

Vidnova Storyline

2022–2024

vidnova.org
wecommit.to

PUBLISHING INFORMATION

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ВІДНОВА | *vidnóva* |

from Ukrainian: 'recovery'

About Vidnova

Vidnova is dedicated to supporting Ukrainian civil society. We are building bridges, navigating relationships, and enabling sustainable collaborations with civil society actors and organizations in Ukraine and other European countries.

With the beginning of 2024, Vidnova consists of two program lines – Vidnova Fellowship and Vidnova Lab.

created by

com^onit



Many civil society actors in Ukraine have lost their local context as well as their integrality as teams and organizations and have been disconnected from their communities due to Russia's full-scale invasion. Moreover, opportunities for civic engagement have been constrained by the economic hardship that has resulted from the displacement of refugees.

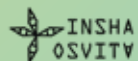
Vidnova Fellowship is a support program for civil society actors from Ukraine who were forced to flee the war.

Activists and professionals from sectors such as human rights, support for vulnerable groups, media literacy, environmental protection, and others are invited to apply for fellowships that ensure the continuation of their activities in a new country of residence or Ukraine in cooperation with local partners.

This program is created by Commit and EVZ Foundation with the kind financial support of EVZ Foundation, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Gerda Henkel Stiftung, and Stiftung Mercator. Vidnova Fellowship Ukraine is implemented in partnership with Ukrainian NGO Insha Osvita.



GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG





Vidnova Lab is a networking program concentrated on ecosystem mapping and prototyping solutions dedicated to Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction.

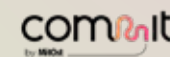
Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has severely damaged or destroyed large parts of the country, harmed critical infrastructure, and disrupted millions of lives. Due to the severity of losses, Ukraine's recovery is predicted to span over the next few decades. It will require a concentrated effort and engagement of many parties, from small local communities and municipalities to big international partners and donors. It will entail not only physical reconstruction of architectural objects but a socio-economical recovery as well.

Despite the ongoing attack on Ukrainian territories, the first initiatives that focus on reconstruction have already emerged. Vidnova Lab is a program that aims to strengthen the voice and role of civil society from Ukraine in these processes and ensure that civil society actors can facilitate dialogue between their local communities and authorities to advocate for the necessary solutions.



vidnova.org/lab

Vidnova Lab is created by Commit with kind financial support of EVZ Stiftung and Robert Bosch Stiftung.



March-May

Developing partnerships with EVZ Foundation, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Mercator Stiftung and Gerda Henkel Foundation

EU

March

Conceptualization and design of the program Vidnova Fellowship

EU

May

Open call for applications and selection of the first cohort

EU

July 1-3

Hosting the Orientation Meeting in Berlin, which marked the start of the year-long fellowship for 24 fellows, first cohort

EU

July-November

Designing and implementing a coaching system for the fellows

EU

September

Start of Vidnova Ukraine for civil society actors who have been internally displaced, returned to Ukraine, or stayed in their native regions. First and second cohort

UA

November 4-6

Hosting the Project Design Meeting of Vidnova Europe, Berlin

EU

December

Fellows of Vidnova Europe receive funding for their projects, amounting to 5000 Euro per project

EU

January

Vidnova Europe fellows start implementation of their projects

EU

February 27

Representatives of Vidnova Europe and Vidnova Ukraine host a panel discussion at Café Kyiv in Berlin

UA

EU

March

Selection of the second cohort

EU

April

End of fellowships for the first and second cohort

UA

April 26-27

Hosting the Orientation Meeting in Berlin, which marked the start of the six-month-long fellowship for 14 fellows, second cohort

EU

April 28-30

Hosting the Reflection Meeting for the first cohort

EU

June-October

Projects' implementation by fellows from the second cohort

EU

June

Projects' finalization by fellows of the first cohort

EU

July

End of fellowships for the participants of the first cohort

EU

August

Start of fellowships for the third cohort

UA

August-September

Development and design of Vidnova Lab

September

Open call for applications, Vidnova Lab

October

Selection of fellows, Vidnova Lab
End of fellowships for the second cohort, Vidnova Europe



October 27

Hosting the Reflection Meeting for the second cohort, Vidnova Europe



November

Hosting the Lab Meeting in Berlin for 16 Vidnova Lab fellows

2023

January

Hosting a series of online workshops on the Systems Thinking approach for Vidnova Lab fellows

February

Start of the research phase, actors' mapping, and regional cluster meetings by Vidnova Lab fellows

March

Open call for applications for Vidnova Fellowship Ukraine, fourth cohort



April 21-26

Hosting the Final Meeting for the Vidnova Lab fellows and their partners from local communities

April 25

Hosting the Vidnova Forum in Berlin with approx. 80 civil society actors from Ukraine and Europe - Vidnova Lab fellows share their insights from the program

May

Start of Vidnova Fellowship Ukraine, fourth round
End of fellowships within the scope of Vidnova Lab

2024

VIDNOVA
FELLOWSHIP
HELPS
DISPLACED
CIVIL
SOCIETY
ACTORS
FROM
UKRAINE TO
CONTINUE
THEIR WORK.



PROGRAM IN REVIEW

In February 2022, many civil society actors in Ukraine were displaced due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. They have lost their local contexts and are disconnected from their beneficiaries. Vidnova Fellowship emerged as a chance to continue the work of the Ukrainian civil society actors in exile connected to diverse European partners.

After conceptualizing the program and developing partnerships with organizations and funders, the first cohort of Vidnova Europe fellows was selected in May 2022, followed by an Orientation Meeting in July and a Project Design Meeting in early November to discuss the project criteria and its implementation. Fellows of Vidnova Europe took part in a Reflection Meeting in April 2023 that marked the end of the fellowship for the participants from the first cohort.



Additionally, from October 2022 to November 2023, Vidnova Ukraine has supported 70 fellows who were displaced within Ukraine and decided to stay in their native regions or who have returned from exile to Ukraine to resume their professional activities.

Fellows of Vidnova Europe from the first cohort took part in a Reflection Meeting that marked the end of their fellowships.



ЛУВАТИСЯ
СВОЮ УВАГУ

ВЧИТИСЯ РАЗОМ
ЧУТЛИВОСТІ

ІЗНОМАНІТТЯ
В ПЛЮС

ПАРКОВКА

Since its launch in May 2022, Vidnova Fellowship has supported 40 civil society actors from Ukraine relocated to different European countries and 70 who have returned to Ukraine or were internally displaced.

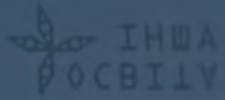
The belief behind the first edition of Vidnova Fellowship was that people who fled the war would require security and structure to continue their activities outside their usual context. The feedback from the fellows of both programs demonstrated just how much the tools offered by Vidnova Fellowship were needed in the existing conditions and how much of an impact the program created. At the same time, these conditions are changing as the war continues.

New fellows of Vidnova Europe who started their journey in May 2023 already communicate about a changed state of civil society actors from Ukraine, who are now more resilient, self-sufficient, and organized. They are more open to networking and collaborations, having moved on from survival mode to a more functioning one. Instead of guidance, they require a platform to empower and amplify each other, harvest each other's expertise, and discuss the next steps for the Ukrainian civil society sector in times of war and a growing need for reconstruction.

The feedback from the fellows of both Vidnova Fellowship programs highlights the essential nature and impactful outcome of the offered tools for continuation of their work as civil society actors.



CLOSE-UPS



Robert Bosch
Stiftung

COMMIT

MitOst

Together with our partner organizations, on 27 February 2023, we joined an art intervention called Cafe Kyiv, initiated and coordinated by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. It temporarily transformed the historic Cafe Moskau in Berlin into Cafe Kyiv. It hosted a program on freedom, Europe, security, and recovery through workshops, discussions, talks, salons, and cultural interventions.

Vidnova Fellowship contributed to the Cafe Kyiv program. Nataliia Yeromenko, Vidnova Fellowship Program Lead, moderated a panel discussion titled “From the beginning? – Ukrainian Civil Society in Ukraine and Exile”. Vidnova fellows – Anastasiia Bobrova (Vidnova Europe) and Kira Okhrimenko (Vidnova Ukraine), together with Annegret Wulff (Commit) and Otilie Bälz (Robert Bosch Stiftung), took part in the discussion as speakers.

This debate focused on the challenges that Ukrainian civil society faces right now, the potential future developments, and tools for resilience and recovery.



27 February 2023,
Cafe Kyiv

It is always exciting for us to meet and exchange with our fellows in person. In late April 2023, 14 new fellows from the second cohort were invited to Berlin for their Orientation Meeting.

The meeting started with personal and professional get-to-know, followed by a welcoming word from our partners and a Q&A session about the Vidnova program. However, the most interesting were the sessions where the fellows could share their experiences in an Open Space format or work on some common issues and solutions through the methodology of Bar Camp.

As our community of fellows is one of the most significant values of Vidnova Fellowship, we decided to bring the first and the second cohort together for a small party and networking at the Haus der Statistik on the last evening of the Orientation Meeting. With our facilitators giving expert advice on networking, cooks from Ukrainische Küche serving delicious syrnyky, fellows from both cohorts coming together, and the best pop songs of Ukrainian Estrada of the 90s, the evening was a meaningful event.



**Vidnova Fellowship
creates opportunities
for the fellows to
network and exchange.**

IN A NUTSHELL

Vidnova Fellowship is an individually designed support program for civil society actors from Ukraine that enables them to continue their work and network with other Ukrainian and European partner organizations.

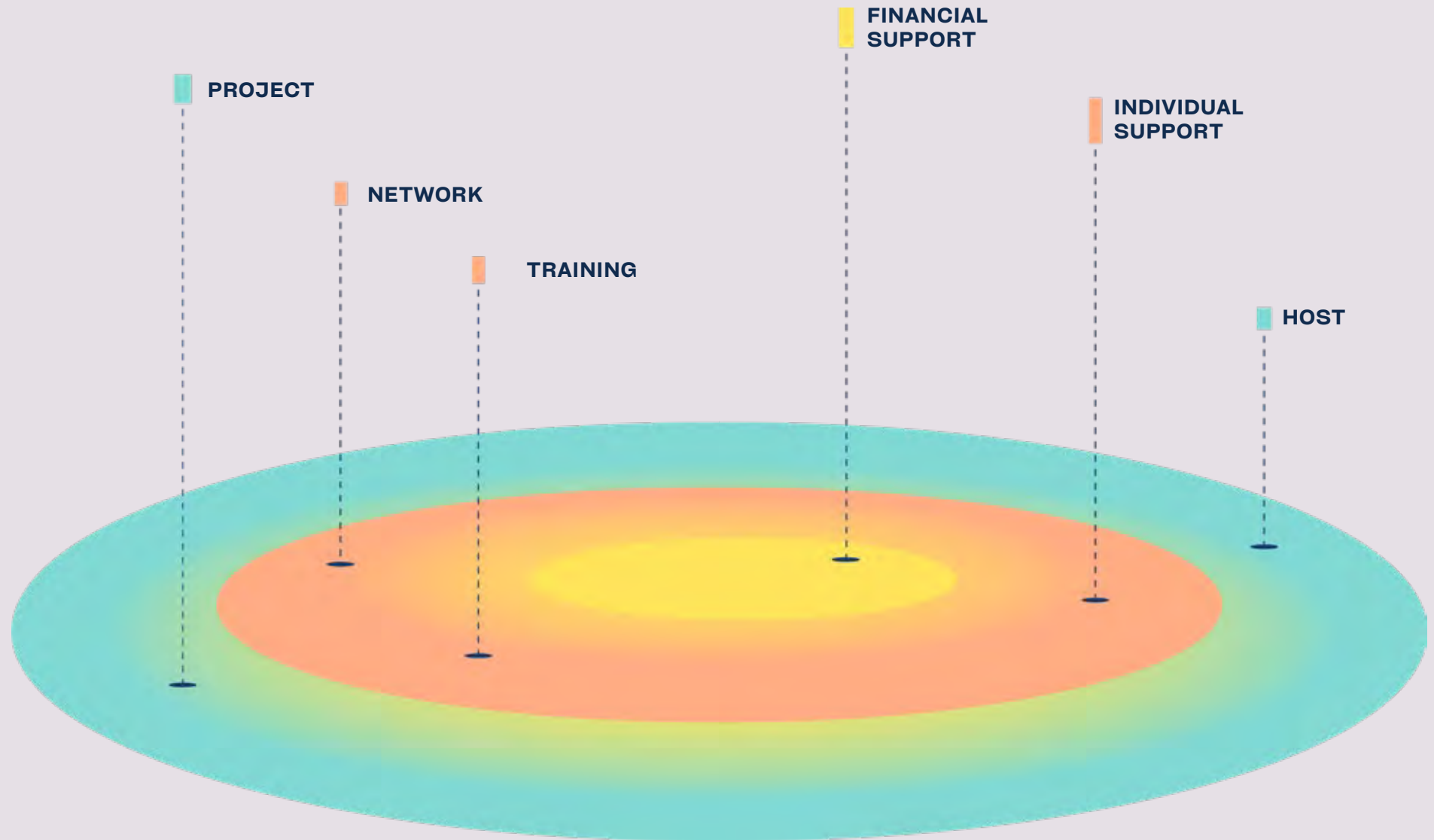
The program is dedicated to civil society actors from Ukraine who've been forced to leave their local context due to the war escalated by Russia. We are collaborating with activists and professionals involved in civil society who had to seek refuge in Europe (Vidnova Europe) or relocate to a different area within Ukraine (Vidnova Ukraine). A transfer of the fellowship from Vidnova Europe to Vidnova Ukraine is possible, if a fellow wants to return to Ukraine.

We address activists and professionals who are involved in civil society in such spheres as:

- **Human rights protection** (LGBTIQ+ activists, Roma activists, etc.)
- **Support for vulnerable groups** (survivors of the Nazi Regime, people with disabilities, etc.)
- **Non-formal education** (including history and remembrance activists)
- **Media literacy** (independent media)
- **Social innovation and social entrepreneurship**
- **Environmental protection**
- and others.

FELLOWS' PROFILE

- An activist, a leader or founder or manager of an NGO, charity organization, or volunteer group who relocated to an European country or Ukraine because of the war
- Intend to stay in the sector, maintain current skills, develop further, and cultivate experience and their organization's impact in Ukraine
- Search for support in finding ways and new senses for activities of their expertise
- Need support adapting their activities to the new context



From the beginning, flexibility, high speed, and constant need orientation have been in the program's DNA.



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

From the beginning, Vidnova Fellowship was a very special program in the Commit ecosystem due to its urgency and due to Commit's long-standing connections to Ukraine. Flexibility, high speed, and the constant need for orientation have been in the program's DNA – they allowed us to be efficient and resourceful when the world was volatile and fast-changing.

With time, we learned that to remain flexible, our team required structures and routines, and we started to work on them. We learned that fast-paced work needs breathing spaces to be sustainable, so we began to slow down and invest in quality management and team building. We also learned that this program is still highly relevant, even more so one year into the war. We intend to create frameworks to support Ukrainian civil society through the Vidnova Fellowship and its Network and, hopefully, other programs to come.

FELLOWS' VOICES



Iryna Lisova

“I was trying to figure out how to live with the uncertainty. Will I go back to Ukraine soon? Should I look for a job in Germany right now? Am I ready for long-term work commitments when I am already busy with a German course 4 hours per day, taking care of my elderly mom and our publishing company, and making helpful YouTube videos explaining German bureaucracy for Ukrainians? It seemed like quite a lot of work already. So, I was happy to enroll in the Fellowship to be able to continue the activities I had in my pre-war life.”



Daria Podolian

“I read about Vidnova and applied. I thought that it would be an excellent chance for me just to do what I plan to do with some support, not only financial, but also the support that you give us during our meetings and coaching, and all this to feel you belong, that you are not separated from everybody. After reading the description, I understood that the program fits my situation.”



Daryna Dmytriievka

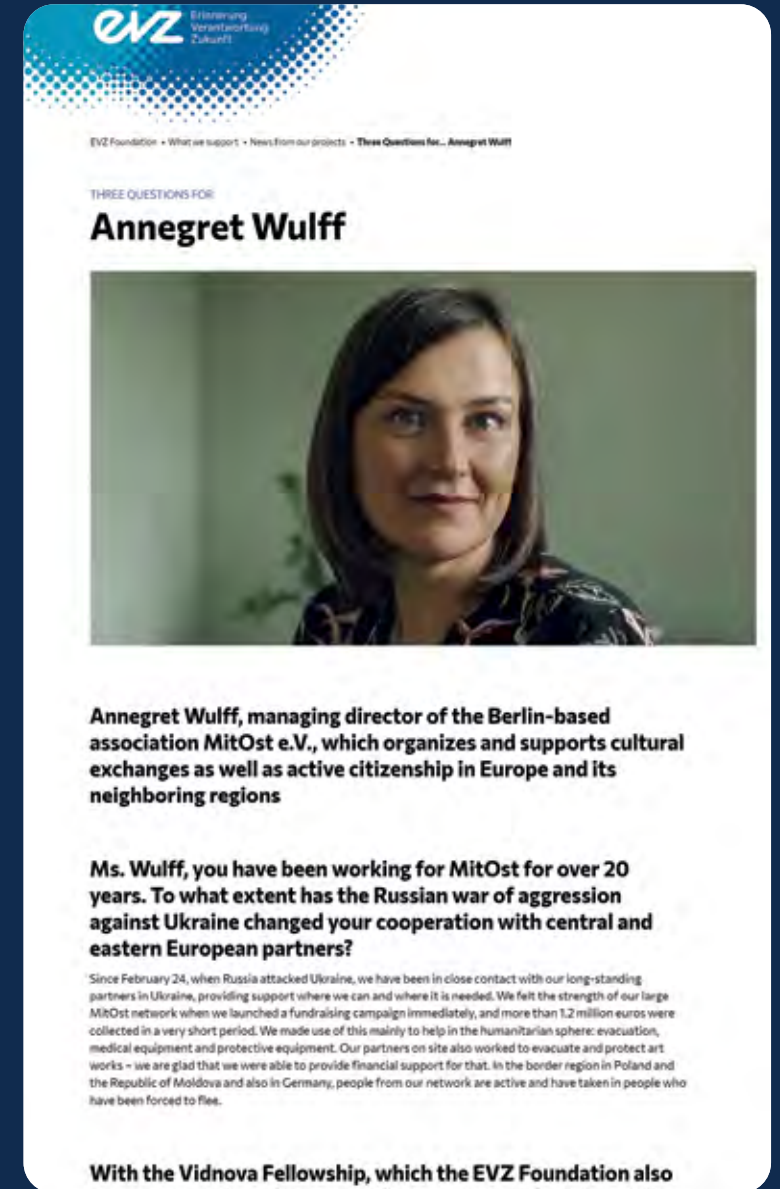
“I need to start from scratch. Vidnova was a big step for me in that moment: it helped me regain at least a part of my identity. I knew right away that Vidnova was something I needed. I got the information about the fellowship from my former boss and decided to use this opportunity to continue my work on LGBTQ+ education and human rights. The program is a perfect match for social activists. (...) I want to thank Vidnova for the opportunity. I'm not new to projects, but this project is mainly about humanity, love, and care — which is very important to participants now.”

MEDIA RELEASES



Interview with Annegret Wulff about Vidnova by EVZ Foundation


→ www.stiftung-evz.de/en/what-we-support/news-from-our-projects/three-questions-for-annegret-wulff/



EVZ Elisierung
Vorsicht
Zukunft

EVZ Foundation • What we support • News from our projects • **Three Questions for... Annegret Wulff**

THREE QUESTIONS FOR
Annegret Wulff



Annegret Wulff, managing director of the Berlin-based association MitOst e.V., which organizes and supports cultural exchanges as well as active citizenship in Europe and its neighboring regions

Ms. Wulff, you have been working for MitOst for over 20 years. To what extent has the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine changed your cooperation with central and eastern European partners?

Since February 24, when Russia attacked Ukraine, we have been in close contact with our long-standing partners in Ukraine, providing support where we can and where it is needed. We felt the strength of our large MitOst network when we launched a fundraising campaign immediately, and more than 1.2 million euros were collected in a very short period. We made use of this mainly to help in the humanitarian sphere: evacuation, medical equipment and protective equipment. Our partners on site also worked to evacuate and protect art works - we are glad that we were able to provide financial support for that. In the border region in Poland and the Republic of Moldova and also in Germany, people from our network are active and have taken in people who have been forced to flee.

With the Vidnova Fellowship, which the EVZ Foundation also

Interview with Daryna Dmytriiivska

→ medium.com/@wecommit.to/will-chatbot-heal-us-talk-with-daryna-dmytriiivska-36da928a142c



Interview with Daria Podolian

→ medium.com/@wecommit.to/we-have-so-much-to-say-to-the-world-talk-with-daria-podolian-ebbfa484fcd0



Interview with Maryna Hovorukhina

→ medium.com/@wecommit.to/it-feels-like-home-for-me-too-talk-with-maryna-hovorukhina-e9df57dcd255



Interview with Iryna Lisova

→ medium.com/@wecommit.to/we-have-had-flats-friends-jobs-and-education-and-were-not-looking-for-a-better-life-in-europe-7397c2ec1086



Nov 6, 2023

Will chatbot heal us? – talk with Daryna Dmytriiivska



Healthcare 10 min read



Aug 22, 2022

“We have so much to say to the world” – talk with Daryna...



Civil Society 12 min read



Sep 15, 2022

“It feels like home for me too” – talk with Maryna Hovorukhina



Ukraine 7 min read



Aug 30, 2022

“We were not looking for a better life in Europe” – talk with Iryna...



Ukraine 13 min read



HAND- PICKED FELLOWS' PROJECTS



Ukraine Known Unknown

by Anastasiia Puhach

“Ukraine Known Unknown” aims to shed light on some lesser-known personalities in the Ukrainian cultural scene. Founded by the Ukrainian Film Festival Berlin, “Ukraine Known Unknown” on April 21-23, 2023, was a three-day series of documentary screenings followed by discussions dedicated to prominent but unknown art figures from Ukraine in Berlin.

uffberlin.de/known-unknown

HOW TO GET YOUR NGO INTO INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Learn more

Journalists and editors from various publications (Reuters, BBC, freelance writers from Germany, Spain, etc.) have given many useful tips to NGOs on how to make their organization known to the world.



How to get your NGO into international media

by Maryna Hovorukhina

Journalists and editors from various publications houses such as Reuters or BBC and freelance writers from Germany or Spain shared many valuable tips to Ukrainian NGOs on how to make their organizations known to the world. This exchange is summarized in a practical online guideline.

go-to-media.webflow.io



Iryna Lisova

@IrynaLisova · 7.36K subscribers · 62 videos

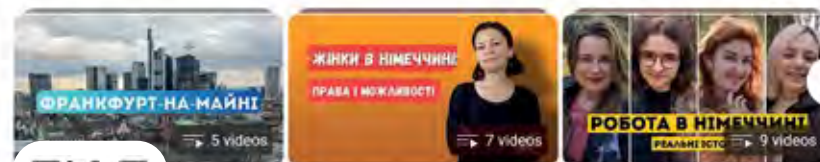
Канал про самостійні та доступні подорожі Україною та світом. >

facebook.com/iryna.lisova and 4 more links

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Created playlists

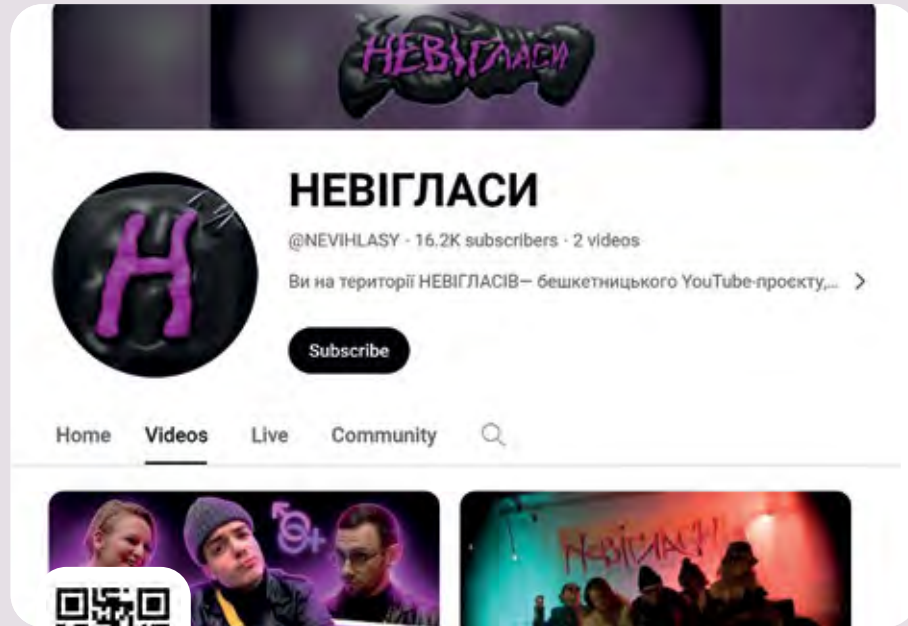


YouTube channel Iryna Lisova

by Iryna Lisova

The project aims to support new Ukrainian women in Germany through helpful YouTube videos with experts and build network connections between Ukrainian female activists nationwide. The project is designed for females who fled to Germany from Ukraine and are a vulnerable group by definition, having their professional and personal identity distorted and having to start a new (often temporary) life from scratch. The project continues the pre-war activities of Iryna in Ukraine, focused on women's empowerment. It includes the components of human rights protection (making informational videos for women who fled the war, LGBTQ+, and people with disabilities) and non-formal education.

youtube.com/@IrynaLisova

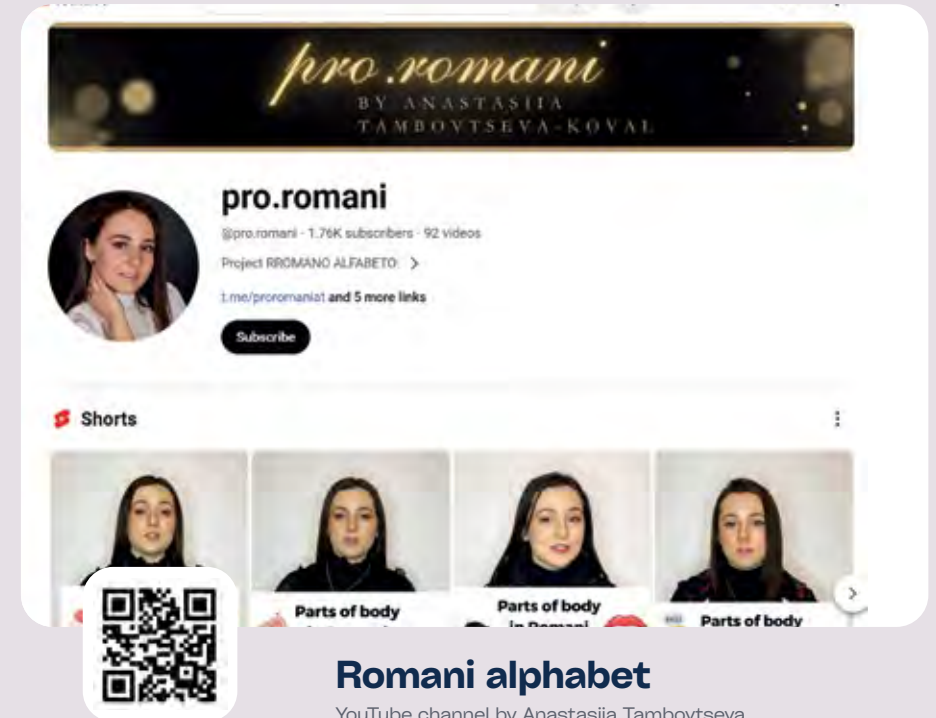


NEVIHLASY

YouTube channel by Petro Rusanienko and Victoria Mushtey

A series of videos that finally answer “why-why” questions about sex that we were too embarrassed to ask.

youtube.com/@NEVIHLASY



Romani alphabet

YouTube channel by Anastasiia Tambovtseva

“Romani alphabet” includes the creation of a mobile application, a cartoon, a workbook, and video lessons aimed at learning the letters and sounds of the Romani language. These materials are freely available on the internet to anyone who wants to learn to read in the Romani language but cannot attend educational institutions.

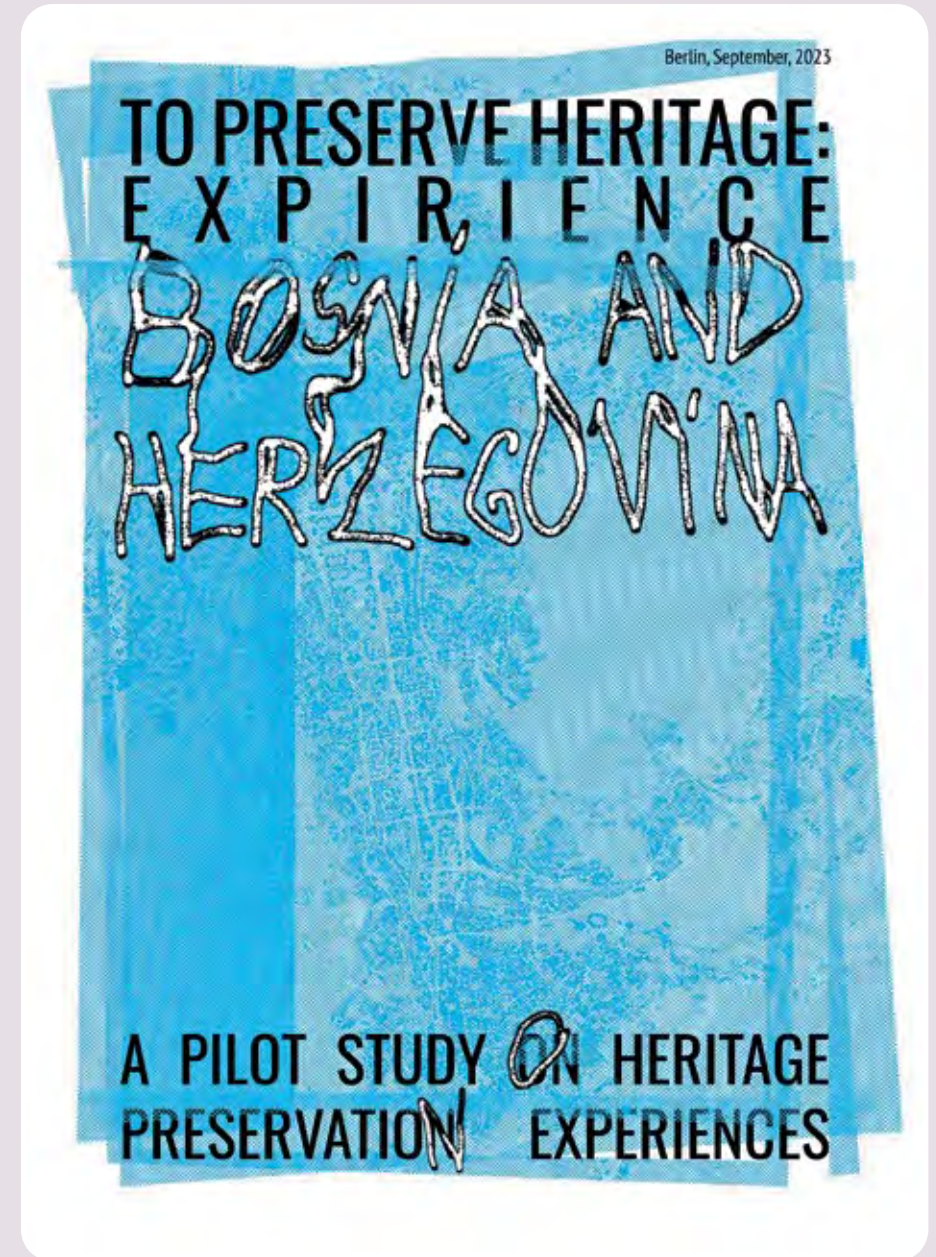
youtube.com/@pro.romani

To preserve heritage: experience Bosnia and Herzegovina

by Kseniia Paltsun

Report with the analysis of the experience of preserving cultural heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war and after, the challenges faced by the society and the paths of preservation, restoration, conservation of architectural heritage during the war, mechanisms of interaction with communities, analysis of the importance and impact of culture on society.

drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UQsh4b2T7STmRzTSzzTGYHaXOIFjdSPQ





From 1914 till Ukraine

by Kateryna Semenyuk

Creating a printed German, Ukrainian, and English exhibition catalogue. This publication reveals the concept of a century of wars in Europe with an emphasis on World War I and the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, as well as documents the exhibition “From 1914 till Ukraine” in Kunstmuseum Stuttgart and a precedent for cooperation between German and Ukrainian organizations.

istpublishing.org/en/1914-till-ukraine

Zero Waste Trainer Handbook

by Anastasiia Martynenko

Anastasiia prepared the Zero Waste Trainer workshop base for Ukrainian environmental activists and educators. Thanks to the translation and publishing of the Zero Waste Trainer Handbook, as well as additional funding, Anastasiia plans to organize the training course in Ukraine in 2024.

Help in Ukraine

by Natalia Bukhta

Natalia does counseling of Ukrainian citizens on issues of Ukrainian law. She is a consultative supporter of Ukrainian education during the integration of Ukrainians into the territory of the Czech Republic. She supports community members in restoring documents, establishing contact with family members, and searching for relatives who remained in Ukraine.

Health of migrants and refugees from Eastern Europe: access to treatment and services in Germany

by Krystyna Rivera

This conference brought together representatives of the community of HIV+ people and HIV-vulnerable groups from the EECA region (Eastern Europe and Central Asia, with a strong focus on Ukraine) and HIV service organizations from Germany, which work with this group of migrants.

migrationhealth.group/en/a-workshop-to-discuss-the-health-of-migrants-and-refugees-from-eastern-europe-in-germany-was-held-in-berlin/



300

applications received for
Vidnova Europe

3602

applications received for
Vidnova Ukraine

40

fellows in Vidnova Europe from
July 2022 to October 2023

70

fellows in Vidnova Ukraine from
October 2022 to March 2023

110

total supported fellows by both
program lines in 2022-2023



FELLOWS' SILHOUETTES





Tetiana Harmider

Fundacja Synapsis

synapsis.org.pl

Tetiana comes from Kyiv and lives in Warsaw. In the frame of Vidnova Europe, she did a project called Special Journey, which is dedicated to children and youth with disabilities (autism spectrum disorders and mental disabilities) to support their families through social activation. The project was implemented with Tetiana's host organization – Fundacja Synapsis from Warsaw.

 Support for vulnerable groups

 mental disabilities  children and youth



Daryna Podolian

Protestantse Gemeente Donkerbroek-Haule

Daria comes from Cherkasy and moved to Friesland in the Netherlands. She created a podcast about the psychological aspects of forced emigration. She aimed to build an online community among podcast listeners for mutual support and networking.

 Mental health

 podcast  online community



Olha Hashyna

Blau-Gelbes Kreuz e.V.

bgk-verein.de

Olha comes from Vinnytsia and lives in Cologne. Her idea was to design a program offering mental support and professional adaptation to the labor market in Germany for Ukrainian women who fled the war. The project was realized in the frame of Vidnova Europe with Olha's host organization, Blau-Gelbes Kreuz e.V.

 Mental health



 women's support  professional adaptation



Vira Degtiarova

Vira comes from Kharkiv and moved to Istanbul. In the frame of Vidnova Europe, she showcased exhibitions in the UNIMUSEUM Pavilion of Solidarity in the Metaverse. It highlighted various artworks created in response to the Russian war in Ukraine as a sign of support and solidarity with Ukrainians.

 Non-formal education

 metaverse  art



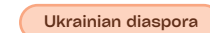
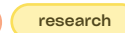
Anastasiia Bobrova

Institut für Europäische Politik

iep-berlin.de

Anastasiia comes from Kyiv. After living in Berlin, she returned to Ukraine and joined Vidnova Ukraine. Anastasiia researched Ukrainian diaspora organizations in Germany and their role as a soft power in Ukrainian foreign policy. Her project, conducted within Vidnova Europe, aimed to capture and analyze Ukrainian diaspora organizations' daily changes. Her host organization was Institut für Europäische Politik.

 Non-formal education

 Ukrainian diaspora  research




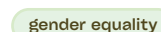
Olha Popadynets

Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change

cn4c.org.uk

Olha comes from Odesa and lives in Cornwall. She was hosted by Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change. In the frame of Vidnova Europe, Olha realized a project related to the professional realization of women, gender equality, and women empowerment studies by interviewing the HR departments of STEM companies in the UK, mostly related to IT, engineering, and construction. Olha researched women empowerment programs and gender policies in these companies.

 Social innovation & entrepreneurship

 women empowerment  gender equality



Mykhailo Biliavskyi

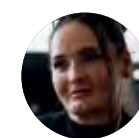
Roma Women Fund Chiricli

chirikli.com.ua

Mykhailo Biliavskyi comes from Chernihiv and moved to Munich. His project in frames of Vidnova Europe aimed to advocate for the Roma who fled the war and received shelter in Bavaria. The project assisted in organizing daily life: formalities, translation, housing, and integration for children and adults by learning German. Mykhailo's host organization was Roma Women Fund Chiricli.

 Human rights protection

 Roma  Bavaria



Yuliia Rubtsova

Positive Ukrainian in Deutschland e.V.

fb.com/HIVUkrainianGermany

Yuliia comes from Zhytomyr and moved to Falkensee. Her project in the frame of Vidnova Europe aimed to inform and integrate Ukrainians living with HIV and fleeing from the war to Germany. It focused on the first steps of the Ukrainian community to create a sustainable network of peer counselors in the field of HIV support throughout Germany. The project was realized with the support of Yuliia's host organization, Positive Ukrainian in Deutschland e.V.

 Support for vulnerable groups

 HIV  network

**Petro Rusanienko**

Vitsche e.V.

vitsche.org

Petro comes from Donetsk and lives in Berlin. In frames of Vidnova Europe, he produced high-quality infotainment on YouTube channels to popularize quality Ukrainian content. The first block of the series "Nevihlasy" concerns sexual education, aiming to develop a public discussion about questions about sex. Petro's host organization is Vitsche e.V.

 Non-formal education

sex education

videomaking

**Maryna Hovorukhina**

iac Berlin

iac-berlin.org

Maryna comes from Kyiv and moved to Berlin. In frames of Vidnova Europe, Maryna implemented a project that helps to increase the visibility of the Ukrainian perspective in German mass media and among the German audience. The project aimed to support Ukrainian civil society actors and NGOs in Germany in accessing international media through a networking campaign and a tailor-made booklet. Maryna's host organization was iac Berlin.

 Media literacy

public relations

mass media

**Anastasia Puhach**

Plivka

uffberlin.de

Anastasia comes from Donetsk and lives in Ukraine. Her project in frames of Vidnova Ukraine, "Ukraine Known Unknown," aimed to shed light on some lesser-known personalities in the Ukrainian cultural scene. It was a three-day series of documentary screenings in Berlin dedicated to prominent but unknown figures of Ukrainian culture and art – artists, poets, and musicians.

 Non-formal education

Ukrainian culture

documentaries

**Mariam Agamian**

Haus Kulturen der Welt

hkw.de

Mariam comes from Kyiv and moved to Berlin. In the frames of Vidnova Europe, she aimed to establish connections between activists and researchers from countries with a colonial past and openly talk with them. Mariam worked on the future scope and development of the Kviradio (QueerRadio) – an initiative for non-professional reading of texts on queer-feminist topics.

 Non-formal education

LGBTQI+

radio

**Yanush Panchenko**

Roma Zentrum für interkulturellen Dialog e.V.

Yanush comes from Kakhovka and moved to Beverungen. In frames of Vidnova Europe, he collected interviews from Roma in Ukraine, monitoring media and social networks, researching how Roma's participation in the resistance to Russian aggression in Ukraine is covered in the media, and how Roma from the post-Soviet countries reacted to the current situation. Yanush's host organization was Roma Zentrum für interkulturellen Dialog e.V.

 Human rights protection

Roma

media

**Elvira Popenko**

Friends, Families and Travellers

[fb.com/
FriendsFamiliesandTravellers](https://fb.com/FriendsFamiliesandTravellers)

Elvira comes from Kyiv and lives in Brighton. She is a Roma civil rights activist and lawyer. Elvira volunteered for various civil society organizations like ARCA and Chiricli, and worked at the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine European Roma Rights Center. She was a Peer Educator in the fight against anti-Gypsyism on the PECAO project. In 2020, Elvira founded and led the program "Raising political awareness in the Chernihiv Roma Community".

 Support for vulnerable groups

Roma

healthcare

**Svitlana Liakhovets**Lithuanian National Museum of Art
lndm.lt

Svitlana comes from Kyiv and lives in Vilnius. In the frames of the Vidnova Europe project, she made a banner exhibition about the history of Ukraine. It showed ancient times to the contemporary and about pages of shared history and the struggle of the Ukrainian and Lithuanian peoples against the Russian invaders in different historical periods. Svitlana's host organization was the Lithuanian National Museum of Art.

 Non-formal education

art exhibition

history

**Iryna Lisova**

Vitsche e.V.

vitsche.org

Iryna comes from Kyiv and moved to Berlin. Her project in frames of Vidnova Europe aimed to support new Ukrainian women in Germany through helpful YouTube videos with experts and build network connections between Ukrainian female activists nationwide. Iryna's host organization was Vitsche e.V.

 Non-formal education

women empowering

videomaking

**Uliana Lumei**

AWO Ober-Mörlen e.V.

Uliana comes from Donetsk and moved to Essen. The educational project she realized in the frames of Vidnova Europe aimed to raise awareness around the potential of biogas technologies for households, mini-farms, and local communities in Ukraine. She evaluated potential development directions in Ukraine and attracted potential stakeholders for additional biogas and renewable energy projects.

 Environmental protection

renewable energy

biogas

**Oksana Orel**

Ev. Paul-Schneider-Gemeinde

Oksana comes from Odesa and lives in Berlin. In the frames of the project of Vidnova Europe, Oksana organized an annual performance of "AdlerA dance", a dance studio for children and young people who arrived in Berlin after February 24, 2022. The colorful music and dance program thanked Berlin's residents, administration, the Steglitz-Zellendorf Lankwitz district, and all partners and sponsors.

 Support for vulnerable groups

dance studio

dancing classes

**Maryna Bubyk**

Roma Women Fund Chiricli

chirikli.com.ua

Maryna comes from Nizhyn and lives in Stuttgart. In frames of the project of Vidnova Europe, she organized a week of masterclasses in the Petrikivka painting technique in the refugee adaptation center by the folk craftswoman from Ukraine. The masterclass combined ornamental painting with the method of wicker weaving. It developed the creative potential of the refugees and improved their emotional state. She also organized an auction to sell the painted works to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

 Non-formal education

petrikivka

auction

**Anna Bugaiova**

EU UA

Anna is originally from Odesa. After a time in Nuremberg, she returned to Odesa and transferred to the sister program of Vidnova Europe – Vidnova Ukraine. She implements her project, Inclusive Workshops, of wartime socialization and psychological support groups for internally displaced persons with mental forms of disability. Part of the budget was reserved for creating a production component based on a socialization group so that in the future, the project could grow into a social enterprise, bring income, and be self-sustaining.

 Support for vulnerable groups

inclusiveness

workshops

**Daryna Dmytriievka**

Building Bridges gGmbH

buildingbridges.social

Daryna comes from Kyiv and lives in Hamburg. She is a primary care doctor, medical blogger, and human rights activist. She works in the field of LGBTQI+ rights protection and increasing access to quality medical care for transgender people. Daryna is a co-founder of NGO Medical Leaders, where she led the project on improving the availability of medical care for the LGBT+ community. Daryna's previous projects included soft skills and service design in medicine, HIV protection and sex education, non-discrimination, communication, and digital health.

 Support for vulnerable groups

inclusiveness

workshops



EU UA



EU UA

Anzhelika Bielova & Oleksandra KoryakPhiren Amenca phirenamenca.eu

Anzhelika (originally from Zaporizhzhia) and Oleksandra (Bakhmut) moved to Budapest and did a joint project in frames of Vidnova Europe. They organized an event in Budapest for representatives of the Roma and pro-Roma movement to create a platform for discussion and development of an action plan to improve the situation of Roma asylum seekers in European countries, including Hungary. Phiren Amenca was their host organization.

 Support for vulnerable groups

Roma

Hungary

**Anastasiia Tambovtseva-Koval**Asociația Casa Bună
asociatiacasabuna.ro

Anastasiia comes from Kyiv. Her project, the Romani alphabet (Rromano alfabeto) includes the creation of a mobile application, a cartoon, a workbook, and video lessons aimed at learning the letters and sounds of the Romani language. These materials are freely available on the internet to anyone who wants to learn to read in the Romani language but cannot attend educational institutions.

 Support for vulnerable groups

Roma

Rromani language

**Nataliia Tomenko**

Father & Bastards

[instagram.com/fatherandbastards](https://www.instagram.com/fatherandbastards)

Natalia comes from Kremenchuk and moved to Vienna. She focuses her project on modern generations' experiences with war-related trauma, particularly from her unique perspective as a Ukrainian Roma woman. Her artworks, contributing to the Ukrainian Roma heritage collection, explore using abstract art and art therapy as methods to address post-traumatic stress disorder.

 Non-formal education

Roma heritage

art therapy

**Victoria Mushtey**

Support Ukraine

supportukraine.uk

Victoria comes from Kyiv and moved to London. She co-created an educational and entertaining YouTube project "Nevihlasy" that targets teenagers and young people. It highlights topics not disclosed in our educational system but that are necessary for a conscious life. The main topics are sexual education and its importance for the healthy development of society, and the issue of Ukrainian self-identity: who we are, where we come from, and where we are going.

 Non-formal education

sex education

traditions

**Ivanna Sysak**Madiba Società
Cooperativa Socialecoopmadiba.com

Ivanna comes from Ivano-Frankivsk and lives in Torino. The initiative "Rozmova: The War, the World and I" took place in Piemonte, Italy, at the end of July, and gathered 17 young Ukrainian activists. It's aim was to create a space for the participants to meet, share experiences, and make common future actions. The participants engaged in various activities, discussions, personal and group reflections, brainstorming, and mediation. It sparked an active community that keeps meeting and working together.

 Non-formal education

Ukrainian activists

networking

**Svitlana Lukyanchenko**

«CONTACT2U» ROMA

power-of-the-future.com

Svitlana comes from Dnipro. She animates the Ukrainian community within Rome Contact2U based on horizontal connections. Activities like supportive networks, psychological support, and community meetings will help Ukrainian women living in and near Rome restore their psycho-emotional state and help them integrate into the local environment. The project aims to network and create new relationships that may arise for the implementation of collective ideas and projects.

 Social innovation & entrepreneurship

supportive networks

Rome

**Natalia Bukhta**

Щедрик / Ščedryk

fb.com/scedryk.cz

Natalia comes from Rivne and moved to Olomouc. She counsels Ukrainian citizens on issues of Ukrainian law. She is a consultative support in matters of Ukrainian education during their integration into the territory of the Czech Republic. She supports community members in restoring documents, establishing contact with family members, and searching for relatives who remained in Ukraine. In particular, this applies to Czech citizens whose relatives left for Ukraine at the end of the last century.

 Support for vulnerable groups

Ukrainian law

Czech Republic

**Olena Chuprina**

Stowarzyszenie Patchwork

fb.com/StowarzyszeniePatchwork

Olena comes from Mykolaiv and moved to Kraków. Thanks to her idea and project, the space of "Patchwork" was equipped with toys, books, and recreation areas to provide a proper summer rest for parents and children. Animators and babysitters organized events and workshops so that during this time, parents could rest and step out of the care of children and focus on doing their errands.

 Support for vulnerable groups

disability

disabled children

**Kateryna Semenyuk**

Kunstmuseum Stuttgart

kunstmuseum-stuttgart.de

Kateryna, originally from Kyiv and now based in Stuttgart, co-curated the "From 1914 till Ukraine" exhibition, urging a reassessment of European values and the continent's destiny amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. She produced a trilingual exhibition catalog in German, Ukrainian, and English, encapsulating a century of European conflicts with a focus on World War I and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The catalog also documents the exhibition and marks a collaborative precedent between German and Ukrainian entities.

 Non-formal education

art exhibition

history

**Krystyna Rivera**

Deutsche Aidshilfe

en.aidshilfe.de

Krystyna comes from Kharkiv and moved to Berlin. She organized the event "Health of migrants/flows from Eastern Europe: access to treatment and services in Germany". It brought together representatives of the community of HIV+ people and HIV-vulnerable groups from the EECA region (Eastern Europe, Central Asia, in particular, mainly from Ukraine) and HIV service organizations from Germany, which work with this group of migrants.

 Support for vulnerable groups

HIV

healthcare

**Yuliia Holodnikova**fb.com/hellocraft.ua

Within HelloCraft, a community of Ukrainian artisans in Romania, Yuliia launched The Atelier of Stories. This initiative seeks to gather oral histories highlighting the enduring bonds between people, cultures, and cherished places and things, even in adversity. It delves into how knitted goods and crafts influence Ukrainian refugees' lives, positioning creativity and solidarity as key to fostering intercultural dialogue. This method is seen as enriching the harmony of personal and group interactions.

 Non-formal education

knit

art and crafts

**Izaura Dryma**

Aresel

aresel.ro

Izaura comes from Mykolaiv and moved to Bucharest. Izaura opened a dance school for Roma and non-Roma children, refugees from Ukraine. To socialize, introduce them to Roma culture, and provide psychological support through dance therapy, which helps them adapt to the new environment.

 Support for vulnerable groups

Roma culture

dance studio

**Anastasiia Martynenko**

Voice Ireland

voiceireland.org

Anastasiia comes from Kyiv and moved to Dublin. In the frames of her project at Vidnova, she prepared the base for the Zero Waste Trainer training for Ukrainian environmental activists and educators. Thanks to the translation and publishing of the Zero Waste Trainer Handbook and additional funding, she plans to organize the training course in Ukraine next year.

 Environmental protection

zero waste

handbook

**Kseniia Paltsun**

Vitsche e.V.

vitsche.org

Kseniia comes from Kyiv and moved to Berlin. She initiated a research to describe different ways of post-war reconstruction of architectural heritage in historical Eastern European cities. The report includes a recap of an analysis of the cultural heritage preservation in Bosnia and Herzegovina during and after war, the challenges faced by the society and the paths of preservation, restoration, and conservation. A panel discussion was organized in Berlin on preserving the architectural heritage of Ukraine, Bosnia, and Herzegovina.

 Non-formal education

architectural heritage

Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Julia Ovcharenko**

Read My World

readmyworld.nl

Julia comes from Kyiv and moved to Vienna. She launched a collaboration between Cultural Hub NGO (Kyiv) and Read My World Festival (Amsterdam), where curators from both countries collected voices of writers who discovered an inclusive, multi-voiced European society in which a discourse on historical responsibility, justice, and de-imperialization is developing. These essays will be translated into English and Ukrainian, and added to the Wars. Ukrainians. Humanity digital repository.

 Non-formal education

women writers

literature

**Viktoria Kratinova**

Viktoria Kratinova comes from Kyiv, where she still lives. She represents the field of media literacy and independent media. Viktoria makes videos about the work of Ukrainian heroes who defend Ukraine daily from the Russian invaders. Currently, she is working on a website where all materials will be collected.

**Alexandra Krolikowska**

Psychologist and cultural activist Aleksandra was born in Donetsk. From 2007 to 2014, she lived in Crimea, Sevastopol. Aleksandra has been living in Kyiv since 2014. She created a photo diary of collective memories – and enlisted the cooperation of servicemen and women who recorded their lives on film during the winter. Despite the active battles, the Ukrainian defenders captured the moments of the daily struggle for victory. Now, she is collecting funds to print a photo diary.

**Lora Litkovska**

Art educator, pedagogue, and artist, Lora lives in Bucha, Kyiv region. She implemented charity music and poetry evenings, “Circle of Light” in Bucha. The first event occurred in October 2022, and since then, Lora has been organizing acoustic evenings during blackouts and charity concerts for gatherings at the Military Academy. “Circle of Light” supports the development of the local creative community and everyone who needs self-expression. In February, Lora started performing as part of the band at her charity concerts.

**Maria Chuprinenko**

Maria was born in Novomykolaivka, Kherson region. Now she lives in Kyiv. Maria, an actress and singer, organized a musical evening in Kyiv. It focused on singing folk songs for people forced to leave Kherson due to the war. Maria and her community performed songs of her authorship and folk songs that she usually sang with her family in Kherson on holidays.

**Tetyana Ganzha**

Tetyana was born in Kalush, Ivano-Frankivsk region, and now lives in Kyiv. Tetyana is a philologist interested in urbanism and a documentary filmmaker. In frames of the Vidnova Ukraine, she continues to develop the script for the movie “Occupied” about rape as a tool of war and works on an information campaign for women who are victims of violence.

**Yulia Manukyan**

Yulia was born in Kherson and now lives in Odesa. She is a journalist, art critic, co-founder and curator of artistic and urban projects of the NGO “Urban Re-Public” (Kherson), an expert of the Museum Council of the NGO “Museum of Modern Art in Ukraine”, a volunteer of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Kherson (MSMH). Yulia restores the organization’s work in Odesa and documents the consequences of the war for the cultural heritage of southern Ukraine. As part of the Vidnova Ukraine Fellowship, Yulia realized the project “Animation of art resistance in the occupation” to support the artistic community of Kherson. Discussions on the problems of decolonization became a separate block of the project.

**Andriy Demchuk**

Andriy was born in Lviv, where he lives. He is a Paralympic champion in fencing, a teacher at the Lviv Polytechnic University and the Lviv State University of Physical Culture, and co-founder of Accessible Cinema. This initiative helps visually impaired people “see” a movie. Previously, Andriy worked on shows about history and sports in Poland and organized a tournament supporting Ukraine. As part of the Vidnova Ukraine Fellowship, Andriy worked on the “Accessible Cinema” project and military sports rehabilitation.

**Kateryna Uvarova**

Kateryna is an eco-activist, the owner of the 3.14BAN brand, and the team created the “Senses” project. They recycle used casings into interior items and decorations. The proceeds from the sale of products go to the reconstruction of the Grigory Skovoroda museum in the village of Skovorodinivka in the Kharkiv region, which was destroyed by a Russian rocket.


Zoreslava Klymenko

Zoreslava is the director of the South Ukrainian City Historical Museum. In frames of the Vidnova Ukraine Fellowship, she updated the museum's fund storage and implemented the latest technologies. The permanent exhibition "Heroes do not Die" has been updated with decorated portraits of fallen soldiers, a restored diorama, and a purchased multimedia video projector.


Yanina Aleeva

Yanina was born and raised in Kharkiv, lived in Kryvyi Rih for several years, and has lived in Kyiv since 2001. She is the head of the NGO "My Province" and manager of cultural projects. She uses the example of small towns to reveal general historical trends in her project "History of Small Towns of Poltava Region". Yanina published a series of video projects dedicated to the history of the cities of Horishni Plavni and Lohvytsia.


Olena Brutska

Olena Brutska was born in Krasnodon, Luhansk region. Lives in Kyiv since 2012. Olena is an activist, journalist, screenwriter, and PR volunteer of the NGO Women's Veteran Movement. Starting from October 2022, Olena actively worked on covering stories about servicewomen in Ukraine and abroad. Together with Vogue magazine, she implemented the special project "Letters from the Front" – materials in the form of letters from the trenches from female defenders who fight on the front lines. Thanks to Olena's scrupulous communication activities, it was possible to collect donations from sponsors for the tailoring of women's military uniforms.


Maria Burmaka

Maria Burmaka was born in Kharkiv and now lives in Kyiv. Musician, author, and journalist, Maria performs at charity concerts to raise funds for the military and people affected by the war. She performed at a charity concert in Lviv, recorded the soundtrack for the documentary film "Azovstal. Shelter of Love", and also gave an interview for RBC Ukraine about the challenges for culture in the conditions of war.


Oleksandr Doroshenko

Oleksandr was born and lives in the village of Mykhailivka rubezhivka, Kyiv region. He is an honored artist of Ukraine. He sees his vocation as creatively rethinking and showing his contemporaries and future generations the events currently happening in Ukraine around him. During the Vidnova Ukraine Fellowship, the artist held his charity exhibition "Spring 2022" in Irpin.


Maryna Maikovska

Maryna Maikovska was born in Trostyanets, Sumy region, and now lives in Kyiv. Maryna is a director. As part of the Vidnova Ukraine Fellowship, she worked on the creation of a series of films about the evacuation of animals from Bucha. She plans to promote the film project to international animal protection and human rights organizations.


Oksana Borovets

Art director Oksana was born in Mala Divitsia, Chernihiv region. Currently lives in Kyiv. Her project "Keys" addressed the topic of Ukrainians losing their homes due to Russian aggression. In social networks, she shows traumatic experiences caused by war events and shares stories of people who lost their homes/were forced to leave them. On the anniversary of the full-scale invasion, Oksana hosted a broadcast with psychologist Olena Starynina on "anniversary syndrome".


Albina Krikun

Albina was born in the Rokytne, Kyiv region. Now lives in Cherkasy. She is a teacher engaged in active educational activities. Albina created and implemented a career guidance course for teenagers and young people, "Architect of your Future", – a program for identifying talents and strengths that will become a reference point for choosing future professions. She also worked on the "Career Development Trajectory" project aimed at helping young people build a career strategy.

**Natalia Ukraynets**

Natalia was born in the Shchaslyve, Kyiv region. She has directed her efforts toward developing children with autism and developmental delays. With the support of Vidnova Ukraine Fellowship, Natalia opened the Early Development Center “PrEkRASni” to increase the number of early development professionals in Ukraine during the war.

**Anastasia Pobidash**

Activist Anastasia Pobidash lives in Irpin, Kyiv region. She held the “Culture for Nature” training festival to restore the nature of Ukraine with the help of cultural events. The first festival was in April, inviting 26 creative teams from the Kyiv region. The participants’ contributions aimed to restore the park zone of de-occupied Irpin.

**Oleksandra Kyryushyna**

Oleksandra was born in Chernihiv and now lives in Kyiv. During the Vidnova Ukraine Fellowship, cultural manager Oleksandra supported artists in finding funding for their initiatives. Oleksandra helped more than 15 projects apply for funding. More than 6 projects are currently in the works. The exhibition “Burn” was held in Kyiv. Another project, “Ukrainians’ Gratitude to Europe and the World”, is under development.

**Kira Okhriemenko**

Public activist Kira was born in the Sumy region and now lives in Brovary, Kyiv region. She created a working environment for elderly women from the villages of Sumy Oblast within the “My.Relatives” project. Kira also became a speaker at the event dedicated to the anniversary of the full-scale invasion, “Cafe Kyiv – We Choose Freedom” on February 27, 2023, in Berlin.

**Tatiana Dashkovska**

Tatiana comes from Molochansk, in the Zaporizhzhia region. Now lives in Zaporizhzhia. Activist and entrepreneur Tatiana, with the support of a fellowship, decided to create a safe space in Zaporizhzhia for those forced to leave their homes. She especially wanted to support her Molochan community, which temporarily moved to the city due to increased danger at home. There, she organized classes on combating post-traumatic stress disorder and worked individually with women, families, and children who needed psychological help.

**Natalya Korbut**

Natalia Korbut was born in Zhytomyr and now lives in Berdychiv, Zhytomyr Region. Natalya decided to focus her activities on supporting people who temporarily moved to Berdychi due to the war. She was engaged in charitable coaching sessions for women who need support, organized clubs for youth, women, and entrepreneurs, and organized an online project on conscious living in 2023.

**Daryna Antonenko**

Daryna Antonenko lived in Kyiv before the full-scale invasion and moved to Astana, Kazakhstan. She founded Re:ban, an upcycling agency that gives a second life to used advertising banners, turning them into unique, custom-crafted products. Within the Vidnova Fellowship Ukraine program, she plans to restart the company and continue to develop it, trying to adapt to the new realities of existence.

**Maria Semenchenko**

Maria Semenchenko lived in Kyiv and then moved to Warsaw, Poland. Maria is a journalist published in such media as Gromadske, Reporters, Chitomo, and Local History. She will work on the project "Points of Pain. Guidebook". It is a series of texts about places and cultural and historical objects that were tourist points on the map of Ukraine before the full-scale war, which were destroyed or damaged due to the war.

**Shaza Musa**

Shaza Musa lived in Kyiv and then moved to Berlin, Germany. She is a Syrian-Ukrainian cultural figure, designer, illustrator, and coordinator of art projects. Her purpose is to study patterns that are part of the visual language and design of the Poltava region and design the research into a digital publication.

**Polina Choni**

Polina Choni was born in Kyiv and then moved to Copenhagen, Denmark. Polina is a visual artist. She will work on the artistic research project "Chemical Reaction" and create a series of woven canvases using natural dyes. This project is dedicated to studying natural pigments from plants, mushrooms, and minerals collected on the territory of Ukraine and tells about the ecological consequences of the war.

**Julia Koval**

Julia Koval from Lviv was forced to move to Rzeszów, Poland, because of the war. She is an activist and a volunteer. Julia plans to organize a shelter for IDPs and a warehouse for humanitarian aid, which will go to the east of Ukraine.

**Yana Tymoshenko**

Yana Tymoshenko from Dnipro temporarily moved to Prague, Czech Republic, because of the war. In the coming months, she plans to gather a group of Ukrainian museum workers to cooperate with Czech colleagues, write at least 5 review articles on various areas of activity of modern museums in the Czech Republic, and hold master classes for artists and cultural figures from the Dnipropetrovsk region on grant writing.

**Evgeniya Melkonyan**

Evgeniya Melkonyan lived in Irpin and moved to Tarragona, Spain. She plans to work as a facilitator on a creative, restorative movement and voice laboratories project that will help people cope with anxiety, find support again, and recover. She wants to hold about three events in different cities of Ukraine.

**Oksana Sygareva**

Oksana Sygareva from Kharkiv moved to Prague, Czech Republic. She is a film producer, director, and manager of cultural, artistic, and educational projects. Since 2020, she has been shooting a documentary about a children's circus studio in Kharkiv. Oksana plans to finish the rough editing of the film and present it to partners to find funding for post-production.

**Lyubov Malikova**

Lyubov Malikova lived in Kyiv and then moved to Berlin, Germany. She had a one-year artistic residency in the city of Essen. Lyubov represents the DIS/ORDER creative team, works on modern art, and represents it in fashion design. In addition to her own author's creativity, she has dozens of fashion collaborations and unique developments, including from a technological point of view. New collaborations are scheduled for this season: Ksenia Hnylytska and Nikita Kadan for the serial project HUSTKA.

**Khrystyna Semeryn**

Khrystyna Semeryn from Ostroh moved to Germany, where she worked at a university. She plans to create essays with intellectual reflection on war and society ("Memory Landscapes, War & Resistance Ecologies of Ukraine", "Language of Love and Freedom") and a series of reports on war and memory.

**Kateryna Pavlovskaya**

Kateryna Pavlovskaya lived in Kyiv and then moved to Gdansk, Poland. She is a journalist and worked for a long time at the ICTV TV channel. Kateryna is working on a documentary film about Kyivan Rus. The purpose of the film is to explain why Kievan Rus, which was territorially located on the territory of Ukraine, was included in Russian colonial history, how the artificial concept of 3 brotherly nations was created from this, and how Russian propaganda still uses this part of history in the information war against Ukraine.

**Olena Brychenko**

Olena Brychenko moved from Kyiv to London, Great Britain. During the past years, she initiated the organization and holding of the scientific conference "Food in History". Currently, she is working on creating and publishing materials about the changes in food culture caused by the war. She developed a questionnaire based on the testimonies of residents of the de-occupied territories: Kyiv and Chernihiv regions. Now, she is analyzing the food practices of Ukrainians under occupation.

**Anna Aliyeva**

Anna Aliyeva from Kharkiv moved to Germany because of the war. In Germany, she began researching the provenance of artworks exported to Germany from Ukraine during the Second World War. Having returned to Kyiv, she plans to start work in Ukrainian archives to identify the works whose traces were found in Germany.

**Alina Bogdanovych**

Alina Bogdanovych from Kharkiv was forced to move to Gdansk, Poland. Alina is an actress, director, theatre expert, cultural manager, and teacher. She plans to implement his play, "Song of Freedom", the podcast "I-culture", which is a platform for discussing current topics in the field of culture and art, as well as to resume the activities of the NGO "Platforma Theater Initiatives".

**Valeriya Guevska**

Valeriya Guevska moved from Kyiv to Graz, Austria. Valeriya is working on publishing a magazine about underground culture, "Potop". She plans to finalize the Dido typeface, dedicate it to the artist Andrii Sagaidakovsky, and make a video installation for the Konstrukcia festival, where she wants to experiment with the ideas of poetic painting, abstract painting, and vernacular inscriptions.

**Ksenia Matskevich**

Ksenia Matskevich lived in Kyiv and moved to Poland. After returning to Ukraine, she wants to prepare materials and conduct a series of offline trainings on communication, presentation of gained experience, and dissemination of information for colleagues from the public sphere and employees of state social centers.

**Kateryna Strelhenko**

Kateryna Strelhenko from Dnipro moved to Slovakia. She plans to resume the activities of the "Interesting Cinema" circle, where children and teenagers who want to connect their lives with journalism and film production are engaged. She was a group leader before the full-scale invasion and created social videos on various topics with students.

**Solomiya Tomaschuk**

Solomiya Tomaschuk is a director. She moved from Kyiv to Warsaw, Poland. Over three months, she plans to shoot several portrait documentaries about people forced to move to Prykarpattia from less safe cities: Mariupol, Lysychansk, and Zaporizhzhia.

**Marina Ryzhova**

Due to the war, Marina moved from Kyiv to Israel, Arad, and later to Germany, Pirna. Marina is the founder and director of the independent art formation Art. Razom. She is engaged in productions of little-known Ukrainian operas and the popularization of the work of young Ukrainian composers.

**Alina Ponypalyak**

Alina Ponypalyak moved from Kyiv to Krotosyn, Poland. Alina is a candidate for historical sciences. She will work on creating an educational and exhibition project dedicated to the heroes of the defense of Kyiv region, "Kyiv region – an outpost to freedom", designed to show how the army, together with the people of Kyiv, repelled the attack of the enemy.

**Valya Prytula**

Valya Prytula is a ceramist. Valya moved from Poltava to the Netherlands, Oosterwijk. She plans to hold workshops, some of which will be free (for people in need) and to open a free space for the work of other artists and ceramists.

**Teresa Barabash**

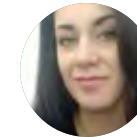
Teresa Barabash moved from Lviv to Poland (Lublin, Ustka), Austria (Hollabrunn), and France (Paris). Teresa is an artist who works in textiles, installation, audiovisual art, and land art. She plans to work on a series of thematic canvases dedicated to the work of Polina Raiko, a Ukrainian artist from the Kherson region, whose house museum was flooded after the explosion of the Kakhovskaya HPP.

**Taras Prodanyuk**

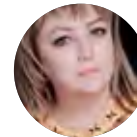
Taras is an entrepreneur. Taras moved from Kyiv to Oxford. He will be engaged in the recovery of the analytical center's activity, which will help organizations make decisions based on the database. It also plans to cooperate with Ukrainian businesses in conducting research on the current state of Ukraine's economy and the viability of SMEs.

**Khrystyna Slobodianiuk**

Khrystyna is an actress, dancer, and performer. She moved from Kyiv to Paris and Wuppertal. She plans to study art therapy, improve mental health among her existing and new audiences, and create plays, videos, and performances designed to heal audiences in Ukraine.

**Alina Neskreba**

Alina moved from Severodonetsk to Jindryhuv Hradec, Czech Republic. Alina is a sound engineer and sound designer. In her project "Modern Ukrainian Audio Fairy Tales", she will adapt Ukrainian folk tales to the interests of modern children. She plans to make fairy tales in Ukrainian and English.

**Iryna Yatsyk**

Iryna moved from Zhytomyr to Warsaw, Poland. Iryna is the founder and director of the non-formal education center "PROSTO" (Zhytomyr) and a psychotherapist. She is working on restoring the center to train youth and children toward public education.

**Maria Kondratieva**

Maria moved from Dnipro/Lviv to Utrecht (Netherlands). Maria is a choreographer, performer, teacher, and organizer of cultural events. She plans to work on her dance performance, "Fragility", to open a space for contemporary dance and performance art representatives and conduct master classes on physical and dance practices.

**Tamila Pedan**

Tamila moved from Kharkiv to Maglód, Hungary. She is an artist and will work on the "Transformation" eco-art project using recycling and upcycling technologies. Craftsmen who participated in previous exhibitions will teach 75 people eco-art techniques in a series of masterclasses.

**Hanna Lodygina**

Hanna moved from Kyiv to Warsaw, Poland. Hanna is a journalist who will work on recording 8 episodes of the podcast "Back to Yourself" about the decolonization of Ukrainian culture and science. Each episode will be dedicated to one prominent Ukrainian figure whom Russia appropriated.

**Liudmyla Mishchenko**

Liudmyla moved from Kyiv to Varna, Bulgaria. She is a psychologist who plans to create a space in Zaporizhzhia or Dnipro where she will hold master classes on paper casting. Also, wants to organize women's circles and movie screenings once a week.

**Olena Kasian**

Olena moved from Sumy to Valencia, Spain. Olena is an entrepreneur and the founder of OKTOWN.com.ua. She is working on restoring and expanding the OKTOWN project and developing a mobile application to support the tourism business in Ukraine.

**Andriy Savych**

Andriy moved from Lviv to Spain. Andriy is a musician. His musical career went through various orchestras in Ukraine and abroad (Kyiv Symphony Orchestra, Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquesta Clásica Santa Cecilia, and others). He returned to resume his activities, develop his vlog, and share his knowledge there.

**Iryna Savytska**

Iryna moved from Lisnyki, Kyiv region, to Pescara, Italy. She is a co-founder of the Ukrainian startup Bank of Memories and a member of the "Memories of Ukraine" organization. Together with her husband, in the "Bank of Memories" project, they create digital memorials for heroes who died in the Russian-Ukrainian war. These short films can be viewed directly from the plaque using a smartphone.

**Oksana Stomina**

Oksana moved from Mariupol to Germany, Munich. Oksana is a poet, writer, public figure, and founder of the NGO "Paperovi Shchy". During the three weeks of the Mariupol blockade, she worked in a volunteer center and documented the horrors of Russian aggression. Now she has started work on a documentary book about Russia's war in Ukraine – "WAR ON PEACE AVENUE. Stories of the blockaded Mariupol". It is a collection of stories of Mariupol residents who suffered from the Russian invaders.

**Alina Holovatyuk**

Alina moved from Kyiv to Hamburg, and later Athens. Alina is a Ukrainian architect and CGI artist, founder-CEO of the InTempo application and tactile case – a preventive device against panic attacks and stress. She is exploring the possibilities of using artificial intelligence in design and architecture on her Instagram blog.

**Julia Nechai**

Julia moved from Chernihiv to Great Britain, Harpenden. For 10 years, Yulia had her theatre studio "Bila Valiza", which was destroyed in March 2022. She wants to return to Chernihiv, launch charity courses for female soldiers, and open a children's group for theatre arts.

**Yuliya Kysil**

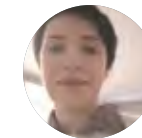
Yuliya moved from Kyiv to Prague, Czech Republic. Yulia is an artist working on the documentary "Libido during the War" series. In this project, she studies the history of Ukrainians trying to preserve vitality and thirst for love despite a full-scale war.

**Olena Pinkovska**

Olena moved from Kyiv to Warsaw, Poland. Olena is a musician and a performer of opera and chamber music. She wants to combine chamber and vocal works of repressed authors in one concert program. She will partner with the orchestra, make a program, and plan events.

**Iryna Shcherba**

Iryna moved from Zhytomyr to Poland, Warsaw. Iryna creates a program of psychological rehabilitation centers for our defenders and their families. She is also working on centers where working mothers can leave their children for the period of work, as well as find hourly work based on these centers.

**Olha Ruban**

Olha moved from Hostomel to Czech Republic, Krumlov. Olha has been working with artistic glass in the lampwork technique since 2008. Before the war, she had her workroom and constantly held individual and group workshops. She plans to restore the workroom and renew her creative and teaching work.



Ganna Bogachuk

Ganna moved from Brovary to Vilnius, Lithuania. She plans to work on the project "Identity", which investigates the factors that influenced identity formation through the prism of personal memories of women from the eastern, southern, and central regions of Ukraine. Plans to conduct 15 more interviews.



Svitlana Tarasenko

Svitlana moved from Sumy to Warsaw, Poland. She is a teacher and project manager of the NGO Center for Lifelong Education. She will work on a book for children on entrepreneurship and the formation of a course on women's entrepreneurship.



Anastasia Leonova

Anastasia Leonova moved from Kharkiv to London, Great Britain. Anastasia co-founded the publishing house "IST" (istpublishing.org), specializing in publishing non-fiction literature. She will deal with the publishing process of Susan Sontag's book "Regarding the Pain of Others", which touches on military photography and ethics.



Nadiia Voronova

Nadiia from Kramatorsk, Donetsk region, moved to Wroclaw, Poland. Nadiia is a Doctor of Science, Associate Professor of the Department of Aesthetics, History and Culture, and Candidate of Philosophical Sciences. She will work on a research project on the history and culture of Donbas. The final result of the research will be a presentation at an international conference.



Lyubov Lisovenko

Before the full-scale war, Lyubov lived in Toretsk and was forced to move to Krakow, Poland. Her activities will assist and support those affected by the war: purchasing food, medicine, hygiene products, and other necessities for those in difficult life circumstances.



Oleksandra Naryzhna

Oleksandra moved from Kharkiv to Rotterdam. She is an architect and head of the Urban Reform NGO, which implements new approaches to developing and activating cities through urban projects. Will be engaged in the preparation of non-formal education programs to improve young people's skills in urbanism for the reconstruction of Ukraine.



Tatiana Korzhova

Tatiana moved from Ochakiv to Poland. At first, she was in Łódź, then moved to Warsaw. She is an artist who plans to open an art studio to teach children and adults painting from nature and hold an exhibition dedicated to the nature of the Kinburn spit. This territory is still under Russian occupation.



Olga Solovyova

Olga Solovyova from Kyiv moved to Slovakia, the village of Moymyrovtsse. She returned to Ukraine to organize creative meetings with her students at the Children's Academy of Arts and organize free drawing workshops. These meetings aim to be a space to talk about the positive influence of art in such difficult times.



Yulia Pylypchatina

Yulia moved from Kharkiv to Vrasene. She is an illustrator and ceramist. Her workroom is located in the center of Kharkiv, and Yulia dreams of continuing to create there, being inspired in her work by the traditions of the Kharkiv region.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

After the first phase of immediate humanitarian aid called MitOst Ukraine Solidarity Fund and the next phase of medium-term individually designed support provided by Vidnova Fellowship, another step begins for Commit and our partners – planning and co-shaping the reconstruction and recovery of Ukraine. The need for individual support for refugee civil society actors is still present and will be taken care of with further Vidnova Fellowship rounds. Nevertheless, the first initiatives focusing on reconstruction are already beginning, and Ukrainian civil society will play an important role in these processes. We have joined these efforts with another program line called Vidnova Lab.

Vidnova Lab aims to strengthen the decentralized, bottom-up, and cross-sectoral collaboration of civil society actors working on the reconstruction and recovery of Ukraine.



PARTNERS & FUNDERS



Commit is a Berlin-based international non-profit organization. We work with practice-oriented models of active citizenship that aim to strengthen the skills and capacities of local communities. We design and implement tailor-made educational programs, facilitate and host learning gatherings of civil society, and develop facilitation tools and methodologies contributing to social cohesion.

We acknowledge that we live in a world of complex, interconnected challenges where constant change is a reality. We embrace this complexity as open-minded learners. We strive for vibrant and resilient communities where everyone counts and active citizens are a stronghold for democracy. We work shoulder to shoulder with individuals, teams, organizations, and communities to build sustainable ecosystems of civil society.

wecommit.to



The mission of the EVZ Foundation is to keep the memory of National Socialist persecution alive and to work for human rights and international understanding. Against the background of its founding history, the EVZ Foundation is particularly active in Central and Eastern Europe, Israel and Germany.

stiftung-evz.de



The Robert Bosch Stiftung has been active in the areas of health, education, and global issues since its establishment in 1964. Through its funding, it works for a just and sustainable future. The Foundation has offices in Stuttgart and Berlin, and is rooted in the legacy of the entrepreneur and founder Robert Bosch.

bosch-stiftung.de

GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG

The Gerda Henkel Foundation was established in June 1976 by Lisa Maskell as a private, non-profit grant making organization, in memory of her mother Gerda Henkel. The foundation has its headquarters in Düsseldorf. The sole object of the foundation is to promote science at universities and research institutes, primarily by supporting specific projects in the field of the humanities that have a specialist scope and are limited in time. In addition, the Foundation concentrates its support on the historical humanities, mainly on history, archaeology, the history of art and other disciplines with a historical component. It is active both inside and outside Germany.

gerda-henkel-stiftung.de



Insha Osvita is a non-governmental organization and professional community that develops educational programs, works with culture and art as forms of collective learning, and creates mental and physical learning spaces. Insha Osvita operates across Ukraine and manages non-formal and adult education quality programs.

insha-osvita.org

STIFTUNG MERCATOR

Stiftung Mercator is a private and independent foundation with extensive scientific expertise and practical project experience. Through its work, it strives for a society characterized by openness to the world, solidarity and equal opportunities. To achieve these objectives, it supports and develops projects that improve participation and cohesion in an increasingly diverse society. Stiftung Mercator wants to strengthen democracy and the rule of law in Europe, address the impact of digitization on democracy and society, and drive forward climate change mitigation. Stiftung Mercator pursues activities in Germany, Europe and worldwide. It has a particular affinity with the Ruhr area, the home of its founding family and of the foundation's headquarters.

stiftung-mercator.de

IN SNAPS















Vidnova Fellowship Europe

EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

Evaluation of the Vidnova Fellowship was conducted by a team of four evaluators: Anna Mygal, Halyna Angelova, Maria Tymoschuk, and Natalya Trambovetska, and coordinated by Monica Tranchych. The primary objective of this evaluation was to examine the program's design and test assumptions regarding its components' supportive nature. The evaluation aimed to extract lessons learned and to inform future rounds of potential fellowships or other Vidnova programs working with (displaced) civil society actors from Ukraine.

To gather comprehensive insights about the program as a whole and about the effectiveness of each component, evaluators used in-depth interviews conducted with participants individually. 23 out of 26 fellows in the first round participated in the interviews, providing rich information and data. Online calls, lasting 60 minutes each, were held anonymously to ensure candid responses. Therefore, gender, age, country, and other characteristics that could indicate a fellow's profile were hidden or generalized. Once the interviews were implemented, merging data, identifying patterns, drawing conclusions, and providing recommendations was a collaborative team process between the evaluators. This allowed for individual assumptions and opinion biases to remain in check, ensuring the integrity of data and the delivery of impartial findings.

The following core questions served as a frame for this evaluation:

1. If and in what way did the fellowship impact the ability of fellows to continue their civil society engagement?
2. If and to what extent did the fellowship reduce the uncertainty of their new situation as temporarily displaced professionals?
3. If and in what way did the fellowship expand their professional circles and networks, improve their capacities and skills and serve their professional development?

In addition to interviews, an online questionnaire was created for hosting organizations. These organizations and initiatives were the primary point of contact for fellows in their respective countries throughout the program. This questionnaire provided valuable insights into the hosting experience and the program's effectiveness in fostering collaboration between Ukrainian civil society actors and the network of European organizations. We received eight responses, which offered valuable perspectives, as summarized in the evaluation report.

GENERAL FINDINGS

Preserving Professional Identity

Participants credited the program with providing essential support for their livelihoods, allowing them to continue their civil engagement despite relocation challenges. The program offered stability, time for reflection, and psychological resilience, enabling fellows to maintain their professional identities and adapt to new environments.

“I can honestly say that I am very unsure whether I would have continued my civil activities if it were not for this program. When we came here, there were no social benefits for Ukrainians. I was very stressed as I brought my relatives along. I had nowhere to live and nowhere to go. It’s a challenge to have nowhere to live.”

“I realized that I was supported as a representative of civil society and as a civil activist. It wasn’t an obligation because no one forced me to do it, but there was an inner calling to continue my work. This program gave me a great foundation, which enabled me to stay connected to social activism. I am a social activist by temperament. It is my identity; I could do what is in my nature.”

Future plans

Most Vidnova fellows plan to continue their involvement in civil society work. The program's flexibility allowed participants to explore various options and identify paths aligned with their personal circumstances and aspirations. Fellow's responses can be clustered into five main trajectories: some will stay and establish NGOs in the hosting country, others will focus on developing organizations in Ukraine, some will continue working with their hosting organizations, and some are unsure about their plans but express a commitment to civil engagement; one participant secured a job in an international organization, attributing their success to the fellowship's support in building confidence and professional skills.

Impact on small-scale NGOs

The program was particularly valuable for representatives of small organizations, offering learning opportunities and expanding their networks. Such support was essential for strengthening less established actors in the field and enhancing their capacity to engage with diverse international audiences.

“Such support allows small organizations to understand how strong and capable they can be. It provides a solid foundation to engage in activities and develop further fully. We have not received such support during the last five years of our previous work.”

Time for Adaptation and Psychological Support

Most of the interviewed participants emphasized the program's role in providing time for adaptation and emotional support during times of crisis and major life changes. The sense of community fostered by the program contributed significantly to their psychological resilience and provided a sense of belonging. For many, it was a grounding experience, offering time for reflection and realizing their capabilities in new environments, alleviating the pressure and shock of relocation to a foreign country. It enabled some participants to navigate crisis situations and, for others, to redefine their identities.

“The program gave me stability and the opportunity to breathe out and to take time to find a new identity in the new environment. It gave me time to find myself.”

“It's like not knowing how to swim and being given a life preserver. You might not swim as fast, but you won't drown. It [the program] just turned you over and held you tight with both hands.”

While the program provided stability and a framework for planning, some participants found the accompanying restrictions challenging, given their lack of control over their lives at that point.

Challenges in “neutral” countries

One participant highlighted the significance of advocating for the Ukrainian agenda in politically neutral countries or those not actively supporting Ukraine. Despite facing challenges communicating about Ukrainian events due to opposition, the program enabled them to accomplish a personal milestone of addressing the war when it was disregarded, potentially influencing international socio-political dynamics – “to do something about the war when no one wants to hear about it is very difficult.” Additional support may be needed for participants in such locations to overcome obstacles and continue impacting civil society from Ukraine.



FINDINGS ON EACH ELEMENT OF THE PROGRAM

1. Scholarship

The scholarship component of the Vidnova Fellowship program played a crucial role in supporting fellows' professional activities and enabling them to focus on their civil society engagement without seeking alternative employment for survival. Most participants found the scholarship instrumental in allowing them to remain in their fields. It served as a motivation for them to continue civil society work, providing stability and financial support.

“One of the most important elements [in the program]. If there was no scholarship, nothing would have happened. I would not have been able to devote so much time to my work. Knowing the budget that [the hosting country] allocates for one employee, I could not do what I do.”

However, the value of the scholarship varied depending on the fellows' country of residence and individual circumstances. While it was sufficient for some, others faced challenges, particularly those with families or in countries with higher living costs. Issues such as bureaucratic obstacles and misunderstandings regarding taxation and social benefits added to the complexities for some fellows.

Additionally, some fellows chose to engage in additional employment during the program for various reasons. For some, it was a chance to integrate into their local communities even deeper; for some, it was about further professional development; and for others, it was a financial necessity. This additional work ranged from part-time jobs to remote work on already existing projects in Ukraine or freelance opportunities. The need for flexibility in accommodating individual circumstances and timely support from the program team was highly appreciated.

“I worked extra hours at [a place of additional employment]. It was important for me to see how [the employment sector] works from the inside here.”

Recommendations include encouraging participants to familiarize themselves with legal aspects and restrictions related to the scholarship in their host countries, securing additional finances for proper legal advice if needed, and encouraging fellows to thoroughly check already available social benefits. Closer collaboration between the coordination team and hosting organizations regarding these questions can also be instrumental. Additionally, a more flexible approach to addressing the need for additional employment within the program framework could reduce stress and better support participants' individual situations – restrictions regarding this aspect of the program were not clear to the fellows from the start.

2. Host Organization

FELLOWS' PERSPECTIVE:

The Vidnova Fellowship program relied heavily on host organizations to support fellows in adapting to new environments, integrating into local communities, and accessing professional circles. Collaboration with host organizations generally had a positive impact, providing fellows with valuable insights into the local context and networking opportunities. For some, this collaboration extended beyond the program timeline, fostering ongoing partnerships.

“It was a guide in the country you live in.”

“I can say that they helped me integrate into the new context and introduced me to many people who work at [location]. I grew very quickly within the organization in one year. We continue to collaborate with some team members.”

The level of involvement and integration with host organizations varied among participants, strongly depending on factors such as aligning their professional interests with the organization's activities. While some experienced deep integration, others maintained a more formal relationship or worked independently on their initiatives. Nonetheless, successful collaborations often require proactive communication from the fellow and a mutual understanding of expectations from both parties.

“It's not a host organization; I've become a part of it. It is my organization now. I can easily stay in [host country] now and continue working in my field in an organization I am close to, like, and develop further.”

In some cases, the fellows' activities did not match their qualifications. Participants noted that local organizations generally do not treat Ukrainian refugees as highly skilled workers and potentially strong contributors to the team despite their experience and knowledge.

“They didn’t expect me to act so professionally. At the beginning of our collaboration, they were very controlling, checking every word in the announcements. The cooperation was definitely useful, but it was not easy. In my host organization, I had to prove that I knew something and was good at something. I expected a gentle introduction and involvement, but it didn’t happen. They were afraid to delegate.”

Finding suitable host organizations posed challenges for many participants, particularly in remote regions or countries where the program lacked established networks. Participants expressed a desire for more clarity and support in reaching out to organizations, suggesting the need for formal communication channels and enhanced program assistance in connecting with potential hosts.

“There was not enough help in contacting organizations. By including a host organization in some networks. Or, for example, a call with the coordinators. I felt like I was addressing organizations from the street. I wanted to increase my relevance in the new country.”

To improve the host organization component of the program, it has been recommended to establish clear communication channels with organizations, provide extensive support in networking and partner outreach, and offer alternative tools or resources for participants unable to secure suitable host organizations. Additionally, facilitating open discussions on collaboration principles and mutual expectations can enhance the partnerships between fellows and host organizations.

HOSTS' PERSPECTIVE:

Overall, hosts rated the experience of hosting a fellow positively, with an average rating of 9.0 out of 10. Key highlights included the opportunity to support individuals in crisis situations, such as young Roma women from Ukraine, and the enriching experience of collaborating with the fellows on projects closely aligned with organizational missions. The fellowship facilitated valuable partnerships, insightful discussions, and joint initiatives, such as workshops and project proposals, enhancing both the host organizations and the fellows' professional development.

The decision to welcome a fellow came from various motivations, including addressing the needs of Ukrainian refugees, supporting charitable activities, fostering civil society cooperation, and offering new experiences to both parties. Initial expectations centered on providing emotional support, facilitating organizational activities, and furthering the fellows' projects and research. While some expectations were met, others encountered challenges, such as the need for clearer boundaries and guidance, particularly within the Vidnova Fellowship framework.

Host organizations reported diverse levels of fellow involvement in daily activities, ranging from active participation to occasional contributions. Despite variations, most hosts supported integrating fellows into their organizational contexts, providing networks, resources, and mentorship opportunities. Post-fellowship relationships varied, with some maintaining regular contact and ongoing collaborations while others faced challenges due to unmet expectations or resource constraints.

Hosts highlighted the importance of clear expectations, mentorship, and patience when hosting a fellow. They advised other organizations considering hosting fellows to prioritize understanding the fellow's actions, empathy, engagement, and alignment with organizational values.

Improvement opportunities for the coordination team of the Vidnova Fellowship program include providing clearer guidance and support to host organizations and facilitating networking sessions between hosting organizations. Hosts also suggested regular evaluation meetings between the coordination team, hosts, and fellows to address concerns and improve the overall fellowship experience. Despite some challenges, hosts expressed gratitude for the cooperation and the valuable experiences gained through hosting fellows from Ukraine. They acknowledged the benefits of collaboration and the opportunity to support fellows in their professional and personal development.

Most of the interviewed participants found working on their projects to be a rewarding experience, although some needed time to adapt to the new realities before diving into the project thinking. The program's flexibility allowed fellows to explore ideas aligned with their interests and capacities and consult with their host organizations for guidance on the local context. The fact that financial support for the project was separate from the scholarship was highly appreciated by the participants.

“Only now, when I looked back, did I realize that it was a very appropriate element of the program — sort of a fence along your trajectory. Because there was a time frame, it was disciplining... The project became a job. There was a schedule. Otherwise, it would not have worked.”

While the program's flexibility was found to be especially appropriate, the lack of restrictions and clear timelines regarding the project component was initially stressful for some. It took time to understand and accept the program's approach, which focused on the quality of the project implementation process and not the scale of the project impact or direct results. Despite some tension between the freedom and restrictions, given the pilot nature of the program design, the project work provided structure to the fellowship, offering a sense of framework.

3. Project Grant

“Everyone was stressed and tired at first. It was strange to start projects when you weren't rooted yet. And then the idea came with time.”

The project grant component of the Vidnova Fellowship provided participants with the opportunity to develop or continue projects connected to Ukraine within their areas of expertise and in collaboration with host organizations or partners in their new localities. While project work was not mandatory, it helped many fellows preserve their professional identities and provided a sense of structure and stability.

“The girls and I were discussing that we had no ideas or thought the idea was not feasible after testing it. Then, when Nata [program coordinator] said it was possible not to do [the project], many of us exhaled. I felt better with the idea that it was possible not to do it, and when I let go of that thought, fresh ideas came to me.”

Most interviewed participants mentioned that the project helped expand their networks and develop valuable skills in an international environment. Many fellows expressed their intention to continue or further develop their projects beyond the scope of the program, highlighting the lasting impact of the project grant component.

Moving forward, the program should continue to support joint projects among fellows, enhance project management training, and ensure clear communication of reporting requirements to participants. Additionally, providing ongoing guidance and resources for project implementation can facilitate the successful execution of fellows' project ideas.

4. Coaching and Learning Grants

The Coaching and Learning Grants provided through the Vidnova Fellowship program were essential tools for supporting fellows in their personal and professional development during their time abroad. Coaching allowed fellows to receive individualized support for addressing diverse personal inquiries and concerns, leading to positive feedback from participants who found it beneficial in structuring their experiences and setting goals. Learning grants were utilized for a range of purposes, including language courses, professional training, and continuing education, aiding fellows' adaptation to new environments and enhancing their project implementation skills. Fellows who took advantage of these grants expressed gratitude for the opportunities they provided, particularly in advancing their language proficiency and professional qualifications.

“I managed to understand my professional profile better. It was also a useful and supportive methodology.”

“I had a coach. We worked together for six months... Also, on the professional level, I transformed with the coach. I structured myself and set goals, so there was some positive growth.”

“It paid for one semester of training at [an educational institution]. It was very good, a program that I was already enrolled in, and I could study, and it was helpful.”

While many fellows found coaching and learning grants valuable, not all participants utilized these additional resources. Some cited reasons include a lack of immediate need, time constraints, or a preference for other forms of support like therapy. Nevertheless, the program’s flexibility in offering various tools allowed participants to tailor their experience according to their individual circumstances and requirements. The opportunity to combine funds from coaching and learning grants was especially appreciated by fellows, enabling them to allocate resources according to their priorities.

Feedback from participants highlighted the importance of clearer communication regarding such additional components. Some fellows expressed challenges in navigating the information provided and suggested improvements such as centralized access to program details and follow-up reminders about available opportunities. Additionally, while the program’s flexibility in accommodating individual needs was appreciated, participants noted the importance of maintaining a structured communication framework to avoid confusion and ensure clarity in decision-making processes.

In conclusion, the Coaching and Learning Grants offered by the Vidnova Fellowship program played a vital role in supporting fellows’ personal and professional growth during their displacement. By providing individualized support and skill development opportunities, these resources contributed to fellows’ adaptation to new environments and enhanced their project implementation capabilities. Moving forward, improvements in communication and program management can further optimize the effectiveness of these tools in meeting the diverse needs of participants.

5. In-person meetings in Berlin

The live meetings held in Berlin as part of the program were praised for their supportive atmosphere and ability to provide clarity on program participation. Fellows appreciated the sense of unity fostered during these gatherings, with some acknowledging the flexibility and light coordination as particularly beneficial. While most fellows found the three meetings sufficient, some suggested incorporating more online meetings as well.

“The in-person meetings were very supportive, especially the first one. At that time, I was very confused and depressed, and at the in-person meeting, I saw a lot of familiar faces.”

“I really liked the in-person meetings. I liked observing the transformations in the participants. At the first meeting - we were confused. The agenda was rich, but we lacked contact with each other. The second and third meetings were better. It was interesting to notice how fellow participants began understanding where they wanted to go.”

“In general, there was a sense of grounding. The second and third meetings were calm, people were partially resting.”

Regarding content and methodology, the meetings aimed to orient participants regarding the program, help them develop project ideas, facilitate reflection, and foster networking. Feedback indicated that the sessions effectively clarified program details and provided useful tools for project management. However, some inconsistencies in communication from organizers regarding the Vidnova framework at the very first event led to confusion among participants, impacting their understanding of program terms and conditions. Some participants also felt they needed more time for project planning and more educational input on project management.

The meetings also served as a platform for networking and mutual support among participants. Diverse backgrounds within the group facilitated cross-disciplinary connections, leading to common project implementation and friendships. However, some participants struggled to integrate into the group, particularly if they missed the initial meeting. Additionally, some methods used during the in-person meetings were triggering. It is absolutely necessary to design strategies to integrate newcomers into the group as well as rigorously test methods for triggers, emphasizing voluntary participation and planning activities sensitive to traumatic experiences.

Participants valued the educational elements of the meetings and had varying perceptions of study visits to different organizations in Berlin.

Despite geographical barriers, many participants expressed a desire to maintain connections beyond the program, suggesting the potential for continued collaboration and community-building efforts online.

6. Collaboration with the Coordination Team of Vidnova

Participants generally found communication with the Vidnova coordination team comfortable and helpful, praising their flexibility in accommodating various situations throughout the program. While some appreciated the program's tailored approach and perceived flexibility positively, others found it overwhelming or lacking in efficiency, particularly regarding communication speed and project reporting processes. Criticisms included occasional delays in communication, especially via email. Recommendations emphasized the need for the team to analyze internal communication speed and provide clearer and more structured communication regarding financial reporting requirements. Additionally, participants highlighted the importance of setting clear boundaries and expectations regarding feedback and program limitations to foster more equitable relationships between participants and the coordination team.

7. Additional comments from Fellows

Participants offered several direct recommendations and suggestions for Vidnova to enhance its program and continue supporting its alumni effectively. These proposals include expanding support to small organizations, facilitating joint projects among fellows, providing opportunities for participants to offer expertise and receive compensation, and fostering networking with other international organizations. Additionally, there were discussions about the appropriate duration of the program, with some suggesting a one-year timeframe. In contrast, others found six months sufficient if that would mean that more displaced colleagues could benefit from such support.

Suggestions for ongoing support for alumni include organizing meetings for all cohorts, creating a European organization led by program graduates, and exploring possibilities for further collaboration with Vidnova. Some participants expressed interest in cooperating with Vidnova in various capacities, such as consultants, experts, or mentors.

Overall, participants expressed gratitude for the program's impact on their lives, emphasizing the importance of the supportive and empathetic approach of the Vidnova team. They credited the program with providing them with professional development and personal growth opportunities, highlighting its significance in their journeys as civil society activists.



The Vidnova Fellowship's Evaluation Results from the first cohort highlight its significant impact on Ukrainian civil society actors forced to relocate due to the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The program effectively supported their livelihood and professional development, fostering integration into new environments and sustaining engagement in civil activities.

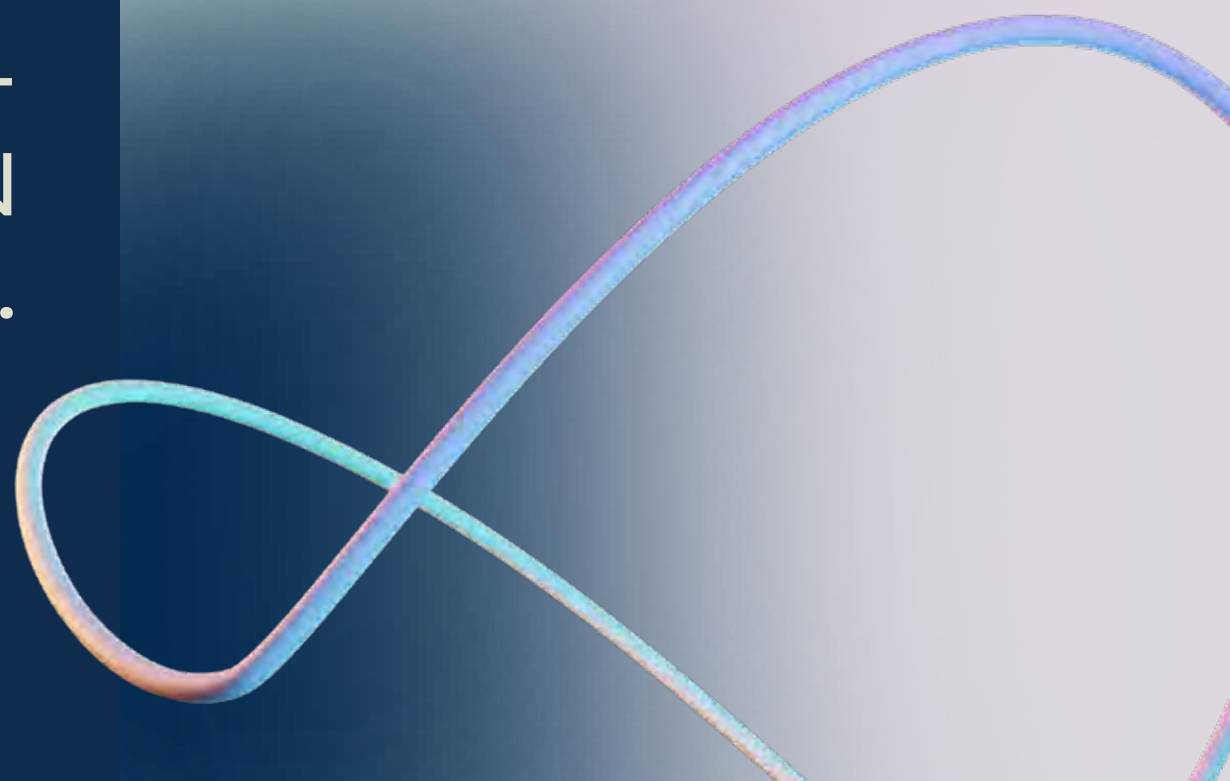
Key to the program's success was its tailored support, allowing fellows time to adjust and reflect before resuming their work. The program enabled participants to focus on their professional identities and contributions to society by addressing their basic needs.

Participant feedback confirms the effectiveness of individualized support, particularly in times of forced displacement. Recommendations include extending similar support initiatives to civil society activists beyond instances of compelled migration and addressing the broader issue of social protection for activists in Ukraine.

Participants expressed deep gratitude towards the Vidnova program, attributing their newfound opportunities and perspectives to it. For many, Vidnova came into their lives at the right moment, supporting and enabling them to pursue more meaningful endeavors beyond mere survival.

Overall, participants viewed Vidnova as a unique and supportive program that went beyond mere opportunities, emphasizing the importance of its empathetic approach. It provided a sense of belonging and support in new countries, profoundly impacting participants' lives.

VIDNOVA LAB
FOCUSES ON
ECOSYSTEM
MAPPING AND
PROTOTYPING
OF SOLUTIONS
DEDICATED
TO RECOVERY
AND RE-
CONSTRUCTION
OF UKRAINE.



PROGRAM IN REVIEW

Despite the ongoing attack on Ukrainian territories and continuing losses, the first initiatives focusing on reconstruction have already emerged. The Vidnova Lab program aims to strengthen the voice and role of Ukrainian civil society in recovery processes and ensure that civil society actors from Ukraine can facilitate the dialogue between their local communities and authorities to advocate for the necessary solutions.

In October 2023, we received 209 applications, and each was carefully reviewed and evaluated by jury members from Commit, EVZ Foundation, and Allianz Ukrainischer Organisationen. Together, we selected a total of 16 Fellows.

“Too early for the recovery of Ukraine?”

While the weapons are not arriving completely and timely, which prolongs the Russian war against Ukraine – yes, probably. While both resistance and civil society are very vivid, and while there are plenty of urgent issues to solve – from housing for internally displaced people to the protection of cultural heritage – no, not really. It seems like civil society from Ukraine is dealing with simultaneity, which needs new non-linear approaches to recovery.

From November 2023 until April 2024, Vidnova Lab fellows have worked on empirical planning and research on recovery approaches in educational innovations, urban development, culture infrastructure, work with vulnerable groups, mental health and resilience, and green recovery. On April 25, 2024, at the Robert Bosch Stiftung headquarters, these leaders shared their findings and – most importantly – came into a conversation about the recovery of Ukraine while networking with invited guests.



CLOSE-UPS



In November, 16 selected fellows joined the inaugural Vidnova Lab Meeting.

Our fellows dived deep into the essence of “vidnova” (Ukrainian for recovery), creating a shared understanding and setting the mood for the next six months of research and collaboration.

Guided by Ivanna Skyba-Yakubova, co-author of “How to Communicate Recovery”, we explored recovery in its many forms – human, natural, societal, and architectural. We delved into questions of paternalism, engagement, participation, and the profound impact of memory and war commemoration. Darius Polok, Managing Director of iac Berlin, shared insights on the theory of system change, a crucial aspect of Vidnova Lab’s ecosystemic approach. The Lab Meeting flowed smoothly and efficiently due to the skillful facilitation of Kateryna Kravchuk, Maria Scordialos, and Julia Hoffman’s visual documentation.



Watch the Reel about the Lab Meeting.

[instagram.com/reel/CO1Z9YitmST/](https://www.instagram.com/reel/CO1Z9YitmST/)

Words such as **returnal** and **reconstruction** have received another meaning. How can we support returnees to Ukraine – those who were refugees to Ukraine in early 2022 but then decided to come back – when the war is still going on and there are no safe spaces? How can we ensure that the ties between the parts of (professional) communities staying in Ukraine and Europe are kept and that the communities are not scattered?

How do we ensure dialogue of different experiences and accept differences in life choices while continuing to work together on a common future?



—
Watch the Reel about our contributions to Cafe Kyiv in 2024.

[instagram.com/reel/C1EjuAbMffx/](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C1EjuAbMffx/)

For the second year, Commit joined forces with Insha Osvita, Asortymentna Kimnata, proto produkciia, and MitOst. We contributed to Cafe Kyiv Berlin, now a symbolic event supporting Ukraine that highlights the work of Ukrainian civil society and other actors in culture, environment, and human recovery. More than 5000 visitors came to this event on February 19, 2024, exploring the program's panel discussions and various informal and cultural micro-events.

Commit contributed to the program three panel discussions on Ukraine's recovery of landscapes, scattered communities, the role of art and culture in healing trauma, and one performance that explored the invisible relationship between animate and inanimate objects, boundaries, transient properties, and memory patterns.

Vidnova program has contributed to the panel discussion "How we come back (or not)" with the following guest speakers:

- **Yulia Alenina**, coordinator of Vidnova Fellowship Ukraine, shared statistics, cases, and plans to start Vidnova Veterans
- **Oksana Potapova**, Vidnova Lab fellow, shared her experience from the program
- **Nastya Leonova**, Vidnova Ukraine fellow, shared about working on publishing topics connected with war crimes

A special thank you goes to Robert Bosch Stiftung for the financial support and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung for the initiative and work behind it.

IN A NUTSHELL

Vidnova Lab is a program that aims to strengthen the voice and role of civil society from Ukraine in the process of reconstruction and recovery. It aims to make sure that civil society actors have the capacity to facilitate the dialogue between the communities and authorities, as well as to advocate for the necessary solutions and ensure transparency in the decision-making. At the same time, Vidnova Lab also seeks to build bridges and enable sustainable collaborations between Ukrainian civil society actors based in Ukraine and those based in other European countries.

Vidnova Lab aims to reach activists and professionals who are involved in the following topical clusters of civil society:

- participatory urban development
- green recovery
- educational innovations
- culture infrastructure
- commemorative practices
- transparency and anti-corruption
- mental health and resilience
- work with vulnerable groups

FELLOW'S PROFILE:

- An activist, a leader, a founder, a manager of an NGO or charity organization or a researcher etc.
- Living in Ukraine and/or abroad
- Professionally engaged in the field relevant to the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine
- Wants to network with other peers on recovery and reconstruction topics, assess the needs and resources of the ecosystem, prototype solutions, and work on a common vision for civil society

ROADMAP

November

2023

December - March

2024

April

Lab meeting

Identifying and mapping other actors with duo-partner

Forming a duo and agreeing on common work principles

Mapping phase

Identifying needs and challenges of relevant fields, getting to know approaches, best practices and resources of other peers

Discussing and developing common strategies and potential collaborations; prototyping in duo and networking with other relevant actors

Cluster meetings

Trying out ideas that fellows develop in response to the insights

Prototyping phase

Presenting results of prototyping and mapping; reflecting and discussing next steps

Vidnova Forum

FELLOWS' PERSPECTIVES

Read quotations from fellows' exchange in their topical clusters, and scan QR codes to watch videos with fellows reflecting on the recovery of Ukraine.

CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

“Cultural infrastructure can help provide a human dimension to the recovery of Ukraine, celebrate local assets and identities of hromadas, and promote inclusion and (re)integration. Culture is one of the drivers of local development and a means to strengthen human capital and innovation mindset in communities.”

— Anna Karnaukh



Watch the video with Anna commenting on the importance of recovery in cultural infrastructure.

youtube.com/@wecommit-to
Vidnova Lab playlist



EDUCATION

“Education is an important base and a starting point for recovery. It shall be different and various, engaging and accessible to everyone. At the same time, education can be used as an instrument to engage communities, for example, through community-based learning.”

— Iryna Minkovska



Check the video with Iryna on the recovery of education.

youtube.com/@wecommit-to
Vidnova Lab playlist



MENTAL HEALTH AND RESILIENCE

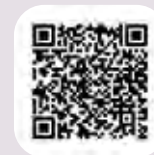
“In a country scarred by war, therapeutic horticulture plants seeds of recovery, nurturing both the land and our spirits, proving that even in devastation, we can grow resilience and find healing by connecting with nature.”

— Inna Datsiuk



Watch the video with Inna reflecting on the role of mental health in the recovery of Ukraine.

youtube.com/@wecommit-to
Vidnova Lab playlist



WORK WITH VULNERABLE GROUPS

“The war has deepened existing inequalities and has created new ones. Therefore, collective effort is needed to meet the needs of vulnerable population groups. In this regard, providing a long-term, secure, and affordable housing infrastructure, whether by enabling the defense of renters rights or establishing a functional social housing fund, is of crucial importance for the just recovery of Ukraine.”

— Vita Shnaider



Scan the QR code below and see the video with Vita talking about working with vulnerable groups in the context of recovery in Ukraine.

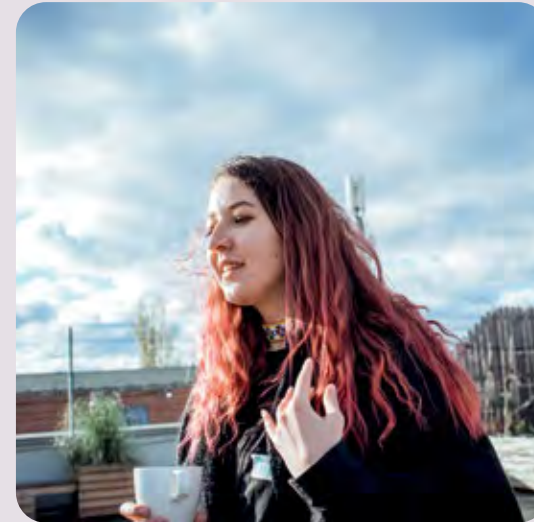
—
youtube.com/@wecommit-to
 Vidnova Lab playlist



GREEN RECOVERY

“We must take into account the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the process of Ukraine’s development and reconstruction processes.”

— Diana Popfalushi



Check the video with Diana, who shares about the role of green recovery.

—
youtube.com/@wecommit-to
 Vidnova Lab playlist



PARTICIPATORY URBAN DEVELOPMENT

“Revival is already going wrong – for example, mistakes are made when municipalities plant trees without consulting the public. It happens that additional money is poured in without ensuring a better quality. There is a challenge to creating conditions to overcome the siloed perception of community reconstruction and consider the interplay in context, or recovery simply will be ineffective.”

— Insight based on preliminary research and ecosystem mapping summarized by Lera Lauda, Liubov Rakovytsia and Iryna Solovey



Watch the video with Lera commenting on directions of participatory urban development in the recovery of Ukraine

youtube.com/@wecommit-to
(Vidnola Lab playlist)



HAND-PICKED FELLOWS' PROTOTYPES

Education and Community-based learning

By Iryna Minkovska and Nadiia Synytsia

Based on the belief that education is an essential base for engaging communities, Iryna and Nadiia test the idea of community learning as an integral part of Ukraine's recovery. They envision building regional public educational centers that support the country's recovery in human capacity development, attraction of financial resources, and psychological support. Another integral part is to research how these centers can enhance the accessibility of lifelong learning opportunities, foster community engagement, and cultivate a culture that prioritizes education as a fundamental societal asset for recovery.

The research results will be presented in the Cluster Meetings and carried out directly in the community. A center prototype implementation is planned for the end of April in Irpin, where many actors from different communities can engage. The prototype will introduce the concept in practice and spark the implementation of educational community-building activities.



Questioning horticultural therapy and climate change policy in Lviv

By Inna Datsiuk

The vision behind this prototype is deeply rooted in the desire to harness the therapeutic potentials of horticulture and make these benefits widely accessible and effectively integrated into therapeutic settings. Inna Datsiuk will develop a preliminary version of a “Horticultural Therapy Toolkit”, to make therapeutic gardening accessible and engaging for various institutions. This process will involve the following phases: selection of contents, packaging design, educational material creation, feedback, and iteration. Through this Toolkit, Inna aspires to contribute to the well-being of individuals and communities while promoting sustainable, accessible therapeutic practices.

The implementation is planned in late spring, leveraging the season’s natural association with growth and renewal. The initial trial will occur in a controlled setting, likely a community garden or educational institution in Lviv that has become a supportive organization while the Vidnova Lab program is happening. Inna’s role includes coordinating the prototyping phase, collecting feedback, and making strategic adjustments based on initial trials.

By Diana Popfalushi

Diana is working on creating a prototype canvas for mapping climate policy on a local level. The concept is to build pillars to work on the development of a proper tool called Climate Index to help NGOs and communities easily assess and examine their current stage of climate policy implementation. The roadmap of activities includes stakeholders mapping and interviewing, assessment of current policies of the local government, and canvas design. Through this process, Diana aims to develop a comprehensive canvas for mapping local climate policy that aligns with community priorities, fosters collaboration, and guides effective action to address climate change at the local level. A well-designed canvas could help to achieve clarity and focus, alignment, actionable insights, coordination and collaboration, and empowerment.

A climate policy canvas can be implemented in several stages and locations. The implementation will be one of the following scenarios:

- incorporating the canvas into already existing projects of the NGO Plato
- approaching other activists from different cities with the invitation to use the canvas to map their community’s climate policy (both online and offline)
- sharing the canva with members of the Ukrainian climate network to amplify the use of it

Diana works hand in hand with Inna in their mutual field of research. Although the prototypes will be implemented individually, they constantly support each other with feedback and networking.

FELLOWS' SILHOUETTES



COMMUNICATION AND WORK WITH COMMUNITIES



Anastasiia Pustova

SUPERWISE bureau,
SUPERWISE NGO, "Your Family
Doctor" public association

fb.com/superwisebureau



Kyiv



• photo by Kateryna Pereverzeva

Julia Ovcharenko

Cultural Business Education
Hub NGO | Cultural Hub NGO

culturalhub.org



Kyiv/Vienna

Julia is an international cultural manager, researcher, program director, and president at Cultural Hub NGO between Kyiv and Vienna. Anastasia is a Kyiv-based strategic communications expert, consultant, facilitator, and co-founder of two NGOs.

In the frame of Vidnova Lab, Julia and Anastasia research professional communities and communication in the discourse of Ukraine's recovery, accessibility, efficiency, and acceptability. Their work consists of collecting a Lexicon with phenomena, definitions, roles, and the meanings attached to words to make them understandable for communities, media, the (non)-government sector, and academic circles. This lexicon aspires to influence the discourse, strengthen social cohesion, and foster transparent communication.

knowledge

communication

vidnova lexicon

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATIONS



• photo by Marta Gurina

Nadiia Synytsia

IT Ukraine Association and
enpact e.V.

itukraine.org.ua

Kyiv/Berlin



• photo by Anastasiia Smetanina

Iryna Minkovska

ME AND MY SCHOOL

meandmyschool.ua

Kharkiv

Nadiia lives between Kyiv and Berlin. She is the head of Education and CSR at IT Ukraine Association and the Program Manager at enpact. She is an experienced project manager and digital expert in Ukraine and Germany's NGO and impact sector. Iryna from Kharkiv is an entrepreneur in education, CEO of the educational center "ME AND MY SCHOOL", and co-author of the New Ukrainian School reform concept. She has been developing the market for teacher training nationwide in Ukraine and non-formal children's education.

Within the Vidnova Lab, Nadiia and Iryna are working on community-based learning. Based on the belief that education is a substantial base to engage communities, they research how regional public educational centers can become an instrument for Ukraine's recovery. These centers envision supporting the country's recovery in human capacity development, the engagement of local communities, the attraction of financial resources, and psychological support.

education

community learning

community school

MENTAL HEALTH AND RESILIENCE

GREEN RECOVERY



· photo by Svitlana Churubrova

Inna Datsiuk

Rhizome

[instagram.com/rhizome_naturetherapy](https://www.instagram.com/rhizome_naturetherapy)

📍 Lviv



· photo by Tetiana Sonyashnykova

Diana Popfalushi

NGO Plato

plato.lviv.ua

📍 Lviv

Diana is an ecoactivist and project manager from Lviv. She's a part of Plato NGO and works on local, national, and international climate policy. She is also involved in a community gardening project in Lviv named Rozsadnyk and a co-host of the environmental podcast "Poyasnyzaeco". Inna also comes from Lviv, where she blends the healing essence of nature with psychotherapy to brighten people's lives.

In the frame of Vidnova Lab, Diana and Inna have combined their passion for climate activism and mental health and found an interconnection between the two topics in building resilience through green spaces. They do both, help with climate change mitigation and adaptation, which is the field of Diana's research, and provide therapeutic assistance to restore and maintain mental health, so Inna's research topic.

mental health

therapeutic horticulture

healing through nature

RESILIENCE OF NATURE



· photo by Diana van Imschoot

Olesia Moroz


 Berlin



· photo by Oleksandr Korniaikov

Daryna Pyrogoва

2023.ukrainianpavilion.org/program/30

 Kyiv/Vilnius

Olesia has a master's degree in agriculture and an MBA in Regional Management. She is particularly interested in ecology, nature conservation, and creating community development strategies. During the war, her focus shifted to the inclusion of Ukrainian refugees in Berlin. Daryna is an independent sociologist and consultant in strategic urban development and public engagement. Currently, she focuses on forced migration and war's environmental impact.

In the frame of Vidnova, Olesia and Daryna aim to contribute to the debate on nature conservation and protection in times of war. They are researching the possibilities of preserving and protecting natural and agricultural areas damaged, contaminated, and mined as a result of the full-scale Russian invasion. This research aims to gain insight into the conservation and preservation practices of regions contaminated by war in other countries and the existing approaches to nature recovery in Ukraine.

nature preservation

conservation

protection

CULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE



• photo by Olga Zarko

Anna Karnaukh

Lanka.pro

lanka.pro



Kyiv



• photo by Olga Zarko

Olena Syrbu

Cedos

cedos.org.ua



Kyiv

Olena is a researcher, cultural manager, senior analyst, and project coordinator. Her professional and research include cultural labor and cultural infrastructure, public participation, and grassroots activism. Anna specializes in designing and managing programs to develop the cultural and creative sector. She is the co-founder and director of Lanka.pro collective.

In the frame of the Vidnova Lab topical cluster, Olena and Anna work on cultural infrastructure on a local level. They aim to find solutions to make cultural actors at the local level more capable of self-organization and regeneration. Strong local cultural actors can drive changes in their communities, even when state policies on reforming cultural infrastructure are paused or limited.

culture

local level

cultural infrastructure

VISION SHAPING



Oksana Potapova

Ukrainian Feminist Network for
Freedom and Democracy

uafem.net

📍 London



· photo by Agata Maziarz

Annegret Wulff
research partner beyond the
scope of the fellowship

Commit

wecommit.to

📍 Berlin

Oksana is a feminist activist and researcher based in London. Currently, her research focuses on the intersectional gendered impacts of the war in new realities of peace and security. Annegret is based in Berlin and is co-founder and managing director of the NGO Commit by MitOst gGmbH and a board member of the association MitOst e.V., where she developed the Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg program. She is an expert in citizenship education, new democracies, capacity building, and fundraising.

Within Vidnova Lab, Oksana and Annegret are researching the international donor landscape and narrative construction around Ukrainian recovery. This work aims to bridge the gap between the unacknowledged expertise and the needs of civil society with donors' resources for an inclusive, sustainable, dignified, innovative recovery of Ukraine.

civil society

meaningful participation

partnerships

WORK WITH VULNERABLE GROUPS



• photo by Olga Zarko

Vita Shneider

NGO New Housing Policy

newhousingpolicy.com.ua



Lviv



Iryna Shapovalova

CBM

cbm.de/aktuelles/ukraine-hilfe



Berlin

Vita is a housing researcher based in Lviv. Before the war, her research focus was developing a social housing system in Ukraine. Now, it has shifted to the right to housing in war-time. Iryna is based in Berlin and is a human rights lawyer with experience in documenting human rights violations and war crimes in eastern Ukraine since 2014. Following the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, she works as a human rights consultant for international NGOs helping Ukraine.

Within Vidnova Lab they investigate the private rental market in Ukraine as it accommodates most internally displaced people (IDP). They work on creating a prototype of sustainable housing solutions for IDPs.

right to housing

displacement

vulnerability

IDPs

WORK WITH COMMUNITIES

Liubov is the head of Democratic Initiatives Incubator NGO. She is an expert in the communication of the reintegration of residents in occupied territories, countering propaganda, and verification of sources from the temporarily occupied territories. Lera is the head of Ukrainian Local Media Development Agency ABO in Kyiv, and co-founder of the Memorial platform. Iryna is the president of Garage Gang NGO, co-founder, consultant on strategic, sustainable urban development and social innovation.

Within Vidnova Lab, the trio's research explores how experiencing the trauma of war and accepting its consequences, affect the future healing of the community and the country, as well as its further restoration and strengthening. The project envisions developing a tool for self-assessment for teams that engage in the community-led revival. They focus on the context of competent leadership for the democratic revival of Ukraine with a focus on resilience as the common ground between strategies of the grassroots civic forces, state, donors and local government institutions.

communication

communities

competent leadership



• photo by Olga Zarko

Iryna Solovey

Garage Gang

fb.com/garagegangngo


• photo by Daria Mytonets Chumak

Lera Lauda

Local Media Development Agency ABO

abo.media


• photo by Oleksandr Gulich

Liubov Rakovytsia

DII-Ukraine

linkedin.com/company/dii-ukraine


VISION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Next steps for Vidnova program and Commit after Vidnova Lab

FOCUS:

Support of civil society from Ukraine as an important actor for crisis-response and in the recovery process

3 PILLARS

EU integration

- Hosting and facilitating international connections and networking
- Ensuring access to European funding
- Strengthening the role of the Diaspora

Recovery of Ukraine

- Holding space for reflection, learning and development of needed approaches
- Contributing to the recovery of Ukraine with expertise from the civil society sector and strengthening the capacities of civil society actors to ensure the dialogue between their local communities and national authorities and to advocate for the necessary solutions

Survival

- Continuing fellowship programs (Vidnova Fellowship), e.g., for returnees
- Ensuring retreats opportunities for actors working with reconstruction and recovery and supporting spaces and practices for mental health care
- Enabling structural support and capacity development opportunities for local organizations

INTERNATIONAL
LEVEL

NATIONAL
LEVEL

LOCAL
LEVEL

PARTNERS & FUNDERS



Commit is a Berlin-based international non-profit organization. We work with practice-oriented models of active citizenship that aim to strengthen the skills and capacities of local communities. We design and implement tailor-made educational programs, facilitate and host learning gatherings of civil society, and develop facilitation tools and methodologies contributing to social cohesion.

We acknowledge that we live in a world of complex, interconnected challenges where constant change is a reality. We embrace this complexity as open-minded learners. We strive for vibrant and resilient communities where everyone counts and active citizens are a stronghold for democracy. We work shoulder to shoulder with individuals, teams, organizations, and communities to build sustainable ecosystems of civil society.

wecommit.to



The mission of the EVZ Foundation is to keep the memory of National Socialist persecution alive and to work for human rights and international understanding. Against the background of its founding history, the EVZ Foundation is particularly active in Central and Eastern Europe, Israel and Germany.

stiftung-evz.de



The Robert Bosch Stiftung has been active in the areas of health, education, and global issues since its establishment in 1964. Through its funding, it works for a just and sustainable future. The Foundation has offices in Stuttgart and Berlin, and is rooted in the legacy of the entrepreneur and founder Robert Bosch.

bosch-stiftung.de

IN SNAPS













