Global South, seeking to find common ground among different legal and political traditions in order to consolidate support for the tribunal beyond the West.



Defence Talks: A Series of Discussions on Sanctions and Countering Russian Weapons

With the support of the Foundation, the Independent Anti-Corruption Commission (NAKO) regularly holds a series of expert meetings called “Defence Talks”—closed-door discussions for military attachés, diplomats, defense experts, and the media. One of these meetings, held in March 2025, was dedicated to countering Russian guided aerial bombs (KABs).

The President’s Representative on Sanctions Policy, Vladyslav Vlasyuk; a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kira Spiridonova; NAKO analysts; and officers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine discussed how sanctions on microelectronics could limit the production of KABs, and why compliance with existing restrictions is no less important than the introduction of new ones. Technical aspects were also examined separately—specifically, how electronic warfare systems and aviation can effectively counter these bombs directly on the battlefield.



Quarterly Monitoring of the Effectiveness of Sanctions Against Russia

Throughout 2025, the DiXi Group think tank, with support from the Foundation, published quarterly reports monitoring the effectiveness of sanctions against Russia in the energy sector. The report for the first quarter noted a significant tightening of restrictions: new sanctions from the U.S., the EU, and the UK targeted the largest oil companies, over 180 tankers in the “shadow fleet,” and companies involved in oil insurance and transportation. Despite this, Russia continues to seek workarounds—through shell companies in Dubai, cryptocurrency transactions, and reflagging of vessels.

According to analysts’ estimates, the sanctions could reduce Russia’s oil export revenues by 10–20% annually—about 18% of the federal budget’s energy-related revenues.

Advocating for sanctions against Rosatom

In February 2025, the DiXi Group, with support from the Foundation, published a study and advocacy materials on Rosatom’s international expansion at a time when most other sectors of the Russian economy are under sanctions pressure. Since the start of the full-scale invasion, the corporation has signed over 70 agreements and memorandums—with a focus on countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, where support for sanctions against Russia remains low. Sanctions have affected only a few managers and companies out of Rosatom’s more than 360 entities.

Vetting as a tool for restoring trust after de-occupation

In June 2025, the ZMINA Human Rights Center, with support from the Foundation, presented a policy brief titled “How Lustration Can Become One of the Tools for Overcoming the Consequences of Russia’s Armed Aggression Against Ukraine.”

Criminal prosecution for collaboration—currently the main tool of the state’s response to citizens’ cooperation with the occupying authorities—covers far from all cases and does not resolve the issue of trust in the restored authorities in the de-occupied territories.

According to the authors of the document, vetting checks could become part of a broader transitional justice mechanism: not a punishment, but an administrative filter that protects state institutions from individuals with a compromised past and gives society a sense of justice.

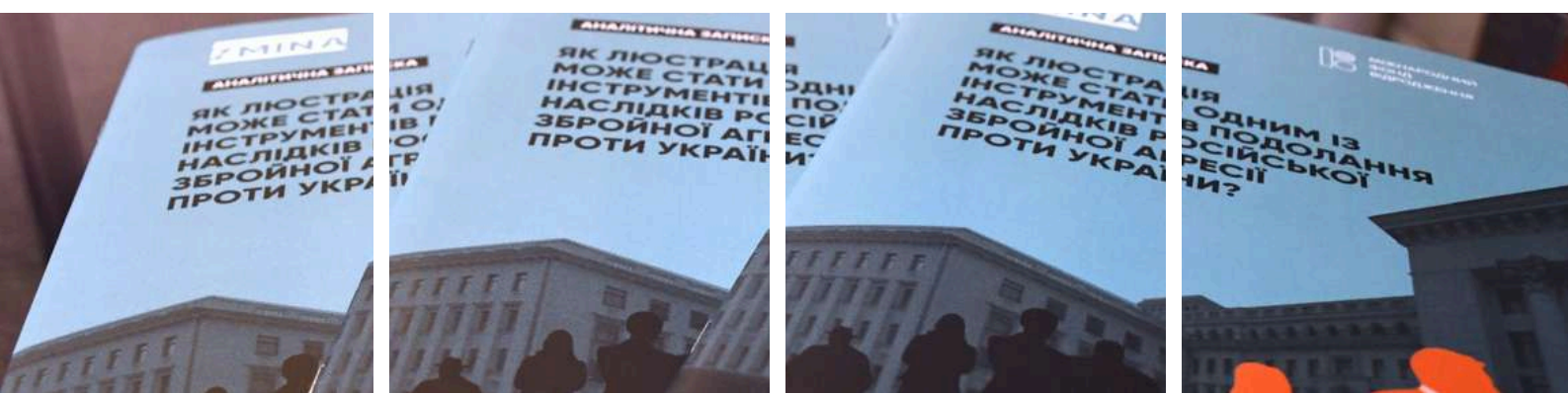
Participants in the press conference—the Permanent Representative of the President in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, members of parliament, lawyers, and experts—emphasized that a discussion is already underway in parliament, and the current composition of the Verkhovna Rada has a unique opportunity to develop a balanced vetting model that meets international standards and takes into account the realities of the prolonged occupation.

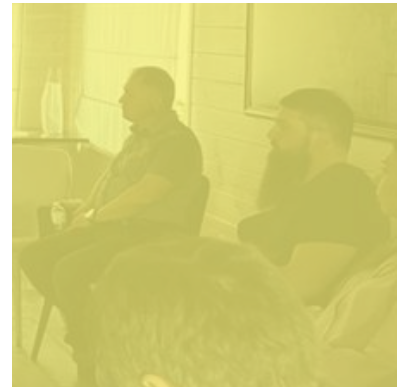
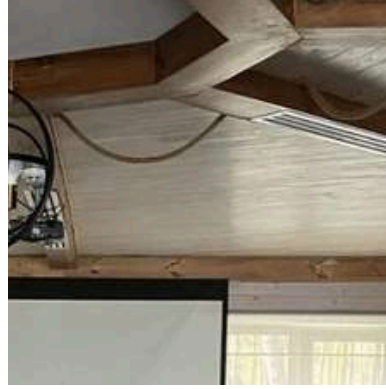


“The Path to Reconciliation,: A Book on Law and Peace

In June 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the Ukrainian Bar Association published a Ukrainian-language translation of the book *Lawyering Peace* by American international lawyer Dr. Paul R. Williams, titled *The Path to Reconciliation: How Law Shapes Lasting Peace*. The book synthesizes the experience of over 25 peace processes in various countries and offers specific legal mechanisms for conducting negotiations based on the principles of preserving sovereignty, territorial integrity, and protecting rights.

The first presentation took place in Lviv, where the author joined via video message, and the next one in Kyiv. Part of the print run was produced in Kharkiv—amid shelling. For the Foundation, supporting this publication is an investment in an intellectual resource that will help Ukrainian lawyers and negotiators understand the role of law in the future peace process now, before it has even begun.





Documenting and Preserving the Memory of War Crimes

For the Foundation, supporting documentation is part of a broader effort to ensure accountability: without evidence, there are no trials; without trials, there is no justice; and without justice, there is no lasting peace. At the same time, the Foundation supports the preservation of the memory of crimes as a societal process—so that future generations know the truth and so that these events are never rewritten or forgotten.

“Support for Victims, Documentation, and Preservation of Memory,” Competition

In July 2025, the Foundation announced the results of the competition “Support for Victims, Documentation, and Preservation of the Memory of War Crimes.” Out of 85 applications submitted, 11 projects received support—ranging from documenting environmental crimes and recording damages suffered by victims to media projects on the consequences of war and spatial documentation of crimes in Crimea. Among the winners are “Dokudeiz” with the project “War Archive,” “Hromadske TV” with its work to spread the truth about war crimes, the “Crimean Institute for Strategic Studies,” organizations working with victims of torture and unlawful detention, and those involved in implementing transitional

justice mechanisms. The geography and themes of the selected projects reflect the scale of the task: crimes are being documented at the front and in the rear, in cities and in occupied territories—and every testimony matters.



Reports on the Documentation of War Crimes in Chernihiv

In August 2025, the Chernihiv Human Rights Education Center, with the support of the Foundation, released two reports documenting war crimes. The first covers 11 settlements in the Chernihiv region that were under occupation, based on field missions, OSINT research, and interviews with witnesses. Similar patterns of crimes were recorded in over 60% of the region's villages and towns: unlawful deprivation of liberty, torture of civilians, and looting. The second report documents the shelling of Chernihiv with cluster munitions—specifically the strike on March 17, 2022, which claimed 22 lives and injured 33 people, including three children.

Документальна збірка свідчень про воєнні злочини



In June 2025, in Cherkasy, with the support of the Cherkasy Human Rights Center Foundation, a collection of documentary testimonies titled “Memory as a Duty” was presented—the result of extensive work by human rights defenders, journalists, and researchers. The book includes approximately 100 interviews with victims from the Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, and Chernihiv regions, collected as part of the “Tribunal for Putin” initiative.

Archive of the War of Independence

The State Archival Service of Ukraine, with the support of the Foundation, is developing a concept for the “Archive of the War for Ukraine’s Independence”—a single state resource for the systematic preservation of documentary evidence of Russian aggression since 2014.

The archive will be established at the Central State Archive of Public Associations. Its goal is to collect, systematize, and verify materials gathered by various organizations—human rights initiatives, media outlets, and researchers—and make them accessible for legal and academic purposes.

The first lists of contributors have already been compiled, and the State Archives Service of Ukraine (SASU) invites Ukrainian and international organizations documenting the war to contribute to the archive. To this end, the government has adopted a strategy for the protection of documentary heritage through 2027 and granted SASU the necessary coordinating authority.





Crimeans' Rights to Education and Language: Research and Advocacy

In 2025, the NGO “Crimean Center for Business and Cultural Cooperation ‘Ukrainian House’,” with the support of the Foundation, implemented the project “The Right to Education in the Context of Occupied Crimea.” The result was an analytical study documenting the systematic displacement of the Ukrainian language from the educational process on the occupied peninsula—through bans, the militarization of education, and a deliberate assimilation policy.

A generation of Crimeans is growing up in an environment where Ukrainian is identified as “foreign.” Since the 2014 occupation, of the nearly 7,000 media outlets registered in Crimea, only three remain that publish in Ukrainian—and one of them, the newspaper “Krymska Svitlytsia,” is under threat of closure due to a lack of funding. The project involved monitoring violations, documenting facts for criminal proceedings, and advocacy on international platforms—including regarding the implementation of decisions by the UN International Court of Justice, which obligated Russia to guarantee Crimeans the right to education in the Ukrainian language. The goal of the work is to lay the groundwork for the restoration of a fully functioning linguistic and media space in Crimea following de-occupation.

A list of Russian athletes who support the war

In 2025, the Molnar Intelligence Institute, with support from the Foundation, compiled a list of 56 Russian winter sports athletes whose public activities contradict the “neutral” status required for participation in international competitions. Analysts reviewed public statements, social media posts, participation in propaganda events, and ties to military structures and sanctioned companies. Based on this information, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the NOC, and the Ukrainian Figure Skating Federation appealed to the IOC to suspend figure skaters Petro Gumennyk and Adelia Petrosyan from the 2026 Winter Olympics.

The destruction of Ukrainian identity as a matter of state policy

In March 2025, the Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR), with support from the Foundation, presented an analytical report titled “The Destruction of Ukrainian Identity as State Policy of the USSR and Russia.” Researchers compared over 20 archival documents from the Soviet NKVD and KGB with more than 20 contemporary testimonies from prisoners of war and civilians who had been held in Russian detention facilities. The report demonstrates that this was not random violence, but rather a systematic state policy aimed at destroying Ukrainian identity.



Kyiv is developing a policy on commemorating war participants and events

In January 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the Kyiv City History Museum hosted a strategic session of the Coordinating Council to develop a concept for commemorating the participants and events of the Russian-Ukrainian war. The Council was established at the initiative of Mayor Vitali Klitschko—a deliberate step forward in the absence of a clear state policy on remembrance. The concept is intended to serve as a foundation not only for honoring the memory of those involved but also for fostering a new culture of remembrance and passing on the values of resistance to future generations.

“The Book of Remembrance for Those Who Died for Ukraine,” has been updated



In February 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the Eleos-Ukraine network presented an updated online memorial platform, “The Book of Remembrance for Those Who Died for Ukraine,” which was originally launched in 2014. The new version includes 4,490 profiles of those who died between 2014 and 2022, as well as information about those who have fallen since February 24, 2022. The platform will operate in two languages—Ukrainian and English—with a modern design and a secure technical infrastructure. Through their personal accounts, family members will be able to update the pages themselves—uploading photos, biographies, and memories.

Green and White Papers on the Commemoration of the War



In September 2025, the ZMINA Human Rights Center, with support from the Foundation, presented two analytical documents—the Green and White Books on the memorialization of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

They contain the results of national surveys on public and military perceptions of the issue of remembrance, an analysis of gaps in current policy, and specific recommendations. One of the key conclusions: current commemoration practices—plaques, street renaming, and laying flowers once a year—remain formal and do not provide society with the kind of living interaction that has a therapeutic and unifying effect.

Roman Romanov, Director of the Human Rights and Justice Program at the Foundation, emphasized at the presentation: memorialization and justice do not compete with each other—they complement one another, because it is precisely what society preserves in its memory that ultimately shapes its response to injustice.



The photo book “War Chronicles: Ukraine 2014–2025,”



In August 2025, with support from the Foundation and the Open Society Foundations, the photo book *War Chronicles: Ukraine 2014–2025* was published—a joint project of the Ukrainian Association of Professional Photographers and the international organization FotoEvidence. The book features over 360 photographs and dozens of testimonies from Ukrainian documentary filmmakers and photojournalists—from the Revolution of Dignity to the daily realities of full-scale war.

The project deliberately combines two dimensions: preserving the memory of the war and supporting the photographers who document it from within. In parallel with the book, the UAPP team is developing the video project “In the Frame”—documentary stories by military photographers about how they bear a dual responsibility: for the safety of their comrades and for the truth that the world must see.

“People of the Color of Freedom,”: A documentary film about nonviolent resistance under occupation



In 2025, with the support of the Foundation and the Special Operations Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the documentary film *People of the Color of Freedom* was released—the result of a year-long effort by the NGO “Tuteshni,” screenwriter and producer Anna Slyusarenko, and director Lyudmila Melnik. The film tells the story of nonviolent resistance by Ukrainian civilians in the temporarily occupied territories—from 2014 to the present: about the “Yellow Ribbon” and “Evil Fairy” movements, and about people from Henichesk, Donetsk, Melitopol, Alchevsk, and Simferopol who choose resistance every day. The pre-premiere screening took place on June 30 at the World War II Museum in Kyiv—some of the film’s protagonists attended.

The screening was accompanied by an exhibition of portraits of women imprisoned for their pro-Ukrainian stance, with the charitable aim of raising funds to help those who have returned from captivity. In December 2025, the film was released in the “Planeta Kino” cinema chain.



“My Home,, Guide: A Step-by-Step Guide for Those Who Have Lost Their Homes Due to the War

In March 2025, journalists from the “Sviy Dim” platform, with support from the Foundation, prepared an online guide for Ukrainians whose property was damaged or destroyed by Russian aggression. The guide covers the entire process: first steps after destruction, necessary documents, compensation options—cash payments or housing certificates—as well as legal advice in case of denial. Along with practical instructions, the “Sviy Dim” team prepared and published personal stories of people who lost their homes because of the Russians.

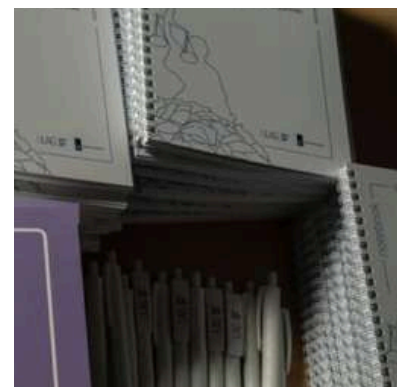
Updated Report on the Needs of Ukraine's Legal System

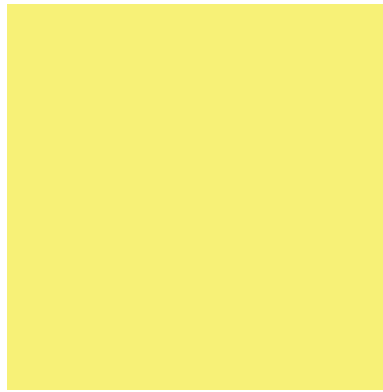
In early 2025, the Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group, with support from the Foundation, updated its report assessing the needs of Ukraine’s legal system, which was first prepared in September 2024. The updated version takes into account significant changes that have occurred since then: new legislative initiatives, progress in reforms, and proposals that have emerged in the legal discourse. The document analyzes the extent to which Ukraine’s legal system is capable of ensuring accountability for mass international crimes while continuing reforms amid a protracted war. The report identifies the greatest gaps in this struggle and what needs to be changed.

“I Hear Others,,: A Human Rights Podcast with Maksym Butkevych



In 2025, with the Foundation’s support, Hromadske Radio launched the podcast “I Hear Others”—a joint project by human rights activist and former Kremlin prisoner Maksym Butkevych and journalist Daria Buroi. The title is a quote from Butkevych himself: “I hear other people; I hope they hear me.” In its first year, over 40 episodes were released covering a wide range of topics: from changes to the Civil Code and risks to the rights of women and the LGBTIQ+ community—to problems in school education amid blackouts and bullying, language changes in Ukraine, animal protection during the war, Russian propaganda, and the transformation of cultural identity.





Human-centered recovery

A sustainable democracy is impossible without decent living conditions. The Foundation supports civil society organizations and think tanks that help communities transition from survival to recovery—one that is transparent, inclusive, and people-centered. This means involving citizens in monitoring reconstruction, scaling up successful initiatives, and advocating for necessary reforms. Cultural projects and spaces for self-expression are also part of this work

Why is this important?

Ukraine faces serious demographic challenges: depopulation, migration, the need to reintegrate de-occupied territories, and maintaining ties with millions of Ukrainians abroad. The Foundation supports self-sustaining communities and works to bridge the social divides that have deepened as the war has dragged on.

Our priorities



Inclusive and transparent recovery



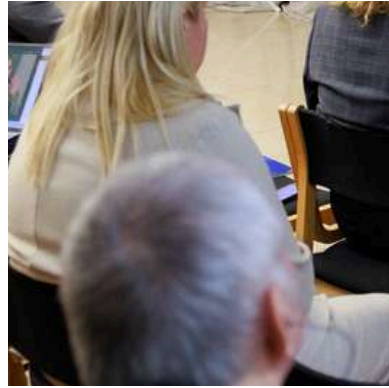
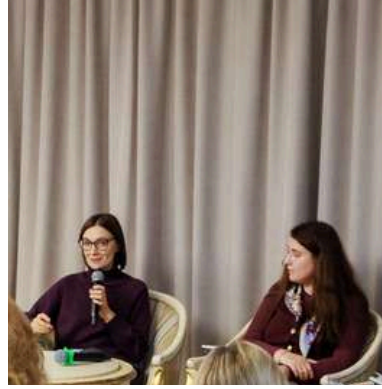
Supporting the economic resilience of communities



Human Capital and Social Development



Culture as a tool for recovery



Research for recovery

For recovery to be effective—rather than merely large-scale—we need to understand what is actually happening in society: where tensions are building, where social bonds are weakening, where communities have the potential for development, and where there is a risk of disintegration. Without regular research and high-quality analysis, these processes remain invisible to decision-makers. For the Foundation, supporting analytical work in the areas of economic resilience, recovery, and social cohesion is a way to translate the real-world experiences of communities and organizations into evidence that influences public policy and attracts international resources.

A Study of Social Cohesion Among Ukrainians

In 2025, the Foundation continued to study the state of social cohesion in Ukraine. In November, at the request of the “Civic Resilience” program, Ipsos presented the results of the second wave of the study: the overall index remains consistently positive (+9.5), and Ukraine remains one of the most cohesive societies in Europe. Horizontal ties between people are strengthening even in frontline regions. However, vertical cohesion—trust in institutions and a sense of justice—is declining.

The groups hardest hit by the war—veterans, internally displaced persons, and families of the fallen—have the lowest levels of social cohesion. The study revealed a paradox: 75% of citizens trust veterans, but only 54% of veterans themselves feel that this trust is reciprocated.



How Civil Society Organizations in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions Are Staying Resilient Amid the Ongoing War



In December 2025, the NGO “Access Point,” as part of the “Impulse” project and with the support of the Foundation, presented a study on the state of civil society in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Forty-six organizations participated in the study—about 70% of them had relocated due to hostilities, while one-third continued to operate directly in the Donetsk region. The study showed that despite exhaustion and dwindling resources, these organizations remain resilient—thanks to their mission, horizontal networks, and the personal motivation of their teams. But there is a fundamental shift: the focus has shifted from development to survival, and large-scale programs have given way to short-term humanitarian aid.

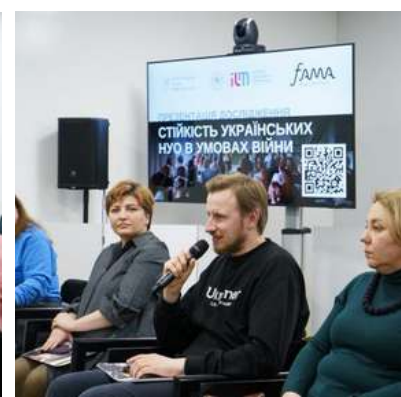
The sector’s main need is for operational grants that would allow for planning work for a year or more, rather than living from project to project. The experience of Poland and Lithuania shows that institutional funding for CSOs is a systemic tool for stabilizing the sector in the context of protracted crises. For organizations that have already relocated to new communities, a new opportunity is opening up: to share their expertise and expand the reach of civil society. But this requires support—not one-time grants, but a stable environment for work.

A Study of the Sustainability of Ukrainian Civil Society Organizations



In February 2025, the Institute of Leadership and Management at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), with support from the Foundation as part of the “On the Cloud” project, presented a qualitative study on the resilience of Ukrainian NGOs amid a full-scale war. Based on 14 in-depth interviews with the leaders of five organizations—Ukrainer, Halabuda, “Right to Protection,” Veteran Hub, and the “Zaporuka” Charitable Foundation—researchers identified which management decisions helped preserve teams, adapt financial models, and continue operations amid constant uncertainty.

Key factors for resilience include a clear mission, decentralized decision-making, care for the team, and a willingness to quickly adjust operational approaches without changing the strategic direction. Following the presentation, participants discussed how these insights could be incorporated into training programs for civil society managers.



Ukrainian Resilience Week in Lviv



From September 29 to October 2, 2025, Lviv hosted “Ukrainian Cities Sustainability Week”—an event that brought together representatives of local government, civil society, and international partners. The overarching theme was “people as the key factor in resilience and recovery.” One of the symbolic highlights was the visit by European Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos, who called Ukraine an example of resilience for all of Europe.

Inna Pidluska, Deputy Executive Director of the Foundation, presented an overview of the URC outcomes in Rome and highlighted the four pillars of reconstruction: business investment and private partnerships; human capital—people as the primary value, not as objects of aid; community development and inter-municipal partnerships; and European integration. Following the forum, a “roadmap for resilience” was developed—with an emphasis on a comprehensive approach, synergy between government and civil society, and the principle of “rebuilding better than before.”



“Community Resilience Strategy,, in Kamyanske



From September to December 2025, the NGO “RoZkvit,” with support from the Foundation as part of the “Impulse” program, implemented a project to develop the “Kam’yanska Community Resilience Strategy”—a practical document that outlines the city’s development priorities amid the war and could serve as a basis for attracting international funding. The work began in September with the signing of a Memorandum between Mayor Andriy Bilousov and RoZkvit Executive Director Fulko Treffers, a workshop with stakeholders, and an analysis of community needs. Before finalizing the document, a large-scale survey of residents was conducted through the Administrative Service Centers in all three districts, as well as through online sessions and public meetings.

In December 2025, the strategy was presented publicly. It covers priorities in the areas of security, energy, social infrastructure, and inclusive recovery. Some parts of the document can be implemented as standalone projects, while others can be integrated into existing city programs. For Kamyanske, a large industrial city near the contact line, the existence of such a strategic document serves both as a management planning tool and as a signal to international partners that the city is ready for systematic recovery.

“Vision for Sustainability 2.0: The Human Dimension,,



In March 2025, the Foundation published the second edition of the “Vision for Sustainability” document, focusing on the human dimension of recovery. The document was prepared based on the results of extensive expert discussions in partnership with civil society organizations and was presented on the eve of the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome. It is addressed to the government, local authorities, and international partners and contains specific recommendations tied to real-world problems and gaps in public policy.

The document’s key thesis: recovery is not about rebuilding what has been destroyed, but about creating conditions for a dignified life, participation in decision-making, and access to quality services. While the first “Vision for Sustainability” in 2024 defined the basic principles—people-centeredness, participation, and accountability—the new version expands them into specific areas: social cohesion, the labor market, demographic challenges, the reintegration of veterans, gender equality, inclusivity, and cultural heritage.

Systemic barriers are analyzed separately: a lack of shelters and poor government communication regarding safety, weak citizen engagement in decision-making, and communities’ reliance on external support rather than developing their own capacity.

The document pays particular attention to groups that bear a disproportionately heavy burden: veterans, IDPs, youth, and people with disabilities. For each of these groups, “Vision” proposes concrete solutions—ranging from comprehensive rehabilitation support for veterans to housing and educational programs for youth. The document was prepared as part of the “Impulse” project with support from Norway and Sweden.



Free consultations for young civil society organizations working with internally displaced persons

Since the beginning of 2025, with the support of the Horizon of Change Foundation, we have been providing free consultations to volunteer initiatives and civil society organizations registered no more than five years ago, whose primary activities focus on working with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable groups. The consultations cover three areas: writing grant applications, legal issues related to the registration and operation of NGOs, and accounting support.

A Discussion on Human Capital in Communities



In February 2025, at the annual Civil Society Development Forum organized by the Foundation, a discussion titled “Preserving Social Capital in Communities” took place—focusing on practical solutions that civil society organizations are implementing in response to challenges related to employment, the integration of internally displaced persons, and youth engagement. The overall conclusion of the discussion was that human capital issues must be addressed at all levels—from local to national—by combining reskilling, advocacy, and tools of local democracy.

CSO Sustainability Index 2024

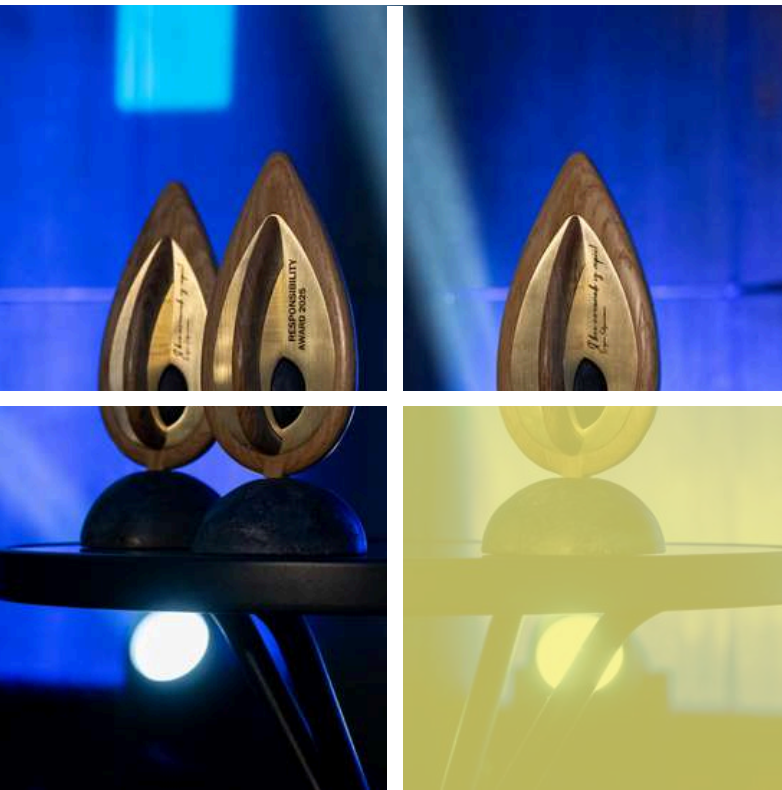


In July 2025, with support from the Foundation, the UNCPD presented the 2024 Civil Society Organizations Sustainability Index. The overall score was 3.0 points, matching the 2023 level and reflecting stabilization despite challenging conditions. Overall, the index shows a positive long-term trend: civil society is strengthening its influence, successfully advocating for change, and maintaining its public image. Financial viability remains a weak point, although it improved slightly in 2024.

In addition to the report itself, the UNCPD, with the support of the Foundation, has developed a digital tool for conveniently tracking the index indicators over time—so that the data is accessible not only to researchers but also to the organizations and government bodies themselves. Oleksiy Orlovsky, Director of the Foundation’s “Democratic Practice” program initiative, emphasized at the presentation: the Foundation’s key interest is in tracking the extent to which civil society is able to influence the government and remain resilient in its role.



2025 Responsibility Award



In 2025, the Foundation became a partner of the “Responsibility Award”—an annual award presented by the Bohdan Hawrylyshyn Family Foundation, which since 2021 has recognized the best examples of cross-sectoral partnerships between civil society organizations, the business sector, and the government. The Foundation’s Executive Director, Oleksandr Sushko, joined the expert jury.

This year, the award recognized projects in three categories: community-level partnerships, national partnership projects, and collaboration with international partners. The Foundation’s participation in this initiative sends a clear message: responsible partnerships that unite different sectors around shared values are a vital mechanism for strengthening both the social contract and civil society itself.

RUTA Conference “Imagination: New Visions and Connections., in Uzhhorod



On June 26–29, 2025, the second annual conference of the RUTA Association—an international academic community that rethinks research on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia from a decolonial perspective—took place in Uzhhorod with the support of the Foundation. Over 160 participants from 26 countries—researchers, artists, journalists, and activists—discussed imagination as a political force capable of restoring agency to peoples and communities.

Topics included documenting war crimes, Romani visions of the future, left-wing activism in Armenia, Crimean Tatar studies, and postcolonial perspectives. An arts program ran parallel to the discussions: performances, screenings of animated documentary films, and physical practices. The RUTA conference is a space where a new language is being formed to talk about the region not through the lens of imperial centers, but from within—through the continuity of culture, art, and lived experience.





The Foundation as a platform for dialogue between civil society and the Office of the President

In March 2025, the Foundation facilitated a meeting between representatives of civil society and Andriy Yermak, Head of the Office of the President, focused on the negotiation process aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace.

This format is a continuation of a systematic practice that the Foundation has been developing for several years: regular meetings between civil society and the country's top leadership, where opinion leaders, human rights defenders, and analysts can hear the government's position firsthand—and at the same time convey their own.

For the Foundation, this format serves as a mechanism to ensure that the voice of civil society on the most sensitive issues—the terms of peace, security guarantees, and justice—is truly heard in the corridors of power.



Partnership at the YES Annual Meeting: “How to End the War?,”

On September 12–13, 2025, the 21st Annual Meeting of the Yalta European Strategy—one of the largest discussion platforms that brings together leading international and Ukrainian leaders each year—took place in Kyiv in partnership with the Foundation. The theme—“How to End the War?”—brought together over 800 participants from more than 30 countries and sparked candid discussions: from the state of the battlefield and the role of drones to reforms and anti-corruption, security guarantees, and what victory would mean for Ukraine. By supporting this event, the Foundation reaffirms its presence on key platforms where the vision for Ukraine's future is shaped.

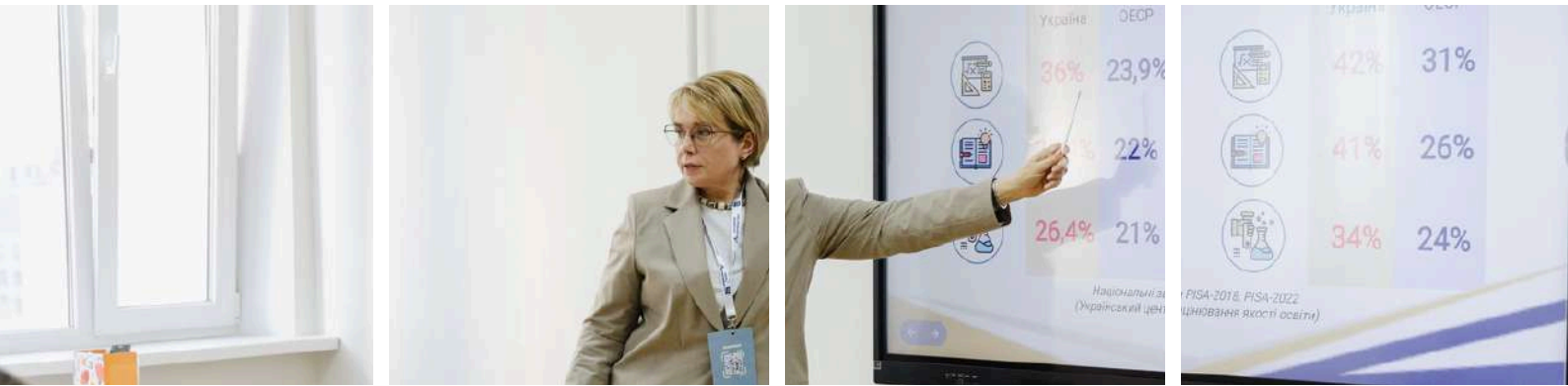
According to analysts' estimates, sanctions could reduce Russia's oil export revenues by 10–20% annually—about 18% of the federal budget's energy-related revenues.

“Carpathian Sea Democracy Week,” in Truskavets

From April 28 to May 2, 2025, the second “Carpathian Sea Democracy Week”—a five-day forum organized with the Foundation's participation—took place in Truskavets and Skhidnytsia, bringing together over 1,000 participants, 200+ speakers, and delegations from more than ten countries, including the President of the Nordic Council, ambassadors, and representatives of defense agencies. The Foundation organized and moderated the “Social Cohesion” session, during which the results of a study on the psychological resilience of Ukrainians and the level of trust in society were presented.

Education as a tool for recovery

Education is one of the most important resources for Ukraine’s recovery. It is education that will determine the state of the country’s human capital in ten to twenty years: whether young people will stay, whether those who left will return, and whether Ukraine will be able to make the innovative leap without which recovery will amount to nothing more than rebuilding what has been destroyed. For the Foundation, work in the education sector is part of a strategic vision of what Ukrainian society should be like after the war: resilient, democratic, inclusive, and capable of self-renewal.



“EdWay,, Transferred to the State: How the NGO “EdCamp Ukraine,, Scaled Up an Educational Innovation

In November 2025, an important milestone in Ukrainian education was reached: the “EdWay” digital platform for teacher professional development, created by the NGO “EdCamp Ukraine” with support from the Foundation, Save the Children, and Education Cannot Wait, was transferred free of charge to the Ukrainian Institute for Educational Development (UIED) to operate at the national level.

At the time of the transfer, the platform had 76,455 users, 356 professional development providers, and over 1,400 educational opportunities. It will now serve as a key tool for the “Money Follows the Teacher” public policy—a model under which teachers independently select a course and pay for it from their own virtual account.

Inna Pidluska, Deputy Executive Director of the Foundation, described this case as a model that should become standard practice in Ukraine: the civil society sector develops an innovation, demonstrates its effectiveness—and then transfers it to the government for scaling up.



“National Project: Writing an Essay,”

With support from the Smart Education Foundation, the NGO is implementing the “National Project: Writing Essays”—a program that adopts a process-oriented approach to teaching writing: writing not as a final product, but as a way of thinking. Students revisit their own texts, edit them, learn to distinguish their own thoughts from those of others, and refine their own voice in the text. Project trainers Oksana Shunevych and Halyna Kaluzhna emphasize that this approach changes the teacher’s role—from evaluator to mentor and colleague who writes alongside the students.

Pilot program for high school reform: 30 ambassador high schools launched on September 1



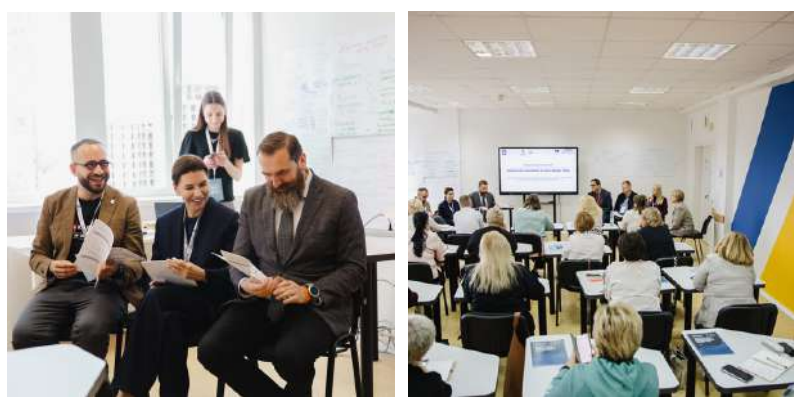
In May 2025, with support from the Fund, the OECD, the World Bank, and the savED Foundation, the National Forum “Upper Secondary Specialized Schools: From Curriculum to Practice” was held, at which 30 reform-ambassador lyceums prepared to pilot the first phase of the reform starting September 1, 2025. The reform calls for a significant shift in approach: instead of a single curriculum for everyone, it offers individualized educational pathways through the selection of specializations, subjects, and courses. The government has allocated 500 million hryvnias for the pilot lyceums and another 500 million for other institutions.

“Educational Leadership in Turbulent Times,”: A Certificate Program for Educators in the Kharkiv Region



In September 2025, with support from the Foundation, the NGO “EdCamp Ukraine,” and the British Council, the certificate program “Educational Leadership in Turbulent Times” was launched for school principals and education administrators in the Kharkiv region. The program was developed by the Academy of Teaching at Karazin Kharkiv National University in collaboration with the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom, and the program director is Lilia Hrynevych.

The first 20 participants—school principals and representatives of local government in the Kharkiv region—have begun their training across three modules: educational leadership in the context of the New Ukrainian School (NUS) reform, institutional resilience in times of uncertainty and digital transformation, and strategies for community-level educational development. According to Education Minister Oksen Lisovyi, as long as schools are operating, the community thrives, and today’s school principals are the leaders who sustain not only the educational process but also the social fabric of frontline communities.



“To Leave or to Stay,,: A Discussion on Youth and Human Capital in Communities



In November 2025, a panel discussion titled “What About Human Capital: Are Young People in the Spotlight?” was held in Lviv with the support of the Foundation as part of the European Youth Capital 2028 Awards Ceremony. The data presented spoke volumes: 47% of teenagers want to work in Ukraine, but only 7% plan to pursue their education here, while 40% are looking to live abroad. In some communities, up to 15% of students left following the full-scale invasion. Participants agreed: the key mistake is trying to keep young people here through bans or appeals, when in reality we need to create an environment where they themselves will want to stay. High-quality career guidance, support for youth initiatives, role models, an open space for self-realization—and, above all, honest and open communication between the government and young people. In a situation where the human capital needed for reconstruction depends on retaining the younger generation, this discussion is not abstract but strategic.

The first national study of children's social-emotional skills in Ukraine

In August 2025, with support from the Foundation and Plan International, the State Service for Educational Quality published recommendations based on the findings of the National Study of Social-Emotional Skills (DoSEN)—the first large-scale study of its kind in Ukraine. The study covered 200 schools, over 4,800 children (ages 10 and 15), approximately 1,800 teachers, and 3,000 parents.

It turned out that younger students have higher levels of motivation and optimism, while 15-year-olds are more empathetic and responsible—and, contrary to global trends, do not lose their resilience and perseverance with age. At the same time, the experience of war—displacement, remote learning, and anxiety about loved ones—has a negative impact on children’s intellectual horizons and overall well-being.

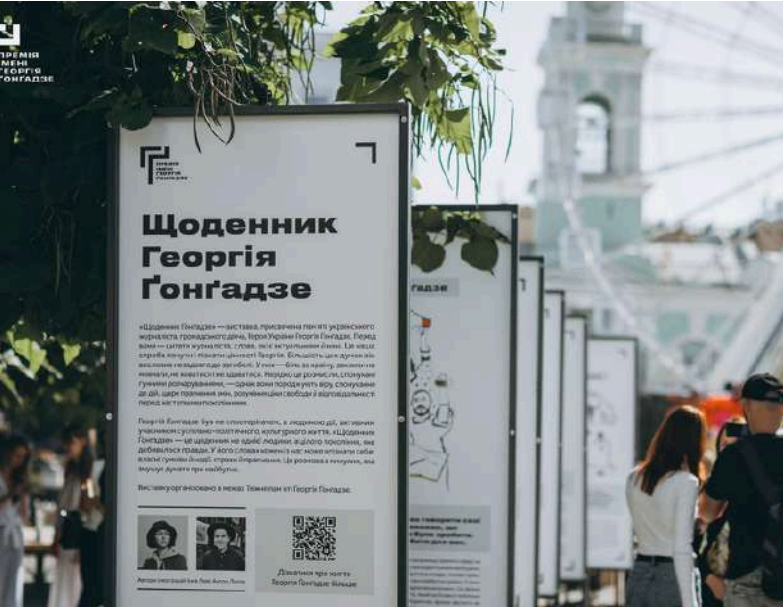
savED Survey: 46% of teenagers believe in a bright future for Ukraine

In October 2025, the savED Foundation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science and with support from the Foundation, presented the results of the study “War, Education, and Social Capital”—a large-scale survey of students in grades 8–11, their parents, teachers, and school administrators in several regions of Ukraine. The key finding was alarming: among all groups, teenagers are the least optimistic about the country’s future—only 46% believe in it, 16% are pessimistic, and 33% are undecided. In frontline regions, where 49% of children study exclusively online, these figures are significantly worse.



Gongadze Memorial Week: 25 Years and Still No Justice

The Gongadze Media Awards Are Heading to the Regions



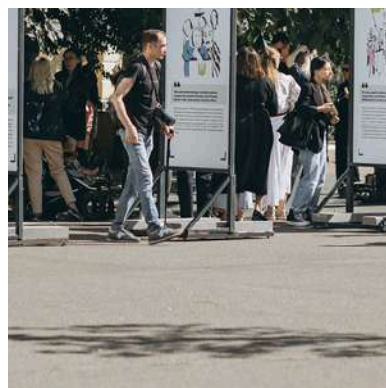
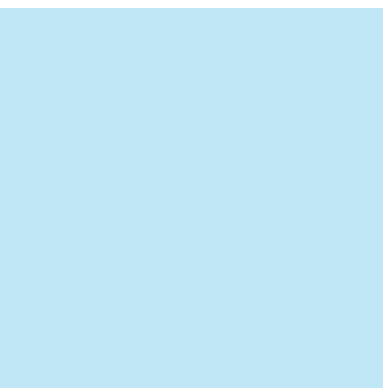
In December 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the Georgiy Gongadze Award held its first Media Day in Lutsk—over 150 people gathered at a business venue. Prior to this, Media Days had only been held in Kyiv, but then expanded to the regions: Odesa, Kharkiv, Lutsk, and Dnipro.

Four panels covered media responsibility in times of crisis, the role of regional stories in the broader narrative about Ukraine, manipulative headlines and trust in the media, the preservation of memory and the ethics of reporting on deaths. Myroslava Gongadze emphasized: Ukraine is more socially resilient today than any other country—because it knows what to do when war comes.

On September 16, 2025, the annual commemoration of Georgiy Gongadze took place on Kontraktova Square in Kyiv with the support of the Foundation—this year marks exactly 25 years since his disappearance and murder. Participants opened the street exhibition “Georgiy Gongadze’s Diary”—a series of the journalist’s iconic quotes accompanied by illustrations by Ukrainian artists, which was displayed in Kyiv, Lviv, and Odesa.

For the Foundation, supporting these events means supporting an environment that preserves the values of journalism and strengthens solidarity within the media community across the country, not just in major cities

The journalist’s wife, Myroslava Gongadze, noted that those who ordered the crime remain unpunished, the case stalled in 2021, and there is no political will to see it through to the end. The event kicked off Remembrance Week, whose program included “Professional Dialogues” in several cities and a remembrance lesson for schoolchildren.





Community development as a prerequisite for recovery

The true quality of democracy, resilience, and recovery is not measured at the level of the Cabinet of Ministers, but at the level of individual communities: whether there is a shelter near the school, whether a farmer knows how to access the EU market, or whether young people are involved in business in the regional center. For the Foundation, supporting local development means supporting the very fabric of which the state's resilience is made. Communities with their own strategies, trained managers, thriving businesses, and active residents weather the war much better and begin recovery much more effectively.

Communities and the Environmental Dimension of Rural Development

In November 2025, “Green Dossier,” with support from the Foundation and the EU, hosted a discussion on the environmental dimension of rural development in the context of European integration. Participants—representatives of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy, rural communities, eco-settlement networks, and international partners—viewed rural development not merely as an agricultural issue but as a comprehensive challenge: green energy, soil health, biodiversity restoration, and public participation. The Pryvilsnenska community in Rivne Oblast shared best practices ranging from solar systems in orchards to its own eco-industrial park based on industrial hemp.

The network of eco-communities described how it took in 3,500 refugees in 2022 and subsequently learned to “do small, concrete things.” De-occupied communities in Kharkiv described their specific challenges—37% of their land is mined, and there is a shortage of environmental experts. The director of ECOLISE cautioned: we should not repeat the EU's mistakes, where agribusiness giants lobby for their interests at the expense of small farmers. The key takeaway from the discussion: communities must be equal participants in green transformations, not merely their subjects.

Trostanets in the UURBACT program: attracting investment in smart regeneration

In October 2025, with the support of the Ukrainian Institute for International Politics Foundation, the results of the EU UURBACT Exchange Networks competition were announced: 14 Ukrainian partners were among the 25 winners—the first time since Ukraine joined the program. The Trostanets City Council in Sumy Oblast joined the SHIFT-R network, which focuses on combating depopulation and brain drain, investing in smart regeneration, and attracting talent. To prepare for the competition, the Foundation supported 17 events in 15 regions, where stakeholders familiarized themselves with the terms of EU programs and gained practical project management skills.

“The Local Community Handbook,, – A Practical Guide for Local Self-Government Bodies

In February 2025, the NGO “Institute of Civil Society,” with the support of the Foundation, launched the “Local Community Handbook”—a practical online guide for local government officials, activists, and the media. The resource covers all key areas of local self-government, provides professional methodological support, and equips local self-government bodies with the necessary tools for development and recovery amid today’s challenges.

Leading Ukrainian experts on decentralization, local budgets, regional policy, and community communications—including Anatolii Tkachuk, Yurii Tretyak, and Vasyl Fediuk—are working on the materials.

Irpin is building a new brand: from a “suburban town,, to a “hero city,,



In May 2025, as part of the “Bucha District Community Development Office” project (led by the NGO “Institute for Sustainable Community Development” with support from the Foundation), a community branding workshop was held in Irpin—the first step toward reimagining the city’s image as a destination for tourism and investment. Irpin, which until 2022 was positioned as a “comfortable satellite of Kyiv,” endured a difficult occupation and became a symbol of resistance—and this change requires a new voice to match.

The workshop was led by Ihor Chava, creator of the brands for Drohobych, Cherkasy, and Poltava regions. Participants analyzed Irpin’s strengths and developed concepts for the future brand, which will encompass the expanded community following the merger. According to the organizers, this is just the beginning: they are inviting administrators, entrepreneurs, artists, and active residents to join the process.



“My City,” and Kharkiv Region: 733,000 hryvnias for community social projects



In March 2025, with support from the Foundation and the EU, the NGO “My City” completed the “Project Support Fund” training program for organizations in the Kharkiv region and held an in-person pitching event. The teams underwent intensive training in crowdfunding and project management, and then independently launched their fundraising campaigns: in total, participants raised 198,000 hryvnias through crowdfunding and an additional 535,000 hryvnias from social investors during the pitching event.

The total amount raised was 733,000 hryvnias for six projects: the “Ocheret” theater, the “Zhinocha” gender education initiative, a literary slam, cultural initiatives, and adaptive sports.

For the Kharkiv region, which lives under constant shelling, this format is not only a financial tool but also proof that the community continues to live and create.



School of Strategic Planning: Intermunicipal Partnerships as a Resource for Communities

In July 2025, as part of the Strategic Planning School organized by the Yavoriv Local Economic Development Agency with support from the Fund, a training course on intermunicipal partnerships was held. Participants—local government officials, council secretaries, and economic development specialists—viewed partnerships between communities not as a formal mechanism, but as a strategic resource: joint procurement of services, a stronger voice in negotiations with regional administrations and international donors, and the exchange of personnel and best practices.

Odessa: A City Strategy Through the Lens of Human Capital



In March 2025, with support from the Zmistom Foundation, the NGO organized a strategic session titled “The Future Strategy of Odesa,” focusing on human capital—as part of the process of developing the city’s strategic plan for 2025–2027. Several dozen active citizens worked in groups on five key areas: the labor market, education, interaction between civil society organizations and the government, youth, and mental health. Participants translated key challenges—the mismatch between skills and market needs, youth inactivity, and a lack of trust between activists and officials—into concrete ideas: retraining centers, “ideathons,” dialogue platforms, and peer support.

Agricultural and Recreational Tourism in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast

In early 2025, the NGO “Zelenyi Hai Rehabilitation Center,” with support from the Foundation and “Bread for the World,” launched the project “Development of Small Communities in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast through Agri-Recreational Tourism.” The center’s team has a unique reputation: in 2024, they helped the village of Zelenyi Hai rank among the world’s top five tourist villages according to the UN—the only representative from eastern Ukraine.



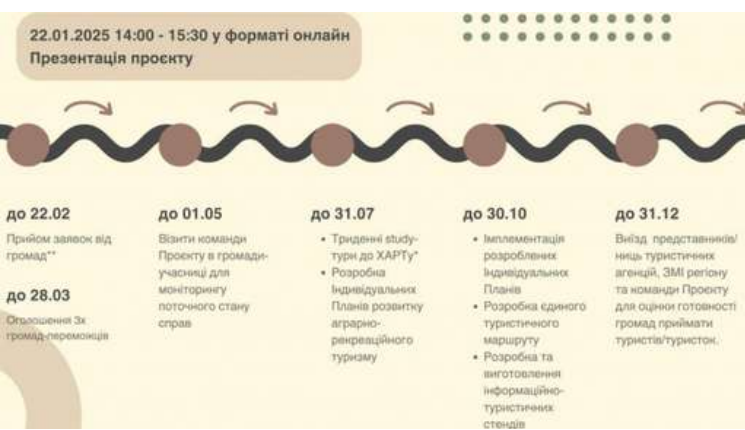
They are now offering their expertise and methodology to other communities in the Dniprovskiy, Kam'yanskyi, and Synelnykivskiy districts. Three selected communities will receive study tours to the Agricultural and Recreational Tourism Hub (ART), customized development plans, assistance with tourist routes and information kiosks—and an assessment of their readiness to welcome tourists by the end of 2025. For small communities in the frontline region, this project is a path to diversification and a new source of income.

Security Audit Dashboard for Four Communities: A Tool for Upcoming Elections

In May 2025, the OPORA Civil Network, with support from the Foundation, published the results of a pilot safety audit in four communities: Zaporizhzhia, Kryvyi Rih, Poltava, and Snigurivka. The audit assessed the response times of the State Emergency Service and the police to calls, their staffing levels, the functioning of emergency hotlines, and the availability of shelters near potential polling locations. Based on the results, OPORA developed an interactive dashboard for a comparative analysis of the security situation in different communities. The methodology has been tested and can be scaled up to cover the entire country.

Kherson is drawing on Lviv's experience in the field of employment

In March 2025, with support from the Fund and the EU, a delegation from the Kherson Region Local Employment Partnership paid a working visit to Lviv. The goal was to learn about best practices in entrepreneurship support, reskilling, and cooperation between government, business, and civil society organizations. The guests visited the Employment Center, the “Avtohub” vocational school with VR simulators for welders and drone operators, the Entrepreneurship Support Center, and familiarized themselves with the “OPLICH” partnership model.



The Future Reconstruction of (De)Occupied Territories

Millions of Ukrainians live in temporarily occupied or liberated territories—and their future depends on the decisions being made right now. For the Foundation, this work has several dimensions. It involves supporting communities in exile, conducting analysis and strategic planning, and facilitating communication between authorities, communities, and residents so that return and recovery take place with the active participation of the people themselves.

“Donetsk Region 2025,” Forum: 170 participants and the first event of this scale in four years



On November 28, 2025, the “Donetsk Region 2025: A Look into the Future” Forum took place in Kyiv with the support of the Foundation and the Eastern Europe Foundation (funded by Norway and Sweden)—the first event of this scale for the region’s civil society since 2021. Over 170 participants attended in person, and another 1,500 joined online: volunteers, representatives of civil society organizations, local authorities, and activists. Vadym Filashkin, Head of the Donetsk Regional State Administration, emphasized: Donetsk region has suffered the greatest human losses, and it is the people—their resilience, self-organization, and regional identity—that must be preserved.

Three panels covered a people-centered approach to recovery, the role of the public in shaping the strategy for the Donetsk region, and the issue of preserving local identity. A separate segment featured an awards ceremony for volunteers and the presentation of a catalog of civil society organizations in the Donetsk region—currently over 50 organizations, and the list continues to grow.

Conference on “Occupied and (De)Occupied Communities,,: Seeking Institutional Solutions for Recovery

On May 21, 2025, a conference titled “(De)occupied and Frontline Communities on the Path to Recovery: Institutional Solutions” was held in Kyiv with the support of the Foundation as part of Open Government Week. Over two hundred participants—parliamentarians, government officials, representatives of military administrations, civil society organizations, and international partners—sought answers to a key question: how to restore the governance capacity of communities most affected by the war.

The conference presented an analytical study covering four areas: public administration, personnel policy, administrative-territorial structure, and civic participation. Among the findings were a severe personnel shortage in frontline communities, the need to update legislation on military administrations, and a critical lack of up-to-date statistics at the community level.



The Labor Market in Kherson: The First Study of a Frontline Community

In March 2025, the NGO “New Generation Community Center,” with support from the Foundation as part of the project “Local Employment Partnership in the Frontline Kherson Community,” conducted a study and prepared an analytical report on the state of the labor market in the Kherson territorial community. The study analyzes key employment trends, unemployment rates, and the needs of employers and employees. The results served as the basis for developing specific measures to support employment, retraining programs, and entrepreneurship development in the community.

“Budgets in Exile 2.0”: How 20 Occupied Communities Manage Their Finances Without Access to Their Territories

Starting in February 2025, the Civic Partnership “For Transparent Local Budgets!” and the NGO “Crisis Media Center ‘Siverskyi Donets,’” with the support of the Foundation, have been implementing the project “Budgets in Exile 2.0”—a comprehensive study of budget processes in 20 temporarily occupied communities in the Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions. The first project in 2024 covered 10 pilot communities and showed that, in some of them, following the recommendations, a public presentation of the draft budget was held for the first time in years, and IDP councils began collecting residents’ proposals for the budget. The second, expanded project goes further: researchers are analyzing budgets for 2022–2024 in 20 communities, identifying gaps, and preparing practical recommendations.

“Engaging the Public in the East”: Strategic Sessions and a Network of Activists



Throughout 2025, with the support of the Fund, the NGO “Luhansk Region Civic Initiative” implemented the project “Engaging the Public in Eastern Ukraine in the Recovery of Their Communities: Phase II.” A series of strategic sessions was held in Kyiv for representatives of regional and district administrations, local self-government bodies, activists, and civil society organizations from Luhansk and Donetsk regions. The key idea was to maintain the connection between displaced residents and their “home” communities so that regional identity would not be lost amid forced displacement.

Reconfiguration of the Administrative-Territorial Units of Three Regions: Analytics for Post-War Planning

In April 2025, as part of a project supported by the Foundation, an expert discussion was held on the findings of an analytical study of public administration and the feasibility of reconfiguring the administrative-territorial structure of the Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, and Kherson regions in the post-war period. Researchers analyzed the existing challenges facing communities: depopulation, loss of institutional capacity, disrupted logistics, and a fragmented governance system.

Foresight Session for Luhansk Region: Preparing for Recovery Now



In August 2025, with the support of the Foundation, a three-day foresight session titled “The Future We Can Predict” was held in Kyiv for representatives of the Luhansk Regional State Administration, the Severodonetsk District State Administration, the Municipal Administration, activists, scholars, and young people. The session was moderated by the director and deputy director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Severodonetsk was selected as the pilot community for implementing the outcomes. Participants learned the methodology of scenario planning under conditions of uncertainty, analyzed key trends and “weak signals,” and developed strategic guidelines for de-occupied communities.

The results of the session are intended to form the basis for specific projects in public administration and civic engagement—and to be scaled up to other regions. For Luhansk Oblast, which remains fully occupied, this work is preparation for a real future.



A Green Strategy for a Frontline Community



The Kushuhum community in Zaporizhzhia Oblast lost the Kakhovka Reservoir after the hydroelectric power plant was destroyed and has since faced shortages of drinking and industrial water, the decline of the agricultural and fishing sectors, and constant shelling. In 2024–2025, the NGO “Ecosense,” with support from the Foundation, helped the community develop a Development and Recovery Strategy focused on green energy, environmental safety, and economic diversification.

Довідник гуманітарних хабів Донеччини по всій Україні

In September 2025, the NGO “Access Point,” as part of the “Impulse” project and with support from the Foundation, prepared a guide to humanitarian hubs established by communities in the Donetsk region that are operating in other regions of Ukraine. The document was prepared based on data from the Donetsk Regional State Administration and compiles key information about aid centers: their locations, the services they provide, and how to contact them. For IDPs from Donetsk Oblast, this is a tool that allows them not only to find support but also to maintain a connection with their community despite displacement.

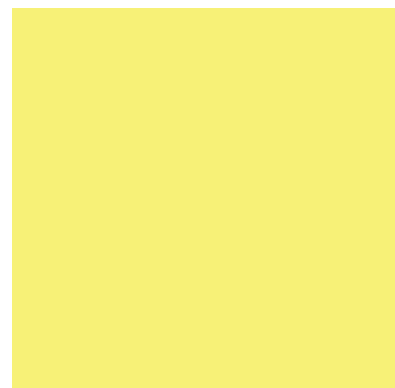
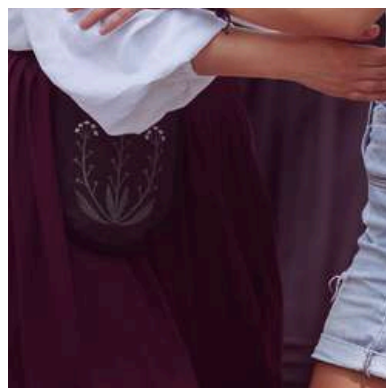
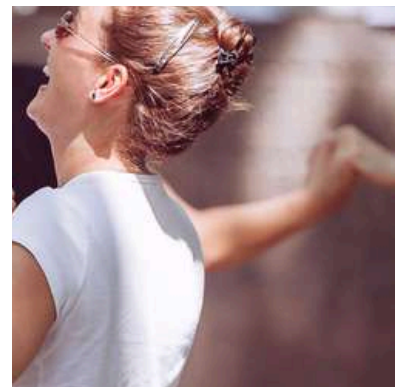
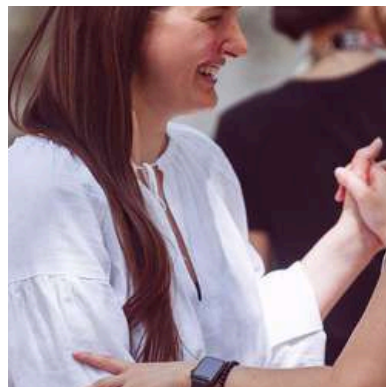
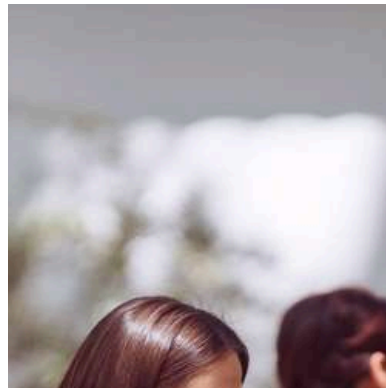
Resilience Lab: An 18-Month Program for CSO Development in a War Zone



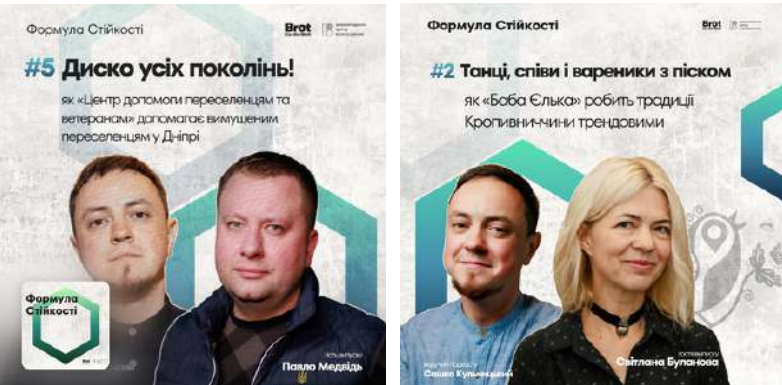
The “Resilience Lab” is a joint initiative of the Foundation and the Bread for the World agency, designed to run for 18 months and aimed at local civil society organizations that continue to operate amid a full-scale war. The program is based on a simple yet critically important observation: organizations that face daily pressure need not only project support but also systemic strengthening. That is why “The Lab” combines an institutional grant of 2 million hryvnias with training in management, communications, community engagement, and engagement with government authorities, mentoring support from experienced practitioners, and opportunities for networking among organizations from different regions.

A separate and important focus is caring for the team. The program recognizes that exhaustion and burnout are real risks for CSOs that work year after year at the limits of what is possible, and provides for the mental health support of participants.

The first cohort of the “Resilience Lab” included 15 organizations from seven regions of Ukraine: Kharkiv, Sumy, Kirovohrad, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, and Mykolaiv. The selection of these regions is no coincidence: these are the areas most affected by the war, where civil society organizations operate under conditions of constant danger, staff shortages, and unstable funding. The program has already completed its first cycle, and in March 2026, the graduation ceremony for its first cohort took place in Lviv.



“Formula for Resilience,, Podcast: Conversations About How Organizations Are Holding On During the War



In 2025, as part of the “Resilience Lab” program and with support from the Foundation and the “Bread for the World” agency, the “Formula for Resilience” podcast was released—a 12-episode series in which the program team spoke with one of the “Lab’s” grantees in each episode. Each conversation serves as both a portrait of the organization and a unique perspective on what resilience consists of: memory and tradition, trust within the team, and the ability to adapt without losing sight of the mission.

For example, the head of the NGO “Power of the Future” explained how to teach people self-healing through play and collective action. The “Center for Assistance to Displaced Persons and Veterans” discussed how to keep an organization running in a frontline city when its office has been damaged by shelling. “We Are Needed Here” discussed career guidance for youth in Mykolaiv, while the “Citizen” Foundation and “Veritas Spes” addressed systemic challenges in supporting veterans in a later episode.



“CSOs Play a Leading Role in Community Recovery,,: Research Findings



In December 2025, the Foundation and the Eastern Europe Foundation presented the results of a study involving over 200 organizations from all regions.

The main conclusion: civil society organizations are a key driver of community recovery—especially in the areas of support for IDPs and veterans, psychosocial assistance, and community cohesion. At the same time, the involvement of CSOs in infrastructure and economic recovery remains the lowest—state agencies dominate in this area. Organizations near the front lines demonstrate the highest level of activity despite chronic staff shortages and security risks. An alarming statistic: 76% of organizations operate at a financial deficit and report significant team burnout.

Inna Pidluska, Deputy Executive Director of the Foundation, emphasized: “Investments in the sustainability of CSOs directly impact the pace of recovery.” Among the recommendations are sustainable funding mechanisms, partnerships with the government, and greater involvement of organizations in economic processes.

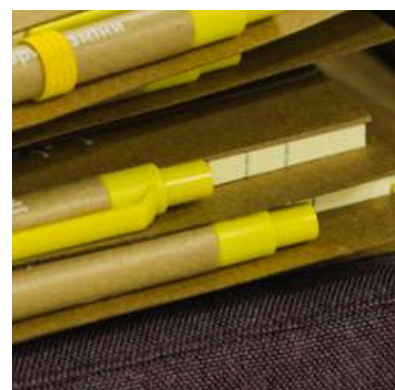
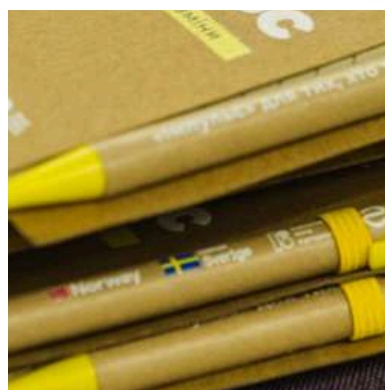
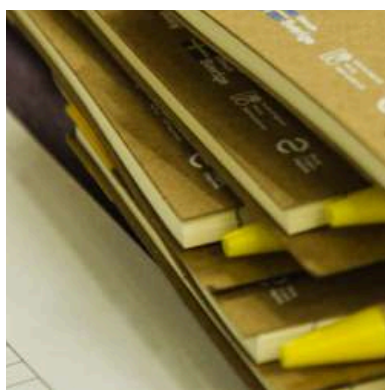
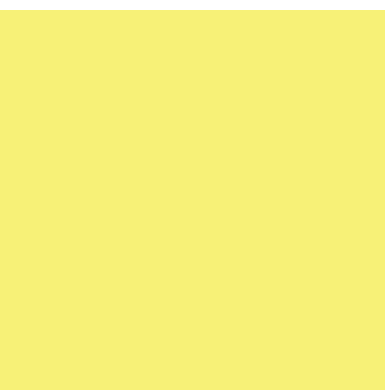
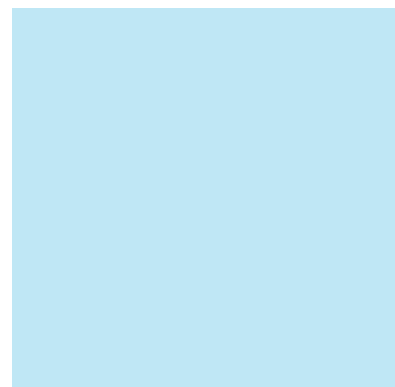
“A Small Push, a Big Change,,: The “Impulse,, Project



“Impulse” is a joint project of the Foundation and the Eastern Europe Foundation, supported by Norway and Sweden, aimed at supporting civil society organizations in the 12 regions of Ukraine most affected by the war. In 2025, 29 institutional grantees and dozens of small grantees were selected, and the work continues: each round of the competition expands the network. Institutional grants are long-term commitments lasting 26–28 months: funding, training in financial management, storytelling, auditing, and the use of AI, as well as an assessment of organizational systems. Small grants are for specific initiatives lasting up to 12 months: participatory planning in the Odesa region, resource justice in resource-extracting regions, security dialogue in Kherson, and green solutions in Zaporizhzhia.

Behind each project is a team that lives and works in frontline conditions. “League of Change” from the Sumy region helps young people become agents of change in border communities and is convinced that even a small push can lead to lasting change if it is seized upon in time. “NOVA Energy” is building a community of resource-extracting communities that advocate for resource justice. “Ecosense” in Zaporizhzhia is implementing nature-oriented practices under shelling—and compares itself to a dandelion sprouting through the asphalt. The Kherson-based “Ob’ednannya” Charitable Foundation is building trust among residents, authorities, and security services, believing that “security begins with dialogue.” They are united by shared challenges—exhaustion, lack of resources, uncertainty—and a shared conviction that they cannot stop.

The Eastern Europe Foundation, as part of the “Impulse” initiative, is conducting independent research on the resilience of organizations and their participation in recovery, and is developing a training program and a series of online courses on the “Zrozumilo!” platform.



Sustainability Conference 2.0: Identity, Participation, and Human Capital as the Foundations of Sustainability.



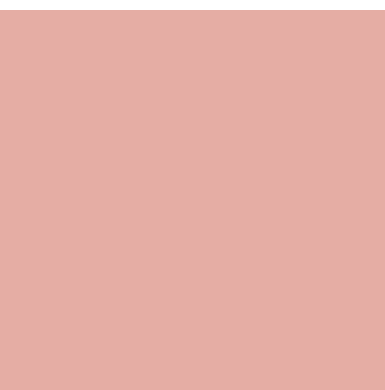
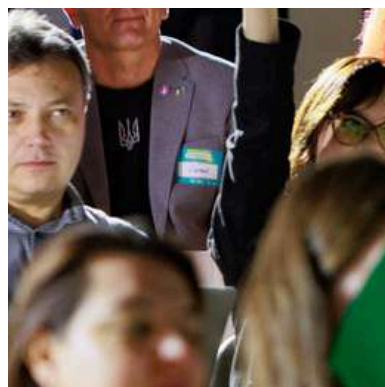
On October 21, 2025, the Foundation held its second Sustainability Conference in Kyiv as part of the “Sustainability Lab” in partnership with the “Impulse” project. The event brought together practitioners in the field of civic engagement, analysts, organizational leaders, and government officials. Three overarching themes—identity, participation, and human capital—served as the framework for discussions, debates, and presentations. In his opening remarks, the Foundation’s Executive Director, Oleksandr Sushko, outlined five keys to sustainability: mission clarity, horizontal networks, adaptability, care for people, and confidence in one’s own capabilities. The discussion on identity revealed that local and national identities do not compete but rather reinforce one another—and it is precisely these identities that give people a sense of why it is worth staying and rebuilding.

During the debate “The Individual or the Community: Where to Find the Core of Resilience?”, participants concluded that these two approaches must be complementary—because without



resilient individuals, there can be no resilient community, and vice versa.

A presentation of the Eastern Europe Foundation’s research confirmed that CSOs are already playing a tangible role in the recovery process, but they require stable funding and greater authority. Case studies from partners of the “Resilience Lab” project—ranging from working with memory as a resource for resilience to the systemic integration of IDPs—showed that solutions already exist: they need to be scaled up and replicated.



Sustainability Conferences: From Discussions to Solutions in the Regions



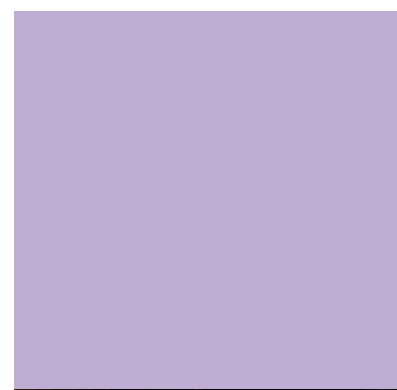
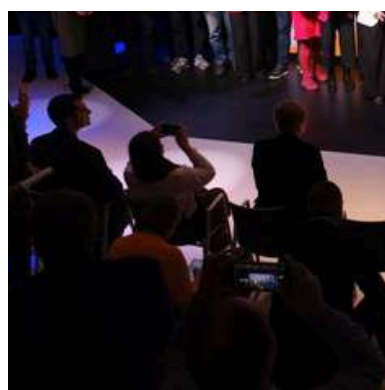
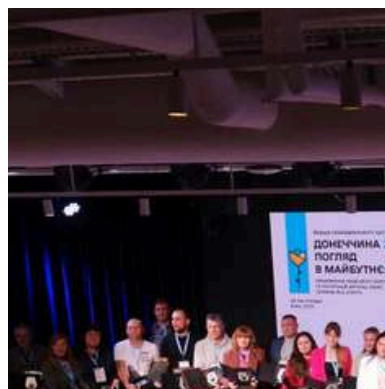
The Sustainability Conferences grew out of the understanding that Ukraine’s recovery is not a one-time event and is not merely a matter of international funding. It is a process taking place within communities that requires a constant exchange of experiences among those involved. The first Resilience Conference took place in September 2024, and the second—“Resilience Conference 2.0”—in October 2025.

Both brought together representatives of civil society, government, and international partners to discuss community participation, identity, human capital, and what resilience means not merely as survival but as development. At the second conference, Oleksandr Sushko outlined five keys to sustainability: clarity of mission, horizontal networks, adaptability, care for people, and trust in one’s own capabilities.



Following the “Sustainability Conference 2.0,” the work continued in the regions. As part of the “Impulse” project, a series of seven regional conferences took place: “Donetsk Region 2025” in Kyiv brought together over 170 participants in person and about 1,500 online; “Unbreakable Southeast” in Zaporizhzhia united representatives from three regions; a separate conference was held for the community of people from Luhansk Oblast; in Kryvyi Rih, the focus was on water security; in Chernihiv Oblast—on people-centered reconstruction and partnerships between education and business; in Poltava, the focus was on youth from Sumy Oblast; in Odesa—on practical solutions for IDPs and veterans. Each conference was organized by a local NGO—and each had its own theme, tailored to the region’s specific context.

For the Foundation, this series serves as a mechanism for turning ideas into action: from analytics and “Visions of Resilience” to vibrant regional networks that shape the demand for change in their communities and collectively influence public policy.



Free consultations for young civil society organizations working with internally displaced persons

Since the beginning of 2025, with the support of the Horizon of Change Foundation, we have been providing free consultations to volunteer initiatives and civil society organizations registered no more than five years ago, whose primary activities focus on working with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable groups. The consultations cover three areas: writing grant applications, legal issues related to the registration and operation of NGOs, and accounting support.

A Discussion on Human Capital in Communities



In February 2025, at the annual Civil Society Development Forum organized by the Foundation, a discussion titled “Preserving Social Capital in Communities” took place—focusing on the practical solutions that civil society organizations are finding in response to challenges related to employment, the integration of internally displaced persons, and youth engagement. The overall conclusion of the discussion was that human capital issues must be addressed at all levels—from local to national—by combining reskilling, advocacy, and tools of local democracy.

CSO Sustainability Index 2024



In July 2025, with support from the Foundation, the UNCPD presented the 2024 Civil Society Organizations Sustainability Index. The overall score was 3.0 points, matching the 2023 level and reflecting stabilization despite challenging conditions. Overall, the index shows a positive long-term trend: civil society is strengthening its influence, successfully advocating for change, and maintaining its public image. Financial viability remains a weak point, although it improved slightly in 2024.

In addition to the report itself, the UNCPD, with the support of the Foundation, has developed a digital tool for conveniently tracking the index indicators over time—so that the data is accessible not only to researchers but also to the organizations and government bodies themselves. Oleksiy Orlovsky, Director of the Foundation’s “Democratic Practice” program initiative, emphasized at the presentation: the Foundation’s key interest is in tracking the extent to which civil society is able to influence the government and remain resilient in its role.



Re:Open Zakarpattia 2025: A Forum on Development, Identity, and European Integration



In November 2025, with support from the Foundation, the Netherlands, and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the sixth annual Re:Open Zakarpattia forum took place in Zakarpattia—a two-day event that brought together approximately 250 participants from Ukraine and the EU. The forum traditionally brings together academic analysts, diplomats, activists, and entrepreneurs to discuss specific issues related to the development of Zakarpattia and neighboring regions. This time, the focus was on new industrialization, environmental challenges, the role of border regions in European integration, and issues of multi-ethnic understanding.

Transcarpathia—a border region with a multi-ethnic population and access to the EU—serves here not only as an organizational platform but also as a living example of what “European integration from the bottom up” can look like.



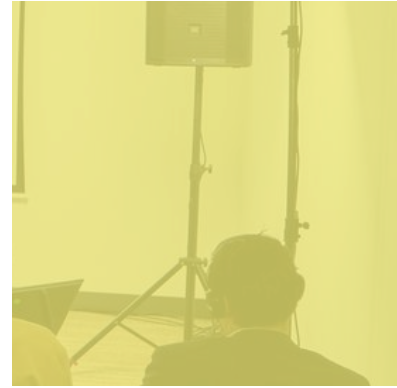
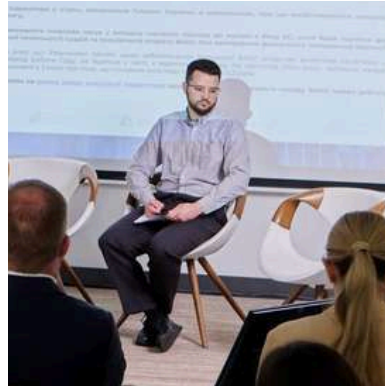
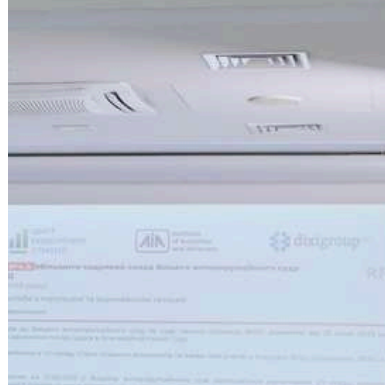
Environmental awareness as part of community recovery

In 2025, as part of the “Impulse” project, several grant-receiving NGOs implemented environmental initiatives. The NGO “Center for Innovative Development ‘Persona’” from Pavlohrad introduced waste sorting in its own office and donated containers for separate waste collection to one of the local kindergartens—so that children could see how it works in practice from an early age. In Mykolaiv, the NGO “Kinburn” organized a “Young Ecologists” club for schoolchildren: the children explore the city’s green spaces—parks and squares—assess the condition of trees and soil quality, and prepare recommendations for the city regarding greening, sustainable lawns, and irrigation systems.



The booklet “What to Do After Shelling,, – step-by-step instructions for residents

In November 2025, the Foundation, together with active residents of Kherson and in coordination with the Kherson City Military Administration, prepared a practical booklet titled “What to Do After Shelling”—a simple and clear step-by-step guide for people who live under the daily threat of attacks. The booklet contains only key steps and contact information without unnecessary text: where to seek help, what to do with property, and how to report damage. Printed copies were distributed to the administration, police, homeowners’ associations, and community organizations that work directly with residents.



Economic stability

The full-scale war has inflicted unprecedented economic losses on Ukraine—and at the same time raised questions that cannot be put off: how to keep people in the country, how to attract foreign specialists, how to prepare the labor market for the return of millions of veterans, and how to preserve businesses in frontline regions. The Foundation supports research and policy development in the areas of migration, employment, regional development, and more, so that decisions are made based on evidence rather than intuition.

Migration Policy Strategy through 2035

Throughout 2025, with support from the Foundation, the NGO “Office of Migration Policy” implemented the project “Ukraine’s Migration Policy: Paths to Improvement.” The outcome is expected to be a draft of a new State Migration Policy Strategy through 2035 with a focus on labor resources. An open platform for cross-sectoral dialogue operated around the project: researchers, government officials, business representatives, educators, and civil society members regularly gathered to discuss analytical materials and findings. Throughout the year, several public discussions and presentations of research results took place, particularly regarding future labor force needs and the state of the labor market.

Depopulation in Ukraine is inevitable, and there is already a chronic labor shortage. Without a systematic response to this challenge, Ukraine will not be able to recover. The strategy must be tailored to each country: in Poland, the focus is on young people and women; in Germany, on older men; and the conditions for return differ for each group. The Employment Service is already developing programs for those who will return after the war. The final draft of the Strategy will be submitted to the government for further implementation.



“Improving Tomorrow’s Energy Security,” – Discussions, Analysis, and Monitoring

With support from the DiXi Group Foundation, the “Improving Tomorrow’s Energy Security” project was implemented, under which regular discussion events, analytical studies, and the annual Ukrainian Energy Security Dialogue conference are held. In April 2025, a discussion titled “Energy Security Talks: The Power System Under Pressure” was held, focusing on the results of the 2024/2025 heating season.

It was the most challenging since the start of the full-scale invasion: nine massive attacks, 10 GW of lost capacity, and a gas shortage in underground storage facilities of up to 1 billion cubic meters by the end of winter. However, large-scale blackouts were avoided—thanks to a mild winter, stable operation of nuclear power plants, the restoration of approximately 5 GW of capacity, and international support.

At the same time, DiXi Group published an analytical study on electricity imports in 2022–2024: the total volume amounted to 5.25 million MWh, with the main suppliers being Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, and Poland. The identified barriers—the technical obsolescence of interconnectors, price differentials between Ukraine and the EU, and regulatory inertia—formed the basis for recommendations regarding the expansion and modernization of infrastructure and the transition to long-term contracts.

A Step-by-Step Plan for Energy-Efficient Renovation for Local Governments

In February 2025, DiXi Group, in collaboration with the Buildings Performance Institute Europe and with support from the Foundation, published the “Step-by-Step Plan for the Energy-Efficient Reconstruction of Ukraine” and presented it at a public event.

The document is addressed to local governments and structured in three phases: preparation and assessment, implementation, and maintenance. Specific steps include engaging stakeholders, developing municipal energy plans, and selecting priority buildings and financial instruments. The context is urgent: Ukraine has lost more than half of its pre-war generating capacity, and the specific energy consumption of buildings is 2–3 times higher than the European average. 80% of the housing stock is outdated—and even after de-occupation and the end of the war, these buildings will remain the main bottleneck.

Deputy Minister Maryna Denysiuk confirmed: the housing sector is the Ministry’s top priority—and the most unpredictable in terms of demand management. MEA representative Kseniia Petrychenko added: energy efficiency initiatives exist in Ukraine even during the war—but they need to be scaled up when the time comes.



“Vinnytsia’s Green Course”.: A Roadmap for Green Energy Communities



In September 2025, as part of the project “Vinnytsia’s Green Course: From Strategy to Practice” the Synergy Sustainable Development Agency and the Society and Environment Resource and Analytical Center, with the support of the Fund and in cooperation with the Vinnytsia City Council, presented the “Roadmap for the Development of Green Energy Communities in the Vinnytsia City Territorial Community.”

Energy communities are associations of citizens, organizations, and businesses that jointly own and manage renewable energy projects. Although their legal status in Ukraine has not yet been defined, Vinnytsia became the first community to enshrine this concept in its strategic documents.

The roadmap was not developed top-down, but through a series of strategic sessions involving the public, businesses, educational institutions, and the city council: for the authors, it was essential to make the document realistic, rather than a copy of foreign models. For Vinnytsia, this means reduced dependence on energy imports, new jobs, and the strengthening of local democracy. For all of Ukraine, it is a model that can be scaled up.

Quarterly independent monitoring of compliance with the terms of the IMF and Ukraine Facility

With support from the Foundation, the RRR4U (Resilience, Reconstruction, and Relief for Ukraine) consortium—a coalition of four analytical organizations: the Center for Economic Strategy, the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, the Institute for Analytics and Advocacy, and the DiXi Group—published quarterly reports throughout 2025 providing independent monitoring of Ukraine’s compliance with the conditions of the IMF program and the reform indicators of the Ukraine Facility.

The goal was to promote public accountability for reforms and provide an evidence-based foundation for public dialogue between the government, civil society, and international partners. Each report included not only an assessment of implementation but also specific recommendations for next steps.

The findings of the quarterly monitoring reports were disappointing: despite the new agreed-upon IMF program, Ukraine is significantly behind on its reform agenda. By the end of 2025, the volume of unmet reform indicators under the Ukraine Facility exceeded €3.6 billion in lost financial support—in the fourth quarter alone, the risk amounted to over €2.3 billion. This underscores both the scale of external support and the cost of delays in reforms.



The Monthly Business Pulse During the War – NRES



Throughout 2025, the IER, with support from the Foundation, continued its “New Monthly Enterprises Survey” (NRES)—a regular assessment of business activity among 485–500 industrial enterprises across 21 regions. The survey has been conducted since May 2022 and reflects the real challenges businesses face under wartime conditions. The most persistent obstacle remains the labor shortage—in November 2025, 61% of enterprises cited it as a problem. The energy crisis also sharply intensified in November: following a series of attacks on infrastructure, the share of businesses suffering from power outages jumped from 19% in October to 43% in November.

At its peak in 2022, this figure reached 80%, and if intense attacks continue, it may approach that level again. At the same time, 35% of businesses continued to operate despite power outages, and 23% experienced no interruptions at all. The most vulnerable sectors remain metallurgy, machine building, and the production of construction materials. NRES data serves as a reliable tool for government decision-making and for international partners planning support for business recovery.

“For Fair and Transparent Customs,“: Business Notes Progress in Reform

With support from the Foundation and the EU, the IER conducts an annual large-scale survey of Ukrainian exporters and importers as part of the “For Fair and Transparent Customs” initiative. The ninth wave of the survey, published in 2025, recorded tangible improvements: 47.7% of companies rated customs performance as “good” or “excellent”—the highest figure since 2016. Customs clearance time was reduced by 50%, the situation with border queues improved by 20%, and the State Customs Service became one of the key sources of information on foreign economic activity regulations.

A separate indicator of positive changes is that the level of “gray imports” fell to a record low of 11.6% in 2024, compared to 25.3% in 2018. For comparison: as recently as 2020, this figure exceeded 24%. Deputy Head of the State Customs Service Vladislav Suvorov attributed this progress to technical modernization of the border, international cooperation, and the institutional overhaul—and emphasized that the new Customs Code and the new automated customs clearance system will help maintain this momentum in 2026.

A representative of the European Commission’s DG TAXUD noted that it was precisely these results that allowed Ukraine to receive the highest ratings within the EC under the 29th negotiation chapter, “Customs Union,” among all candidate countries.



A Shared Future: Poland and Ukraine in the Single European Market

In October 2025, the IED and the Warsaw Institute of Entrepreneurship, with support from the Foundation, held the first discussion as part of the project “A Shared Future: Poland and Ukraine in the Single European Market”—focusing on the challenges and opportunities for Polish companies already involved in Ukraine’s reconstruction.

Key message: Polish businesses are not waiting for the war to end. Poland is among the top three countries whose companies are most actively opening representative offices in Ukraine, and the Polish state-owned bank BGK is establishing an official representative office in Kyiv as part of the Ukraine Facility.

Regulation of the virtual asset market—a step toward bringing the sector out of the shadows

In October 2025, the Verkhovna Rada passed Bill No. 10225-d on the virtual asset market in its first reading. With support from the Foundation and the EU, the Center for Democracy and the Rule of Law organized an expert discussion titled “To Be or Not to Be: The Future of the Virtual Asset Market in Ukraine.” The bill provides for the legalization and taxation of cryptocurrency transactions, requires businesses to implement AML and KYC procedures, and establishes a simplified authorization process for foreign cryptocurrency exchanges.

The Veteran Leadership Program in the UK: Veterans Learn to Change the Country



In September 2025, Kyiv hosted a workshop titled “The Future of Transportation: Strategy or Chaos?” for transportation experts, government officials, and representatives of international organizations. Participants modeled scenarios for the development of the transportation system through 2050 and discussed how to make Ukraine a key logistics hub for the EU. Key conclusion: the old logic of transit between Europe and Russia is no longer relevant—and a fundamentally new strategy is needed.

The main focus is on developing the domestic network to connect exporting companies with Black Sea ports and, further, with the EU. World Bank analyst Yevhen Hrebenyuk emphasized: Ukraine has a unique advantage—access to the sea—and must use the exclusion of Russia and Belarus from international trade as an opportunity to restore its role as an important logistics corridor.





Cultural Spaces and the Formation of Identity

Buildings and roads can be rebuilt without culture. Society cannot. It is culture that shapes a shared identity, preserves the connection between generations, and provides a language for making sense of experiences of loss and resistance. For the Foundation, supporting cultural projects and memory initiatives is an investment in social resilience and in countering the colonial narratives of Russia, which has systematically destroyed and continues to destroy Ukrainian cultural identity.

“Culture. Unity. Resilience., Contest

In May 2025, the Foundation’s “Social Capital” program announced the results of the “Culture. Unity. Resilience” competition—a grant program for cultural and artistic initiatives that strengthen social cohesion and community resilience. The competition received 144 project proposals from across Ukraine. The total amount of support for the 17 winners exceeded 17 million hryvnias. The geography and themes of the selected projects reflect the diversity of cultural resistance: from theater and arts initiatives for the frontline cities of Kharkiv, Kherson, and Mykolaiv to the preservation of the languages of the Greeks of the Dnieper Delta and the documentation of experiences in southern and eastern Ukraine.

Among the winners is the Kherson Academic Kulish Theater, which is staging a play about children’s experiences of forced relocation; the “Siverskyi Donets Crisis Media Center” with a project on shared memory in the Pridniv’ya region; “Assortment Room” with participatory art practices for four cities; the PORT festival in Odesa; “The 20 Most Important Stories of This War”—and twelve other formats, each of which addresses the same challenge: how to keep people alive not only physically but also culturally.

Festivals as Spaces for Dialogue

Festivals are spaces where society comes together, where a shared identity is formed, where dialogue takes place between different communities, and where writers, readers, artists, and audiences create what culture truly is. For the Foundation, supporting festivals means supporting the very fabric of social resilience

“Land of Poets,”: 5,000 Attendees and Poetry as a National Movement



In November 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the “Land of Poets” International Festival was held for the second time in Lviv—featuring 50 events across four stages and nearly 200 participants, including poets, musicians, actors, and philosophers. Over two days, the festival was attended by more than 5,000 people, and charity auctions raised over 400,000 hryvnias for the 2nd Corps of the National Guard. The main theme—“Remembering Everyone. The Return of Names to the Land of Poets” – brought together readings of little-known authors from the interwar period, evening concerts by “Zhadan and the Dogs,” Vivienne Mort, and “The Dead Rooster,” as well as an international program featuring poets from Poland, Lithuania, the U.S., Croatia, and Slovenia.



The Foundation at the Lviv Book Forum: Three Discussions on Culture, Identity, and Translation



In October 2025, the Foundation organized three events of its own at the 32nd Lviv Book Forum: a discussion titled “Between Bubbles” on cultural events as platforms for dialogue; a talk titled “From Visibility to Impact: Case Studies in Cultural Diplomacy” featuring the Ukrainian Institute, UIC, and PEN, and a panel titled “Culture as a Mainstay” on frontline communities—Kherson, Sumy, Kharkiv, and Mariupol—in exile. The Foundation’s Program Director, Radoslava Kabachiy, emphasized: every initiative that brings a community together is already culture—and often it is precisely this that keeps people on their land.



13th Book Arsenal

At the 13th Book Arsenal in May 2025, the Foundation organized two key events: a talk titled “Back to the Roots” on the history of Ukrainian book publishing and a discussion titled “Culture as Strategy” on the main stage. Also, with the Foundation’s support, the Arsenal hosted the exhibition “War Chronicles: Ukraine 2014–2025,” featuring works by leading documentary photographers. Board members and the Foundation’s team participated in discussions on cultural heritage and the law, the decolonization of memory, the liberation of the Kremlin’s captives, and the fight against collaborationism. Arsenal is an annual platform where the Foundation is present as a long-standing and reliable partner.



Sunny Bunny: The Third Queer Film Festival

In April 2025, with support from the Foundation and the EU, the third Sunny Bunny Queer Film Festival took place in Kyiv. The evening began with a moment of silence in honor of those who had lost their lives. Military personnel received free passes. The festival’s slogan was: “People have the right to be different—and it is for this right, for this way of life, that Ukraine is currently fighting on the front lines.”



“Protasiv Yar,; The Third Festival in Memory of Roman Ratushny



In July 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the third festival in memory of Roman Ratushny—a scout with the 93rd Brigade, a civic activist, and a defender of the park—was held in Protasiv Yar. This year, the festival also honored the memory of his brother Vasyl, who died in February 2025. The program included artistic concerts, discussions on democracy and human rights, history lectures, and a children’s program. The festival was founded in 2023 as the realization of Roman’s dream.

The 22nd Docudays UA: “A Rare Resource,;



From June 6 to 13, 2025, the 22nd Docudays UA International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival took place in Kyiv with the support of the Foundation. The theme—“A Scarce Resource”—featured 71 films from 38 countries, 15 Ukrainian films, the DOCU/WORLD, DOCU/UKRAINE, and DOCU/SHORT competition programs, a separate “War Archive” program, the RIGHTS NOW! human rights series, and the DOCU/PRO industry workshop.

“Literary Fair,, in Kharkiv: 5,000 Attendees in a City Near the Front Lines



In August 2025, Serhiy Zhadan’s Charitable Foundation, with support from the Fund, held a three-day “Literary Fair” in Kharkiv—featuring 20 events, over 50 participants, and approximately 5,000 visitors. The event raised 40,000 hryvnias for libraries in the Kharkiv region and collected several hundred books. Program Director Olena Pavlova described the festival as proof that Kharkiv is a city of educated people who are not deterred by the front lines. The festival is planned to be an annual event.

“Neighbors’ Cinema,, in Uzhhorod: The 4th Festival and Discussion “Who Are You, Neighbor?,,

In August 2025, Uzhhorod hosted the 4th “Neighbors’ Cinema” International Film Festival, featuring screenings from Austria, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Romania, all with free admission. The Foundation supported the educational program, the central event of which was a public discussion titled “Who Are You, Neighbor?” at the Uzhhorod Open-Air Museum. The discussion focused on invisible boundaries in stereotypes, the role of culture in fostering good neighborly relations, and the critical importance of knowing one’s neighbors in the context of European integration.

“Drama Sprint,,: Contemporary Drama for Theaters in Frontline Cities

In August 2025, Kharkiv hosted the third “Drama Sprint”—a festival of contemporary drama—with the support of the “Theater on Zhukiv” Foundation, where eight plays that had won competitions in 2024 were presented in the form of staged readings. This year’s focus is on theaters in the Kharkiv, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, Chernihiv, and other regions. Six of the eight plays in the “Drama Panorama 2024” anthology were written by military personnel. The festival was streamed online, and following it, a series of readings will take place in local theaters in partner cities near the front lines.

MACH – 10th Anniversary: 18 artists from four countries in Lviv



In July 2025, with the support of the Foundation, Lviv hosted the 10th anniversary edition of the Month of Author Readings—the largest cross-border literary festival in Central Europe, bringing together Brno, Ostrava, Košice, Bratislava, and Lviv. Over the course of four days, 18 authors from Ukraine, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia took the stage at the Lesia Ukrainka Theater—among them Halyna Kruk, Andriy Lyubka, Anatoliy Dnistrov, Polish ultramarathon runner and writer Małgorzata Lebda, and Czech senators and playwrights David Smoljak and Zdeněk Papoušek.

Translatorium in Khmelnytskyi: “Translation as an Act of Freedom,”

In September 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the Translatorium literary and translation festival took place in Khmelnytskyi under the theme “Translation as an Act of Freedom.” The program included discussions on endangered languages, translation in times of emigration and war, lectures by Vira Ageyeva and Rostyslav Semkiv, presentations by Polish translators, a film screening in partnership with KyivMusicFilm, and a concert by “Krykhitky.” An exhibition on landscape in the context of war and colonialism also opened at the Khmelnytskyi Regional Art Museum.

The Maxim Shymko Memorial Tournament: Knightly Battles as a Living Legacy

In October 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the annual knightly tournament in memory of Maksym Shymko—a Hero of the Heavenly Hundred, reenactor, and historian for whom medieval culture was a way of life—was held in Vinnytsia as part of the “Bugurt Sich” event. More than thirty reenactors from Lviv, Dnipro, Kyiv, and Vinnytsia faced off in duels. Alongside the tournament were master classes in pre-modern medicine, an exhibition by the local history museum, a fair, and a children’s program.

“Prescriptions,” in Ivano-Frankivsk



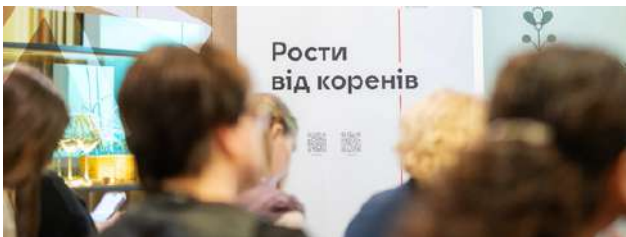
In August 2025, with the support of the Ukrainian PEN Foundation and “Teple Misto,” the third “Propisy” festival-workshop was held in Ivano-Frankivsk. Ten selected young authors from across Ukraine, none of whom had published books yet, spent four days working with mentors—Taras Prokhasko, Natalka Vorozhbit, and Bohdana Romantsova. This year’s focus was on playwriting. The public program concluded with a conversation with Yuri Andrukhovych. “Propisy” is about community and finding one’s own voice, says one of the participants.



The 4th “CONNECTION BREAK,, Culture Congress in Lviv

From December 12 to 14, 2025, the fourth Culture Congress —“CONNECTION_BREAK”—took place in Lviv at the Main Post Office building with the support of the Foundation. Three days of discussions, performances, and professional talks brought together cultural managers, artists, museum professionals, scholars, and journalists from all over Ukraine. The overarching theme—connections and ruptures between people, institutions, cities, and experiences—was reflected both in the program and in the very structure of the Congress, where the Lviv–Kharkiv axis became a symbol of solidarity between a frontline city and a rear city.

“Zavyaz,,: Cultural Managers for the Poltava and Kharkiv Regions



In November 2025, with the support of the Foundation and the Goethe-Institut, a four-day workshop titled “Zavyaz” was held in Poltava—the first interregional educational project by the cultural agency “Tereny” for cultural practitioners from the Poltava and Kharkiv regions. Dozens of participants, selected through an open competition, learned about management, communications, and fundraising, and at the end presented their own concepts for cultural projects. Among the most interesting results were the idea of an artist residency in Hadyach centered on the figure of Olena Pchilka and a new interpretation of the monument in the urban space.

The Foundation has endorsed Lviv's bid for “European Capital of Culture 2030,,



In September 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the Institute for Cultural Strategy submitted Lviv’s final application for the “European Capital of Culture 2030” competition. Lviv advanced to the final round alongside Niksic (Montenegro) in a separate category for cities that are candidates for EU membership.

The concept of the “Responsibility to Be” program is built around the themes of trauma, rehabilitation, memory, and social cohesion, and consists of 25 projects centered on three focal points: bearing witness, caring, and imagining. The Foundation joined the application process as a strategic partner.



The Antonin Artaud Fellowship: Performance Art of the South in Pervomaisk and Beyond



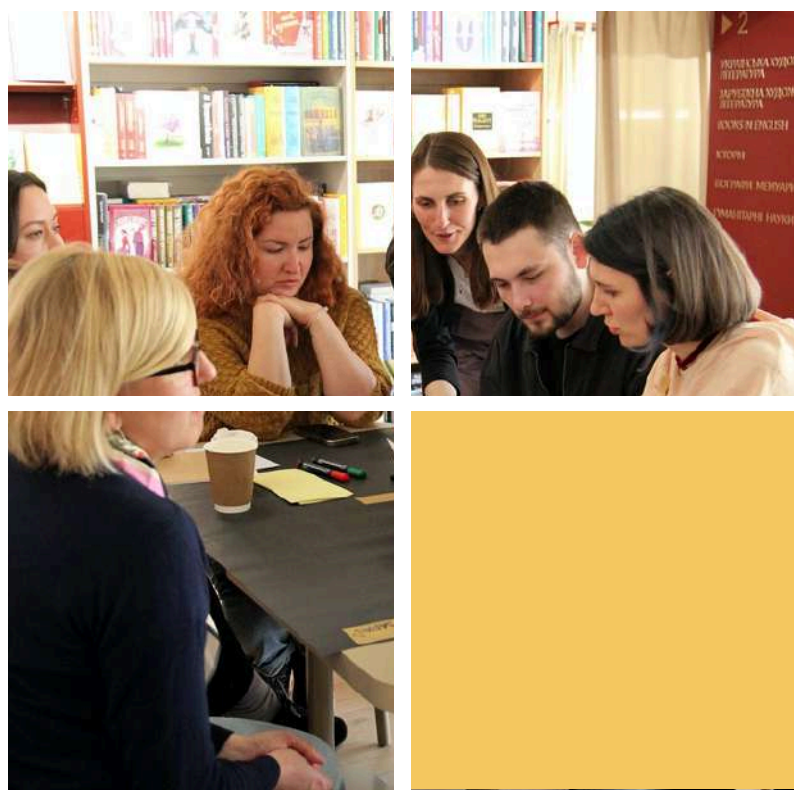
With support from the proto produkciia Foundation, in partnership with the Odessa National Art Museum and the MY ART platform, the Antonin Arta Scholarship is being implemented—a program supporting the performing arts with a focus on artists from southern Ukraine. In 2025, applications were accepted from artists in the Kherson, Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Zaporizhzhia regions, as well as Crimea: five winners each received 40,000 hryvnias and staged their own performances in cities across southern Ukraine.

Among the results was the performance “Protected” by artist Galina Andrusenko, presented in Pervomaisk in December 2025: the artist wrapped her family and the audience in white cloth, exploring the gesture of protecting monuments from destruction—and the fragility of any protection. According to the participants, the performance turned into a true premiere: some felt warmth and security, while others felt the fear of inevitability. All of this took place in a single shelter, in a single room with people united by this very experience.

Translatorium Translation Forum in Kyiv

In May 2025, Translatorium held the first “Strategizing the Ukrainian Translation Sector” forum in Kyiv—a gathering of translators, publishers, and cultural managers for a frank discussion of systemic issues in the industry. The forum’s four themes were: working conditions (non-transparent contracts, price dumping, the invisibility of the translator’s name), cross-sectoral collaboration (lack of literary agents, the disconnect between universities and the market), the professional community (fragmentation, the need for a union or association), and education (outdated university programs).

The forum’s key conclusion: the translation community is ready for institutionalization—not just an informal network, but an organizational structure with representative functions, the ability to advocate for change, and to protect its members. The Foundation is one of the stakeholders on whom participants are counting to support this process.



“Memoirs,, by Nadiya Surovtseva

With the support of the Foundation, the Komora publishing house released a two-volume set of *Memoirs* by Nadiya Surovtseva—a diplomat and social activist who spent 27 years in the Gulag and managed to record her testimony. The presentation took place at the Book Arsenal and concluded with an unexpected revelation: Oksana Zabuzhko demonstrated that the renowned Soviet writer Zagrebelny had borrowed entire passages from the notes of Surovtseva—a woman who had been deprived of both her freedom and the ability to speak publicly.



“Rashism and World War III,, by Yuri Shcherbak

With the Foundation’s support, Yuriy Shcherbak’s book *Rashism and Ukraine’s Third World War* was published in 2025—a geopolitical analysis by a diplomat, writer, and eyewitness to key events in Ukraine’s recent history. The book was written during the author’s stay in Norway—a country where democracy and security function as a system rather than a mere declaration—and offers this as a model for Ukraine.

Shcherbak emphasizes: without honest dialogue between the government and society, without cultural security and the preservation of memory, victory will remain nothing more than a declaration.

“The Sky Over Kherson,,: Over 500 Drawings and a Book for Cultural Diplomacy.



With support from the NGO Fund, the IRC “Legal Space” and the “Totem” Center for Cultural Development implemented the project “The Sky Above Kherson: A Story of Resilience and Hope”—participants were invited to color in the sky above black-and-white photographs of the destroyed city: how they want to see it, what they remember, and what they hope for. Over 500 works were submitted—from residents of Kherson, displaced persons from various cities, and even people from other countries. The youngest artist is three years and nine months old: she was born in Kherson on February 24, 2022. Three participants are currently serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

In November 2025, the exhibition was shown in Kyiv, where the first viewing was attended by creative groups from the Kherson region who had traveled there specifically to participate. In December, the exhibition opened at the “Na Rozi” hub in Kherson itself, where the project was born. At the same time, the book “The Sky Over Kherson” was published in Ukrainian and English—as a tool for cultural diplomacy and a story about Kherson and its people for international partners and future donors to the reconstruction effort.

“VidelkaFest”.: One Festival – 10 Cities in Bessarabia



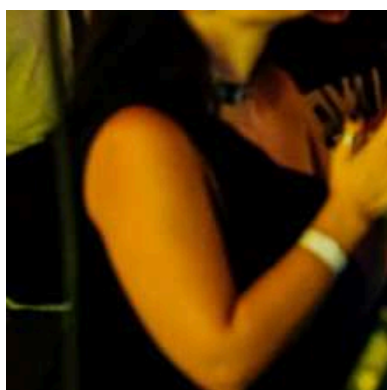
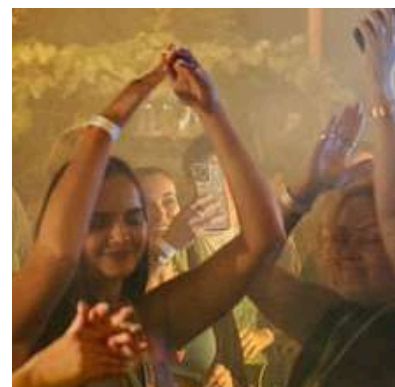
Alongside the main program in Odesa, “VidelkaFest” 2025 expanded into the region for the first time: special events took place in nine cities across Bessarabia—Vylkove, Kiliya, Izmail, Reni, Bolhrad, Tatarbunary, Sarata, Artsyz, and Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy. Founder Serhiy Hnezdilov explained the idea: instead of leaving the South, people should transform it from within.

The festival’s slogan—“Remember. Fight. Nurture”—has remained unchanged for the third year in a row.

During the debate “The Individual or the Community: Where to Find the Core of Resilience?”, participants concluded that these two approaches must be complementary—because without a resilient individual, there can be no resilient community, and vice versa.

PORT: The South’s first literary festival was launched in Odessa

In August 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the first PORT literary festival took place in Odesa under the theme “Coast of Freedom.” The team at the “Vyshyvanka Festival” NGO, which has been organizing major events in the city for 16 years, decided that the voice of the South in literature has long deserved its own platform. The program included meetings with authors, poetry readings and slams, workshops for young writers, and a book fair. Program Director Andriy Khaetskyi articulated the goal: “To make the coast a literary hero of contemporary Ukrainian culture.” The festival is planned to be an annual event.



Children from Kherson performed in a play about their experiences



With the support of the KRYLA Foundation, the KRYLA Foundation and the Kherson Academic Kulish Theater have launched a joint project titled “Margarita and the Bears,” based on a play by Irina Feofanova. The play tells the story of an eight-year-old girl who flees from Nova Kakhovka—flooded after the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant was blown up—to Przemyśl, Poland, where she finds bronze teddy bears that come to life at night and help her understand: the past will not return, but there is a present and a future. The sole adult role is played by actress Olga Krylova; the roles of Margarita and the bears are performed by 13 children from Kherson, selected through auditions.

“The 20 Best Short Stories of the New Ukraine,, as selected by Zaluzhny and Andrukhovych

In November 2025, the Foundation and Radio NV launched a joint project titled “The 20 Best Short Stories of the New Ukraine”—an audio collection of twenty works of fiction that best capture the spirit and mood of the era. The works were selected by a distinguished jury headed by writer Oksana Shchur; among the criteria were a vivid voice, precision, and the ability to help Ukrainians hear themselves and find meaning. The authors include Zabuzhko, Zhadan, Andrukhovych, Kalytko, Malyarchuk, Puzik, and Chekh.

“{Not} a Utopia: What If...” – an exhibition in memory of the people of Mariupol in Zaporizhzhia

From September to November 2025, at the “Unbreakable Hub” in Zaporizhzhia, with support from the Foundation, the Mariupol-based independent cultural space Platform “TYU!” and the NGO “VYVEZEMO!” opened the exhibition “{Non}Utopia: What If...”. For a month, they collected memories from people who had become displaced and lost access to their “places of power”—courtyards, seas, parks, and streets that are now out of reach. Four invited artist-displaced persons from Mariupol creatively reimagined what was lost through the lens of a utopian future: what could have been, if only? Over 30 co-authors created seven multidisciplinary works.



The Chytomo Award 2024

The Foundation has once again partnered with the Chytomo Award—an annual prize recognizing outstanding achievements in book publishing. The winners in three categories were selected by an international jury that included representatives from the Frankfurt Book Fair, as well as the Czech and Polish book scenes. The winners were: Anton Martynov (“Laboratory,” “Trendsetter” category), Ukrainian PEN (“Ambassador of the Ukrainian Book”), and BaraBooka (“Book Initiative”).

Literary and volunteer trips to frontline regions



With support from the Ukrainian PEN Foundation, throughout 2025, Ukrainian PEN organized several literary volunteer trips as part of the “Unbreakable Libraries” program—a series that began in 2022 and has already included more than thirty-seven trips.

In June, the 34th trip covered the Dnipropetrovsk region—Petrykivka, Kremenchuk, Dnipro (where the Book Space festival was revived), Pavlohrad, Petropavlivka, and Shakhtarske, 70 kilometers from the front line. In August, the 35th trip set off for Zaporizhzhia on Independence Day—700 books were donated to local libraries, and two hours proved insufficient for discussions on decolonization and cognitive occupation. In November, the 37th trip brought Kateryna Kalytko, Vakhtang Kebuladze, Alima Aliyeva, and French journalist Nathalie Nougayrède to Poltava and Kharkiv—a house concert at “KnygoUkryttia” drew a full house, and the audience lingered long after it ended. At the same time, as part of the “Merezhivo. Literary Journeys” project, PEN visited Varash and Sarny in Polissya.



“People of the Color of Freedom,,: A Film About Nonviolent Resistance Under Occupation

In December 2025, the documentary film *People of the Color of Freedom* was released. It was produced by the NGO “Tuteshni” with support from the Foundation as part of the “Impulse” project. The film documents the nonviolent resistance of Ukrainians in the temporarily occupied territories—from 2014 to the present. The team collected audio testimonies through secure channels from people living under occupation in Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Melitopol, and Kherson. Activists from the “Yellow Ribbon” and “Zla Mavka” movements, people who secretly teach the Ukrainian language, paint signs and yellow-and-blue flags, preserve traditions, and maintain ties with Ukraine despite the occupation regime.

Guide: “12 Steps to Understanding the Identity of a Nation-State,,



In September 2025, with the support of the Foundation and coordination by the NGO “Institute of Ukrainian Culture,” Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv presented the guide “12 Steps to Understanding the Identity of a Nation-State” — a systematic overview of over 200 key concepts and studies in the field of group identities, nationalism, and related topics. The document is intended for policymakers, educators, and anyone involved in shaping civic and national identity.

“Baba Yelka,, in Kropyvnytskyi: Tradition as the Foundation of Resilience

Throughout 2025, the NGO “Baba Yelka,” with support from the Foundation and “Bread for the World,” as part of the “Sustainability Lab,” implemented the “Baba Yelka’s Box” project in Kropyvnytskyi—300 educational boxes for the city’s kindergartens and elementary schools, filled with materials collected during folklore and ethnographic expeditions throughout the Kirovohrad region. Each box contains puzzles featuring the Korifei Theater, a pouch with patterns from local towels, postcards with pysanky, a songbook, and a flash drive with video tutorials.

Scholarship Competition for Vloggers

In June 2025, the Foundation announced the winners of the fourth scholarship competition for video bloggers. This time, the focus was on content creators for teenage and young adult audiences who explore issues of identity, decolonization, and challenging imperial narratives. Out of 157 applications submitted, 12 projects were selected: WAS Popular History, Animarody, Real History, The Damned Rationalist, Basic History, Dark Rebel, UT-2, Blue Lizard, UKULTURA, Director of History, katernynka_katernynka, codex_crimaeanicus.



Cultural Heritage Fund: Concept Presented in Florence



On June 20, 2025, an expert seminar was held in Florence with the support of the Foundation and the ERSTE Foundation to prepare for the Conference on the Reconstruction of Ukraine in Rome—dedicated to the concept of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Fund. This institution is proposed to be established as a transparent and effective tool for financing the restoration of cultural sites damaged by the war. The seminar brought together government officials, heads of cultural foundations, international donors, and experts from EU countries and Ukraine.

“The Dnipro Region: The Ukrainian Spirit,, – Reclaiming Memory Through a Book

In November 2025, the Yaroslav the Wise National Library, with the support of the Foundation, hosted the presentation of the book *Prydinetsia: The Ukrainian Character*—a comprehensive encyclopedic narrative by Semen Pertsovskiy, a Distinguished Journalist of Ukraine, published with the support of the “Siverskyi Donets” Crisis Media Center. The book covers the entire history of the region—from ancient times to October 2025—and refutes Russian narratives portraying eastern Ukraine as inherently “non-Ukrainian” territory.

Free consultations for young civil society organizations working with internally displaced persons

Since the beginning of 2025, with the support of the Horizon of Change Foundation, we have been providing free consultations to volunteer initiatives and civil society organizations registered no more than five years ago, whose primary activities focus on working with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable groups. The consultations cover three areas: writing grant applications, legal issues related to the registration and operation of NGOs, and accounting support.

A Discussion on Human Capital in Communities



In February 2025, at the annual Civil Society Development Forum organized by the Foundation, a discussion titled “Preserving Social Capital in Communities” took place—focusing on practical solutions that civil society organizations are finding in response to challenges related to employment, the integration of internally displaced persons, and youth engagement. The overall conclusion of the discussion was that human capital issues must be addressed at all levels—from local to national—by combining reskilling, advocacy, and tools of local democracy.

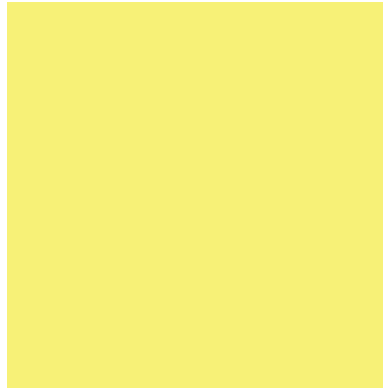
CSO Sustainability Index 2024



In July 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the UNCPD presented the 2024 Civil Society Organizations Sustainability Index. The overall score was 3.0 points, matching the 2023 level and reflecting stabilization despite challenging conditions. Overall, the index shows a positive long-term trend: civil society is strengthening its influence, successfully advocating for change, and maintaining its public image. Financial viability remains a weak point, although it improved slightly in 2024.

In addition to the report itself, the UNCPD, with the support of the Foundation, has developed a digital tool for conveniently tracking the index indicators over time—so that the data is accessible not only to researchers but also to the organizations and government bodies themselves. Oleksiy Orlovsky, Director of the Foundation’s “Democratic Practice” program initiative, emphasized at the presentation: the Foundation’s key interest is in tracking the extent to which civil society is able to influence the government and remain resilient in its role.





Reintegration of Veterans

There are now more than 1.3 million veterans and military personnel in Ukraine. Together with their families, this community numbers at least 5 million people—nearly one-sixth of the population. The Foundation has been supporting the veteran community since 2014 and is one of the most consistent donors in this field. The Foundation’s approach is not to single out veterans as a special group, but to involve them in democratic processes and the country’s recovery as full-fledged participants.

Why is this important?

The reintegration of veterans is a societal necessity. Without quality support, transparent policies, and new legislation, the risk of marginalization and radicalization increases. The Foundation tackles complex issues that are often overlooked: from protecting the rights of veterans in conflict with the law to providing social support. Veterans’ policy must be fair, people-centered, and linked to broader processes of recovery and European integration.

Наші пріоритети



Protecting the Rights of Veterans



Veterans in the recovery process



Access to quality support



Combating marginalization and radicalization



Working with veterans' organizations

Veterans' organizations are not only service providers but also agents of change in society. They are the first to recognize the real needs of those returning from the front lines, and the first to find solutions when the government has not yet had time to formulate a systematic response. Without their work, thousands of veterans and their families would be left without support, advocacy, or simply human companionship. For the Foundation, supporting veterans' organizations is a strategic priority: by building their capacity, the Foundation strengthens not only individual initiatives but also a civil society capable of influencing the development of veterans' policy and holding the state accountable to those who defended the country.

“Let’s Keep the Ranks Strong,,: Fourth Round of Grants for Veterans’ Organizations

In 2025, the Foundation announced the fourth round of the annual “Let’s Keep the Ranks” competition—a grant program for veterans' organizations that has been running since 2023. The competition has five priority areas: developing and implementing local reintegration tools and preparing communities for the return of veterans; supporting families—those who are waiting, as well as the families of those killed in action and missing in action; establishing and developing veteran spaces and hubs; establishing constructive interaction between the veteran community and the state; as well as legal, social, and psychological services for those affected by the war.

Grant amounts range from 800,000 to 1.2 million hryvnias. Following the results of the fourth round, several dozen organizations from various regions received support. A separate group of eight organizations was supported as part of the “Joining the EU Together” initiative.

Projects include comprehensive support for veterans and their families, psychosocial assistance for those released from captivity, support for equal rights for LGBTQ+ military personnel, and communication initiatives aimed at improving interaction between veterans and the state.

Health Care and Rehabilitation for Veterans

For the Foundation, supporting veteran rehabilitation is part of a broader commitment to the idea that the successful reintegration of service members into active civilian life is essential to the country's social stability. The Foundation supports both practical tools and systematic analysis of the gaps that prevent veterans from receiving the assistance they need.

“Peer-to-Peer,: Master Classes on Post-Amputation Rehabilitation



Throughout 2025, with the support of the Fund, Oleksandr Tereshchenko's International Charitable Foundation implemented the project “Peer-to-Peer: Support for Veterans with Amputations.” The main idea was to share experiences not through abstract motivation, but through concrete, practical advice from those who had undergone rehabilitation themselves. Tereshchenko, who has lived without his right arm and with partial loss of his left since 2014 following an injury at Donetsk Airport, became the lead trainer for a series of workshops held in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and universities.

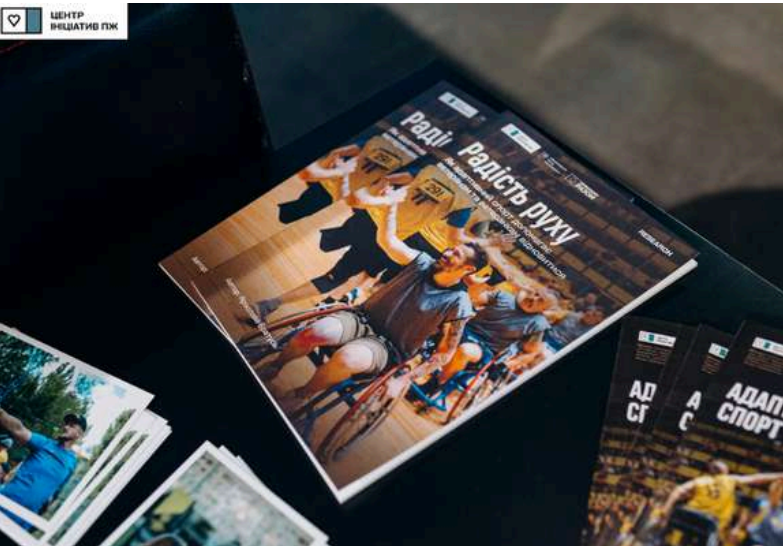
The results include 13 events in Kyiv, Odesa, Dnipro, Lviv, and Ivano-Frankivsk regions; two practical tools (“Self-Reliance Guide” and “Quest for Independence”); and the closed Hook Brothers community for veterans with double amputations, which already has 20 members and continues to grow. Separately, we're offering training for students and practitioners of occupational and physical therapy who will help shape the rehabilitation system.

Veterans with disabilities are getting back behind the wheel

More than 20,000 veterans in Ukraine face mobility challenges due to serious injuries. For many of them, the inability to drive independently is a real barrier to employment and a fulfilling life. In 2025, with support from the Nesemos Fund, the “Mobility Without Limits” project will be implemented: in a specialized workshop in Kyiv, cars are being retrofitted to meet the individual needs of drivers—from hand controls and adapted pedals to comfortable seats. At the same time, the project is training specialists and developing educational materials so that the initiative can be scaled up through civil society organizations and local communities.



“Come Back Alive,,: Adaptive Sports as a Tool for Recovery



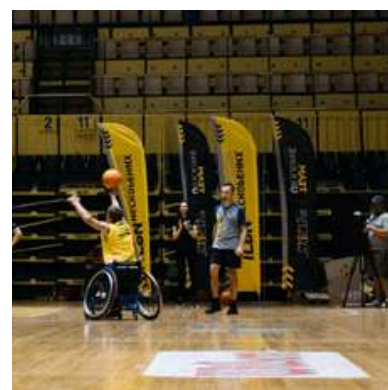
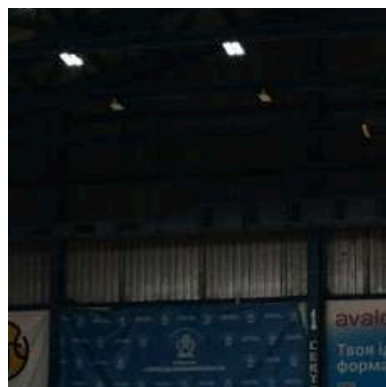
In February 2025, the Veterans Department of the “Come Back Alive” Initiative Center, with support from the Foundation and the EU, published a study titled “The Joy of Movement: How Adaptive Sports Help Veterans Recover.” The document is the first systematic analysis of the prevalence of adaptive sports in Ukraine and its impact on the physical and psychological health of veterans. The conclusion is clear: physical activity really helps, but access to it is unequal—it depends on the region, financial means, and level of awareness.

At the time of publication, over 150 gyms had joined the “Veteran Sports” program. The study’s author, Yaroslava Bratus, emphasizes: adaptive sports are not an obligation for everyone, but an option that should be made as accessible as possible.

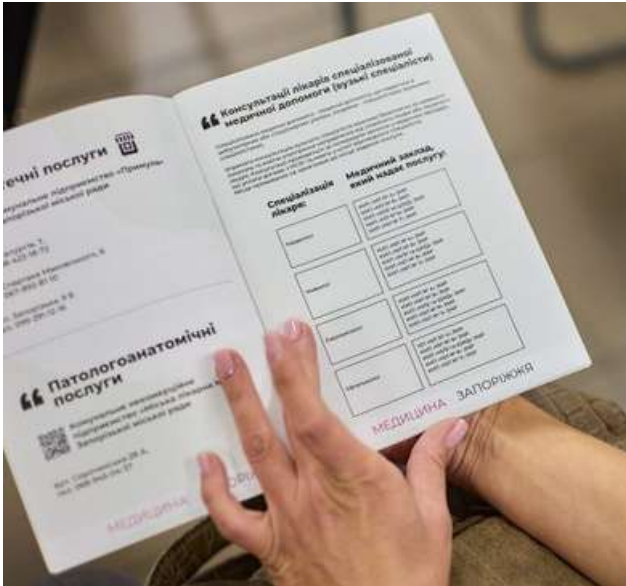
“Voice of Darkness,,: Training Specialists to Work with Blind Veterans

In September 2025, the “Modern Perspective” Public Association, with support from the Foundation and the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, launched training sessions for professionals working with veterans who have visual impairments. The first series covered communities in the Chernihiv region—more than ten local councils, whose representatives gathered for an online meeting.

Participants discussed the specifics of working with veterans after vision loss: the characteristics of traumatic impairments, psychological stages of adaptation, and breaking down stereotypes.



Guide to Medical Services in Zaporizhzhia



In October 2025, with the support of the Rubicon Volya Charitable Foundation, the Zaporizhzhia City Council’s Department of Health presented an updated “Guide to Medical Services”—a practical reference guide on what free medical care is available in the city. A survey revealed that 26.7% of residents are completely unaware of which services are free, while another 43% have only a general idea.

The guide covers primary and specialized care, physical rehabilitation, psychological support, pediatric care, renal replacement therapy, and palliative care—complete with contact information and QR codes for medical facilities. It is intended not only for veterans but also for IDPs and all residents of Zaporizhzhia for whom the city has become a new home.



MIPL: Patients Are Being Sent to the Front Through “Blind Spots,” in the Medical Examination Commission



In June 2025, the Media Initiative for Human Rights, with support from the Foundation, presented an analytical report titled “Blind Spots of the Military Medical Commissions,” which documents systemic flaws in the work of military medical commissions.

Despite the expansion of the MDC network from 729 to 1,041 commissions, there is no effective oversight of their work: the Ministry of Health does not maintain centralized statistics on the decisions of ad hoc commissions, and spending per person amounts to only 197 hryvnias in 2025—too little even for mandatory tests. Due to the acceleration of procedures to two or three days instead of ten, people with serious diagnoses—HIV, tuberculosis, and mental disorders—are being sent to combat units.

Combat medic Kateryna Tsymbolynets cited specific cases: conscripts with multiple personality disorder and intellectual disabilities who had to be identified on the front lines. The Ministry of Internal Affairs recommends establishing a reporting system, conducting an audit of commission decisions, and ensuring separate monitoring for individuals on substitution therapy and under psychiatric supervision.

Social reintegration of veterans

The Foundation supports initiatives that assist veterans and their families at various stages of the reintegration process—from psychological rehabilitation and adaptive sports to digital skills and career counseling. This work lies at the intersection of the personal and the public: every successfully reintegrated veteran is both a person restored to full life and a contribution to the country's ability to navigate its own recovery.

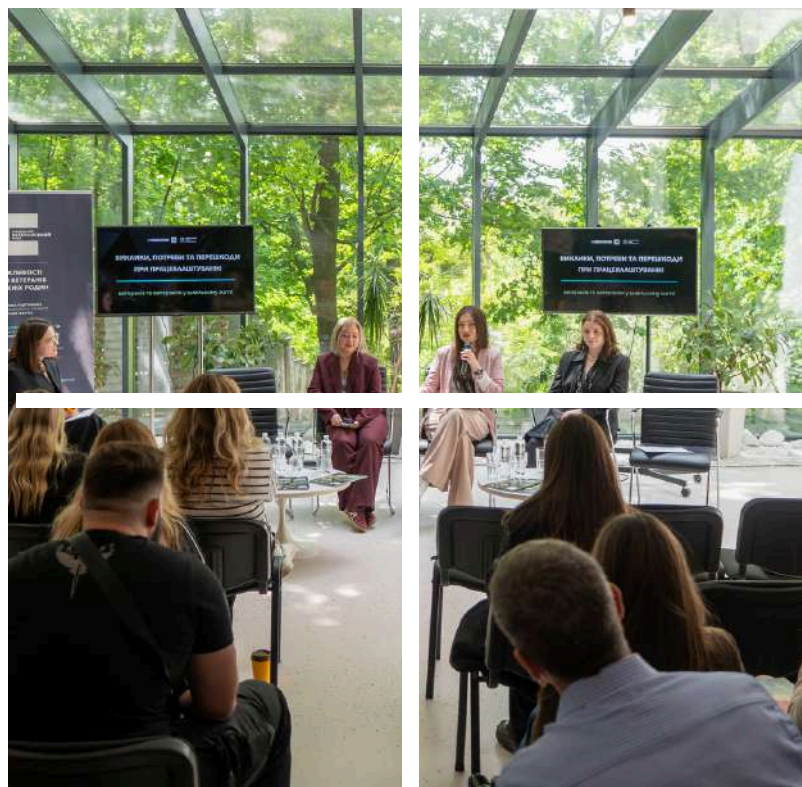


Study: Why Veterans Struggle to Find Work and What Can Be Done About It

In July 2025, the Democratic Initiatives Foundation, commissioned by the Ukrainian Veterans Fund and with the support of the Foundation, published a study titled “Challenges, Needs, and Barriers to the Employment of Male and Female Veterans in Civilian Life.” The document is based on five focus groups with veterans and twelve in-depth interviews with employers from small, medium, and large businesses.

The identified issues affect both sides: veterans face difficulties “translating” their military experience into civilian terms, psychological stress from changing roles, and a lack of understanding of the labor market; employers face a lack of knowledge about how to adapt the workplace and communicate with people who have specific experience.

Researchers recommend introducing a program similar to the U.S. GI Bill, establishing business incubators for veterans, expanding existing educational partnerships between universities and the business sector, and encouraging the hiring of veterans through tax incentives.



“The Circle of Strength,”: Group Therapy for Captivity Survivors



From September to November 2025, the Ukrainian Association of Wounded Soldiers “The Strong 300,” with support from the Foundation, conducted a three-month group psychological support program called “The Circle of the Strong” in Kyiv for soldiers who had survived captivity. According to psychologists, one in five defenders requires comprehensive rehabilitation after captivity, and standard individual psychological counseling often proves ineffective—the gap between the specialist and the person who has survived captivity is simply too wide.

Therefore, the project’s psychologist is a serving military officer with relevant professional training: it is the environment “among peers” and similar personal experiences that create the conditions for deeper recovery. The program included group meetings, field trips, and interactions with veterans who have already returned to active civilian life.



The Veteran Leadership Program in the UK: Veterans Learn to Change the Country



In September 2025, with support from the Foundation and the Dutch government’s MATRA program, the CHESNO Movement held the first international module of the Veteran Leadership Program—a five-day training session at the University of Warwick and in London for 15 Ukrainian veterans. Lectures were delivered by British academics, veterans’ policy researchers, and business representatives—some of whom are veterans themselves.

Topics covered leadership, conflict resolution, community engagement, career transition, and evidence-based veterans’ policies. According to the participants, the British partners were just as interested in hearing about the Ukrainian experience as they were in sharing their own—and this made the training a truly equal exchange. As one of the participants, Taras Kovalik, noted: “It was as if we had traveled to a future that hasn’t yet arrived here.”





The “Veteran Career,” video course and platform for re-entry into the workforce

In May 2025, the Ukrainian Veterans Fund, under the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and with the support of the Fund, launched two interconnected tools for the employment reintegration of veterans. The first is the online platform “Veteran’s Career” (work.veteranfund.com.ua): a digital service featuring a job database, assistance with resume writing, and guidance on transforming military experience into competitive advantages in the job market, as well as an opportunity for employers to find candidates and access training materials. The second is a free 12-lesson video course by Anna-Maria Sabov, HR Director at Netpeak Group: covering everything from labor market analysis and resume building to adapting to a civilian workplace, emotional management, and leadership. Olga Galchenko, manager of the Foundation’s “Civic Resilience” program, explained the key rationale behind the support: a successfully employed veteran contributes not only to their own well-being but also to demographic stability, European integration, and the country’s recovery.

Digital literacy as a tool for independence

In October 2025, Veterans HUB ODESA, with support from the Foundation and the EU, held a digital literacy training session for veterans. The main idea is that the ability to use government online services, BankID, electronic signatures, and telemedicine platforms is not a technical issue, but a matter of true independence—especially for veterans with limited mobility or those living far from regional centers.

Digital literacy means access to pensions, rehabilitation, medical records, and legal consultations without unnecessary travel, queues, and bureaucratic hurdles.

Career Day in Ivano-Frankivsk: Veterans and Employers Together

In February 2025, with support from the Lobby X Foundation, Veteran Hub, the “Veteranicyvili Petros” space, and “Teple Misto,” a Career Day was organized in Ivano-Frankivsk at the Promprylad space. The event combined a training session for veterans titled “How to Get Your Dream Job After Service,” a training session for employers titled “Tools for Effective and Inclusive Collaboration with Veterans,” speed interviews, and career counseling.

The format reflects the essence of the problem: it is not enough to help veterans find work—employers must simultaneously be prepared to hire and retain such employees.



A Rafting Retreat in Podillia: Healing Through Movement and Community



During the summer and fall of 2025, Vinnytsia’s “Veterans’ Space,” with support from the Foundation and the EU, organized five river rafting retreats for veterans on the rivers of Podillia. This format is neither tourism nor standard group therapy, but something in between: physical activity, the natural environment, small-group interaction, sessions with a psychologist, and classes with a rehabilitation specialist.

The organizers emphasize: recovery after the front lines can look exactly like this—through overcoming small challenges together, around a shared campfire, during long nighttime conversations, and through the realization that a comrade is needed not only in the trenches. The private chat group for participants of each rafting trip continues to thrive even after they return home—which is an achievement in itself.



“Bugurt Sich,,: Knightly Combat as an Adaptive Sport and Rehabilitation

Since October 2023, the NGO “Bugurt Sich,” with support from the Foundation, has been developing bugurt—medieval team knightly combat—as an adaptive sport and a method of psychological rehabilitation for military personnel, veterans, and civilians. The essence of the approach: controlled physical activity in protective gear helps “release” aggression, reduce anxiety levels, and restore a sense of bodily control.

People with amputations and those who use wheelchairs also participate in regular training sessions. In August 2025, “Bugurt Sich” held an open workshop in Ivano-Frankivsk’s city park: over forty registered participants—from children to adults—tried their hand at duels and team battles. Together with the coaches, the project published a guidebook titled “The Way of the Sword”—with recommendations for organizations that want to implement bugurt as an inclusive tool for rehabilitation in their communities.



“Multiple Experiences of War,,: The YARMIZ Center is creating a space for dialogue



In December 2025, the YARMIZ Readaptation and Rehabilitation Center, with support from the Foundation and the EU, held a thematic discussion titled “Multiple Experiences of War: A Territory of Contact.”

The event brought together representatives of various groups whose daily lives are connected to the war in one way or another: psychological support officers from the Armed Forces of Ukraine, leaders of veteran communities, psychologists, a war correspondent, and the Fund’s manager. The central idea: each of these groups experiences the war in its own way, and misunderstandings between them are frequent and painful. The only path to cooperation is to acknowledge the differences in experiences and learn to talk about one’s own boundaries and needs without devaluing others.

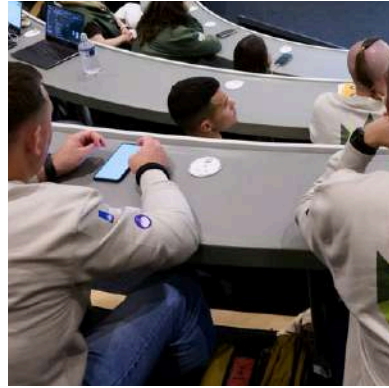
The discussion grew out of an earlier YARMIZ project, “Together Through Trials,” aimed at establishing communication between military personnel, their families, and psychologists. The Center plans to continue such meetings—as a space for honest dialogue and the formation of a culture of mutual respect, which Ukraine needs right now.

“Kharkiv – City of Cyborgs,,: Rehabilitation for the Families of the Wounded and Fallen

In February 2025, the “Kharkiv – City of Cyborgs” program was launched in Kharkiv with the support of the Fund, implemented by the “Citizen” Charitable Foundation. What sets it apart is its focus: not on the wounded or fallen themselves, but on their families, who often become exhausted themselves in the process of supporting a loved one and are left neglected. Before beginning rehabilitation, each program participant undergoes an evaluation by medical professionals—including a psychologist—and, based on the findings, receives a personalized plan: some require physical rehabilitation, while others need mental health support. The approach is not limited to sports or standard group sessions—it is comprehensive and based on the principle of self-rehabilitation: restoring a person’s sense of their own capabilities.

“Unfinished,,: a project that preserves the memory of deceased artists

“Unfinished” is a project that documents the names of figures in the Ukrainian cultural scene who have lost their lives due to Russian aggression: authors, editors, illustrators, critics, typesetters—everyone who keeps literature alive. The list currently includes over 260 names and continues to grow. Project initiator Olena Herasyuk began compiling these names together with Yevhen Lir after the start of the full-scale invasion. Based on the project, the performance “Echoes”—ten poems featuring quotes from the deceased authors—was created, as well as the “Wall of Remembrance,” which first appeared at the Frankfurt Book Fair and will soon be presented in Japan.



Systemic measures to reform veterans' policy

Targeted assistance to individual veterans is important, but it is not enough. Systemic changes are needed—new legislation, new institutional mechanisms, trained personnel, and coordination between the government, communities, and civil society. The Foundation supports work specifically at this level: analyzing gaps in veteran policy, advocating for legislative changes, establishing interagency cooperation, and developing a shared vision of what this system should look like.

Veterans in the justice system – an invisible problem

Throughout September 2025, the NGO “L.I.I.D. Foundation,” with support from the Fund and the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, held two roundtable discussions—one on the identification of veterans within the justice system in general, and another specifically regarding the probation system. The crux of the problem: when a veteran enters the justice system as a defendant, suspect, or even a victim, no one automatically records their veteran status. There is no standardized terminology, no statistics, and no specialized approaches. This means that a person with combat experience, who may require a rehabilitative rather than punitive approach, is subjected to standard procedures—without any consideration of what they have been through.

The participants emphasized that identifying veterans in the probation system is key to their reintegration into society and reducing recidivism. Olga Galchenko, the Foundation’s program manager, stressed that not all veterans follow the same path, and that it is the state’s responsibility to prepare for meaningful engagement with those who find themselves in difficult circumstances.



“#OnOurTerms,: The Coriolis Institute Puts Veterans at the Center of Policy Making

In June 2025, the American University of Kyiv, with the support of the Foundation, hosted the closing event of a series of workshops organized by the Coriolis Institute—a U.S.-based think tank that has been studying the reintegration of veterans in Ukraine for two years. Prior to this, workshops were held in Kharkiv, Lviv, and Kyiv—with the direct participation of the veterans themselves. The final conference brought together veterans, representatives of international organizations, U.S. companies operating in Ukraine, and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.



Key messages from participants: reintegration is a profound personal transformation, not merely a set of services; the government too often meets veterans with disappointment rather than support; and the veteran community is extremely diverse, so approaching it with a one-size-fits-all approach is a mistake. Based on the findings, the Coriolis Institute will prepare a comprehensive analytical report with recommendations for shaping veteran policy based on real-world experience.



Police and Veterans: Training for Law Enforcement Officers



In June 2025, with the support of the Fund and the All-Ukrainian Charitable Organization “Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation,” a meeting of law enforcement officials was held in Vinnytsia, focusing on police interaction with veterans. Participants discussed regulatory changes in the field of veteran policy and methods for working with people who have experienced trauma, and practiced art therapy techniques and methods for strengthening psycho-emotional resilience.

Foreign defenders have been granted UBD status and a legal guide

In November 2025, a presentation of the Legal Navigator for foreign military personnel was held in Kyiv with the support of the Foundation. This online resource explains the conditions for obtaining legal status, as well as access to social benefits and services for those who defend Ukraine without holding Ukrainian citizenship. A symbolic highlight of the event was the first-ever presentation of combatant certificates to foreign military personnel serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The Navigator was released in three languages—English, Spanish, and Portuguese—reflecting the diverse origins of those fighting alongside Ukrainians.

A false status as a person with special needs deprives families of their rights and dignity.



In September 2025, the IHRC, with support from the Foundation, published an analytical report titled “Between Disappearance and AWOL” – the first comprehensive study of the problem of the erroneous designation of “absent without leave” status for military personnel who have in fact gone missing, been taken prisoner, or killed in action.

Such cases are not isolated: a person may be confirmed as a prisoner of war by the International Committee of the Red Cross, yet at the same time officially classified as AWOL by their own unit. The consequences for families are severe: no benefits, no legal protection, and a stigma that cannot be challenged. The IHRC calls for granting families the right to challenge the AWP status, introducing mandatory verification through the National Information Bureau before assigning it, and increasing commanders’ accountability for erroneous designations.

Communities are learning how to help veterans struggling with addiction



In 2025, with the support of the Foundation and the Special Operations Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the documentary film *People of the Color of Freedom* was released—the result of a year-long effort by the NGO “Tuteshni,” screenwriter and producer Anna Slyusarenko, and director Lyudmila Melnik. The film tells the story of nonviolent resistance by Ukrainian civilians in the temporarily occupied territories—from 2014 to the present: about the “Yellow Ribbon” and “Evil Fairy” movements, and about people from Henichesk, Donetsk, Melitopol, Alchevsk, and Simferopol who choose resistance every day. The pre-premiere screening took place on June 30 at the World War II Museum in Kyiv—some of the film’s protagonists attended.

The screening was accompanied by an exhibition of portraits of women imprisoned for their pro-Ukrainian stance, with the charitable aim of raising funds to help those who have returned from captivity. In December 2025, the film was released in the “Planeta Kino” cinema chain.



“Communities for Veterans,, – A Year of Systematic Efforts Across Ukraine



In 2025, the All-Ukrainian Association of Communities, with the support of the Foundation, implemented the project “Communities for Veterans: Strengthening the Capacity of the Local Self-Government System in the Veterans’ Sector” for the second consecutive year, in partnership with the NGO “Space of Opportunities” and the Coalition of Veterans’ Spaces. Over the course of the year, two major on-site dialogue events were held—in the Carpathian region and Cherkasy region—with the participation of over 70 community leaders and a total of more than 200 participants, as well as two nationwide informational events, each of which drew up to 1,000 people.

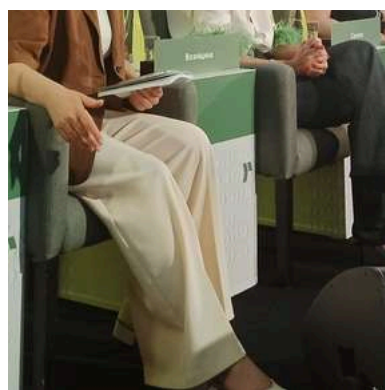
The VAG Committee on Veterans’ Affairs held four meetings; it comprises 50 experts, and its subcommittees worked on draft laws—on specialists supporting veterans, on the transition to civilian life, and are currently involved in drafting the Code on Defenders of Ukraine. The final event in December 2025 brought together nearly 800 participants from all regions.

4th All-Ukrainian Dialogue “Communities for Veterans 2025,,

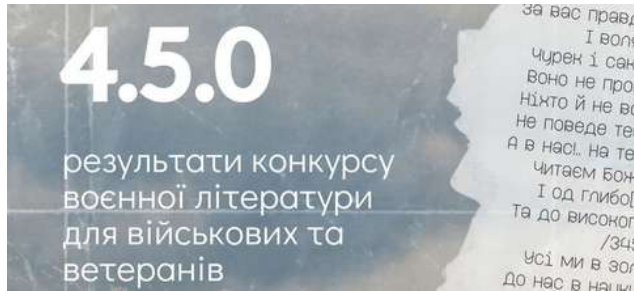
In June 2025, with support from the Foundation and the EU, the fourth annual All-Ukrainian “Communities for Veterans” Dialogue took place—a joint initiative of “Space of Opportunities,” “Warm City,” and the Coalition of Veterans’ Spaces. The theme of this year’s dialogue was a comprehensive support system for military personnel, veterans, and their families: how it is structured and what is needed for its full implementation.

Important context: the decisions announced at the previous three dialogues have already resulted in tangible changes—specifically, as of August 2024, a new profession, “Specialist in Support for Veterans and Demobilized Persons,” has been established in Ukraine, and support services are being introduced in military units and hospitals.

This confirms that this format of public dialogue between the state, communities, and civil society has a real impact on veteran policy.



“4.5.0., Military Literature Contest: 190 Submissions from Those Who Fight and Write



In December 2025, the Foundation announced the winners of the second edition of its military literature contest, “4.5.0.”—a platform where the voices of service members and veterans are captured in literary form. The competition’s title refers to the article in the Criminal Code regarding desertion—a symbolic gesture toward those who write rather than remain silent.

This year, 190 submissions were received from 176 authors across four genres: poetry, short stories, essays, and diaries. All texts were evaluated anonymously—the jury, consisting of writers, military personnel, and literary scholars (Yevhen Lir, Olena Herasyuk, Pavlo Vyshebababa, Alina Sarnatska, Volodymyr Yermolenko, Rostyslav Semkiv), did not know the authors’ names and focused exclusively on the quality of the texts. The first-place winners in each category received a cash prize of 45,000 hryvnias, and following the competition, a separate anthology of war literature will be published—the anthology based on the results of the first iteration in 2024 will be released by Vydavnytstvo Staroho Leva in the first half of 2026.

For the “4.5.0.” Foundation, this is not only a cultural project but also a way to document the experiences of those at war: through literature, which outlives any official report.

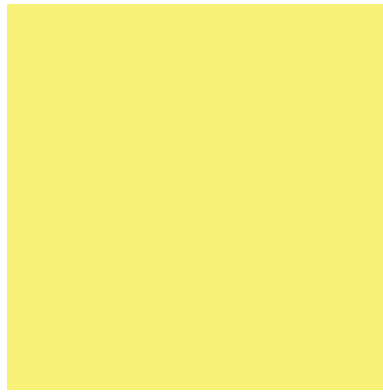
“Outpost of the Future,,: Ukrainian PEN Introduces Future Service Members to Ukrainian Culture



Since November 2024, Ukrainian PEN, in collaboration with the Center for Communication and Content Security and with the support of the Foundation, has been implementing the project “Outpost of the Future: Think, Influence, Win”—a series of meetings between cadets and students from military educational institutions and contemporary Ukrainian writers, intellectuals, journalists, and human rights defenders. The project includes the Heroes of Kruty Lyceum in Lviv, the Naval Lyceum in Odesa, and the Lyceum in Kamianets-Podilskyi. At the same time, the libraries of these institutions are being stocked with the best works of contemporary and classical Ukrainian literature.

Throughout 2024–2025, writers Polina Kulakova, Pavlo Derevianko, Svitlana Taratorina, Olia Rusina, Petro Yatsenko, Serhii Pantyuk, Valerii Korol, and others met with cadets and lyceum students. The project’s idea is simple yet important: young people who will swear allegiance to Ukraine must know and feel the culture of the country they are defending—and be able to resist the propaganda and disinformation that systematically seeks to destroy that culture.





European integration as a driver of reforms

Ukraine has identified EU accession as its top political priority, but real progress requires more than just declarations—it requires political will, coordinated action by the government and civil society, and tangible reforms. The government plans to meet all membership criteria by 2027. The Foundation supports independent think tanks that provide expert analysis and monitor the implementation of reforms, facilitates dialogue between Ukrainian and European experts, and helps communities understand what European integration means in practice.

Why is this important?

European integration must remain a priority for society as a whole—not just a topic for negotiators in Brussels. The Foundation explains how European standards impact people’s daily lives, supports local communities in partnering with sister communities in the EU, and helps local authorities engage with international programs. A separate focus is regional cooperation with civil society in Moldova, Georgia, and the Western Balkans to jointly promote EU enlargement.

Our priorities



Expert monitoring of negotiations



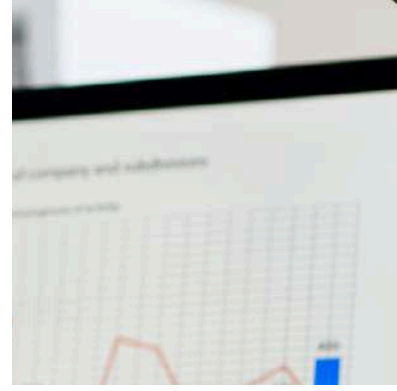
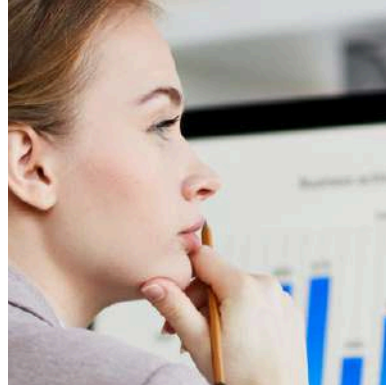
European integration at the local level



Support for public demand for EU membership



Communicating European Values



Sectoral Analysis and Readiness for Membership

European integration spans dozens of sectors—from agricultural policy and transportation to pharmaceuticals, finance, and the environment. The government is simply unable to effectively monitor progress in each of these sectors simultaneously, engage in dialogue with relevant communities, and prepare high-quality negotiating positions. This is precisely where civil society becomes indispensable. It knows the sector from the inside, sees the gaps between formal reports and the actual state of affairs, and is capable of translating abstract acquis norms into concrete steps for businesses and local authorities.

Involving civil society in negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the EU

In March 2025, the Foundation announced the results of the competition “Engaging Civil Society in Ukraine’s EU Accession Negotiations”—implemented as part of the “Joining the EU Together” project with the support of the European Union. Of the 100 applications submitted, 24 projects from 21 organizations received support. The competition aimed to ensure the meaningful participation of civil society in the negotiation process—not merely declarative, but through independent analysis, monitoring, and direct dialogue with stakeholders.

The selected projects cover a wide range of sectors related to Ukraine’s alignment with EU law: media and freedom of speech, the rights of persons with disabilities, taxation and customs, transportation, the environment and climate policy, waste management, fisheries, digital development, and open data.



Regulating AI in line with EU standards: an opportunity and a challenge for Ukraine

In December 2025, the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, with support from the Foundation and the EU, published a policy brief on the implementation of the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act) in Ukraine. The context is important: Ukraine ranks second in the region in terms of the number of AI companies—243 organizations—with a market valued at \$419 million and an industry employing over 5,200 qualified specialists. Upon receiving EU candidate status in 2022, Ukraine committed to aligning its legislation with the *acquis*, of which the AI Act is a part. This is not merely an accession requirement—it is a condition for Ukrainian developers to access the European market.

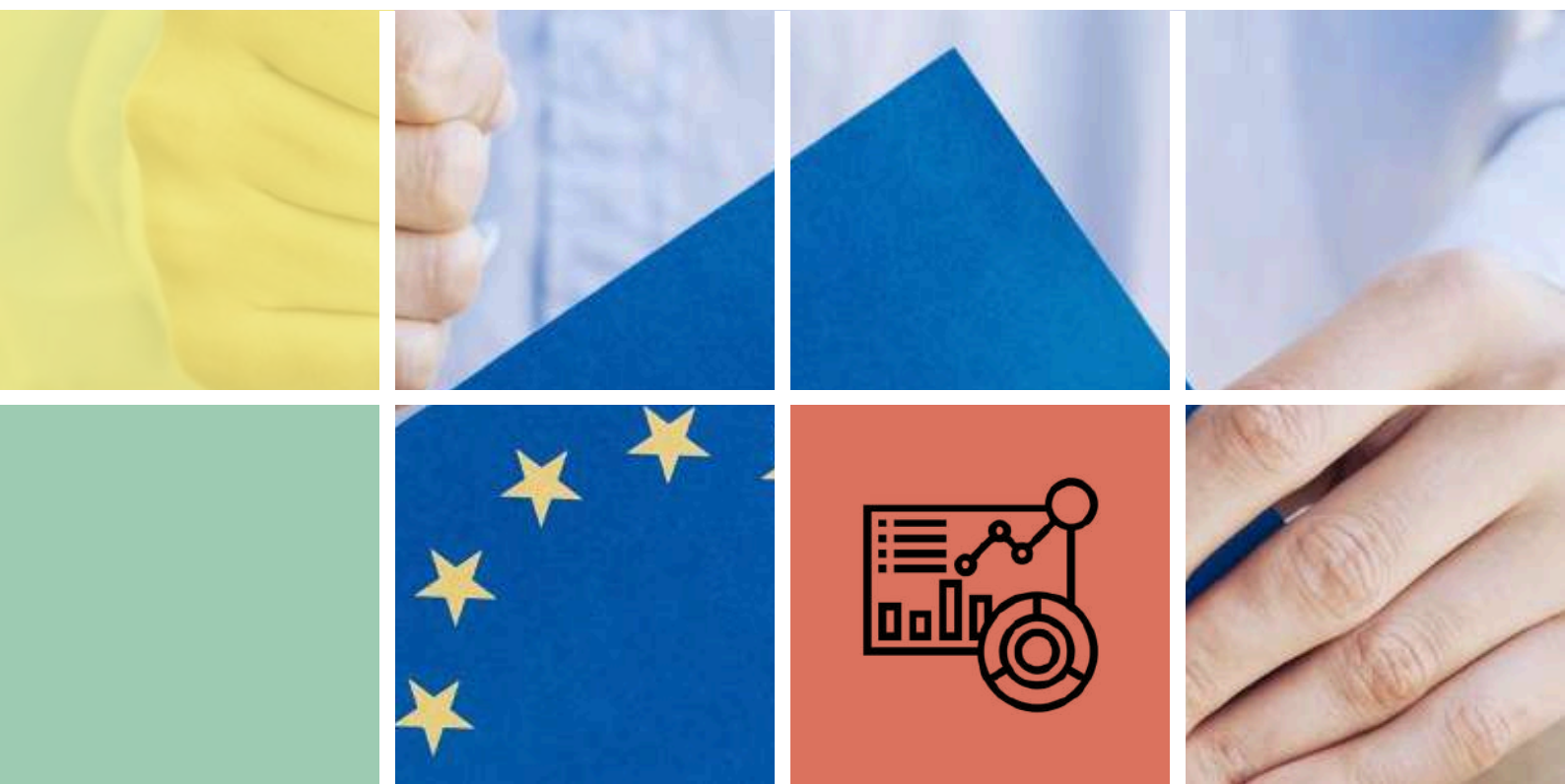
Research shows that implementation will require significant resources, especially from companies developing “high-risk” systems—in healthcare, education, fintech, or critical infrastructure. Therefore, researchers recommend avoiding premature regulation.

The State Fund for Regional Development as a Pilot Project in Preparation for EU Membership

In September 2025, with the support of the Fund, the Ukrainian Institute of International Politics held a forum titled “SRDF-2025: New Opportunities for Ukraine’s EU Membership.” The focus was on the State Fund for Regional Development, which had been on hold due to the war and began operating in 2025 as a pilot instrument for aligning with EU standards under Chapter 22.

Actual funding is modest—only 1 billion hryvnias per year and up to 50 million per project. But Verkhovna Rada Committee Chair Olena Shulyak, who spoke at the forum, explained the key idea: the goal is not the amounts, but mastering the model—transparent selection, public monitoring, accountability, and program-based management instead of funding individual projects.

Based on the results of the 2025 pilot, the government plans to adjust its approach and fully roll out the State Fund for Regional Development starting in 2026—with a target of 90 billion hryvnias by 2028.



Agricultural European integration amid the war



In March 2025, the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club published an analysis of the progress of Ukraine’s agricultural integration into the EU. The results show tangible progress: since 2022, the fulfillment of targets in the agricultural sector has increased from 63% to 74%, and in the areas of food safety, veterinary, and phytosanitary policy—from 72% to 83%. During this time, the land market was opened, a Partial Loan Guarantee Fund for farmers was established, and laws on geographical indications, the protection of plant variety rights, and seed production were adopted.

The visa-free travel agreement has saved Ukraine between \$13 billion and \$26 billion

In September 2025, Ukraine and the EU extended the “transport visa-free” regime until March 2027—it eliminates the need to obtain permits for bilateral and transit freight transport. The IER, with support from the Foundation and the EU, estimated that without this regime, the Ukrainian economy would have lost between \$13 billion and \$26 billion in 2022–2024. Due to the war, road transport has become the main channel for trade — accounting for 63% of trade with the EU.

“The Green Dossier,,: From Agricultural Analytics to Influencing EU Policy

Throughout 2025, the NGO “Green Dossier,” with support from the Foundation and the EU, worked systematically to ensure that Ukraine not only adapts to EU agricultural policy but also participates in shaping it.

In March, a discussion was held with 120 participants and representatives of the European Commission’s DG AGRI. In June, a discussion took place on ESG standards: it turned out that only 5% of Ukrainian companies are ready to report on sustainability, and 29% are hearing this concept for the first time. In September in Brussels, “Green Dossier” held two rounds of consultation meetings with the European Commission, the EESC, and partner NGOs to understand how to directly influence the shaping of the next Common Agricultural Policy through participation in advisory groups and public consultation mechanisms.

At the same time, the organization expanded beyond a purely agricultural agenda. In July, “Green Dossier” represented Ukraine at the 29th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention in Geneva, where it advocated for the need to more broadly involve non-agricultural stakeholders in the global dialogue on food. The statement was supported by the Aarhus Ecoforum and reflected in the draft final decisions.





Poland's experience as a roadmap for Ukraine's woodworking industry

In March 2025, the IED and the Warsaw Institute of Entrepreneurship, with support from the Foundation and OSF, published a sectoral report titled “Ukraine’s Path to the EU: The Polish Experience. The Woodworking Industry Sector.” Poland—the third-largest producer in the EU and the largest exporter of furniture (accounting for 19% of total European exports)—served as a natural reference point for analyzing what lies ahead for Ukraine on its path to the Single Market. The starting point is challenging: Ukraine’s forest cover stands at just 16%—one of the lowest rates in Europe, compared to the EU average of 39%—and approximately 3 million hectares of forest have been damaged by the war. At the same time, the sector demonstrates resilience and has real potential for growth.

For successful integration into the EU market, Ukraine needs to address several parallel challenges: harmonizing forestry legislation with EU standards—particularly regarding FSC and PEFC certification, combating illegal logging, and complying with FLEGT and EUDR regulations. This is outlined in the Ukraine Facility plan, with a deadline set for the second quarter of 2026.

“Green, Taxonomy: How Ukraine Is Transforming Public Investment

In April 2025, the DiXi Group, with support from the Foundation, held a discussion event on integrating climate and environmental criteria into Ukraine’s public investment management system. The EU Green Taxonomy is a classification system that determines which types of economic activities are sustainable. For Ukraine, its implementation is both a requirement for European integration and a practical tool for attracting green financing: in 2023, the volume of investments aligned with the taxonomy in the EU exceeded 250 billion euros.

In February 2025, the government adopted three resolutions that shift the public investment system from a reactive approach—“we build what donors propose”—to strategic planning based on the priorities of the state, regions, and communities. The key platform is DREAM, which connects applicants, managers, and monitoring into a single chain. At the same time, participants in the discussion highlighted a key problem: a shortage of ESG specialists and sustainable financing.



Railway European Integration and the Role of Citizenship

In September 2025, the “Western Ukrainian Resource Center” Foundation for the Development of Civil Society Organizations, with support from the Foundation and the EU, held a roundtable discussion at Lviv Polytechnic National University titled “Railway European Integration: Civic Participation in Shaping Ukraine’s Negotiating Position on EU Accession.”

The event brought together representatives of government agencies, Ukrzaliznytsia, the academic community, the business sector, Polish experts, and students in the master’s program in railway transport. Participants discussed the harmonization of legislation with the EU acquis in the railway sector, safety and interoperability standards, Poland’s experience, and the role of civil society in shaping the negotiating position.

The integration of the railway system into the EU is not merely a technical modernization of tracks and rolling stock, but a transformation of the entire system: rules, market model, personnel, and management culture. The participation of the academic community and students in such discussions signals that preparations for these changes have already begun.

Implementing TEN-T road standards will cost Ukraine 110 billion euros and take 25 years

In July 2025, the IED, with support from the Fund and the EU, published a policy brief on the cost of bringing Ukraine’s transport infrastructure up to EU standards. Reconstructing the core TEN-T network will require approximately 71 billion euros. Upgrading the extended network—2,619 km of regional and border routes—will cost another 39 billion euros. The total cost exceeds 110 billion euros, with implementation scheduled for 2047–2050. These figures do not include bridges, tunnels, interchanges, and environmental measures. However, even this baseline estimate demonstrates the scale of the task and enables planning for the mobilization of funds from the CEF, EIB, EBRD, and other international partners.

Ukraine needs a new pharmaceutical regulator that meets EU standards

In March 2025, the IED and the Warsaw Institute of Entrepreneurship, with support from the Foundation and OSF, published an industry report titled “Ukraine’s Path to the EU: The Polish Experience—The Pharmaceutical Sector.” The context is challenging: pharmaceutical sales in Ukraine fell by 20% from 2021 to 2023—to \$4 billion—while domestic production meets only 37% of demand in monetary terms. Key conclusion: Ukraine must establish a new pharmaceutical regulatory body with mutual recognition agreements with EU bodies and individual member states—based on the Polish model. Without this, neither obtaining certificates for entry into the EU market nor ensuring the actual quality and safety of medicines is possible.

Antitrust reform in line with EU standards

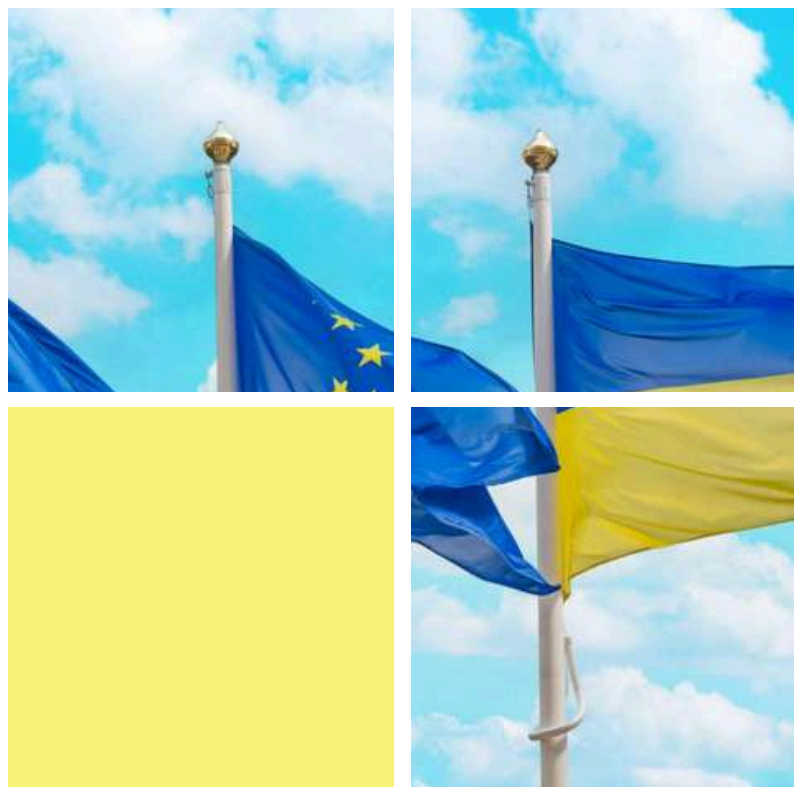
In September 2025, the IED, with support from the Foundation and the EU, published a study titled “The Development of Ukraine’s Competition Policy in Line with EU Standards and Rules.” The main conclusion: full implementation of EU Regulation No. 1/2003 on antitrust policy would save consumers between 1.1 and 1.8 billion euros annually—or 0.6–1% of GDP. The impact will affect several key sectors: in the energy sector—greater competition among suppliers and lower markups in tariffs; in the pharmaceutical sector—more transparent tenders and access to cheaper medicines; in the agricultural sector—less dependence on large holding companies and easier market entry; in public procurement—countering cartel collusion that systematically inflates the cost of infrastructure projects.

To realize this potential, Ukraine needs specific changes: expanding the powers of the AMCU—in particular, the right to conduct unannounced inspections and seize documents; shifting from mandatory prior approval of coordinated actions by companies to post-facto review; and clear rules for imposing fines. Researchers also note that legislation alone is not enough—the reform will only work if there are independent courts, adequate funding for the AMCU, and the political will to combat anti-competitive practices.

The New European Border: Why Ukraine Matters Now

In April 2025, the Center for Economic Strategy, with support from the Foundation, prepared a report titled “The New European Border: Why Is Ukraine Important Now?” based on Mario Draghi’s “EU Competitiveness Compass.” The document refutes the narrative prevalent in Brussels that Ukraine is solely a recipient of aid and demonstrates that Ukraine’s integration into the EU is a strategic opportunity for the EU itself. First, 41 million consumers and a skilled workforce will expand the single market by 10%, strengthen industrial clusters, and help address the shortage of personnel in STEM, engineering, and IT. Second, Ukraine’s robust IT and defense-technology sectors can accelerate Europe’s digital transformation in the fields of AI and cybersecurity.

The report’s authors argue that by supporting Ukraine today, Europe is investing in a long-term, reliable, and geopolitically motivated partner.



“Industrial visa-free travel,, could boost Ukrainian exports to the EU by 2.7%

In November 2025, the IED, with support from the Foundation and the EU, presented an analysis of the potential impact of signing the Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA)—the so-called “industrial visa-free regime.” The essence of the agreement is simple: a certificate of conformity issued in Ukraine is automatically recognized in the EU, eliminating the need for recertification and opening up the market.

Financial and digital services – leaders in European integration

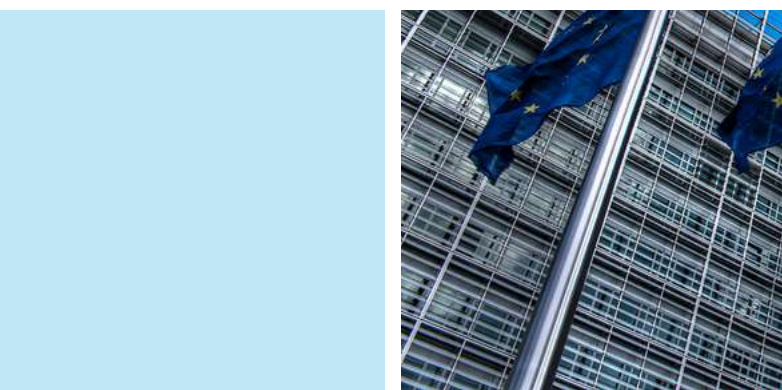
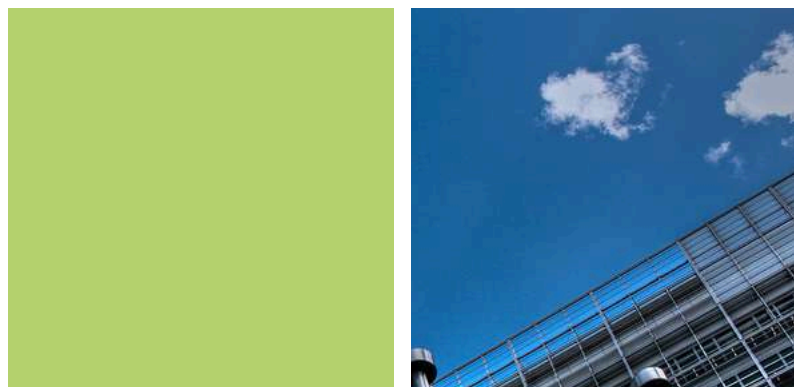
In February 2025, the IED, with support from the Foundation and the EU, presented its sixth annual study, “Ukraine’s Integration into the EU Internal Market.” Among all sectors, financial services, telecommunications, postal and courier services, energy, and public procurement were found to be the most harmonized. The financial sector is almost fully compliant with EU standards. The digital sector is the first non-EU member on the EU’s trusted list for electronic signatures.

At the same time, some issues remain unresolved: updating the Customs Code, harmonizing legislation with the AI Act, preparing for 5G, and completing integration into the EU roaming zone.

EPL and the Verkhovna Rada Subcommittee: A Forum for Dialogue on Environmental Reforms

In June 2025, with support from the Fund and the EU, the first meeting of a new dialogue platform took place—a joint initiative of civil society organizations and the Verkhovna Rada Subcommittee on Forest Resources, Biodiversity, and the Harmonization of Legislation with EU Law. The idea is to create a permanent channel between parliament, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and environmental NGOs to jointly address issues that are hindering environmental reforms.

Some draft laws have been stalled for five years or more—specifically, the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, environmental liability, and the criminalization of crimes against nature. At the first meeting, the topic of draft law No. 13277-1 on the timber market was also raised, as amendments to it contradict EU requirements regarding environmental impact assessments. It was decided to convey the platform participants’ position to the European Commission.



“Financial Visa-Free Travel,,: Ukraine on the Path to SEPA

In May 2025, the Center for Democracy and Rule of Law, EasyBusiness, and the Center for Economic Strategy, with support from the Foundation and the EU, held a discussion on draft law No. 13233—a key step toward Ukraine’s accession to the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA).

Joining SEPA will mean that transactions between Ukraine and the EU will be conducted in the same way as within the EU itself—with fees of 1–3 euros instead of 15–25 euros. The total annual savings for Ukrainian participants will range from 70 to 100 million euros.

At the same time, participants in the discussion raised specific concerns regarding the draft law: the concept of “final beneficiary” in it contradicts registrars’ practices, and banks’ overly broad powers to block clients could harm civil society organizations.

The draft law requires further refinement—but the goal of SEPA remains a strategic priority directly linked to European integration.

Ukrainian cities can join the Green Cities Agreement

Starting in July 2025, Ukrainian cities have been able to join the European Commission’s Green City Accord as “associated cities”—previously, this initiative was open only to cities within the EU. The Resource and Analytical Center “Society and Environment,” with support from the Foundation and the EU, has prepared a guide on how the Greening Platform helps achieve the goals of the Green Deal. Joining the Accord entails a commitment to develop five areas: air quality, water, nature and biodiversity, the circular economy and waste, and noise.

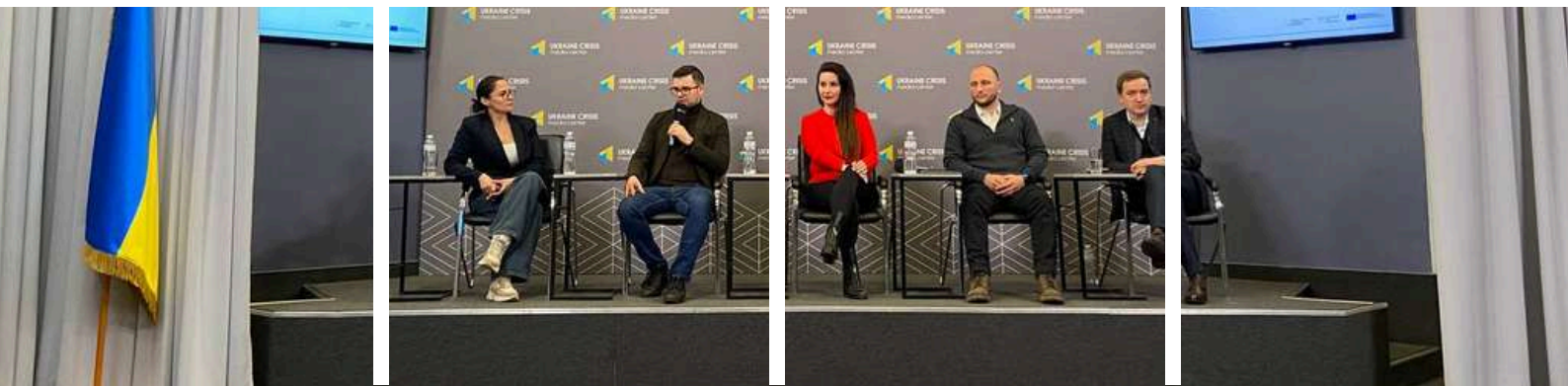
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Analysis and Monitoring of European Integration

European integration is a daily technical endeavor involving thousands of regulations that must be implemented, hundreds of commitments that must be monitored, and dozens of negotiation chapters where every word counts. Without independent analytical support, this process risks becoming a mere formality of reporting to Brussels rather than bringing about real change. We are convinced that independent think tanks and civil society must be full-fledged participants in the negotiation process, not mere observers



Screening of local policies against EU standards

In December 2025, with support from the Foundation and the EU, the Institute for the Development of Social Innovation presented Ukraine’s first methodology for screening local policies for alignment with the EU’s cohesion policy objectives. The tool allows communities to assess their readiness for European integration changes through a matrix of strategic document compliance and an institutional capacity checklist. A pilot test was conducted in three communities in Volyn Oblast—Lutsik, Berestechko, and Velymche. A representative of the Ministry of Development noted the practical value of the document and confirmed that the institutional capacity of communities to adapt to EU standards is one of the weakest points in local self-government reform.

“European Integration in Action”.: Monthly Monitoring of the Negotiation Process

Throughout 2025, with support from the Foundation and the EU, CEDEM prepared monthly reviews titled “European Integration in Action”—digests of key developments in the negotiation process and reforms related to EU accession. The reports covered everything from changes in the government’s composition and the appointment of Taras Kachka as the new Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration to cluster-based screening, votes in the Verkhovna Rada, and the EU’s reaction to Law No. 12414. These overviews became a practical tool for those following the negotiation process and an important element of transparent communication about European integration for a broad audience.

“Euro-Atlantic Course,” has analyzed more than 200 bills over the past three years

For over three years, the NGO “Euro-Atlantic Course,” with the support of the Foundation, has been providing technical assistance to the Verkhovna Rada Committee on EU Integration by analyzing draft laws for compliance with EU law. In 2025, the fourth project of this kind was launched. In January 2025 alone, experts reviewed 13 draft laws—specifically regarding the regulation of the High Council of Justice, the evaluation of the effectiveness of customs and tax authorities, and the taxation of components of unmanned systems. In total, over the years of cooperation, the organization’s specialists have reviewed over 200 draft laws.

Discussion on the EC-2025 Report on Ukraine's Progress

In November 2025, with the support of the Foundation, a public discussion was held on the findings of the European Commission’s annual report on Ukraine’s progress. The overall assessment was positive—Ukraine was among the top four countries that had made the most progress in reforms. However, participants in the discussion emphasized that, if the current pace continues, it will be extremely difficult to meet all membership criteria by 2030. Attacks on anti-corruption agencies and the adoption of Law 12414, which placed the SAPO and NABU under the authority of the Prosecutor General, were highlighted as a separate issue and viewed as a step backward. Olga Kvaschuk, program manager of the Foundation’s “Europe and the World” program, noted: The EU is giving Ukraine a chance amid the war, and this should not be abused.

“Year of Action,” – What Needs to Be Done According to the European Commission's Recommendations

In February 2025, EasyBusiness, with support from the Foundation and the EU, hosted an online event titled “Year of Action: How Can Ukraine Use the European Commission’s Recommendations from the 2024 Enlargement Report to Achieve Success in 2025?” For the event, the organization prepared an analysis of Ukraine’s Progress Reports for 2023 and 2024 and the government’s self-assessment to determine where Ukraine has actually made progress and where the biggest gaps lie. Panelists—representatives of the EU in Ukraine, the Center for Political and Legal Reforms, the Institute for Economic Research, and the “Ukrainian Prism” Foreign Policy Council—discussed which reforms should be prioritized to secure better assessments from the European Commission in the next report. The event took place at a time when Ukraine had just agreed on a negotiating framework and begun the official screening process—and the question of specific next steps was particularly pressing.



The Kremlin Against European Integration: A Study of Anti-European Narratives



In May 2025, with support from the Foundation, the Center for Strategic Communications and Information Security presented an analytical study titled “The Kremlin’s Anti-European Narratives.”

In the first quarter of 2025 alone, analysts recorded approximately 5,000 mentions in the media related to narratives about a “puppet state” and “external control”—the total reach of these messages exceeded 43 million.

Dmytro Shulga, director of the Foundation’s “Europe and the World” program, noted at the roundtable: Paradoxically, these narratives have almost no effect in Ukraine—largely thanks to Russia itself, which has shaped an extremely positive image of Europe in the eyes of Ukrainians.

How Russia Is Using the “Ukrainian Factor,” in Elections in Poland, Romania, and the Czech Republic



In April 2025, with support from the Foundation and the EU, the UCMC held an expert discussion and published a study on how Ukraine’s European integration is being used as a tool for disinformation in the run-up to elections in three key partner countries—Poland, Romania, and the Czech Republic. The survey covered 115 experts from these countries.

The conclusion is clear: Russia is not trying to make these countries pro-Russian, but is actively trying to weaken them from within and drive a wedge between them and Ukraine through populist narratives. The Romanian election case demonstrated just how much the new information ecosystem—TikTok, Telegram, social media—has slipped under the radar of traditional media and state institutions.



Preparing for EU accession at the local level

Most of the *acquis* is ultimately implemented at the local level: in public utilities, urban planning, waste management, education, and social protection. If communities do not understand what the new standards require of them and lack the capacity to implement them, European integration remains a mere formality on paper. That is why the Foundation pays special attention to preparing communities: it supports the development and updating of strategies in line with EU standards, trains officials and activists to attract funding from EU programs, facilitates the formation of partnerships with sister cities, and helps communities not to wait for accession, but to prepare for it now.



“Preparing for EU Accession at the Local Level,, Competition

In July 2025, the Foundation announced the results of the “Preparing for EU Accession at the Community Level” competition—part of the joint initiative with the EU, “Joining the EU Together.” The winners were 19 projects from organizations across various regions of Ukraine—from Sumy and Kharkiv to Volyn, Odesa, and the Carpathians. The competition aims to help communities and local organizations better understand what European integration means in practice, learn how to attract funding from EU programs, and develop strategic planning in line with European standards.

The selected projects include training for municipalities on accessing EU funds, strategic planning for coal-mining communities in the Lviv region, aligning local policies with the *acquis* for communities in the Volyn region, and developing partnerships with sister cities in the EU.



A “Handbook,, for Communities: How EU Structural Funds Work



In June 2025, the NGO “Institute of Civil Society,” with support from the Foundation, published an analytical report titled “European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)—a practical guide to the structure and operation of the main EU funds: the ERDF, ESF+, Cohesion Fund, Just Transition Fund, and others. The document explains who can be a beneficiary, how projects are selected, and the principles of funding and reporting.

The Center for Innovation Development is assessing how prepared communities are for EU programs

In November 2025, the Center for Innovation Development, with support from the Foundation and the EU, launched a nationwide study on the readiness of local communities to participate in international programs and partnerships. The study assesses the communities’ capacity in five areas: international cooperation, project management, participation in EU programs, human resources, and inter-municipal partnerships. Based on the survey results, 50 communities will be selected to undergo training on preparing applications, forming partnerships, and implementing international projects.

Discussion in Lviv: Communities Are Active Participants in European Integration, Not Its Subjects



In August 2025, the Foundation, in collaboration with the Lviv Bureau for European Integration, brought together representatives of local government, civil society organizations, and experts to discuss the role of communities in the European integration process. Andriy Moskalenko, First Deputy Mayor of Lviv, noted that up to 70% of the city’s development budget comes not from state funds but from grants and investments—and that working with donors and international partners has become a daily reality for Lviv.

Olga Kvaschuk, Program Manager of the Foundation’s “Europe and the World” program, explained that the most competitive project proposals are those where a civil society organization works alongside the community rather than for it, where the team learns and adapts, and where there is an understanding of the local context.



Training in Uzhhorod: Over 100 participants learned how to secure EU funding



In December 2025, the Carpathian Human Rights Agency “Vested,” with support from the Foundation and the EU, held a large-scale training session titled “Specifics of Local Communities’ Participation in EU Programs” at the Uzhhorod City Council. Over 100 participants from various regions of the country joined the event—officials, experts in economic development, international cooperation, and project management.

Participants worked through practical case studies of communities: from defining priorities to selecting the appropriate EU program—Interreg, Erasmus+, CERV, LIFE, Horizon Europe—and developing the basic “framework” of a project proposal with clear objectives, outcomes, and KPIs.

Five communities in Volyn have received an analysis of their documents for compliance with the EU acquis

In December 2025, as part of the “Volyn Communities on the Path to the EU” project, supported by the Foundation and the EU, the Pribuzhzhya Regional Development Agency completed the analytical phase of its work with five communities: Volodymyr, Lukiv, Turiysk, Horodyshche, and Lyubeshiv. For each of them, an individual report was prepared with tables showing the alignment of strategies and charters with acquis norms, along with specific recommendations for changes.

Online meetings with each community discussed not only technical amendments to the documents but also the appointment of a European integration officer and the development of a roadmap for implementing EU standards at the local level.

These reports mark a practical start to systematically bringing communities in line with EU standards.



The Fifth Legal Reform Forum: “Unity of Action – The Power of Change.”



In August 2025, with the support of the Foundation and the EU, the Fifth Legal Reform Forum for Civil Society took place—an annual event organized by the Center for Democracy and the Rule of Law.

The discussion focused on European integration as a framework for legal reforms, issues of the rule of law, the involvement of CSOs in the negotiation process, and strategies for cross-sectoral cooperation. The Forum traditionally combines monitoring of reform progress with practical networking among organizations working in the fields of human rights, veterans’ affairs, and European integration.

EU Accession Exchange Forum: A strong Europe is impossible without a strong Ukraine



In October 2025, the New Europe Center held its fourth EU Accession Exchange Forum in Kyiv, where the Foundation’s Executive Director, Oleksandr Sushko, joined international experts to discuss the progress and challenges on Ukraine’s path to the EU. Key topics included Hungary’s blocking of the negotiation process, which risks causing “reform fatigue,” and the issue of communicating enlargement to audiences in member states.

Sushko noted: According to Eurobarometer, over 50% of EU citizens already support enlargement, and Ukraine is the most anticipated future member. However, in Germany, 67% of people admit they do not have enough information about what it means in practice. At the same time, the idea of “frontloading”—continuing reforms despite the blocked official process—and the link between the course of the war and the prospects for enlargement were discussed.



Lessons from the Balkans' European Integration for Ukrainian Human Rights Activists



In February 2025, the ZMINA Human Rights Center, with support from the Foundation and the EU, organized a conference titled “The Western Balkans’ Experience with European Integration: Lessons for Ukrainian Human Rights Defenders” and presented an analytical report of the same name.

The experience of Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro speaks volumes: Croatia postponed rule-of-law reforms until nearly the end of the negotiation process and is still feeling the consequences; Serbia has stalled due to political disputes and the lack of real, rather than merely formal, implementation of reforms; Montenegro spent years passing the right laws without real change—and slipped into stagnation.

The main lesson for Ukraine: critical reforms must be started as early as possible, strong coalitions for public oversight must be formed, and we must not settle for paper instead of change.

“The Kitchen of European Integration,,: A Series of Closed-Door Discussions on the Negotiation Process

With support from the Foundation and the EU, “Eurohub” organized a series of closed-door discussions titled “The Inner Workings of European Integration” in Kyiv for representatives of the government, parliament, business associations, and experts. One of the sessions in the series, dedicated to the “Internal Market” cluster, revealed that Ukraine passed the screening without any failing sections and has already agreed on a negotiating position with the EU—even though Brussels initially rejected a significant portion of the requests for transition periods.

Key findings include: The European Commission has given a positive assessment of corporate law, intellectual property, and competition policy, while the free movement of goods—despite previous positive evaluations—received comments regarding gaps in market oversight. The most sensitive issue is opening the agricultural land market to foreigners, without which membership is impossible, but no timeline has been set yet.

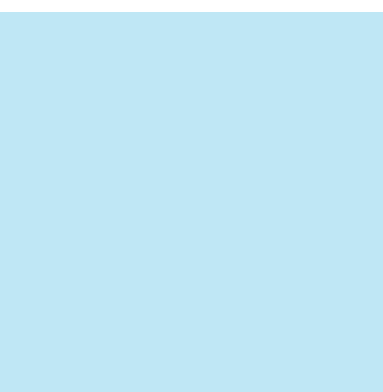
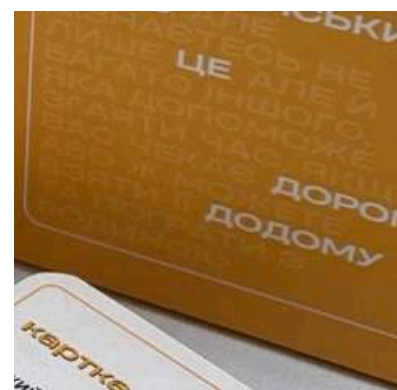
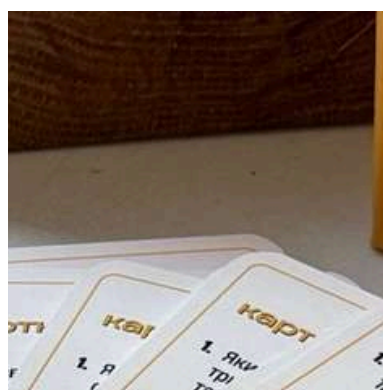
Business is taking the changes in stride: the EU market has been open to Ukrainian producers since the Association Agreement, so a revolutionary surge in exports isn’t expected immediately—but they want stability and predictability in the rules right now.

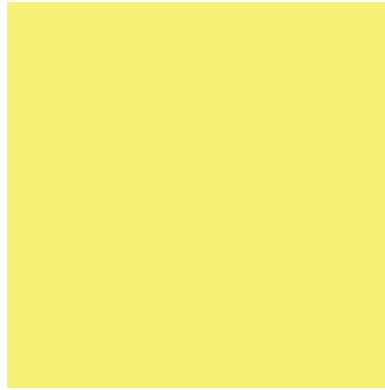


150 libraries, community hubs, and youth centers received a copy of the board game “The Way Home,,



In March 2025, the Foundation’s team, with support from the EU, created and launched the board card game “The Road Home”—about Ukraine and EU countries: music and soccer, food and movies, values and shared history. 200 cards, 800 questions, and a reason to spend time together at a library, community center, or school. Following the announcement, 234 applications were received from institutions across Ukraine—and the Foundation decided to increase the print run from 100 to 150 copies. Recipients include libraries from Kharkiv to Zaporizhzhia and from Sumy to Chernivtsi, youth centers, Euroclubs, veteran spaces, and schools. The game serves both as an educational tool about the EU and as a reminder: for Ukraine, European integration is a return to the European family.





International support for a just peace



International discussions are increasingly shifting from the topic of Ukraine's victory to possible negotiations to end the war. In these circumstances, it is critically important to maintain support for Ukraine among key partner countries—and civil society plays a key role in this. The Foundation, together with its partners, is working to consolidate international support: military, financial, and economic aid; political pressure on the aggressor; and reliable security guarantees for Ukraine from the EU, the U.S., and the G7 countries.

Why is this important?

A just peace is impossible without a broad international consensus that aggression is a crime for which there can be no justification. The Foundation is expanding its cooperation with civil society organizations in the Global South, countering disinformation and authoritarian influence in partner countries, and supporting the decolonization of approaches to Russian studies in the West.

Наші пріоритети



Maintaining international support



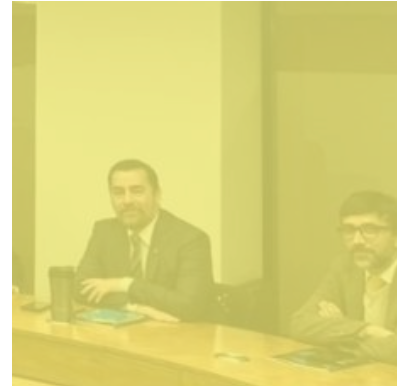
Decolonizing Russian Narratives



Combating Disinformation and Authoritarianism



Ukraine as a Voice for Global Democracy



International Advocacy and Public Diplomacy

Ukraine is waging not only an armed struggle but also a diplomatic one. In this struggle, civil society plays a role that the state cannot assume: it speaks directly to foreign audiences, builds coalitions with international partners, raises sensitive issues on global platforms, and keeps Ukraine on the agenda. We are working to ensure that the voice of Ukrainian civil society is heard in Brussels, Washington, the Global South, and everywhere decisions are made that affect Ukraine's future.

"Crimea Global 2025,,: Ukraine in Dialogue with the Global South

In November 2025, the Third International Conference "Crimea Global. Understanding Ukraine through the South" took place in Kyiv with the support of the Foundation. Over 200 participants from more than 12 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America discussed the consequences of the aggression, mechanisms for pressuring Russia, and paths to a just peace. Before the conference, guests visited Lviv and Kharkiv, where they saw the true extent of the destruction, an underground school, and a rehabilitation center for veterans. The main overarching theme was Crimea as a symbol of the broader struggle against Russia's colonial policies.

The consensus was that failing to support Ukraine would cost these countries far more than supporting it, since the erosion of the international legal order affects everyone. The conference concluded with a commemorative evening titled "Memoria Orbis," dedicated to Ukrainian artists who lost their lives as a result of Russian aggression.



“Cleaning Up Our Shared Home,: Ukrainians Join Volunteer Efforts in Europe

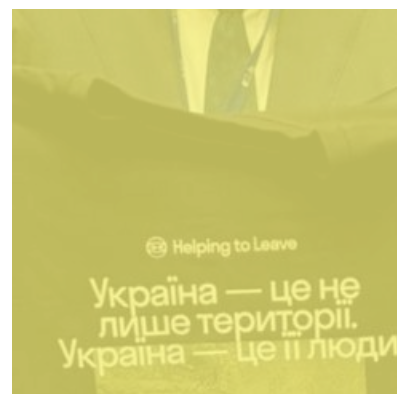
From November 2025 to March 2026, with the support of the Foundation, Strichka—a coordination platform for Ukrainians abroad—is launching a volunteer campaign called “Cleaning Up Our Shared Home” in 13 cities across nine EU countries. The idea is simple: Ukrainians, together with local residents, take care of urban spaces—parks, squares, and public gardens. The kick-off event took place in Ljubljana, where Ukrainian volunteers worked alongside Slovenian partners in the historic botanical garden. The campaign is expected to involve around 500 participants and aims to change perceptions of Ukrainians as co-creators of change in their new countries.

Red Lines and Security: The Foundation at Discussions in Brussels

In March 2025, the Fund’s Executive Director, Oleksandr Sushko, took part in a series of discussions in Brussels—at the European Parliament and the European Policy Centre (EPC)—focused on the EU’s role in ensuring a just peace and a new security architecture for Europe. The discussions addressed issues of direct relevance to Ukraine: whether Europe is ready to act independently of the U.S., where the “red lines” lie in potential negotiations, and how to proceed with the confiscation of Russia’s frozen assets.

“People of Freedom,, at the European Parliament

On November 21, 2025, on Dignity and Freedom Day, the #peopleofthecoloroffreedom event took place in Brussels with the support of the Foundation—a joint initiative of the Renew Europe group and the NGO “Tuteshni.” MEPs, European Commissioner Andrius Kubilius, and other EU representatives wrote letters of support to Ukrainians living in the temporarily occupied territories and watched the documentary “People of the Color of Freedom”—about the nonviolent resistance of Ukrainians under occupation from 2014 to the present. The event took place as part of the broader “ReconstructionTalks. The Role of Civil Society in Ukrainian Security and Post-War Recovery” initiative. For the film’s creators—producer Anna Slyusarenko and director Lyudmila Melnik—the screening at the European Parliament sent an important message: in any negotiations about Ukraine’s future, we must not forget the people who remain under occupation and pay a daily price for their Ukrainian identity.



“White Paper,”: How to Get the EU to Lead a Sanctions Coalition

In May 2025, the “White Paper: The Future of European Leadership in Economic Deterrence of Aggression”—a document prepared by the National Sanctions Coalition with the participation of analysts from the DiXi Group—was presented in Brussels with the support of the Foundation. The White Paper calls on the EU to lead a global sanctions coalition and proposes specific steps: the creation of a single sanctions authority, the introduction of an equivalent to the U.S. sanctions list, the strengthening of controls on the export of dual-use goods, and secondary sanctions against those who assist in circumventing restrictions.

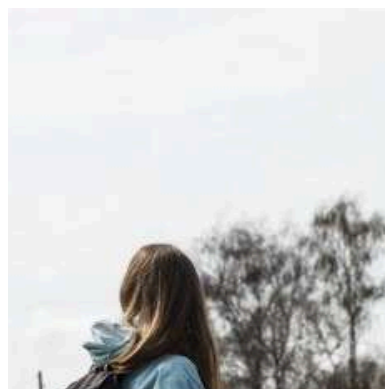
War&Sanctions International Workshop

In March 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the Economic Security Council of Ukraine held an international online workshop titled “War and Sanctions: How to Counter Aggressor States” for over 60 participants—investigative journalists, government officials, and activists from various countries. They learned how to use the Ministry of Defense’s Main Intelligence Directorate (GUR) portal War&Sanctions—the world’s only open database on the sponsors and accomplices of Russian aggression. Representatives from the UK’s Open Source Centre, the US-based C4ADS, and the organization United Against Nuclear Iran explained how to track sanctions evasion through China, Hong Kong, Iran, and North Korea, and how to turn research into tangible influence on government decisions. The main message of the event: Iran, Russia, and North Korea are acting in full coordination—and they can only be countered through joint action.



Brussels Policy Dialogue: A Discussion on Sanctions Leadership

On the same day, May 26, 2025, a Policy Dialogue titled “Ensuring EU Leadership in Sanctions Policy and Economic Security” was held in Brussels in collaboration with the European Policy Centre. The event brought together representatives of EU institutions, governments, and think tanks, who discussed practical tools for increasing sanctions pressure—ranging from countering the shadow fleet to imposing sanctions on intermediaries and insurers in third countries. Ukraine presented its own experience of state-civil society cooperation in the sanctions sphere—specifically, the War & Sanctions platform.



“Discover Ukraine,,: Six Memoranda of Understanding with British Universities



In November 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the UK hosted “Discover Ukraine: A Week of Knowledge and Culture”—the largest academic cooperation program between the two countries. Over the course of four days, the Ukrainian delegation visited Queen’s University Belfast, the University of St Andrews, Cardiff University, the University of Cambridge, and Birkbeck, where discussions took place on Ukrainian culture, science, historical memory, and the fight against disinformation.

As a result, six memorandums were signed with British universities regarding exchanges, joint research, and the development of Ukrainian studies. A special highlight was the first official visit by a Ukrainian government delegation to Cambridge since the start of the full-scale war.

“Global Ukraine,,: An Appeal to World Leaders from 160 Public Figures



In January 2025, with the support of the UCU Business School Foundation, the UCU Business School released an open letter titled “Do Not Appear Evil” addressed to world leaders and the international community. The document was signed by over 160 people: human rights activists, diplomats, scholars, artists, heads of business associations, and representatives of various religious communities. The appeal was the result of a series of geopolitical seminars titled “Global Ukraine”—an eight-month project in which Ukrainian and international experts analyzed the global context, scenarios for ending the war, and Ukraine’s place in the new world order.

The screening was accompanied by an exhibition of portraits of women imprisoned for their pro-Ukrainian stance, with the charitable aim of raising funds to assist those who have returned from captivity. In December 2025, the film was released in the “Planeta Kino” cinema chain.



Dialogue platforms

Civil society is capable of doing what diplomats and governments cannot: having frank conversations outside the official agenda and building trust between people, not just between institutions. That is why the Foundation supports dialogue platforms—both in Ukraine and in partner countries—as a key tool for building international support for a just peace.

URC 2025: IDPs and the diaspora as partners in recovery, not recipients of aid

On the sidelines of the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, a separate event was held with the Foundation’s support, dedicated to engaging IDPs, the diaspora, and refugees in Ukraine’s recovery. The organizers—the Stabilization Support Services Charitable Foundation and McGill University—brought together representatives of IDP councils, international organizations, and government officials from several countries. Key takeaway: More than 800 IDP councils, operating in 66% of Ukrainian communities, have long been more than just a service network—they are real agents of change who are underrepresented in decision-making at the national level.

A Chatham House study added alarming statistics: the proportion of Ukrainians abroad who plan to return has fallen from 70% to 44% over the past three years. Following the event, participants agreed to draft a joint policy document with recommendations for governments and to launch cross-border platforms for dialogue.

Think Local, Act Together: The Role of Civil Society in Recovery

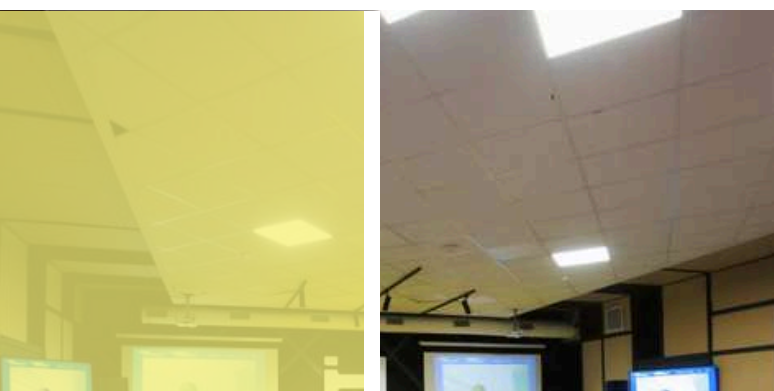
On the sidelines of URC 2025, the Foundation and the Agency for Recovery and Development also organized an event titled “Think Local, Act Together: Civil Society and Partnerships for Ukraine’s Recovery.” Mayors of Ukrainian and Italian cities, leaders of civil society organizations, international donors, and representatives of the diaspora discussed financing instruments for small and medium-sized communities, examples of inter-municipal and international partnerships, and the role of veterans, IDPs, and women in reconstruction planning. The closing panel, featuring representatives from the governments of Ukraine, Italy, Germany, and Poland, was moderated by Inna Pidluska, Deputy Executive Director of the Foundation. The event concluded with a cultural program—an exhibition of Ukrainian artists living and working in Italy.



Ukraine as an energy partner for the entire EU



In July 2025, in Rome, on the eve of the Ukraine Recovery Conference, the DiXi Group and the Florence School of Regulatory Policy, with support from the Foundation, held a thematic side event titled “The Energy Partnership of the Future.” Three panel discussions demonstrated that Ukraine has unique potential to become a strategic partner of the EU in the gas, renewable energy, and nuclear sectors. Ukraine’s underground gas storage capacity is twice that of Italy’s, its transit infrastructure is capable of balancing the regional markets of Central and Eastern Europe, and its experience in diversifying nuclear fuel from Russia to Westinghouse is valuable for all EU countries that still rely on Soviet-era reactors.



“Vision for Sustainability 2.0: The Human Dimension,”

In March 2025, the Foundation published the second edition of the “Vision for Sustainability” document, focusing on the human dimension of recovery. The document was prepared based on the results of extensive expert discussions in partnership with civil society organizations and was presented in early April on the eve of the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome. It is addressed to the government, local authorities, and international partners and contains concrete recommendations—not merely declarative, but tied to real problems and gaps in public policy.

The document’s key thesis: recovery is not about rebuilding what has been destroyed, but about creating conditions for a dignified life, participation in decision-making, and access to quality services. While the first “Vision for Resilience” from 2024 defined the basic principles—people-centeredness, participation, and accountability—the new version expands them into specific areas: social cohesion, the labor market, demographic challenges, the reintegration of veterans, gender equality, inclusivity, and cultural heritage.

Systemic obstacles are analyzed separately: a lack of shelters and poor government communication regarding safety, weak citizen engagement in decision-making, and so on.



“Dialogues on Europe,, in Uzhhorod: Central Europe Reimagines Itself



In May 2025, on Europe Day, the third annual “Dialogues on Europe” forum was held in Uzhhorod with the support of the Foundation. Public intellectuals and political experts from Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Germany, Armenia, and Croatia gathered to rethink the concept of a united Europe amid the ongoing war.

Oksana Zabuzhko’s keynote speech, “Today, All of Europe Is Central Europe,” set the framework for the rest of the discussions: Ukraine is defending not only itself but also the model of globalization in which Europe plays a leading role with its four pillars—the rule of law, human rights, the separation of powers, and local self-government. The forum covered topics ranging from the EU’s geopolitical positioning between the US, China, and Russia, to Ukraine’s complex bilateral relations with Hungary and Slovakia, and the risks of democratic backsliding in the EU accession process.



PR Army invited Indonesian journalists to see Ukraine for themselves

In June 2025, with support from the PR Army NGO Foundation, a five-day press tour was organized for journalists from Indonesian media outlets as part of the “Conversation of the Free: Ukraine and Indonesia” project. Journalists from Narasi TV and several publications visited Kyiv, Irpin, and Bucha, as well as the Chernihiv region—where they witnessed firsthand the consequences of the occupation and met with witnesses, human rights defenders, military personnel, and representatives of the Crimean Tatar community. Indonesia is one of the key countries in the Global South where support for Ukraine remains low and pro-Russian narratives dominate.



Literary Dialogue Between Ukraine and Poland in Przemyśl

In August 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the first “City by the River” literary festival took place in Przemyśl—a new platform for Polish-Ukrainian dialogue in the city on the San River, which had been divided by a border at various times and, since 2022, has welcomed thousands of Ukrainians. The four-day program, held across six venues, brought together Polish and Ukrainian writers, publicists, and translators—including Andriy Lyubka, Tamara Gorikha-Zernia, Andrzej Stasiuk, Witold Szabłowski, and others.

Polish Experts in Kyiv: A Strategic Dialogue on Security and the Future of the Partnership

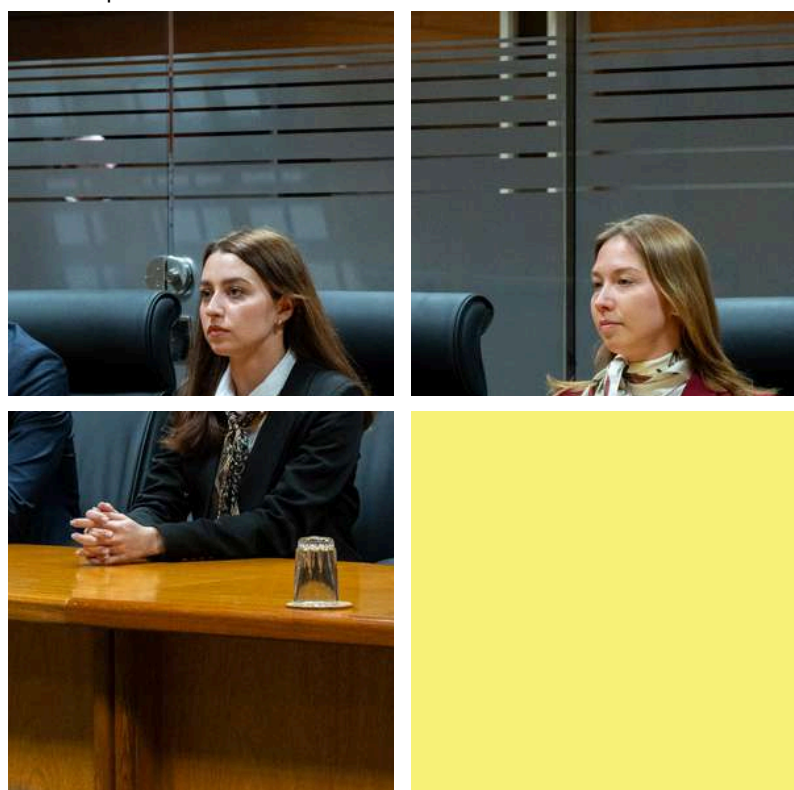


In October 2025, the Foundation, in collaboration with the Polish Stefan Batory Foundation, organized a three-day visit by a delegation of Polish experts to Kyiv. The delegation included Danuta Hübner—the first Polish EU Commissioner — Jacek Siewiera—former head of Poland’s National Security Bureau, Edwin Bendyk—president of the Batory Foundation, Jan Truszczyński—Poland’s former chief negotiator for EU accession, as well as representatives from ministries, the media, and think tanks. Over the course of three days, they met with Ukrainian government officials, analysts, military experts, and civil society leaders to discuss defense strategy, relations with partners in the U.S. and Europe, the potential for recovery, and possible scenarios for the region.



The Voice of Ukraine in Uruguay and Chile

In April 2025, with support from the ZMINA Human Rights Center Foundation and the Transatlantic Dialogue Center (TDC), an advocacy mission was conducted to Uruguay and Chile—two countries with their own painful history of dictatorships and human rights violations, and which are therefore particularly sensitive to issues of justice and memory. Participants held meetings with the Vice President of Uruguay, senators, members of the foreign affairs committees of both countries, diplomatic academies, universities, and human rights organizations. They spoke about more than 161,000 documented war crimes, systematic persecution in the occupied territories, thousands of civilians illegally detained, and tens of thousands of deported children.



The Fourth “France–Ukraine,, Forum in Paris

In September 2025, the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI), with support from the Foundation and the New Europe Center, hosted the fourth “France–Ukraine” forum. Politicians, experts, and representatives of civil society discussed military strategies, resilience and reconstruction, as well as transatlantic and European integration prospects. The forum demonstrated that the strategic dialogue between the two countries is becoming increasingly substantive and regular—despite all the challenges inherent in large-scale support.



“Bridge,,: Ukraine's Academic Ties with Latin America

In 2025, the Ukrainian Catholic University, with the support of the Foundation, launched the “Bridge” project—an educational initiative that builds academic ties between Ukraine and five leading Catholic universities in Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Peru, and Argentina. The project is based on a methodology that allows students and faculty from different countries to jointly develop courses and learn in a shared environment. The project includes 15 international faculty tandems, 15 joint courses, and a series of global educational forums.

Journalists from India, South Africa, and the Philippines met with the Ukrainian Institute



In May 2025, with the support of the Foundation, journalists from India, South Africa, and the Philippines—key countries in the Global South where support for Ukraine remains low and Russian propaganda is active—visited Kyiv. During a visit to the Ukrainian Institute, UI Deputy Director General Alim Aliyev spoke to the guests about Ukraine’s cultural diplomacy amid the war, as well as about Crimea and the Crimean Tatars.

At the same time, a representative of the Ukrainian Institute participated in the discussion “Ukraine and the Global World: Key Messages for Mutual Understanding” at the Ukraine Media Center—alongside journalists, Ukrainian international relations experts, and representatives of culture, business, and civil society who work with foreign audiences.

Participants discussed how to effectively communicate Ukraine’s position in regions where it is perceived through the lens of a “conflict between superpowers” rather than as one country’s aggression against a sovereign state.





Cultural Diplomacy

Culture is a language that is understood even where diplomatic arguments fall on deaf ears. Books, films, music, architecture, and the performing arts can shape perceptions of Ukraine in India or Brazil more accurately than any official communiqué.

Grants for foreign research on Ukraine

In 2025, the Foundation, in partnership with the Ukrainian Institute and the Democratic Initiatives Foundation, continued its support for the Ivan Lysyak-Rudnytskyi Grant Program, which aims to promote Ukrainian studies at foreign universities and cultural institutions. The program's second call for proposals covers six thematic areas: decolonization of knowledge about Ukraine, Ukraine's role in global culture and politics, Crimean Tatar studies, multicultural Ukraine, modern Ukrainian statehood, and experiences of resilience during wartime. The project was implemented by five civil society organizations—IZI, StateWatch, CHESNO, FiscalCenter, and the Anti-Corruption Headquarters. As early as February, the graduates began their first investigations in their respective regions.

The University of Padua has launched a course in Ukrainian studies

In March 2025, with the support of the Foundation and the Ukrainian Institute, the University of Padua launched an open course on Ukrainian language, literature, culture, and art for students in the master's program "European and American Languages and Literatures." The course was taught by Dr. Ksenia Kostyantinenko and was designed primarily for beginners, though it was open to anyone interested—not just university students.



Ukraine at the Frankfurt Book Fair: 300 books and 30 discussions



In October 2025, with the support of the Foundation, Ukraine participated in the Frankfurt Book Fair with a national booth under the theme “Filling in”—filling the gaps on the European cultural map. The stand featured over 300 books from 38 publishers. Over the course of five days, there were about 30 discussions, meetings with authors, and presentations of translations of Ukrainian books into English and German. Participants included Yuriy Andrukhovych, Tanya Malyarchuk, Andriy Lyubka, Maksym Eristavi, and others. A special highlight was the presentation of the first two volumes of a large-scale collection of Ukrainian classics translated into German, as well as books by Viktoriya Amelina published simultaneously by two different publishers.



The University of Warsaw has launched a Crimean Tatar Studies program

In November 2025, the Crimean Tatar Studies program was launched at the University of Warsaw with the support of the Foundation—a joint initiative of the Institute of Intercultural Studies of Central and Eastern Europe and the “Crimean House” Foundation. The opening took place as part of the Crimean Tatar Culture Festival and was accompanied by a panel discussion featuring Refat Chubarov, Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People; Vasyl Bodnar, Ambassador of Ukraine to Poland; and a representative of the Foundation. Refat Chubarov described the opening of the studios as the return of the Crimean Tatars to European academic and cultural consciousness: Crimean Tatar civilization never left Europe; Europe simply did not notice it.



Photo exhibition at the European Parliament on journalists held captive



In April 2025, the “Imprisoned Freedom” photo exhibition—featuring Ukrainian journalists held captive in Russia—opened at the European Parliament’s InfoHub in Brussels with the support of the Foundation. The central figure of the exhibition was Viktoria Roshchina, whose death in captivity was confirmed while the project was still in preparation.

Since early 2014, over 100 Ukrainian media workers have been held captive, and at least 30 remain there to this day. Speakers at the opening included the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Yaroslav Yurchyshyn, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Freedom of Expression, and representatives of Reporters Without Borders. The exhibition is both an art project and a call to action: to seek the release of those who documented the truth at the cost of their own freedom.



“Bridge of Colors,, Exhibition in Rome

In July 2025, during the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, the Foundation supported the exhibition “Un ponte di colori / A Bridge of Colors,” featuring works by Ukrainian female artists who were forced to flee their homes and now live in Italy. The digital exhibition brought together over 150 works, while the in-person presentation showcased pieces by seven artists.



Volume Three of *Living the War*

In January 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the third volume of the documentary project *Living the War* was published—this time focusing on the experience of occupation. The book includes eight personal stories—ranging from testimonies of people from Crimea to accounts of filtration camps and the detention of an entire village in a school basement. Among the protagonists is Crimean Tatar journalist and Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis Nariman Dzhelial, who returned from Russian captivity in 2024. The book also features photo stories by Emine Ziyatdinova and Mykhailo Palinchak, as well as the Wall Evidence project—documentation of graffiti left by the occupiers on buildings and in homes.





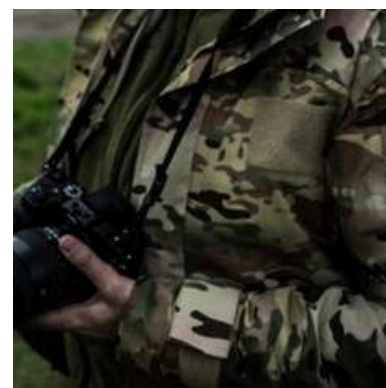
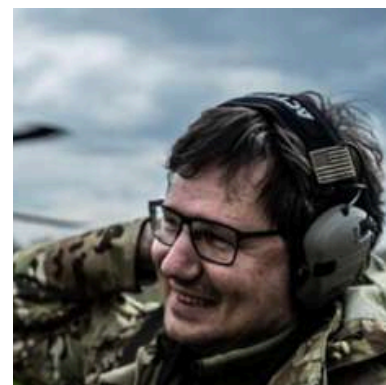
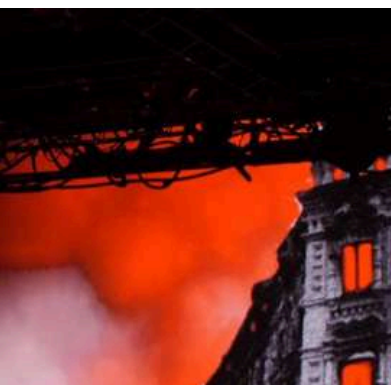
Exhibition on the deportation of Ukrainian children to Chile

In October 2025, with the support of the Foundation, the Museum of Memory and Human Rights in Santiago opened a multimedia exhibition titled “No hay niños, hay gente” – about the illegal deportation and forced displacement of Ukrainian children. The venue is significant: the museum preserves the memory of the victims of the Chilean dictatorship, and now the voices of Ukrainian children have been heard within its walls—through drawings, animated films, including “Mariupol. One Hundred Nights” and “No hay niños, hay gente” featuring music by DakhaBrakha, as well as documentary video stories from the “Voices of Children” Foundation. At the opening, schoolgirl Anna from Kharkiv and Marta—a young woman who grew up in occupied Donetsk and waited until she came of age to leave for Kyiv—shared their stories.

The “Culture vs. War., series has been translated into Arabic, English, and Spanish



In 2025, with support from the Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, six short documentary films from the “Culture vs. War” series—about Ukrainian artists who joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine—were dubbed into the three most widely spoken languages in the world. The films tell the stories of cinematographer Serhiy Mykhalchuk, director and actor Akhtem Seitablaiev, and the band “Antytila.” By 2025, the project had already covered 464 events in 189 cities across 48 countries—and now, thanks to these translations, it has become accessible to audiences in the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.





The team of the International Renaissance Foundation

Management



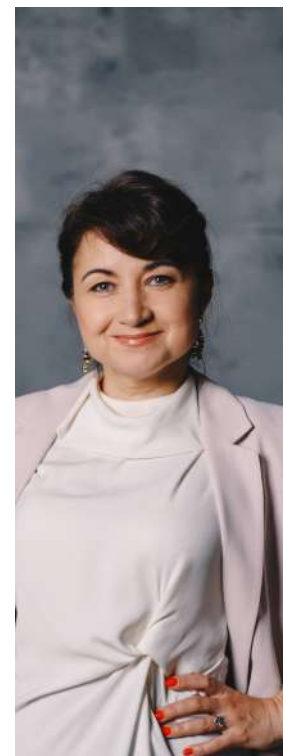
Oleksandr Sushko
executive director



Inna Pidluska
deputy executive director



Natalia Sannikova
chief financial officer



Krystyna Shulga
HR manager

Communications department



Sashko Kulchytsky
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communications assistant for the Resilience Lab programme



Diana Kovalyova
communications coordinator for the Impulse Project



Myroslava Serhiychuk
FPV-drone operator

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chief accountant



Olga Nadtochiy
deputy chief accountant



Oleksandr Shkulipa
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Project management department



Gennady Derkach
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Julia Gordonna
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Yaroslava Shulyak
financial manager



Svitlana Myakushko
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Human Rights and Justice Programme



Roman Romanov
programme director



Yaryna Lakish
programme coordinator



Veronika Rudkovska
programme coordinator



Iryna Smolenska
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Democracy and Good Governance Programme



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programme manager



Dina Narezheva
менеджерка програми



Svitlana Kopotun
coordinator of the Impulse project



Yulia Olkhovaya
programme coordinator

The Europe and the World programme



Dmytro Shulga
programme director



Olga Kvaschuk
programme manager



Olena Romanova
programme coordinator

Social Capital Programme



Grigory Baran
programme director



Radoslava Kabachiy
programme manager



Lyudmila Grigorieva
programme coordinator

The Civic Resilience Programme



Kseniya Shapoval
programme director



Olga Galchenko
programme manager



Victoria Stokratyuk
programme manager



Anastasia Matveeva
programme manager



Khristina Soltsiak
programme assistant

Western representative office



Oksana Dashchakivska
head of the representative office



Roman Nakonechny
representative office assistant

IT Department



Oleg Nezdemovsky
head of department



Andriy Konoplyanikov
technical support coordinator



Oleksandr Sytnyk
database administrator

Non-staff employees



Yulia Babi
assistant to the executive director



Oleksandr Bryagin
legal advisor, analyst at the
Armed Forces of Ukraine



Serhiy Nadtochiy
head of Infrastructure Operations
and Development Department



Yevgeniy Linnik
legal advisor



Vitaliy Bezvorotny
Fund receptionist, military serviceman

Board of Directors

The International Renaissance Foundation's Board consists of public figures who have achieved outstanding success in promoting an open society. They are independent of the Foundation, do not receive salaries and adhere to conflict of interest prevention regulations.

As of 2023, the Board comprises: Volodymyr Yermolenko (Chairman of the Board), Alim Aliyev, Olena Halushka, Mykhailo Honchar, Pavlo Klimkin, Oleksandra Matviychuk and Lyubov Tsybulska



Volodymyr Yermolenko,
Chairman of the Board

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



Oleksandra Matviychuk,
Member of the Board

A human rights activist and chair of the board of the Centre for Civil Liberties, won the Nobel Prize in 2022 and the Vasyl Stus Prize and Defender of Democracy Award.



Pavlo Klimkin,
Member of the Board

A former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, as well as a statesman and diplomat. Co-founder of the Centre for National Resilience and Development. Member of the Supervisory Board of the Come Back Alive Charitable Foundation.



Mykhailo Honchar,
Member of the Board

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



Olena Galushka,
Member of the Board

Co-founder of the International Centre for Ukrainian Victory (ICUV), head of the international relations department at the Anti-Corruption Centre. Former member of the Kyiv City Council.



Alim Aliyev,
Member of the Board

Deputy Director General of the Ukrainian Institute, journalist, human rights activist, manager of educational and cultural projects. Co-founder of the CrimeaSOS and Crimean House public organisations.



Lyubov Tsybulska,
member of the board

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

Auditor's Report

**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE
FOUNDATION**
Summary Financial Statements
As at 31 December 2025 and
for the year then ended

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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 2025, 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 2025.

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 14 May 2026. That report also includes "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern" section that draws attention to Note 16 of the audited financial statements, which describes the Foundation's exposure arising from operating in a war-affected environment in Ukraine and management's assessment of the related uncertainties. 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.

Private Joint-Stock Company "KPMGAudit"

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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.



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.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Summary Financial Statements

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

PJSC "KPMG Audit"

14 May 2026

Kyiv, Ukraine

**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025**

(in US dollars)

	31 December 2025	31 December 2024
ASSETS		
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, equipment and intangible assets	1,355,959	1,522,909
	<u>1,355,959</u>	<u>1,522,909</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Inventories	-	78
Prepayments	4,437	75,813
Receivables	2,054,273	4,265,456
Cash and cash equivalents	5,935,186	8,056,197
	<u>7,993,896</u>	<u>12,397,544</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>9,349,855</u>	<u>13,920,453</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)		
FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)		
	<u>2,329,816</u>	<u>2,996,272</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accruals	5,076,237	5,267,194
Deferred revenues	1,475,909	5,302,627
Provisions	467,893	354,360
	<u>7,020,039</u>	<u>10,924,181</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)	<u>9,349,855</u>	<u>13,920,453</u>

On behalf of the Board of Directors:



Oleksandr Sushko
Executive Director

14 May 2026



Natalia Sannikova
Finance Director

14 May 2026

**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

<i>(in US dollars)</i>	Year ended 31 December 2025	Year ended 31 December 2024
CONTRIBUTION INCOME		
OSF income	15,025,765	15,425,582
Third parties funding	10,216,573	2,641,650
	<u>25,242,338</u>	<u>18,067,232</u>
EXPENSES		
OSF related expenses	(15,000,863)	(15,644,566)
Third party related expenses	(10,224,644)	(2,641,650)
	<u>(25,225,507)</u>	<u>(18,286,216)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) of contribution income over expenses	<u>16,831</u>	<u>(218,984)</u>
OTHER (EXPENSES)/INCOME		
Other expenses	(2,191)	486,809
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain, net	(681,096)	90,733
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	<u>(666,456)</u>	<u>358,558</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	<u>(666,456)</u>	<u>358,558</u>

On behalf of the Board of Directors:



Oleksandr Sushko
Executive Director

14 May 2026



Natalia Sannikova
Finance Director

14 May 2026

**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

(in US dollars)

Fund balance (equity) as at 31 December 2023	2,637,714
Surplus for the year	358,558
Fund balance (equity) as at 31 December 2024	2,996,272
Deficit for the year	(666,456)
Fund balance (equity) as at 31 December 2025	2,329,816

On behalf of the Board of Directors:



Oleksandr Sushko
Executive Director

14 May 2026



Natalia Sannikova
Finance Director

14 May 2026

**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

<i>(in US dollars)</i>	Year ended 31 December 2025	Year ended 31 December 2024
Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(666,456)	358,558
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation/amortization	215,127	204,894
Foreign currency exchange (gain)/loss, net	(473,038)	(467,382)
Loss/(gain) on disposal of property, equipment and intangible assets	2,190	-
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	2,211,183	2,335,541
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	71,376	(74,260)
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	78	(78)
(Decrease)/increase in deferred revenues	(3,826,718)	4,328,196
(Decrease)/increase in accruals	(190,957)	(1,351,512)
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities and provisions	113,533	136,693
Cash from operating activities	(2,543,682)	5,470,650
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property, equipment and intangible assets	(50,367)	(226,751)
Cash used in investing activities	(50,367)	(226,751)
NET (DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(2,594,049)	5,243,899
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	8,056,197	2,926,994
Effect of movements in exchange rates on cash held	473,038	(114,696)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	5,935,186	8,056,197

On behalf of the Board of Directors:



Oleksandr Sashko
Executive Director

14 May 2026


Natalia Sannikova
Finance Director

14 May 2026

**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025**

**NOTES TO SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

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 2025 prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, 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 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 2 August 2026.

In 2025 and 2026, 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.

Given the ongoing war and its impact on the current macroeconomic situation, there are expectations that growth will slow down due to the ongoing war. GDP increased in Ukraine in 2025 is 1.8%, and annual inflation rate in 2025 is 8.0%. In 2025, the key policy rate increased in March to 15.5% and remained unchanged for the rest of the year despite rising inflationary pressures. The budget balance continues to show a significant deficit, driven by defense and national security expenditures.

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. As at 31 December 2025, the ratings are as follows:

- Fitch: long-term foreign currency issuer rating is RD and long-term local currency issuer rating is CCC;
- Moody's: long-term foreign and local currency issuer rating is Ca;
- S&P: long-term rating upgraded the rating from SD to CCC+.

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

**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025**

**NOTES TO SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

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 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;
- The Foundation has diversified sources of funding and cooperates with different donors, in particular during 2025 the Foundation received funding from OSF as well as other 3 donors (international organizations) under various programs;
- 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 2025, no events that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, these financial statements have occurred.

On behalf of the Board of Directors:



 Oleksandr Susfiko
Executive Director

14 May 2026


 Natalia Sannikova
Finance Director

14 May 2026