
REPORT OF THE UKRAINIAN CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT POLITICAL RESEARCH

for 2022-2024

*The best solutions
for democracy!*

UCIPR TEAM



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INTRODUCTORY WORD



The power of freedom and the desire for democracy

Resilience is the word that most accurately describes the reaction of Ukrainian society to Russia's full-scale invasion. The war was a test that radically changed the lives of millions of Ukrainians. At the same time, it revealed the main strength of Ukrainians – the power of freedom and the desire for democracy.

The Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR) has faced unprecedented challenges, but we have remained committed to our mission.

In the context of countering Russian aggression, we continued our work and significantly expanded our range of activities, adapting our projects to new realities.

Like millions of Ukrainians, our team underwent significant changes from 2022 to 2024. Some of us were forced to leave our homes due to active hostilities, while others joined the Armed Forces and are now defending the country. Despite these

challenges, we did not stop working for a single day: we quickly resumed coordination, mastered new formats, and continued our activities in all possible directions.

Undoubtedly, these events influenced the content of our projects. One of the key areas was support for humanitarian processes and the volunteer movement. We joined the development of legislative initiatives aimed at simplifying the activities of volunteers and charitable organizations, including exempting humanitarian aid from taxation. In addition, we have launched a comprehensive study of volunteering activity in Ukraine to develop effective policies to support and grow this sector.

Adapting democratic mechanisms to war-time conditions was also important. We continued to work on the development of participatory democracy, including facilitating public consultations, analyzing the level of openness of the authorities, and advocating for the adoption of key

draft laws that strengthen civilian control mechanisms.

We also studied Ukrainian civil society to understand how it adapts to the war and what challenges CSOs face. Civil society has become even more united, mobile, and effective. It is worth noting that some areas of their work have only intensified!

Another key aspect of our work was identifying a «formula» for Ukrainian resilience. We tried to locate its key components and develop recommendations on how it can be strengthened at the level of government policy, communities, and individual organizations. For this reason, we initiated a large-scale dialogue at the national and local levels.

Statistics show the effectiveness of our work over the past three years. In 2024 alone, we contributed to developing more than 20 Draft Laws and analyzing more than 30 draft legal acts to improve civil society organizations' working conditions. These include the adoption of the Laws of Ukraine «On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine 'On Local Self-Government in Ukraine' on Ensuring Transparency of Local Self-Government» No. 3590-IX and «On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Democracy at the Local Self-Government Level» No. 3703-IX. The Law of Ukraine «On Public Consultations» No. 3841-IX, the first version of which was prepared by our team back in 2015, was also adopted.

We organized events in Kyiv, Odesa, Lviv, Chernivtsi, and Mykolaiv to discuss humanitarian aid, reporting and tax aspects for non-profit organizations, developing civic engagement tools, sustainability challenges, and sources of cohesion at various levels.

In addition, more than 170 representatives of public and charitable organizations, activists, and volunteers solved their problems through consultations through the Legal Aid Hotline for Civil Society Organizations.

The three years of the full-scale invasion have been a time of trials and challenges for us. Although many difficulties are ahead, we are moving forward, true to our slogan: «The best solutions for democracy».

I am sincerely grateful to the UCIPR team, our partners, and donors for their years of hard and effective work. I especially thank my friends, colleagues, government representatives, and MPs for cooperating in implementing essential initiatives that have brought us closer to victory.

I want to pay special tribute to our colleagues who joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine and express my gratitude to every defender.

We support you and help you defend our democracy.

VALERIIA SKVORTSOVA,
executive director

OUR MISSION: STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY, STRENGTHENING SOCIETY

For more than thirty years, the Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR) team has implemented democratic procedures and developed the country's civil society.

The principles of activity laid down in 1991 by the students who created the «Revolution on Granite» and founded the center remain relevant today. We systematically promote democracy, good governance, political rights, and civil liberties.

Today, UCIPR is an influential think tank and reliable partner for most initiatives and organizations in Ukraine and abroad. Our expertise covers various issues, from developing civil society to promoting European and Euro-Atlantic integration.



The results of our work speak for themselves. Over the past three decades, UCIPR's «portfolio» includes hundreds of studies and dozens of proposals that have become the basis for making important state decisions in political rights and civil liberties.

Our analytical capacity contributes to developing effective laws that change the country. Our slogan is «The best solutions for democracy!».

WE WORK IN THE FOLLOWING PRIORITY AREAS:

- support for civil society;
- development of participatory mechanisms, representative and direct democracy at the national and local levels;
- guaranteeing the rights of national minorities and indigenous peoples and anti-discrimination policy;
- development of dialog for social consolidation;
- research on the transformation of political systems in new democracies, the development of party and electoral politics and parliamentarism;
- strengthening the national security potential and maintaining the security of the public environment, countering the challenges posed by Russia's armed aggression;
- promotion of European and Euro-Atlantic integration.



OUR KEY TOOLS:



legal analysis and field research of public opinion (organizing and conducting focus groups, expert surveys, in-depth interviews);



preparation of monitoring reports on social and political processes;



development of draft public policy decisions;



advocacy;



creation of communication platforms (round tables, conferences, webinars, press events, providing comments for the media);



education (training, seminars, lectures);



informing and consulting stakeholders;



advice on legislation and assistance in registering non-governmental organizations.



The unique advantage of the UCIPR is its competence, deep understanding of legislative and socio-political processes, and, most importantly, our team. These are experts who combine knowledge of legislation, analysis of political processes, and practical experience of interaction with the authorities and civil society:

Valeriia Skvortsova,

Executive director

Svitlana Kononchuk

Political Analyst, Executive Director of the organization in 2015-2023, and Member of the General Assembly

Yuliia Tyshchenko

Head of the Democratic Transition Support Program, Member of the General Assembly

Maksym Latsyba

Head of the Civil Society Development Program, Member of the General Assembly

Dmytro Mazurok

Coordinator of the Ukraine Civil Society Sectoral Support Activity

Yuliia Panura

Consultant on CSO taxation and charitable activities

Maksym Lukiniuk

Consultant on the development of public participation mechanisms

Dmytro Yaprakh

Consultant on legal support for freedom of association

Yaryna Pokhodai

Monitoring Consultant

Anna Dudnyk

Project Assistant

Ivan Vartovnyk

Project Coordinator for the National Platform for Resilience and Cohesion

Olha Kovalenko

Coordinator of the regional network for the National Platform for Resilience and Cohesion

Anna Ishchuk

Project Assistant for the National Platform for Resilience and Cohesion

Svitlana Gorobchyshyna

Program Manager

Iryna Yakovenko

Communications Manager for the Organization

Oleksandr Radchuk

Communications Specialist

Elizaveta Domzhalova

Financial Manager

Nataliia Galchynska

Chief Accountant

Yuliia Dukhovych

Assistant of the finance

Kateryna Ravnist

Administrative Manager

ALSO, THE BOARD OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Artem Myrhorodsky

Chairman of the Board

Nataliia Borgelli

Board Member

Nataliia Mirimanova

Board Member

We are also grateful to everyone who has worked at UCIPR. We appreciate your contribution to the organization's work and development!

CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Ukraine Civil Society Sectoral Support Activity

Civil society is a driving force behind democratic change and state development. However, civil society organizations (CSOs) must develop their institutional capacity to influence and implement processes effectively.

The «Sectoral Support Initiative for Ukrainian Civil Society» project was launched in 2019. Within its framework, the UCIPR team strengthened civil society's capacity and ensured its self-sufficiency. We implemented an aspect of the project to improve the legal environment for CSOs.

In the period from 2022 to 2024, the UCIPR team made a significant contribution in this area, in particular:

- in the development and advocacy of laws regulating local democracy. In particular, **the Law of Ukraine «On Democracy at the Level of Local Self-Government», the Law of Ukraine «On Public Consultations»,** and other legislative acts of Ukraine on transparency in the activities of local self-government bodies;
- improving the tax environment for CSOs and charitable activities **by amending the Tax Code of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine «On Charitable Activities and Charitable Organizations», the Law of Ukraine «On Humanitarian Aid»,** and conducting information campaigns.

- developing proposals to improve currency transactions for CSOs;
- advocacy for the adoption of the draft Law of Ukraine «On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Liberalization of Public Organizations» developed within the framework of the activity;
- organizing events to raise awareness of CSOs on legal issues: public funding for organizations of people with disabilities through online competitions, CSO registration procedures, taxation, and reporting for civic activists and newly created CSOs;
- assistance in the implementation of state project competitions for CSOs;
- **facilitating the opening of 2 hubs for displaced CSOs in [Chernivtsi](#) and [Luts'k](#);**
- functioning of a hotline for legal advice for CSOs.

In 2024, we significantly contributed to the legislative process by developing 26 draft laws and analyzing 32 draft regulations promoting the transparency of CSOs.

Among the key decisions adopted:

- The Law of Ukraine «On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Democracy at the Local Government Level» [No. 3703-IX](#);
- The Law of Ukraine «On Ensuring Transparency of Local Self-Government» [No. 3590-IX](#);
- the Law of Ukraine «On Public Consultations» [No. 3841-IX](#).

Also, with the support of the project experts, **the National Strategy for Promoting the Development of Civil Society in Ukraine for 2021-2026** was developed and adopted. We took an active part in creating its Action Plan and monitoring its implementation. In addition, the project experts contributed to the development of the European Integration **Roadmap for the Functioning of Democratic Institutions**, in particular in the section on the Role of Civil Society.

Within the project framework, UCIPR experts constantly monitored the legislation, promptly responded to risks for civil society, and advocated for the necessary changes.

The project was implemented in a consortium with ISAR Ednannia and the Center for Democracy and Rule of Law (CEDEM), thanks to the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development.





CSO Meter: Assessing the Environment for Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership Countries

Assessment of the environment for civil society organizations is an important part of UCIPR's expertise. To analyze and overcome the challenges faced by the Ukrainian civil sector, UCIPR conducted a comprehensive assessment of the legal environment and law enforcement based on 11 indicators and 30 standards within the framework of the [CSO Meter](#) project. Based on the data obtained, a report was prepared annually, which contained an assessment of the environment, conclusions, and practical recommendations for improving the CSO environment.

The project was implemented by the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL) with the financial support of the European Union in six countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Despite the challenging security environment, [the 2021 report](#) was presented online with the participation of international and Ukrainian experts.

Over the two years of the project, UCIPR experts prepared eight updates for the international community, which covered the main changes in Ukrainian legislation for CSOs.

In the following years, work on the project continued:

2023 – Reports for [2022](#) and [2023](#) were prepared and presented, bringing together representatives of CSOs and the government;

- 2024 – UCIPR, as a member of the CSO Meter Hub (a coalition of leading organizations in the Eastern Partnership countries that promote reforms to improve the performance of CSOs), focused on studying and advocating for best practices in humanitarian assistance.

Effective humanitarian aid is critical for Ukraine, especially in times of war. However, several legal and administrative barriers stand in the way of civil society organizations supplying and distributing aid. Complex regulation, bureaucratic obstacles, and sometimes the lack of precise mechanisms for interacting with government agencies complicate and delay this process.

UCIPR experts conducted a survey and three focus groups with representatives of civic and charitable organizations that receive humanitarian aid from international aid organizations and government agencies. Based on their findings, proposals and recommendations will be developed to improve legislation, particularly to improve the functionality of the state digital platform for managing humanitarian aid in Ukraine - the Automated Humanitarian Aid Registration System.



БАРОМЕТР ОГС 2023

ПРЕЗЕНТАЦІЯ ЗВІТУ ПО УКРАЇНІ

14 ГРУДНЯ 2023 Р.



European Center for
Not for Profit Law



Dynamics of Changes in the Civil Sector: the CSO Sustainability Index Project

The sustainability of civil society is a key factor in its effectiveness and influence on democratic processes. However, for the sector to develop, it is necessary not only to assess its current state but also to have tools to track the dynamics of changes.

The [Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index](#) is an international analytical tool for measuring the viability of CSOs. For the ninth year in a row, UCIPR has implemented the Index report in Ukraine, analyzing key aspects of civil society development.

The project experts assess the state of civil society based on seven key indicators covering various aspects of its viability.

It analyzes the legal environment in which CSOs operate, organizational capacity, and financial viability. It also assesses the level of advocacy, service provision quality, sectoral infrastructure development, and overall public image.

The study is based on a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative analysis. It involves representatives of civil society organizations, experts, analysts, and government officials, which allows us to get an objective picture of the sector.

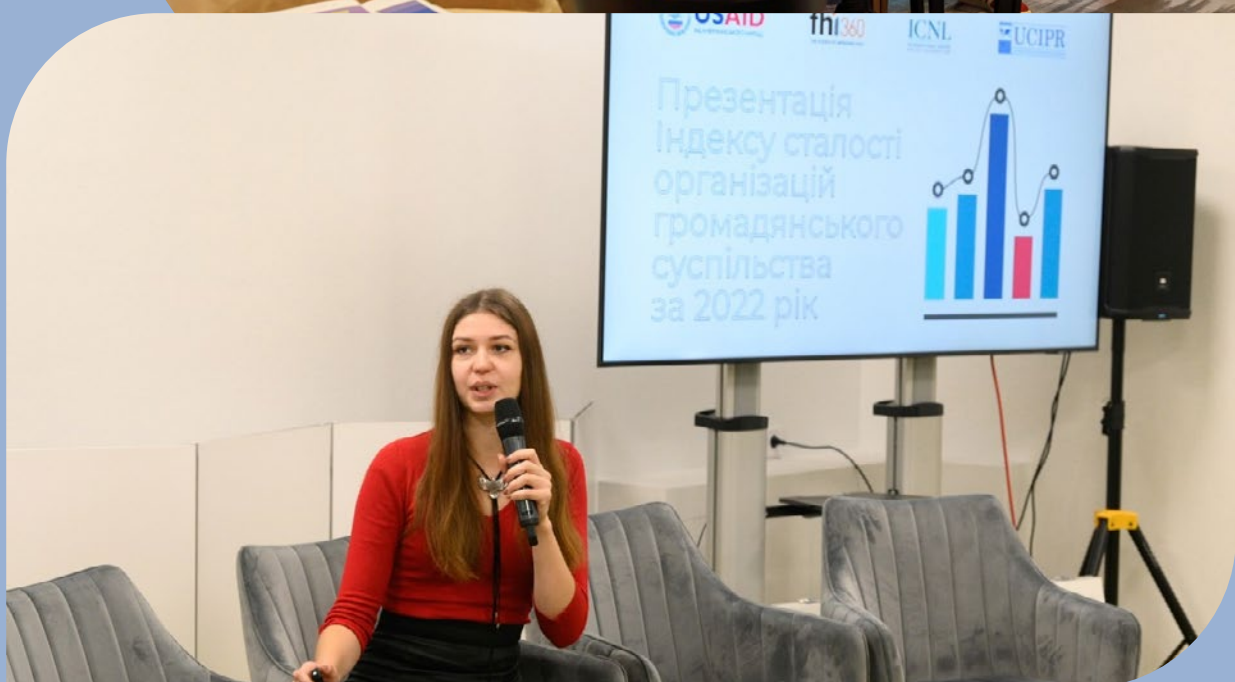
According to the results of [the 2021](#) study, **Ukraine received 3.2 points out of 7**, which allowed it to take a leading position among the countries of the Eurasian region, in particular among Azerbaijan, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova. Despite the difficult security conditions, the report was presented online with the participation of government officials, civil society, and international partners. The data obtained became the basis for planning activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of CSOs.

The next study, [in 2022](#), showed positive dynamics in several indicators. The analysis's results showed an overall improvement in civil society's sustainability, which was reflected in an increase **in the score to 3.1 points**.

The results of the [2023 study](#) were presented in 2024 and confirmed further improvement in civil society's institutional sustainability.

Until 2023, the project was implemented by the UCIPR in partnership with FHI360 (USA) and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, USA (ICNL), with financial support from USAID. Since 2023, the project has been supported by the International Renaissance Foundation.

The 2024 report is currently being prepared and will be presented in 2025. The study will serve as a basis for further improvement of policies to support Ukraine's sustainable development of civil society.



Supporting the Volunteer Movement: the Spilnodiia Program

[ПРОГРАМА СПІЛЬНОДІЯ]

The volunteer movement has become one of the key forces helping Ukraine overcome the consequences of the war. However, its practical work requires a favorable legal environment, precise interaction mechanisms with the state, and access to institutional support.

[The Spilnodiia](#) program, implemented in 2023 in partnership with the Eastern Europe Foundation and the NGO Together Against Corruption with financial support from the European Union, addressed these issues.

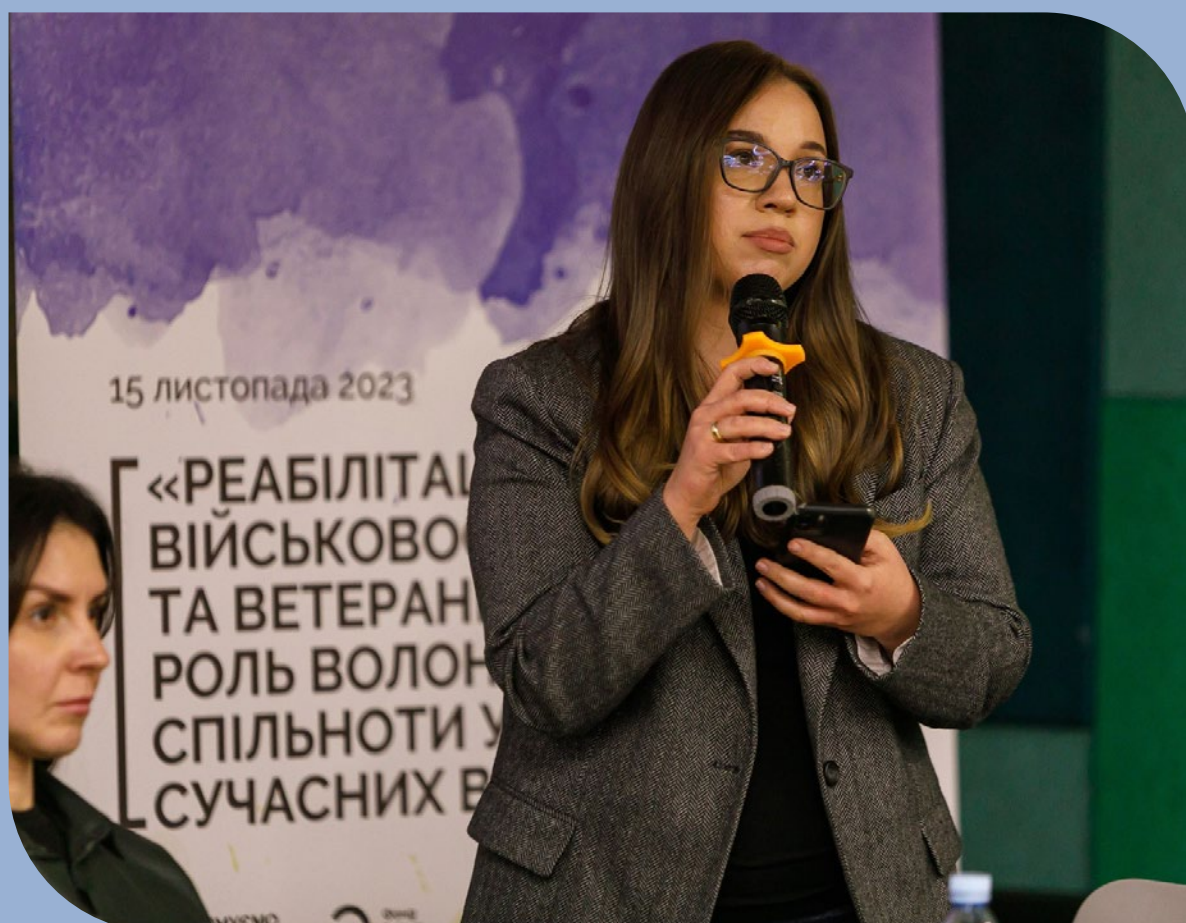
The program aimed to strengthen the role of civil society and volunteers in overcoming the war's consequences. As part of the project, UCIPR conducted a comprehensive study aimed at analyzing the following aspects:

- the work of volunteer hubs;
- safety of volunteers;
- financial and tax aspects of volunteer organizations;
- use of digital technologies in coordinating and engaging volunteers;
- the problem of attracting foreign volunteers and their interaction with Ukrainian organizations.

The research was focused on identifying law enforcement problems and regulatory shortcomings, and developing proposals for their elimination to improve the legal environment for volunteers and volunteer organizations and develop the state policy of volunteering.

To draw attention to the key challenges faced by volunteers, **UCIPR** organized two large-scale events, namely the All-Ukrainian Forum «Volunteers, Business, State: The Power of Synergy» and a round-table discussion on the role of volunteers in rehabilitating military personnel.

The Spilnodiya program was an important step towards improving the policies governing volunteer organizations in Ukraine. The results are being used to reform the legislation further.



RESILIENCE AND COHESION

Strengthening the Unity of Society: Activities of the National Platform for Resilience and Social Cohesion

The National Platform for Resilience and Social Cohesion is an initiative to strengthen the unity of Ukrainian society and the state, creating effective mechanisms for responding to current challenges.

Launched in 2018 as the National Platform for Dialogue on Peace and Secure Reintegration, it evolved in early 2022 in response to fundamental changes in Ukraine's political and security environment.

The initiative is funded by the EU under the projects «Building Resilience in Conflict through Dialogue» (2018-2023) and «Ensuring Ukraine's Resilience in the Face of Increasing Risks and Consequences of War» (2024-2025). It was implemented by UCIPR and the leading human rights organization in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU).

The Platform's priorities are to ensure the sustainability of the state and society, strengthen national unity and cohesion through dialogue and effective policies, and raise public awareness of these processes.

In **2022-2023**, UCIPR held **10 strategic debates** in Kyiv involving representatives of foreign embassies, Ukrainian authorities, experts, and civil society activists. The discussions were devoted to various aspects of resilience and the formation of the «Ukrainian resilience formula». To develop this formula, UCIPR organized a sociological survey, **«Ukraine's Resilience Formula: Key Components during the War and Post-War Period»**, in 2023 as part of the National Platform for Resilience and Cohesion.

During 2022-2023, a network of coordinators worked in 12 regions of Ukraine to develop local resilience and cohesion policies. They represented the regions most affected by the war or thousands of Ukrainians forced to flee their homes, including Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhia, Odesa, Lviv, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, and Ternopil regions. As of 2024, the network of regional coordinators includes 11 regions.

The coordinators' main task is to monitor the situation in the region, record the factors that affect resilience and cohesion, and engage in a dialogue with local stakeholders. Based on their monthly reports, 10 analytical **reports** on «Resilience and Social Cohesion of Ukrainian Society during the War» were prepared, covering the period from February 2022 to August 2023.

In addition to analytical work, the Platform organized **eight public discussions** in different regions, including Lviv, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, and Zakarpattia Oblast. These events helped strengthen regional initiatives, unite the expert community, and ensure the exchange of best resilience practices and cohesion between regions.

ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL PLATFORM IN 2024

The year 2024 was active, as about **2000 participants** joined the activities of the National Platform.

The project's main dialogue and research activities included an assessment of risks to societal resilience in the regions. More than 100 experts were involved in the research. The project team also prepared nine analytical products, including regional monitoring reports on «Resilience and Cohesion of Ukrainian Society in Time of War» for 2024.

At the national level, [the initiative's experts studied the main sources of Ukrainian resilience](#) and public opinion on trust in the government and other public institutions. In addition, they contributed to finalizing the draft law on the foundations of Ukraine's national resilience. Experts developed analytical materials at the request of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine and the Presidential Commissioner for Accessibility.

In the regions, the project's activities contributed to integrating the principles of resilience and social cohesion into the Development Strategies of Lviv and Mykolaiv regions until 2027. In addition, advocacy campaigns were conducted in Zakarpattia, Lviv, Chernivtsi, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Donetsk oblasts, which had a practical impact on local governments and helped strengthen cooperation between the public and authorities.

As part of the Platform's educational work, several online seminars on resilience were held, including for the All-Ukrainian Association of Local Governments «Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities», the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Lviv State University of Internal Affairs, the Institute of Social and Political Psychology of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, etc. In September 2024, a seminar on the basics of resilience and social cohesion was held with the participation of the Donetsk City Military Administration, and a methodology for conducting similar events for authorities was developed.

In addition, UCIPR organized 14 public events in 2024 as part of the National Platform activities.

Through analytical work, public events, and training programs, we developed conditions for strengthening the ecosystem of social resilience. We engaged a vast network of experts in joint work on issues of social cohesion.



DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Civil liberties and National Security: A Balance to Protect with UCIPR

Ensuring access to information and freedom of expression should remain a priority, especially for national security.

To find out how the working conditions of journalists and civil society in the field of access to official information have changed, UCIPR experts conducted a large-scale study.

To this end, the UCIPR implemented the project [«Civil Liberties and National Security: A Balance to Protect»](#) with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The initiative's main goal was to assess changes in the exercise of the rights to access to information and freedom of expression in Ukraine under the legal regime of martial law.

As part of the project, **a series of analytical documents were prepared** to examine the impact of martial law restrictions on freedom of speech and access to information. Among the leading publications:

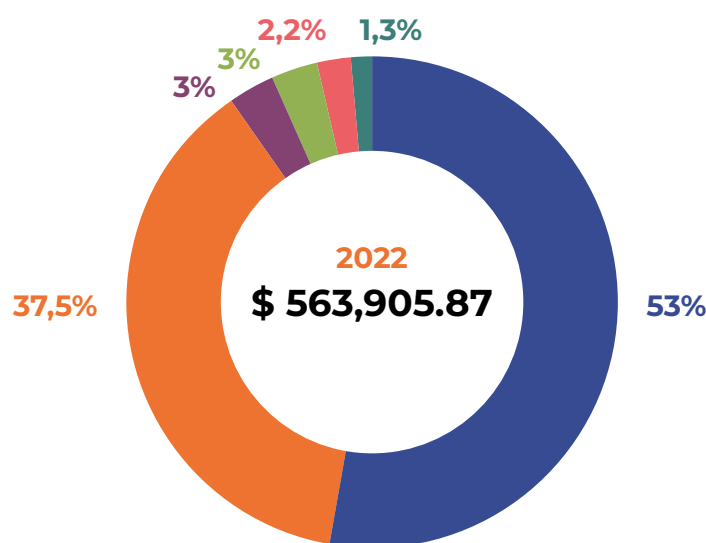
- [How discourse analysis can identify threats to national](#)
- [Freedom of expression. International standards, case law of the European Court of Human Rights, and national legislation of Ukraine under martial](#)
- [The Right to Information: International Standards, ECHR Practice, and National Regulation](#)

Also, a unique technique was developed to identify discourse that poses a threat to national security. This technique also allows us to determine when certain statements become a danger to human rights and require legal regulation:

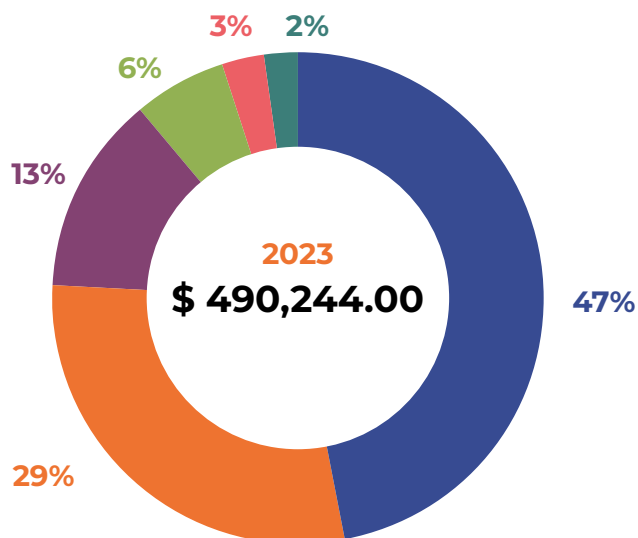
- [Identifying «hate speech» as part of policy](#)
- [Nine steps to identify threatening](#)

SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR 2022-2024

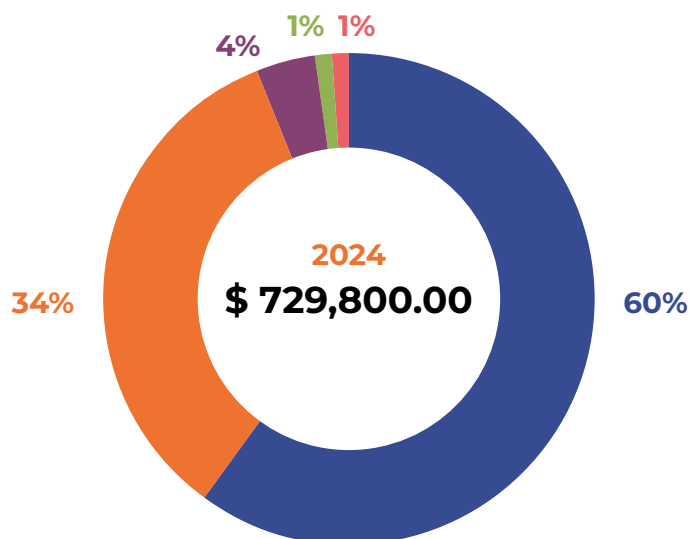
The organization’s budget over the past 3 years
has amounted to:



	"Ukraine Civil Society Sectoral Support Activity" (USAID)
	"National Platform for Resilience and Social Cohesion" (EU)
	CSO Sustainability Index (FHI360 with support from USAID)
	CSO Meter (ECNL with the support of the EU)
	"Civil Liberties and National Security: A Balance to Protect with UCIPR" (USAID)
	Program "Spilnist" (Eastern Europe Foundation with the support of the EU)



	"Ukraine Civil Society Sectoral Support Activity" (USAID)
	"National Platform for Resilience and Social Cohesion" (EU)
	CSO Sustainability Index (FHI360 with the support of USAID)
	"Civil Liberties and National Security: A Balance to Protect with UCIPR" (USAID)
	CSO Meter (ECNL with the support of the EU)
	The Spilnist Program (Eastern Europe Foundation with the support of the EU)



	"Ukraine Civil Society Sectoral Support Activity" (USAID)
	"National Platform for Resilience and Social Cohesion" (EU)
	CSOs Sustainability Index in Ukraine (International Renaissance Foundation)
	Spilnodiiia Program (Eastern Europe Foundation with the support of the EU)
	CSO Meter (ECNL with the support of the EU)

OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS

The organization's main sources of funding are USAID and EU funds provided in the form of project grants. We are very grateful to the government and people of the United States and the EU countries for supporting democracy in Ukraine. We also express our gratitude to the International Renaissance Foundation for supporting several of the organization's projects.



We also appreciate cooperation with our partners and we are preparing for new joint ventures: Initiative Center for Promotion of Civic Engagement and Development «Ednannia», European Center for Non-Profit Law, Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, FHI360, International Charitable Organization «Eastern Europe Foundation», Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, Center for Democracy and Rule of Law, Reanimation Package of Reforms Coalition, National Institute for Strategic Studies, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.



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