



# GURT COMMUNIQUÉ

## JUNE 2016

### Successes and highlights

#### Social Return on Investment: how small business development improves local livelihoods in Kyiv oblast

GURT Resource Centre is looking for **prospective entrepreneurs who need support to start their own business**. We train them, help in creating a business plan, and provide a partial financial support for its implementation. The project «**Development of women entrepreneurship in Ukraine**» is aimed at increasing employability and income-generation of women through development their entrepreneurial skills and encouragement to start their own small businesses. In 2016 **GURT has provided start-up grants to 11 women entrepreneurs in Kyiv oblast**. Particular attention was paid to the support of women who represent vulnerable community groups and/or women affected by the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. GURT ensures social return on investment in small business development **as decrease of social tension, creation of new work places, and local community development**. Watch video with success stories of women entrepreneurs supported within the project [here](#).



#### 2 brand new Training and Resource Centers for plumbers opened in Chernihiv and Sarny

For two years GURT is implementing the project «Public-private partnership to improve sanitary education in Ukraine» funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation along with Geberit International Sales AG. In May and June we celebrated opening of **two brand new Training and Resource Centers for plumbers** in Chernihiv and Sarny. Four more centers are to be open in Brovary, Dnipro, Odesa, and Poltava this fall. A year ago, Ukrainian secondary school graduates underestimated the profession of plumber. Now **six VET schools participating in the project expect considerable competition for**

**this specialty**. Implementing the project GURT uses **comprehensive approach to reforming the vocational education and training system** securing development of new educational standard, creation of new educational infrastructure, design of new manuals, and capacity development of teachers and VET schools administration. [Read more](#) about the project results in «Osvita Ukrainy» newspaper.

#### Go East

In June 2016, upon request of Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative (UCBI) **GURT's experts designed and facilitated capacity building events for three UCBI grantees in Donetsk oblast**.

Leaders, volunteers, partners of NGO «Moia Yedyna» in Bahmut and Platform of Initiatives MOVE in Novohrodivka managed to develop Mission and Vision statement of their organizations. After the brief training on NGO Management **they worked out Action Plans of further organizational development**. Staff and volunteers of the Kramatorsk NGO «Community Development Foundation» **conducted organizational self-assessment and defined priorities for development of their organization**. These events convinced us that GURT strategic priority – to direct 20% of GURT budget into community development projects in the East of Ukraine – has high relevance.



### Interactive Annual Report 2015

This year, celebrating the 20th anniversary of GURT Resource Centre, we have prepared the Annual Report for 2015 in the brand new format – of **interactive site available in two languages** – [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#). At GURT we love to innovate and save trees. Hope you appreciate our efforts, enjoy!

## Key activities

### GURT web-portal: Making Civil Voice Sound

GURT Resource Centre transforms GURT Portal into civil society media and communication platform for CSOs and community leaders.

Nowadays GURT's Facebook page has reached **13 400 followers** and is **the largest information platform for civil society and community leaders in Ukrainian segment of Facebook**. During the first half year of 2016 number of GURT's Facebook page followers **has grown by 12%**.

**For the period of January through July 2016:**

- The number of users who logged in the Portal **increased by 13%**. So GURT web portal unites the largest civil society constituency in Ukraine that is **23 700 registered users**
- The number of GURT's newsletter subscribers is **29 500, increased 11%** over the latter half of 2015
- The number of GURT followers at Twitter has increased **to 4 700**



### Number of CSOs doubled in Zaporizhzhia oblast since the Revolution of Dignity

GURT has studied the state of the Ukrainian civil society organizations in Zaporizhzhia oblast **during January-February 2016**. Although the **number of CSOs doubled in Zaporizhzhia oblast since the Revolution of Dignity**, the new actors **lack capacity to implement long-term sustainable initiatives**. Newly established CSOs constantly search for **efficient and effective tools and models to meet current social needs**. Study clearly showed that organizations do not perform long-term planning of their programs, but rather do very reactive planning answering on the current needs or opportunities in their communities. In order

to strengthen resilience and cohesion in vulnerable communities in Eastern Ukraine and to help mobilize local resources during January-July 2016 **GURT developed capacity-building program for CSOs from Zaporizhzhia oblast**. Read more about study results [here](#).

### «How to Create an Effective Platform for Cooperation between CSOs in Zaporizhzhia oblast» Conference

The one day conference in Open Space format **«How to Create an Effective Platform for Cooperation between CSOs in Zaporizhzhia oblast?»** took place **on March 26, 2016 in Zaporizhzhia**. During the one day of intensive work **65 participants discussed 31 issues in small groups related to the topic**. After the discussion sessions the participants designed next steps to implement initiatives generated during the event. **As a result 16 projects were created**. **Kateryna Kuchina, Deputy Director of Melitopol-based Charitable Foundation «Social Fund»** initiated the project to make the city of Melitopol accessible for people with disabilities. «We had a very fruitful discussion with the representatives of Jewish Community Centre «Mazal Tov» and got a number of very valuable tips to increase the efficiency of our project and raise resource to implement our initiative», commented Kateryna.

### Improve Your Business Training Program

**On 18-19 March 2016** winners of the business plan competition conducted in the framework of «Development of Women Entrepreneurship in Ukraine» project had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in business development **during Improve Your Business Training**. Women made PechaKucha presentations of their own business projects. GURT Resource Centre trainers commented on project presentations by **giving to women business tips and helping them find out weak points**. «A year ago I couldn't imagine that I will run a small business. However, when I considered that I would have the opportunity to receive consultancy and financial support from the project, I got the courage to start thinking of becoming the entrepreneur. I do appreciate the project's support as now I have a number of ideas for developing additional businesses, behind the photography», **said Marianna Yeleyko from Chubynskiy village, Boryspil rayon, Kyiv oblast**, who has got PhD in Sociology, but faced difficulties in finding the job after finishing her research.



## About GURT

**GURT Resource Centre** is the leading national centre for societal information and expertise. Since 1995 we have been committed to better Ukraine through strengthening civil society.



## Cooperation with Microsoft in spreading ICT in Ukraine

The **Girlz in ICT initiative** was held on **April 18, 2016** in Kyiv office of Microsoft Ukraine. The event aimed at encouraging girls to be guided not by stereotypes, but by personal interests and abilities, while choosing a profession in IT. Girlz in ICT event, organized by Microsoft Ukraine in partnership with GURT Resource Centre, **brought together 75 participants**. Among girls there were students and graduates of IT specialties, IT-managers, software specialists and graduates of specialties not related with IT, who plan to start the career in IT.

On **May 30, 2016** Resource Centre GURT in partnership with Microsoft Corporation held **YouthSpark Live** in Kyiv.

**The event brought together 70 active young people from all over Ukraine**. YouthSpark Live is a global community enabling youth to collaborate, inspire and support each other while using technology to spark change in Ukraine and abroad.

## Partnership with TechSoup

**GURT Resource Centre became TechSoup partner to implement** Software Donation Program to nonprofits in Ukraine. TechSoup focuses on supporting the growth and stability of civil society organisations through the intelligent use of information and communication technologies. **TechSoup Europe's conference «Technology for Social Good»**, that was held on June 13 in Brussels, gathered **over 120 policy-makers, corporate partners, funders, and executives from civil society organisations and social businesses**. This conference was a rare occasion that such a unique mix of stakeholders met together.

## 5th All-Ukrainian Self-Help School

During **April 2016**, GURT continued to train self-help animators and organized the **5th All-Ukrainian Self-Help School**. 17 graduates of the School were certified and now apply self-help technology to **support Ukrainian soldiers returning from the ATO zone and other Ukrainian people affected by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine**. «It is crucial to organize self-help groups for military servicemen because in continuous conflict military service is unable to effectively solve problems related to adapting ATO veterans to civilian life. Nowadays it is a great concern to volunteers. In this regard, the community realizes the need to be self-organized. As we plan to open a rehabilitation centre, we need consultations on how to start our activities and to effectively organize it», **said Serhii Vyshnovyy, ATO participant, head of the NGO «Union of ATO Veterans of Donbas», Kramatorsk city, Donetsk oblast**.

## Gender Policies and EU Integration of Ukraine

In the first half of 2016, within the project **«Gender Policies and EU Integration – Experience of V4 for EaP Countries»** GURT carried out the research **«Gender equality situation in Ukraine: challenges and opportunities»**. Based on the analyzed materials, 3 major achievements of Ukraine in the field of gender equality could be observed: **legislative framework on gender equality; non-governmental organizations in the sector of gender equality and women empowerment; raising awareness in the society on gender equality and gender education**. At the same time, **there are some challenges like**: the level of women representation in social and public life is still very low; low level of legal awareness of citizens in terms of gender discrimination; lack of political will to implement gender politics.

## Information Support of NATO radio marathon

During **April-July 2016**, GURT became information partner of unprecedented **NATO Radio Marathon 2016**, implemented by Human Rights Foundation with the support of Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania and NATO Information and Documentation Centre in Ukraine. In the framework of Marathon audience of the «Nashe Radio» could answer different quiz questions about NATO and its activities. Overall audience exceeded **12 million listeners from all regional centres of Ukraine**. The final event of the NATO radio marathon was **the enchanting afterparty on June 10, 2016**, the day when the winner of the project was selected. **60% of all visitors were at the afterparty through the GURT's information campaign**. Organizers managed to hold bright and broad-scale event, which **attracted attention of young people to the current issues of international cooperation**.



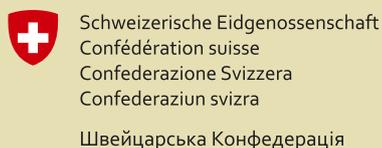
## MISSION 2020

GURT becomes an action platform of Ukrainian civil society organizations to mobilize active citizens and to implement societal changes based on European values: dignity, responsibility and respect.

## Partners and Donors



**techsoup**



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