



GURT RESOURCE CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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ABOUT GURT

GURT Resource Centre is the leading Ukrainian civil society information and capacity development institution. Since 1995, we have been committed to a better Ukraine through strengthening civil society.

Contributing to democratic societal transformations by using and developing the potential of civil society organizations, GURT exists for the conscious and successful Ukraine where civil society ensures dignity, confidence, and trust among citizens at local and national levels.

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.

Strategic priorities

- Strengthening the foundation for civil society through volunteerism promotion and small business development
- Making civil society voice sound through an action platform of Ukrainian CSOs and civil society media portal
- Developing local communities through best practice production and transfer
- Re-Forming Ukraine through policy making projects implementation

Strategic tools

GURT uses three strategic tools to achieve its objectives:

- Providing access to civil society related information
- Capacity developing
- Networking

GURT's key competences

- Production of unique civil society related content
- Distribution and promotion of user generated content
- Facilitation of public communication between the experts, civil society and community leaders in Ukraine
- Development and introduction of capacity development programs and on-line
- Facilitation of changes
- Management of innovative projects
- Event management

Key facts about GURT in 2016:

- Today, GURT Resource Centre is the largest information network of active citizens that **unites more than 30,000 people from all regions of Ukraine**. [GURT's Facebook page](#) has reached 15,700 followers and is **the largest information platform for civil society and community leaders in the Ukrainian segment of Facebook**.
- In 2016, **GURT provided start-up grants to 11 women entrepreneurs in Kyiv oblast, who created 17 new job places**.
- Since 2016, GURT Resource Centre in cooperation with TechSoup has implemented **Technology Assistance Program for Ukrainian Non-Profit Organizations (TechSoup Ukraine)**, which creates the **opportunity for CSOs modernization**. Owing to this Program, **27 organisations have already obtained software** from the world leading software developers on charitable basis.

- GURT Resource Centre has successfully completed an important stage of the four-year Swiss-Ukrainian project “**Public-private partnership to improve sanitary education in Ukraine**” funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in partnership with Geberit International Sales AG. **Six interregional Training and Resource Centers were created to train professional plumbers.**
- This year, GURT Resource Centre was named **The Best Capacity Building Provider by the participants of the Civil Society Capacity Building Forum**, which hosted over 1,200 representatives of Ukrainian CSOs.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

Dear friends!

Today GURT Resource Centre is the largest network of active citizens dedicated to improving life in their communities and making Ukraine a country of success.

During 2016, the audience of [GURT's web-portal](#) has increased by one-third and reached the number of 27.5 thousand registered users: civil society and community leaders. Such a rapid growth clearly speaks about the success of our strategy to maximize customers' needs satisfaction. Appearance at GURT's web-portal always means the most effective outreach for any civic initiative.



In 2016, we succeeded in launching the full operation of the [Technology assistance program for Ukrainian nonprofits](#) – TechSoup Ukraine, which seems to be our greatest achievement in the past year. Due to this program, Ukrainian nonprofits now can obtain software donations from donors like Microsoft, Autodesk, Tableau and others. Only during the second half of 2016, GURT assisted Ukrainian nonprofits to receive software donations for a total amount of more than 3.5 million Ukrainian hryvnya (about 140 thousand US dollars).

At the end of 2016, we signed an agreement on core support with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) which is an important recognition of the organizational maturity and the high relevance of GURT's strategic objectives.

For us, it was a great pleasure to stay with you in 2016! We are devoted to continuing our support to those who act in the name of conscious and successful Ukraine!

Truly Yours,
Bohdan Maslych
Executive Director
GURT Resource Centre

PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strengthening the Foundation for Civil Society

In 2016, GURT continued supporting community development through the empowerment of entrepreneurs to become independent and successful community leaders by providing them with knowledge and grants to develop their businesses. Along with it, we recognize the importance of volunteers' contribution to the development of the civil society in Ukraine and promote volunteer activities by involving adult citizens in volunteering.



The project “**Development of Women Entrepreneurship in Ukraine**”, funded by World Jewish Relief, was aimed at increasing the employability and income-generation of women through the development of their entrepreneurial skills and by encouraging them to start their own small businesses. Within the project, **GURT has provided start-up grants to 11 women entrepreneurs in Kyivska Oblast, who created 17 new job places.**

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 with the **decrease in social tension, creation of new workplaces, and local community development.** Watch video of success stories of women entrepreneurs supported within the project [here](#).

Success story

Due to the difficult political and military situation in eastern Ukraine **Inna Nelipovich's family was forced to flee their home and quit the business.** Inna left Donetsk oblast, where the war started, and came to Bucha, Kyiv oblast. **Inna had to quit her business – storage of household goods (home textiles).** In the host community, **she had to seek opportunities to start a new life.** When Inna had seen an announcement on the training program “Start Your Business”, **she decided to apply for participation and to look for new opportunities to increase her income.**

After participating in the project “**Development of women entrepreneurship in Ukraine**”, implemented by GURT, **Inna has opened an Internet store and showroom “[Komforthouse](#)”, (“Comfortable House”) to sell home textile. In a short time, the businesswoman **managed to implement her business plan successfully and even engaged two employees among IDPs.****

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“The project “Development of women's entrepreneurship in Ukraine” made me understand what is happening in the global socio-economic processes that determine business development. I got experience of complex solving of management issues that cover business, political, economic issues and legal practice. I tried to make the decisions that previously I did not dare to undertake. After having received financial support, I started my business in a new place of residence and decided to expand activities areas”, – Inna Nelipovich, the winner of GURT project “Development of women's entrepreneurship in Ukraine” business plan competition.

On March 18-19, 2016, winners of the business plan competition conducted in the framework of the “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 business projects. GURT Resource Centre trainers commented on project presentations by **giving business tips and helping them find weak points**.

In July 2016, GURT started to implement the project “**Employment through Entrepreneurship**”, funded by World Jewish Relief. Within the project, GURT has conducted two [Start Your Business trainings](#) for **40 participants from Kyivska oblast, who were selected from over 300 applicants**. The project targeted **ATO veterans, their family members, internally displaced people, and other vulnerable groups**. The participants developed their business plans; the most perspective ones **will receive grants for start-ups or development**.

In 2016, **our volunteer team consisted of 40 motivated and skilled civic journalists, translators, assistants, illustrators, videographers, photographers, and video editors** from different oblasts of Ukraine.

The webinars on civic journalism became **an effective tool for creating a civil journalist community**, which is constantly joined by new activists from all over Ukraine. In 2016, GURT's volunteers and staff **created more than 370 unique text and audio materials** highlighting socially important issues of Ukrainian civil society.

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“Cooperation with GURT is like a “breath of fresh air” to me, because it is nearly the first time I have an opportunity to choose a topic by myself and describe it from my point of view. I feel myself a journalist again. Now I can write about everything I know. This is my self-fulfillment, combination of pleasant and useful, impulse to start being active. Because I participate in GURT’s project I can keep up my journalistic skills, keep practicing, discover many new things and enlarge my knowledge. I know that my articles will be interesting and useful to somebody; there is nothing better than to be heard”, – **Sheilat Afolabi, GURT’s volunteer, Kramatorsk city, Donetsk oblast.**

Making Civil Society Voice Sound

GURT is the largest information network of active citizens which in 2016 united 27 500 users from all regions of Ukraine. However, along with serving their needs for societal information which helps active citizens to become more effective in developing our country, we focused on increasing the legitimacy of Ukrainian CSOs, by strengthening their capacity in the field of information and communication technologies.

The [GURT web portal](#) is the number one civil society media and the communication platform for civil society and community leaders, which offers deep insight into civil society development in Ukraine.

We use a set of different tools to initiate an open and inclusive dialogue at the GURT web-portal: **interviews with famous Ukrainians, experts, active citizens, CSO executives, representatives of governmental institutions, and local community leaders.**

This year, we published more than **50 unique interviews** reflecting and promoting the values of civil society. In this way, such topics as **IDPs success stories, community development, CSO networking, open data, intellectual property, and gender equality** have become more significant to our users thanks to materials featuring leaders of civil society organisations.



We continued to work on the traditional column of the GURT web portal "[PRoGOn](#)" (PR of NGOs) and **write about successful Ukrainian organisations and initiatives.** This year, within "PRoGOn", we prepared analytic publications about the [NGO "Crimean Diaspora"](#), [Prometheus platform](#), [Kyiv Cyclists' Association](#), [CF "Back and Alive"](#), [CF "Phoenix wings"](#), and [Human Rights Foundation](#).

At the end of 2016, we started a new column, "[NGO Leader](#)", where we talk about **real values, ideals, convictions, thoughts, motives, and actions of some key personalities who build the civil society of Ukraine.** In September-December 2016, in our column "[NGO Leader](#)", we talked about [Ihor Dobko](#), Deputy Head of NGO "Tovarystvo Leva", and [Yakiv Rogalin](#), Head of Donetsk City Charitable Foundation "DOBROTA".

One more innovation is the "[SmartNGO](#)" column. It is a systematized informational product created by GURT to **review useful books, educational resources, online courses, mobile apps, and technological innovations that could be useful to NGOs, active citizens, communities' leaders and anyone who is looking for self-development.**

Also, we continued to focus our content and to structure it as the “**Issue of the Month**”. In 2016, we covered the issues of [organizational development](#), [community development](#), [healthy lifestyle](#), [intellectual property](#), [CSO networking and collaboration](#). With the help of USAID project “Citizens in Action”, GURT initiated a special project called “[Register your Nonprofit in new list in time](#)”. The goal of the project was to answer **FAQs on the topic of registration in the new list of nonprofit organisations and institutions which were interesting to NGO representatives**. The attendance rate of project publications **was five times greater than the average rate of the website**.

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“My day starts and ends by visiting GURT web-portal. This is the best place to search for information. However, it is even better place to put up a notice, announcement, invitation to the trainings our press-club organizes. By the way, there is no such training where I don’t mention GURT, because I always recommend the best things!”, – **Viktoriia Talashkevych, Head of Reforms press-club, Kropyvnytskyi.**

In 2016, the number of users who logged in the Portal compared with the previous year **increased by 38%**. Now GURT web portal **unites the largest civil society constituency in Ukraine with 27 500 registered users**.

This growth of audience has been achieved due to careful analysis of the needs of GURT’s key audience – **leaders of civil society organizations and local communities** – and building the editorial policy in a way it meets their needs and expectations.

This year, GURT web portal’s pages were **viewed more than 4,300,000 times**. A significant number of the audience, **about 25%**, has been involved via social media.

We have stepped up our work with GURT [fan page](#) on Facebook. Thus, the number of members and their activity at the fan page grew nearly **by 35%**. In 2016, it reached **15,700 followers and is the largest information platform for civil society and community leaders** in the Ukrainian segment of Facebook.

CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM



Over 33 000 subscribers of GURT’s weekly newsletter



Over 5 000 followers have been involved to GURT’s Twitter account



15 700 LIKES

GURT is the largest Ukrainian Facebook community on civil society development

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“When something annoys you a lot or you can't stand it anymore, and you want to share your emotions with other people, than create a blog on GURT website. It's not a remainder or invitation, also it's not a press release of informational message. What concerns the format – it is nonstandard within some framework, so to say. Here we can talk about the third sector, its body and soul. Find your own motivation to start your blog that will help your colleagues learn great new things”, – **Artem Konovalov, program director of NGO “Community development center”, the city of Kharkiv.**

During April-July 2016, GURT became an 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 the Marathon, audiences of “Nashe Radio” could answer different quiz questions about NATO and its activities. Overall audience exceeded **12 million listeners from all regional centers of Ukraine**. The final event of the NATO Radio Marathon was **the enchanting after-party on June 10, 2016**, the day when the winner of the project was selected. **Sixty percent of all event visitors were at the after-party through the GURT's information campaign**. Organizers managed to hold a bright and broadscale event, which **attracted the attention of young people to the current issues of international cooperation**.

Also in 2016, **GURT Resource Centre in cooperation with TechSoup** implemented the [Technology Assistance Program for Ukrainian Non-Profit Organizations](#) (TechSoup Ukraine), which creates **opportunities for CSOs modernization**. TechSoup focuses on **supporting the growth and stability of CSOs** through the intelligent use of information and communication technologies. Owing to this Program, **27 organisations have already obtained software** from the world's leading software developers on a charitable basis. Watch video from the Program presentation [here](#).

In October-November 2016, GURT Resource Centre **conducted a study on the need of Ukrainian NGOs in terms of information and communication technologies (ICT)**. A total of **776 managers of Ukrainian NGOs and 10 ICT experts** took part in the study. The study revealed that **only 8% of the surveyed NGOs have ICT that fully respond to their current needs**. Meanwhile, **51% of respondents were not aware of IT innovations**. View infographics on the study results [here](#).

The research was followed up by the panel discussion **“Technologies for development: the efficient development of prospective communities in Ukraine”** held in [Kyiv](#) and [Kharkiv](#) in November 2016. The events, initiated by **Microsoft Ukraine in partnership with GURT Resource Centre**, brought together executive directors and managers of international and Ukrainian NGOs, charitable funds and state institutions. Each of them joined the event **to find the new effective models of cooperation for the good of community members in Ukraine.**



To respond to the NGOs' lack of ICT skills, GURT in partnership with TechSoup conducted the **pilot training workshop “ICT for NGOs”**, which brought together executive directors and managers of Ukrainian NGOs. The workshop covered the following issues – brand-new technologies of NGOs, internal and external communications, data analysis and visualization tools, cyber-security for the NGOs, and information on how NGOs can receive software within the [Technology Assistance Program for Ukrainian Non-Profit Organizations \(TechSoup Ukraine\)](#).



Among other events aimed **at strengthening CSOs' capacity in ICT** it is worth noticing the **cooperation between GURT Resource Center and Microsoft Corporation**. The [Girlz in ICT](#) initiative was held on **April 18, 2016**, in Kyiv. The event aimed at encouraging girls to be guided not by stereotypes but by personal interests and abilities, while choosing a profession in IT. Among girls there were **students and graduates of IT specialties, IT managers, software specialists and graduates of specialties not related to IT** who plan to start a career in IT.

On May 30, 2016, Resource Centre GURT in partnership with Microsoft Corporation held [YouthSpark Live](#) in Kyiv. **The event brought together active young people from all over Ukraine.** YouthSpark Live is a global community enabling the youth to collaborate, inspire and support each other while using technology to spark change in Ukraine and abroad.

Developing Local Communities

In 2016, GURT was moving forward with implementing its strategic decision – to support local communities and people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine by giving them online and offline toolkits for strengthening local democracy.

This year, **GURT Resource Centre was named The Best Capacity Building Provider** by the participants of the Civil Society Capacity Building Forum, which hosted **over 1,200 representatives of Ukrainian CSOs**. Read more [here](#).

In **April 2016**, GURT continued to train self-help animators and organize 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**.

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“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”, – **Serhii Vyshnovyy**, ATO participant, head of the NGO “Union of ATO Veterans of Donbas”, Kramatorsk city, Donetsk oblast.

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, and partners of NGO “Moia Yedyna” in Bahmut and Platform of Initiatives MOVE in Novohrodivka managed to develop the mission and vision statements of their organisations. After the brief training on NGO Management, **they worked out action plans for further organizational development**. Staff and volunteers of the Kramatorsk NGO “Community Development Foundation” **conducted an organizational self-assessment and defined priorities for the development of their organisation**. These events convinced us that GURT’s strategic priority – to direct 20% of GURT budget into community development projects in eastern Ukraine – has high relevance.



In September 2016, GURT started implementing the special media project “[Information for conscious action: hear the voice of people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine](#)”, funded by Media Development Fund of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine. The project goal is to provide a wide range of Ukrainian CSOs with the access to timely and accurate **information on the status and needs of communities and vulnerable groups affected by the conflict in Donbas region**, through GURT web portal. During the first four months of the project

implementation we **built a network of 30 civil journalists in five eastern Ukraine oblasts** (Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk, and Kharkiv) and **trained them on covering sensitive social issues in media.**

In November 2016, GURT Resource Centre **started implementing the project under the agreement with Ukrainian Women’s Fund.** The aim of the project is **to raise the capacity of 9 selected women’s organizations through the facilitation of organizational self-assessment and drafting organizational development plans.** Three self-assessment sessions were conducted in 2016, and additional 6 are to be conducted in 2017. Selected women’s organizations represent different regions of Ukraine, **including the eastern part affected by the conflict, and provide services to various vulnerable groups.**

One more project aimed to foster community cohesion in conflict-affected regions of Ukraine – **Yedyna Hromada/United Community (YH) program.** The program is supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by IREX and GURT Resource Centre. As a member of the European Community Development Network ([EuCDN](#)), **GURT plans to make its instruments accessible to Ukrainian communities.** Read more about the project [here.](#)

On December 3-4, 2016, GURT organized a 3-day national conference “[Societal transformations in Ukraine: information and instruments for conscious actions](#)”. During the conference held in an open space format, the participants **discussed 21 topics** covering issues of leadership, mass media coverage for eastern Ukraine, professional re-orientation of IDPs, support of the IDP students in project implementations, etc., and initiated 20 action plans aimed at solving important community problems. **The culture of self-help is being disseminated among Ukrainian communities,** and they become more capable of taking responsibility for their future.



Re-Forming Ukraine

By promoting best practices in sanitary education, gender policies, and effective cooperation between CSOs, supporting change agents, and ensuring open dialogue between the government, civil society, and the public, GURT Resource Centre contributes to reforms in Ukraine.



In 2016, GURT successfully completed an important stage of the four-year Swiss-Ukrainian project “**Public-private partnership to improve sanitary education in Ukraine**” funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in partnership with Geberit International Sales AG. **Six interregional Training and Resource Centers were created to train professional plumbers.** The Ukrainian government has started disseminating this innovative model throughout Ukraine. Thus, **in 2016, the government funded the creation of nine Training and Resource Centers, and it plans to create another ten centers in 2017.** Read more about project successes [here](#).

In January-February 2016, GURT studied the state of the Ukrainian civil society organizations in Zaporizhzhia oblast. Although the **number of CSOs doubled in Zaporizhzhia oblast since the Revolution of Dignity**, the new actors **lack the capacity to implement long-term sustainable initiatives.** Newly established CSOs constantly search for **efficient and effective tools and models to meet current social needs.** A 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. To strengthen resilience and cohesion in vulnerable communities in eastern Ukraine and to help mobilize local resources during January-July 2016 **GURT developed a capacity-building program for CSOs from Zaporizhzhia oblast.** Read more about study results [here](#)

The conference “**How to Create an Effective Platform for Cooperation between CSOs in Zaporizhzhia Oblast?**” was created in Open Space format and took place **on March 26, 2016 in Zaporizhzhia.** During the one-day intensive workshop, **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.**



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 study “**Gender equality situation in Ukraine: Challenges and opportunities**”. Based on the analyzed materials, three major achievements of Ukraine in the field of gender equality can be observed: a **legislative framework on gender equality, non-governmental organizations in the sector of gender equality and women empowerment, increased awareness in the society on gender equality and gender education.** At the same time, some challenges still remain: **the low level of women’s representation in social and public life, the low level of legal awareness of citizens in terms of gender discrimination, and the lack of political will to implement gender policies.**



In 2016, GURT piloted the idea of **creating the Ukraine Civil Society Action Platform** within the project “**Building a membership based civil society network in Ukraine based on the GURT Resource Centre**”, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Estonia and implemented in partnership with the Network of Estonian Nonprofit Organisations (NENO). In November 2016, **study visit of ten Platform Steering Committee members** was organized in Estonia. Ukrainian CSO leaders **got acquainted with the peculiarities of the Estonian Networks:**

governance, membership policies, ethical principles, and instruments that influence decision-making. The participants confirmed the need to create a network of not-for-profit organisations from all over Ukraine that will defend the interests of the whole sector.

To define the positions of the civil society representatives on the establishment of the Ukraine Civil Society Action Platform, GURT Resource Centre initiated the **national discussion “How to increase the influence of civil society in Ukraine?”**. In December 2016, the discussions took place in Lviv and Dnipro. The participants **expressed their expectations regarding the establishment of the Ukraine CS Action Platform.**

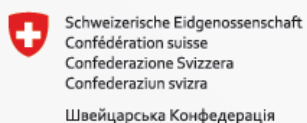
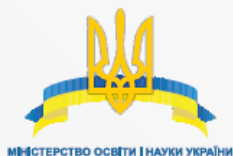
FINANCIAL REPORT

GURT Resource Centre conducts annual audit in accordance with the international standards on auditing issued by The International Auditing and Assurances Standards Board (IAASB). Audit Company "UHY Prostir LTD" carried out the audit of GURT Resource Centre for the year 2016. The full audit report is available at [GURT web-portal](#).

Statement of Cash Flows (in thousands of Ukrainian Hryvnias)

Cash donations received 2016	
SIDA	4,203
Chemonics International (project USAID)	1,052
World Jewish Relief	1,167
Swiss Cooperation Office Ukraine	2,366
Geberit International Sales AG	800
US Department of State	256
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	781
OWI (east-West-Institute for Social Management)	282
ICF "Ukrainian Womens Fund"	274
Fundacja TechSoup	259
Fund of Women Entrepreneurs	85
Ukraine Social Investment Fund	11
Other	313
Total cash donations received	11,849
Interest on deposit	23
Total cash receipts	11,872
Cash spent	
Conferences, workshops, meetings, events	(3,649)
Information activities	(496)
Subgrants	(448)
Project management	(1,609)
Total cash spent	(6,202)
Administrative expenses	(1,340)
Foreign exchange and translation differences	139
Fundraising expenses	(150)
Total resources expended	(1,351)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	4,319
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1411
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	5,730

PARTNERS AND DONORS



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