



IREX IN UKRAINE: BUILDING SYSTEMIC RESILIENCE

IREX empowers people to learn, lead, and thrive in a changing world. With 30 years of continuous presence in Ukraine, IREX acts as a long-term partner to the government, the private sector and local partners to help leaders bridge divides, learners succeed in the world of work, and people realize their full potential in a technology, AI, and data-driven experiences, shifting from providing emergency response to building systemic change.

IREX'S IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Since 2022 alone, IREX Ukraine has worked with and supported **7,535 institutions** including:

17

national government agencies

1,254

local governments

85%

of municipalities in Ukraine

3,147

educational institutions

23%

of secondary schools in Ukraine

220

media outlets - national, regional and local

596

community organizations

920

micro and small businesses

2,142,000

people reached including:

788,600
veterans

254,000
youth

68,050
IDPs

10,120
educators

1,021,230
other

ECONOMIC GROWTH & VETERAN REINTEGRATION

IREX focuses on veterans, IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), and youth as essential human capital for Ukraine's recovery by aligning individual skills with evolving labor market needs through reskilling, career guidance, seed funding coupled with mentorship, and strategic employer partnerships.

61% of participants achieve career outcomes.

From Military Leadership to Systemic Community Change. After sustaining a severe injury in 2022, veteran Oleksandr Sushanin faced significant barriers to reintegration. Joining Leadership School became a catalyst for his impact at the municipal level. Oleksandr initiated a direct dialogue with Uzhhorod's mayor and business leaders to overcome hiring prejudices and launched a regional veteran business cluster. *"We aren't just asking for support: we are changing the community for the better,"* notes Oleksandr.



REFORMING EDUCATION AS A FOUNDATION FOR RECOVERY

IREX restores education infrastructure and embeds quality learning in national frameworks by integrating critical thinking into school curricula, supporting educators and parents to address mental and digital fatigue, and introducing career-oriented instruction. We ensure continuity in crisis and scale information resilience from classrooms to local governance, equipping community leaders to navigate wartime uncertainty.

75% of youth improved information consumption skills.

Media Literacy as a Resilience Tool. In Kyiv oblast, an IREX lesson inspired a typically withdrawn student to analyze questionable Telegram channels and present “What’s wrong with the news my dad reads” to his classmates. This sparked a chain reaction, prompting other students to audit information habits at their own homes. As teacher Valentyna Myronenko shared: *“Parents later said their children were explaining how to avoid fake news. This is no longer just a lesson: it’s a life skill that brings confidence, safety, and the freedom to think critically.”* What began in a single classroom and built information resilience across entire families. In Vinnytsia, educators trained municipal decision-makers to check credibility of sources and institutionalized media literacy within local administrative frameworks. These skills in governance ensure that cognitive defense becomes an essential element of long-term recovery.



EMPLOYING DIGITAL TOOLS TO DRIVE POSITIVE TRANSFORMATION

IREX introduces technological innovation where it is most critical for the country's survival and development. We modernize state infrastructure and processes by integrating AI, tech, and cyber solutions into strategically vital systems, from veteran service delivery to security and safety for individuals and institutions.

Every second veteran uses IREX supported e-services.

Virtual Reality (VR) training system for safer demining. IREX partnered with the Freedom 4.5.0 Foundation to launch a VR-driven course for pyrotechnic specialists at the Lviv State University of Life Safety. The simulator allows deminers to practice hazard detection in a realistic, risk-free environment. *“The result exceeded my expectations. The technical aspects, particularly the mechanics and physics, were implemented to a very high standard, making the VR simulator an exceptionally effective training tool,”* noted Vasyl Matukhno, Deputy Head of the Demining Department.



EMPOWERING YOUTH AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COHESION

IREX fosters social stability by engaging youth and internally displaced persons (IDPs) as active partners in local recovery. We build leadership and civic competencies, enabling young people and IDPs to collaborate directly with local authorities on responsive and transparent governance and policymaking.

84% of participants engage in local and national problem-solving.

Youth Leadership Builds Strong Institutions and Self-Reliant Individuals.

IREX-supported SpivDiia began as a temporary youth initiative and has grown into a platform delivering integrated legal, psychological, and employment support to 1.7 million people annually. By mobilizing youth changemakers and volunteers, the initiative created a supportive ecosystem that helps war-affected individuals become active community contributors. Ksenia, a relocated student who initially sought emergency psychological aid, used the project's mentorship to identify her strengths and launch her own speech therapy clinic, transforming from a beneficiary into a local employer.



IREX strengthens Ukraine’s resilience by transforming emergency response into reform. Partnering with national ministries, IREX institutionalizes progress through key policies in education, local governance, service provision standards, and veteran entrepreneurship. With a dedicated team operating across all regions, IREX ensures that today’s recovery efforts lay the foundation for a sustainable and self-reliant future.



IREX in Ukraine



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