



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024-2025



The Grassroots Institute  
Ukraine

[www.tgi.org.ua](http://www.tgi.org.ua)

**APPROVED:**

**By the decision of the General Meeting of Members of the  
GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE Minutes No. 31/01-26 dated January 31, 2026**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF “THE GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE”  
for the period from August 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025**

The non-governmental organization “GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE” is a **non-profit association** officially registered on July 30, 2024, and included in the Register of Non-Profit Institutions and Organizations from the moment of its establishment. The organization was created as a modern platform for the development of environmental education, scientific research, volunteering, environmental protection initiatives, and civic engagement. In its activities, the NGO adheres to the principles of legality, the rule of law, democracy, transparency, voluntariness, inclusiveness, scientific integrity, and sustainable development.

Since the outset of its activities, GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE has operated as a socially oriented organization that builds partnerships with educational institutions, communities, local self-government bodies, cultural and environmental institutions, research centers, and international initiatives. The Charter of the organization provides for a wide range of areas of activity, including environmental education, support for scientific research, environmental protection and restoration, community development, educational programs for schoolchildren and students, youth engagement, the formation of environmental culture, support for social and cultural initiatives, and the promotion of innovative approaches and sustainable solutions.

During the period of 2024-2025, a solid foundation was established for the implementation of the Development Strategy of the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE for 2025–2030, which positions the organization as a future regional, and

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subsequently national, leader in the fields of environmental education, volunteering, environmental protection, and interdisciplinary environmental research.

This report covers the activities of the organization for the period from **1 August 2024 to 31 December 2025**, focusing on such areas as the development of partnerships, the launch of educational programs, the implementation of awareness-raising and environmental initiatives, youth engagement, community work, participation in public and academic events, the formation of a volunteer community, and the development of internal organizational capacity. Despite the challenges of wartime, the organization continues to consistently pursue its mission - **to foster an environmentally conscious, active, and sustainable society that values the environment, knowledge, culture, and civic participation as the foundation for Ukraine's post-war recovery.**

### Board of Directors



**DR. HASRAT ARJJUMEND**  
President & Chief Advisor



**DR. OLHA DONETS**  
Founding Director



**DR. PAVLO LENO**  
Expert/Specialist



**DR. SOFIYA SHUTIAK**  
Attorney

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# Organizational Development and Institutional Capacity

During 2024-2025, the “GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE” underwent an important stage of institutional formation as a non-profit organization focused on the development of environmental education, civic initiatives, and environmental protection activities. Following its official registration on July 30, 2024, and inclusion in the Register of Non-Profit Institutions, the legal and organizational foundations of its operations were established. A bank account was opened, the official website of the organization was launched, primary document management processes were introduced, and key management and communication tools were defined. During this period, the organization placed significant emphasis on developing its internal structure to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of management processes.

*The General Meeting of the Board of Directors* remained the key decision-making body, particularly with regard to the strategic development of the organization, approval of activity plans, and the expansion of partnerships.

*The Head of the Organization* – Dr. Olha V. Donets – exercised overall leadership and represented the organization in cooperation with partners, public authorities, and international initiatives.

*The President of the Institution*, Dr. Hasrat Arjjumend, played an important role in external representation. His полномочия (powers) include the authority to sign contracts, memoranda, and submit documents on behalf of the legal entity, which significantly strengthens the organization’s communication and partnership capacity.

In 2025, Dr. Sofia Shutiak and Olha Guzhva joined the Board membership of “GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE”, contributing to the strengthening of its human resources capacity and the expansion of its areas of activity. At the same time, organization initiated the preparations to improve its governance structure, including amendments to the Charter aimed at establishing a Management Board as a collegial executive body. Its formation is planned for 2026 and

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предусматриває (envisages) the clear definition of functions, allocation of responsibilities, and internal procedures. In parallel, additional internal documents necessary for proper organizational functioning were being prepared, including regulations governing management bodies and internal administrative orders.

In 2024-2025, the organization developed and adopted its Development Strategy for 2025-2030, which defined its mission, vision, priority areas of activity, and performance indicators. This document became the foundation for further planning of educational projects, development of the partnership network, implementation of environmental programs, and the establishment of a volunteer outlook. At the same time, considerable attention was paid to strengthening internal administrative capacity, including the organization of accounting support, preparation for financial and tax reporting in 2026, improvement of communication channels, and the creation of a unified information space for members and partners.

A separate area of development was the design of a future volunteer program, which is planned to be launched in 2026. During the reporting period, its main objectives and mechanisms were defined, initial documentation was prepared, and key needs were identified, including the development of a volunteer registry, templates for certificates, and procedures for their issuance. This will enable the organization to engage a broader range of citizens in environmental, educational, and civic initiatives.

Institutional development also included the organization's active public presence. THE GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE regularly communicated its activities, building recognition within the region, among educational institutions, the student community, the civil society sector, and environmental institutions. Participation in forums, academic events, and legal awareness activities contributed to strengthening the organization's reputation as a reliable partner and an emerging expert platform. Overall, organizational development in 2024-2025 was aimed at establishing a sustainable governance model, preparing necessary internal procedures, and creating the conditions for scaling up activities in 2026 and beyond, in line with the adopted Strategy.

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# Partnerships and Cooperation

During 2024-2025, the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE placed significant emphasis on the development of partnerships, recognizing that sustainable and systematic implementation of projects can be achieved through cooperation with educational, academic, cultural, human rights and environmental institutions. The establishment of partnerships became one of the key instruments for implementing the organization's Development Strategy for 2025-2030, as it enabled the pooling of resources, expertise, and efforts with institutions that share common values in the fields of education, community development, environmental policy, and civic engagement.

During the reporting period, the organization signed seven memoranda of cooperation and one international cooperation agreement, thereby establishing a broad network of partners. Among them are two faculties [Faculty of Law and Faculty of History & International Relations] of Uzhhorod National University. Cooperation with the Faculty of History and International Relations is aimed at the development of educational and research programs, preparing young people for active civic participation, and expanding opportunities for academic mobility. The partnership with the Faculty of Law of UzhNU laid the foundation for legal awareness initiatives, roundtables, joint research, and the involvement of students in legal and environmental activities.

Particular importance for the organization is attached to cooperation with Uzhhorod Lyceum No. 3 and Uzhhorod Lyceum No. 15, which serve as key secondary education institutions where the organization's environmental education programs, including "ECOZNAVTSI", are implemented. These partnerships enable outreach to school students of different age groups, fostering environmental awareness from an early stage and introducing interactive learning approaches.

An important milestone was the signing of a memorandum of cooperation with the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, one of the leading environmental protection institutions in Ukraine. This partnership opens opportunities for the development of joint environmental projects, organization of volunteer

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activities, tree planting initiatives in protected areas, training of youth for environmental work, and participation in international environmental programs. The cooperation encompasses both awareness-raising activities and practical engagement of communities in the preservation of unique natural complexes of the Carpathians.

The partnership network was further expanded through cooperation with the “Carpathian Human Rights Agency - VESTED” with which the organization implements educational, socio-cultural, and human rights activities, including community-based film screenings and discussions. In turn, the foundational cooperation agreement with The Grassroots Institute Canada marked an important step in international partnership development, opening prospects for participation in joint global initiatives, exchange of experience, and dissemination of Ukrainian educational and environmental practices at the international level.

Another significant development of the year was the signing of a memorandum of cooperation with the Vynohradiv Puppet Theatre of the Municipal Cultural Centre “YVS Art”, which has already implemented its first performance in partnership with the organization. This cooperation plays an important role in advancing the “Education through Culture” initiative and enables the engagement of children of primary and lower secondary school age in environmental and social topics through artistic expression.

In addition, in 2025 preliminary agreements were reached to expand cooperation in 2026. In particular, it is planned to sign memoranda of cooperation with the Ukrainian National Forestry University and other educational institutions, which will contribute to increasing the number of educational, research, and environmental initiatives at both regional and interregional levels.

Overall, partnership development in 2024-2025 became a significant achievement of the organization. It established a solid foundation for the further expansion of educational programs, volunteer initiatives, environmental activities, and cultural projects, enhanced the visibility of the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE and positioned it as an open, reliable, and active participant in the civic and academic life of the region.

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# Educational and Awareness Activities

Educational activities became one of the most dynamic and successful areas of work of THE GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE in 2024-2025. During this period, the organization laid the foundation for the development of a modern environmental and legal awareness platform, engaging school students, university students, early-career researchers, the general public, and professional communities. The organization's educational initiatives combined an academic component, innovative teaching approaches, and a practical orientation, making them accessible, interactive, and substantively rich. Particular attention was given to fostering environmental awareness among young people, developing critical thinking skills, and promoting contemporary approaches to sustainable development.

One of the first and most recognizable projects was **the program “ECOZNAVTSI: Shaping the Thinking of the Future”**, within which six interactive environmental lessons were conducted for 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade students in educational institutions in Uzhhorod and Kyiv (Uzhhorod Lyceum No. 3; Uzhhorod Lyceum No. 15; Kyiv Lyceum No. 179).



The lessons focused on wind energy and the use of renewable energy sources, allowing for the integration of environmental education with elements of natural sciences and modern technologies. The format of the lessons emphasized active student participation, practical assignments, and discussions of environmental challenges, thereby contributing to the development of a responsible attitude toward the environment.



It is important to highlight the high level of engagement demonstrated by school students, in particular Anastasiia Voloshchuk and Myroslava Mashtalier, 9th-grade students of Kyiv Lyceum No. 179, who independently prepared and successfully presented a report entitled “**Alternative Energy Sources**”. The positive feedback received from students, teachers, and school administrations confirmed the relevance and effectiveness of the program. Accordingly, its implementation will be continued and expanded in 2026-2027, including through the introduction of new thematic environmental lessons and the involvement of a broader range of educational institutions.

An important component of the organization’s educational activities was support for students and early-career researchers. In June 2025, the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE, in cooperation with The Grassroots Institute Canada organized a **series of open practical lectures entitled “Writing Articles Effectively for Scopus Journals”**, delivered by Dr. Hasrat Arjjumend, President of the organization and Editor-in-Chief of the international Grassroots Journals. These lectures brought together approximately 300 participants. The sessions covered the structure of academic articles, the requirements of international scientific

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journals, common mistakes made by authors, and effective approaches to presenting research findings. This initiative became an important step in supporting academic youth and facilitating the integration of Ukrainian researchers into the international scientific community.



**GLOBAL LECTURES**  
Local Impacts

For more information, please browse the websites or contact:  
[www.grassrootsinstitute.ca](http://www.grassrootsinstitute.ca) | [www.tgi.org.ua](http://www.tgi.org.ua)  
mail@tgi.org.ua | mail@grassrootsinstitute.ca

## Practical Lecture for Ukrainian Authors on Writing Articles Effectively for Scopus Journals

**6 June 2025 | 11.00 Hours Kyiv Time | Institute of Economics  
and Management, 1 Shopena Str., Bldg. №3, Ivano-Frankivsk**

Co-Organized by:



The Grassroots Institute | Canada



Грасрутс Інститут | Україна

Hosted by:



Ivano-Frankivsk National  
Technical University of  
Oil and Gas

*Lecture by:*



**DR. HASRAT ARJJUMEND**  
*President & CEO*  
The Grassroots Institute, Canada  
*Managing & Chief Editor*  
Grassroots Journals, Canada

[president@grassrootsinstitute.net](mailto:president@grassrootsinstitute.net),  
[editor@grassrootsjournals.org](mailto:editor@grassrootsjournals.org)



The series of lectures took place at the following universities:

- Uzhgorod National University / Faculty of Law, Uzhgorod
- Ivano-Frankivsk University of Oil and Gas, Ivano Frankivsk
- National Forestry University, Lviv
- Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law, Khmelnytskyi
- Uman National University, Uman



A significant area of activity was **the organization's involvement in field research and academic training practices**. From May to July 2025, our organization acted as a co-organizer of expeditions in three communities of Zakarpattia Oblast – Dubrynychy-Malyi Bereznyi, Bilky, and Batiovo – within the framework of cooperation with the Faculty of History and International Relations of Uzhhorod National University. A total of 25 students, as well as lecturers and researchers from Ukraine and abroad, participated in the expeditions. As a result of the field research, diverse examples of traditional culture were documented, more than 200 oral history interviews were collected, and a valuable empirical body of photographic and video materials was compiled. Particular attention was paid to documenting the experiences of internally displaced persons, which made it possible to combine an academic research approach with the analysis of current social challenges.

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# E ducation through Culture

In 2025, a new interdisciplinary area of activity – “Education through Culture” – was initiated within the work of the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE. This direction is aimed at integrating environmental awareness, legal knowledge, and social values through artistic expression and cultural communication. A key component of this initiative is the partnership with the Vynohradiv theatre studio “YVS Art”, implemented within the framework of a signed memorandum of cooperation. The theatre group consists of children and adolescents, including internally displaced persons, which contributes to the creation of an inclusive environment and supports their social adaptation through creative engagement.

In December 2025, under the auspices of the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE, two theatrical performances – “AI” and “Keep the Planet Clean” – were staged, aimed at promoting environmental awareness and fostering a responsible attitude toward the environment.



A distinctive feature of these performances is the integration of educational content with an accessible and emotionally engaging format, enabling the communication of complex environmental and social issues to a wide audience, including primary and lower secondary school students, internally displaced persons, university students, and adult audiences. The performances were implemented within the frameworks of the “Education through Culture” and “Planet Without Waste” programs and serve as an example of the effective use of art as a tool for environmental awareness.



A significant achievement was the recognition of the performance “Keep the Planet Clean”, which received first place at the “ZlataFest” festival, confirming both the relevance of the chosen topic and the effectiveness of the selected format of audience engagement. As part of the development of this area, the organization also contributed to supporting theatrical activities, in particular by providing technical resources for performances. A wireless microphone system was purchased and transferred to the theatre, which is already in use during performances and enhances the quality of interaction with the audience. This support has contributed to improving audience engagement and the overall professionalism of the cultural product.

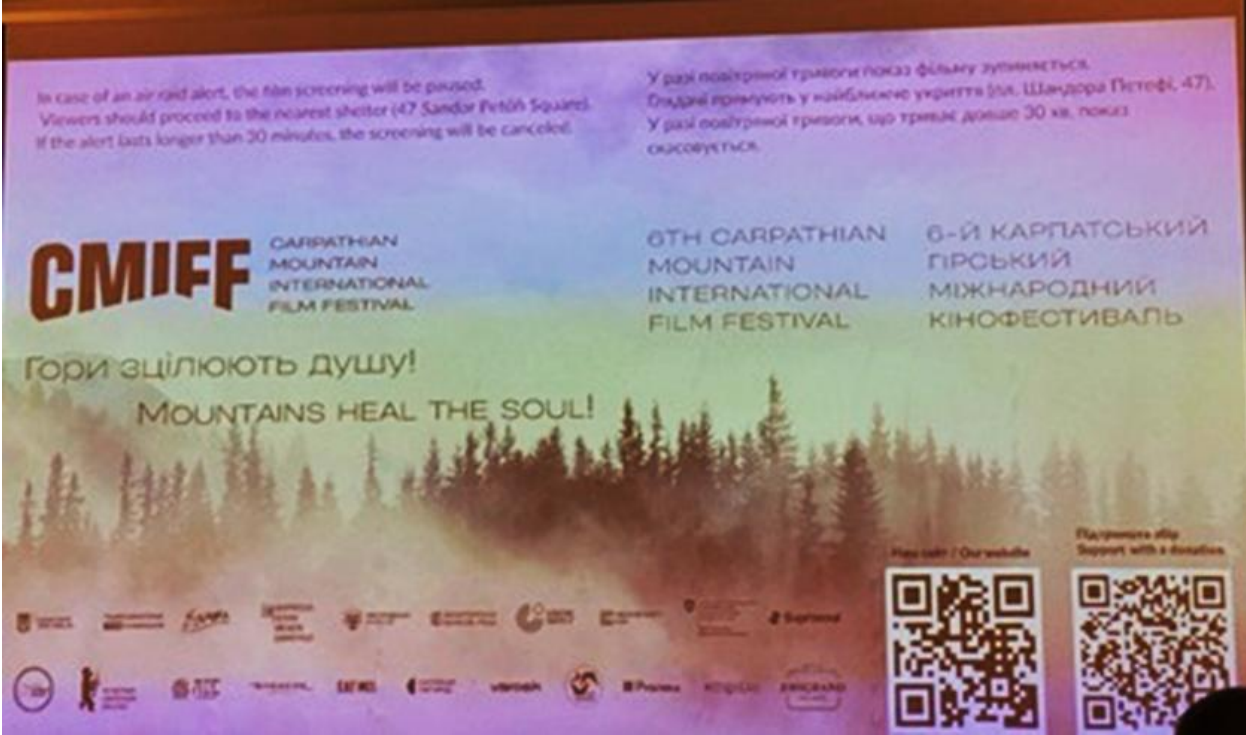
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An additional component of the “Education through Culture” initiative was the participation of the organization’s representatives in cultural and educational events, including the screening and roundtable discussion of the documentary film “Boundless Forests” by Swiss director Orane Burri, held within the framework of the **International Carpathian Film Festival**. The discussion addressed key issues such as the condition of forest ecosystems, the impact of climate change, the environmental consequences of war, and the need to strengthen environmental education.

This format, combining cultural events with expert discussions, expands the tools of environmental awareness-raising, enables engagement with new audiences, and fosters a deeper understanding of environmental challenges through emotional and value-based experience. Overall, the introduction of the “Education through Culture” initiative in 2025 marked an important step in the development of innovative approaches to the organization’s environmental and legal awareness activities, opening new opportunities for integrating education, culture, and civic participation.



# P articipation in Scientific, Expert and Public Events

During the reporting period, the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE actively engaged in scientific, expert, and public events at both national and international levels, contributing to the strengthening of its professional reputation, the expansion of its partnership network, and its integration into professional discourse in the fields of environmental law, sustainable development, and civil society. The organization's activities in this area encompassed participation in thematic forums, academic conferences, roundtables, and international platforms, enabling the integration of expert, educational, and communication components.

In particular, on April 26, 2025, the NGO participated in the **XVII International Scientific and Practical Conference “Transcarpathian Legal Readings”**, dedicated to issues of relocation under extraordinary legal regimes.



Representatives of the NGO participated in the **International Forestry Industry Forum (June 12, 2025)**, held with the participation of the Ukrainian National Forestry University within the framework of the 26th International Exhibition “Woodprocessing.” The event brought together representatives of public authorities, business, the academic and educational community, as well as civil society, with the aim of discussing strategic directions for the development of Ukraine’s forestry sector. The forum addressed issues related to the green transformation of the sector, legal regulation, the impact of European integration processes, the functioning of the wood-processing industry, investment opportunities, and the development of dual education. Particular attention was given to the discussion of the requirements of the European Union Regulation on deforestation and forest degradation, which is of significant importance for the alignment of Ukrainian legislation and practice with European standards.

**ПРОГРАМА МІЖНАРОДНОГО ЛІСОПРОМИСЛОВОГО ФОРУМУ**  
В РАМКАХ XXVI МІЖНАРОДНОЇ ВИСТАВКИ "ДЕРЕВООБРОБКА", ГАЛИЦЬКІ ЕКСПОЗИЦІЇ

**ТЕМА ФОРУМУ**      **ЛІСОВИЙ СЕКТОР УКРАЇНИ: СЬОГОДЕННЯ І МАЙБУТНЄ**

**09:15** **Реєстрація учасників форуму**

**10:00** **Вітальне слово:**

- Ректор Національного лісотехнічного університету України – **Володимир ЗАГОРСЬКИЙ**
- Міністр Кабінету Міністрів України – **Олег НЕМЦІНОВ**
- Голова Львівської обласної військової адміністрації – **Максим КОЗИЦЬКИЙ**
- Представник Офісу Президента України
- Представник Міністерства захисту довкілля та природних ресурсів України
- Представник Міністерства освіти і науки України
- Голова Державного агентства лісових ресурсів України – **Віктор СМАЛЬ**
- Генеральний директор ДЛ «Ліси України» – **Юрій БОЛОХОВЕЦЬ**
- В.о. Голови Львівської обласної ради – **Юрій ХОЛОД**
- Представник Львівської міської ради

**I ТЕМАТИЧНИЙ БЛОК**  
**«Розвиток лісового сектора України: стан та перспективи»**

**10:30** **Зелена трансформація України: проблеми та перспективи**  
Орест КІЙКО – завідувач кафедри технологій меблів та виробів з деревини НАТУ України, доктор технічних наук, професор

**10:55** **Перспективи загалом лісовини лісогосподарськими підприємствами України**  
Степан МИКАЛУШ – професор кафедри лісової таксації та лісовпорядкування НАТУ України, доктор сільськогосподарських наук, професор  
Сергій ГАВРИЛЮК – доцент кафедри лісової таксації та лісовпорядкування НАТУ України, кандидат сільськогосподарських наук, доцент

**11:10** **Вплив ЗУ «Про особливості регулювання діяльності юридичних осіб окремих організацій-правових форм у перехідний період та об'єднань юридичних осіб» на лісову галузь**  
Ігор АЙЦЮР – виконавчий директор ДЛ «Ліси України»

**11:25** **Особливості ціноутворення на необроблені лісоматеріали: стан, проблеми, перспективи**  
Олена МАКСИМЕЦЬ – завідувачка кафедри менеджменту НАТУ України, кандидатка економічних наук, доцентка  
Юрій МУРАВЬОВ – доцент кафедри менеджменту НАТУ України, кандидат економічних наук, доцент  
Олена МОРОЗЮК – голова правління ГО «Асоціація підприємств та підприємців Ясінянської долини»

**II ТЕМАТИЧНИЙ БЛОК**  
**«Правові аспекти функціонування лісового сектора України»**

**11:45** **Обговорення I тематичного блоку**

**12:05** **Можливості розвитку української деревообробної промисловості – розуми з перспективи ЄС**  
Ярина СЕПЛЯЯ – керуючий директор та керівник відділу консалтингу лісової промисловості та біорізень у компанії Indutec Ltd.

**12:20** **Проект Закону про ринок деревини № 43227-2**  
Юлія ТИМОШЕНКО – українська державна та політична діячка, Народна депутатка України

**12:35** **Правове регулювання ринку деревини: пропозиції та компроміси**  
Олег СТОРЧУС – адвокат

**12:50** **Фахова передача освіта, співпраця з роботодавцями та елементи дуальної освіти.**  
Мар'яна УДОВИЦЬКА – голова циклової комісії технологій деревообробних виробництв Технологічного фахового коледжу НАТУ України  
Наталія НАГОРНА – заступник директора з навчально-виробничої роботи Кременецького лісотехнічного фахового коледжу

**13:00** **Особливості впровадження Регламенту ЄС щодо знеліснення та деградації лісів (EUDR) в Україні: завдання та виклики**  
Наталія МАРЧЕНКО – експерт-дорадниця з питань лісового товариства та технологій деревообробки, заступниця Голови Технічного комітету стандартизації (ТК) 18 «Лісові ресурси», експерт-консультантка з лісової сертифікації за системою FSC, консультантка з сертифікації CE, кандидатка технічних наук, доцентка

**МОДЕРАТОРИ ЗАХОДУ:**  
**Лариса ЯРЕМЧУК** – професорка кафедри технологій меблів та виробів з деревини НАТУ України, докторка технічних наук, професорка  
**Галина ОРТИНСЬКА** – заступниця директора з наукової роботи Національно-наукового інституту деревообробних технологій дизайну НАТУ України, кандидатка технічних наук, доцентка

**13:15** **Регламент ЄС щодо знеліснення та деградації лісів: завдання для експортерів**  
Алла ОБОРСЬКА – виконавчий директор Асоціації «Національна Система Лісової Добровільної Сертифікації», кандидатка сільськогосподарських наук

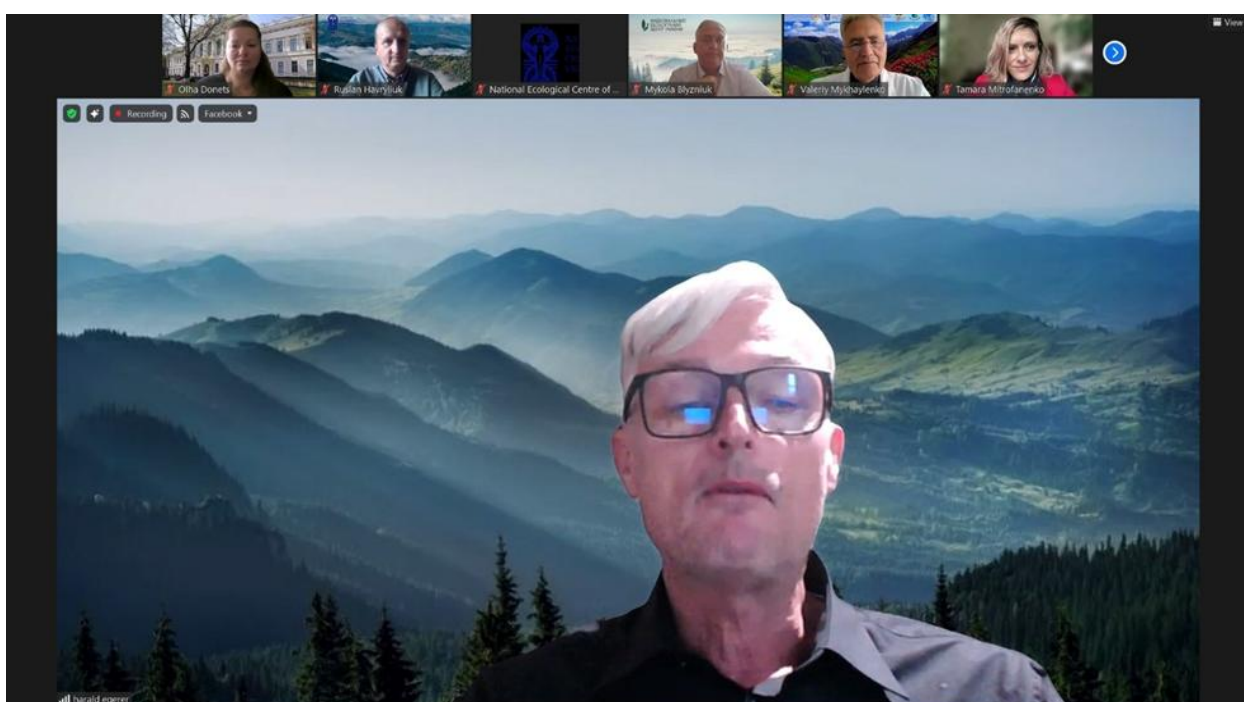
**13:30** **Обговорення II тематичного блоку**

**14:00** **Підведення підсумків та прийняття резолюції форуму**

**14:30** **Підписання Меморандуму співпраці між представниками бізнесу, освіти і науки**

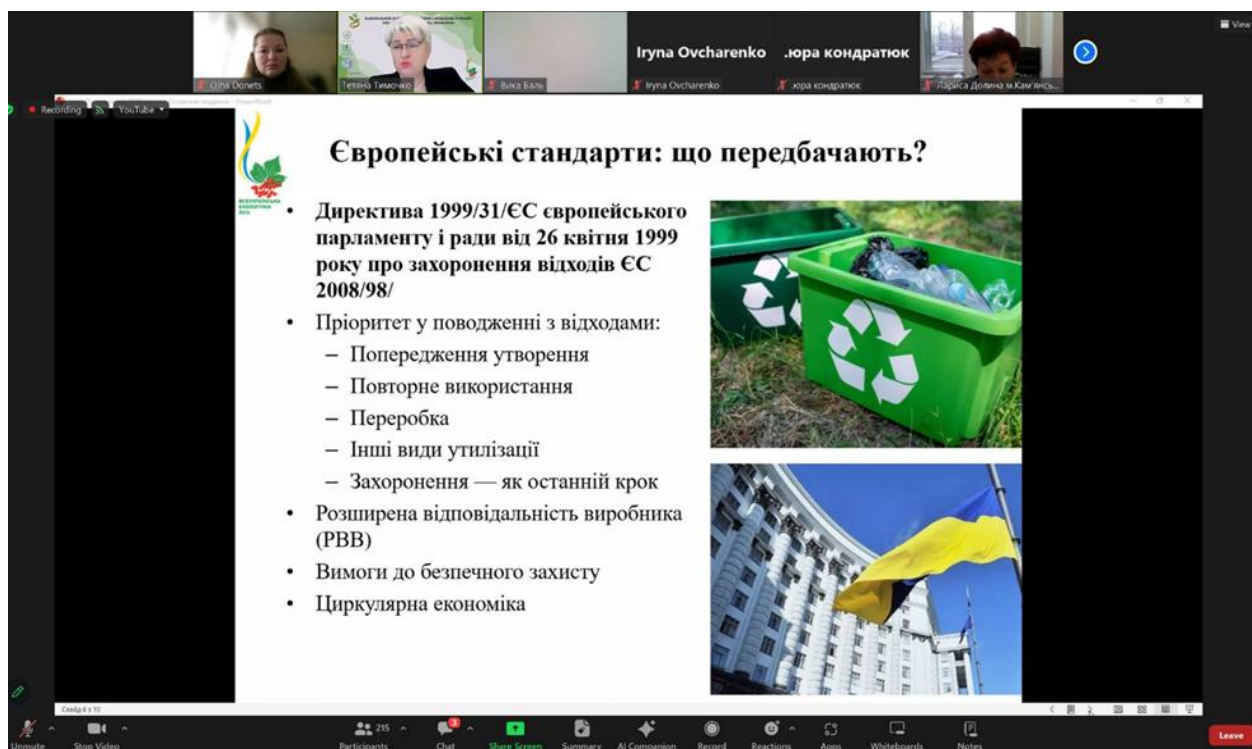
**14:40** **Кава-брейк**

On September 25, 2025, the organization participated in an online session of the International Carpathian School, organized by the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine within the framework of a Visegrad Fund project, which brought together experts and researchers from Central and Eastern European countries.



An important area of activity was participation in thematic events dedicated to waste management issues. On November 27-28, 2025, representatives of the organization took part in the National Forum "Waste Management in

**Ukraine: Legislation, Economics, Technologies”**. Participation in the forum was integrated into the implementation of the organization’s own program “Planet Without Waste” and was aimed at promoting the principles of responsible consumption, raising environmental awareness, and engaging communities in modern waste management practices.



The international dimension of the organization’s activities was also reflected in its participation in academic events abroad, in particular in **the international scientific conference “Current Issues of International Environmental Law”**, held on May 30, 2025, at the Faculty of Law of Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovak Republic). The event brought together scholars, researchers, and practitioners from various countries and served as a platform for discussing contemporary challenges in the field of international environmental law.

The conference addressed issues of environmental security, international legal regulation of environmental protection, humanitarian demining, as well as post-war environmental recovery, which is particularly relevant in the context of Ukraine. The participation of representatives of the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE in this event contributed to the expansion of international academic cooperation, exchange of experience, and the integration of contemporary environmental legal approaches into the organization’s activities.



Particular attention should be given to the participation of the organization's representatives in the international conference Active Youth Involvement Conference, held on July 29-31, 2025, in the city of Eger (Hungary) within the framework of Summer Camp 2025 – Carpathian Civil Society Platform. Students of the Ukrainian National Forestry University took part in the event, representing both the organization and Ukraine at the international level. The conference brought together young people, civil society actors, and experts from countries of the Carpathian region and served as an important platform for the development of youth initiatives, intercultural dialogue, and cross-border cooperation. During the event, participants engaged in panel discussions, interactive workshops, and networking sessions focused on the role of youth in the development of civil society, the implementation of social and environmental initiatives, and the strengthening of regional cooperation. Additional emphasis was placed on discussing contemporary challenges faced by civil society in Central and Eastern European countries, as well as on identifying practical mechanisms for supporting youth projects. The participation of representatives of the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE in this conference contributed

to the expansion of international contacts, the exchange of experience, and the strengthening of the youth dimension of the organization’s activities.



A distinct area of the organization’s activities was the co-organization of legal awareness events and roundtables, in particular:

- **the roundtable “Environmental and Legal Public Platform: Democracy, Rule of Law, and Green Recovery,”** held on September 24, 2025, within the framework of the IX Kharkiv International Legal Forum. The event was co-organized by the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine, Uzhhorod National University, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University, Ukrainian National Forestry University, the Committee on Agrarian, Land and Environmental Law of the National Bar Association of Ukraine, among others;
- **the roundtable “Ownership of the Ukrainian People over Natural Resources: Content, Scope of the Right, and Specifics of Its Implementation in Environmental Disputes”,** held within the framework of Environment Week. The event was co-organized by the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine, the Ukrainian National Forestry University, and the Committee on Agrarian, Land and Environmental Law of the National Bar Association of Ukraine.



These events served as platforms for discussing current issues in environmental law, ownership of natural resources, and the role of the state and civil society in ensuring environmental security.

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# **E**nvironmental Protection Activities and Initiatives

During the reporting period, the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE initiated the development of a practical dimension of its activities in the field of environmental protection, gradually transitioning from awareness-raising initiatives to participation in hands-on environmental actions. Given the relatively short period of the organization's operation, this area remained in the formative stage and focused on engagement with existing environmental practices and initiatives.



The first step in this direction was the participation of the organization's representatives in Environmental Clean-Up No. 5 at the historic cemetery on Kapushanska Street in Uzhhorod – an initiative that brought together the local

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community around the preservation of the city's cultural and historical heritage. This cemetery, covering approximately 4 hectares, is one of the lesser-known yet symbolically significant sites of the city, currently in a neglected condition. The initiative was organized by the community group Urban Trees Uzhhorod. Participation in the clean-up activity provided an important practical experience for the organization, enabling it not only to support a local initiative but also to engage in joint environmental actions at the community level. This contributed to a better understanding of the role of non-governmental organizations as active participants in environmental processes and as facilitators of public engagement in environmental protection activities.



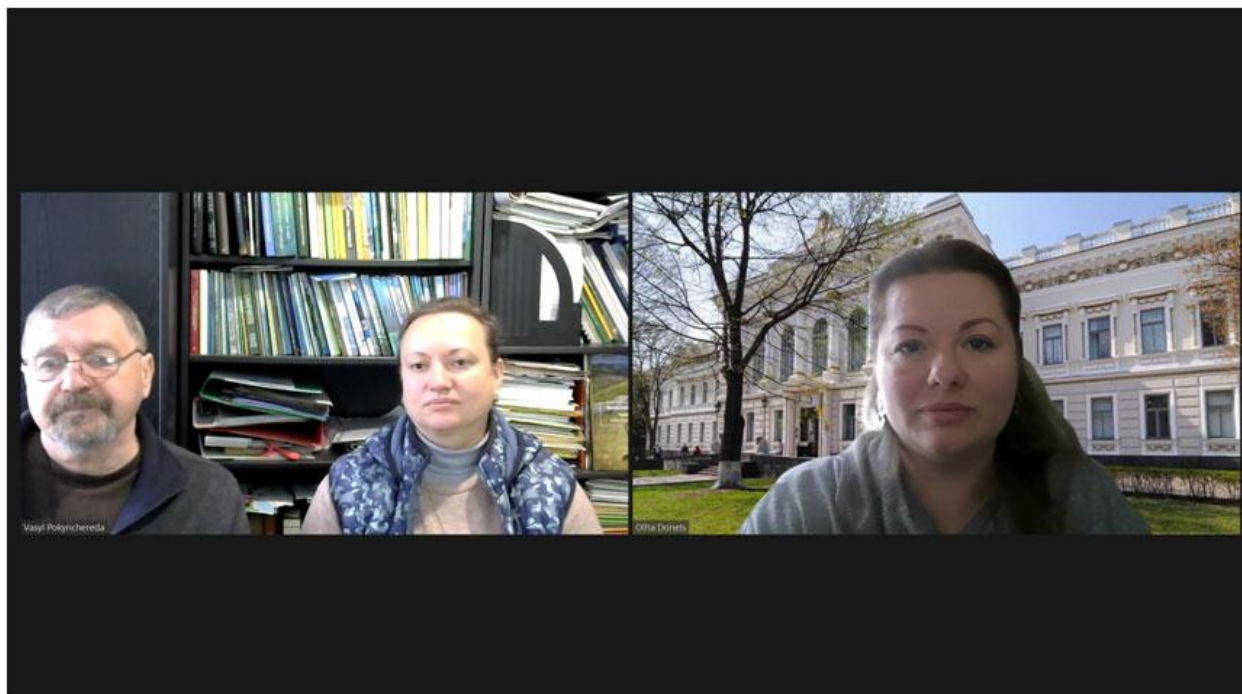
As part of the development of its environmental protection activities, the organization has also been establishing cooperation with institutions of the nature reserve fund. In particular, on May 19, 2025, the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE held a **working meeting with representatives of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve** within the framework of a signed memorandum of cooperation. The key focus of the meeting was the discussion of the current state and prospects for the conservation of the Valley of Narcissi – a unique natural complex included in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves and designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The valley is the only lowland area in Europe where the high-

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mountain species *Narcissus angustifolius* occurs, serving as an important indicator for assessing the condition of wetland ecosystems.

During the meeting, contemporary environmental challenges affecting the site were discussed, including changes in the hydrological regime, declining groundwater levels, the impact of climate change, and the spread of invasive plant species. The participants outlined potential areas for further cooperation, particularly in environmental education, community engagement, and the development of conservation initiatives. The meeting represented an important step in strengthening the organization's partnerships and establishing a foundation for the implementation of joint environmental measures aimed at preserving the region's unique ecosystems.

Overall, participation in conferences, expert discussions, and practical environmental initiatives in 2024–2025 enabled the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE to integrate scientific and expert activities with practical forms of community engagement, thereby creating a solid foundation for its further development.



# Promotion of the Rights of Roma Communities

In 2025, the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE expanded the thematic scope of its activities by engaging in events focused on human rights, social integration, and intercultural dialogue, particularly in the context of Roma communities. This direction became an important component of the organization’s interdisciplinary approach, integrating environmental, legal, and social dimensions of sustainable development.

A key step in this direction was **the co-organization of the roundtable “Best Practices and Proposals for the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Roma Strategy in Zakarpattia Oblast”**, held on July 3, 2025. The event was dedicated to the development of a regional Action Plan for 2026–2027 within the framework of the Strategy for Promoting the Realization of the Rights and Opportunities of Persons Belonging to the Roma National Minority in Ukrainian Society until 2030. The roundtable brought together representatives of public authorities, Roma civil society organizations, human rights advocates, experts, and educators, and served as a platform for open discussion of current challenges, barriers, and effective mechanisms for the integration of Roma communities. Particular attention was given to issues of access to education, the role of civil society in supporting vulnerable groups, and the need to strengthen environmental awareness activities among Roma children and youth. As a result of the event, proposals were developed for a resolution within the framework of the National Forum on the Implementation of the Roma Strategy, laying the groundwork for further actions at both regional and national levels.



A further development of this area was the participation of the organization's representatives in the Forum **“Platform for Interaction between the Police and the Roma Community: A Safe Community – A Shared Responsibility,”** held on October 8, 2025, in Uzhhorod at Uzhhorod National University. The event brought together representatives of law enforcement agencies, public authorities, the Roma community, civil society organizations, and educational institutions with the aim of fostering effective cooperation and strengthening trust within communities.



The forum addressed issues related to human rights, inclusion, the social integration of Roma communities, as well as partnerships between civil society and law enforcement bodies. Particular attention was given to initiatives aimed at developing institutional support infrastructure for Roma communities, including the activities of the Centre for Integration and Interaction of Roma in Zakarpattia Oblast.

During the discussions, representatives of the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE proposed an initiative to provide free educational sessions for Roma children, including topics related to human rights and environmental rights. This proposal received support from the participants of the event. The initiative reflects the organization's commitment to integrating legal awareness and environmental education in its work with vulnerable groups.

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Overall, participation in the above-mentioned activities demonstrated the gradual emergence of a new area of work within the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE focused on integrating environmental awareness, human rights, and social inclusion, and laid the foundation for the further development of initiatives in this field.



# I nternational Cooperation and Partnership Development

In 2025, one of the key areas of activity of the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE was the initiation of systematic international cooperation, which is regarded as a strategic component of the organization's development and its integration into the European civic space.

An important step in this direction was **the participation of the organization's founder and President, Dr. Hasrat Arjjumend, in the General Assembly of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (CINGO) of the Council of Europe**, held in October 2025 in Strasbourg France. The event took place within the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" for 2023–2026 and focused on key issues such as the protection of human rights in times of war, support for internally displaced persons, the development of democratic participation, and strengthening the role of civil society. As part of the participation in the event, consultations were held regarding the possibility of obtaining participatory status with the Council of Europe, which opens prospects for deeper institutional engagement, participation in policy-making processes, and involvement in international initiatives.

For the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE, this participation was not only an opportunity to represent the organization at the international level but also an important stage in shaping its long-term development strategy aimed at integrating Ukrainian civil society into the European space of values, standards, and practices. This participation initiated the process of getting Membership of the COE's CINGO. Overall, in 2025, a solid foundation was established for the further development of the organization's international cooperation, the expansion of its partnership network, and the strengthening of its participation in international initiatives. Read more about this activity here: <https://tgi.org.ua/news/visit-of-the-founder-of-the-grassroots-institute-to-the-council-of-europe-participation-in-the-conference-of-ingos-in-strasbourg/>

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# Financial Management Activities

The financial activities of the GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE during the reporting period were carried out in accordance with the requirements of Ukrainian legislation for non-profit organizations and the principles of transparency and targeted use of funds.

The main source of funding during the reporting period was charitable financial assistance received under a cooperation agreement with the international supporting partner – The Grassroots Institute (Canada). The received funds were used to support the organization’s statutory activities, in particular:

1. organization and implementation of educational and cultural awareness-raising activities;
2. material support for partner initiatives (including theatrical productions);
3. procurement of technical equipment;
4. support of administrative activities of the organization, including accounting services and website maintenance.

Financial management was carried out in compliance with the principles of efficiency, accountability, and targeted use of funds. The organization maintains the necessary accounting records and ensures the preparation of financial and tax reporting in accordance with established requirements.

In a number of activities, personal contributions were made by Dr. Olha Donets (Director), Dr. Hasrat Arjjumend (President) and other Board members.



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