



GURT RESOURCE CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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ABOUT GURT

GURT Resource Center is the leading Ukrainian civil society information and capacity development institution. Since 1995, we have been committed to 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 2017:

- GURT Resource Center has successfully implemented 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. In 2017, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine rolled out the model of interregional Training and Resource Centers created within the project to 19 vocational schools from all over Ukraine at 12 million UAH from the state budget.
- During 2017, GURT in cooperation with TechSoup was implementing the Technology Assistance Program for Ukrainian Non-Profit Organizations (TechSoup Ukraine) which creates opportunities for CSOs modernization. The market value of donations provided by TechSoup Ukraine is nearly 240,000 USD.
- In June 2017, GURT and World Jewish Relief provided grants to four Ukrainian startups as of 170,000 UAH. Simultaneously GURT has launched the mobile application GURT.Biz, which helps entrepreneurs to navigate better across the oceans of business.
- The [GURT's web-portal](#) is the largest information network of active citizens which united 37,000 people from all oblasts of Ukraine in 2017. [GURT's Facebook page](#) has reached 22,300 followers and is the largest information platform for civil society and community leaders in the Ukrainian segment of Facebook.

PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strengthening the Foundation for Civil Society

Professional volunteer management

GURT Resource Center recognizes the importance of volunteers' contribution to the development of civil society in Ukraine. In 2017, our volunteer team consisted of 35 motivated and skilled civic journalists, translators, assistants, illustrators, videographers, photographers, video editors from different oblasts of Ukraine.



The webinars on civic journalism and workshops became an effective tool for creating strong civic journalist community, which was constantly joined by new activists from all over Ukraine. In 2017, GURT's volunteers created more than 580 text and 275 audio materials highlighting socially important issues of Ukrainian civil society.



"Volunteering in GURT Resource Center contributed to my personal development. For example, my level of media literacy has significantly increased. Thanks to the meetings with the heroes of my materials, publications of other volunteers and trainings, I realized that there were many active, creative, patriotic, incredible people among internally displaced persons.

Thanks to GURT, I met other volunteers from all over Ukraine. With some of them, we are actively communicating outside volunteer activities. I strongly encourage cooperation with GURT for socially active citizens, students, and journalists", – **Maryna Boichuk, GURT's volunteer.**

On 2-3 of June 2017, the CSOs managers had an opportunity to improve the skills and systemize the knowledge during the two-day training "[Efficient management of volunteer programs](#)" conducted by GURT Resource Center. The participants comprehensively considered the volunteer program, its components and the way to put it into action.



Local community giving initiatives of small business

In 2017, GURT Resource Center 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.

This year, GURT completed implementation of the project “Employment through Entrepreneurship” funded by World Jewish Relief. Within the project, we provided grants to four Ukrainian startups as of 170,000 UAH. Simultaneously GURT has launched a mobile application GURT.Biz, which helps entrepreneurs to navigate better in the ocean of business. The mobile app includes sections for ATO veterans and IDPs and is available through [Google Play](#) and [AppStore](#). You can watch a video with success stories of entrepreneurs supported within the project [here](#).

Success story

After returning from the ATO, Kostiantyn Vovk from Bila Tserkva decided to open a store where he planned to sell vegetables and fruits from small households of the district. He also had two land plots, and his business idea was to grow and sell saplings and berries (raspberries, blackberries).

Kostiantyn took part in the training provided by GURT and received 50,000 UAH as a grant. He spent money for the purchase of seedlings, all necessary tools and equipment. Now he opened a shop and has three employees. In 2018, the plants will give the first harvest. Kostiantyn is not going to stop, and in his plans is opening another store next year.



In July 2017, GURT started to implement the project “Productive communities” funded by World Jewish Relief. Within the project, GURT conducted Start Your Business trainings for 15 participants, selected out of 3 community from Kyiv oblast – Borodianka, Boyarka, Vasylkiv. 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 received grants for start-ups or development in 2018.



“We co-operated with GURT in 2008-2009, when we implemented the program Start and Improve Your Business. After we officially concluded the cooperation in 2010, the program continued to live and develop with the support of GURT.

GURT updates the program and adapts it to the new requirements of the legislation or the needs of the target groups. Thus, the program proves its versatility, and GURT shows its ability to effectively implement it. I am very pleased with our cooperation”,

– **Serhiy Savchuk, national coordinator of the International Labor Organization in Ukraine.**

Making Civil Society Voice Sound

Civil Society Media Portal

[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. We use a set of different tools initiating an open and inclusive dialogue at GURT web-portal: interviews with famous Ukrainians, experts, active citizens, CSOs' executives, representatives of governmental institutions, and local communities' leaders.

In 2017, we published 30 unique interviews reflecting and promoting the values of civil society. In this way, such topics as IDPs success stories, community development, informational accessibility, CSO networking, volunteering and leadership have become more significant to our users thanks to materials featuring leaders of civil society organizations.

"We highly appreciate the media capabilities provided by GURT Resource Center. The weekly newsletter and GURT web-portal have a well-defined target audience, so they are very efficient.

Our collaboration at the beginning of 2018 within the X International Conference of the Ukrainian Philanthropists Forum "Atlas Blagozmin" has proven GURT's professionalism to all 400 participants of the event who gave favorable feedback on the workshop and the panel discussion provided by the GURT team. Ukrainian Philanthropists Forum acknowledges our fruitful cooperation and hopes for further strengthening of ties", – **Polina Nyukhina, the head of the Ukrainian Philanthropists Forum.**



We continued to work on the traditional column of GURT web-portal [PRoGOn](#) (PR of NGOs) writing about successful Ukrainian organizations and initiatives. This year, within PRoGOn, we prepared publications about [NGO "Crimean Diaspora"](#), [Foundation of Regional Initiatives](#), [Foundation "Podilska community"](#) and [Foundation of Voznesensk Community](#).

In the beginning of 2017, we started a new column "[GURTStarter](#)" where we talk about the ideas of a new generation of civic activists, youth initiatives, and innovative projects. During the year, we introduced to our users such initiatives as [NGO "Sotnya"](#), [Hub "Studio 42"](#), [Free space for active youth "Majsternya"](#), [The forge of the Ukrainian intelligentsia](#), and [Vidlik project](#).

During 2017, we continued to publish analytical articles in the column "[NGO Leader](#)". This year, we presented to our audience values, ideals, convictions, thoughts, motives and actions of [Oksana Ruda](#), ISAR Ednannia program director, [Anna Kiyashchenko](#), Poltava branch of the Public Service of Ukraine head, and [Lubov Palyvoda](#), CCC Creative Center founder and president.

CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM



In 2017, the number of users who logged in the portal comparing with the previous year increased by 34%. GURT web-portal united the largest civil society constituency in Ukraine that was 37,000 registered users. GURT web-portal's pages were viewed more than 4,900,000 times.

We continued to work with GURT [fan -page](#) on Facebook. Thus, the number of members and their activity at the fan-page grew nearly by 42%. In December 2017, it has reached 22,300 followers and is still the largest information platform for civil society and community leaders in Ukrainian segment of Facebook.

In 2017, for the third time, GURT became the information partner of unprecedented [NATO Radio Marathon 2017](#). The Marathon lasted for 11 weeks, since March 24th till June 2nd, 2017, on "Nashe Radio". Every Friday representatives of embassies of different NATO member states told the audience interesting facts and asked questions related to the history, culture, and membership in the Alliance of their countries. The project engaged 13 million audience all over Ukraine.

Legitimacy of Ukrainian CSOs

Since 2016, GURT Resource Center in cooperation with TechSoup implemented [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, Ukrainian CSOs obtain software from the world leading software developers on charitable basis. The market value of donations provided by TechSoup Ukraine is nearly 240,000 USD.

“Within TechSoup Ukraine, we received Slack and Amazon Web Services Credits for non-profit organizations. Slack helped us to organize an internal communication. Distribution of channels to individual projects, team departments, and organizational issues; file sharing, branch lines to specific messages; integration of other services, such as Geekbot, Polly, Google Drive, InVision – all of this has made our communication more efficient, quick and structured. Thanks to Amazon Web Services Credits, we were able to save money on Amazon servers. As a civic education organization, we must be an example of fair use of information. The licensed software allows us to create high-quality products quickly, without bugs and provides technical support for problem-solving”, – **the team of EdEra online-education studio.**



In 2017, GURT Resource Center continued to introduce local CSOs with the possibilities and prospects which TechSoup Ukraine opens for them. For this reason, GURT together with IT experts conducted three webinars for Ukrainian CSO's managers on the topics of [data visualization](#), [digital security](#), and [instructions for CSOs](#) on how to get licensed software.

On January 21, 2017, within the Forum “Internet Technologies for the Development of Human, Community and City” there was a [TechSoup Ukraine presentation](#) in Zaporizhzhia. To raise the level of CSO managers' awareness in the field of information technologies, on June 15-16, 2017, GURT conducted [a training](#) on information and communication technologies for non-governmental organizations in Ivano-Frankivsk.



This year, for the first time in Ukraine, within EU Code Week, an initiative [Meet and Code](#) was held. 26 organizations through different events in various formats (seminars, lectures, trainings, workshops, hackathons, film shows, competitions, etc.) have showed how interesting the digital world could be. Meet and Code initiative was implemented by GURT Resource Center in cooperation with TechSoup Europe and Haus des Stiftens gGmbH and funded by SAP. The EU Code Week took place on 7-22 October 2017.

Developing Local Communities

Capacity building for community leaders

The Self-help methodology is the tool, which GURT has been promoting during the last few years. Post-war rehabilitation and integration of soldiers, losses in the families, injured people, preparation of the documents for social security payments and guarantees to war veterans, alcohol and drug abuse, work with the people with disabilities are effectively approached using self-help methodology.

During 2017, GURT continued to train self-help animators and organized [the 6th All-Ukrainian Self-Help School](#). The graduates of the School were certified and now apply self-help technology to solve the problems of various social groups.



"We conduct self-help groups for two target audiences: participants of Maidan and ATO veterans. Considering some people have specific problems, they need to talk in their own circle. When you listen to other people and see the same situation in their life you realize that you are not alone, and your problems have a solution. Sharing collective experiences helps to understand yourself better. This mechanism, in my opinion, is not fast. However, an advantage of self-help technology is that it is a practice of nonprofessionals. Often professionals don't experience such situations and don't understand how to help", – Igor Slyusarenko, ATO veteran, representative of the NGO "Kyiv City Association of Participants of the ATO of Podilskyi Rayon", who organized self-help groups for ATO veterans.

In 2017, GURT Resource Center completed implementation of the project "Capacity building of women's organizations" under the agreement with Ukrainian Women's Fund. The aim of the project is to raise capacity of 9 selected women's organizations through facilitation of organizational self-assessment and drafting organizational development plans. 3 self-assessment sessions were conducted in 2016, and additional 6 – in 2017. Selected women's organizations represent different regions of Ukraine, including eastern part, affected by the conflict, and provide services to various vulnerable groups.

In September 2017, GURT also launched a convenient working tool for civil journalists and activists working in the information domain. GURT.Media is a free mobile app developed for [Android](#) and [iOS](#) platforms. It gives an access to recommendations on public journalism, public radio journalism, and creation of presentations which motivate to action.

[Yedyna Hromada/United Community \(YH\) project](#) is being implemented by IREX and GURT with the support of US Agency for International Development (USAID) . It aims at fostering community cohesion in conflict-affected regions of Ukraine. 12 target communities in Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are developing a common inclusive vision for their future and work to achieve it. The main driving source of the project is the network of 60 active citizen representing local civil society organizations, local governments, internally displaced persons, community activists. They have organized "United Community" training on communication, active listening, conflict mitigation, work with the stereotypes, "Do not Harm Approach" for more than 700 participants from their 12 local communities. They have also developed small community cohesion projects, which they are implementing.

"After moving to Starobilsk, I saw misunderstanding arising between internally displaced people and locals, representatives of the volunteer battalions, Armed forces of Ukraine and citizens of the city. For me project "United Community" is remarkable. I realized that it has been unity and synergism that could create miracles. That's why I work on my social capital now, I manage "INVETORS" youth initiative that has already implemented the "Charity wardrobe" project. We plan to create a dialogue between students and professors in Starobilsk, the professional facilitators will take part in it. While meeting other participants we still discuss the most interesting moments, exchange our experience using the "Do Not Harm" method, work together on two projects, inspire others and have an intention to change the city with our activity", – Kateryna Kotelenets, an activist, professor of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Luhansk.





In September 2017, GURT successfully completed the special media project “[Information for conscious actions: hear the voice of people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine](#)” funded by the Media Development Fund of US Embassy in Ukraine. The target groups of the project – leaders of civil society organizations, citizen activists, media workers, representatives of communities and vulnerable groups affected by the conflict in Donbass region, whose interests are not represented in the media, representatives of local authorities and state institutions – received timely and accurate information on the status and needs of communities and vulnerable groups affected by the conflict in Donbas region, through using the portal GURT and partner platforms.



The most significant part of the project was the promo campaign on demonstration the project results and the contribution of vulnerable groups affected by the conflict in Donbass to the development of host communities in Dnipro, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk, and Kharkiv oblasts. The promo campaign included [5 street actions](#) attended by 1500 citizens; production and distribution of [the video and a series of electronic banners](#); and [conduction of the final press conference](#). In general, the promo campaign engaged around 1,000,000 users all over Ukraine.

Re-Forming Ukraine

Pilot policy-making projects

GURT is the implementor of innovative projects aimed at introducing reforms in Ukraine and moving Ukraine forward to European Union practices and values. The sound example is the project “Public private partnership to improve sanitary education in Ukraine” being implemented by GURT during 2014-2018 and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in partnership with Geberit International Sales AG.

The model developed within the project was rolled out in 2017 by the Ministry of Education of Ukraine, that funded the creation of 19 Training and Resource Centers in vocational schools investing 12 million UAH from the state budget.



On June 1, 2017, the final part of All-Ukrainian skills contest in the profession “Installer of the sanitary and technical systems and equipment” was conducted in International Exhibition Center in Kyiv. Students and the first graduates of six vocational schools from Brovary, Dnipro, Odesa, Poltava, Sarny, and Chernihiv, where modern interregional Training and Resource Centers were created within the project, participated.

“For the Swiss Government, it is the first public-private partnership project in Ukraine in the field of vocational education. The project is co-funded by Swiss business community and implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

This project is a fantastic opportunity for Ukrainian colleges to move to a new level. Thanks to the modern equipment and new curricula, schools will be able to prepare competitive professionals”, – **Viktor Shutkevych, the deputy director of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Ukraine.**



Local change agents Community of Practice

In 2016-2017, 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 Center” funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Estonia and implemented in partnership with the Network of Estonian Nonprofit Organisations (NENO). The network will increase the capacity of individual organizations that are part of it, will help to influence the authorities, donors, and society.



On November 30 – December 2, 2017, GURT has organized the All-Ukrainian Conference “[Future of the National Network of Ukrainian Civil Society Organizations](#)” in partnership with NENO and Ukrainian Catholic University where 80 leading CSOs representatives from all over Ukraine took part. For three days, participants wrote a book and created the action plan for 2018.

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 Prostr LTD" carried out the audit of GURT Resource Centre for the year 2017.

Statement of Cash Flows (in thousands of Ukrainian Hryvnias)

Cash donations received 2017	
SIDA	7,267
IREX (project USAID)	3,773
Swiss Cooperation Office Ukraine	2,444
World Jewish Relief	1,256
Fundacja TechSoup	423
US Department of State	330
The Technology Assistance Program to Ukrainian Nonprofits	327
ICF "Ukrainian Women's Fund"	69
Network of Estonian Nonprofit Organizations (NENO)	50
Other	6
Total cash donations received	15,945
Interest on deposit	0
Total cash receipts	15,945
Cash spent	
Conferences, workshops, meetings, events	(4,887)
Project management	(3,445)
Information activities	(1,429)
Subgrants	(752)
Total cash spent	(10,513)
Administrative expenses	(2,369)
Fundraising expenses	(348)
Foreign exchange and translation differences	840
Total resources expended	(1,877)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	3,555
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	5,730
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	9,285

PARTNERS AND DONORS



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52 Popudrenka St., office 609, Kyiv, 02094, Ukraine

Phone/Fax: +38 (044) 296 1052

e-mail: info@gurt.org.ua

Ukrainian web-portal: gurt.org.ua