

SUCCESSSES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Yedyna Hromada: inclusive community development in eastern Ukraine

GURT is moving forward with implementing its strategic decision – support of local communities in eastern Ukraine. **Yedyna Hromada/United Community (YH) program**, was launched. The project aims to foster community cohesion in conflict-affected regions of Ukraine. The program is supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by IREX and GURT. As the member of European Community Development Network (EuCDN) **GURT plans to make its instruments accessible to Ukrainian communities**. Read more about the project [here](#).

Welcome TechSoup Ukraine: new opportunities for Ukrainian CSOs



In 2016, GURT Resource Centre in cooperation with TechSoup started implementing [Technology Assistance Program for Ukrainian Non-Profit Organizations](#) (TechSoup Ukraine), which creates the **opportunity 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, **the organisations can obtain software** from the world leading software developers on charitable basis. Watch video from the Program presentation [here](#).

Ukrainian Government rolls out the model developed by GURT

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**. Ukrainian government has started disseminating this innovative model throughout Ukraine. Thus, in 2016 Government funded the creation of nine Training and Resource Centers, and it plans to create another ten Centres in 2017. Read more about project successes [here](#).



GURT – the Best Capacity Building Provider

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](#).

KEY ACTIVITIES

GURT web-portal: Making Civil Society Voice Sound

[GURT web-portal](#) is the number one civil society media and the communication platform for civil society and community leaders, which offers the deep insight into civil society development in Ukraine. In July-December 2016, [GURT's Facebook](#) page has reached **15 700 followers** and is the largest information platform for civil society and community leaders in Ukrainian segment of Facebook.

In July - December 2016:

- The number of users who logged in the Portal increased by 16%. GURT web-portal unites the largest civil society constituency in Ukraine that is **27 500 registered users**
- The number of GURT's newsletter subscribers is **over 33 000**, increased by **11%** comparing with the first half of 2016
- The number of GURT followers at [Twitter](#) has increased to **5 000**

Small business development for local communities' good



GURT continued supporting community development through empowerment of entrepreneurs to become independent and successful community leaders by providing them with knowledge and grants to develop their businesses within «Employment through Entrepreneurship» programme, funded by World Jewish Relief. During July-December 2016, GURT has conducted two [Start Your Business trainings](#) for the participants from Kyivska oblast. 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.

Media project «Information for conscious action: hear the voice of people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine»

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 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**.



Study on NGO information and communication technologies needs

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

Transform GURT: Building Ukraine Civil Society Action Platform



In 2016, GURT started piloting the idea of creating **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 10 Platform steering committee members** to Estonia was organized. Ukrainian CSO leaders got acquainted with peculiarities of Estonian Networks functioning:

governance, membership policies, ethical principles, instruments of influencing decision-making. 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.

Panel discussion «Technologies for development: the efficient development of prospective communities in Ukraine» (Kyiv, Kharkiv)

In November 2016, panel discussion «Technologies for development: the efficient development of prospective communities in Ukraine» was held in [Kyiv](#) and [Kharkiv](#). 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.



National conference «Societal transformations in Ukraine: information and instruments for conscious actions»



During December 3-4, 2016, GURT organized 3-day national conference «[Societal transformations in Ukraine: information and instruments for conscious actions](#)». During the conference held in 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 to take responsibility for their future.

Pilot training workshop «ICT for NGOs»

On December 16-17, 2016, 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 [Technology Assistance Program of Ukrainian Non-Profit Organizations](#)** (TechSoup Ukraine).

National discussion «How to increase the influence of civil society in Ukraine?» (Lviv, Dnipro)

In order to define the positions of civil society representatives toward the establishment of 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. Participants **expressed their expectations** regarding the establishment of the **Ukraine CS Action Platform**.

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