

XV Ukrainian Internet Governance Forum

IGF-UA

Kyiv, 27-29 November 2024
Annual Report

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INTRODUCTION

The first Ukrainian Internet Governance Forum (IGF-UA) took place in September 2010 in Kyiv. Since then, the annual IGF-UA has become a continuation of a global series of Forums aimed at discussion of the most important issues of information society development, consolidation of the efforts of state authorities, business, Internet society, professional and academic elites aimed at accelerating the implementation of IT capabilities, creating conditions for comprehensive development of Internet technologies for the public benefit. IGF-UA has always been gathering participants from around the world representing international organizations, state authorities, non-governmental and commercial organizations in the field of ICT and the mass media.

In connection with the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the Organizing Committee of the Forum chose a hybrid format for holding the IGF-UA. Most of the participants used the video conference mode. An offline form of participation was provided for the administrative group, part of the moderators and speakers and was organized in a secure point of inviolability in Kyiv, created on the site of the Adamant company. Security measures and energy backup proved to be justified, because on the night before the opening of the IGF-UA, an air raid alert lasted for 9.5 hours in Kyiv, and after the rocket attack the next day, electricity was available for only 2 hours.

In addition, an online broadcast was provided. At IGF-UA automatic translation of speeches (Ukrainian/English) with output of subtitles was provided.

The 15th IGF-UA was attended by participants from Ukraine and a few other democratic countries of the world, representing government institutions, I*-organizations, the private sector, civil society, academic and technical communities, mass media.

IGF-UA continues to be an important component of the national discussion about the future of the Internet in Ukraine, Europe and the world.

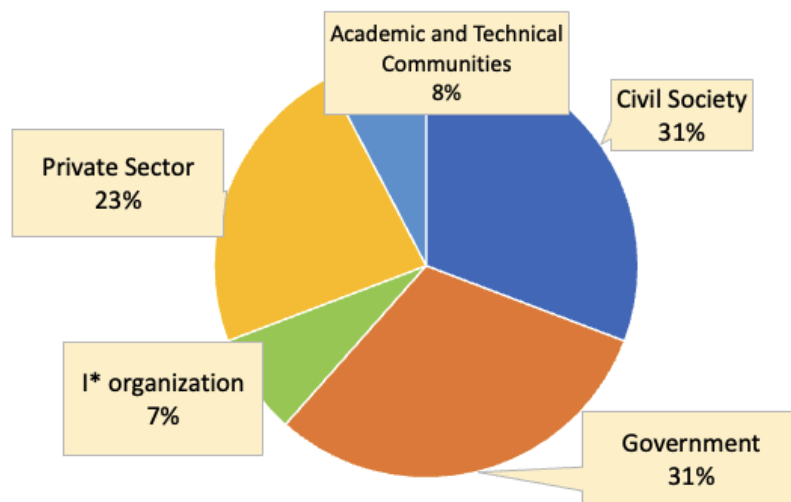
ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESS

The activities of the IGF-UA Organizing Committee are based on the "Guidelines for Holding the Ukrainian Internet Governance Forum IGF-UA (Memorandum of Understanding)". This document was developed to implement the decisions made during the 4th IGF-UA, <https://2013.igf-ua.org/principles>.

The Orcommittee is composed of 13 people who represent various groups in a balanced manner: civil society, government institutions, the private sector, the academic community, and I*-organizations.

Members of the IGF-UA Organizing Committee

	Name	Organization	Stakeholder group
1	Valeriya Dubytska	Independent expert, representative of Youth IGF-UA organizing community	Civil society
2	Dmytro Kokhmaniuk	Independent Expert	Private sector
3	Volodymyr Kukovskyi	Organizing Committee Secretary	Civil society
4	Olena Kushnir	Ukrainian Internet Association	Private sector
5	Pazyuk Andrii	Independent Expert	Academic community
6	Pietukhov Ivan	Commission for Science and IT, Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs	Civil society
7	Prykhodko Oksana	European Media Platform, International NGO	Civil society
8	Semenyaka Oleksiy	RIPE NCC	I*-organizations
9	Syrotenko Serhiy	Secretariat of the Commissioner for the Protection of the State Language	Government institutions
10	Tkachenko Svitlana	Hostmaster Ltd.	Private sector
11	Troshchenko Victoria	National Regulatory authority of Ukraine in electronic communications	Government institutions
12	Igor Chernyak	Security Service of Ukraine	Government institutions
13	Serhiy Shtepa	Parliamentary Committee for Digital Transformation	Government institutions



Participation of representatives of various stakeholders in the IGF-UA-2024 Organizing Committee

The IGF-UA Organizing Committee performed work during the entire period between the 14th and 15th IGF-UA. During this period, five meetings of the Organizing Committee were held - 05.07.2024, 25.07.2024, 20.09.2024, 05.11.2024, 25.11.2024 (meeting minutes in Ukrainian - <http://igf-ua.org>).

The Forum was organized by the Internet Association of Ukraine (IAU), the Commission on Science and IT of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (USPP) and the NGO "European Media Platform" under the supporting of Parliamentary Committee for Digital Transformation, National Regulatory authority of Ukraine in electronic communications, Commissioner for the Protection of the

State Language, and Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and sponsorship of RIPE NCC (RIPE Network Coordination Center) and IGF support association.

Among the organizers of the IGF-UA and the organizations that supported the Forum, various interested groups are represented in a balanced way:

- Civil society: Commission for Science and IT of the Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; International NGO European Media Platform
- Private sector: Ukrainian Internet Association.
- I*-organizations: RIPE NCC; IGF SA, ICANN
- Government institutions: Parliamentary Committee for Digital Transformation, National Regulatory authority of Ukraine in electronic communications, Commissioner for the Protection of the State Language.

AGENDA

The main goal of IGF-UA is to develop Internet governance in Ukraine through multilateral dialogue, as well as to promote the development of partnership relations for the coordination of stakeholders for the best and most balanced development of the Internet in the interests of the citizens of Ukraine. Based on this goal, the Organizing Committee defined a list of main topics for discussion at the IGF-UA. On their basis, 8 sections for discussion and debate have been formed.

Section 1. Cybersecurity and war: the state of cybersecurity and protection of state information resources and systems.

Section 2. Reservations for the electronic communications industry and the personnel shortage.

Section 3. Telecom education.

Section 4. Problems of the functioning of the Ukrainian language on the Internet.

Section 5. Internet, human rights, war.

Section 6. European and international initiatives on Internet governance.

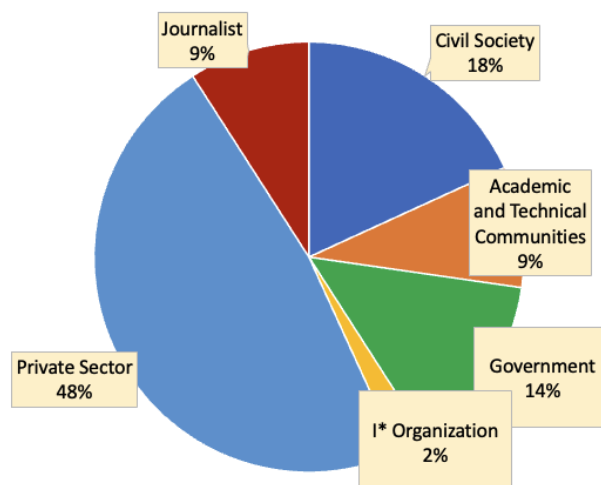
Section 7. New gTLD: risks and opportunities for Ukraine.

Section 8. Telecom sustainability and protection of small businesses.

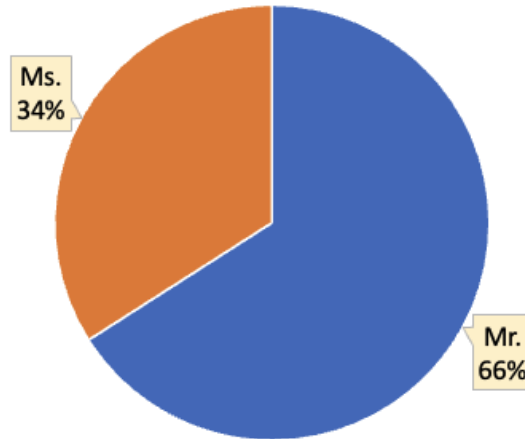
You can find the full version of the 15th IGF-UA programme – at <https://2024.igf-ua.org/programs>

PARTICIPANTS

The Forum was attended by a significant number of participants from Ukraine and other countries, representing government institutions, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, the academic and technical community, the media, and youth.



Representation of various stakeholder groups among the IGF-UA-2024 registered participants



Gender composition of participants who registered for the IGF-UA-2024

Since the forum took place in the mode of a video conference, everyone could watch its work in real time without registration.

Registered participants had the opportunity to participate directly in the forum. Participants without registration had the option of feedback via chat and e-mail.

You can see the full list of Participants who registered for the IGF-UA-2024 here - <https://2024.igf-ua.org/participants>

FINANCING

Following the Guidelines of the Ukrainian Internet Governance Forum IGF-UA (Memorandum of Understanding), the necessary resources in terms of the preparation and conduct of the Forum were provided by the IGF-UA Organizers and Sponsors.

IGF-UA-2024 Budget

Sponsor	Balance from 2023	Proceeds in 2024	Responsible	Expenses in 2024		Balance to 2025
IGF-SA	1 035,00 USD		Member of the Organizing Committee O.Prikhodko			\$535,00
RIPE NCC	316,42 €	500,00 €		Organization of the work of the point of invincibility	20 550,00 ₴	500,00 €
				Transportation costs	9 400,00 ₴	
				Tax	500,00 ₴	380,00 ₴
Settlement and cash services	3 700,00 ₴					
				Expenses in 2024:	34 150,00 ₴	The 500 USD was sold at the exchange rate of 41,1 = 20550 UAH The 316,42 Euro euro was sold at the exchange rate of 44,18 = 13980 UAH

Remaining balance will be used to hold IGF-UA events in Ukraine in 2025.

CONCLUSIONS

The final statements were made by the panel moderators at the final discussion panel. The emphasis was made on the fruitfulness of the discussions, the importance of implementing international experience in Ukraine and the role of the 15th IGF-UA discussions in further improving the Internet governance.

Section 1. **CYBERSECURITY AND WAR: THE STATE OF CYBERSECURITY AND PROTECTION OF STATE INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SYSTEMS**

Moderator: Ivan Pietukhov (Commission for Science and IT, Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs).

Global communications have a significant impact on society, and in war conditions, the cyber front becomes the main lever for defeating the enemy; while misunderstanding it creates risks of uncertainty and is a challenge for society. On the other hand, prioritizing cybersecurity and understanding the importance of using innovative approaches provides significant advantages on the battlefield.

AI has become one of the key factors of technological progress. But there is a real threat when individual terrorist groups or totalitarian countries combine botnets and AI, which is sometimes called "Black Hat AI", which can pose existential threats to humanity if "Black Hat AI" transitions to an autonomous mode from humans. As an active countermeasure to this, there is a need to create "White Hat AI" and develop interaction between it and humanity, which requires international cooperation, legal regulation, openness and strict security standards.

Over the past 10 years, Ukraine has been subjected to large-scale attacks by the aggressor - the Russian Federation. Representatives of the SBU noted that the investigation of Russian cyberattacks on Ukraine itself creates a legal precedent in world practice for the recognition of them as war crimes by the International Criminal Court. The Security Service of Ukraine plays an important role in detecting and blocking cyberattacks and countering cyberespionage by the enemy, in addition, painstaking work is underway to investigate and document cybercrimes for further transfer of materials to the International Criminal Court.

During the work of the section, gaps in national legislation in the direction of unified cybersecurity standards were considered and a strategy for implementing active cyber protection in the ICS and the OKI based on international NIST standards was proposed. As a positive example of building reliable cyber protection, including on the basis of the aforementioned standards, the state of cybersecurity and the level of readiness of the CEC ICS for the post-war elections were considered.

Neglecting the role of cybersecurity in Ukraine over the past five years has cost the state and society billions in losses. But instead of consolidating society and adopting effective legislative norms, some representatives of the government are using the conditions of martial law to destroy democratic values and promote the totalitarian norms of the aggressor country. In particular, under the guise of European integration, identical bills No. 8087 and No. 11290 are promoting harmful norms that are imbued with a totalitarian spirit, which not only destroy national business, but also pose a danger to society as a whole.

Section 2. **RESERVATION OF CONSCRIPTS FOR THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR AND WORKFORCE DEFICIT**

Moderator: Olena Kushnir, Ukrainian Internet Association.

Discussed the problem of staff shortage in the telecommunications sector and the importance of booking specialists to ensure stable operation of networks. Speakers, including representatives of the Ministry of Digital Affairs, InAU, the Verkhovna Rada and businesses from frontline territories, discussed amendments to Resolution No. 76 of January 27, 2023 No. 1332 of November 22, 2024. Shared practical recommendations and experience.

During the section, we heard about the problems of frontline and mainline providers in booking and calls that arise in the frontline zone. Speakers: Pimonenko Serhiy, Sumy provider PSTS and Kucheruk Mykola, Kramatorsk city, Donetsk region, Oksana Turovska, head of the HR department of Atracom.

The organizer of the session, Olena Kushnir, put forward an initiative to the People's Deputy Fedienko O.P., the purpose of which is to help organize a roundtable with the participation of representatives of the industry, the Ministry of Digital Affairs, and the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. The main goal is to identify a contact person from the Ministry of Defense to whom industry associations could contact to resolve issues related to the unlawful actions of CCC employees.

Section 3. TELECOM-EDUCATION

Moderator: Oleksiy Semenyaka, RIPE NCC

The need to educate professionals in Telecom and Security-related fields is increasing, and this is especially important during an ongoing full-scale war.

The broad community, academia, and market players have the resources to address the situation. It is possible to create new innovative training and research programs (as in Uzhgorod National University), which with proper attention can further be developed to the national level (example of Geode Institute). At the same time, Ukraine lacks coordination of efforts and information exchange channels that would allow creating new educational initiatives and programs in time and in the most efficient way possible. Therefore, these resources are not utilized or are underutilized.

It is necessary to involve the technical community more actively in remedying this situation and to use all opportunities for dialog between participants, particularly using the platform of the Ukrainian Internet Governance Forum.

Section 4. PROBLEMS WITH THE FUNCTIONING OF THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE ON THE INTERNET

Moderators:

- **Serhiy Syrotenko**, Head of the Analytical Support Sector of the Secretariat of the Commissioner for the Protection of the State Language.
- **Serhiy Stukanov**, Journalist, TV and Radio Host, Head of the Analytical Department of the Content Analysis Center.

Overcoming the consequences of the ongoing russification of the Internet space in Ukraine, ensuring the comprehensive development and functioning of the Ukrainian language as the language of Ukrainian Internet users is the important element of in the context of Russia's brutal and exhausting war against Ukraine is a matter of national security, an important element in countering Russian hybrid aggression.

Strengthening the position of the Ukrainian language on the Internet requires intensified efforts and should become a common task for the state, business, and civil society in Ukraine.

This view of the situation united all the participants of the section "Problems of the Ukrainian language on the Internet" - representatives of the IT industry, Ukrainian companies that analyzing Internet activity, managing leading marketplaces and online services, responsible government agencies and public organizations.

The speakers presented the results of their analysis of various aspects of the functioning of Ukrainian languages on the Internet: the effectiveness of legal regulation; language of social networks and online media, language priorities of Ukrainian users when ordering goods and services, the language of search queries, the choice of interface language applications, localization of software products, including computer games, etc.

A comparison of this year's indicators of the choice of the Ukrainian language by Internet users with last year's, as well as with the results of recent sociological surveys on the language of everyday and public communication, shows that

- the dynamics of growth of the share of Ukrainian in the choice of language by Internet users has slowed down significantly, and in some places we have negative indicators (language of posts on Instagram, TikTok);
- the rate of Ukrainian language choice by Internet users is significantly lower than the rate of Ukrainian language use in real life. Russian retains a strong position in the choice of the language of interfaces of popular online services and computer programs, as the language of consumption of video content, and is significantly ahead of Ukrainian in search queries and Google recommendations, etc.

It is believed that in order to maintain the positive dynamics and bridge the gap between the use of the Ukrainian language offline and online, it is advisable to focus efforts on the following areas:

- interaction with leading IT companies and operators of Internet services in order to identify and reduce the impact of shortcomings in software algorithms that create advantages for the Russian language
- creating favorable conditions for investing in Ukrainian-language localization of software products;
- encouraging users to choose the Ukrainian language through the public position and internal policies of Ukrainian companies;
- raising the level of digital literacy and awareness of available tools for language sustainability on the Internet.

Following the discussion, an agreement was reached on further cooperation to implement practical steps in the identified areas.

Section 5. INTERNET, HUMAN RIGHTS, WAR

Moderator: Oksana Prykhodko, iNGO European Media Platform.

Ukrainian, international and other (I* in particular) organizations already have a lot of evidences of the violations of the digital human rights of Ukrainians (and not only) because of full-scale russian aggression against Ukraine. It's not about only the ruining of the Ukrainian infrastructure of the access to Internet and/or energy, killing and/or invalidization of IT, ISP, energy and other heroes-professionals (after repeated bombing attacks), but also about the re-routing of Internet traffic in temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Unfortunately, this database of such violations is increasing every day, but it's not possible to share it openly just now. We highly appreciate all help, support and understanding from abroad. Nevertheless, some international platforms or fora refuse to react adequately to these violations.

Section 6. INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN INITIATIVES ON IG

Moderator: Oksana Prykhodko, iNGO European Media Platform.

The term "Internet governance" (IG), as well as the term "multistakeholderism" (MSH) were fixed in UN documents in 2005, by the final decisions of the World Summit on information society (WSIS). Official (UN) translations into russian faked multistakeholderism as the same as multilateralism - многостороннее).

WSIS opened the road to the serious of Internet Governance Forums (as well as National, Regional and Youth IG initiatives events) , being organized throughout the world. Among them – EuroDIG (European dialogue on Internet Governance) and IGF-UA (Ukrainian Internet Governance Forum,

co-organized by EuroDIG in 2010). 2025 is the year of WSIS+20, and everyone can contribute to the review of WSIS.

Later UN initiated Global Digital Compact (GDC). In 2024 GDC was signed by consensus by all UN members.

NetMundial is another string of IG initiatives, and NetMundial+10 (2024) proposes more clear definitions of IG and MA (because a lot of totalitarian regimes refuse to fix the differences between “multistakeholder” and “multilateral” approaches).

As a candidate country for the accession to the EU, Ukraine has to follow closely all process in EU – regarding Web 4.0 (coordinated by the European Commission, opened to non-EU countries and stakeholders - of course, including Ukraine). As well as to analyse and to influence to the policy of ICANN and ISOC (and support all positive developments within RIPE NCC).

At least now none of all agreements on IG is binding.

And some of such agreements are fake. That’s why some of Ukrainian stakeholders quite international agreements.

Section 7. **NEW GTLD ROUND: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR UKRAINE**

Moderator: Oksana Prykhodko, iNGO European Media Platform.

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) – organization, which is responsible for the delegation (as well as redelegation) of top level domain (such as .com, .org, .ykp) is preparing to open new gTLD round in 2026. 2025 will be (or has to be) devoted to the extremely practical issues, such as discounts – from \$227 000 to \$30-50 000), as well as the discussion of the possibility to apply for new gTLD from temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories. Ukrainians have to know more about gNSO.

Section 8. **RESERVATION OF CONSCRIPTS FOR THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR AND WORKFORCE DEFICIT**

Moderator: Olena Kushnir, Ukrainian Internet Association.

The focus was on the stability of telecom infrastructure and support for small businesses in wartime. Participants, including a member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, a member of the National Commission for the Economy and Finance of Ukraine, the Chairmen of the Boards of InAU and APPK, and business representatives, considered legislative initiatives and strategic steps to protect the industry.

We listened to the presentation of O. Savchuk, Chairman of the Board of INAU, Director of ATRACOM LLC “How to be ready for anything?”, which revealed all the challenges facing providers in Ukraine in wartime. We received methodological recommendations and initiatives to improve the situation in the industry.

We discussed the legal right to use the simplified taxation system for individual entrepreneurs working in the field of electronic communications. We analyzed the trend of court decisions in favor of the industry.

The Head of the APPK Nataliya Klitna proposed to the People's Deputy O. Fedienko to help organize a roundtable with the participation of representatives of the industry, the National Economic and Social Committee, the Ministry of Digital Economy, and the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Finance, Tax and Customs Policy. The purpose is to discuss possible ways to resolve the unlawful cancellation of the State Tax Service of the simplified taxation system for individual entrepreneurs under KVED 61.10 and 61.90.

You can see the videos of IGF-UA-2024 at: <https://2024.igf-ua.org/stream>

YOUTH IGF-UA

This year, the Ukrainian Youth Forum on Internet Governance Youth IGF UA was held under the auspices of the theme “Ukrainian Youth and Digital Resilience in Times of War”, leaving behind a day filled with ideas, new knowledge and opportunities. This event became a unique platform for the exchange of views between experts, young people and representatives of international organizations. We saw how digital technologies, educational initiatives and international cooperation can help young people not only adapt to modern challenges, but also become leaders of change. Here are the main conclusions from each section:

1. The system of self-realization of the youth of Kyiv and Ukraine in terms of creating and implementing security scientific research and projects. Experience. Prospects

Valentyn Protopopov stressed the importance of creating an environment where young people can not only study but also participate in practical research aimed at improving security. He emphasized that projects implemented in the context of modern challenges help to form not only new knowledge, but also self-confidence of young people. The successful implementation of such initiatives depends, among other things, on such an element as patriotic education.

2. Opportunities for Ukrainian youth in RIPE

Alyona Muravska presented the RIPE NCC and RIPE Community initiatives, which include training, grant programs, and networking platforms. She also drew attention to the fact that Ukrainian youth have a unique opportunity to join the global governance of the Internet. These initiatives contribute to professional development and integration into the global technical community.

3. Information warfare in Ukraine: the front line in social networks

Dmytro Kushnir emphasized how information manipulation has become a powerful weapon in modern warfare. He shared examples of how Russia implements disinformation campaigns against Ukraine, emphasizing the role of critical thinking as a defensive tool. One of the key ideas was that it is extremely important to prepare societies with information, create your own content to combat fakes, and pay special attention to blocking propagandists and finding beneficiaries.

4. Digital University

Yuriy Kadyrov showed how creativity and modern technologies can transform education. The UniSched pet project became an example of how quick solutions can have a long-term and large-scale impact. The introduction of digital tools into the educational process opens new opportunities for effective time and resource management.

5. Educational opportunities in the field of telecommunications

Yevgenia Ivakhnenko shared insights on cybersecurity and also spoke about programs initiated by Huawei aimed at training specialists in the field of telecommunications. She emphasized that modern technologies require qualified specialists, and the company's educational initiatives help young people gain skills that are valued in the labor market.

6. Countering AI-generated disinformation

Andriy Pazyuk highlighted the technological and ethical aspects of disinformation generated by artificial intelligence. He emphasized that effective counteraction to such threats requires comprehensive systemic cooperation, as well as the participation of all stakeholders to create transparent algorithms.

7. International opportunities for youth

International experts, including representatives of IGF, ICANN, RIPE and other organizations, emphasized the importance of involving youth in global initiatives in the field of digital governance. They shared information about educational programs and forums that provide access to new knowledge and networks.

This event became a real event for Ukrainian youth, who strive to develop and influence the future. We are grateful to every participant, speaker and partner for their contribution and support. Together we are creating the digital future of Ukraine!

Contacts: info@youth-igf-ua.org

Videos and presentations of Youth IGF-UA-2024 are available at the following links:

- <https://youth-igf-ua.org>
- <https://i-ua.tv/stream/89074-vii-ukrainskyi-molodizhnyi-forum-z-upravlinnia-internetom-youth-igf-ua>

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