



# ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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# ABOUT US

**PEN Ukraine** is a cultural and human rights organization that unites Ukrainian journalists, writers, scholars, publishers, translators, and human rights activists. PEN Ukraine is one of 139 national centers of PEN International.

The activity of PEN Ukraine in wartime is aimed at:

- supporting the Ukrainian literary community
- informing international audiences about Russia's war against Ukraine
- documenting the experiences that the people of Ukraine are living through today
- documenting Russia's crimes against Ukrainian media and culture
- restoration of cultural life in Ukraine
- establishing international cultural cooperation
- replenishment of library collections

The organization includes 186 authors. In 2025, **Larissa Babij, Volodymyr Byehlov, Maksym Butkevych, Marta Hosovska, Orysia Hrudka, Artur Dron, Arina Kravchenko, Rostyslav Kuzyk, Olesya Mamchych, Oleksandr Mymruk, Bohdana Romantsova, Alla Tyutyunnyk** joined the community of PEN Ukraine.

4 authors cancelled their memberships.

# PEN UKRAINE IN 2025

**186**

authors in the community of PEN Ukraine

more than

**30,000**

kilometers of Ukrainian roads

**€100 000**

of fellowships for 20 Ukrainian authors

**365 000**

UAH for PEN to purchase new books for Ukrainian libraries

**15 500**

English-language books in the 3rd donation from Book Aid International

**73**

events at PEN Ukraine Space

**2**

books published within the PEN Ukraine Library series

more than

**1000**

mentions of the work of PEN Ukraine in the media

more than

**130**

partners

# ACHIEVEMENTS

On **January 31**, PEN Ukraine was awarded the **Chytomo Prize** as the Ambassador of Ukrainian Book “for systematic efforts to establish connections between the Ukrainian literary community and opinion leaders abroad, for giving voice to Ukrainian authors, advocating Ukrainian culture and implementing effective work models for Ukrainian writers and journalists, both free and imprisoned by the Kremlin, to be heard far beyond Ukraine.” On behalf of the PEN community, journalist, human rights activist, and PEN Ukraine’s author, Alim Aliev accepted the prize.

The monetary reward of USD 3,000 was transferred by PEN to the Dobrochynets volunteering community for the purchase of the necessary equipment for the Ukrainian military.



On **November 22**, in Uppsala (Sweden), PEN Ukraine and the Institute of Mass Information (IMI) received the **Monismanien Prize** that is awarded to organizations and individuals who have made great efforts to defend freedom of speech. Jakob Norrhall, the President of the Monismanien Foundation by Kenne Fant, said that the Institute of Mass Information and PEN Ukraine had been chosen for their “exceptional journalistic achievements during the ongoing war in Ukraine.”

The prize was accepted by Institute of Mass Information director Oksana Romaniuk and PEN Ukraine President Volodymyr Yermolenko at a gala ceremony in Sweden.



*The Monismanien Prize is a Swedish award that has been around for 50 years. This year marks its anniversary. It is an award for those who fight against authoritarianism and oppression and for freedom of speech. Today, it is important for us to emphasize that there is no freedom of speech without freedom of the people. There is no free speech without the lives of those who are the bearers of that speech, — said **Volodymyr Yermolenko** in his speech. — That is why it is so important today to protect the lives of Ukrainians, the Ukrainian state, and Ukrainian culture. And to honor those who gave their lives for the lives of others. Today, Russia is bringing death to Ukraine — the death of freedom throughout the world. And Ukraine is defending that life in freedom.*



# PEN UKRAINE SPACE

*14a Lukyanivska St., Kyiv*

PEN Ukraine Space has been functioning in Kyiv since August 2022. It's become one of the most active cultural and educational spaces in the city. About **200 events** — presentations, discussions, poetry readings, literary and music home parties, film screenings, book clubs, exhibitions, and workshops — have already taken place here. All the events at PEN Space are aimed at charitable support for Ukrainian Defense Forces. In 2025, the Space has also become the venue for gala ceremonies of the Vasyl Stus Prize, Yuri Shevelyov Prize, and the Essay Days Festival.

For more information about the events at PEN Space, please visit the page “Cultural projects. PEN Ukraine Space.”



# PEN UKRAINE WEBSITE

*<https://pen.org.ua>*

*Editors — Eliza Zhdanova, Diana Delyurman  
Technical support — Nadiia Borkovska, Oleksii Arykov*

The PEN Ukraine team presented the new website of the organization in 2022. It's aimed to not only inform about the institution's and PEN community's main news and projects, but also to spread the word about the situation in Ukraine and Russian crimes against the media and culture worldwide and share important texts and opportunities with authors and artists.

On the PEN Ukraine website, you can read articles, essays, reportages, interviews, and poetry in the **Publications** section. The **Freedom of Speech** section offers information about the cases of Ukrainian authors imprisoned by the Kremlin and constantly updated monitoring of losses among the people of culture and journalism. PEN Ukraine authors' short essays can be found in the **Opinions** section.

The PEN Ukraine website's pages have achieved a reach of **4.2 mln** on Google as of 2025. **122 news articles** and **66 publications** were published on the website in 2025.

The yearly number of visits to the PEN Ukraine website from Google equates to **83,000**.

**42** customized newsfeeds for PEN Ukraine members.

# PEN VAN

In 2025, we continued traveling across Ukraine. During 2025, PEN Ukraine's administrative team and authors made **12 trips** to the frontline and liberated territories of Ukraine, delivered over **8,500 books** to libraries in 9 regions and covered over **30,000 kilometers** of Ukrainian roads.



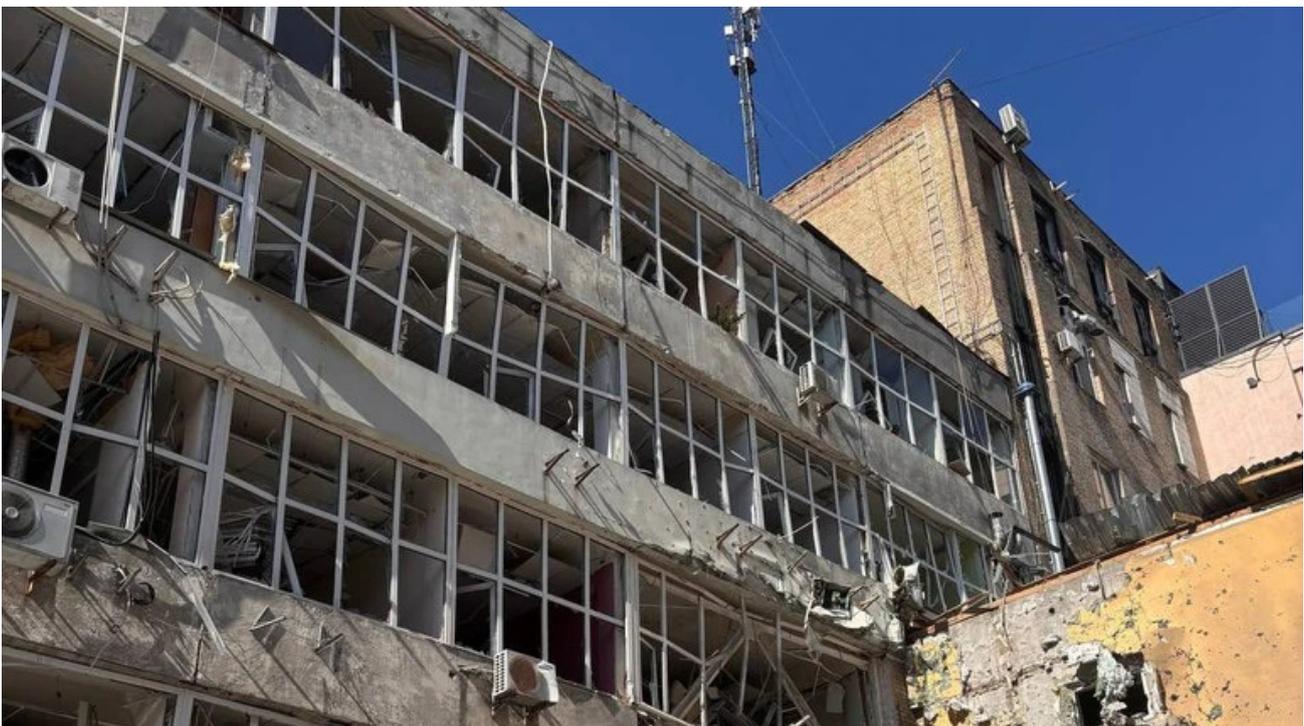
# BOOK WAREHOUSE

Since 2023, PEN Ukraine has been running a warehouse to collect books and complete parcels for Ukrainian libraries. Most books for the Unbreakable Libraries project are kept there. Every month, our team and dozens of volunteers from around the globe complete book boxes for Ukrainian libraries damaged by Russia's genocidal war. In the morning of July 4th, 2025, the warehouse was damaged by Russian shelling.



*Fortunately, there were no people in the warehouse at the moment of the attack. The strike damaged the ceiling and windows. There were around 200 book boxes — this equates to approximately 11,000 copies. **We are assessing the damage and the condition of books**, said **Maksym Sytnikov**, PEN Ukraine's executive director.*

After the damage assessment, it became apparent that the building was no longer usable. In October, we moved to a new warehouse, provided to us by Volodymyr Nikitenko, author, screenwriter, producer, and founder of an animation studio.



# SUPPORTING THE DEFENSE FORCES OF UKRAINE

- In February 2025, authors and members of PEN Ukraine's administrative team — Volodymyr Yermolenko, Tetyana Ogarkova, Kateryna Kalytko, Svitlana Povaliaieva, Volodymyr Sheiko, Diana Delyurman, Eliza Zhdanova, Maksym Sytnikov — visited Kherson, where they met the defenders of the city: soldiers of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, National Guard of Ukraine, Marine Corps, and combat medics. During the meeting, the authors transferred books to the soldiers.
- In April 2025, PEN Ukraine gave the monetary reward from the Chytomo Prize (USD 3,000) to the Dobrochynets volunteering community (Kharkiv) for the purchase of the necessary equipment for the Ukrainian military.
- In August 2025, PEN Ukraine purchased and transferred a laptop and a plasma display to the staff of the 4th separate heavy mechanized brigade who perform combat mission in the direction of Kupyansk and Lyman. This equipment will help them to organize their work and coordinate their actions.
- In September, we started a fundraiser to purchase vehicles for the Special Forces Center Omega. Since then, we have raised 138,000 UAH. These funds were partly used to purchase a car which we delivered in November. The rest will be used to purchase the next vehicle. The fundraiser is still active.
- Throughout 2025, PEN Ukraine also continued to raise funds for the military during charitable events at PEN Ukraine Space, being especially actively involved in the fundraisers of Volodymyr Yermolenko and Tetyana Ogarkova. In a year's time, 17 vehicles were purchased and transferred to the Defense Forces of Ukraine.



# PEN UKRAINE PROGRAMS

## SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN LITERARY COMMUNITY

*Coordinator — Alisa Bondarenko*

- The fellowship program from PEN Ukraine and The Nansen Support Programme for Ukraine is aimed at supporting Ukrainian writers and journalists to help document the experience of the war that Ukrainian society has been living through since 2014. Unlike 2024, the program reached not only non-fiction, but also fiction writers.

**20 fellowships amounting to €5000 each** were granted within the program. As a result of the program, every fellow should publish the non-fiction book prepared within the program, in a Ukrainian publishing company, no later than November 2026.

The 2025 fellows of the program are:

- **Arenev, Volodymyr** (fantasy book *Musicians. Iron Wolf* (“Музиканти. Залізний вовк”) — reinterpreted plots of Ukrainian folk stories that depict life in wartime Ukraine from different angles)
- **Belianskyi, Pavlo “Pashtet”** (novel about the defense of Kyiv in the first days of the Russian-Ukrainian war)
- **Birzul, Olha** (graphic novel based on the author’s real Signal cor-

respondence with her husband *As Soon as You Ask Me Out for a Rave, I Will Never Refuse* ("І коли ти скажеш: 'Пішли на рейв,' — я вже ніколи не відмовлюсь"))

- **Bohomaz, Olha** (ecology non-fiction book tentatively titled *Sanctuaries in the Firing Line* ("Заповідники на лінії вогню"))
- **Gruver, Anna** (fiction novel *Meeting Ida* ("Зустріти Іду")) about the desperate will to live on the edge between mortal danger and love, about challenges that young Ukrainians face, about solitude and desire for intimacy)
- **Hubkina, Ievheniia** (*Northern Saltivka: The Crime Scene* ("Північна Салтівка: Місце злочину")) — a book about the architecture and routine of Ukraine's biggest uptown)
- **Denysenko, Larysa** (stories of the female survivors of sexual violence during Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine)
- **Derevianko, Pavlo** (short story collection written after 2022/02/24 that, through the form of fantastic metaphor, comprehends different aspects of the war and its influence on human nature — an experience of a civilian who became a soldier and combatant)
- **Dron, Artur** (*St. Panteleimon Hospital* ("Лікарня святого Пантелеймона")) — a book of poetry stories of wounded combatants who underwent rehabilitation in the Unbroken center)
- **Yehorushkina, Kateryna** (*A Christmas Adventure Along the Invisible Track* ("Різдвяна пригода на невидимій колії")) — children's adventure novel with elements of fantasy and literary reportage)
- **Ilyukha, Yuliia** (*Blue House* ("Синій дім")) — a novel about personal and collective trauma as a means of resisting oblivion and female experience of living through the war)
- **Karpiuk, Vasyl** (*An Unusual Easter in Carpathians* ("Незвичайний Великдень у Карпатах")) — a short novel about childhood in wartime)
- **Kuryko, Vira** (collection of literary reportages tentatively titled *How Death, Memory, and Love Change the Landscape* ("Як смерть, пам'ять і любов змінюють ландшафт"))
- **Lazutkin, Dmytro** (poetry collection *Spokesman* ("Речник")) about the experience of war and reconsideration of one's own mission during personal transformation amidst current events)
- **Lyr, Yevhen** (*Tavria: Traces on the Wind* ("Таврія: Сліди на ві-

тру”) — illustrated travel guide highlighting the topic of Ukrainian Tavria’s history and identity)

- **Matevoshchuk, Iurii** (essay collection tentatively titled *Drone Operator* (“Оператор БпЛА”) about the author’s personal experience of defending Ukraine within the ranks of the Ukrainian Defense Forces)
- **Osadko, Ganna** (*Tango in the Kitchen: The Story of a Woman Who Could Live Afterwards* (“Танго на кухні: історія жінки, яка навчилася жити після”) autobiographical novel about the personal loss, war and return to life)
- **Rafeyenko, Volodymyr** (*Memories of the Living. Stories from Donetsk* (“Спогади про живих. Донецькі історії”) — documentary essay collection)
- **Sarnatska, Alina** (*A Bad Book About the War* (“Погана книжка про війну”) — book about the author’s personal experience as a Ukrainian combat medic, the transformation of a civilian in wartime, physicality, loss, strength, and vulnerability)
- **Spirin, Ievhen** (*Under the Sky Full of Guided Aerial Bombs* (“Під небом з КАБами”) — a novel about combat medics who live in an underground hospital near the frontline)

In 2025, the submissions were evaluated by a Jury consisting of **Tetyana Teren, Bogdana Romantsova, Rostyslav Semkiv, Bogdan Kolomyichuk, Mariya Tytarenko, Ivan Andrusyak, Bernhard L. Mohr, Olya Shamshur, Iryna Shuvalova.**

- PEN Ukraine also granted **6 fellowships**, generally amounting to **UAH 220,000**, within the PEN Ukraine Emergency Fund.

# LITERARY AND VOLUNTEERING TRIPS TO DE-OCCUPIED AND FRONTLINE TERRITORIES OF UKRAINE

*Coordinators — Anna Vovchenko, Anna Shevchenko, Tetyana Ogarkova, Volodymyr Yermolenko, Maksym Sytnikov*

The initiative began in June 2022 with a trip of PEN authors to Kharkiv. Since then, Ukrainian and international authors and journalists join every trip to frontline and de-occupied territories of Ukraine.

The project is aimed at:

- giving the sense of context and understanding of life circumstances in nowadays Ukraine
- facilitating networking and fostering new initiatives among intellectuals, cultural managers, civic activists, volunteers, servicepeople, and local authorities
- providing aid from authors and journalists to meet military and humanitarian needs in the region
- collecting stories of local people who survived occupation or siege of their cities
- supporting damaged or ruined libraries within the Unbreakable Libraries campaign
- documenting Russia's crimes against Ukrainian culture

During 2025, PEN Ukraine organized **12 volunteering trips** to the Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Poltava, Sumy, and Mykolaiv regions.

**49 PEN Ukraine employees and authors**, along with international writers and journalists, participated in the trips.

**55 events** at libraries and meetings with servicepeople and volunteers took place within the program. We also organized literary and music charity parties in Kher-son, Dnipro, and Kharkiv.

**Supported by the International Renaissance Foundation.**



# UNBREAKABLE LIBRARIES

*Coordinator — Anna Shevchenko*

In autumn 2022, PEN Ukraine launched an indefinite support program for Ukrainian libraries affected by Russia's war against Ukraine.

According to the data from the National Yaroslav Mudryi Library of Ukraine, about **1,000 libraries** have been totally (131 libraries) or partly (750 libraries in urgent need of renovation) ruined since the beginning of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine. During the time of the full-scale invasion, Ukrainian libraries have lost over 1.5 million books.

Being supported by foreign partners, Ukrainian publishers, and concerned Ukrainians, PEN Ukraine collects and sends new books in Ukrainian and English to libraries in the liberated and frontline territories. In 2025, publishing houses such as **Thames & Hudson, Dukh-i-Litera, Vivat, organizations such as BookAid International, English PEN, Ukrainian Association of Professional Photographers, charitable organization Operation Change, and Adam Bethlehem** became partners of the program.

In 2025, PEN Ukraine has purchased and delivered over **1,000** books for a total amount of **UAH 365,000** to Russia-damaged libraries.

The program covered the Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Kherson, Chernihiv, Sumy, Dnipro, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhzhia regions.

In 2025, PEN Ukraine also delivered books to military units such as the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, National Guard of Ukraine, the Marine Corps, and combat medics in Kherson, the 115th brigade of the Territorial Defense Forces (Zaporizhzhia direction), and the Special Forces Center Omega.

PEN Ukraine also transferred books to military lyceums and institutes such as Lviv Lyceum of the Kruty Battle Heroes, Odesa Navy Lyceum of Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovainyi, Odesa State University of Internal Affairs, Odesa Navy Institute, Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs, military lyceums in Kami-anets-Podilskyi and Chernihiv.

Among the recipients of the books were also civilian educational, cultural, and social facilities such as Catholic Gymnasium of the St. Martin de Porres, cultural and civic center Shelter Plus (Kryvyi Rih), Habilitation Center (Lviv), centers for community and civic society development in Novomykolaivka, Berestyn, and Prolisne, and Education Department of Konotop City Council.

In 2025, PEN Ukraine continued the partnership with Book Aid International. Overall, we have received over **67,500 books in English** from leading British publishing houses to our warehouse in Kyiv.

In November 2025, PEN Ukraine received its third donation of **15,554 books** from BookAid International, including children's books, adult fiction books and workbooks for studying English.

Like the previous donations, this one included mostly children's and young adult literature, workbooks for studying English, fiction and non-fiction books for adults. These were the titles from leading British publishing houses such as **Bloomsbury, Cambridge University Press, Hachette, HarperCollins, Oxford University Press, Pan Macmillan, Pineapple Lane, Simon & Schuster, Yale University Press**, etc.

40,000 books have already been delivered to libraries in the Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Kyiv, Odesa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, Donetsk, Dnipro, Kropyvnytskyi, Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, Poltava, Mykolaiv, Volyn, and Kherson regions.

The initiative is implemented jointly with Book Aid International, PEN International, English PEN, and Pineapple Lane Publishing House. This year, Ukrposhta joined the initiative by providing a discount for delivering books to Ukrainian libraries.

SUPPORT THE PROGRAM



<https://pen.org.ua/en/support-the-purchase-of-books>



# **DOCUMENTING RUSSIA'S WAR CRIMES AGAINST UKRAINIAN MEDIA AND CULTURE**

## **MONITORING OF RUSSIA'S WAR CRIMES AGAINST UKRAINIAN CULTURAL ACTIVISTS AND JOURNALISTS**

*Editors — Olha Olkhova, Diana Delyurman*

In 2025, we continued documenting violations of the authors' rights in Ukraine and on territories temporarily occupied by Russia. We focused primarily on journalists who cover Russia's war against Ukraine or have been arrested in the occupied territories and in Russia, and people of culture killed by Russia's war against Ukraine. We also continued tracking Russia's crimes against the Ukrainian media and losses among the cultural community.

The project of monitoring losses among the cultural community was significantly upgraded in 2025 by clearly writing the assessment criteria, creating an expert group of representatives of several relevant organizations to verify the cases, and launching the new website Ukrainian Culture Makers Killed by Russia. Organizations such as INDEX: Institute for Documentation and Exchange, Memorial: Platform for Memory, Raphael Lemkin Society, Ukrainian Institute of National Memory, Human Rights Centre ZMINA, HeMo: Ukrainian Heritage Monitoring Lab, and Human Rights and War Memorialization Centre of KSE have joined the project coordinated by PEN Ukraine.

The monitoring materials are available in Ukrainian and English and are compiled based on the news from human rights organizations and government bodies. They serve as the framework for our newsletters for the international PEN community and reports used during our advocacy work abroad.

**As of December 2025, the deaths of 121 Ukrainian and foreign journalists and those of 251 Ukrainian cultural activists have been registered in the monitoring.**

# NEWSLETTER: RUSSIA'S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

*Authors — Hanna Ustynova, Diana Delyurman, proofreading — Christopher Atwood*

This online English-language newsletter for the international PEN community, human rights organizations, and diplomatic institutions includes information about Russia's crimes against Ukraine, Ukrainian media and culture, along with important materials in English and other foreign languages concerning the situation in Ukraine and Ukrainian culture.

**9 issues** were prepared during 2025.

**Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).**

## STOP WAR IN UKRAINE WEBPAGE

*<https://war.pen.org.ua>*

*Editors — Hanna Ustynova, Diana Delyurman*

Based on PEN Ukraine's monitoring of Russia's crimes against the media and cultural activists in Ukraine, the page contains links to important materials and informational sources, petitions, statements and appeals, compilations of publications about Ukraine in English, and books by Ukrainian authors recommended for translation.

# MEDIA PROJECTS OF PEN UKRAINE

**Proper Names** is a joint project of Espresso TV Channel and PEN Ukraine, hosted by Myroslava Barchuk. It is a series of brief conversations with intellectuals, opinion leaders, writers, artists, religious figures, and human rights activists. This is an expert view on both contemporary events and social phenomena and the historical context that frames them.

The project continued in 2025. Project author and presenter **Myroslava Barchuk** said that the idea of the program remained unchanged since the beginning of the full-scale invasion and consisted of comprehending the cultural legacy that had been erased from generations of memory and reconsidering important phenomena, figures, and events destroyed or forbidden by the empire.

**20 episodes** of the program were released in 2025.

**Supported by the Sushko Foundation.**



In 2025, PEN Ukraine and Chytomo media continued the work on the special project **Words and Bullets**. This is a series of conversations with Ukrainian writers and journalists who chose to take up arms or become volunteers after the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion. The project title refers to the arms used by the project protagonists prior to February 24, 2022, and the arms they had to take up since the beginning of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine.

In 2025, 6 stories were published within the project, namely those of **Alina Sarnatska, Roman Budanov, Iryna Bobyk, Yurii Matevoshchuk, Liza Zharikova, Serhii Demchuk.**



During the year 2025, we, in cooperation with Suspilne Culture and Telegraf, published the essays of our authors and leading Ukrainian intellectuals, related to the **focus topic of PEN Ukraine** — Our Being in the World. 21 essays were released during 2025.

Our Being in the World was the fifth topic reflected upon by members of PEN Ukraine and guest authors. During the previous years, we worked on topics such as Bridges Instead of Walls (2018/2019), What Shall Give Us Power (2019/2020), Culture on Standby (2020/2021), and Reclaiming Our Names (2021/2022).

**Volodymyr Yermolenko**, philosopher, writer, and President of PEN Ukraine, describes the focus topic's relevance and importance as follows:

//

*For the sake of our own being, we must struggle now for having our voice heard. For having our face recognized, our stories considered, and our land admitted as righteously ours, without dissent. Still, while striving to being discovered by other cultures, we also discover other cultures for ourselves. While striving to being discovered by the world, we discover the world for ourselves. We struggle for the fact that the world's existence is impossible without Ukraine's existence being understood. We struggle for not our mere existence solely, but for our own place on the world map.*

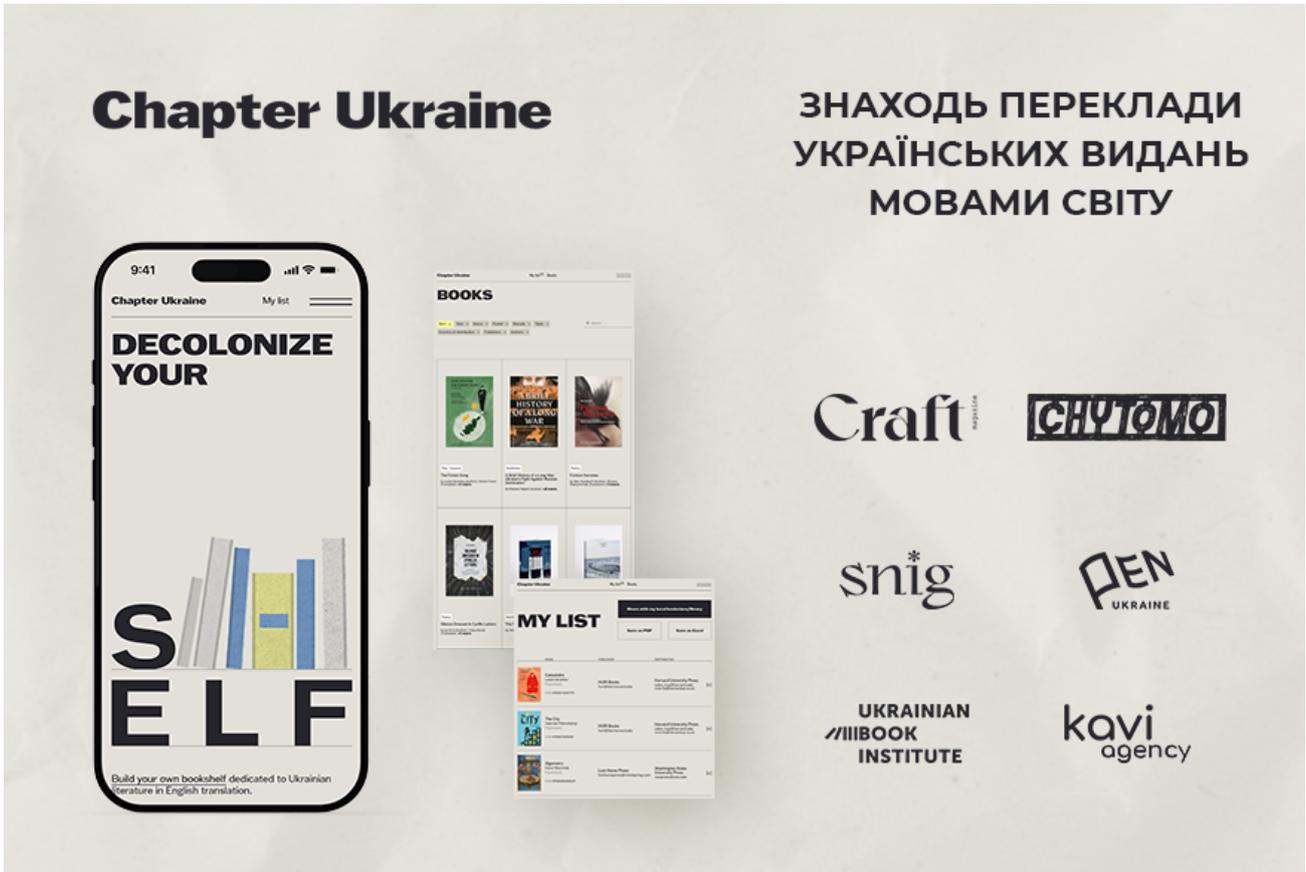
**Coordinator of the focus topic — Anna Vovchenko**



**The best books of 2025 according to PEN Ukraine.** For 8 years, members of PEN Ukraine have compiled an annual list of the year's best books. The list traditionally included prose and poetry books, non-fiction, children's literature, art, and humanitarian books. In 2025, it totaled **252 books.**



In 2025, PEN Ukraine became partner of the digital platform **Chapter Ukraine** that provides full information about Ukrainian books published in foreign translations. The project was designed by the **Craft media** and **Chytomo media** in partnership with **Snig.digital**, **Kavi.Agency**, **PEN Ukraine**, and **Ukrainian Book Institute**. At the moment, the platform includes lists of books in English, German, Spanish and French languages.



# PROJECTS RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH

**Letters to Free Crimea** is a joint campaign of the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, PEN Ukraine, and the Centre for Human Rights ZMINA

The initiative is aimed at encouraging Ukrainians and foreigners to send letters of support to Crimean political prisoners illegally held by Russia. These letters also constitute a message to the Russian penitentiary management that every citizen of Ukraine is important, and that society closely watches their detention conditions.

According to the information from the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, **224 political prisoners from Crimea are being held in Russian captivity** as of December 2025. **133 of them are Crimean Tatars.**

Since 2023, **4411 paper letters and e-mails** have been received within the campaign.



*Why should we write letters? First, it's a message to the Russian penitentiary management: our political prisoners are remembered and cared for. Thus, they can't but reckon with them at least at a minimally acceptable level. Second, this is support that gives strength to carry on the struggle. Third, every letter may create a new wave of information that prevents you from forgetting an imprisoned person. I'm here with you today because people refused to keep silent. They wrote letters, spread information, called my name in international arenas — and it worked, says **Leniye Umerova**, Crimean Tatar activist released from political imprisonment.*



Natalka Cmoc, Ambassador of Canada to Ukraine, attends *Letters to Free Crimea* exhibit.

On **November 15**, PEN Ukraine and the Center for Civil Liberties co-organized the annual human rights event for **Empty Chairs Day**. Held on Sofivska Square in Kyiv, the event was aimed at paying tribute to imprisoned, captivated, and missing artists and human rights activists.

A symbolic installation of empty chairs with the names of imprisoned, captivated, and missing authors, artists, human rights, and media activists who are not able to be with us due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, lasting since 2014, was set up during the action. The chairs were partly filled with the plaques 'Name Unknown' because many names of imprisoned, captivated, and missing Ukrainians remain unidentified.

Writers, journalists, human rights advocates, and formerly illegally imprisoned activists, namely **Maksym Butkevych, Dmytro Khyliuk, Leniye Umerova, Yuliia "Tayra" Paievska, Vladyslav Yesypenko**, participated in the event. Plaques with their names hung on the chairs during the previous Empty Chairs Days. This year, however, they were with us as a symbol of hope for the return of every illegally imprisoned Ukrainian citizen.

The event was moderated by Maksym Sytnikov, PEN Ukraine's executive director, and Oleksandra Romantsova, executive director of the Center for Civil Liberties.



*We must emphasize that Russia should respect the rules of detention of both POWs and illegally imprisoned civilians. If you see an empty chair at home, in the office or in a café, please remember those who are in captivity. I know nothing worse than captivity. Life is worth nothing without freedom. And everyone can contribute to their exchange, said **Yuliia Paievska**.*



# STATEMENTS AND APPEALS

- Statement of PEN Ukraine's Executive Board in support of Vitaly Portnikov **(January)**.
- PEN Ukraine's address to writers worldwide **(March)**.
- Statement on the broadcast suspension of Voice of America and financial suspension of Radio Liberty **(March)**.
- The civic society's statement on the liquidation of the autonomy of anti-corruption institutions **(July)**.
- PEN Ukraine's statement on cancelling the presentation of the book The Voices of BLM in Lviv **(September)**.
- Ukrainian literature and culture should be heard around the world: Resolution of the IX Regional Meeting of PEN Centres **(November)**.

# CULTURAL PROJECTS

Smart Foundation and PEN Ukraine continued the series of meetings with Ukrainian intellectuals at the modern Smart Prostir Library in the Poltava region. In 2025, the participants of the project were **Myroslava Barchuk, Larysa Voloshyna, Bogdana Romantsova, Iaroslava Strikha, Mariia Tytarenko, Volodymyr Yermolenko, Tetyana Ogarkova, Natalka Vorozhbyt.**

**Coordinator — Alisa Bondarenko.**



On May 29 — June 1, PEN Ukraine presented a special program within the Book Arsenal Festival. The program bore the title *Cardiogram of Translation* and included **7 events** during which we reflected on how the search for new words, which can bear witness to the experience of living through the war, often leads us into a waiting zone: there we cherish hope that the souls of our diaries and photo reports will resonate in other people's souls. But can we be sure that the cardiogram of translation will work?

Among the events that took place within the program, there was a conversation with laureates of the Drahomán Prize, a presentation of the book *Free Voices of Crimea. Stories of Crimean Hostages of the Kremlin*, a conversation with Norwegian writers and journalists, a literary and music performance titled *Lost in Translation: Letters of Love and War*, a conversation about the culture of Lithuania, and *Women Looking at War*: a presentation of Victoria Amelina's documentary book.

**Coordinator — Alisa Bondarenko**

**Curatorial text: Alisa Bondarenko, Hanna Ustynova.**



In 2025, PEN Ukraine continued supporting festivals, namely by becoming a partner of festivals such as **«Litera»** (Horishni Plavni, Kremenchuk), **Book Space** (Dnipro), **«Protasiv Yar»** in memoriam of Roman Ratushnyi (Kyiv), **VydelkaFest** (Odesa), **PORT** (Odesa), **Translatorium** (Khmelnyskyi), **The Land of Poets** (Lviv).

# VII ESSAY DAYS FESTIVAL

Curator — Anna Vovchenko. Coordinator — Alisa Bondarenko

On December 11-14, the 7th Essay Days Festival within the Yuri Shevelyov Prize took place at PEN Ukraine Space and Sense Bookstore in Kyiv. Books shortlisted for the 2025 Prize were available to purchase during the festival.

The Essay Days Festival was organized by PEN Ukraine and Kyiv Mohyla Business School (kmbs). Anna Vovchenko, translator and cultural manager, became the curator of the festival in 2025.



*Essay is probably the most mature literary genre for me — the youngest one, but still the most mature. Sometimes young people have to grow mature very fast when facing challenging circumstances that require their immediacy, swiftness, ingenuity, and — often for the very first time in their lives — ability to understand themselves in all their individual autonomy and immensity of their own potential. That's when they refuse to create what Yuri Shevelyov used to call 'foolish goodness', i. e. art for art's sake, apolitical art which exists beyond the context of the author's life and becoming. At the same time, only when mature, can an author actively accept the fact that everything is politics and context and create, therefore, not topical but immortally relevant senses. This is what a strong essay is. This is what Ukraine nowadays is, — wrote [Anna Vovchenko](#).*

The festival program included discussions, lectures, and conversations with Ukrainian essayists. Thus, they talked about cultural decolonization, a new concept of the global era, and originality in art.

Day one of the festival was marked by presentations of Ukraine's ex-foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba and Ukrainian chef Volodymyr Yaroslavsky's book **Diplomatic Cuisine of the Wartime** and the latest issue of the Telegraf artbook. Telegraf artbooks, produced by the Projector Publishing, are, jointly with Suspilne Culture, partners of PEN Ukraine's focus topic Our Being in the World.

Day two was dedicated to the topics of culture and national memory. In her

lecture, literary scholar Vira Ageyeva spoke about national memory in culture and analyzed the progress that has taken place in this sphere since Yuri Shevelyov's time. Next went the conversation on cultural decolonization between journalist and TV presenter Myroslava Barchuk and journalist Anna Lodygina, who shared their thoughts about how we change our own vision of Ukrainian culture and history when free from colonial optics and how we learn to design our own identity in the light of the new perception of our art and intellectual tradition.

A focus on the history of the Ukrainian essay genre is already a tradition for the festival. Day three was marked by a lecture by the folklorist Olena Chebaniuk about how essays relate to folklore. Later, participants of a conversation titled *Writing as Emotional Memory* spoke about essays of firsthand experience.

The presentation of Volodymyr Yermolenko and Tetyana Ogarkova's book of philosophical reportages, *Life on the Edge*, took place on day four.



# III PROPYSY FESTIVAL

*Curator — Ostap Slyvynsky. Coordinator — Alisa Bondarenko*

III Propysy workshop festival for emerging authors took place on **August 28–31** in Ivano-Frankivsk. The festival was co-organized by PEN Ukraine, the Warm City platform and the program of reading promotion Textura.

On day one, participants of the professional program attended workshops of Taras Prokhasko and Bogdana Romantsova. Later, the emerging authors had individual sessions with their mentors — namely writer Taras Prokhasko, playwright Nataalka Vorozhbyt, and literary critic Bogdana Romantsova.

The evening was marked by the poetry event *Practice Writing in Poetry*. Participants of the previous years' festivals — Orysia Hrudka, Rostyslav Kuzyk, Sofia Lenartovych, Anna Yutchenko — read their works. A film screening of *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* with Roman Malynovskyi ended the day.

Day two began with a tour of Ivano-Frankivsk Drama Theater and Iryna Chuzhynova's lecture about drama in different theater systems. Afterwards, the participants attended lectures and workshops of Iryna Slavinska, Nataalka Vorozhbyt, and Lyuba Ilnytska.

In the evening, the presentation of the book *How to Write a Book. A Condensed Creative Writing Course* from STRETOVYCH Publishing took place at Sens Bookstore in Promprylad. The house was full. The day ended with a traditional participants' literary reading titled Overflow.

On day three, the participants attended a lecture by Tetyana Teren, a workshop by Ihor Bilyts, and continued individual sessions with their mentors. In the evening, they attended the performance of Felix Austria at Ivano-Frankivsk Drama Theater.

After that, a public conversation with Iryna Tsilyk, moderated by the festival participants Maksym Khrystencko and Anastasiia Kharabuha, took place at Sense Bookstore in Promprylad.

The last festival day was marked by the workshops of Bohdana Romantsova, Iryna Tsilyk, and Yurii Andrukhovych. A remarkably popular event with Yurii Andrukhovych, moderated by the festival participants Dariia Bondar, Sofia Holovko, and Yelyzaveta Kozlovets, took place at Sense Bookstore in Promprylad.

At the closing ceremony, the finalists shared their groundwork and impressions.

The festival ended with a concert by the band La Blur (Ivano-Frankivsk).

Partners of the festival: Promprylad, Ivano-Frankivsk Drama Theater, The Land of Poets Festival, and Sense Bookstore in Promprylad.

Information partners: Chytomo, Suspilne Culture, Radio Culture, Suspilne Ivano-Frankivsk, Sensor Media.

**The festival was supported by the International Renaissance Foundation.**



# LACEWORK

*Coordinators — Anastasiia Levkova, Mariya Tytarenko, Olena Pavlova*

In 2025, the 6th season of the Lacework project included meetings with authors in the regions of Kyiv (Bohuslav, Pereiaslav), Lviv (Drohobych, Stryi), Subcarpathia (Sniatyn, Nadvirna), Cherkasy (Kaniv, Korsun-Shevchenkivskiy), Rivne (Sarny, Varash).

Participants of the project: **Roksolana Sviato, Oleh Kryshchuk, Olha Bohomaz, Roman Holubovskiy, Khrystia Venhryniuk, Haska Shyyan, Serhii Pantik, Petro Yatsenko, Anastasiia Levkova, Anatolii Dnistrovyy, Pavlo Korobchuk, Olena Pavlova, Mariia Tytarenko.**

In 2025, the project covered 5 regions, 10 towns, and included 13 authors. 12 events took place within the project.

PEN Ukraine launched the *Lacework* project in 2019. The project is mainly aimed at enhancing the prestige of reading in Ukraine's district centers, introducing residents of Ukrainian towns to contemporary Ukrainian literature, and including them in one cultural field along with big cities.



*Culture can sew the country together, and for that reason, it must be accessible for everyone who needs it. The Lacework project is, as it has always been, focused on minor towns with few literary events. Among our authors, there were people deeply involved in humanitarian volunteering to meet the needs of the military, people who lost their sons at war, who have husbands at the frontline, who have written books about Bakhmut after many a trip to the hottest spots, people whose pro-Ukrainian parents remained in Mariupol after having survived tragedies there. These authors share their thoughts and their experiences: this helps their fellow citizens in villages and minor towns to open up to people through comprehending the latest events, says **Anastasiia Levkova**, curator of the project.*

**The project's sixth season was implemented with support from the International Renaissance Foundation.**

# EVENTS AT PEN UKRAINE SPACE

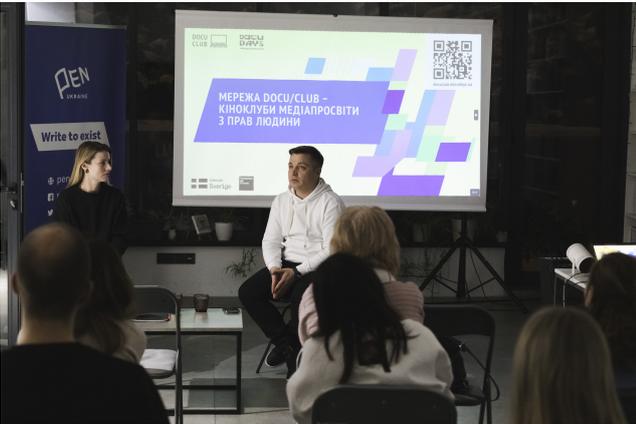
*Coordinators — Iryna Kondratenko, Anastasiia Yevstratenko*

In 2025, **73 events** — discussions, presentations, poetry readings, concerts, photo exhibitions, book clubs, workshops, music home parties, film screenings — took place at PEN Ukraine Space (Kyiv, Lukyanivska St., 14a)

This year, we organized **8 literary and music charitable home parties** and initiated a tradition of regional parties dedicated to different Ukrainian cities — Kharkiv Sounds, Vinnytsia Sounds, Transcarpathia Sounds. We also organized philosophy and music parties.



In 2025, the Docudays UA film club continued its work at PEN Ukraine. **9 documentaries** from the Docudays archive were screened as part of the project. **Coordinator — Alisa Bondarenko.**



In 2025, the PEN Book Club continued its work. 10 book talks were held at our space involving **Olha Kari, Anna Markhovska, Iryna Tsilyk, Arten Chapeye, Anastasiia Yevdokymova, Khrystyna Kulakovska, Ievhenii Stasinevych, Bogdana Romantsova, Roksolana Sviato, Anna Lodygina, Iaroslava Strikha, Ganna Uliura, Maryna Ponomarenko, and Andrii Ovcharuk. Curator — Anna Vovchenko.**



Additionally, we organized a **sketching workshop** with Iryna Vale, a **psychological role-playing game** “Kaidash and His Family” with Valentyna Merzhiyevska and Mariia Didenko, and a **poetry collage workshop** with Alisa Bondarenko at our space.



Together with the Vytoky project, we organized **3 events** related to preserving Ukrainian traditions at our space.



We organized new events in English involving foreign speakers in partnership with **UkraineWorld**. Among our guests, for example, were **Christopher Atwood, Terrell Jermaine Starr, David Rieff, Timothy Snyder**. Additionally, we invited our audience to a public discussion with the participation of representatives of PEN centers who visited Ukraine within the IX Regional Meeting of PEN Centers, namely Enrique Yeves (PEN Spain), Maja Gudim Burheim (PEN Norway), Laura Mintegi (PEN Basque), Tomica Bajsic (PEN International, WIPC), Said Khatibi (PEN Slovenia), Ira Wells (PEN Canada), and Vincent Engel (PEN Belgium).



In 2025, we also opened exhibitions of **Mykola Leonovych, Roman Chornomaz, Dmytro Kozatskyi, Bohdan Fedorchenko, Valerii Puzik, Anhelina Hafynets, and the Ukrainian Association of Professional Photographers** at our space.



An audience of about **3,000 people** attended our events.

All events at PEN Ukraine Space are aimed at supporting the Armed Forces of Ukraine or volunteering organizations. Thus, we supported Volodymyr Yermolenko and Tetyana Ogarkova's fundraisers for the military, Special Forces Center Omega, Azov combat medics, Special Unit of the Defense Intelligence of Ukraine, and 13th brigade of the National Guard of Ukraine "Khartia".

**Supported by the International Renaissance Foundation.**

# THE OUTPOST FOR THE FUTURE

*Coordinators — Anastasiia Levkova, Maksym Sytnikov*

In 2025, we continued the cultural and educational project for cadets and students of military schools and institutes **The Outpost for the Future: Think, Impact, Prevail.**

This is a joint initiative of PEN Ukraine and the Center for Communication and Content Security. It's aimed at increasing the young military's awareness of Ukrainian culture. The project is going to constitute a series of cadets and students' meetings with contemporary Ukrainian intellectuals, writers, journalists, and human rights defenders. The students are also provided with the best books of contemporary and classic Ukrainian literature.

Our authors talked to the students of Lviv Lyceum of the Kruty Battle Heroes, Odesa Navy Lyceum of Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovainyi, Odesa State University of Internal Affairs, Odesa Navy Institute, Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs, and military lyceums in Kamianets-Podilskyi and Chernihiv.

Authors such as **Anastasiia Nikulina, Kateryna Yegorushkina, Polina Kulakova, Pavlo Derevianko, Svitlana Taratorina, Sofia Cheliak, Olya Rusina, Petro Yatsenko, Serhii Pantiuk, Valerii Korol, Hryhorii Liubovets, Vakhtang Kebuladze, Anna Vovchenko, Tetyana Ogarkova, Khrystyna Morozova, Maryna Hrymych, Andrii Khaietskyi, Maksym Sytnikov, Fiona Greenland, and Ariel Rose.**



**Supported by the International Renaissance Foundation.**

# PEN UKRAINE LIBRARY SERIES

## Free Voices of Crimea

Compilers — Olesya Yaremchuk and Inna Bereznitska, editor — Anastasiia Levkova.  
Publisher — Vivat Publishing House



Back in 2021, PEN Ukraine, The Ukrainians Media, Centre for Human Rights ZMINA, and Vivat Publishing House began to work on a book that continued the #SolidarityWords campaign launched by PEN Ukraine and ZMINA in support of politically imprisoned authors in occupied Crimea. In 2025, the book was officially published.

The book **Free Voices of Crimea** is a collection of 16 features of politically imprisoned journalists who fought for human rights and freedom of speech on the occupied peninsula. The project team tells the stories of the lives, detentions, and internment of political prisoners.

The protagonists of the book are **Asan Ahtem, Amet Suleymanov, Remzi Bekirov, Osman Arifmemetov, Iryna Danylovych, Oleksii Bessarabov, Seyran Saliev,**

**Rustem Sheykhaliev, Server Mustafaev, Marlen (Suleyman) Asanov, Vilen Temeryanov, Ruslan Suleymanov, Tymur Ibragimov, Ernes Ametov, Vladyslav Yesypenko**  
(released from Russian imprisonment on June 28, 2025).

The book was also published in English.

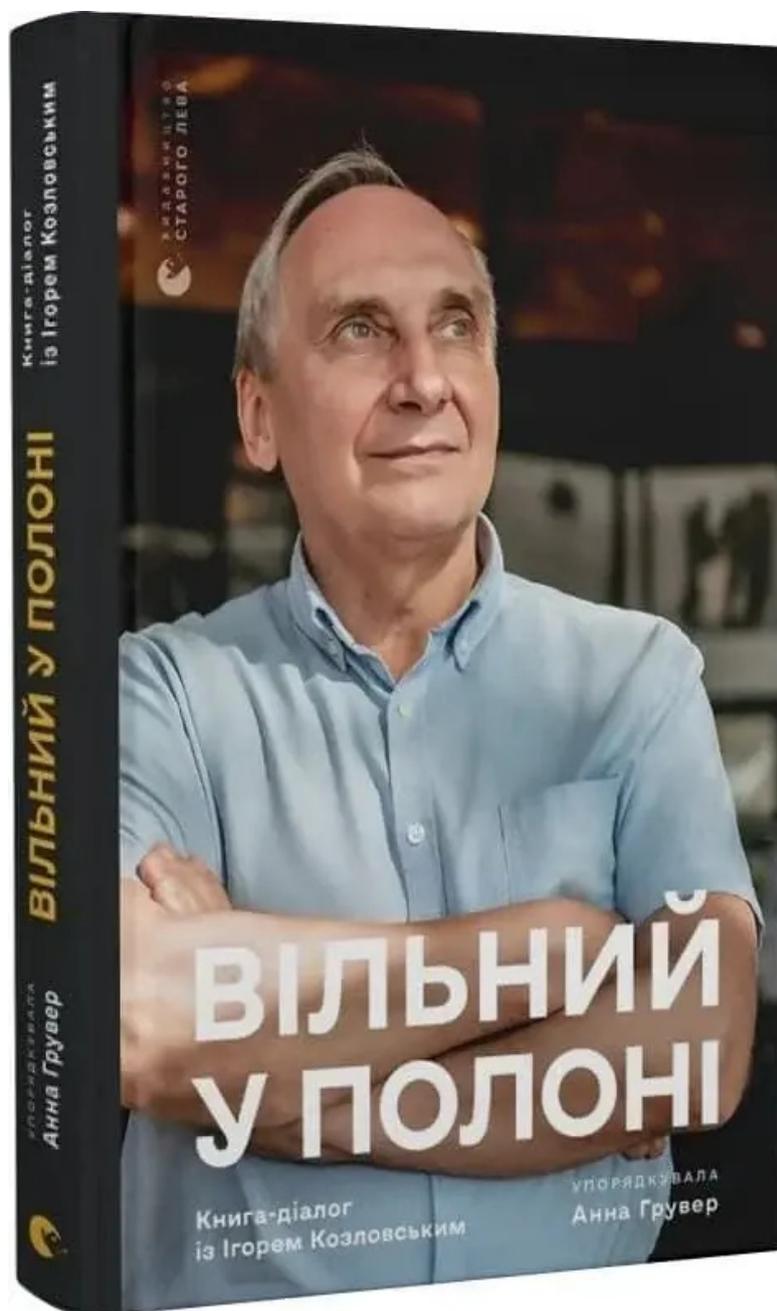
Presentations of the book took place at PEN Ukraine Space, Book Arsenal, Ye Bookstore in Lviv, Ukrainian Catholic University, Book Forum, and the residence of the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Ukraine.

**The project was supported by the National Endowment For Democracy (NED).**



## A Free Man in Captivity

Editor — Anna Gruver. Publisher — The Old Lion Publishing House



The monologue book including Ihor Kozlovskiy's interviews and lectures from different years. This book is a form of dedication, gratitude and love for a historian, religious studies expert, philosopher, scholar, poet, a man of a big heart and profound wisdom. The idea of the book came from one of Ihor Kozlovskiy's last interviews prepared in 2023.



*I collected different fragments to make an integral text out of them. By doing this, I wanted to recreate the atmosphere of a conversation with Ihor Kozlovskyi, which every interlocutor, lecture attendee, or student could relate to. I wanted to recreate his human speech addressed to us, **Anna Gruver** said.*

The book was presented at the Book Arsenal in Kyiv and BestsellerFest in Lviv.



# PEN UKRAINE AWARDS

**Drahomán Prize** is an award for translators from Ukrainian into world languages, founded in 2020 by the Ukrainian Institute, PEN Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Book Institute. The prize is awarded for excellent translation skills and contribution to the promotion of Ukrainian literature abroad. In 2025, the prize was awarded to Finnish translator **Eero Balk** for his translation of Ievheniia Kuznetsova's novel *The Ladder* («Драбина», The Old Lion Publishing House). The award ceremony took place on April 23 at Sense Bookstore in Kyiv.

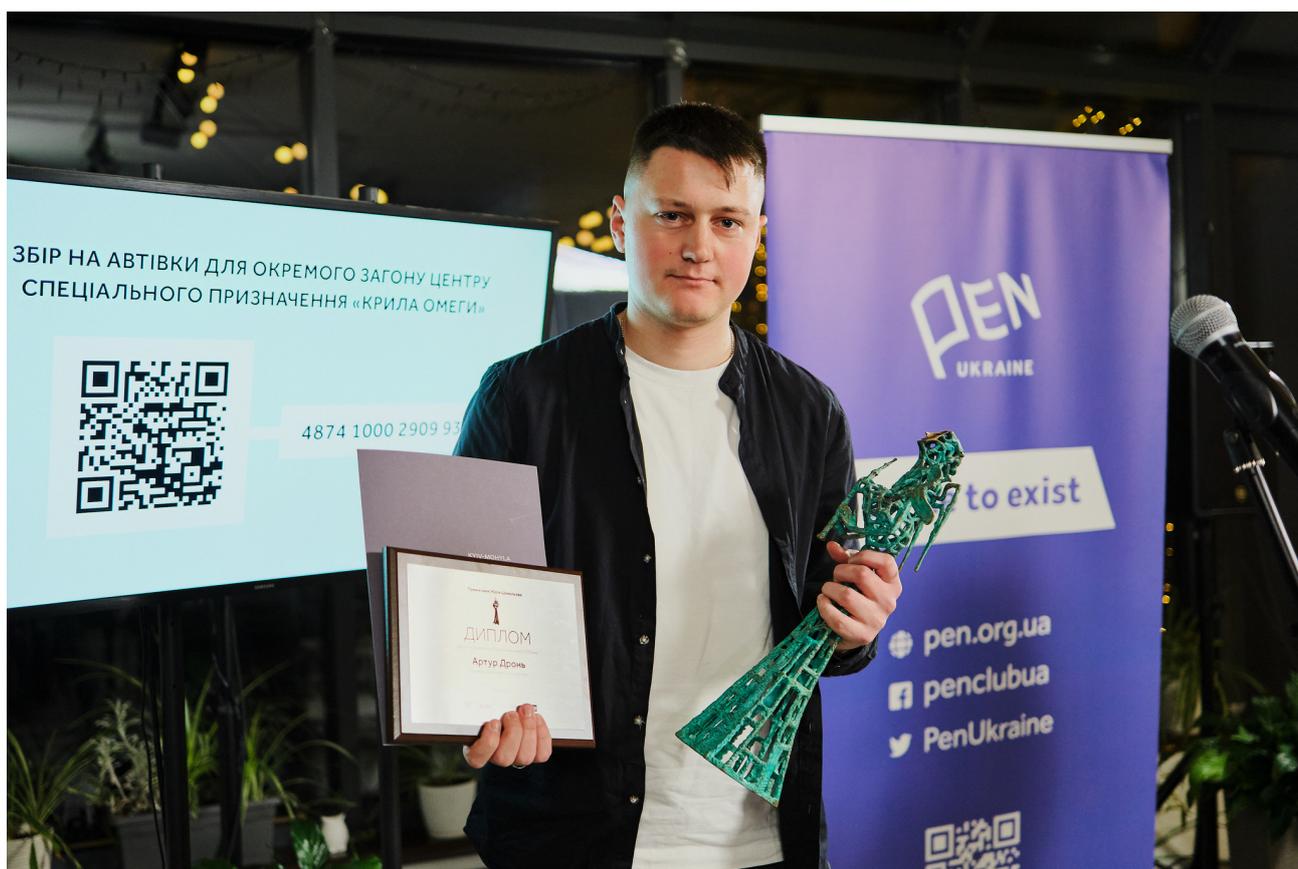


**The Vasyl Stus Prize** was established in 1989 by the 2nd president of PEN Ukraine Yevhen Sverstiuk. Since 2016, PEN Ukraine, the Kyiv Mohyla Business School and Dukh-i-Litera Publishing House have taken charge of it. The prize is awarded annually to living authors (writers, artists, directors, musicians, cultural managers) regardless of their place of residence for their special contribution to Ukrainian culture and persistence of public stance. In 2025, the prize was awarded to American historian and researcher **Timothy Snyder**. The award ceremony took place on September 11 at PEN Ukraine Space in Kyiv.



**The Yuri Shevelyov Prize** was established in 2013 by PEN Ukraine, the Kyiv Mohyla Business School, the Dukh-i-Litera Publishing House, the Center of Judaism, and the Ukrainian Research Institute of Harvard University. The prize bears the name of Yuri Shevelyov, the founder of the modern Ukrainian essay genre, and it notes the contribution to the inherent values of this genre: independence of thought and sophistication of style.

In 2025, the prize was awarded to writer **Artur Dron** for his book *Hemingway Knows Nothing* («Гемінгвей нічого не знає»). This year, two Special Awards from the Jury were presented within the prize. **Myroslava Pinkovska** was recognized for “an outstanding contribution in preserving cultural memory”, while **Vira Ageyeva** was awarded for “the essays in the field of literary studies, that rediscover the forgotten layers of Ukrainian culture”. The Special Award went to **Artem Cheh** for his book *A Game in Disguise* which was also longlisted for the prize. The awarding ceremony took place on 17 December, Yuri Shevelyov’s birthday, at PEN Ukraine Space in Kyiv.

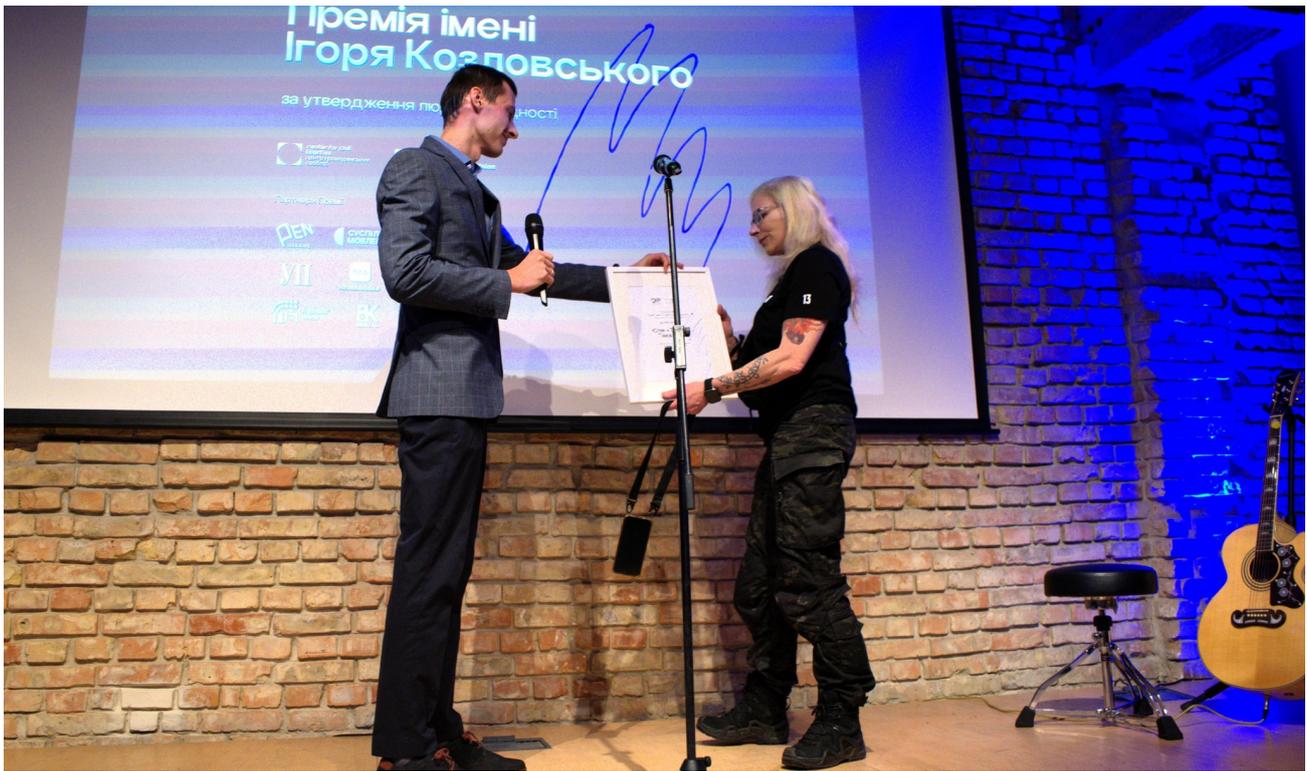


# PARTNER INITIATIVES

- Throughout the year, the **Victoria Amelina Fellowship Program** lasted in partnership of INDEX and PEN Ukraine. In 2025, Ukrainian author and Chief Editor of the Suspilne Culture webpage Kateryna Iakovlenko and Dutch writer and journalist Eva Peek were the fellows of the program.
- PEN Ukraine became a partner of the **Ihor Kozlovskiy Prize**, founded by the Center for Civil Liberties. The Special award from PEN Ukraine “for the living example of a free individual who keeps their freedom even under inhumane conditions” went to Yuliia “Taira” Paievska.
- PEN Ukraine became a partner of the **Nika Generation Prize**. The award was established in 2024 in memory of Nika Kozhushko, an artist and poet from Kharkiv, and all talented Ukrainian children killed by Russia. The prize founders are the Serhii Zhadan Charity Foundation and Kharkiv Literary Museum.
- PEN Ukraine became a partner of the **Word of the Year** initiative by The Ukrainians Media. Our word of the year is **testimony** — this is also the title of Victoria Amelina’s posthumous poetry book.



*Only those who are present can testify. We can carry on our struggle — and testimony — as long as we are present here. Our duty is to find testimonies of those deprived of their life and language, said **Volodymyr Yermolenko**, President of PEN Ukraine.*



# ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL COOPERATION

- Presentations of Victoria Amelina's documentary book *Looking at Women Looking at War* in Sweden, France, Italy, USA, UK, Germany, and Ireland involved **Tetyana Teren, Yaryna Grusha, Sasha Dovzhyk, and Olesya Khromeychuk**.
- PEN Ukraine, upon the initiative of the organization's vice president **Andrii Liubka**, co-organized the Ukrainian Culture Days in Budapest and participated in the opening of a Ukrainian library in Budapest. **(March)**
- **Iryna Starovoyt** participated in the meeting of the Writers for Peace Committee in Bled, Slovenia **(May)**.
- **Volodymyr Yermolenko** participated in the International PEN Congress in Krakow **(September)**.
- **Volodymyr Yermolenko** participated in the evening of Solidarity with Ukraine at the International Literature Festival Berlin **(September)**.
- Appearances of **Tetyana Ogarkova** together with LIVE Magazine at theater stages in France and Belgium.
- Literary and music home parties in Cologne and Paris.
- Participation of **Anna Vovchenko** in Helsinki Book Fair **(October)**.
- PEN Ukraine became partner of the III International Conference **Crimea Global. Understanding Ukraine through the South**, that gathered experts and opinion leaders from countries of Africa, Asia and South America in Kyiv **(November)**.
- **Kateryna Yegorushkina** participated in a series of events dedicated to Ukrainian Libraries in wartime and organized by Ukraine Culture Network in Bern **(December)**.



# IX REGIONAL MEETING OF PEN CENTERS

*Coordinators — Anna Vovchenko, Maksym Sytnikov*

On October 27–31, the IX Regional Meeting of PEN Centers took place in Kyiv. Participants included **Enrique Yeves** (PEN Spain), **Maja Gudim Burheim** (PEN Norway), **Laura Mintegi** (PEN Basque), **Tomica Bajsic** (PEN International, WIPC), **Said Khatibi** (PEN Slovenia), **Ira Wells** (PEN Canada), and **Vincent Engel** (PEN Belgium).

Launched in 2014 as an annual meeting of PEN Centers from the Central and Eastern Europe, this event constitutes a safe venue for mutual support and a platform to discuss challenges for the freedom of speech and human rights in the region. Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine, the Meeting has expressed the international PEN community's solidarity with Ukraine.

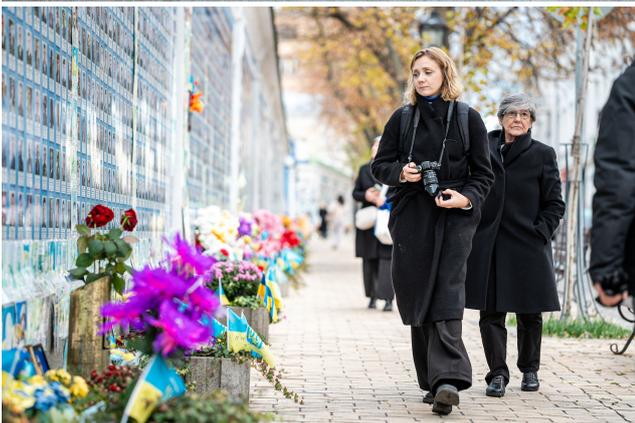
Within the IX Regional Meeting, the participants visited the damaged districts of Kyiv, deliberated towns of the Kyiv region — Bucha, Irpin, and Borodyanka — and the de-occupied village of Yahidne in the Chernihiv region. During their stay in Kyiv, the Meeting participants also visited the National Museum of Holodomor Genocide and the Mystetskyi Arsenal, met representatives of Ukrainian human rights organizations — the Center for Civil Liberties, ZMINA, and the Truth Hounds organization, got acquainted with the PR Army initiative, and the Mission of the President of Ukraine to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. They also had a chance to meet PEN Ukraine's authors and Ukrainian cultural, human rights, and journalistic communities represented by journalist **Stas Kozliuk**, human rights activist **Maksym Butkevych**, combat medic **Yuliia Paievska**, writer **Petro Yatsenko**, deputy director general of the Ukrainian Institute **Alim Aliev**, philosopher **Vakhtang Kebuladze**, Crimean Tatar activist **Leniye Umerova**, recently released from Russian captivity etc. During the Regional Meeting, representatives of PEN Centers also joined a public event at PEN Ukraine Space. Namely, they participated in the public discussion Literature Around the World: Can It Still Help Humans, moderated by **Volodymyr Yermolenko**. The representatives of PEN Centers also joined the talk about cultural activists who lost their lives during Russia's war against Ukraine. Based on the project Ukrainian Culture Makers Killed by Russia, the conversation involved the project coordinator Olha Olkhova and authors

of the texts — journalist Mariana Matveichuk and PEN Ukraine’s deputy executive director Hanna Ustynova. During these days, the participants of the Regional Meeting also accepted a resolution stressing that PEN Centres reaffirmed their decisive support of the Ukrainian resistance and called on other writers around the world to continue telling the story of the Ukrainian struggle for freedom.



*The visit of PEN Centres was a sign of solidarity with the Ukrainian resistance to the cruel Russian tyranny and war. The gathering took place despite regular Russian bombings of the Ukrainian cities, including Kyiv, and occasional shortages of electricity, water, and heat. The meeting was also held against the background of continuous losses of human lives that the Ukrainian society, including its creative part, suffers every day from the Russian aggression, either on the frontline or in civilian life. We mourn the victims of this aggression every day, says the resolution shared by the participants of the PEN Meeting after visiting Ukraine.*

**The Regional Meeting was made possible with support from the National Endowment For Democracy.**



# PLANNED FOR 2026

- PEN Ukraine General Meeting and strategy session **(January)**
- Preparing the organization's strategy and communication strategy
- Events at PEN Ukraine Space
- Memorial *Ukrainian Culture Makers Killed by Russia* and a series of features *People of Culture Taken Away by the War*
- Continuation of the Unbreakable Libraries program and partnership with Book Aid International
- New literary volunteering trips of PEN Ukraine to Ukrainian towns and cities.
- Continuation of the project *The Outpost for the Future: Think, Impact, Prevail*
- IV workshop festival for emerging authors Propysy **(March-April)**
- English edition of the book *Dialogues on War* (in partnership with the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University)
- Publishing of the book *Our Being in the World* and Propysy Almanac 2025
- Fellowship program for Ukrainian authors with Ribbon International; continuation of the fellowship program for Ukrainian authors in partnership with the Norwegian Non-fiction Writers and Translators Association
- Developing PEN Ukraine's partnerships
- Participation in the World Expression Forum in Norway **(May-June)**
- Continuation of the Docudays UA film club at PEN Ukraine
- Continuation of PEN Ukraine book club
- X Regional Meeting of PEN Centers in Ukraine **(October)**
- PEN Ukraine's new focus topic
- VIII Essay Days Festival **(December)**
- Continuation of the Intellectual Studies in Kozelshchyna project
- Cooperation with the National Antarctic Scientific Center (NANC)

- Opening of the PEN Ukraine residency
- Continuation of the program of mental health care for PEN Ukraine members (in cooperation with the Somatic Experiencing organization)

# INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

- National Endowment for Democracy
- International Renaissance Foundation
- Hawthornden Foundation
- Sushko Foundation
- Norwegian Helsinki Committee
- PEN America
- PEN International (SIDA)
- Adam Harber Foundation
- UKRSIBBANK
- Thames & Hudson

# MEDIA PARTNERS

- Chytomo
- Suspilne Culture
- Radio Culture
- Suspilne Ivano-Frankivsk
- UkraineWorld
- The Ukrainians Media
- 5 Channel
- Espresso
- Ukrainska Pravda
- Sensor
- Telegraf Artbook
- Radio Liberty
- hromadske

# PROJECT AND AWARD PARTNERS

- Adam Betlehem
- Algorithm of Actions Platform
- Amarant Apart Hotel
- Archive of the War NGO
- Birds Project
- Book Aid International
- Book Arsenal
- Book Shelter
- Book Space
- Books XXI
- British Council
- Brustury Publishing House
- Center for Civil Liberties
- Center of Communication and Content Security
- Center of Jewish Studies
- Central Library System of Kharkiv Novobavarskyi District
- Centre for Human Rights ZMINA
- Chernihiv Mykhailo Kotsiubynskyi City Library
- Chernihiv Oleksandr Dovzhenko City Children's Library
- Chernihiv Regional Youth Library
- Choven Publishing House
- Chytomo media
- Commemorative Platform Memorial
- Cultural public center Shelter Plus
- Department of Implementation of the Humanitarian Policy of Kherson Regional State Administration
- Development center of Berestyn community
- Development center of Novomykolaivka community
- Development center of Savyne community
- Dobrochynets volunteering community

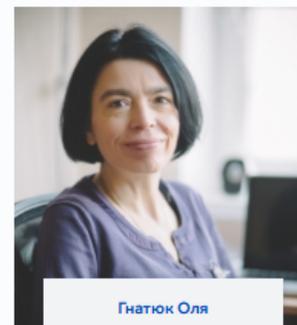
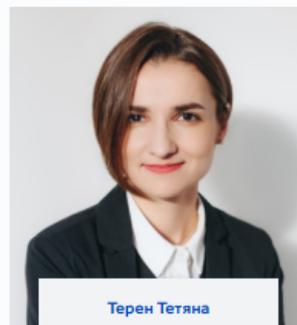
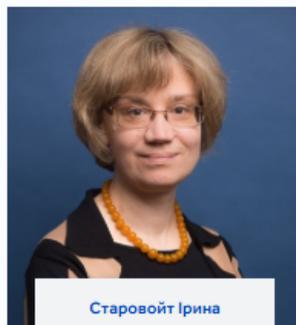
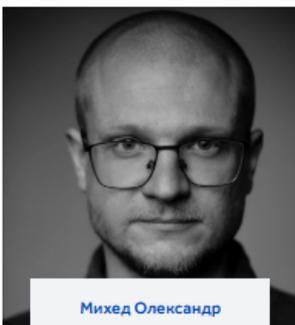
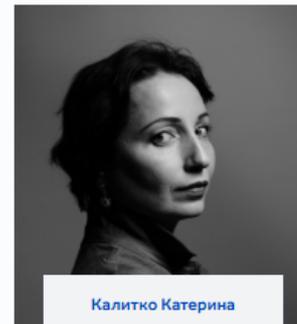
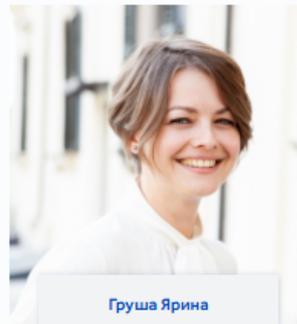
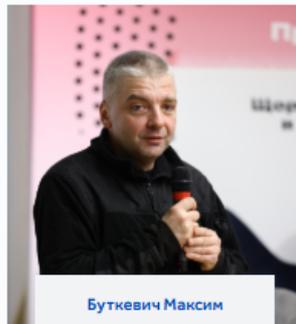
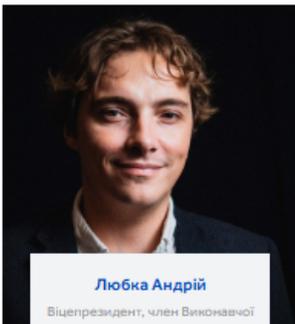
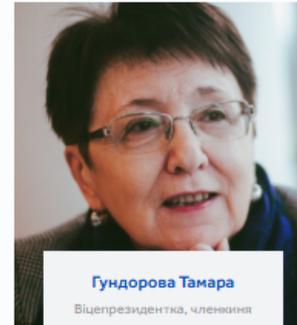
- Doctors Without Borders
- Dukh-i-Litera Publishing House
- English PEN
- Fr. Andrii Halavin (Bucha)
- Frontera NGO
- Fundacja Open Culture
- Greenhouse VDNH
- INDEX: Institute of Documentation and Exchange
- Institute of Mass Information
- Ivan Polhui (village of Yahidne)
- Kamianets-Podilskyi Military Lyceum
- Kapytolivka Village Library
- Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group
- Kharkiv Literary Museum
- Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs
- Kharkiv Slovo Residency
- Knyholove
- Koriukivka Youth center CUBE
- Kult: Podcast
- Kyiv Mohyla Business School
- Libraries Without Borders
- Linkiesta
- Litera Festival
- Live Magazine
- Lviv Book Forum
- Lviv Lyceum of the Kruty Battle Heroes
- Lviv Media Forum
- Meridian Czernowitz
- Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea
- MistoHub
- Mykolaiv Regional Universal Scientific Library
- Mystetskyi Arsenal
- National Museum of the Holodomor-Genocide
- National Museum of the Revolution of Dignity
- National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy
- New York Literary festival
- Nizhyn Mykola Gogol Central City Library

- Norwegian Authors' Union
- Norwegian Helsinki Committee
- Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association
- Nova Post Humanitarian
- Novhorod Siverskyi City Library
- Odesa M. Hrushevskyi Regional Scientific Library
- Odesa Navy Institute
- Odesa Navy Lyceum of vice admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovainyi
- Odesa State University of Internal Affairs
- Operation Change
- PEN America
- PEN Basque
- PEN Belgium
- PEN Canada
- PEN International
- PEN Norway
- PEN Slovenia
- PEN Spain
- PEN Sweden
- Pineapple Lane
- PORT
- PR Army
- Projector Publishing
- Promprylad
- Protecting Protasiv Yar NGO
- Pryluky City Central Library
- Public library of Konotop City Council
- Radio Culture
- Reading promotion program Tekstura
- Reporters media
- Sense Bookstore
- Sense Bookstore in Ivano-Frankivsk
- Smart Prostir
- Somatic Experiencing NGO
- Special Forces Center Omega
- Suspilne
- The Committee for Medical Aid in Transcarpathia
- The Georgiy Gongadze Prize
- The Land Of Poets

- The Old Lion Publishing House
- The Playwrights Theater
- The Raphael Lemkin Society
- The Ukrainians Media
- The Veterans' Theater
- Translatorium
- Truth Hounds
- Ukrainer
- Ukrainer Publishing House
- UkraineWorld
- Ukrainian Association of Professional Photographers
- Ukrainian Book Institute
- Ukrainian Crisis Media Center
- Ukrainian Heritage Monitoring Laboratory HeMo
- Ukrainian Institute in London
- Ukrainian Institute of National Memory
- Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University
- Ukrainska Pravda — Ukrainian Institute
- Ukrposhta
- Vikhola Publishing House
- Vivat Publishing House
- Voices of Children Foundation
- Vydelka Fest
- Vytoky Project
- Warm City NGO
- Yermilov Center
- Yuri Shevelyov Apartment Residency (Kharkiv)
- Zagoriy Foundation
- Zaporizhzhia Regional Scientific Library

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

<https://pen.org.ua/headship>

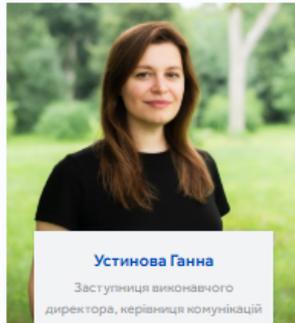


# ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

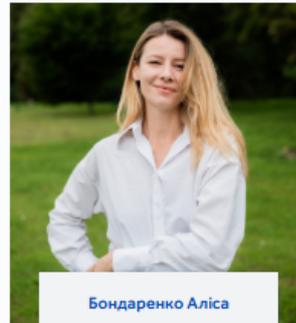
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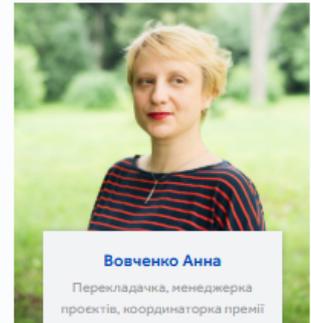
**Ситніков Максим**  
Виконавчий директор



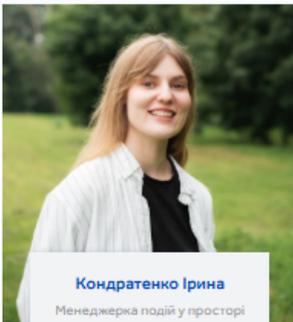
**Устинова Ганна**  
Заступниця виконавчого  
директора, керівниця комунікацій  
та партнерств



**Бондаренко Аліса**  
Менеджерка культурних проєктів



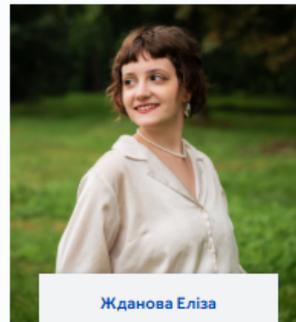
**Вовченко Анна**  
Перекладачка, менеджерка  
проєктів, координаторка премії  
Drahomán Prize



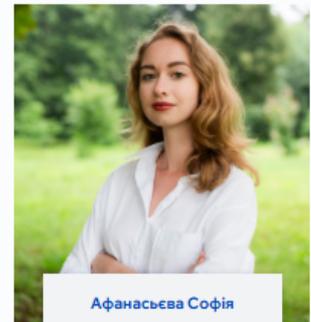
**Кондратенко Ірина**  
Менеджерка подій у просторі  
ПЕН



**Шерстюк Дарія**  
Менеджерка комунікацій



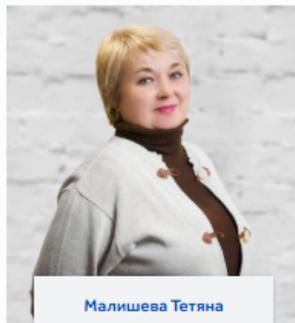
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Графічна дизайнерка



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