



Ministry
of Digital Transformation
of Ukraine

center for a new economy
Strategeast

DIGITAL FOR FREEDOM

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Table of contents

Introduction	4
DIGITAL for FREEDOM policy recommendations for the development of the IT industry in Ukraine	5
Key Speakers	6
Digital for Freedom	8
Ukraine as the Trusted Tech Destination	8
IT Generation: New Education for New Economy	10
Ukrainian Tech Ecosystem	11
Now is the Time to Invest in Ukrainian Tech	12
The Role of Global Developing Agencies in Ukrainian Tech	13
Highlights	14



It was a big honor for StrategEast to co-host Digital for Freedom Forum for Ukraine digital recovery with the USAID, the Ministry of Digital transformation of Ukraine, and Google for Startups.

One and a half years ago, I moderated a panel at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Lugano. The panel included major supporters of Ukraine like Microsoft, EPAM, Google, and others. We discussed ways to contribute to Ukraine's digital infrastructure development. We concluded that the digital sector in Ukraine isn't solely about the economy or generating new tech jobs. Each IT job creates 4-5 additional jobs in unrelated sectors such as construction, hospitality, and transportation. Furthermore, the digital sector is crucial for Ukraine's resilience against Russian aggression, complementing the military aspect.

Today, despite the invasion and the presence of Russian armed forces, as well as challenges like shelling, bombing, and electricity shortages, Ukraine has demonstrated its capability to deliver digital services to international customers. It's crucial for Ukraine to maintain its status as a trusted IT destination for the global industry. This applies not only to service companies but also to startups in Ukraine. We've seen examples on a global scale, such as Israel, which despite facing conflict, has become a technological powerhouse. Ukraine is undergoing a similar transformation.

That's why the investments in Ukrainian IT industry is a good buy, it's a good decision for global investors not only from traditional sectors of the IT industry like Silicon Valley or people from Europe but also from new regions for Ukraine like the Gulf states. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Emirates: they recognize that Ukraine today is a good way for them to get a Silicon Valley delivery maybe 10 times cheaper, but also 20 times better than they get today from India, Pakistan, or other destinations that provide those digital services for them. And that's something that I tried to pitch during the IT Arena Forum in Lviv to Ukrainian companies: try to reach

out to new destinations, try to talk to them, to explain what are the opportunities for them while working with you because it's not only about the war, it's also about the recession in the western world. It's also about the US, the EU getting into recession and the traditional customers reducing the budgets when they reach out to new destinations. That's your opportunity now despite the war.

In Lugano, another topic we discussed was the Digital Marshall Plan for Ukraine. We recognize that launching a traditional infrastructure-focused Marshall Plan is currently impractical due to the vulnerability of physical infrastructure to Russian attacks. However, digital infrastructure development can proceed despite the ongoing conflict. We encourage our partners and allies to invest in Ukraine's digital infrastructure as it remains resilient in the face of war.

Important to mention that during 2022, the year when the war started, after the full-scale invasion of Russians to Ukraine, IT was the only sector that grew up. And the IT export from Ukraine grew from \$6.8 billion to \$8 billion or even over \$8 billion for Ukraine. It's about 47% of Ukraine's services export were generated by the IT industry in Ukraine despite the fact that 20% of the country is occupied by Russians.

At this Forum we could discuss the Digital Marshall Plan for Ukraine and that's something that each one of you in your conversations and exchanges could say: let's start the reconstruction of digital infrastructure or development of digital infrastructure right now, without waiting till the ceasefire with Russians. The aim of this Forum was to bring together international financial institutions, global development agencies, from USAID, CITA, but it's also about EBRD, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, representatives of the biggest IT companies, both vendors and engineering companies and it's a good chance to start to work together on how each one of you could contribute to the digital development of Ukraine. We should not forget that the digital economy is the most transparent accountable economic sector that any investor is eager to

invest in. We should remember that this component of the industry is our best chance to preserve the best talent in the country and to prevent the brain drain.

**Anatoly Motkin,
President, StrategEast**

DIGITAL for FREEDOM policy recommendations for the development of the IT industry in Ukraine

To international donors

Implement policies and programs aimed at fostering a conducive environment for start-ups and scaleups to thrive, including financial support, mentorship, and access to networks.

Create incubation hubs and provide resources to facilitate the development and scaling up of high-tech products within Ukraine.

Encourage joint projects and initiatives that leverage Ukraine's technological potential to address global challenges, thereby enhancing its international standing as a technology hub.

Facilitate a dialogue between public and private sectors to identify and create awareness about emerging job opportunities in the digital economy.

Foster partnerships that enable skill-building programs and internships, linking education directly to industry needs.

Provide support, whether through funding, mentorship programs, or infrastructure development, to strengthen educational institutions and showcase the talent and potential of Ukrainian students.

Recognize the long-term nature of building skills and capacity among future tech entrepreneurs, investing in programs that consider the 3-5-7 year cycle required to develop a robust skill set and entrepreneurial mindset.

Dedicate resources and efforts to nurture the next generation of tech entrepreneurs by engaging young people in tech and entrepreneurship.

Develop specialized educational pathways, retraining programs, and initiatives targeting veterans and IDPs, facilitating their transition into the tech industry and/or entrepreneurship.

To global IT industry

Prioritize investment in a stable and robust technological infrastructure to ensure continuous operation and growth of the technological sector.

Provide incentives and support for innovation and R&D initiatives to foster an environment supporting outsourcing companies to deliver high-quality services to global clients at modest prices.

Increase the number of IT professionals, tapping into intersecting opportunities across industries like miltech, agrotech, fintech, govtech, and biotech.

Support accelerators, incubators, and innovation communities as critical components of the ecosystem, providing resources and recognition for their role in fostering innovation.

Foster partnerships between educational institutions and the tech industry to ensure quality education that aligns with the future needs of AI and entrepreneurship.

Implement mentorship and support programs that provide hands-on training, guidance, and networking opportunities to support veterans and underrepresented groups as they enter and advance within the tech industry, fostering inclusivity and diversity in the workforce.

To Government of Ukraine

Continue to focus on digitalization as a national idea, emphasizing its importance at all levels, including the public sector and social platforms.

Define a short list of competencies of the highest importance and the fastest growth since the full-scale invasion, including cybersecurity, biotech, defence tech, etc., and focus on governmental incentives to support tech companies and products in these domains.

Utilize the expertise gained in cybersecurity practices to set up training programs and knowledge-sharing initiatives not only within Ukraine but also in neighboring countries like Poland and Baltic nations.

Encourage government-led initiatives to support the digital transformation of various sectors of traditional economy.

Develop laws enabling startups to raise and scale up internationally while keeping their registration in Ukraine.

Foster partnerships with international tech organizations, promote knowledge exchange and collaboration, benefiting both Ukraine and its partner countries.

Update IT education curriculum in universities to align with emerging industry needs and technological advancements.

Introduce flexible and adaptable learning frameworks that promote practical skill development, preparing students for the evolving job market.

Encourage collaboration between government and businesses to secure job opportunities for graduates, ensuring that education serves as a catalyst for prosperity and growth.

Strategically position Ukraine as an essential contributor to the Global innovation landscape, emphasizing the unique potential and capabilities of the Ukrainian tech ecosystem.

Leverage membership in networks like Taftie to integrate Ukraine's innovation sector into the broader European community, fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and opportunities for growth.

Key speakers



Anatoly Motkin, President, StrategEast:

"In Ukraine, the digital component stands as a crucial pillar in our resilience against Russia, complementing the military strength. Notably, it's the only sector that has continued to flourish despite the invasion, giving rise to ancillary opportunities, such as employment in construction and the food industry. Moreover, Gulf states recognize Ukraine's potential to deliver Silicon Valley-level services, outpacing Pakistan and India both in cost-effectiveness and speed. It is paramount to safeguard our nation's best talent and deter brain drain by investing in the growth of our tech ecosystem. Let's come together to brainstorm and discover how each of us can contribute to achieving this goal.



Marcin Gajdziński, General Manager for Poland, Baltics and Ukraine, IBM

As IBM, we are very much focused on practical approaches to help moving recovery of Ukraine towards Ukraine 2.0. This is happening here and now. In terms of support, IBM is focusing on very rational approaches and trying to be a pragmatic advisor – a company that is part of the real IT transformation. Ukrainian IT sector has proven record in cybersecurity practice and great talent pool, so we can all use its experience in the way we are operating. Poland and Baltic countries can also learn from it a lot and change their perspective in this field. I also believe that IT competences in the nearest future might be a key domain of Ukraine, and gained experience will become a driving force in the further development of this sector. Creating a competence center, supported by the universities will be an important part of this process..



Alex Bornyakov, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine

Ukraine possesses significant technological potential, which will serve as the foundation for the country's recovery and economic development after victory. Therefore, our emphasis is on ensuring stable conditions for the operation and growth of the technological sector. It is crucial for IT companies to persist in delivering high-quality services to global clients, for startups and scale-ups to attract investments, and for a considerable number of high-tech products to be developed in Ukraine. The future of Ukraine is envisioned as a robust technology hub and an authentic startup nation.



Michael Mizrahi, Academic Manager,
Jerusalem and vicinity and the seashore
area, MaofTech Accelerators, The Ministry of
Economy and Industry, Israel

Startup ecosystem has saved the country of Israel, offering a replicable model for global success. Remarkable organization, coupled with government support, positions them as potent instruments for change. Israel's Startup Support Network even offers qualified replacements for startup employees during military service, underscoring the value of resilience, a lesson we've learned from Ukrainians who continue to provide services no matter what. It's worth noting that virtually every Israeli startup leverages Ukrainian code or services, drawing inspiration from Ukraine's war-tested strategies for surviving and thriving in uncertainty. I urge you all to recognize your own potential, as Ukraine already stands as an innovation giant. If you require our assistance and wish to build something new together, we are eager to collaborate



Marvin Liao, Global Macro Investor
specialized in Startups,
Partner at Diaspora Ventures

Before 2022, Silicon Valley largely steered clear of anything related to DefenseTech. However, in a world where the threat posed by Russia looms large, investment in defense technology has become not only compelling but essential. Today, it stands as one of the most captivating and critical sectors within the tech landscape, with Ukrainians at the forefront. Take Brave1, for instance, a driving force behind innovation in this industry, influencing not only established players but also startups, thereby shaping the future of defense technology.

Digital for Freedom

Marcin Gajdziński, General Manager for Poland, Baltics and Ukraine, IBM

“At IBM, we are dedicated to advancing practical initiatives to propel Ukraine forward. Several projects have been successfully executed through collaboration with Ukraine’s Ministry of Digital Transformation and the Polish Ministry of Digital Affairs. One noteworthy observation from these endeavors is the considerable learning taking place within our country. It extends beyond merely integrating digital technologies into Ukraine’s development; it represents a transformative shift that neighboring countries are also leveraging to enhance their operations. A notable domain where this is evident is cybersecurity. Both Ukrainian civilians and military personnel possess distinct competencies in the



Yury Antoniuk, Vice President, EPAM Systems

practical application and utilization of cybersecurity tools and technologies.”

Yury Antoniuk, Vice President, EPAM Systems

“Digitalization is a Ukrainian national idea, and it works on all levels. Despite the full-scale Russian invasion, the Ukrainian government is keeping in focus the transformation of its public sector and social platforms. Most IT professionals stayed in the country, adapting to the war’s challenging conditions, working on implementing the projects in companies, and volunteering to support the country in the information and cyber warfare framework. Today, Ukraine’s digital transformation is one of the sources of its resilience and adaptivity.”



Marcin Gajdziński, General Manager for Poland, Baltics and Ukraine, IBM

Ukraine as the Trusted Tech Destination

Matthew Murray, Adjunct Professor, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, Harriman Institute

“The consensus is clear – Ukraine is resilient, embodying the essence of the future in the global tech landscape. The Digital for Freedom Forum showcased is not just a nation’s technological prowess but the indomitable spirit that sets Ukraine apart as a trusted and forward-looking tech destination.”

Valery Krasovsky, CEO, Sigma Software Group

“Because Ukrainian IT companies were built after the Soviet Era, we don’t have a legacy of corruption. Over the years, we have created a sturdy base for cooperation with the government. For example, when we need to connect someone from our stakeholders with the

Ministry of Digital Transformation, a chat in messengers is created within seconds, and the solution is found within minutes. If our tech companies were even more involved in automating the processes and global digitalization, it would have brought much more transparency and trust from the nation and international allies. Moreover, we are eager to collaborate: now we are consulting a government association in Sweden on how to enhance the public-private partnership based on our experience.”

Olga Shapoval, Executive Director, Kharkiv IT cluster

“Today, our conversations with partners revolve around the adaptability and unwavering motivation of Ukrainian companies to deliver despite blackouts and the pervasive risks of war. Investing in Ukraine transcends mere innovation; it is an investment in democracy. The united



Panelists: **Katerina Snehirova**, Marketing Manager, Exadel | **Valery Krasovsky**, CEO, Sigma Software Group | **Olga Shapoval**, Executive Director, Kharkiv IT cluster | **Oksana Myronko**, Head of Communications, European Business Association and Global Business for Ukraine | **Matthew Murray**, Adjunct Professor, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, Harriman Institute

community, unparalleled expertise, unique data, and invaluable experience collectively form the bedrock of trust that clients place in Ukraine.”

Oksana Myronko, Head of Communications,
European Business Association
and Global Business for Ukraine

“Let’s be honest: businesses are quite pragmatic, they do what is best for their return on investment. Understanding the challenges businesses face in Ukraine, we at EBA conducted research to uncover why companies choose to stay. We found out that companies not only remain in the country but go beyond by offering bonuses, emphasizing the importance of their people, and rewarding loyalty during challenging times. They commit to Ukraine, despite migration challenges and mobilization efforts: active hiring, reinvestment, and the development of comprehensive contingency plans A, B, C. until it works out.”

Katerina Snehirova, Marketing Manager, Exadel

“Choosing Ukraine as a business destination may raise questions given the security concerns, but at Exadel, we let our portfolio of case studies and tangible results speak for themselves. In the realm of plain business,

where actions outweigh words, our Ukrainian team has successfully launched projects, delivering real numbers that instill confidence in global businesses. The assurance of achieving desired results has prompted investments in our professionals and services. To fortify our commitment, we’ve strategically equipped our offices with power generators and Startlinks, ensuring uninterrupted support to our professionals. Also, we proactively relocated affected team members to other secure locations within the Exadel network.”



Katerina Snehirova, Marketing Manager, Exadel

IT Generation: New Education for New Economy



Panelists: **Mike Rybachuk**, Co-founder, Projector | **Kateryna Kruk**, Regional Public Policy Lead, Central and Eastern Europe, Meta | **Yaroslav Prytula**, Senior Vice-Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University | **Evghenia Larina**, Government Partnerships Executive, Coursera | **Diana Rakus**, the head of the expert group on investment attraction and the project lead of educational initiatives in the field of IT at the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine

Diana Rakus, the head of the expert group on investment attraction and the project lead of educational initiatives in the field of IT at the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine.

“We are currently engaged in active efforts to enhance the effectiveness, flexibility, and quality of IT education in Ukraine. To facilitate the swift reconstruction of our country and foster its technological advancement in the future, a substantial number of highly skilled IT specialists will be required. Consequently, our immediate objective is to establish the groundwork, laying the foundation for the successful technological development of our state.”

Evghenia Larina, Government Partnerships Executive, Coursera

“Discussions regarding digital transformation and its economic influence ought to center on a central notion: What novel opportunities do these changes present for citizens? While it may be alluring to concentrate on roles that are becoming obsolete, the emphasis should shift towards identifying and fostering new jobs that can emerge both presently and in the future. Hence, it becomes crucial to foster a dialogue between the public and private sectors, focusing on concrete steps and initiatives. This dialogue aims to raise citizen awareness regarding these emerging job prospects and equip them with specific tools to prepare for the evolving reality.”

Yaroslav Prytula, Senior Vice-Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University

“1) Ukrainian higher education requires a balance of healthy competition and cooperation. Recent ministry

initiatives signal progress in this direction, such as introducing slightly competitive financing for public universities and implementing a grant system for university admissions.

2) The Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) has recently released research findings on how the war has impacted Ukraine’s productivity, estimating a potential decline of up to 7% over the next 12 years. This decrease is substantial when compared to the potential productivity gain that could have occurred without the war. In my view, IT education is a key factor that can accelerate the reduction of the productivity gap. Currently, approximately 250,000 of IT professionals (comprising less than 1% of the population) contribute to almost 5% of the country’s GDP and 12% of its exports. Consider the possibilities if we were to double the number of IT professionals. Industries such as miltech, agrotech, fintech, govtech, and biotech represent intersecting opportunities for Ukraine.

3) The Digital4Freedom Forum brought together a highly diverse group of technology sector leaders, including representatives from government, business, academia, and international organizations. I express gratitude to the organizers for emphasizing the significance of IT education during the Forum. As Nelson Mandela wisely noted, education stands as the most powerful weapon to effect positive change in the world. Ukraine is making a positive impact on the world on the frontline, and it’s equally important to extend this transformative spirit to our classrooms.”

Kateryna Kruk, Regional Public Policy Lead, Central and Eastern Europe, Meta

“The metaverse can support educators and help improve learning outcomes. While it’s still early, we’re already seeing how transformative these technologies can be in education, demonstrating promise for the future in how we learn, train and connect. Immersive technologies give teachers more ways to inspire their students and businesses to train their staff, creating a sense of presence and new ways to engage and interact. We believe the metaverse can break down barriers for education, and increase equity and access.”

Mike Rybachuk, Co-founder, Projector

“Education isn’t merely about courses; it’s our beacon of excellence, showcasing talent and brilliance, not just struggles. Let’s envision education as a trailblazer, illuminating our nation’s potential like a shining star. With support from both government and businesses, we can secure jobs for our graduates, turning education into a powerful force for prosperity and catalyst for growth and transformation.”

Ukrainian Tech Ecosystem



Panelists: **Rhonda Shrader**, Executive Director, University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business | **Pavlo Kartashov**, Director, Ukrainian Startup Fund | **Victoria Strokan**, Marketing Director, SET University | **Andrii Zaikin**, Founder & CEO, YEP Startup Accelerator

Rhonda Shrader, Executive Director, University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business

“There were several key themes that emerged from a lively discussion on the ecosystem. Overall, the momentum around all areas of ecosystem building, including education, policy and funding, remains strong. The government remains a strong partner in executing current initiatives and addressing areas of opportunity throughout all regions. While significant challenges remain, there is a unique spirit of Ukrainian creativity and commitment that has become known as well as respected, globally.”

Pavlo Kartashov, Director, Ukrainian Startup Fund

“The Ukrainian tech community improved the ability to move fast, adapt, pivot, and innovate under fire. Our tech founders became the role models of leaders who build not only unique and powerful international companies but also meaningful innovations for freedom

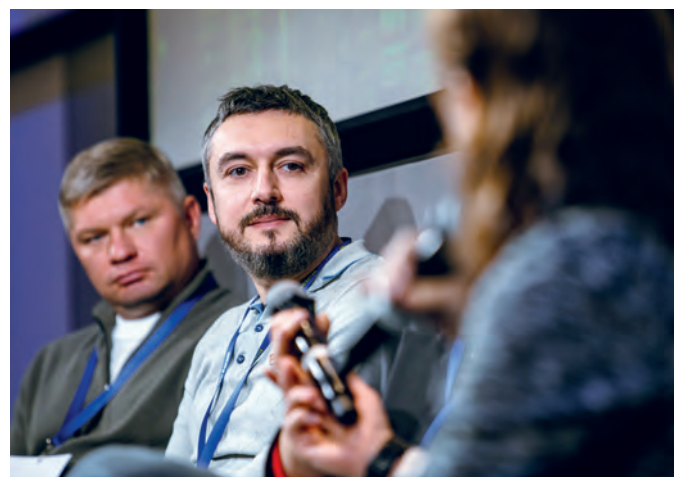
and rebuilding the country of the future. We recognize that this remarkable progress is the collective effort of the entire ecosystem, encompassing not just startups but also the unwavering dedication of accelerators, incubators, stakeholders, and innovation communities. With unwavering resolve, the Ukrainian Startup Fund is spearheading efforts to integrate Ukraine’s thriving innovation sector into the broader European community. Our recent membership in Taftie - The European Network of Innovation Agencies marks a pivotal step in this journey, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering seamless integration. We firmly believe that Ukraine’s innovation ecosystem holds immense potential to enrich the European innovation landscape, and we are dedicated to unlocking this potential.”

Victoria Strokan, Marketing Director, SET University

“For Ukraine’s tech ecosystem to thrive, we’ve got to offer quality education. In shaping the skills of our talents, we need to focus on close collaboration with the Ukrainian and global tech markets, adopt new approaches that align with the future of work involving AI, and emphasize entrepreneurship. Ukraine needs innovations to win and recover its economy.”

Andrii Zaikin, Founder & CEO, YEP Startup Accelerator

“While the Ukrainian tech ecosystem demonstrates its resilience and gets more and more support from partners and donors, I would highlight the necessity of dedicating some extra effort and resources to bringing up the new generation of tech entrepreneurs. We need to scale our ecosystem, engaging many more young people and promoting this possibility for youngsters. We must start doing it now, considering the 3-5-7 years cycle of building their skill set and appropriate capacity level. That’s why we in YEP, with the support of USAID CEP, develop our Entrepreneurial University Initiative, teaching up to 5000 students per year to make startups.”



Now is the Time to Invest in Ukrainian Tech

Michał Olszewski, Funding Box – the leading CEE

“How is it to invest in Ukrainian founders? Keynotes on how to be better for UA start-ups. The most promising sectors for investment in Ukraine. Which opportunities does Ukraine have to be attractive for international companies to invest? The main his idea is that huge amount of companies do not come back to their motherland because of investing and developing the market.”

Marvin Liao, Partner, Diaspora Ventures

“While putting the emphasis on the products and technologies, Ukrainian startups often overlook other crucial aspects such as marketing, sales, and effective self-presentation. However, the key to success lies in enhancing distribution channels. Ukraine stands out as one of the most appealing sectors for companies that have already built a substantial workforce comprising Ukrainians. This attractiveness is poised to escalate even more with the potential for further growth post-Ukrainian victory.”

Ruslan Furtas, Principal, Horizon Capital

“Over the past few years, the increase in funding for Ukraine marks a significant stride forward for the tech ecosystem. The nation boasts a wealth of skilled engineers contributing to the global market, thereby elevating the potential for domestic market development. This surge in expertise and international engagement sets the stage for substantial funding that holds the promise of propelling Ukraine’s tech landscape to new heights.”

Ivan Petrenko, Managing Partner, Angel One Venture Fund

“There are a lot of great, prominent young founders in Ukraine who are smart, fast, resilient, and willing to adopt an entrepreneurial mindset to create products and services that will compete in global markets. However there are still some crucial fields that need improvement and they are sales, marketing, distribution, and financials. Any business has to make money, so it is vital to know how will do it, and how will you reach your clients and sell to them.”



Panelists: **Michał Olszewski**, Funding Box – the leading CEE | **Marvin Liao**, Partner, Diaspora Ventures | **Ruslan Furtas**, Principal, Horizon Capital | **Ivan Petrenko**, Managing Partner, Angel One Venture Fund | **Ihor Markevych**, Innovations & Tech Lead, Advantage Ukraine | **Boleslaw Michalski**, CEO of GoIT Poland

Ihor Markevych, Innovations & Tech Lead, Advantage Ukraine

“Ukraine possesses significant strengths in DefenseTech, cybersecurity, and AI, making these industries particularly attractive to investors. However, despite the active advancements in these sectors, many startups face challenges in raising funds. To bridge this gap, it becomes imperative for these startups, especially those with entire teams based in Ukraine, to enhance their selling and marketing strategies. Recognizing that the physical location can hinder securing funding, it becomes crucial for Ukrainian startups to focus on developing innovative products and strategically emphasize effective marketing and sales efforts, ensuring they can access the financial support needed for their growth and success.”

Boleslaw Michalski, CEO of GoIT Poland

“Ukraine’s hunger for tech excellence sets it apart in the global landscape, unrivaled by other markets. The country is actively engaged in a massive developmental surge in the tech sector, driven by a genuine interest in expanding the potential of its IT industry. Numerous student programs and initiatives by companies aim to nurture and cultivate specialists across diverse domains. In essence, the amalgamation of Ukraine’s ambitious pursuit of becoming tech engineers and a concerted focus on industry growth positions the nation uniquely. Drawing from global market experiences enhances the prowess of Ukrainian companies, underscoring the importance of fostering collaboration, creating synergy, and achieving the highest efficiency through a shared and interconnected marketplace.”

The Role of Global Developing Agencies in Ukrainian Tech



Panelists: **Nicole Kresse**, Sr. Program Director, Chemonics International | **Nataliia Petrova**, Project Manager, Office of Economic Growth, USAID | **Piotr Matczuk**, Country Officer, Poland, IFC | **Liron Finkelstein**, Deputy Ambassador of Israel to Ukraine

Piotr Matczuk, Country Officer, Poland, IFC

"IFC's \$2 billion package is critical to address the private sector financing needs during Russia's invasion of Ukraine and prepare for the fully-fledged reconstruction. To maximize the impact of our program, Ukraine's government will need to implement a reform agenda and take certain policy actions. Consider this: The country's reconstruction needs stand at \$411 billion, according to the World Bank Group's second Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment. Without any major reforms, \$73 billion could be mobilized through the private sector. However, with reforms and key sector interventions the private financing potential for reconstruction can soar to \$130 billion. This substantial boost could trigger additional investment opportunities, potentially reaching up to \$300 billion. The needed reforms in the ICT sector include for example completing the rollout of 5G, updating the radio-spectrum regulations or leveling the competitive playing field. A strategic approach towards reforms is expected to empower Ukraine to multiply and expedite its internal reconstruction efforts."



Liron Finkelstein, Deputy Ambassador of Israel to Ukraine

"Innovation often flourishes in the face of necessity, and we find ourselves compelled to do our utmost in these challenging circumstances to foster innovation and creative thinking in Ukraine. The MASHAV program is a testament to this commitment, continuously sharing Israel's invaluable knowledge, technology, and expertise with our Ukrainian counterparts. From the early stages of establishing field hospitals and providing essential supplies like food and water to more advanced professional training in fields such as healthcare, medicine, and psychology, the program has played a pivotal role in enhancing capacity and building a skilled human resource base."

Nicole Kresse, Sr. Program Director, Chemonics International

"We are very fortunate that the US government and donor community provide Ukraine with outpouring support not only due to the war element but also recognizing the stability, constant development, and resilient economy. We pivoted: we helped to relocate companies being bombed out of their offices and factories, and they built back better, notwithstanding the brain drain and millions of people fleeing the country. It shows that Ukraine is delivering growth and innovation, which is something unique and worth investing in."

Alexander Lazukin, SME F&D Ukraine, EBRD

"We support business development by granting SMEs access to expertise, which enhances their decision-making processes, reduces costs, and offers numerous benefits. Ukrainian companies seeking advisory services are encouraged to apply for the 'Advice for Small Businesses' program on the MEREZHA platform by EBRD. As a response to the ongoing war, the Bank has increased the grant compensation for local advisory projects to 85%."



Highlights

- On November 23-24, 2023, StrategEast hosted the Digital for Freedom Forum in Warsaw, in collaboration with USAID and the Ministry of Digital Transformation in Ukraine. This event served as a crucial platform fostering international partnerships for Ukraine's digital recovery and development.
- The forum brought together a diverse audience, including representatives from global tech companies, investors, the Ukrainian IT community, the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, international financial institutions, and global development agencies. Its primary objective was to facilitate discussions on strategies to elevate the Ukrainian IT industry, positioning it as the key economic driver for post-war Ukraine.
- The event featured six insightful panel discussions. The main topics covered included "Ukraine as the Trusted Tech Destination," "Digital for Freedom," "IT Generation: New Education for New Economy," "Ukrainian Tech Ecosystem," "Now is the Time to Invest in Ukrainian Tech," and "The Role of Global Developing Agencies in Ukrainian Tech."
- Over 20 speakers from various countries shared valuable insights on technology use and the development of the Ukrainian IT sector. Notable speakers included representatives of Diia City's project office, Ukrainian Tech EcoSystem, IBM, EPAM Systems, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, and industry leaders.
- This forum exemplified StrategEast's commitment to fostering collaboration, innovation, and sustainable growth within the Ukrainian tech landscape. The diverse perspectives shared during the event will undoubtedly contribute to the advancement of the Ukrainian IT industry in the global arena.

StrategEast Digital for Freedom Forum

StrategEast Digital for Freedom Forum in Warsaw is a platform that enables and strengthens international partnerships for Ukraine's digital recovery and development. The Forum will bring together representatives of global tech companies and investors, the Ukrainian IT community, the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, international financial institutions, and global development agencies. It will provide an opportunity to discuss what needs to be done to improve the Ukrainian IT industry and to make it the primary economic booster for post-war Ukraine.

About StrategEast

StrategEast is a leading independent institution working to develop the Eurasian digital economy, in collaboration with international financial institutions, development agencies, global tech companies, and Eurasian governments.

StrategEast is a non-profit organization with offices in the United States, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Ukraine



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