EDNANNIA

REPORT 2025

ABBREVIATIONS:

CO – Charitable Organisation
CF – Charitable Foundation
CSO – Civil Society Organisation
EU – European Union
IDP – Internally Displaced Person
LLC – Limited Liability Company
NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation
OD – Organisational Development

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Volodymyr Sheihus

Executive Director,
ISAR Ednannia

> Over the past year, I have increasingly found myself thinking that Ukrainian civil society is now one of the country's main pillars. We work where shelling continues, support veterans and the families of military personnel, launch new services where the system is overloaded, and help communities navigate war and recovery. But equally important is another fact: it is within civil society that new approaches and solutions are often born, which can later become part of public policy. At the same time, we clearly understand that responsibility for systemic change lies with the state. That is why civil society today needs not only support, but also genuine partnership with public institutions.

There are many achievements and results of our programmes in this report. But first and foremost, it is a report about people. About those who bring others together into communities, create new opportunities, support their local communities and continue to act despite great uncertainty. ISAR Ednannia has been bringing such people together and strengthening them for many years. Due to them, Ukrainian civil society continues to become stronger.

Over the past year, I have increasingly found myself thinking that Ukrainian civil society is now one of the country's main pillars. We work where shelling continues, support veterans and the families of military personnel, launch new services where the system is overloaded, and help communities navigate war and recovery. But equally important is another fact: it is within civil society that new approaches and solutions are often born, which can later become part of public policy. At the same time, we clearly understand that responsibility for systemic change lies with the state. That is why civil society today needs not only support, but also genuine partnership with public institutions.

2025 was not an easy year for everyone working in the sector. Fatigue, security risks, instability of international funding, and the constant need to adapt to new challenges became the everyday reality of Ukrainian organisations. At the same time, this year once again confirmed how much the role of civil society has grown. Increasingly, organisations are thinking not only about individual projects, but also about long-term responsibility for their communities and the future of the country.

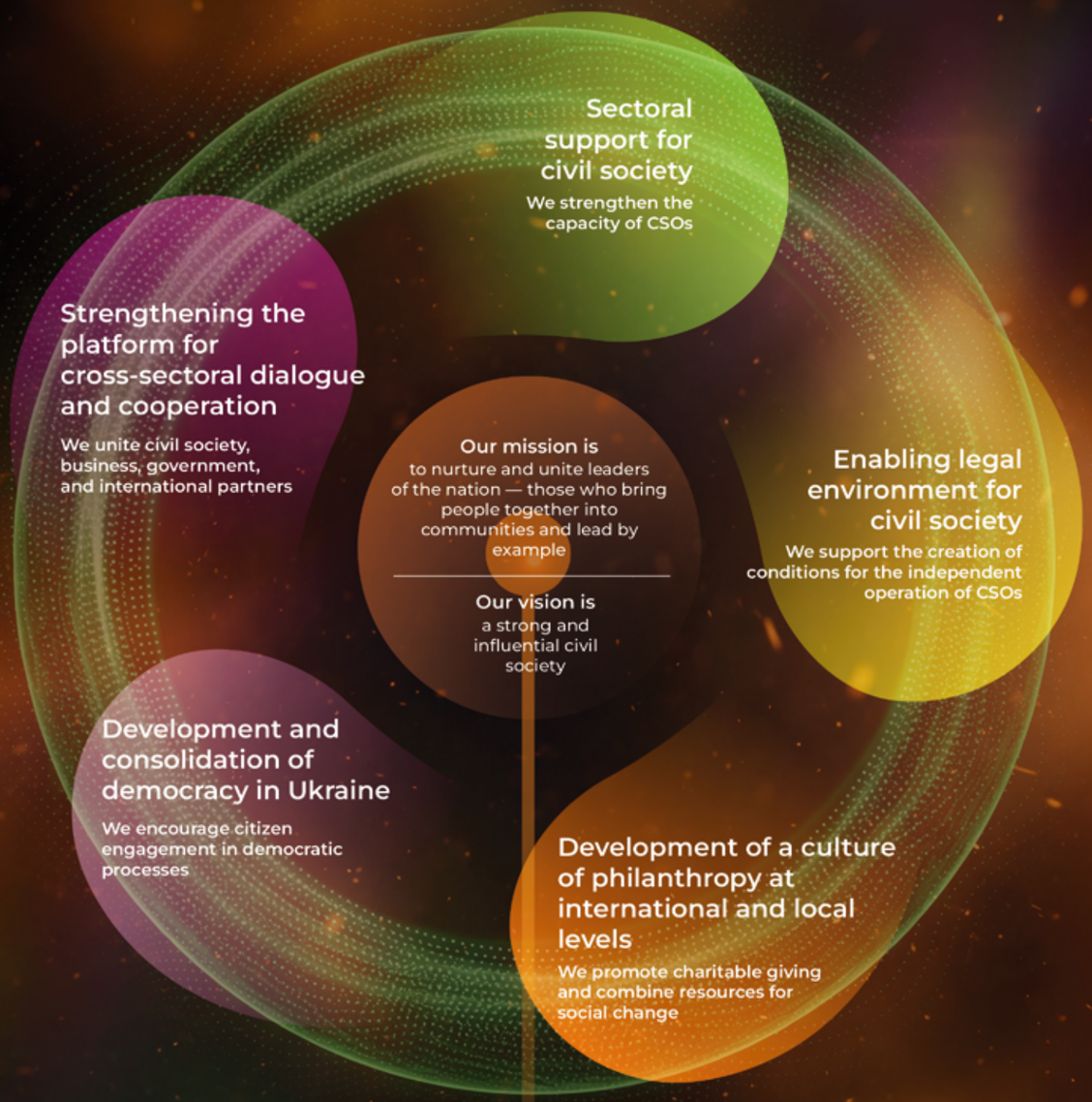
For ISAR Ednannia, this year became a year of great trust. More than **36,000** participants joined our forums, training sessions, webinars and other events. Behind these figures lies an enormous demand for development, the capacity to act and responsibility for local communities.

We continued to develop the Civil Society Home as a space for learning, partnership and joint solutions. The Civil Society Development Forum once again brought together thousands of people from different backgrounds, reaffirming that dialogue and trust are the foundation of a strong civil society.

We thank our partners and donors – the governments of Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Canada, the European Union, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, UNICEF, UNDP, IOM, the Minderoo Foundation, and everyone who continues to support Ukrainian civil society.

And, of course, none of these achievements would have been possible without the Security and Defence Forces of Ukraine. We sincerely thank every man and woman who is defending Ukraine today.

ISAR Ednannia is a Ukrainian civil society organisation with **26 years** of experience in supporting civil society. We work across five strategic areas:



Every year, ISAR Ednannia provides grant support to **400 organisations,** helping them drive change at both the local and national levels.

BOARD

Andriy Pavlovych
Expert, SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre
Chair of the Board

Igor Todorov
Professor, Department of International Politics, Public Communications and Regional Studies, Uzhhorod National University
Board Member

Sergiy Tkachenko
Senior Consultant to the project implemented by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Board Member

TEAM

ISAR Ednannia Expert Network brings together independent experts and consultants engaged in the implementation of programmes and projects

Volodymyr Sheyhus
Executive Director

Nataliia Klymova
Deputy Executive Director

Olga Nikolska
Head of the Philanthropy Development Programme

Iryna Razumova
Chief Accountant

Olena Hubar
Advisor for Project and Administrative Coordination

Anna Ostrikova
Coordination of Grant and Development Programmes

Valentyna Domkina
Coordination of Grant Programmes and Event Management

Iryna Bieliaieva
Partnership Development and Programme Coordination

Anna Lappo
Coordination of Projects and Grant Programmes

Olena Sobchuk
Grants Management

Maryna Mrozek
Grants Management

Vira Motorko
Grants Management

Diana Lebedieva
Grants Management

Anastasiia Buriak
Grants Management

Oksana Diadiura
Grants Management

Anastasiia Myronchuk
Grants Management for Organisational Development

Maryna Pobidash
Financial Management

Yuliia Skrypniuk
Financial Management

Olena Udovychenko
Financial Management

Olena Yemelianenko
Financial Management

Yelyzaveta Ivanova
Financial Administration and Accounting

Aliona Lytvyn
Operational Support for Financial Processes

Olena Syvytska
Grants Audit

Tetiana Petkun
Grants Audit

Liudmyla Netetska
Grants Audit

Marharyta Sydorchuk
Monitoring and Evaluation

Anastasia Shpakovych
Monitoring and Evaluation

Liliya Rzheutska
Communications

Anastasiia Solianyk
Communications

Olena Samoilenko
Content

Ellina Rudenko
Design

Kiril Syvytskyi
IT and Digital Products

Valeriia Ostrovska
Grant Management Support

Alina Fedorenko
Project Activity Support

Anna Oksanichenko
Civil Society Home Development and Project Coordination

Viktoriia Chechevytsia
Administrative Support

JANUARY

- Training on Ethical Communication with Veterans
- Forum Aftermath What Do We Need to (with)STAND?

FEBRUARY

- Launch of the Varto: Ednannia 2.0 Grant Competition with the Ukrainian Veterans Foundation
- Launch of the Small Grants Programme for Social Service Providers in Partnership with UNICEF
- Public Launch of the Unity4Community Project

MARCH

- Launch of the Askold and Dir Fund in Ukraine
- Launch of the Strategic Partners Grant Competition under the Unity4Community Project
- Fourth Organisational Development School under the SOLVE Project
- Presentation of the CSO Meter Country Report
- Strategic Discussion Ukraine–Scandinavia: 13 Centuries Together
- Completion of the Youth Capacity Development in Western Ukraine Programme
- Launch of the Advocacy Support to Strengthen the Role and Influence of Civil Society Grant Competition

APRIL

- Launch of the Project Grants Competition for Reforms, European Integration and Recovery
- Launch of Regional Meetings for Social Service Providers
- Final Meeting of SOLVE Project Participants
- Launch of the Knowledge in Action Grant Competition
- «Looking into the Future of Ukrainian Democracy» Foresight

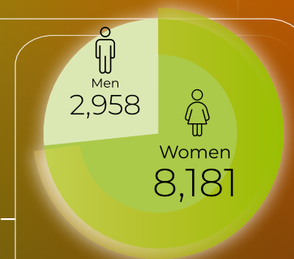
MAY

- Launch of the Youth of Ukraine: Generation of Resilience — 2030 Programme Development Project
- Stand Meet-up Laughter, Kindness and an Accordion: Creative Fundraising with Vasyl Baydak

JUNE

- Completion of the SOLVE: Strengthening Organisations for Long-Term Impact Project
- Launch of Google AI Essentials for Ukrainian CSOs
- Announcement of the Small Grants Competition Winners for Social Services
- Presentation of the Community Development Success Index

Over **60** live events



11,138 participants

Over **50** online events

Over **25,000** views

- Unity4Community
- ISAR Ednannia
- Askold&Dir Fund
- Small Grants for Social Services providers
- Youth Capacity Development
- EU Youth Guarantee
- SOLVE
- CSO Meter
- Youth State Programme
- GROW
- Forum

TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES 2025

JULY

- Launch of the GROW: Grassroots Recovery & Opportunities for Wellbeing Project
- Launch of the Unlock Youth Project in Partnership with UNICEF
- Official Side Event at URC 2025: Joining Forces: Government, Civil Society and Business for Resilient Public Policy in Ukraine's Recovery
- Launch of the Recovery and Development Consultants Programme
- Launch of the Advocacy Without Borders Grant Competition
- Launch of the Towards Life: Communities in Action Grant Competition

AUGUST

- Cabinet of Ministers Approves the Concept of the Youth of Ukraine: Generation of Resilience – 2030 Programme
- VIII International Veterans' Forum in Kyiv
- Navigating the EU Training Programme

SEPTEMBER

- Launch of the Power of Digital Solutions 2.0 Project with EPAM Ukraine
- Launch of the Ednannia in Your City Roadshow
- Launch of the First Successful Grant Programme
- Launch of a New Grant Competition for CSOs in the Fields of Reforms, Security and Human Rights
- Dialogue Meeting: Youth Policy of Resilience

OCTOBER

- Launch of the GROW Grant Competition
- Dialogue Meeting From Small Grants to Big Changes
- Launch of Applications for the MIST Programme
- Bootcamp Is There Room for Democracy in Ukraine Beyond the Maidan?
- Presentation of the Third Wave of the Civil Society in Ukraine During Wartime Study

NOVEMBER

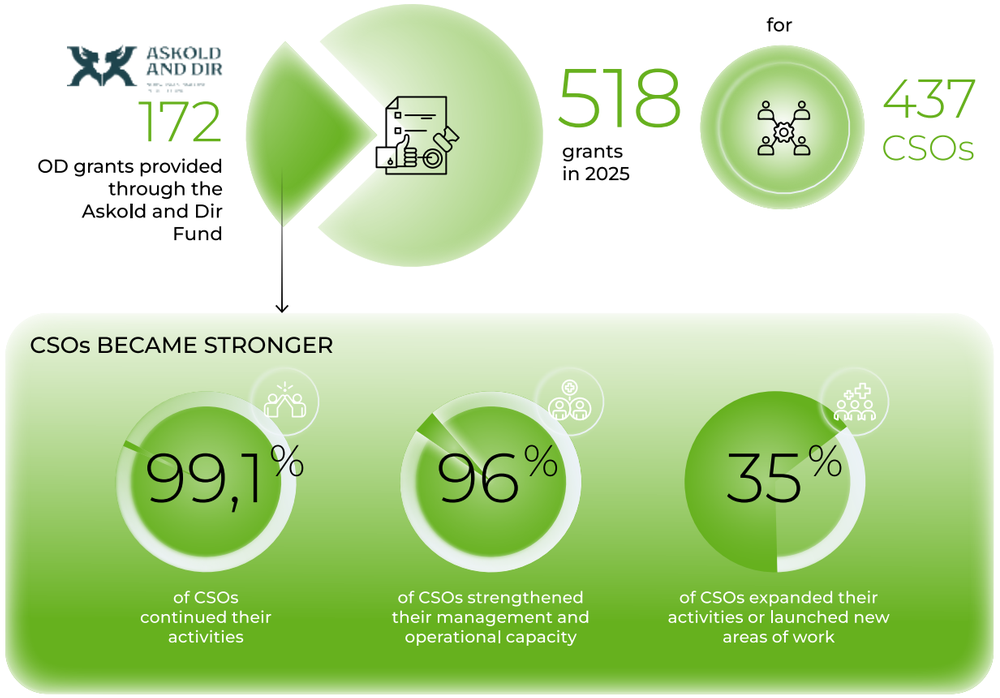
- Launch of the Community of Practice Series on the New National Civil Society Development Strategy
- Launch of the CODE: Discover Your Identity Programme
- Training of Trainers for the MIST Programme
- Completion of the First Cohort of the Recovery and Development Consultants Programme

DECEMBER

- XIV Civil Society Forum (with)STAND!
- Presentation of the CSO Meter 2025: Ukraine
- Public Discussion of the Youth of Ukraine: Generation of Resilience – 2030 Programme

- Unity4Community
- ISAR Ednannia
- Askold&Dir Fund
- Small Grants for Social Services providers
- Youth Capacity Development
- EU Youth Guarantee
- SOLVE
- CSO Meter
- Youth State Programme
- GROW
- Forum

In 2025, ISAR Ednannia further strengthened its contribution to the development of civil society by systematically advancing five Strategic Goals.



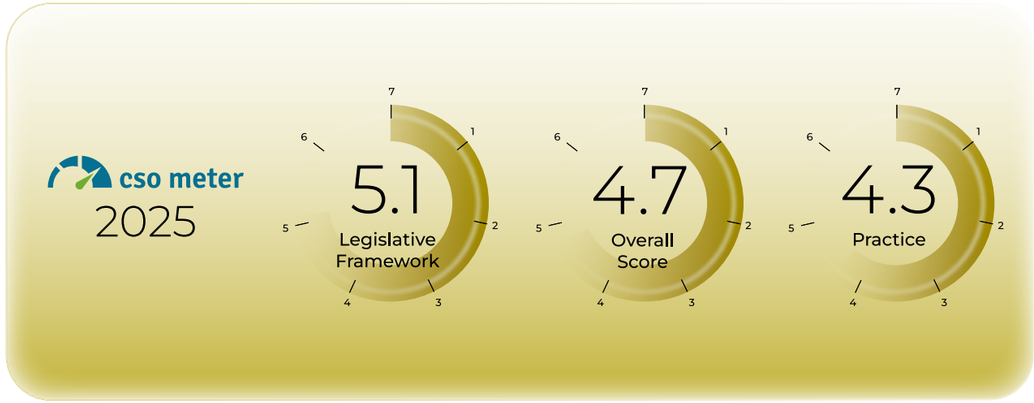
Through support programmes, partnerships with government institutions and international donors, the promotion of local philanthropy, youth engagement, research, and advocacy, we contributed not only to immediate results but also to long-term change across the country. The key achievements and impacts presented below form the foundation for Ukraine's sustainable recovery and transformation.

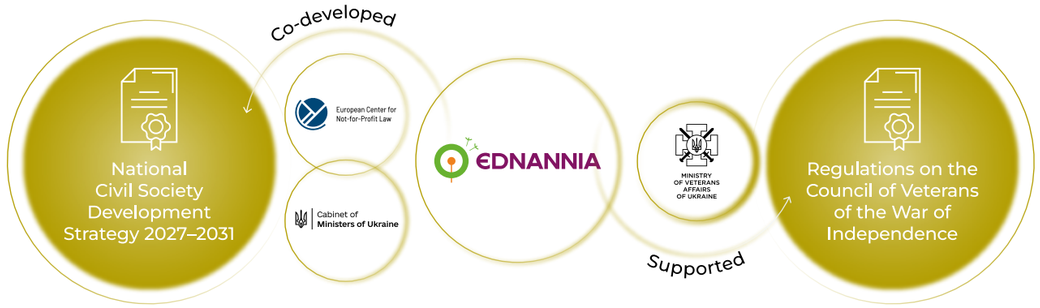
Sectoral Support for Civil Society

Civil society in Ukraine is increasingly shifting from crisis response to systematic efforts aimed at the country's recovery. Supporting organisations now means more than funding individual projects; it also involves strengthening organisational capacity, fostering local leadership, and increasing influence on public policy. In 2025, ISAR Ednannia administered 518 grants for 437 CSOs, while its grant competitions received more than 2,100 applications.

The Norwegian–Swedish Askold and Dir Fund became the largest support mechanism. Through the Foundation, 96% of supported organisations strengthened their management and operational capacity, 99.1% continued their activities after completing their grants, and 35% expanded their work or launched new areas of activity. Supported CSOs contributed to 24 policy, legal, and institutional changes, while nearly half of the analysed initiatives influenced policies and decision-making at the local or national level.

At the same time, ISAR Ednannia expanded opportunities for supporting civil society. Through the Unity4Community project, new programmes were launched to strengthen communities, organisational capacity, and CSO leadership, in partnership with the Minderoo Foundation, the European Union, IOM, Cowater International, and the Ukrainian Women's Fund.





Enabling Legal Environment for Civil Society

An enabling legal environment for civil society is shaped not only through legislation, but also through the genuine participation of CSOs in public decision-making. This was the focus of ISAR Ednannia's advocacy grants, analytical work, and partnerships with government institutions.

One of the key instruments was the advocacy grants of the Askold and Dir Fund. Through two grant competitions, **56** organisations received support to advance reforms, protect human rights, promote democratic governance, and strengthen international advocacy for Ukraine's European integration. Their work contributed to **24** policy, legal, and institutional changes.

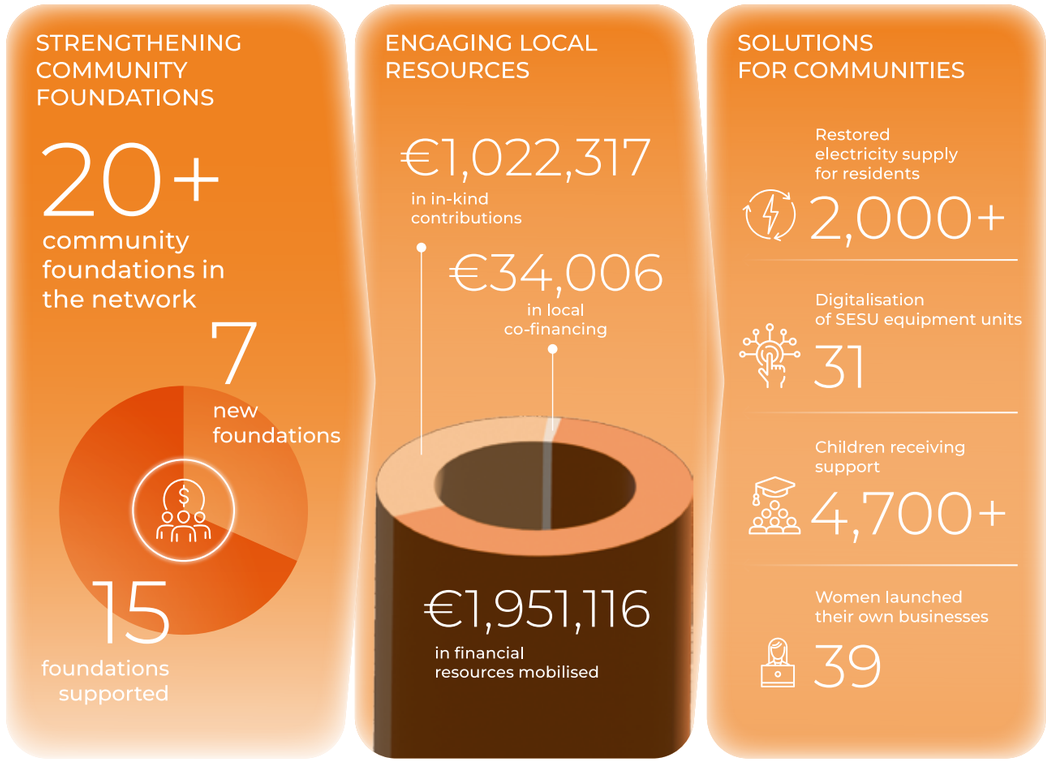
Through the CSO Meter Report 2024, ISAR Ednannia, as ECNL's national partner with the support of the European Union, found that the main challenge no longer lies in the absence of legislation, but in the quality of its implementation: the legislative framework scored **5.1**, while implementation scored **4.3** (the overall enabling environment was rated **4.8 out of 7**).

We also contributed to the development of the new National Civil Society Development Strategy 2027–2031 and supported the establishment of the Veterans' Council under the President of Ukraine – a mechanism for ensuring the systematic participation of veterans in shaping public policy.

Development of Philanthropy at International and Local Levels

Local philanthropy in Ukraine is gradually evolving from a culture of fundraising to a culture of long-term investment in community development. Community foundations are playing an increasingly important role in this transformation, becoming centres of trust, partnership, and local resource mobilisation.

Together with the Ch. S. Mott Foundation, ISAR Ednannia has continued to strengthen this ecosystem. During 2024–2025, 15 community foundations and the National Network for the Development of Local Philanthropy received more than **€346,440** in institutional support, while 7 new community foundations began their work. Overall, in 2025, Ukrainian community foundations mobilised locally more than **€1.95 million** in financial resources and an additional **€1.02 million** in in-kind contributions. At the same time, the "People to People" Programme demonstrated that international support can become a catalyst for local philanthropy: communities implemented their own solutions by securing at least **20%** of co-financing from local sources. This approach strengthens communities' ownership of their own development and makes philanthropy more sustainable.



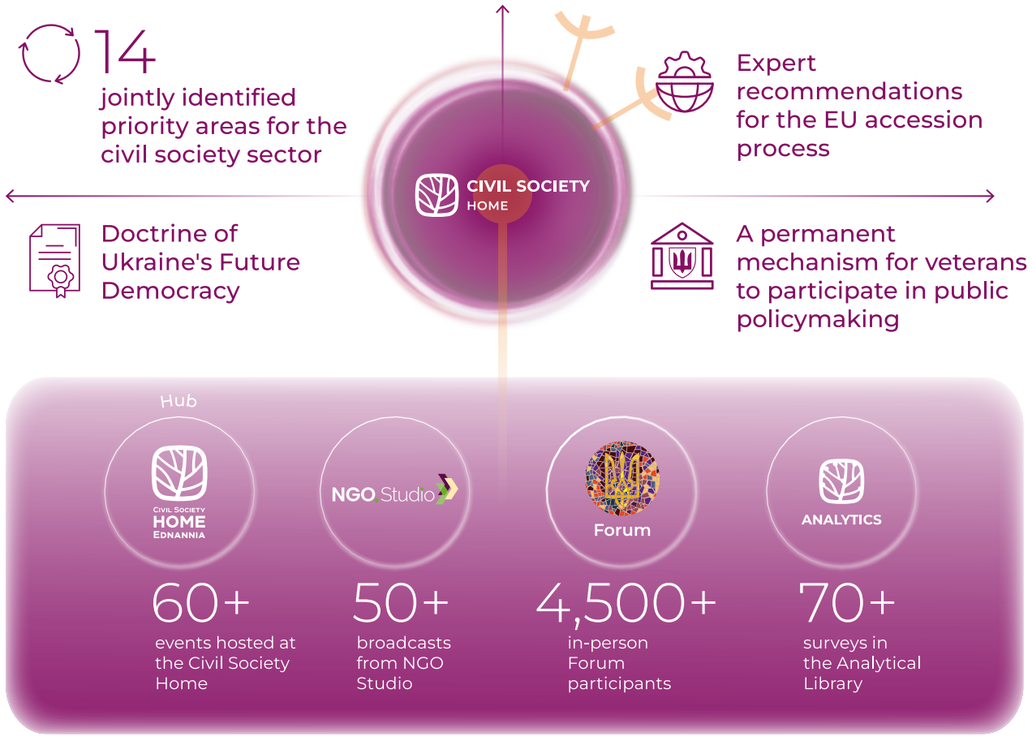
Development and consolidation of democracy in Ukraine

Ukraine's democratic resilience increasingly depends on citizens' ability to influence public decision-making and participate in the country's recovery. One of ISAR Ednannia's key areas of work was strengthening youth policy as a tool for democratic development and European integration.

One of the year's major achievements was the completion of the development of the **State Target Social Programme "Youth of Ukraine: Generation of Resilience – 2030"**, to which ISAR Ednannia contributed together with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, UNDP, and UNICEF. More than 50 consultations with young people, civil society representatives, and government institutions formed the basis of the document, which defines the priorities of youth policy until 2030. At the same time, implementation of the **EU Youth Guarantee** initiative began: research involving more than 1,000 young people provided the foundation for adapting the European model of youth support in Ukraine, while the Youth Window model entered the pilot phase in 15 communities.

Equally important was the creation of platforms for public dialogue. The Post-Forum, the strategic discussion "Ukraine–Scandinavia: 13 Centuries Together", and the foresight session "A Vision for the Future of Ukrainian Democracy" brought together representatives of civil society, government, international partners, and the expert community around a shared vision for Ukraine's democratic development and post-war recovery.

Strengthening the Platform for Cross-Sectoral Dialogue and Cooperation



Ukraine's sustainable recovery is impossible without partnerships between civil society, government, business, and international partners. ISAR Ednannia continued to develop spaces where such partnerships are transformed into joint solutions, new policies, and long-term cooperation.

The Civil Society Home remained the key platform for collaboration. In 2025, it brought together **1,500** participants through **60** events, while NGO Studio hosted **52** public events. The Organisational Development Services Marketplace was used by more than **200** grantees, and the Analytical Library was expanded with **72** new publications. The largest platform for cross-sectoral dialogue was the XIV Civil Society Forum "(with)STAND!", which brought together over **4,500** participants representing civil society, government, business, the media, and international partners.

Partnerships with government institutions also reached a new level. ISAR Ednannia remained a strategic partner of key ministries and, in 2025, launched cooperation with the Ukrainian Youth Foundation and the Fund for Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities. This model of cooperation makes it possible not only to discuss change, but also to jointly introduce new mechanisms for supporting civil society and social services.

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY ISAR EDNANNIA IN 2025*

NUMBER OF SUPPORTED GRANTS

EU	Private Donations	Ch.S.Mott	Norad & Sida	UNICEF	USAID
21	16	18	336	120	7

* Support was provided to organisations operating in Ukraine-controlled territory, including relocated CSOs.

INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

From Washington to Tbilisi, from Brussels to Vitoria-Gasteiz, Ukrainian civil society continues to make its voice heard on the international stage. In 2025, ISAR Ednannia and the organisations we support took part in key international conferences, forums, and policy discussions, promoting Ukrainian experience, research findings, advocacy initiatives, and partnerships. The map below illustrates the geographical reach of the international activities of supported organisations and the ISAR Ednannia team.

ISAR EDNANNIA

GRANTEE

- NGO "Agency for Recovery and Development"
- NGO "All-Ukrainian Association of Music Events"
- NGO "Hromadske TV"
- NGO "Serhiy Prytula Charity Foundation"
- NGO "Institute of Legislative Ideas"
- NGO "Institute for Development of Social Initiatives"
- NGO "Coordination Humanitarian Centre"
- NGO "Charitable Foundation "ZDOROVI"
- NGO "Economic Security Council of Ukraine"
- NGO "Transatlantic Dialogue Centre"
- NGO "Ukrainian Witness"
- NGO "UAnimals"
- School for Policy Analysis NaUKMA
- NGO "International Centre for Ukrainian Victory"
- NGO "Ukrainer"

Strategic Goal

SECTORAL SUPPORT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

THE ASKOLD AND DIR FUND

In 2025, the joint Norwegian–Swedish Askold and Dir Fund continued to support Ukrainian civil society organisations working on the country's recovery, democratic development, and stronger communities. The Fund is administered by ISAR Ednannia as part of **the project Strong Civil Society – a Driver Towards Reform and Democracy**, with the support of the Governments of Norway and Sweden. The Fund's name reflects the longstanding historical ties between Ukraine and the Scandinavian countries while symbolising a modern partnership built on the shared values of democracy, freedom, and international solidarity.

OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations as key actors in Ukraine's recovery and the advancement of democratic reforms

GOALS

- Strengthen the capacity of CSOs through grant support, training, mentoring, and organisational development
- Support the role of CSOs in community recovery, the development of local services, and cross-sectoral cooperation
- Strengthen the influence of CSOs on policymaking, democratic reforms, and advocacy in Ukraine and internationally

KEY ACTIVITIES

Grants
- Organisational Development • Recovery
- Advocacy • Media • Research

Forum
- Communities of Practice
- Partnerships

Capacity Development
- Training • Mentoring
- Networking

Research and Analytics
- Research
- Analytical Library

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES

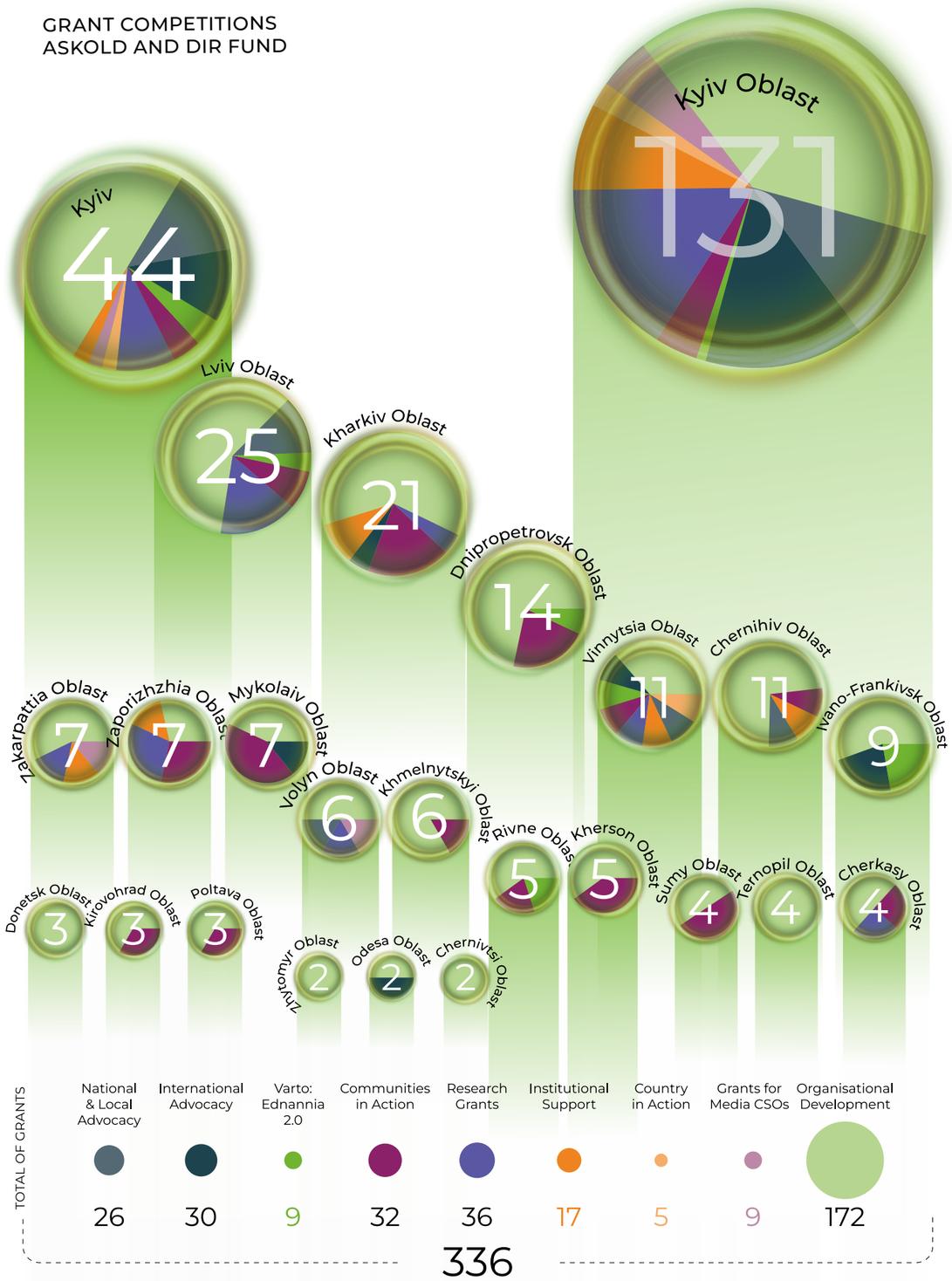
Demand for civil society support continued to grow. In 2025, the programme supported 295 organisations through **336** grants, while **1,462** applications were submitted across grant competitions. This confirms the sector's strong demand not only for funding but also for long-term development, stronger teams, and greater organisational resilience.

The most significant impact of grant support was reflected in the strengthened capacity of organisations themselves. **96%** of organisational development grantees strengthened their management and operational capacity, **99.1%** continued operating after their grants ended, and **35%** expanded their work or launched new areas of activity. At the same time, the programme invested in the broader civil society ecosystem through training, mentoring, foresight sessions, regional expeditions, and the development of the Civil Society Home. In 2025 alone, the Civil Society Development Forum brought together more than **4,500** representatives of civil society, public institutions, international organisations, and the donor community.

Supported organisations contributed to **24** political, legal, and institutional changes, while **45%** of the analysed projects influenced policies, decisions, or institutional processes at the local or national level. Another **52** initiatives helped communities close critical gaps in recovery, service provision, and local development.

Supported CSOs worked in at least **67** communities across Ukraine, delivering services in public health, mental health and psychosocial support, education, and veterans' reintegration. Across **39** projects, nearly half of the target communities (**48%**) engaged civil society organisations in developing recovery plans, local service development, or the work of public authorities. Up to **50** analytical publications were used to inform national and local policymaking.

When the energy crisis escalated at the end of the year, the programme rapidly launched a fast-response funding mechanism. In just two months, **39** projects out of **192** submitted applications received support, enabling organisations to continue delivering social services and assisting communities even during widespread power outages.



Organisational Development Grant Competition

ISAR Ednannia has been systematically supporting the organisational development of civil society since 2012. Over the years, various international partners have invested in this area, but the core idea has remained unchanged: strong organisations are the foundation of a strong civil society. That is why ISAR Ednannia's support has always gone beyond financing individual projects and has focused on strengthening governance, strategic planning, financial sustainability, and organisations' ability to grow and adapt to new challenges.

In 2025, the organisational development grant competition, implemented with the support of the Askold and Dir Fund, became one of the largest institutional support instruments for civil society. Out of **557** applications, **167** organisations received funding (172 grants) totalling **€207,227**.

All participants in the competition independently identify their own development priorities – from strategic planning, fundraising, and communications to security, digitalisation, and internal policies – and receive the expert support they need through the Civil Society Home ecosystem, particularly the Organisational Development Services Marketplace.

One example of this approach is the International Charitable Foundation "Without Borders". After strengthening its management systems and fundraising capacity, the organisation launched the LifeGuard humanitarian mission with mobile medical teams serving front-line and de-occupied communities.

In 2025, Ukrainian CSOs invested most heavily in strategic planning, financial sustainability, and organisational visibility and communications.

Number of Projects by Organisational Development Area

First Successful Grant Programme

The First Successful Grant Programme was created for newly established organisations that have ideas and motivation to work for their communities but lack previous successful grant experience. For many such initiatives, the absence of a first grant is the main barrier to entering the civil society sector professionally.

The programme is built on the understanding that the successful implementation of projects funded through international technical assistance is impossible without a strong and capable organisation. Therefore, the programme focuses not only on developing skills in preparing project proposals, but also on building a solid organisational foundation: effective governance structures, a competent team, transparent internal processes, and a strategic vision for development.

This approach is based on ISAR Ednannia's many years of experience in developing civil society and supporting thousands of organisations across Ukraine. That is why all training activities within the programme are delivered directly by ISAR Ednannia's experts, who combine deep practical knowledge with hands-on experience in building strong, sustainable, and influential organisations. Participants receive not only theoretical knowledge but also proven practices and tools that have demonstrated their effectiveness in the civil society sector.

In 2025, the programme received **618** applications, of which 19 organisations were selected for the first cohort. Nearly half of all applications came from front-line and war-affected regions. Participants studied at the Organisational Development School, received mentoring support, developed projects, and prepared grant applications. In total, 53 representatives of participating organisations successfully completed the first training module.

For many participants, the programme marked the transition from volunteer-driven or ad hoc initiatives to systematic organisational work. For example, **the Wings of Care NGO** developed the concept for a veterans' support centre, conducted a needs assessment, and established partnerships with local institutions.

"We have become a provider of social services in the city of Dnipro. We developed our organisational strategy, now have a clear vision for our future development, and have already applied for a grant to establish a social enterprise,"

A representative of the Ark of Salvation Centre NGO, a participant in the programme.

Institutional Support for CSOs Grant Competition

Institutional support enables organisations to move beyond working from one project to another and instead develop their teams, expertise, and management systems in a sustainable way. This is particularly important for CSOs working in the fields of reform, human rights, democratic governance, security, and the documentation of war crimes.

In 2025, the grant competition received **92** applications, and **31** organisations were awarded support totalling more than **€1.48 million**. This enabled organisations to invest in their own development, strengthen internal processes, and maintain the capacity to work towards long-term social change even amid unstable funding conditions.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

The Friends of Ukraine Foundation Charitable Foundation *received institutional support to strengthen its internal processes, develop its team, and standardise its programme approaches. One of the key areas of work focused on preparing police officers for more sensitive and trauma-informed communication with veterans. Through practical training sessions and simulations of real-life situations, the organisation helped change approaches to working with veterans – from formal procedures to a more person-centred model. As a result, the developed approaches were integrated into the practices of the National Police and began influencing the day-to-day interaction between public services and veterans.*

At the same time, the organisation implemented a psychological support programme for women affected by the war. As part of the programme, up to 40 individual counselling sessions and one group session were delivered for 15 participants. Following the programme, participants reported reduced anxiety, lower feelings of isolation, and improved emotional well-being, while the average satisfaction score reached ***9.62*** *out of* ***10.***

"For the first time, I found myself in a space where I could speak about my pain and confusion without fear of judgement."

One of the programme participants

Grant Competition for Media CSOs

In 2025, the Askold and Dir Fund launched a new grant competition, Information Support for Ukraine's Democracy and Resilience, to support independent media that not only inform but also foster public dialogue on democracy, the war, and the role of civil society. The competition received **112** applications, with 9 media CSOs awarded grants totalling more than **€146,653**. The supported projects combined journalism, research, multimedia content, public events, and engagement with local communities, while the content they produced reached more than **1.65 million** views.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

*One of the most remarkable projects was the Varosh Talks series, implemented by the **Institute for Central European Strategy NGO**. Its flagship event was the public discussion "The Price of Freedom" in Uzhhorod, featuring historian **Timothy Snyder**, human rights defender, journalist, and former prisoner of war **Maksym Butkevych**, who spent more than 850 days in Russian captivity. The project combined high-quality media content with meaningful conversations about democracy, war, and freedom, showcased regional civic initiatives to a wider audience, and promoted dialogue between local residents and internally displaced people.*

Varto: Ednannia 2.0 Grant Competition

The Varto: Ednannia 2.0 grant competition was implemented by ISAR Ednannia for the second time in partnership with the Ukrainian Veterans Foundation of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine. The programme combined direct funding for veterans' projects with organisational development support for veteran and pro-veteran CSOs provided through the Askold and Dir Fund. Under the competition, 9 organisations received support to implement projects focused on veterans' professional reintegration, entrepreneurship development, advocacy for veterans' rights, research, and strengthening the organisational capacity of veteran organisations. The competition introduced a new model of support for the veterans' sector by combining assistance to veterans with the development of the organisations themselves. As a result, veteran CSOs not only implemented local initiatives but also strengthened their own strategies, management processes, and partnerships with communities and public authorities.

The supported projects became platforms for new veterans' services and local initiatives. Participants launched professional reintegration and entrepreneurship programmes, established support spaces, initiated advocacy for policy change, and developed new models of cooperation between veterans, communities, and the state.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

*When the **Business Sector Development of Ukraine NGO** launched the SkillForg project, its goal was to help veterans and their family members discover new opportunities for professional reintegration. Participants across five western regions of Ukraine completed vocational training, learned entrepreneurship, worked on business ideas, and prepared grant applications. At the same time, through the organisational development component, the organisation strengthened its internal processes, governance, and strategic planning, laying the foundation for long-term sustainability.*

The results extended far beyond the project itself. Veterans began launching their own initiatives, moderating veterans' events, speaking publicly, and creating new projects. In Chernivtsi, participation in the programme enabled the AFK Stal-Bukovyna amputee veterans' football team to resume training, while in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast veterans initiated training to become aerodrome operators. The project demonstrated that investment in veteran organisations creates long-term impact: they not only help veterans adapt to civilian life but also cultivate new leaders, strengthen communities, and expand opportunities for the veterans' movement.

"Towards Life: Country in Action" Grant Competition

The Towards Life: A Country in Action grant competition supported solutions capable of influencing Ukraine's recovery at the national level. The competition received 22 applications, of which 5 projects were selected for funding. Priority was given to organisations combining research, advocacy, the development of new services, and partnerships with public authorities to create solutions that can be scaled up in communities across the country.

Unlike local initiatives, the competition focused on restoring entire systems – social protection, education, healthcare, culture, security, and other sectors that have suffered the greatest losses as a result of the war. The supported projects not only addressed the consequences of the war but also developed new approaches that can serve as the foundation for Ukraine's long-term recovery.

"Towards Life: Communities in Action" Grant Competition

The Towards Life: Communities in Action grant competition supported local initiatives that helped communities restore not only infrastructure but also trust, cooperation, and access to essential services. The competition received **210** applications, of which **32** projects were selected for funding across different regions of Ukraine. The initiatives covered social services, education, healthcare, culture, security, energy resilience, and the development of local partnerships. A key feature of most projects was the collaboration between CSOs, local self-government authorities, and municipal institutions, helping to integrate civic solutions into long-term community recovery.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

*In front-line Sumy, the **ART KRYLA NGO**, through the Towards Life: Communities in Action grant competition, worked to revive the Slobozhanshchyna embroidery tradition, which was gradually losing its local identity and surviving mainly in museum archives. Many local residents used general Ukrainian ornamentation without recognising the distinctive features of their own regional tradition. With grant support, the organisation established a resource centre, engaged a master embroiderer, designer, and experts in textiles, and launched training courses for educators and artisans. More than 35 people participated in the workshops, while the project's shared symbol became a **five-metre Rushnyk of Unity**, embroidered collectively during open community gatherings.*

For many participants, the project became much more than a cultural initiative. One participant, whose son has been missing in action since the war, shared that the regular workshops helped her regain a sense of stability and inner balance. Other participants began to see traditional embroidery not only as a means of preserving cultural heritage but also as a source of income. The project combined cultural recovery, psychosocial support, and local community development, helping residents not only preserve their traditions but also rediscover their identity in a front-line city.

Funding by European Union

EU UNITY4COMMUNITY

In 2025, ISAR Ednannia continued implementing the comprehensive three-year Unity4Community initiative with the support of the European Union.

OBJECTIVE

To strengthen civil society, support communities, and promote active public participation in Ukraine's recovery, reform, and European integration. The project creates opportunities for civil society organisations, initiative groups, and active citizens to drive development through grant competitions, learning programmes, analytical tools, professional networking, and support for local initiatives

GOALS

Strengthen the capacity of CSOs working in the areas of reforms, European integration, and recovery

Enhance the capacity of local actors (CSOs, public authorities, and communities) to participate in development, recovery, and decision-making processes

KEY ACTIVITIES

Grants

- Project Grants
- Strategic Partners
- Local Initiatives

Training Programmes

- Recovery and Development Consultants
- Navigating the EU

Analytics

- Community Development Success Index

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES

304 organizations involved

Supported under grant competitions: **18** projects, **3** strategic partnerships, **34** local initiatives

20 analytical and policy papers produced

Through grant funding, learning programmes, and analytical tools, the initiative supported **304** organisations working across **12** regions of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv. The grant competitions received **357** applications, resulting in support for **18** projects, **3** strategic partnerships, and **34** local initiatives, particularly in war-affected communities. The supported organisations helped restore services, strengthen local institutions, expand public participation, and introduce new approaches to governance. The supported initiatives produced up to **20** analytical and policy papers, while the information campaign generated more than **1.1 million views**.

One of the programme's key achievements in 2025 was the development and piloting of the Recovery and Development Consultants programme. The initiative laid the foundation for a new community of professionals who support communities in strategic planning, recovery, resource mobilisation, and reform implementation. The training combined practical work with communities, mentoring, and the development of a professional network of advisors.

Another significant achievement was the joint development and piloting of the Community Success Index in partnership with the MHP–Hromadi Foundation. This new analytical tool helps communities assess their own development, identify priorities, and make evidence-based decisions.

GRANT COMPETITIONS

Funding by Europenian Union

One of the project's main areas of work is supporting civil society organisations through a system of grant competitions at different levels – from strategic partnerships to local initiatives in communities.

Grants for Strategic Partners

Each year, three organisations receive the status of the project's strategic partners along with an annual grant of up to **€85,016**. Through the competition, strategic partners implement their own programmes and comprehensive solutions aimed at strengthening civil society, supporting communities, and advancing local change across the project's three priority areas:

- community recovery;
- support for reforms;
- European integration.

The grants also cover organisational development and administrative support for partner organisations, enabling them to operate more systematically and sustainably over the long term.

In 2025, three organisations became the programme's strategic partners:

We Build Ukraine

strengthened civil society participation in strategic planning and community recovery. The organisation engaged representatives of more than 100 territorial communities in a training programme and created the Change Here platform, which became a space for exchanging experience, sharing participatory governance practices, and fostering cooperation between communities

Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities

strengthened cooperation between local self-government authorities and civil society organisations by forming joint teams of public officials and civil society representatives, developing joint initiatives, and delivering a training and peer-learning programme

Your Support Charitable Foundation

helped organisations in war-affected regions become more resilient and independent. Through training programmes, mentoring, and institutional support, the foundation strengthened the capacity of local CSOs to respond to community needs and plan their long-term development

Together, the strategic partners reached more than **200 organisations**, strengthened cooperation between civil society and public authorities, and engaged CSOs in community planning and recovery processes.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

*With ISAR Ednannia support, the **All-Ukrainian Association of Local Self-Government Bodies "Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities"** implemented a project aimed at strengthening partnerships between local self-government authorities and civil society. Training, peer learning, and familiarisation with European practices helped communities move beyond formal public participation towards genuine collaboration in strategic planning.*

One such example was the Kyinka Community in Chernihiv Oblast. During the development of its Recovery and Development Plan, representatives of civil society organisations and active residents were, for the first time, systematically involved in the working group. The community also conducted a broad public consultation to identify recovery priorities. This experience demonstrated that when a community becomes an equal participant in decision-making, strategic planning evolves into a collaborative process rather than simply a document prepared by the local authority.

Project Grants

The competition supports projects that strengthen the role of civil society in Ukraine's recovery, reforms, and European integration, while also fostering cooperation between communities, public authorities, the media, and other partners. The programme provides **70** project grants for national and local civil society organisations. Individual grants are worth up to **€31,881**, with implementation periods ranging from 6 to 12 months. Particular attention is given to projects that create long-term solutions for communities, promote public participation in local development, and advance European approaches to cooperation between public authorities and civil society.

In 2025, the competition received **192** applications, of which **18** projects were selected for funding. Among the supported organisations were think tanks, human rights organisations, youth organisations, media organisations, and service-oriented CSOs working on various aspects of community recovery and development.

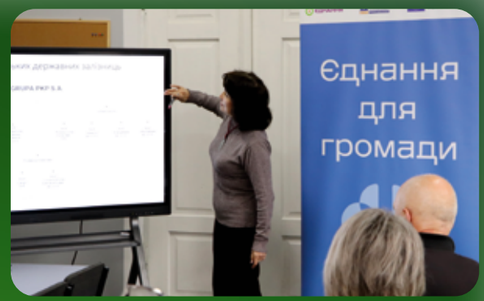
For example, the Healthy Solutions Foundation strengthened public oversight in the healthcare sector and promoted more transparent governance. The West Ukrainian Resource Centre supported communities in participating in policy development in line with European standards, particularly in the field of transport infrastructure. The Ukrainian Parliamentary Institute strengthened the institutional capacity of the Youth Council under the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, developing sustainable mechanisms for cooperation between young people and Parliament and for youth participation in public policymaking. The MHP–Hromadi Foundation supported communities in developing equality, diversity, and inclusion policies by actively engaging young people, youth councils, and local self-government authorities.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

In Kirovohrad Oblast, museums found themselves under significant pressure as a result of the war: declining visitor numbers, limited resources, a lack of inclusive infrastructure, and insufficient practical tools for engaging diverse audiences. For many communities, especially smaller ones, this meant losing not only cultural spaces but also important centres of social interaction.

*The **Union of Museum Workers NGO** combined methodological support, innovation, and close cooperation with communities. The organisation delivered a series of training sessions for museum professionals and developed recommendations for working under wartime conditions. One partner museum created a physically accessible environment by installing an electric lift for people with disabilities, while the exhibition was enriched with interactive elements, including AR solutions. The organisation also held events for internally displaced people, young people, veterans, and older adults, and organised a Museum Workers Forum as a platform for exchanging experience. For the first time, the museum became accessible to people with reduced mobility, and inclusive solutions began to be introduced as a standard rather than an exception. The initiative received support from the regional authorities and specialised institutions and was presented at the national level.*

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT



In Ukraine's border-area communities railway infrastructure is often underused because of the absence of clear and transparent approaches to tariff access. At the same time, the region directly depends on the development of rail transport for its economy, mobility, and integration with the European Union, yet communities have had little opportunity to participate in decision-making in this area.

*The project, implemented by the **West Ukrainian Resource Centre** with the support of ISAR Ednannia, covered five communities in Lviv and Volyn Oblasts. The team combined expert research with local dialogue: after preparing recommendations on tariff formation, they held meetings with community representatives, including in the Khyriv Community, where participants discussed the practical implications of these decisions. As a result, the communities not only increased their understanding of the issue but also began developing joint approaches to its resolution. Representatives of the Khyriv Community prepared proposals on the necessity of supporting local railway lines, discussed coordination with neighbouring communities to harmonise tariff conditions, and reached agreements on cooperation with **Ukrzaliznytsia**, including possible joint investment decisions.*

GRANT COMPETITIONS

Funding by Europenian Union

Grants for Local Initiatives

A separate component of the Unity4Community project is dedicated to supporting local initiatives, strengthening civil society at the community level, and increasing residents' participation in recovery and development processes. This component is co-funded by the Australian Minderoo Foundation and comprises two key streams of support for communities.

One of these is the GROW grant competition, designed to support local initiatives in communities, particularly those in frontline and war-affected regions. The competition funds educational, social, youth, cultural, and civic projects that help residents come together, create new opportunities, and strengthen community resilience. Following the first call for proposals, **34** local organisations received support to implement initiatives aimed at the recovery and development of their communities. The local initiatives component focuses not only on supporting individual projects but also on creating an environment where people can unite around shared solutions, build trust, and strengthen their communities even in the context of war and recovery.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Funding by Europenian Union · ЄDNANNIA · EU Unity 4Community

Recovery and Development Consultants

The Recovery and Development Consultants programme is a key training component of the Unity4Community project. Its objective is to build a community of professionals who work with communities on recovery, development, and the implementation of change at the local level.

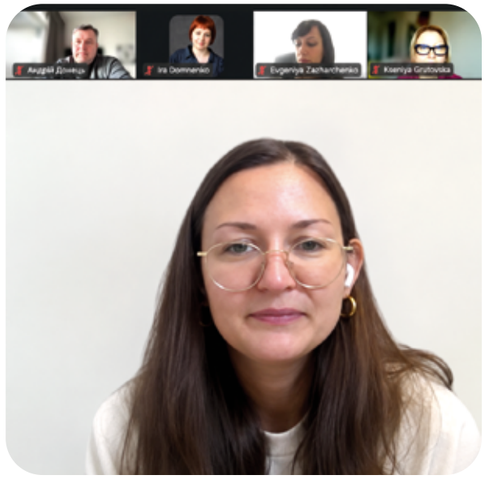
The first cycle of the programme was launched in 2025. More than **200** applications were submitted, and **21** participants successfully completed the foundation course. The programme provided practical tools for working with communities, facilitation, strategic planning, project management, and the implementation of recovery initiatives.

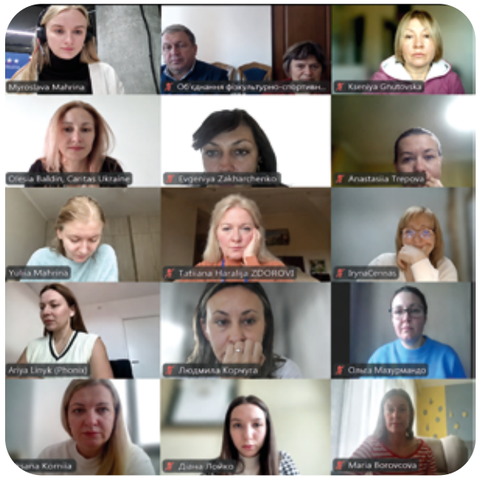
Graduates are already forming a professional network of consultants who will work with communities on planning and implementing change. In 2026, the programme will be expanded: each year it will train representatives of civil society and local self-government, while its graduates will be able to implement their own initiatives through the project's grant competitions.

Navigating the EU

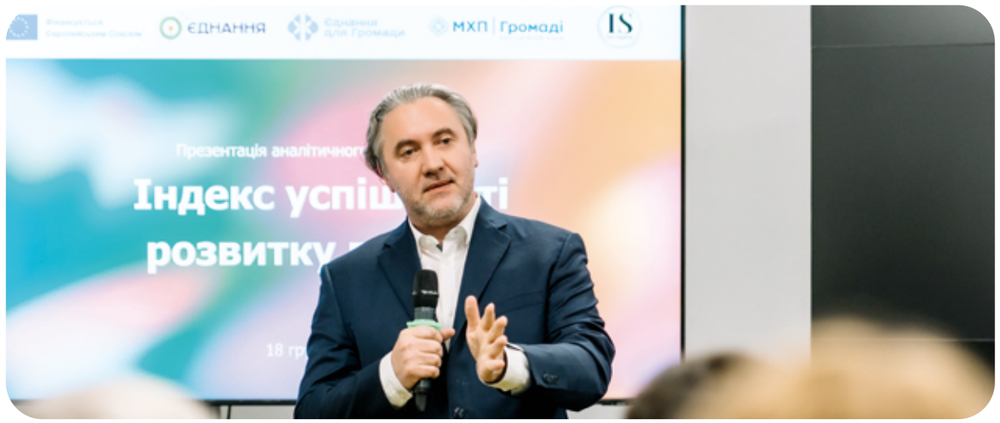
ISAR Ednannia, together with the GIZ 3×E4U (Strengthening Ukraine's EU Accession in the Rule of Law) project and with the support of the European Union, launched the Navigating the EU training programme. The programme aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society representatives to engage with European integration processes, develop a better understanding of EU policies and mechanisms, and participate more effectively in reforms, advocacy, and decision-making processes at both the national and local levels.

Dozens of organisations applied to participate in the programme. **75** participants were selected for training, and **61** CSO representatives successfully completed the full course. The programme helped participants not only gain a better understanding of how EU institutions and policies function but also acquire practical tools for engaging in reforms, advocacy processes, and decision-making at both the national and local levels. The programme will continue in 2026.





Funding by
Europenian Union



Methodology of the Community Development Success Index

Community Development Success Index

The Community Development Success Index is a key element of the analytical component of the Unity4Community project and one of the tools designed to provide a deeper understanding of recovery, development, and social cohesion processes in Ukrainian communities. The Index was developed by ISAR Ednannia in partnership with the MHP–Hromadi Foundation, with the participation of the research agency Info Sapiens.

The Index combines official statistics, sociological research, and the perspectives of community residents to provide a better understanding of:

- how communities are progressing through recovery and development processes;
- the factors influencing trust and social cohesion;
- the extent to which people are engaged in community life;
- why residents choose to remain in their communities or plan to leave;
- the role of active civil society in local development.

In 2025, the Index was piloted in the Kaniv, Myronivka, Liubeshiv, and Trostianets communities. It is intended to become a practical tool for strategic planning, the development of recovery policies, and evidence-based decision-making.

GROW: GRASSROOTS RECOVERY & OPPORTUNITIES FOR WELLBEING

In 2025, with the support of the Australian Minderoo Foundation, ISAR Ednannia launched the GROW: Grassroots Recovery & Opportunities for Wellbeing project in five front-line regions of Ukraine: Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Mykolaiv Oblasts. The grant component of the project is co-funded by the Unity4Community project, with the support of the European Union.

OBJECTIVE

To support war-affected communities in their recovery, strengthen connections among diverse stakeholders, and create new opportunities for people's wellbeing and livelihoods

GOALS

- Strengthen the capacity of local CSOs
- Support the recovery and social cohesion of front-line communities
- Expand economic opportunities for community residents

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Mapping the needs and resources of target communities
- Grant support for local CSOs
- Training programme on alternative livelihood opportunities
- Organisational development training
- Communications support and promotion of CSO success stories

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES

Needs, resources, and stakeholder mapping was carried out across the target communities, providing the basis for defining the priorities of the grant competition. Following the first call for proposals, **34** local organisations received support to implement initiatives focused on the recovery and development of their communities

U-RESTORE

At the end of 2025, ISAR Ednannia joined the implementation of the five-year U-RESTORE (Ukraine Recovery Support through Transparency, Ownership, Resilience and Empowerment) project, led by Cowater International and funded by the Government of Canada in partnership with the Ukrainian Women's Fund. ISAR Ednannia is responsible for the civil society development component of the project at the community level.

OBJECTIVE

To support community recovery by strengthening transparency, inclusiveness, and civil society participation in local decision-making

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Capacity assessment and mapping of CSOs
- Training and mentoring support for organisations
- Development of partnerships between CSOs and local authorities
- Engagement of residents in community planning and recovery

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project will help communities adopt more transparent, inclusive, and partnership-based approaches to recovery, while enabling local CSOs to become full-fledged participants in community development and decision-making processes

Archival photos

UKRAINE CIVIL SOCIETY SECTORAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY

In January 2025, ISAR Ednannia completed the implementation of the Ukraine Civil Society Sectoral Support Activity – one of the largest civil society support programmes, implemented since 2019 with the support of USAID in consortium with the Ukrainian Centre for Independent Political Research (UCIPR) and the Centre of Democracy and Rule of Law (CEDEM).

OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the institutional capacity of civil society and charitable organisations, foster an enabling environment for their activities, and enhance the sector's ability to respond independently to challenges and ensure its long-term sustainability

GOALS

- Strengthen the institutional capacity of civil society organisations
- Improve the legal environment for civil society
- Conduct research and analysis of key issues affecting the civil society sector

KEY ACTIVITIES

Grants
- Organisational Development
- Project Grants
- Institutional Support

Learning
- Training Programmes
- Mentoring • Networking
- Civil Society Home

Research
- Analytics
- Research Grants
- Sector Studies

Legal Environment
- Advocacy
- Legal Assistance
- Coalition Building

Civil Society Home
- Marketplace
- NGO Studio
- Analytical Library

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

€17.97 million in support

1,155 grants awarded to **847** organisations

58,000 participants

>20 Studies within the program

Over the period **2019–2025**, the Activity not only supported Ukraine's civil society through unprecedented crises and wartime challenges but also transformed it into an influential actor capable of shaping public policy, delivering essential services, and strengthening the country's democratic resilience.

Over five years, the Activity provided more than **€17.97** million in support through **1,155** grants awarded to **847** organisations, while more than **860 CSOs** received organisational development support. Training programmes and professional events brought together more than **58,000** participants. As a result, the institutional capacity of the sector increased significantly: **95%** of supported organisations strengthened their governance, strategic planning, and financial sustainability, which was reflected in the improvement of their Civil Society Sustainability Index score – from **3.1** to **2.9** (according to the Index methodology, the lower the score, the better the result).

The Activity also facilitated the transformation of civil society from an implementer of individual projects into a fully-fledged partner of the state. Through more than **26** advocacy campaigns, **39** legislative and public policy changes were achieved, particularly in the areas of civic participation and humanitarian assistance. These efforts also contributed to improving the legal environment for CSOs: the relevant indicator in the Civil Society Sustainability Index improved from **3.6 to 3.3.**

Following the start of the full-scale invasion, the supported organisations became key partners of the state in responding to the crisis. They provided humanitarian, social, and legal assistance to more than **600,000** people, while also supporting communities through research, analytical products, and evidence-based decision-making tools. Overall, the Activity produced more than **20** research studies, helping public authorities, communities, and civil society organisations develop policies and make informed decisions based on evidence.

RENEWED WOMEN'S VOICES AND LEADERSHIP

In 2025, ISAR Ednannia joined the implementation of the Renewed Women's Voices and Leadership programme as a national partner. The programme is implemented by the Ukrainian Women's Fund with the support of the Government of Canada.

OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the resilience and organisational capacity of women's civil society organisations across Ukraine

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Strengthening the organisational capacity of both emerging and established women's organisations and activists
- Capacity-building in line with identified organisational development priorities
- Delivering individual mentoring and advisory sessions to support the integration of newly acquired knowledge into organisations' day-to-day operations

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The programme will help **150** women's organisations strengthen their institutional capacity, expand their participation in policymaking, and reinforce cooperation within the women's movement, thereby increasing the contribution of civil society to advancing gender equality in Ukraine

FUND FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

At the end of 2025, ISAR Ednannia launched a partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to strengthen the institutional capacity of Ukrainian civil society organisations.

OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the institutional capacity of civil society organisations in Ukraine, enabling their more sustainable participation in recovery processes and community development

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Assessment of the institutional capacity of CSOs
- Training, mentoring, and organisational development
- Combining mentorship with the long-term development of organisations

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project aims to establish a sustainable model of civil society support in which funding is complemented by capacity development. This will help local CSOs become more resilient, attract international resources, and play a more active role in the recovery and development of their communities

Strategic Goal

ENABLING LEGAL ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

ADVOCACY GRANT COMPETITIONS

Advocacy Support to Strengthen the Role and Influence of Civil Society

The Askold and Dir Fund advocacy grant competition supported organisations working to advance systemic change in the areas of democratic governance, human rights, transparency, and reforms. The competition received **175** applications, of which **27** projects were selected for funding. Through these grants, civil society organisations strengthened their role in shaping public policy by combining research, advocacy, and policy dialogue with public authorities.

The supported organisations contributed to **24** policy and regulatory changes at both the national and local levels.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

*The **Institute of Legislative Ideas** strengthened expert support for Ukraine's state sanctions policy and international advocacy efforts. Analytical materials prepared by the organisation were used by the **Office of the President of Ukraine** during negotiations with representatives of five countries on sanctions policy, while the organisation's model for regulating economic relations with the aggressor state was incorporated into legislation on the screening of foreign investments. The organisation also presented Ukrainian expertise at the **11th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)**, promoting sanctions policy as a mechanism for compensating damage caused by Russian aggression. This case demonstrates that civil society can serve not only as an advocate for change but also as a trusted expert partner to the state in shaping public policy.*

Ihor Kotelianets, Head of Association of Relatives of Kremlin Politi¬cal Prisoners, together with rep¬resentatives of the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine

Advocacy Without Borders Grant Competition

The Advocacy Without Borders: Amplifying Ukraine's Voice grant competition supported the international advocacy efforts of Ukrainian CSOs to promote Ukraine's agenda at the international level. The competition received **72** applications, with **29** organisations awarded grants totalling more than **€363,443**. Through this support, Ukrainian CSOs strengthened cooperation with international partners and advanced Ukraine's positions on human rights, sanctions policy, democratic governance, energy security, gender equality, and Ukraine's recovery.

A qualitative assessment of the advocacy support demonstrated that **46%** of the supported initiatives ensured the meaningful participation of underrepresented groups in decision-making processes. The greatest impact was achieved where these groups participated not merely as beneficiaries but as co-creators of solutions and equal partners in advocacy efforts. More than one-third of these initiatives (**36.6%**) actively engaged women and women's organisations, reflecting the programme's gender-responsive approach.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

*The **Association of Relatives of Kremlin Political Prisoners** worked to ensure that Ukrainian civilians who had experienced unlawful detention as a result of Russian aggression gained meaningful access to state support. Following the adoption of **Law No. 2010-IX**, part of its provisions remained unimplemented, particularly those concerning housing and access to government programmes. The organisation prepared an analytical study, initiated a public expert review of the relevant ministry's activities, and developed proposals for amendments to the regulatory framework, including changes to **Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 495**.*

*As a result, the Ministry officially approved a public expert review of its activities, and the organisation's recommendations were incorporated into subsequent policy discussions. Cooperation with the **Office of the President of Ukraine** helped ensure that the needs of this group became a priority within government programmes. The organisation also established an interministerial working group involving Members of Parliament, government authorities, and **35 civil society organisations**, enabling a shift from isolated consultations towards the systematic participation of civil society in shaping policies to support civilians who had experienced unlawful detention.*

Ukraine's overall score in 2025: 4.7 out of 7

Funded by the European Union · cso meter · European Center for Not-for-Profit Law · ЄDNANNIA

CSO METER: ASSESSING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN UKRAINE

The CSO Meter is an international analytical tool that systematically assesses the enabling environment for civil society across the six Eastern Partnership countries, covering both the legislative framework and its practical implementation. ISAR Ednannia serves as the national partner of the initiative in Ukraine, which is implemented by the European Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL) with the support of the European Union.

In 2025, the ISAR Ednannia team conducted the latest national assessment across **11** thematic areas and prepared a report containing scores and recommendations. At the same time, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, ISAR Ednannia initiated the development of the new National Civil Society Development Strategy 2027–2031, contributing to evidence generation and facilitating dialogue among CSOs, public authorities, and experts.

OBJECTIVE

To monitor and analyse the operating environment for civil society in order to support advocacy efforts and systemic reforms

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Assessing the enabling environment for CSOs and preparing the national report
- Ongoing monitoring of changes in the legal environment through Early Warning Updates
- Advocacy support for the development of the new National Strategy for Promoting Civil Society Development for 2027–2031

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

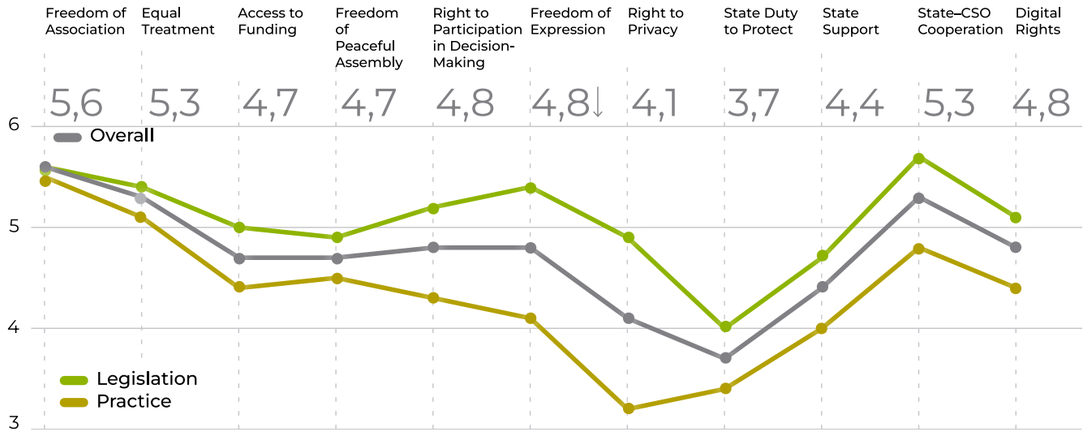
The findings of the CSO Meter confirmed a key trend: the main challenge facing civil society development is no longer the legislative framework itself but the gap between legislation and its implementation. The CSO Meter uses a seven-point assessment scale, where higher scores (closer to 7) indicate a more enabling environment for civil society. The highest scores were recorded in the areas of the state's obligation to protect privacy and state support for CSOs. The only area that deteriorated compared with 2024 was freedom of expression.

Based on the report's findings, seven key priorities were identified to further improve the enabling environment for civil society.

At the same time, the CSO Meter found that, despite the challenges of the full-scale war, Ukrainian CSOs have not only remained resilient but have also strengthened their role in community recovery, public policy-making, and European integration – increasingly acting as full-fledged partners of the state rather than merely implementers of individual projects.

Read the Country Report

CSO Meter Scores by Area



Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine · European Center for Not-for-Profit Law · ЄDNANNIA

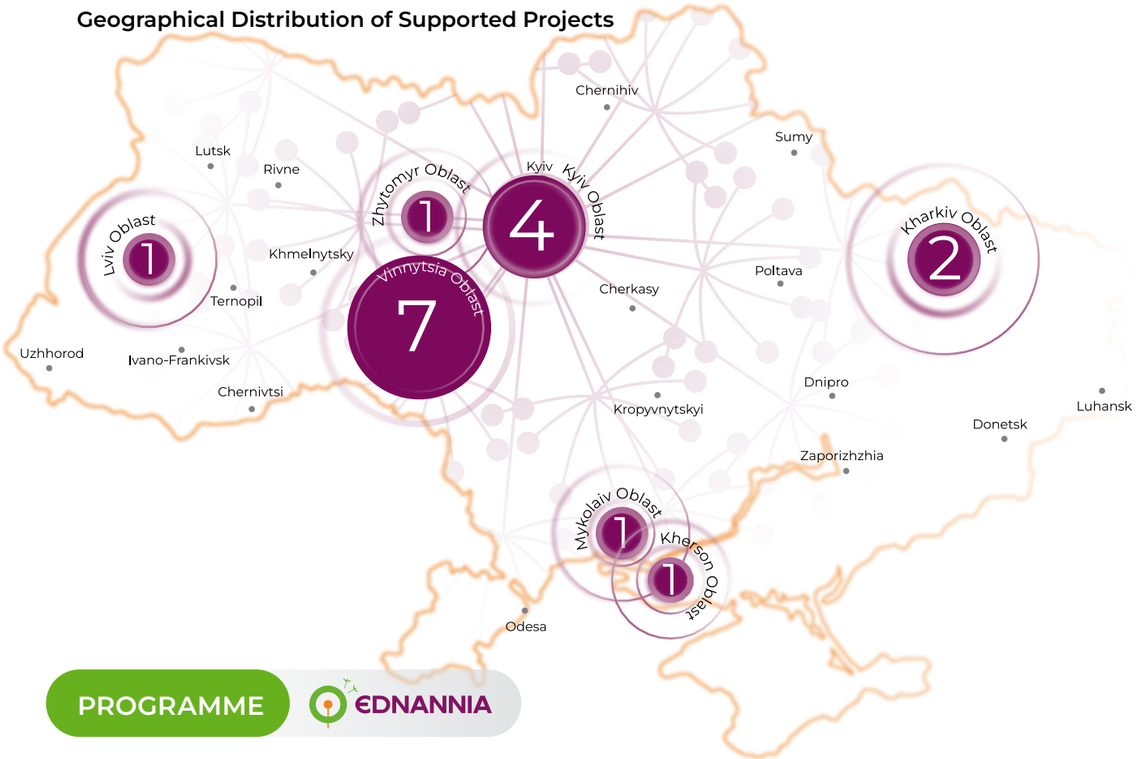
New National Civil Society Development Strategy 2027–2031

In partnership with the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and with the support of ECNL, ISAR Ednannia initiated the preparation of the new National Civil Society Development Strategy 2027–2031. During the first stage, an analytical study of the implementation of the current Strategy was prepared based on 16 in-depth interviews with a broad range of stakeholders. In November, the findings were discussed during a Community of Practice, bringing together **32** representatives of civil society organisations, public authorities, and the expert community. The event also produced recommendations for the new strategic document.

Strategic Goal

DEVELOPMENT OF PHILANTHROPY AT INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Geographical Distribution of Supported Projects



PROGRAMME ЄDNANNIA

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROGRAMME

People to People is ISAR Ednannia's philanthropic initiative, launched immediately after the start of the full-scale invasion. It transforms private donations from individuals, businesses, and charities from all over the world into grant support for Community Foundations, enabling them to implement local solutions in the areas of security, social support, education, and community development.

OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the role of Community Foundations as local drivers of change through the mobilisation of private philanthropy

GOALS

- Encourage private resources for community development
- Strengthen the capacity of Community Foundations to deliver local solutions
- Foster a culture of local philanthropy and co-financing

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Grant support for Community Foundations
- Implementation of local recovery projects
- Mobilisation of private and partner resources
- Development of local philanthropy through mandatory co-financing of projects from local sources

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Due to the People to People programme, private donations were transformed into tangible solutions that addressed the most pressing needs of communities. With the support of Community Foundations, **153 m²** of school shelters were restored, more than 200 pieces of equipment were provided to emergency response services, **31** units of State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) rescue equipment were digitally integrated to improve location tracking and route planning, and access to electricity was restored for more than **2,000** residents.

Through the programme, five interactive school museums were established, **13** youth initiatives received support, and more than 6,500 school students participated in educational activities. Nearly **300 young people** completed training in safety and leadership.

More than **4,700** children now receive annual support through two child-friendly spaces in hospitals, while over **700** paediatric oncology patients benefit from assistance programmes each year. Medical facilities received more than **30** pieces of equipment. For people with reduced mobility, **256** social transport services were provided, with 98% of service users positively assessing the quality and usefulness of the support.

Support for local initiatives also created new opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. **53** women completed vocational training, **seven** secured employment, and **39** started their own businesses. In addition, almost **80** business consultations were delivered and **12 grant applications** were prepared, creating a foundation for the further development of local economies.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

In the Novoyavorivsk Community of Lviv Oblast, internally displaced women, mothers, military spouses, and women with disabilities faced limited access to sustainable livelihoods and opportunities for self-realisation. At the same time, the community was gradually losing the tradition of Yavoriv embroidery.

*Through ISAR Ednannia's People to People programme, the **Hostynets NGO – Novoyavorivsk Community Foundation** established a Yavoriv Embroidery Workshop. Participants learned the traditional craft, attended training in financial literacy and social entrepreneurship, and received support to start their own businesses. Thirty-nine women joined the programme, 15 training sessions were delivered, and more than 60 embroidered items were created. Participants gained their first sources of income, while the community regained an important local tradition and a new centre of economic activity.*

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

For more than **15 years**, ISAR Ednannia has been developing the Community Foundation model in Ukraine. Today, the network includes more than 20 Community Foundations that mobilise local resources and invest them in the development of their communities. In partnership with the **Charles Stewart Mott Foundation**, ISAR Ednannia continues to strengthen this ecosystem, reinforcing the role of local philanthropy in Ukraine's recovery and development.

OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the capacity of Community Foundations to mobilise local resources and support community development

GOALS

- Strengthen the capacity of Community Foundations
- Promote the development of local philanthropy
- Expand the Community Foundation network

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Institutional support for existing Community Foundations
- Grants for local initiatives implemented by newly established Community Foundations
- Development of partnerships and international cooperation

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

€743,890
total institutional support grants over 2 years

7
new community foundations received start-up grants

€34,006
attracted in local co-financing

€1,022,317
In-kind contributions

During 2024–2025, ISAR Ednannia, together with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, supported **15 community foundations** and the National Network for the Development of Local Philanthropy through an institutional support programme. Over the two-year period, institutional support grants exceeded **€743,890**, enabling community foundations to strengthen their teams, improve internal systems, and expand support for communities in the areas of recovery and local philanthropy. In 2025, **seven** new community foundations, having completed the Community Foundations School, joined the National Network and received start-up grants to launch their activities across five regions of Ukraine. These new organisations began developing local fundraising, building relationships with donors, and supporting their own communities. Through the "People to People" programme, community foundations attracted more than **€34,006** in local co-financing (almost 18% of the total grant support). Overall, in 2025, they mobilised more than **€1,951,116** in financial resources and an additional **€1,022,317** in in-kind contributions, demonstrating growing public trust in community foundations and their ability to mobilise resources even during wartime.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

In Vinnytsia, emergency response services operated under constant pressure but lacked the tools needed for efficient fleet management. This complicated coordination during emergency call-outs and slowed response times.

The Community Foundation Podilska Hromada introduced a digital fleet monitoring system. GPS trackers and fuel sensors were installed on 31 fire and rescue vehicles. The team configured real-time vehicle tracking and integrated the data into the operational workflow of the emergency units. More than 150 emergency responders gained a tool that improved coordination, route optimisation, and the efficient use of resources. As a result, emergency services responded more quickly, while fleet management became more transparent and effective.

Strategic Goal

DEVELOPMENT AND CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY IN UKRAINE

SMALL GRANTS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

In 2025, ISAR Ednannia began administering the Small Grants Programme for the Development of Social Services for Families with Children and Early Intervention. Expanding access to high-quality social services strengthens trust between the state, local communities, and civil society, making it an essential element of Ukraine's democratic resilience.

The programme is one of the key stages of social services reform in Ukraine and is implemented as part of the SPIRIT (Social Protection for Inclusion, Resilience, Innovation and Transformation) programme – an international initiative jointly implemented by the World Bank, the Government of the United Kingdom, UNICEF, and the Government of Ukraine to modernise the social protection system, align it with current challenges, and bring it closer to European Union standards.

OBJECTIVE

- Provide financial and expert support to social service providers.
- Support the development of a transparent social services market in communities and strengthen the Fund for Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities as the national purchaser of social services
- Strengthen the capacity of organisations (CSOs, charities, municipal institutions, sole proprietors, and limited liability companies) to deliver high-quality services in line with national standards

KEY ACTIVITIES

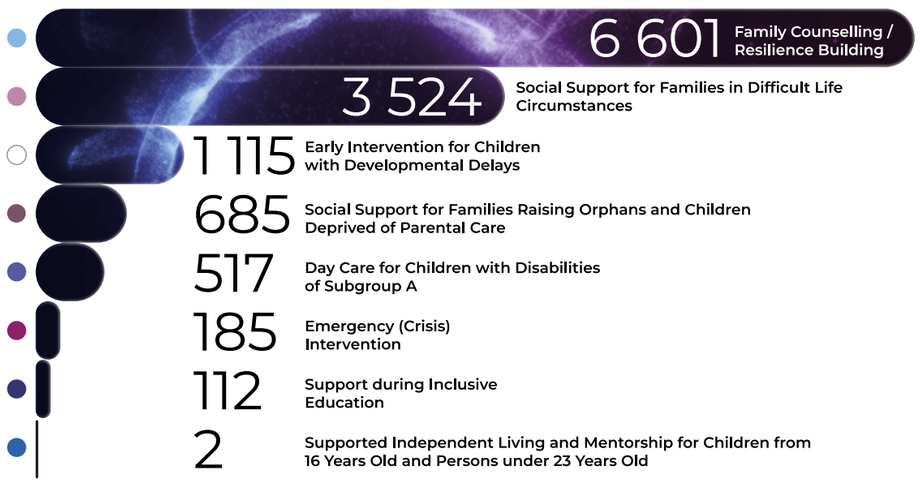
- Launch of the small grants mechanism
- Capacity development for social service providers
- Development of a social services purchasing model
- Institutionalisation of the mechanism
- Development of partnerships between communities and service providers

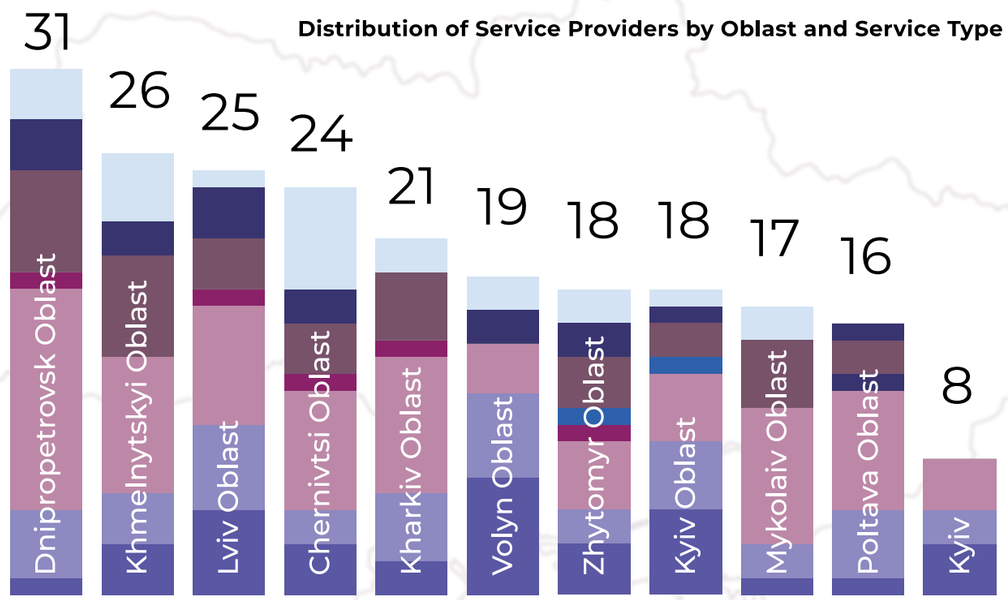
Programme Dashboard

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

The programme invests in civil society organisations as providers of social services and helps them operate in accordance with national standards. This forms the basis of a new model in which CSOs become full-fledged partners of the state within the social protection system. In 2025, 120 social service providers received grant funding totalling more than **€5,842,721**: **80** civil society and charitable organisations, **39** municipal institutions, and one limited liability company. In addition to funding, organisations received training and expert support. Through the programme, **80** civil society and charitable organisations began operating as professional social service providers in accordance with national standards for the first time. As a result, 96 communities expanded or introduced new social services, local authorities procured 155 social service packages, and **64** civil society organisations began delivering services for the first time across **67** communities, opening the social services market to non-state providers. Together with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the Fund for Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities, and UNICEF, the programme also developed the regulatory and methodological framework required to scale this mechanism nationwide. Thanks to the new model, more than **12,700 children and their family** members gained access to new or strengthened social services, while communities acquired the capacity to provide support to people where they live.

Number of Beneficiaries Reached by Service Type (September–December 2025)





Total services by provider

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

*Marina, aged **30**, is raising four children in a small village in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. Having grown up without sufficient support herself, she had to learn many parenting and household skills independently while raising her own children. Her greatest concern was her four-year-old daughter, who struggled to communicate with others, while Marina's older children had been forced to take on many adult responsibilities.*

*Through the Small Grants Programme for Social Services, implemented with the support of the Government of the United Kingdom and UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and administered by ISAR Ednannia, Marina's family gained access to the Life Skills Development service. The service was provided by **SpivDiia**, one of the programme's local service providers.*

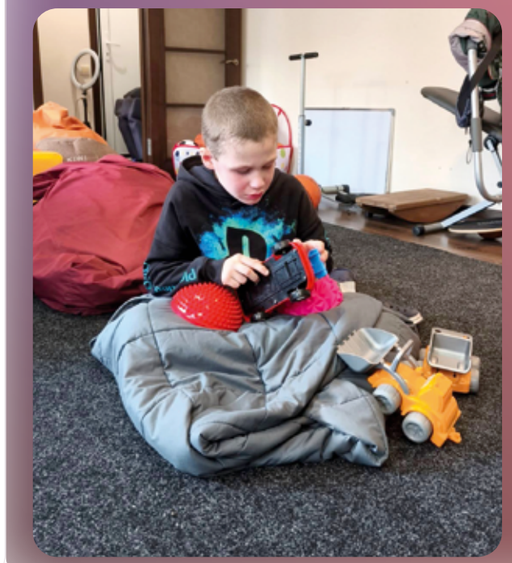
SpivDiia specialists worked systematically with Marina and her children: they helped improve household routines, supported the development of parenting skills and positive parent-child interaction, and contributed to creating a safer and more stable home environment. The family also received essential material assistance for everyday needs. The changes soon became visible: Marina's younger daughter gradually began interacting with others and working with specialists, while her older children joined life skills activities and discovered new interests.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

For adolescents with disabilities, particularly those with complex needs, opportunities for social interaction are often limited to the home. Many do not attend school and remain outside the system of developmental support and peer interaction, together with their families, who carry the full burden of care.

*In Kremenchuk, the Inclusion Without Limits NGO established the city's first **Adaptive Centre for Adolescents with Disabilities**. Through the Small Grants Programme for Social Services, the centre received support to develop a day care service. This expanded access to regular activities and professional support for adolescents with the greatest needs. The team works with each young person individually, helping them develop essential life skills, build relationships with others, and gradually become more independent in a safe and supportive environment.*

As a result, adolescents receive not only care but also the opportunity to become part of a community and develop at their own pace. For parents, this means being able to return to work and everyday life, knowing that their child is in a supportive environment.



MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS OF UKRAINE · ALL-UKRAINIAN YOUTH CENTER · german cooperation · KFW · unicef for every child · ЄДНАННЯ

THE UNLOCK YOUTH:

SYSTEMIC STRENGTHENING OF YOUTH SERVICES IN PREPARATION FOR THE EU YOUTH GUARANTEE

In 2025, ISAR Ednannia, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, the All-Ukrainian Youth Centre, and with the support of UNICEF Ukraine, launched the Unlock Youth: Systemic Strengthening of Youth Services in Preparation for the EU Youth Guarantee in Ukraine project. The project lays the groundwork for implementing the **EU Youth Guarantee in Ukraine**, ensuring that young people receive quality support in employment, education, reskilling, and access to opportunities for personal and professional development.

OBJECTIVE

To provide technical and expert support to the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine in implementing the EU Youth Guarantee through the development of a data-driven youth services system, piloting innovative solutions, and preparing institutions for scaling up the model

GOALS

- Assess the needs of young people, particularly those in NEET status, to support evidence-based policymaking
- Develop and test a comprehensive model of youth support in communities
- Strengthen the capacity of youth centres, youth workers, and public institutions to implement the EU Youth Guarantee

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

First national NEET youth survey

4200 young people

60 in-depth interviews

24 ocus groups

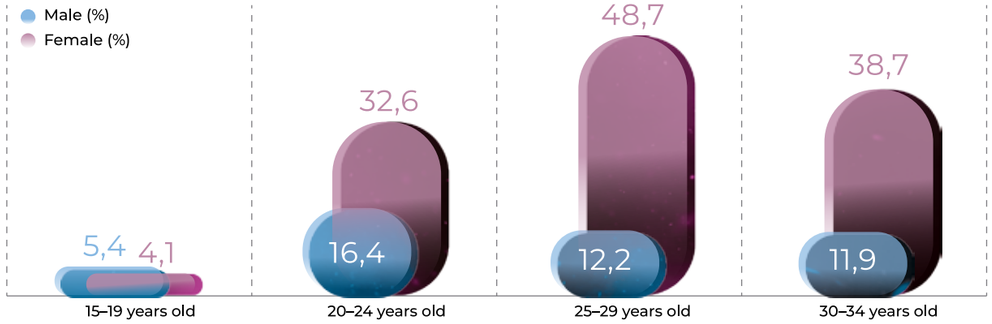
Read the Study

In 2025, the project established both the evidence base and the institutional foundations for implementing the EU Youth Guarantee in Ukraine. The first milestone was the comprehensive study: Young Women in NEET Status in Ukraine: Barriers, Needs and Pathways to Labour Market Integration, which surveyed more than **1,000** respondents. The research found that women aged 25–29 are the most vulnerable group, with NEET status shaped by the combined effects of war, caring responsibilities, gender stereotypes, and structural barriers.

At the same time, the project began developing a practical model for implementing the EU Youth Guarantee in communities. Work started on the Youth Window programme in **15** communities. The project team strengthened the youth infrastructure by surveying more than **200** representatives of youth centres, engaging **140** specialists in the co-design of training programmes, and preparing **20** trainers for the MIST programme, who will scale up modern youth services across Ukraine.

The next milestone was the launch of Ukraine's first national NEET youth survey. The study will cover **4,200** young people, include **60** in-depth interviews and **24** focus groups, and, for the first time, provide the government with comprehensive data on the needs of more than 1.8 million young Ukrainians who are not in employment, education, or training. The findings will serve as the foundation for designing the implementation mechanism of the EU Youth Guarantee and for shaping evidence-based national youth policy.

NEET Rate by Gender and Age Group in Ukraine, %



GLOSSARY

EU Youth Guarantee – a European Union initiative that ensures young people receive a good-quality offer of employment, education, an apprenticeship, or a traineeship within a short period after leaving formal education or becoming unemployed.

NEET youth – young people aged 15–34 who are not in employment, education, or training.

Youth Window – a community-based service model that provides young people with a single access point to employment opportunities, education, apprenticeships, counselling, and support services.

MIST – a capacity-building programme for youth centre teams that equips them with practical tools for delivering high-quality youth services.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS OF UKRAINE · ЄDNANNIA · MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK · UNDP

YOUTH OF UKRAINE: THE GENERATION OF RESILIENCE – 2030

In 2025, ISAR Ednannia, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and with the support of UNDP in Ukraine, supported the development of the State Target Social Programme "Youth of Ukraine: The Generation of Resilience – 2030." ISAR Ednannia provided expert and facilitation support throughout the process, helping to shape the Programme through broad consultations with young people, government institutions, local communities, experts, and international partners.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

To support young people as Ukraine's strategic human capital by creating conditions for their resilience, self-realisation, and active participation in the country's recovery

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

- Youth participation in community life and decision-making.
- Resilience, safety, and mental well-being.
- Youth self-realisation, employment, and entrepreneurship.
- Development of youth infrastructure and institutional capacity.
- International integration of Ukrainian youth.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Meeting with the participation of Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine Uliana Tokarieva

The approval of the State Target Social Programme "Youth of Ukraine: The Generation of Resilience – 2030" by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 2 January 2026

State Programme

Partnership events brought together:

600 epresentatives of the youth sector

100 representatives of government institutions and civil society

During the development of the Programme, ISAR Ednannia coordinated an extensive consultation process involving more than **50** consultations, working meetings, and public discussions with youth organisations, government institutions, local communities, international partners, and experts. Partnership events alone brought together more than **600** representatives of the youth sector, while around **100** representatives of government institutions and civil society participated in dedicated consultations.

One of the Programme's key achievements was embedding a new **approach** to state youth policy, recognising young people not merely as recipients of services but as full-fledged participants in decision-making and Ukraine's recovery. The Programme introduces priorities related to youth participation, psychosocial resilience, economic self-realisation, digital services, international integration, and support for youth- and child-led civil society organisations.

The joint effort resulted in the approval of the State Target Social Programme "Youth of Ukraine: The Generation of Resilience – 2030" by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 2 January 2026.

Implementation of the Programme will be carried out through national and local measures aimed at promoting young people's active participation in community life, creating safe environments, and strengthening psychosocial well-being. It also supports the development of non-formal education, entrepreneurship, and innovation, finances youth initiatives and projects, and strengthens the capacity of youth sector organisations. Funding will be provided through national and local budgets as well as international partners. The Programme is designed to preserve and develop Ukraine's human capital by fostering a generation of young people capable of responding to today's challenges and actively contributing to the country's recovery.

RESEARCH

With the support of the Askold and Dir Fund, ISAR Ednannia promotes evidence-based decision-making by supporting research that informs public policy, advocacy campaigns, and Ukraine's recovery efforts. In 2025, **59** research and analytical projects were supported and implemented: **38** through the specialised Knowledge in Action grant competition and **21** as part of advocacy grants, where research served as the foundation for advancing systemic change.

The findings of nearly half of these studies (48%) were used to support the development of public policies, the work of advisory bodies, and public consultations. This confirms that the supported research has become a practical tool for decision-making rather than remaining solely analytical reports.

The supported projects addressed some of Ukraine's most pressing challenges, including European integration, sanctions policy, public governance effectiveness, information security, social policy, human rights, healthcare, the labour market, recovery, and cultural heritage preservation. One of the programme's flagship achievements was the nationwide Civil Society in Ukraine During the War – 2025 Study, which became one of the most comprehensive assessments of the state and needs of Ukrainian civil society since the beginning of the full-scale invasion.

Civil Society in Ukraine During Wartime Study

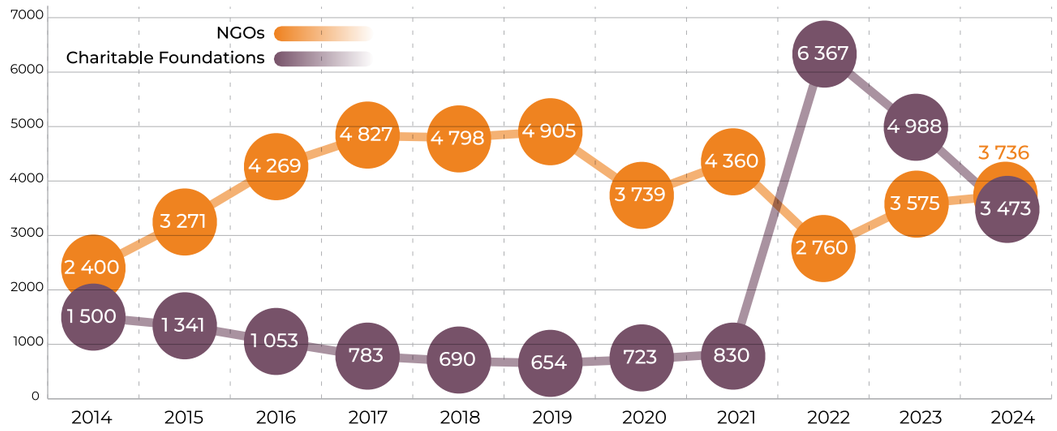
This comprehensive sociological study, prepared by the Social Indicators Centre on behalf of ISAR Ednannia with the support of the Askold and Dir Fund, represents the third wave of monitoring the development of Ukrainian civil society during the full-scale war.

The study covered more than **1,200** civil society and charitable organisations, in-depth interviews with civil society representatives and international partners, and an analysis of open government data. It found that the sector has not only remained resilient but continued to grow: between 2022 and 2025, the number of charitable organisations increased by **57%**, civil society organisations by **10%**, and registered volunteers 33-fold.

The findings also reveal a transformation in the role of civil society. Organisations increasingly contribute to community recovery, social service delivery, support for veterans, internally displaced people and persons with disabilities, war crimes documentation, and reform efforts. At the same time, the sector continues to face unstable funding, staff shortages, and the need for long-term support.

The study has become an evidence base for government institutions, international partners, and donors in designing policies and programmes to support civil society.

As Yosyf Zisels noted during the presentation of the study:



"Civil society organisations are the moral backbone of the nation, sustaining the country through its most difficult times"

Yosyf Zisels noted during the presentation of the study

Read the Research

Knowledge in Action Grant Competition

The Knowledge in Action: Strengthening CSO Research Capacity grant competition, implemented under the Askold and Dir Fund, supports research, analytical work, and evidence-based approaches that strengthen the role of civil society in public policymaking and Ukraine's recovery. Across the first three rounds of the competition, 3**8** research projects implemented by **37** civil society organisations and think tanks received support totalling more than **€463,337**.

FROM GRANT TO IMPACT

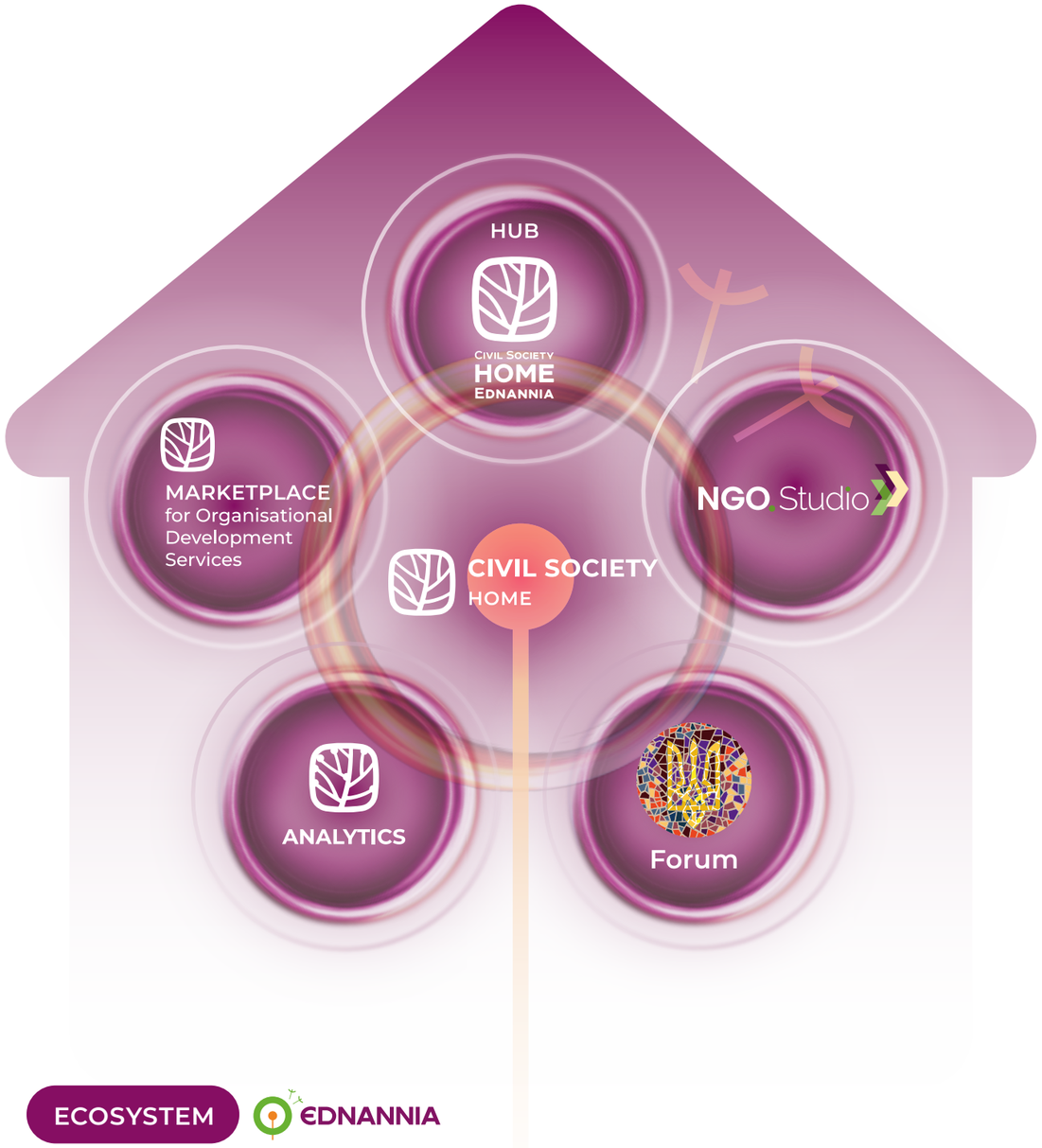
The EP-PROSVITA NGO implemented a research project focused on the situation of mothers of children with disabilities – a group whose needs are often insufficiently reflected in public policy. The organisation conducted a comprehensive study combining a quantitative survey of 609 respondents with a series of in-depth interviews. Based on the findings, the team prepared an analytical report with recommendations for improving the social protection system, employment support, and social services for families raising children with disabilities.

The research findings were integrated into the public policymaking process. The analytical materials were submitted to central government authorities and used during discussions on Draft Law No. 14191 on improving the social protection system for such families. The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine provided formal feedback and initiated a dedicated working meeting to review the proposed recommendations. The study also became an evidence base for broader intersectoral discussions on expanding social services, financial assistance, and employment programmes for parents of children with disabilities.

Read the Research

Strategic Goal

STRENGTHENING THE PLATFORM FOR CROSS-SECTORAL DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION



ECOSYSTEM ЄDNANNIA

CIVIL SOCIETY HOME

Civil Society Home is an ecosystem developed by ISAR Ednannia to strengthen civil society through organisational development, professional exchange, and cooperation among CSOs, experts, donors, and public institutions. In 2025, the Civil Society Home evolved into a comprehensive platform comprising five interconnected components – from knowledge and learning to event space and the country's largest platform for cross-sectoral dialogue.

Marketplace for Organisational Development Services

remained the main entry point for vetted service providers, consultancy, and learning opportunities. In 2025, nearly **200** grantees used the platform, while more than **20** service providers delivered free webinars and learning events that generated over **4,000 views**

200 tenders announced

20 service providers

4,000 webinar views

Analytical Library

the only online hub dedicated to civil society research, expanded with **72** new studies and analytical publications, further strengthening its role as Ukraine's leading knowledge platform for civil society. The platform attracted more than **2,100** active users during the year

72 new studies and analytical publications

2,100 active users

NGO.Studio

continued to serve as the Civil Society Home's media and discussion platform. In 2025, it hosted more than **50** events, including public discussions, interviews, podcasts, webinars, and other content formats focused on civil society development

50 broadcasts from the studio

25,000 views

Civil Society Home as an event space

remained a venue for meetings, training sessions, and professional exchange. In 2025, it hosted **60** events, bringing together around **1,500** participants from civil society, the donor community, partner organisations, and public institutions

60 events

1,500 participants

The Civil Society Forum

remained the flagship event of the ecosystem and Ukraine's largest platform for cross-sectoral dialogue. In 2025, the XIV Civil Society Forum (with)STAND! brought together more than **4,500** participants, including representatives of civil society, government, donors, business, media, and international partners to discuss resilience, democracy, and Ukraine's future

4,500 participants in-person

XIV CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM (WITH)STAND!

The Civil Society Forum is Ukraine's largest annual platform bringing together civil society, government, business, and international partners. In 2025, the XIV Civil Society Forum "(with) STAND!" became a space for reflecting on how civil society is helping Ukraine withstand today's challenges while shaping the country's future after victory.

- 7 panel discussions
- 28 of Ukraine's best community initiatives showcased in the exhibition area
- 150 speakers
- 24 thematic venues
- 15 donor programme presentation
- 4,509 in-person participants
- 28 thematic sessions
- 24 veteran-led and social businesses
- 29 expert networking meetings in the Candy Shop
- 9 art and partner exhibitions

The Forum brought together leading Ukrainian intellectuals, journalists, military representatives, civil society leaders, and international partners. Among the highlights were **Oksana Zabuzhko's** lecture on the power of the Ukrainian narrative, **Pavlo Kazarin's** public conversation on Ukraine's renewed agency during wartime, and keynote speeches by **Serhii Prytula**, **Vitalii Portnykov**, **Pavlo Klimkin**, and many other prominent opinion leaders.

Beyond the discussions, the Forum became a vibrant space for networking and shared experiences. Participants visited exhibitions dedicated to **Crimea** and anti-corruption journalism, explored the **Museum in the Dark "Three After Midnight"**, attended the veteran and social business fair, experienced an interactive career guidance zone, visited the mental health space, and joined the **Book for the Front** initiative by donating Ukrainian books to military personnel.

A special highlight of the Forum was the **Awards of the Year – 2025** ceremony, recognising organisations, partnerships, and initiatives that strengthen cohesion, trust, and the capacity of Ukrainian civil society.

EVENT

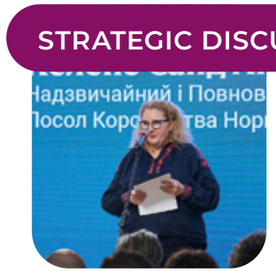
Post-Forum Report

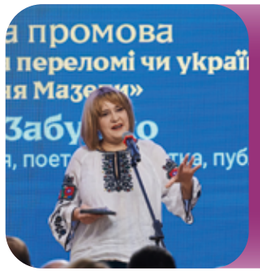
Post-forum What Do We Need to (with)STAND?

At the end of January, **Post-Forum "What Do We Need to (with)STAND?"** brought together civil society leaders as a follow-up to the XIII Civil Society Development Forum "(with)STAND!". The event provided a space to reflect on the challenges facing Ukrainian civil society after three years of the full-scale war. Representatives of civil society organisations, charitable foundations, territorial communities, experts, and international partners discussed sector fatigue, shifts in the donor landscape, increasing competition for resources, and new models of cooperation between the state and civil society.

A central element of the event was a strategic discussion on Ukraine's future and the role of civil society in post-war recovery, moderated by **Valerii Pekar**. During the strategic session, participants not only identified key challenges but also developed 14 thematic priorities for future joint action. For each priority, they mapped the current situation, analysed the underlying causes, identified the actions required, and outlined potential programmes and projects. These outcomes became the foundation for further coordination and joint planning across the civil society sector.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION





Oksana Zabuzhko Keynote Speech

Ukraine–Scandinavia: 13 Centuries Together

In March, ISAR Ednannia hosted the strategic discussion "Ukraine–Scandinavia: 13 Centuries Together", dedicated to the historical ties between Ukraine and the Scandinavian countries and their shared vision for Europe's democratic future. The event brought together diplomats, government representatives, civil society leaders, international partners, and prominent Ukrainian intellectuals. During the event, ISAR Ednannia also presented the Askold and Dir Fund, the Norwegian-Swedish funding mechanism administered by ISAR Ednannia with the support of the Governments of Norway and Sweden.

Among the highlights were keynote speeches by **Oksana Zabuzhko** and **Volodymyr Yermolenko**, who reflected on Ukraine's place in today's Europe, the shared history of Ukraine and Northern Europe, and the role of civil society in building long-term democratic alliances.

Ednannia in Your City Expeditions

In 2025, ISAR Ednannia organised a series of regional Ednannia in Your City expeditions – a new format of direct engagement with communities and local CSOs. Over the course of one month, the team visited 7 cities across Ukraine, presented grant opportunities, delivered training, provided consultations, and discussed local challenges. More than **680** civil society representatives took part in the expeditions.

The expeditions helped ISAR Ednannia gain a deeper understanding of the needs of organisations outside major cities. These meetings clearly demonstrated the high demand for institutional support, mentoring, and access to grant opportunities. In the 7 regions visited during the expeditions, the number of applications submitted to ISAR Ednannia's grant competitions increased by 2–3 times, while the feedback gathered became the foundation for launching the First Successful Grant Programme for newly established CSOs.

Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025 Side Event

During the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025 (URC2025) in Rome, ISAR Ednannia hosted the official side event "Joining Forces: Government, Civil Society and Business for Resilient Public Policy in Ukraine's Recovery", bringing together 53 participants representing governments, international organisations, civil society, and the private sector.

The event was organised jointly with the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Minderoo Foundation, creating an international platform to discuss the evolving role of civil society in Ukraine's recovery — from participation to partnership, from having a voice to sharing responsibility.

The discussion featured **Oleksandr Yarema**, State Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine; **Mathieu Mori**, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe; **Arno Prête**, representative of the OECD; **Hayley Panetta**, Chief Executive Officer of the Minderoo Foundation; and **Andriy Pavlovych**, Chair of the Board of ISAR Ednannia.

The event became the first international platform for presenting the Doctrine of Ukraine's Democratic Future and launched a series of strategic discussions on building public policy based on trust, participation, and partnership between the state, civil society, and business.

Laughter, Kindness and an Accordion: Creative Fundraising Stand Meet-up

The full-scale war has transformed not only the scale of charitable giving but also the culture of fundraising itself. These changes were at the heart of the stand meet-up "Laughter, Kindness and an Accordion: Creative Fundraising," hosted at the Civil Society Home and featuring stand-up comedian and volunteer **Vasyl Baydak**.

The discussion explored how creativity, humour, and authentic communication help build trust and inspire people to support important causes, even amid growing donor fatigue. Participants reflected on new approaches to fundraising, the power of personal stories, the role of social media, and why successful fundraising today is ultimately about building communities rather than simply raising money.

BOOTCAMPS

Doctrine of Ukraine's Democratic Future

Democracy Bootcamps

The **Democracy Bootcamps** are a series of strategic dialogues organised by ISAR Ednannia to explore the future of Ukrainian democracy and the role of civil society in the country's post-war development. Bringing together public intellectuals, government representatives, civil society leaders, business, and international partners, the initiative creates a space for shaping a shared vision of Ukraine's democratic future. One of its key outcomes has been the development of the Doctrine of Ukraine's Democratic Future, a strategic framework co-developed by ISAR Ednannia.

Looking into the Future of Ukrainian Democracy Foresight

The **first Democracy Bootcamp**, held in a foresight format, brought together around **80 participants** from civil society, government, think tanks, international organisations, and the expert community to explore possible scenarios for Ukraine's post-war development. Discussions focused on the future of democratic institutions, local self-government, political trust, the role of civil society in recovery, and preparations for the country's first post-war elections.

Among the keynote speakers were **Olga Aivazovska**, **Vitaly Portnikov**, and Yevhen Hlibovytsky, who addressed the risks of political polarisation, disinformation, and societal trauma. Participants concluded that the resilience of Ukrainian democracy would depend not only on security but also on trust, strong institutions, and a culture of cooperation. The session laid the groundwork for subsequent Democracy Bootcamps and further development of the Doctrine of Ukraine's Democratic Future.

Is There Room for Democracy in Ukraine Beyond the Maidan Bootcamp

The **second Democracy Bootcamp** continued the strategic dialogue on Ukraine's democratic future, bringing together more than **60 representatives** of civil society, government, business, international partners, and the expert community. Discussions focused on what democracy should look like in post-war Ukraine and which mechanisms of civic participation would best ensure its resilience under new conditions.

The event featured **Yosyf Zisels**, **Larisa Yakubova**, and **Pavlo Klimkin**. Together with participants, they explored public trust, demographic challenges, the future of temporarily occupied territories, the role of civil society in post-war recovery, and Ukraine's place within 9 thematic clusters of challenges and developed recommendations that became part of the evolving Doctrine of Ukraine's Democratic Future.

On the Road to the EU: Preparing for the Screening Process Meeting

The Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, together with ISAR Ednannia, the East Europe Foundation, and international partners, organised a series of consultations to support Ukraine's preparation for the European Commission's screening process under Chapter 22 – Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments. The discussions focused on adapting the EU's cohesion policy to the Ukrainian context, the future use of EU structural funds, and the role of communities in Ukraine's European integration.

Representatives of civil society contributed expert recommendations to the negotiation process by presenting research findings, practical experience from local communities, and proposals for applying European approaches in Ukraine. The consultations demonstrated the value of partnership between government and civil society in preparing for EU accession and strengthened the role of CSOs in shaping policies related to regional development and cohesion policy.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE

VIII International Veterans' Forum: Ukraine. Veterans. Unity

With the support of the Askold and Dir Fund, ISAR Ednannia partnered with the VIII International Veterans Forum: Ukraine. Veterans. Unity, traditionally held ahead of Ukraine's Independence Day. The Forum brought together veterans, government officials, international partners, civil society organisations, and business representatives to discuss veterans' policy, reintegration, and the role of veterans in Ukraine's recovery.

The Forum has become one of Ukraine's leading national platforms for dialogue on the future of veterans' policy. Participants were welcomed by President of Ukraine **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**, while NATO Secretary General **Mark Rutte** attended as the guest of honour. Other keynote speakers included Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada **Ruslan Stefanchuk**, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy **Yulia Svyrydenko**, and Minister for Veterans Affairs **Natalia Kalmykova**, who presented the interim results of implementing the Heroes' Policy Doctrine. The Forum highlighted the growing role of civil society in shaping national veterans' policy and strengthening veterans' organisations across Ukraine.

The Council of Veterans of the War for Ukraine's Independence

ISAR Ednannia provided expert support to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine in developing the Regulations on the Council of Veterans of the War for Ukraine's Independence – a consultative and advisory body established to ensure structured dialogue between the government and the veterans' community. Approved in January 2026, the Regulations laid the foundation for the meaningful participation of veterans and veterans' organisations in shaping and implementing national veterans' policy.

The new model ensures representation from all regions of Ukraine through an open process of regional nominations and voting. It creates a transparent mechanism for involving veterans in public decision-making and strengthens partnership between government institutions and civil society.

Regulations on the Council of Veterans of the War for Ukraine's Independence:

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS OF UKRAINE

CODE: Discover Your Identity

Together with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and the All-Ukrainian Youth Centre, ISAR Ednannia implemented the CODE: Discover Your Identity programme, designed to strengthen youth leadership, civic participation, and understanding of Ukrainian identity during wartime. The programme brought together young people from different regions of Ukraine to explore culture, historical memory, volunteering, and civic responsibility.

Participants completed an intensive practical training programme covering facilitation, group work, and the development of their own educational formats. Fourteen graduates were prepared to deliver workshops on Ukrainian identity in their communities and youth spaces, establishing a nationwide network of young facilitators equipped to share these practices across the country.

TRAININGS

ЄDNANNIA

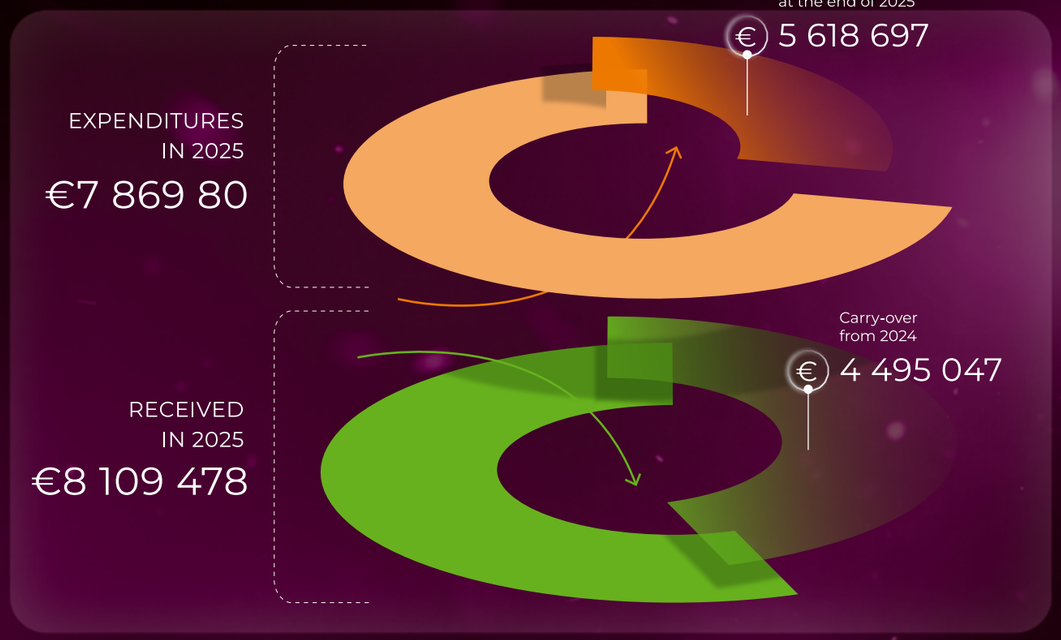
Read the Guide:

Training on Ethical Communication with Veterans

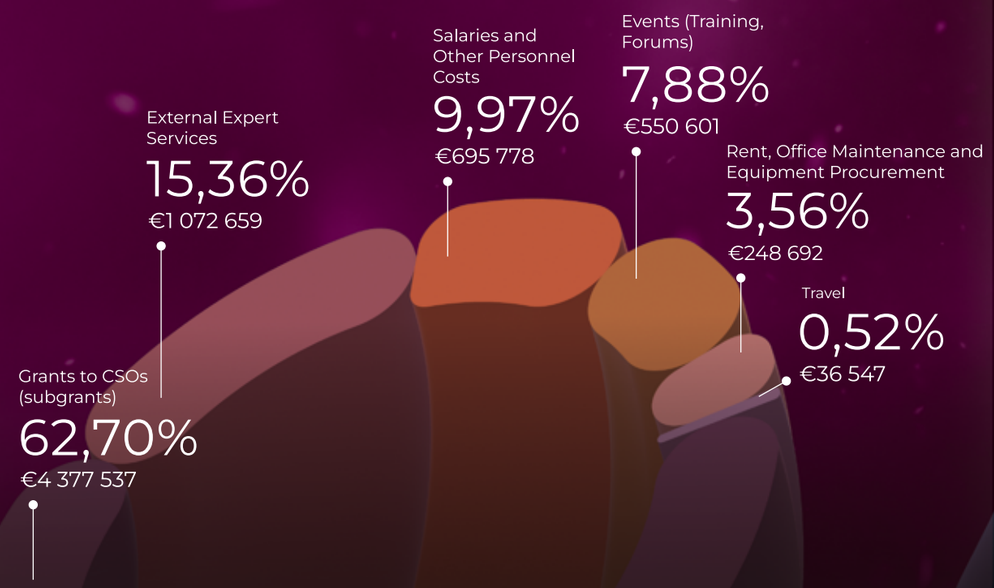
In January 2025, ISAR Ednannia, together with the **NGO Vesta**, organised a Training on Ethical Communication with Veterans, bringing together around 50 representatives of veterans' and pro-veterans organisations. Participants worked through practical case studies, discussed the principles of respectful communication, workplace reintegration, and approaches to creating supportive environments for veterans returning to civilian life.

A practical outcome of the training was the publication of a guide on ethical communication with veterans for civil society organisations, employers, and the wider public. The guide summaries the key principles of respectful interaction with veterans and serves as a practical resource for everyday use.

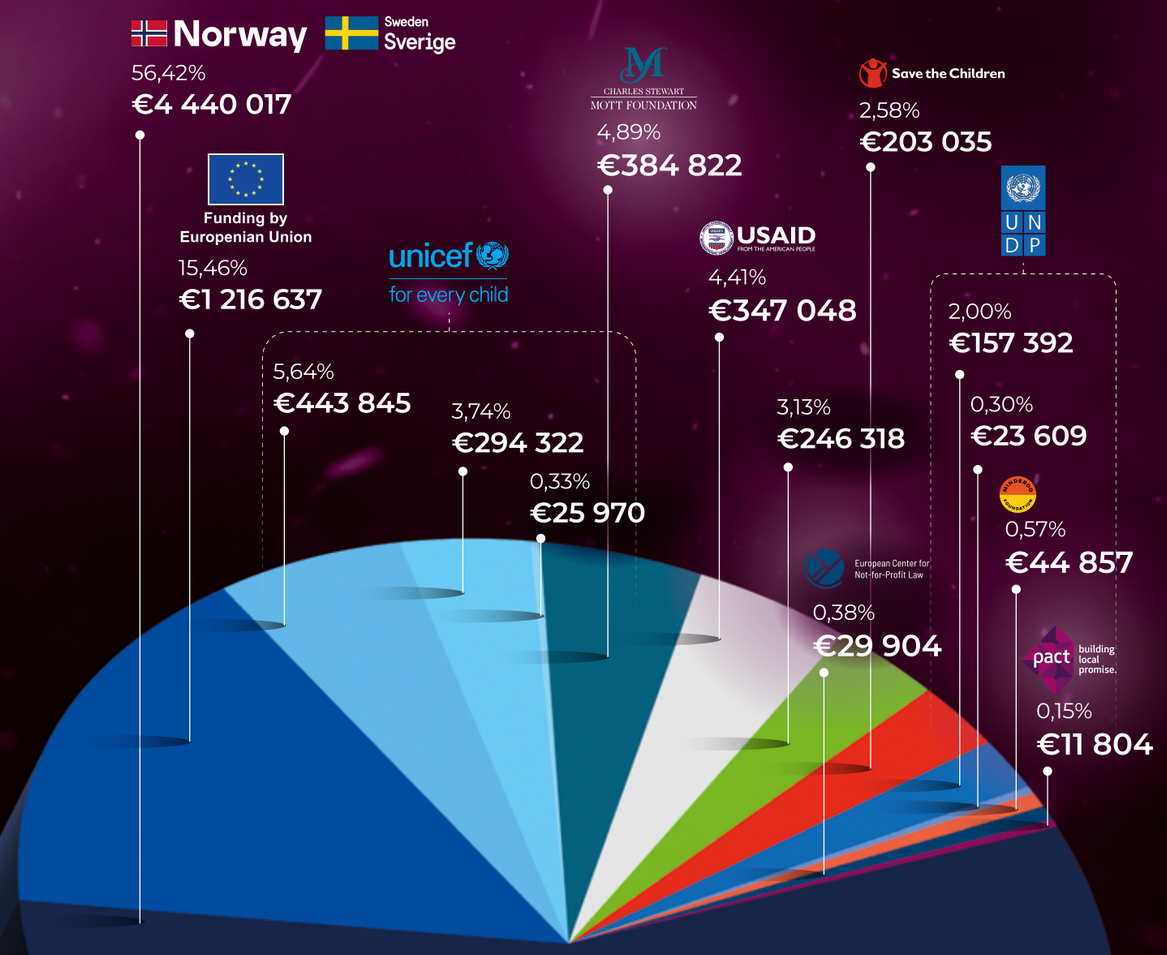
Total budget in 2025
€12 604 550



Breakdown of expenditures by category in 2025 (total expenditures: €7 869 580)



Breakdown of 2025 expenditures by programme (total expenditures: €7 869 580)



- **Norway & Sweden:** Askold & Dir Fund
- **EU:** EU Unity4Community
- **UNICEF:** Small Grants for Social Services for Families with Children and Early Intervention Services
- **UNICEF:** The Unlock Youth: Systemic Strengthening of Youth Services in Preparation for the EU Youth Guarantee in Ukraine Project
- **UNICEF:** Youth Capacity Development in Western Regions of Ukraine
- **C.S. Mott Foundation:** Strengthening Community Foundations
- **USAID:** Ukraine Civil Society Sectoral Support Activity
- **Private Donations:** People to People Programme
- **Save the Children & HLA:** SOLVE: Strengthening Organisations for Long-Term Impact
- **UNDP:** Support to CSOs in Frontline Territories
- **UNDP:** Youth of Ukraine: Generation of Resilience — 2030
- **Minderoo Foundation:** GROW: Grassroots Recovery & Opportunities for Wellbeing
- **ECNL / EU:** CSO Meter: Assessing the Environment for Civil Society in Ukraine
- **PACT:** Strengthening the Public Health Sector

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