GURT RESOURCE CENTER
Annual Report 2023

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62,271 CHANGEMAKERS
GURT's Information network has grown with 5,000 new changemakers

₴18M
the market value of software products delivered to Ukrainian CSOs

5715 INDIVIDUALS
received psychosocial support

₴1,3M
in grants to promote IT skills among kids and youth

538 ENTREPRENEURS
developed skills to start new business

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Since 1995, GURT has been committed to better Ukraine, developing and utilizing the potential of changemakers. GURT strives for conscious and successful Ukraine where civil society, business, and government collaboratively ensure dignity, confidence, and trust among citizens at local and national levels.

Our mission is to accelerate the Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine, being an effective implementing agency of innovative projects and serving changemakers to develop their capacity and maximize their impact.

The GURT's team is proud to be united around the organization's mission. Despite the vulnerability of the entire civil society, from the first days of the war, we ensured the effective operation of the TechSoup Ukraine program and GURT's web portal, providing changemakers with available opportunities.

RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN POTENTIAL OF COMMUNITIES

Ukrainian civil society faces many challenges related to the consequences of the war. One of the most important is the recovery of people after experiencing crises because we critically need to have human resources for the reconstruction of the country in the future and today.

An approach like **group socio-psychological rehabilitation** has repeatedly proven its effectiveness, and not only in Ukraine. The methodology helps people survive traumatic experiences, adapt to changes, and return to normal life, which ultimately strengthens the community and the country.

For many years, the GURT resource center has been developing a network of organizations that use group social and psychological rehabilitation in their work. In 2023, we continued this work and expanded the circle of our partners. Self-help groups working in communities of **thirteen oblasts of Ukraine** provided social and psychological rehabilitation to **5,715 victims of russia's aggression**. The primary beneficiaries of social and psychological rehabilitation services are veterans, relatives and relatives of Ukrainian defenders, and IDPs.

Vasylyna K., IDP from Donbas, wife of a prisoner of war:

"My husband was a prisoner of war; I know how difficult it is. First, I went through the group psychosocial rehabilitation myself. After attending GURT's training, I became a self-help group facilitator.
Now, I help our defenders' wives deal with their emotions and fears. In my group, there are several wives of recons. For obvious reasons, they are cautious about communicating with other people. Only in this group they may openly express their emotions and get the necessary support".

Vasylyna's [full story in Ukrainian](#)
More stories of self-help group participants in Ukrainian [here](#)

Supporting the desire of Ukrainian children and youth to master digital technologies is another tool for restoring and developing the human potential of communities. Since 2018, the GURT Resource Center, in partnership with TechSup Europe, has been implementing the **Meet and Code initiative** to promote digital literacy among children and youth. It brings together partners, educational institutions, and local communities to organize free programming, technology literacy, and STEM education events.

The development of digital skills among young people is one of the strategic tasks for Ukraine today for several key reasons:
1. **Creating a base for economic growth.** Digital technologies are the backbone of today's economy, IT startups and investments in the technology sector contribute to the creation of new jobs and the stimulation of economic growth. Digitally literate youth can become an engine of innovation and entrepreneurship.

2. **Education and professional development.** We allow young people to learn more about interesting modern professions and take the first steps in studying the future profession. In addition, integrating digital technologies into the educational process makes learning more interactive and effective.
3. **Ensuring social equality.** Digital tools allow young people from different regions of Ukraine, including remote ones, to join the events. It is also an opportunity for those who cannot afford expensive education. Our work contributes to reducing social inequality and building an inclusive society.
4. **Protection of national security.** Today, digital literacy is necessary for the country's cyber security. Training within the framework of this direction touches, among others, issues of protection of critical infrastructure and data privacy.

In 2023, **36 Ukrainian CSOs** received over **1.3M UAH** in grant aid for holding **71 events** as part of the Meet and Code initiative. Despite all the difficulties of working in the conditions of war and the challenges associated with holding events, **3,730 participants** - children, teenagers, and young people - almost half (49%) - girls, joined the events. This year was characterized by various proposed topics for Meet and Code events. From classic and always relevant - robotics, artificial intelligence, cyber security - to designing works on a laser machine, developing security systems, technological reconstruction of the city, management, programming of quadcopters and drones, and mine safety.

"*I dream of creating robots that will replace rescuers and save the lives of not only victims but also people who die while helping others*" - **Makar Naibych, 12-year-old**, VEX RoboWeek STEM-course trainee; **NGO Noosphere Association**, Dnipro.

Training on piloting DJI drones; ***NGO ARGO ART GROUP***, *Poltava.*

In 2023, **two Conferences of Self-Help Practitioners** took place - in July and November. The participants of the events were specialists who provide social and psychological rehabilitation services to war victims, as well as public activists who understand the importance of such work and strive to develop this direction in Ukraine. Such meetings are held to discuss problematic methodological issues, find practical solutions in assisting victims through participation in self-help groups, and exchange valuable practical experience.

Andriy Kinash, self-help group facilitator, NGO Poltava Social Service of Ukraine:

"We see that self-help group socio-psychological rehabilitation is very effective, and this activity is gaining more and more momentum now. It is important to understand that we work for the future: we started the rehabilitation process, and the results appear gradually. The longer we work, the more significant results will be achieved".

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Supporting small businesses in Ukraine during times of war is extremely important for the state's economic stability. Micro and small businesses provide jobs, which is critical for reducing unemployment and maintaining the population's standard of living.

Ukrainian business is holding up well in the conditions of war. However, this process needs constant support. Therefore, the GURT Resource Center continues to support entrepreneurs within the framework of the International Labor Organization project "Inclusive Labor Market to Create Jobs in Ukraine" and develops business skills through the "Start and Improve Your Business" training program. Qualified experts and certified trainers of GURT provide entrepreneurs with access to individual counseling and assist in attracting financing for their business development.

In 2023, we held **26 trainings for entrepreneurs** in different parts of Ukraine. **538 people** improved their knowledge and skills in managing their businesses (82.5% of them are women). More than **60% of entrepreneurs declared the creation of new jobs** due to participation in GURT's trainings, and about 20% took advantage of the state programs of grants and soft loans for small businesses.

The russia's air strike forced the group to continue the training for entrepreneurs in the bomb shelter.

Hanna Dovzhenko, IDP from Kharkiv, who moved to Lviv region:
"When I saw an announcement on social networks about the training "Start Your Business" from the International Labor Organization, which was organized by GURT, I immediately became interested. She saw that it was for three days - that is, it should be quite thorough - and registered. It was a driving, emotionally charged event. Everything happened in one breath! I presented my business idea for the first time at the training. For the first time, she talked about herself, her product, and its benefits in front of a large audience. I received valuable feedback - other participants gave advice, made comments, and shared what works and responds to them and what does not work. Almost everyone said that I should work with social networks, it became a new horizon for me. So, I am very grateful and advise everyone to attend such trainings".

***Hanna's** [full story in Ukrainian](#)*

The success stories of other participants of the "Start Your Business" trainings who continue their business, restore a relocated or lost business in a new place, or start a business during martial law can be found here (in Ukrainian).

During 2023, GURT held **three webinars** on the features of three key international business platforms - eBay, Amazon, Etsy - and taxation issues. The webinars were recorded and presented for free access on GURT's YouTube channel.
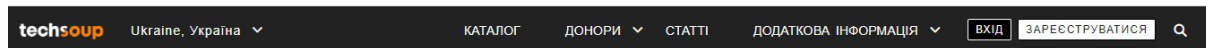
BUILDING CSO RESILIENCE

Despite the extremely difficult conditions in which our country found itself due to russia's aggression, GURT continues to actively work on the digital development of civil society. In 2023, the situation with awareness of CSOs and their compliance with the basic rules of digital security remains difficult. That is why we continued our work on providing preferential license software within the framework of the Program of technological assistance to Ukrainian non-profit organizations (TechSoup Ukraine) because they need support with digital transformation to continue their activities and work effectively for the benefit of society. GURT partner organizations also receive technical assistance from our IT team, in particular with digital audit and deployment of Microsoft 365 cloud services, reconfiguration of communication from personal e-mail to secure corporate mail and storage, and obtaining Azure grants if CSOs want to create their own online resource for free or database.

During the year, **263 organizations** took advantage of the program, and the **total market value of the software** provided to Ukrainian CSOs through the TechSoup Ukraine program exceeded **18M UAH**. Among the recipient organizations are large charitable foundations actively working for the victory of Ukraine - such as the Come Back Alive, the Serhiy Prytula Foundation, AZOV ONE, and others, as well as many famous Ukrainians. By the end of 2023, **3,500 Ukrainian CSOs** were registered on the TechSoup Ukraine platform.
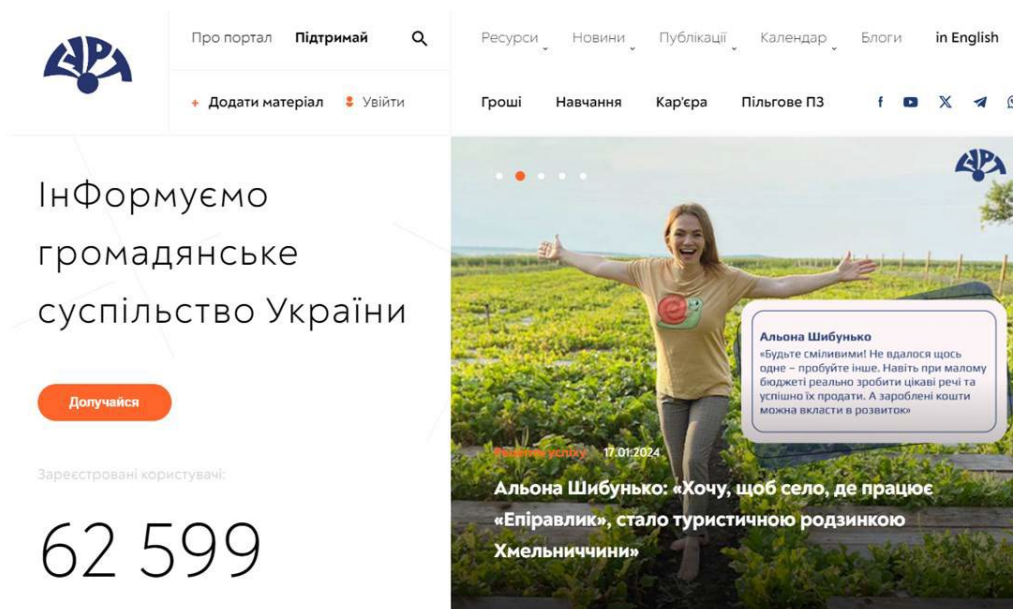
"With the beginning of the full-scale russian invasion, our team realized that it is important to pay even more attention to the digital security of the organization because it is necessary not only for us but also for our target audience, partners, and donors. It cannot be said that digital security was ignored in our organization. We have always understood this is important and have stressed it to all team members. Bitdefender software, obtained through TechSoup, helps protect an organization's information. The organization also uses Adobe Express, which allows you to create visual content faster and with better quality, which helps speed up the execution of tasks and more successful implementation of activities and projects" **- Victor Smoliak, IT-specialist, NGO InSource.**

To build the capacity of Ukrainian CSOs and strengthen changemakers, TeshSoup Europe and the GURT Resource Center implemented the project **"Increasing the resilience of civil society in Ukraine"** in 2023. The goal is to equip organizations and public figures with skills to counter disinformation, digital security, and personal and organizational resilience so that they can, in turn, become active distributors of these skills at the local level to the thousands of citizens and communities they work with every day.

The project covered three thematic areas: countering disinformation, digital security and protection, and personal and organizational resilience. In cooperation with the [Hive Mind](#) platform, we have prepared and published more than **20 thematic materials**, and conducted several trainings for changemakers.

The GURT portal was and remains the leading platform for communication in the public sector. It is a daily practical information tool for community leaders, managers of public organizations, charitable organizations, donor structures, socially responsible businesses, representatives of local self-government bodies, state authorities, and journalists. In 2023, the number of changemakers registered on the GURT Portal exceeded **62 thousand**.

GURT actively uses [social media](#) to convey information about current opportunities to as many changemakers as possible. You may follow us on **Facebook, Telegram, YouTube, X, Instagram,** and **WhatsApp.**

GURT continues to support socially essential initiatives of civil society organizations in Ukraine. For the sixth year in a row, we are the official information partner of the **Charity Ukraine National Contest**, held by the Association of Philanthropists of Ukraine.
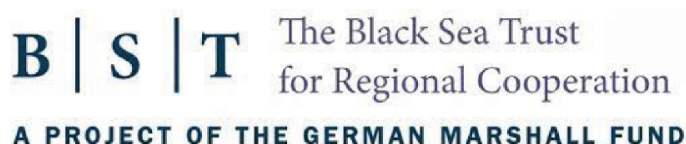
FINANCIAL REPORT

GURT Resource Center conducts the annual audit following the international standards on auditing issued by The International Auditing and Assurances Standards Board (IAASB). Audit Firm AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING Limited Liability Company (registration number in the Register of Auditors and Audit Entities No. 4867) carried out the audit of the GURT Resource Center for the year 2023.

Statement of Cash Flows (in thousands of UAH)

Cash donations received in 2023	
International Labour Organization	9 808
National Endowment for Democracy	4 132
Other funds for statutory activities	2 096
TechSoup Foundation (Meet&Code Project)	1 550
TechSoup Ukraine	851
Erasmus+ EU Program for Education, Training, Youth, and Sport	54
Total cash receipts	**18 491**
Cash spent in 2023	
Events (conferences, seminars, trainings)	(6 964)
Information activities	(958)
Subgrants	(4 015)
Psychosocial rehabilitation services	(4 057)
Project management	(7 174)
Administrative and fundraising expenses	(4 160)
Fixed assets	(253)
Total cash spent	**(27 581)**
Foreign exchange and translation differences	812
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	**(8 278)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	**17 778**
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**9 500**

28 Esplanadna St., office 7, Kyiv, 01001, Ukraine
info@gurt.org.ua
www.gurt.org.ua