

The Ukrainian Information Resilience Ecosystem: A Guide to Organizations Countering Disinformation and Avenues for Support

Executive Summary

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the civil society organizations and independent media projects at the forefront of Ukraine's defense against information warfare. Since 2014, and with intensified urgency following the full-scale invasion of 2022, Ukraine has developed a sophisticated and resilient ecosystem of non-governmental actors dedicated to identifying, analyzing, and countering foreign-led disinformation campaigns. These organizations represent a critical component of the nation's security infrastructure, protecting the integrity of its information space and that of its international partners.

The key actors in this ecosystem can be broadly categorized into three functional groups, each playing a distinct and complementary role:

1. **Dedicated Fact-Checking and Media Monitoring Hubs:** These organizations form the first line of defense, conducting rapid-response analysis and debunking of false narratives circulating in traditional and social media.
2. **Investigative Journalism and Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) Collectives:** These groups perform deep-dive investigations into systemic corruption, war crimes, and the operational mechanics of disinformation networks, providing accountability and high-impact exposés.
3. **Strategic Communications and Media Development Projects:** These entities focus on shaping the international information environment, providing verified news to global audiences, and strengthening the overall capacity and resilience of the Ukrainian media landscape.

A central finding of this report is the critical financial precarity of this sector. The majority of these organizations are heavily dependent on international grant funding, primarily from

Western governments and large foundations. This reliance creates a significant strategic vulnerability. The recent suspension of funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), for example, triggered an existential crisis for many leading outlets, with some losing over 80% of their operational budgets virtually overnight.¹ This event underscores the urgent need for funding diversification to ensure the long-term sustainability and independence of Ukraine's information defenders.

Public donations represent the most viable and immediate mechanism to build this financial resilience. By diversifying their funding streams, these organizations can mitigate the impact of external political and budgetary shocks, enhance their operational independence, and strengthen their connection with a global community of supporters. This report serves as an actionable directory, providing detailed profiles of key Ukrainian anti-disinformation organizations and a verified guide to their public donation channels, enabling strategic, secure, and impactful support.

The Information Frontline: Contextualizing Ukraine's Battle Against Disinformation

The Nature of the Threat

Ukraine is the primary target of a persistent, multi-faceted, and state-directed information war waged by the Russian Federation. This is not a peripheral issue but a central front in the ongoing conflict, designed to demoralize the Ukrainian population, erode international support, and justify military aggression. The campaigns are executed on an industrial scale, utilizing a vast network of hundreds of dedicated disinformation websites, state-controlled media outlets like RT and Sputnik, and coordinated inauthentic behavior on social media platforms.³

Analysis of these campaigns reveals a consistent set of core narratives. These include attempts to discredit Ukraine's security agreements with allied nations by framing them as a precursor to foreign occupation; fabricating reports of atrocities and criminal acts committed by the Ukrainian Defence Forces to undermine their legitimacy; spreading panic and social division regarding mobilization efforts, particularly concerning women; and systematically working to undermine the credibility of international partners and institutions providing aid to Ukraine.⁴ These narratives are not static but are dynamically adapted to exploit current events

and sow maximum confusion and distrust.

The Ecosystem's Evolution

The Ukrainian anti-disinformation sector did not emerge in 2022; it was forged in the conflict that began in 2014. The annexation of Crimea and the onset of war in the Donbas region served as the catalyst for the formation of a civil society-led information defense.

Foundational organizations like the fact-checking website **StopFake** and the open-source intelligence collective **InformNapalm** were established by volunteers, journalists, and academics who recognized the immediate threat posed by a coordinated Russian propaganda effort.⁵

This long-term exposure to high-intensity information warfare has had a profound effect. It has turned Ukraine into a real-world laboratory for democratic resilience. The constant pressure has forced these organizations to innovate at a pace unmatched elsewhere, developing world-class expertise in OSINT methodologies, rapid-response fact-checking, media monitoring, and data-driven analysis of disinformation campaigns.⁴ The skills and systems developed in Ukraine are not merely of local importance; they represent a transferable model of societal defense against a threat that now confronts democracies globally. Supporting these organizations is therefore not only an investment in Ukraine's security but also an investment in a global knowledge base for countering information warfare.

The Achilles' Heel: Financial Vulnerability

Despite its operational sophistication, the Ukrainian anti-disinformation ecosystem is characterized by profound financial fragility. The sector's funding model, which relies heavily on a small number of large Western governmental and institutional donors, constitutes a strategic liability. This dependency makes the entire information defense apparatus susceptible to the political and budgetary cycles of its allies. A single policy change in a foreign capital can have a more immediate and devastating impact on the sector's viability than a coordinated cyberattack.

The acute nature of this vulnerability was laid bare by the suspension of USAID funding. According to a study by the Institute of Mass Information (IMI), this single decision placed nearly 60% of all Ukrainian media outlets at risk of closure.¹ The impact was catastrophic for

some of the most respected investigative bodies.

Bihus.Info lost one-third of its budget, while **Slidstvo.Info** saw 82% of its funding disappear, forcing it to burn through savings and make urgent public appeals for support.¹ This event triggered a sector-wide crisis, prompting the Media Movement, a coalition of leading journalists and media NGOs, to issue a public call for businesses, philanthropists, and citizens to provide emergency and institutional support to fill the gap.²

This reveals that financial dependency is not merely a logistical challenge but a critical threat to the sector's independence. True resilience can only be achieved through a significant diversification of funding sources. Consequently, public and private donations from a broad base of supporters are not just a helpful supplement but a strategic imperative for ensuring the long-term operational sovereignty of Ukraine's information space.

Profiles of Key Anti-Disinformation Organizations Accepting Donations

The following section provides detailed profiles of leading Ukrainian organizations actively engaged in countering disinformation that have confirmed channels for public financial support. The profiles are organized by their primary function to allow for strategic allocation of resources based on desired impact.

Table 1: Consolidated Directory of Donatable Anti-Disinformation Organizations

Organization Name	Primary Focus	Website	Confirmed Donation Methods
StopFake	Fact-Checking	stopfake.org	Crowdfunding, Direct Support via Website
Detector Media	Media Monitoring, Disinformation Analysis	en.detector.media	Direct Support via Website, Crowdfunding

VoxCheck	Fact-Checking (Politics & Economics)	voxcheck.voxukraine.org	Direct Bank Transfer (UAH/EUR)
Slidstvo.Info	Investigative Journalism, War Crimes	slidstvo.info	Direct Bank Transfer (USD/EUR), Website Payments, YouTube Membership, Buy Me a Coffee
Bihus.Info	Investigative Journalism (Anti-Corruption)	bihus.info	Website Payments (Monthly/One-time), Patreon
InformNapalm	OSINT, Military Intelligence Analysis	informnapalm.org	Cryptocurrency (Bitcoin, Ethereum, USDT)
Texty.org.ua	Data Journalism, Disinformation Analysis	texty.org.ua	Liqpay, Patreon, Monobank, Buy Me a Coffee, PayPal, Direct Bank Transfer
Ukraine Crisis Media Center	Strategic Communications, International Outreach	uacrisis.org	Direct Bank Transfer
Euromaidan Press	English-Language News & Analysis	euromaidanpress.com	Patreon, SWIFT (USD/EUR), SEPA (EUR)
Ukraïner	Media Project, War Crimes Documentation	ukrainer.net	Direct Support via Website
Anti-Corruption Action Centre	Anti-Corruption	antac.org.ua/en	International Grants, Private

(AntAC)	Advocacy		Donations ⁶¹
Nashi Hroshi Lviv	Regional Investigative Journalism	lviv.nashigroshi.org	Direct Support via Website ³⁰
Hromadske Radio	Independent Public Radio	hromadske.radio	Direct Support via Website ³⁰
Ukrainskyi Tyzhden	Weekly News Magazine	tyzhden.ua	Not specified in materials
Slovo i Dilo	Fact-Checking, Accountability	slovoidilo.ua	Not specified in materials
Chytomo	Cultural & Literary Media	chytomo.com	Direct Support via Website ³⁰

Dedicated Fact-Checking and Media Monitoring Hubs

These organizations serve as the immune system of the information space, rapidly identifying and neutralizing false narratives before they can achieve widespread traction.

StopFake

- **Mission and Core Activities:** StopFake is one of Ukraine's most established and internationally recognized fact-checking organizations. Launched in March 2014 by faculty, alumni, and students of the prestigious National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, its mission is the verification and refutation of disinformation and propaganda about events in Ukraine.⁵ What began as a volunteer-run website has expanded into a multi-platform operation that includes a television show broadcast on 30 local channels, a weekly radio program, and a significant social media presence. The organization is also a formal third-party fact-checker for Meta, playing a direct role in identifying false content on Facebook.⁵
- **Key Projects and Impact:** StopFake's rigorous methodology and early-mover status

have earned it a reputation as a "gold standard" in the field.⁵ It is a recipient of the Deutsche Welle BOBs award and a Free Media Pioneer Award from the International Press Institute.⁵ In recognition of its vital role, the U.S. Library of Congress announced it would digitally archive the StopFake website as a unique historical record of the information war.⁵ As a verified signatory of the Poynter Institute's International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), StopFake is committed to the highest standards of nonpartisanship, transparency, and methodological rigor.⁵

- **Avenues for Support:** StopFake's funding model is a hybrid of institutional grants and public support. It has been financed by crowdfunding and direct contributions from readers alongside grants from foundations and governments.⁵ The organization maintains a page on its website outlining how individuals can provide financial support to its operations.¹²

Detector Media

- **Mission and Core Activities:** Detector Media is a leading Ukrainian media watchdog and analytical center with a history stretching back to 2004 (under its original name, "Telekritika").¹⁴ Its work is strategically organized around three core pillars: identifying propaganda and disinformation, analyzing the quality and standards of media content, and building the media literacy and resilience of the Ukrainian public.¹⁵ The organization conducts continuous, systematic monitoring of prime-time television news and has developed sophisticated methodologies for analyzing disinformation narratives across social media platforms and encrypted messengers like Telegram.¹⁶
- **Key Projects and Impact:** A key output is the "DisinfoChronicle," a project that provides a real-time, documented chronicle of Kremlin propaganda narratives since the full-scale invasion began.¹⁸ Detector Media also plays a crucial role in strengthening the broader media ecosystem. In partnership with the Institute of Mass Information, it developed the "Map of Recommended Media," a vital tool that helps guide Ukrainian audiences and international donors toward high-quality, editorially independent news sources.²⁰ Its expert analysis and advocacy have also been influential in the development of Ukrainian media legislation.¹⁴
- **Avenues for Support:** Detector Media actively solicits public support to maintain its independence. A prominent "Підтримати нас" (Support Us) button is featured across its websites, directing users to a donation page.¹⁵ The organization is also a named beneficiary in broader crowdfunding campaigns aimed at supporting Ukrainian media.²²

VoxCheck (Project of VoxUkraine)

- **Mission and Core Activities:** VoxCheck is the dedicated fact-checking arm of the VoxUkraine think tank, an organization focused on economic and policy analysis. Launched in 2016, VoxCheck applies rigorous standards to verify the statements of Ukrainian politicians and to debunk disinformation related to economics, governance, and reforms.²³ It operates under a transparent "click and check" methodology, ensuring that all sources and reasoning are publicly accessible, and is a verified signatory of the IFCN code of principles.²⁵
- **Key Projects and Impact:** The project maintains a public database containing thousands of fact-checks of political statements and refutations of viral fakes.²⁵ As an official partner in Meta's Third-Party Fact-Checking Program, VoxCheck's analysis directly informs content moderation on one of the world's largest social networks, helping to limit the spread of harmful disinformation within the Ukrainian segment.²⁵
- **Avenues for Support:** As a non-profit, non-governmental organization, the parent entity VoxUkraine is funded through a mix of international grants, charitable contributions from individuals, and crowdfunding campaigns.²⁵ The organization's website provides detailed information for direct donations, including bank account details for transfers in both Ukrainian Hryvnia (UAH) and Euros (EUR).²⁷

Investigative Journalism and Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) Collectives

These groups conduct in-depth, long-form investigations that expose the systemic roots of corruption and the covert architecture of information warfare, holding powerful actors to account.

Slidstvo.Info

- **Mission and Core Activities:** Slidstvo.Info is an independent investigative journalism agency renowned for its hard-hitting exposés on high-level corruption, financial crimes, and abuses of power.⁸ Since the 2022 full-scale invasion, its mission has expanded significantly to include frontline reporting, the identification of Russian military personnel implicated in atrocities, and the systematic documentation of war crimes committed on Ukrainian soil.⁸
- **Key Projects and Impact:** The agency's investigations have a proven track record of creating real-world impact, prompting official proceedings by state bodies such as the

National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP).²⁸ Slidstvo.Info is a prime example of the financial precarity facing the sector; the suspension of U.S. grant funding eliminated 82% of its budget, placing the organization's continued existence in jeopardy and forcing an urgent public appeal for support.¹

- **Avenues for Support:** In response to its funding crisis, Slidstvo.Info has established multiple accessible channels for public donations. The organization accepts one-time or recurring payments through its website, channel memberships on YouTube, and the Buy Me a Coffee platform. Crucially for international supporters, it also provides full SWIFT details for direct bank transfers in both U.S. Dollars and Euros, signaling its capacity to handle institutional-level donations.⁸ Its plight has also been highlighted by partner organizations like the Lviv Media Forum, which promotes direct donations to the agency.³⁰

Bihus.Info

- **Mission and Core Activities:** Bihus.Info, operated by the NGO "TOM 14," is one of Ukraine's most prominent anti-corruption investigative media outlets, known for its high-production-value video investigations.³¹ The team, comprising journalists, lawyers, and IT specialists, focuses on uncovering corruption schemes, particularly within the defense sector and among high-ranking public officials.¹ Beyond investigations, they also develop digital tools to empower citizens with mechanisms for civic oversight of the government.³¹
- **Key Projects and Impact:** The work of Bihus.Info has led to significant results, including dozens of court cases and inspections, and is credited with saving millions of Euros in taxpayer funds.³¹ The outlet has built a large and engaged audience, making it one of the most popular Ukrainian socio-political channels on the fundraising platform Patreon.³³ It was also severely affected by the USAID funding freeze, which cut one-third of its operational budget.¹
- **Avenues for Support:** Bihus.Info has a well-developed public fundraising strategy. Its website features a dedicated "donate" page that allows for both one-time contributions and recurring monthly subscriptions.³⁴ It also receives significant support through its Patreon page³³ and is frequently included in broader donation campaigns for Ukrainian independent media.³⁰

InformNapalm

- **Mission and Core Activities:** InformNapalm is an international volunteer-led open-source intelligence (OSINT) collective founded in March 2014.⁶ Its core mission is to collect, analyze, and publish evidence of Russian military aggression. The group specializes in using OSINT techniques to identify specific Russian military units, equipment, and personnel involved in the wars against Ukraine, Georgia, and Syria.⁶ It often works in collaboration with hacktivist groups to obtain and analyze leaked data from Russian state and military entities.⁶
- **Key Projects and Impact:** InformNapalm has created a massive, interactive database of Russian aggression, systematizing the findings of more than 1,700 separate OSINT investigations.⁶ Its pioneering research into the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was utilized in the definitive report by the international investigative group Bellingcat.⁶ The organization's practice of publishing the personal data of Russian military personnel, including pilots involved in the bombing of Syrian cities and prison staff accused of torturing Ukrainian POWs, has been so effective that it has drawn direct threats from the Kremlin.⁶ This symbiotic relationship between OSINT collectives and journalistic outlets is a key feature of the ecosystem; groups like InformNapalm often provide the initial raw intelligence that is then verified, contextualized, and amplified by professional newsrooms to create high-impact stories.
- **Avenues for Support:** As a decentralized, volunteer-driven network, InformNapalm relies on direct public support. Its donation methods reflect its agile and security-conscious nature. The organization's website provides wallet addresses for donations in several major cryptocurrencies: Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH), and Tether (USDT TRC-20).³⁸ This approach is characteristic of modern OSINT groups, allowing for support from a global, tech-literate base while maintaining a degree of transactional privacy.

Texty.org.ua

- **Mission and Core Activities:** Founded in 2010, Texty.org.ua is an independent media outlet that stands at the intersection of traditional journalism and advanced data science.⁴⁰ The organization specializes in data journalism, using large datasets, machine text analysis, and compelling visualizations to investigate complex subjects. Its core areas of focus include tracking Russian disinformation narratives, exposing corruption, and analyzing the social and environmental consequences of the war.⁴⁰
- **Key Projects and Impact:** Texty.org.ua has received numerous international accolades for its innovative work, including a 2020 Sigma Award for "Best interactive news web page" for its project "Fresh Disinfo from Russia".⁴⁰ It is an active member of the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) and the European Data Journalism Network.⁴⁰ The impact of its work was highlighted when its investigation into U.S.-based individuals and organizations amplifying Kremlin propaganda narratives prompted a backlash from

high-profile figures, demonstrating the project's ability to reach and influence international discourse.⁴³

- **Avenues for Support:** The organization's website explicitly states that it is an independent entity that operates without paid news or intrusive advertising, making reader support essential for its work.⁷ It has developed a sophisticated and diverse array of donation channels to cater to different supporter preferences. These include monthly donations via the Ukrainian payment processor Liqpay, as well as international platforms like Patreon, Buy Me a Coffee, and PayPal. For larger or institutional contributions, it also provides full details for direct bank transfers.⁴⁰ This wide range of options reflects the organization's maturity and its effort to build a broad, international community of supporters.

Strategic Communications and Media Development Projects

These organizations work to inform global audiences, provide resources for foreign media, and strengthen the overall Ukrainian media sector.

Ukraine Crisis Media Center (UCMC)

- **Mission and Core Activities:** The Ukraine Crisis Media Center (UCMC) was established in 2014 as a strategic communications hub to provide the international community with verified, timely, and professional information about events in Ukraine.³⁵ It functions as a crucial intermediary for foreign journalists, experts, and policymakers. Its key departments include a daily press center, an international outreach division that produces materials in six languages, and a specialized Hybrid Warfare Analytical Group.⁴⁵
- **Key Projects and Impact:** UCMC plays a pivotal role in shaping the Western media discourse on Ukraine by hosting daily press briefings with military and government officials and producing its own analytical content, such as the "Explaining Ukraine" and "Ukraine in Flame" video series.⁴⁵ Its work ensures that international reporting is grounded in accurate, on-the-ground information, directly countering Russian efforts to control the global narrative.
- **Avenues for Support:** UCMC is structured to receive support from a variety of sources, including international partners and direct contributions. The organization's website features a dedicated "DONATE" page that provides the necessary bank details for making non-repayable financial contributions to support its statutory activities.⁴⁵ The provision of these formal banking details indicates a capacity to process donations from

both individuals and institutions.

Euromaidan Press

- **Mission and Core Activities:** Euromaidan Press is an English-language online newspaper that was launched by Ukrainian volunteers in 2014.³⁵ Its primary mission is to serve as a reliable source of independent news and analysis on Ukrainian affairs for a global, English-speaking audience. The organization was founded specifically to counter the wave of Russian disinformation that accompanied the Euromaidan Revolution and to promote democratic values.⁴⁹
- **Key Projects and Impact:** For over a decade, Euromaidan Press has provided a consistent and valuable stream of news, op-eds, and in-depth analysis from a Ukrainian perspective, filling a critical gap in the international media landscape. The outlet is registered as a non-governmental organization and is sponsored by a combination of reader contributions and institutional support from partners like the International Renaissance Foundation.⁴⁹
- **Avenues for Support:** Euromaidan Press has a well-structured and accessible donation system designed for an international audience. Its "Donate" page offers several distinct methods: recurring support through Patreon, one-time online donations, and, for larger contributions, international bank transfers via SWIFT (for U.S. Dollars and Euros) and SEPA (for Euros).⁵⁰

Ukraïner

- **Mission and Core Activities:** Ukraïner began in 2016 as a cultural-anthropological media project aimed at showcasing the rich diversity of Ukraine to both domestic and foreign audiences.⁵² Following the 2022 invasion, it rapidly pivoted to become a leading media outlet covering the war. Leveraging a large network of over 800 volunteers globally, it produces and translates materials into 15 languages, reaching millions of readers and viewers.⁵²
- **Key Projects and Impact:** A flagship wartime project is "Ukraine Resists," which sends teams to newly liberated towns and cities to document Russian war crimes and record the stories of civilian resistance. This work serves as both a historical record and a powerful tool for boosting national morale.⁵² Another key initiative, "Brave Cities," aims to counter Russian propaganda in occupied territories by creating content that reassures residents they have not been abandoned by the rest of Ukraine.⁵²
- **Avenues for Support:** While the primary source material did not contain direct donation

links, Ukrainer is a beneficiary of the Lviv Media Forum's "Support the Media" campaign, which lists the organization's direct donation page: <https://ukrainer.net/donate/>.³⁰

Niche, Regional, and Advocacy-Focused Organizations

Beyond the major national players, a host of smaller, specialized, and regional organizations form the connective tissue of the information resilience ecosystem. These groups provide targeted anti-corruption investigations, high-quality local news, and policy advocacy that strengthens the foundations of the entire sector.

Anti-Corruption Action Centre (AntAC)

- **Mission and Core Activities:** Founded in 2012, the Anti-Corruption Action Centre (AntAC) is a non-governmental organization that serves as one of Ukraine's leading anti-corruption watchdogs.⁶¹ AntAC focuses on policy advocacy, pushing for structural reforms to law enforcement and anti-corruption agencies, and watchdogging public procurement.⁶²
- **Key Projects and Impact:** AntAC was instrumental in pressuring for the creation of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU).⁶¹ The organization has successfully advocated for numerous national laws that established and strengthened Ukraine's anti-corruption infrastructure.⁶³ Since the 2022 invasion, its members have been involved in both direct military service and campaigning for military aid and analyzing wartime legislation.⁶¹
- **Avenues for Support:** AntAC is funded by a combination of European and U.S. government sources, private international funds, and donations from Ukrainian citizens and companies.⁶¹

Nashi Hroshi Lviv (Our Money Lviv)

- **Mission and Core Activities:** Nashi Hroshi Lviv is a regional investigative journalism project focused on exposing corruption and ensuring accountability in public procurement and governance within the Lviv oblast.
- **Key Projects and Impact:** As a regional outlet, it provides crucial local oversight that is often beyond the scope of national-level organizations, strengthening accountability at

the municipal level.

- **Avenues for Support:** The organization is a beneficiary of the Lviv Media Forum's "Support the Media" campaign, which provides a direct link for public donations: <https://lviv.nashigroshi.org/donate/>.³⁰

Hromadske Radio

- **Mission and Core Activities:** Hromadske Radio (Public Radio) is an independent radio station providing news and analysis. It is committed to providing unbiased information and fostering public discourse.
- **Key Projects and Impact:** The station is recognized for its high standards of journalism and is included in the Institute of Mass Information's "Quality List" of transparent and responsible media outlets.⁵³
- **Avenues for Support:** Hromadske Radio is part of the Lviv Media Forum's public donation campaign, with a direct support link available here: <https://hromadske.radio/about#donate>.³⁰

Ukrainskyi Tyzhden (The Ukrainian Week)

- **Mission and Core Activities:** *Ukrainskyi Tyzhden* is an illustrated weekly news magazine that covers politics, economics, and culture, aimed at a socially engaged, Ukrainian-speaking audience.⁶⁴
- **Key Projects and Impact:** The magazine is considered one of Ukraine's high-quality media outlets and is included on the Institute of Mass Information's "Quality List".⁵³ It plays a significant role in shaping the intellectual environment by providing deep historical and political context to current events, thereby helping readers critically assess information and resist manipulation.⁶⁵
- **Avenues for Support:** The magazine is listed as a media partner for various civil society projects.⁶⁶ However, a direct public donation link was not identified in the available materials.

Slovo i Dilo

- **Mission and Core Activities:** Slovo i Dilo (Word and Deed) is a portal that focuses on

fact-checking and political accountability. It is known for tracking the promises of politicians and public officials to assess their fulfillment.

- **Key Projects and Impact:** The outlet is recognized for its journalistic standards and is included in the Institute of Mass Information's "Quality List".⁵³ It serves as a key resource for data-driven analysis of governance and has aggregated important data on topics such as the scale of international aid to Ukraine.⁶⁷
- **Avenues for Support:** A direct public donation link was not identified in the available materials.

Chytomo

- **Mission and Core Activities:** Chytomo is an independent media outlet dedicated to covering Ukraine's book industry and broader cultural landscape. It provides news, reviews, and analysis on literature and publishing.
- **Key Projects and Impact:** By focusing on the cultural sphere, Chytomo helps to strengthen Ukrainian identity and provides a platform for authors and intellectuals who are central to the national discourse.
- **Avenues for Support:** Chytomo is a participant in the Lviv Media Forum's "Support the Media" campaign, which provides a direct link for public donations on its website: <https://chytomo.com/>.³⁰

Ancillary and State-Affiliated Actors

To provide a complete overview of the information defense landscape, it is necessary to include key state-affiliated bodies and major media NGOs that, while not primarily funded by public donations, play a crucial systemic role.

Center for Countering Disinformation (CCD)

- **Role and Structure:** The Center for Countering Disinformation is an official working body of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine.⁴ Its mandate is to function at the national level to detect, analyze, and counter information threats, particularly disinformation campaigns originating from hostile states. It regularly

publishes reports and debunks specific fakes circulating in the information space.⁴ As a state entity, the CCD is funded through the national budget and there is no evidence that it accepts public donations. Its role is distinct from, but complementary to, the work of the civil society organizations profiled in this report.

Institute of Mass Information (IMI)

- **Role and Structure:** The Institute of Mass Information is one of Ukraine's oldest and most respected media-focused NGOs, having been in operation since 1996.⁵³ It serves as a vital support hub for the entire media sector. Its activities include monitoring freedom of speech, defending the rights of journalists, conducting research on the media landscape, and fighting propaganda.⁵³ IMI is a key Ukrainian partner for major international press freedom organizations, including Reporters Without Borders and Freedom House.⁵³
- **Funding and Support:** While the research does not indicate a direct public donation channel for IMI itself, its role as a grant-maker is critical.⁵⁴ With funding from partners like the European Union, IMI provides essential mini-grants to struggling regional and local media outlets to help them survive the financial hardships of the war.²⁰ The existence of these state and quasi-institutional actors demonstrates the development of an informal "whole-of-society" model for information defense. The landscape is not merely a collection of disparate NGOs, but a complex system where state bodies like the CCD provide national-level analysis, support hubs like IMI provide funding and quality control, and the frontline organizations conduct the operational work. The direct collaboration between IMI and Detector Media on the "Map of Recommended Media," which IMI then uses as a criterion for awarding grants, is a clear example of the functional linkages that make this ecosystem more than the sum of its parts.²⁰

Strategic Recommendations for Supporters

Due Diligence and Donor Security: Navigating the Risks

The urgent need for funding in Ukraine has unfortunately been exploited by fraudulent actors.

Law enforcement and consumer protection agencies have issued warnings about a rise in scams using the humanitarian crisis as a pretext to solicit money.⁵⁶ To ensure that contributions are secure and achieve their intended impact, prospective donors should adhere to a strict due diligence protocol.

- **Verify the Organization:** Before donating, conduct independent research on the organization. The entities profiled in this report have been vetted against the available source material. For others, consult resources like BBB's Give.org, Charity Watch, or Charity Navigator.⁵⁶ Be particularly cautious of organizations that have appeared only recently.⁵⁷
- **Beware of High-Pressure Tactics:** Legitimate charities will accept a donation when the donor is ready. Be suspicious of any request that creates a sense of extreme urgency or pressure.⁵⁸
- **Scrutinize Payment Methods:** Be wary of requests for payment via unconventional methods such as gift cards, cash, or money wires.⁵⁷ Whenever possible, use a credit card for donations, as this method typically offers greater consumer protection against fraud.⁵⁶
- **Authenticate Digital Presence:** For online appeals, especially on social media, perform basic verification. Use reverse image search tools (like Google Images or Yandex) on profile pictures to see if they are stock photos or belong to other individuals. Check the age of the social media account; a brand-new account created solely to solicit funds is a significant red flag.⁵⁸

A Portfolio Approach to Maximizing Impact

Given the diverse and interconnected nature of Ukraine's information resilience ecosystem, a strategic supporter should consider a "portfolio" approach to funding rather than concentrating support on a single organization. By diversifying contributions across the different functional categories, a donor can help strengthen the entire system, creating a more holistic and resilient defense.

A balanced portfolio could include:

- **Support for Rapid Debunking:** A contribution to an organization like **StopFake** or **VoxCheck** supports the critical, day-to-day work of neutralizing viral falsehoods and providing the public with timely, accurate information.
- **Support for Deep Investigations:** A contribution to an outlet like **Slidstvo.Info** or **Bihus.Info** funds long-term, resource-intensive projects that expose the systemic corruption and criminality that often underpins and enables information operations.
- **Support for Innovative Analysis:** A contribution to a data journalism group like

Texty.org.ua or an OSINT collective like **InformNapalm** invests in the cutting-edge analytical capabilities required to identify emerging threats, map disinformation networks, and uncover incontrovertible evidence of hostile actions.

This diversified approach ensures that support is allocated to both immediate tactical needs (debunking) and long-term strategic objectives (accountability and intelligence gathering), maximizing the overall impact of the contribution.

Understanding Funding Mechanisms: Direct vs. Intermediary Support

Donors have two primary pathways for providing support: direct contributions to the organizations profiled in Section 3, or contributions to intermediary funds that aggregate and distribute aid.

- **Direct Support:** Donating directly provides the organization with the most immediate and unrestricted funding, allowing them to allocate it to their most urgent operational needs. This is the preferred method for donors who have identified a specific organization or functional area they wish to support.
- **Intermediary Funds:** For donors who may lack the time or capacity to conduct due diligence on individual organizations, or who wish to support the sector more broadly, intermediary funds offer an effective alternative. These funds are managed by reputable foundations or media support groups that have deep expertise in the region. They vet local media outlets and distribute grants based on need and quality. Notable examples include:
 - **The Ukrainian Media Fund:** Established by the Gazeta Wyborcza Foundation (Poland) and Nordic media partners, this fund provides direct financial and equipment support to Ukrainian journalists and publishers in the war zone.⁵⁹
 - **Keep Ukraine's Media Going (GoFundMe):** A consortium including The Fix, Media Development Foundation, and other European partners runs this campaign to provide funds to a list of Ukrainian media, including Detector Media.²²

Finally, it is crucial to recognize that the act of public donation carries a strategic value beyond its monetary worth. A core objective of Russian propaganda is to promote a narrative of "Ukraine fatigue"—the idea that the world has grown tired of the conflict and that international support is collapsing.⁵² Another key narrative attempts to delegitimize Ukrainian civil society by portraying it as entirely dependent on, and controlled by, Western governments.⁶⁰ A broad, transparent, and global movement of public donations directly and powerfully refutes both of these narratives. It provides a tangible and measurable demonstration of enduring, grassroots international solidarity, thereby strengthening the legitimacy, independence, and morale of the very organizations on the front line of the

information war.

Джерела

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