Plan for my session

- Setting the context
    Ukraine, Ukrainian wiki community & Wikimedia Ukraine during the war
- Plans for 2023
    Approach to planning, specific plans & how you can join
- Q&A

Let's set the context

Russia's war in Ukraine

- The war has been going for 8+ years, but February 24th saw a full-scale invasion

- Ukraine's life has been upended – many millions displaced, many thousands civilians & armed defenders died

- Impact on daily life – e.g. regular power blackouts as Russia is deliberately targeting civilian energy infrastructure

Impact on the community

- Like millions of other Ukrainians, dozens of people from the community have had to flee their homes
  - Thankfully, many people – myself included – were able to return once the Kyiv region had been liberated
  - Still, many are not able to return, especially parents with young children
- Some people found themselves in occupation – fleeing has been extremely difficult for them.

*"Укриття", meaning "shelter", has become one of the words of the year, along with HIMARS :)
(photo: BruneiWMUA, CC BY-SA 4.0*

Impact on the community

- Many people have joined the army, now serving in various roles

- At least one community member died in combat, early into the full-scale invasion. Another one was captured by Russian occupiers and likely killed (not fully confirmed yet).

Stories: w.wiki/5ZLi

[Photo has been removed for the version uploaded to Wikimedia Commons]

Fedir Shandor, university professor and Wikipedia editor, is delivering lectures while in the trenches in eastern Ukraine, spring 2022.

Dr. Shandor, who resides in Ukraine's westernmost region [closer to Vienna than to Kyiv], volunteered for the army right after the full-scale invasion started.

Impact on the community

- Notably, a full-scale war means reduced capacity – people just have other priorities than pouring their time into online volunteering.

- In June, 68% of surveyed Wikimedia Ukraine members reported their wiki activity had decreased considerably or somewhat since the all-out invasion.

Impact on Wikimedia Ukraine

- Wikimedia Ukraine continues operating, trying to fulfill our mission and stick to project plans

- Obviously, we've had to adapt. Some projects have been canceled because of either direct security risks (e.g. Wiki Loves Earth in Ukraine) or reduced community capacity.

Impact on Wikimedia Ukraine

- Instead, we have poured more resources into supporting community members affected by the war – be it with material resources or with advice

- We've also been covering Wikimedians' stories during the war for both the Ukrainian & international community

[приховати]

🛡 **Російське вторгнення в Україну: як допомогти й отримати допомогу під час війни**

Вікіпедія:Війна

Матеріал з Вікіпедії — вільної енциклопедії.

Як допомогти й отримати допомогу під час війни

24 лютого 2022 року Росія почала відкрите широкомасштабне військове вторгнення в Україну, яке уже призвело до десятків тисяч смертей і змусило мільйони людей покинути свої домівки. На цій сторінці ви знайдете інформацію про те, як українці можуть захиститися від наслідків російської військової агресії та допомогти іншим представникам вікіспільноти.

ℹ️ Ця сторінка **не** є енциклопедичною статтею Вікіпедії, це службовий портал із підбіркою корисної інформації для вікіспільноти. Енциклопедичну статтю про російське вторгнення в Україну читайте за посиланням. Пропозиції з наповнення цього порталу висловлюйте на сторінці обговорення

ВІКІПЕДІЯ
Вільна енциклопедія

WIKIMEDIA
УКРАЇНА

Source: uk.wikipedia.org
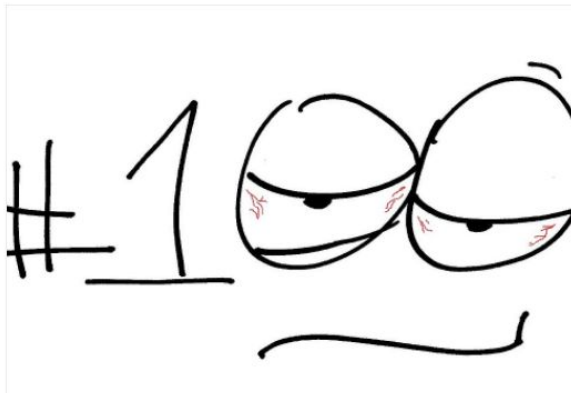
Editing Wikipedia from a bomb shelter in Kharkiv, Ukraine – Viacheslav Mamon's story

30 August 2022 by Anton Protsiuk

New article on Wikipedia every day – completing the #100wikidays challenge during the war

22 June 2022 by Anton Protsiuk

The tragedy of Mariupol, as seen by a Wikipedia volunteer from Ukraine

9 June 2022 by Anton Protsiuk

Source: diff.wikimedia.org

How Wikimedia Ukraine approaches planning for 2023

Questions we have to consider

- The overall situation in Ukraine in 2023 (on the battlefield; economic & social situation) – will it be better? worse? roughly the same?

  Winter will be difficult, but it's hard to predict what happens further than that

- International support

  It's been generous & instrumental for Ukraine & the Ukrainian wiki community – thank you! – but it's hard to see what's next

Questions we have to consider

- Community capacity – will people have more time for volunteering or less?
  Probably less – people are tired & have other priorities; long power blackouts mean you have to prioritise what's essential, not online volunteering

- Financial resources – will we have money to operate?
  Community capacity is a bigger question for us – we have enough money to operate at current capacity; to scale the work, we need more people

Planning approach

- Before the full-scale war, we were due for a big strategic process in 2022 – reevaluating the plan for 2020-2022, setting a new (more ambitious) plan

- That obviously has not happened – there's little resources for ambitious changes, we have to protect and iterate on what we have

- Thus, our plan is to expand the current strategy by one year, with slight changes to reflect current challenges

Plans in the international dimension

Wiki Loves Earth 2023

- Annual international photographic competition devoted to nature heritage from across the globe

- Launched in 2013 in Ukraine, the international round is coordinated by a team located mostly in Ukraine

- 39 countries participated in 2022, bringing over 45,000 new photos of nature-protected areas from 3,800 people
  Record number of countries, though the number of photos decreased, partly because Ukraine itself didn't participate

Wiki Loves Earth 2023

- You can join:
    - as participants: submit photos of nature heritage sites
      you don't have to be a resident of a country to participate – just check your photo archives from past vacations
    - as jury members (local or international)
      the call goes out sometime between July & September
    - as local organisers
      the Netherlands hasn't participated since 2014 – maybe it's time to change that!

Ukraine's Culture Diplomacy Month

- Article writing contest focused on improving the coverage of Ukrainian culture on Wikipedia in different languages

- In 2022, 253 people from across the globe created & improved over 4,000 Wikipedia articles in 60 languages

- The model might be interesting for other countries in the future

Wikimedia Ukraine, CC0

(Some) plans in the Ukrainian context

Content enrichment campaigns

- Wikimedia Ukraine has organised multiple major article & photo contests over the years, such Wiki Loves Monuments or CEE Spring.

- In 2023 it might be difficult – in some cases even dangerous – to implement everything, but some formats work better than others.

- We can be flexible in providing institutional support for community initiatives – Ukrainian wiki community has a robust tradition of "thematic weeks"

Community support

- Supporting community members in crisis situations, specifically those affected by the fallout from Russia's invasion (directly or indirectly)

- General community development – events, training, helping build awareness of what's happening internationally

GLAM

- We have multiple points of cooperation with GLAM institutions – such as through Wiki Loves Monuments or campaigns on Wikipedia like #1Lib1Ref

- However, systematic content partnerships with GLAM institutions are difficult – it seems that both WMUA and GLAM institutions have little capacity for ambitious projects in this field today

Education program

- We'll continue working with educators, helping leverage wiki projects in their work

- One of the highlights – localising the "Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom" course for school teachers in Ukrainian

Working with the media

- Wikipedia isn't in the center of media attention in Ukraine today, but sometimes it emerges, and we need to be able to communicate & explain clearly.

- Not that many people in Ukraine care whether Wikipedia will be blocked in Russia – but sometimes this topic does emerge in the news.

- We also publicize important news proactively to get (positive) attention to Wikipedia – even if it's something relatively small like UkWiki getting one place ahead by # of articles🙂

Thank you for your attention & for supporting Ukraine!

Hope to see you in-person in Singapore or elsewhere.

For now, reach out:
- anton.protsiuk@wikimedia.org.ua
- info@wikimedia.org.ua for general questions to WMUA

Your questions