



ADASTRA
FELLOWS

UNET.City

Progress Report

13/05/2024





**ADAstra
FELLOWS**

is a Ukrainian think tank of social science fellows
developing data-driven research for policy innovation.

ADAstra Fellows helps people, societies, and governments comprehend the intricacies of the social world, shaping policies and developing research projects that align with driving global prosperity.

Since 2019, ADAstra has been a source of independent analysis, trusted dialogue and a platform for sharing influential ideas. We work to empower and educate the next generation of youngsters to change the world for the better, build it resilient, make it sustainable and prosper.

ADAstra's Three Ambitious Goals

Empowering Education, Research & Data Development

ADAstra is committed to advancing education in Ukraine via research and data development, focusing on gathering, analysing, and managing extensive data sets to support its in-depth social science research. This involves not only the collection and curation of relevant data but also the development of methodologies and tools for effective data analysis. The aim is to provide a robust foundation for evidence-based policy recommendations and scholarly work, ensuring that all research outputs are grounded in accurate and comprehensive data.

Engaging in State Decision-Making

ADAstra aims to actively participate in governmental decision-making by appointing its experts as advisors in various central executive bodies. The think tank's involvement in public councils enables it to offer informed recommendations, ensuring decisions are data-driven and based on thorough research. This strategic engagement underscores ADAstra's commitment to influencing policy and fostering informed governance.

Global Recognition

ADAstra aims to achieve prominent status as one of the top think tanks in the Central Eastern Europe Region. This aspiration reflects its commitment to excellence in research, policy innovation, and impactful contributions to social sciences and international relations. Achieving this recognition would signify ADAstra's success in influencing both regional and global discourse and policy.

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01 Executive Summary

ADAstra: Pioneering Policy Innovation through Data-Driven Research

- **Established:** 2019
- **Location:** Ukraine
- **Mission:** Empower societies and governments with in-depth social science research to shape global policies.

Key Achievements:

- **Publications and Media Engagement:** Produced 28 in-depth articles on global political events and secured 142 media appearances, significantly boosting our visibility and impact.
- **Educational Programs:** Conducted 13 lectures with 495 attendees under the Insight Education Programme, achieving a 91% satisfaction rate, showcasing our effective public engagement and educational outreach.
- **Research Contributions and Government Advisory:** Published influential research and actively participated in governmental advisory roles, providing data-driven policy recommendations.

Future Directions:

- **Enhancing Research Capabilities:** We plan to further integrate AI in our research to improve accuracy and efficiency. We will continue to expand our educational outreach, focusing on increasing participant engagement.
- **Expanding Influence:** We aim to secure recognition as a top think tank in Central Eastern Europe, enhancing our ability to influence regional and global policies.

Partnership with UNIT.City:

Our collaboration with UNIT.City has been vital in providing a supportive environment for our activities. We aim to continue this partnership, leveraging UNIT.City's dynamic ecosystem to further our research and educational goals, benefiting both ADAstra and the UNIT.City community.

02 Research

Articles Published (Explainers)

IN PROGRESS

Our analysts have created 28 explanatory articles available in Ukrainian and, some of them, in English from the beginning of ADAstra's residency in UNIT.City to the present. We have managed to cover a wide range of topics, including the presidential elections in Indonesia, Taiwan, and the United States, Russian propaganda in the Czech media, the security crisis in Haiti, Central Asian countries' assistance to Russia in circumventing sanctions, political changes in Poland and Slovakia, Russian influence in Oceania, post-Karabakh Azerbaijan, and other various geopolitical events in the world. These materials contain in-depth analysis of important global political events, which allows our audience to stay well informed. The project is ongoing and regular. Equally important, the average number of views of our publications increased by 136% and reached a peak value of **N** views.

Media Appearances (Comments; Op-Eds)

IN PROGRESS

Our Center's analysts are regularly invited as experts to various media platforms, providing comments and writing columns. During the reporting period, they made 142 appearances, which included on various channels, now united by a telemarathon, on the Kyiv TV channel, where they talk about local and international political events, and on the NGO Center for Joint Action, where they collaborate in public discussions and develop policy recommendations. Such frequent cooperation with the media emphasizes the authority and influence of our analysts in the public sphere.

Research Papers Completed

DONE

Research is an integral part of ADAstra's work. One notable research paper, "The Fight for Freedom: Ukraine's Mitigation of War Conditions for Democratic Process" by Taras Prodaniuk (2023) was written during this period.

02 Research

Library Development DONE

We have developed a data and research library that includes up to 10 datasets on various relevant topics, providing valuable resources for current and future analysis that can be based on the data we create. In addition, our open-access research library contains more than 600 research papers written by our analysts.

Community Growth N/A

ADAstra has experienced significant growth across various platforms in the recent period. Our Telegram channel has significantly increased the number of subscribers, which indicates a growing interest in our content and activities. The increase was 30%. The website, as mentioned above, also increased its reach. Offline attendance at our events increased by 40% (especially during presentations of our research findings) with a peak of 57 people

AI Integration for Innovations IN PROGRESS

We also use artificial intelligence (AI) in our research processes to improve the quality and efficiency of our analyses. AI tools are used for data mining, predictive analytics, and natural language processing (NLP) to identify trends and patterns in large data sets. This allows us to create more accurate forecasts and gain a deeper understanding of complex issues. By implementing AI, we can automate routine tasks, allowing our analysts to focus on more strategic work. AI-powered sentiment analysis also helps us assess public opinion and media narratives, providing a more complete understanding of the topics we study in our research.

03 Education

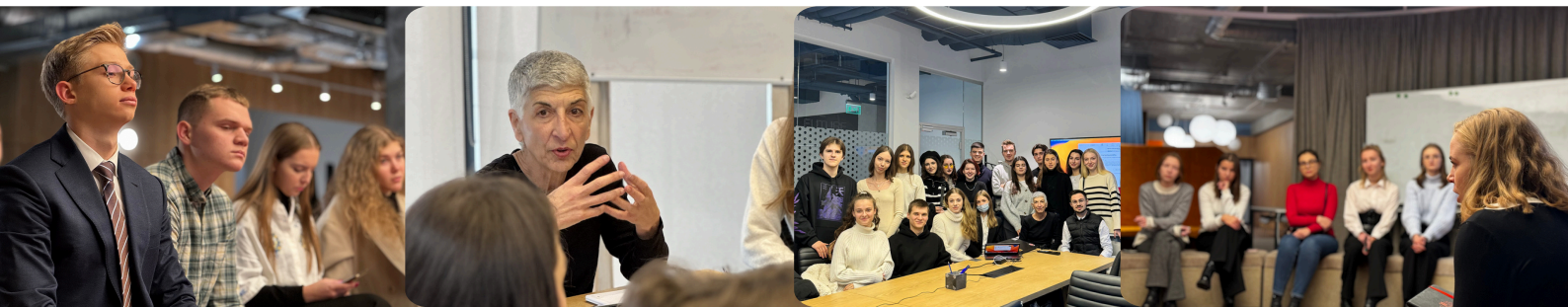
Event Organised

IN PROGRESS

The Insight Education Programme has successfully conducted 13 lectures, attracting a total of 495 participants. Out of these, 207 attended online, while the remaining 288 attended offline. These lectures cover a spectrum of critical issues from international relations to environmental policies, delivered by wide range of experts.



Photos from the events:



The program has attracted prominent speakers such as Tamar Jacoby, Director of the New Ukraine Project at the Institute for Progressive Politics; Georgiy Tykhyi, Communications Manager and Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba; Dmytro Shulga, Director of the Europe and World Programme at the International Renaissance Foundation; Ihor Tsvetkovsky, Senior Advisor on Reparations and Transitional Justice at the International Organization for Migration (IOM); Lucan Wei, Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto; and Dr. Marnie Howlett, Lecturer in Russian and East European Politics at the University of Oxford.

ADASTRA attaches great importance to the feedback received from the participants of the Insight educational program. A detailed analysis of the feedback shows that the student satisfaction rate is 91%, which indicates the success of the program in meeting educational goals and expectations. Participants often express positive emotions and appreciation for the program.

03 Education

Event Organised IN PROGRESS

Also 94% of the respondents said they would like to join ADASTRALectures in the future. The continuous advertisement of the UNIT.City logo in all announcements has significantly enhanced visibility and engagement. Here are some of their comments:

” *“The lectures are very informative and interesting, I like that the lecturers have practical experience”*

” *“I appreciate the opportunity to attend these events, especially the online format, which makes them accessible to those of us who cannot attend in person”*

” *“Great speakers, good location, interesting discussions: I feel like I'm in a professional environment”*

82% of participants reported that they were also impressed by the UNIT.City location, whose logo is always mentioned in our lecture announcements, and they want to visit the center more often and learn something new about it.

Speakers:



Partnering with:



03 Education

Fellowship Development DONE

Currently, ADASTRA has 17 fellows, including 2 Expert Fellows, 12 Research Fellows and 3 Junior Fellows, 4 Associate Fellows. During the reporting period, 5 new participants joined us



ADASTRA has a 5-tiered fellowship structure tailored to different levels of expertise

- Expert Fellow program is designed for individuals with significant experience and recognized expertise, who hold a PhD or Master's degree with 10+ years of industry experience.
- Research Fellow program is designed for professionals who are actively engaged in research, have significant academic or market experience, and require a Master's degree with 3+ years of experience or a Bachelor's degree with 5+ years of industry experience.
- Junior Research Fellow is aimed at early-career professionals or recent graduates who are looking to expand their research skills and have student status or 1 year of industry experience.
- Associate Fellow is for professionals who play a significant role in their field and are looking to contribute to a research culture that requires a significant role and 5 years of industry experience.



MEET NEW FELLOWS & PAST EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE



03 Education

Internships

DONE

ADAstra's three-month analytical internship program was successfully completed with 43 interns selected from 76 applicants. The interns conducted research, analyzed data, and prepared reports under the guidance of experts, forming their own research projects in the field of international relations. In addition, 12 interns took part in another internship track dedicated to working with data, where they learned how to create datasets, develop codebooks and analyze articles, and work with various data formats in a software environment. 37 interns successfully completed the analytical track of the internship, all 12 of them - the data track. 94% of them expressed positive impressions of their participation.

“I enjoyed working with the editors and analysts of the project. Thank you ADAstra for the push towards further education”

“Huge thanks to everyone who created this program; I'm confident that I will continue my path as a quantitative analyst”

Two of the best interns were offered to join the Junior Fellowship at ADAstra, while others continued their studies or work in related fields, using the skills and knowledge gained during their work with us.

Practical Training

IN PROGRESS

The memorandum signed with the National Aviation University launched a university internship program at ADAstra, which has already been attended by 8 students of the NAU' International Relations program. As part of the 14-day program, interns developed explainers on elections in different countries, worked with data, peer-review and all other related processes of research preparation. Over the next few weeks, 15 students from NULES will begin an internship under the same program.

03 Education

Academic Bounds DONE



KUK Київський
Університет
Культури



ADAstra has established strong academic partnerships to enhance educational opportunities and collaboration. We have signed agreements with the National Aviation University (NAU) for student internships and regular guest lectures, and with the Kyiv University of Culture (KUK) for student internships. Additionally, we have partnered with the Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University for student internships and practical training. Our collaboration with the Institute of International Relations at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (IIR KNU) includes project cooperation and regular guest lectures. Furthermore, we have entered into a project cooperation agreement with the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE).

Research Methods in Social Sciences IN PROGRESS

The School of Social Research Methods (SSRM) is strategically designed to improve the quality of social science education by integrating advanced data science and research methodology training. The project aims to bridge a critical gap in the Ukrainian social science sector, characterised by outdated teaching materials and programmes that focus on general soft skills, while neglecting the important specialised technical skills required for in-depth research.

The School of Social and Human Sciences aims to address these issues by becoming an online centre for learning quantitative and qualitative research methods.



04 Government Projects

Research4MFA

IN PROGRESS

ADAstra conducts comprehensive media monitoring and analysis of narratives in global media. We have delivered over 5 monthly reports, each providing detailed insights into how Ukrainian events are portrayed and perceived in the media of various countries. This project is carried out for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (MFA), with key stakeholders including the Department of Communications and the Political Directorate of the MFA.

- Outcome: Analysis of media narratives in the Global South, focusing on coverage of Ukrainian events and reactions to Ukraine's policies.
- Outputs: Development of an effective communication strategy for the MFA, including tailored messages for the Global South. Preparation of materials and tools to improve Ukraine's image and counteract hostile narratives

Project is sponsored by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) with a budget of 6500 EUR.



Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
of Ukraine



**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**

STAKEHOLDERS

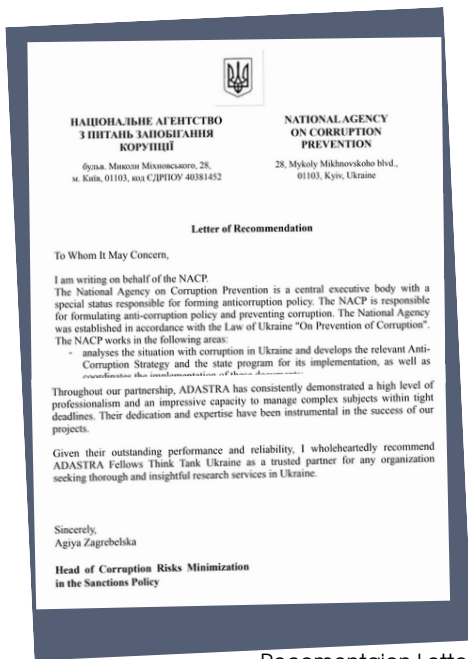


Recommendation Letter

04 Government Projects

Research4NACP

SETTING-UP



Recommendation Letter



This project aims to provide NACP with a detailed analysis of significant global events around the world and their impact on Ukraine, focusing on the economic, political, social, and military dimensions. Our findings are intended to support the development of informed policy that will contribute to national stability and strategic response.

The project will result in the creation of 12 papers, 3-4 pages each, on the above topics.



Letter of Intent

05 Ops & Finance

Strategy Development

DONE

ADA STRA's development strategy is inspired by the best practices of renowned institutions like Chatham House and the Atlantic Council. This strategy focuses on integrating comprehensive research, innovative policy solutions, and effective communication to address global challenges. By leveraging methodologies and insights from these esteemed organizations, we aim to enhance our analytical capabilities, strengthen our policy recommendations, and expand our influence on both national and international levels

Our Manifesto Values:

The manifesto values are presented in a 2x3 grid on a dark blue background. Each value includes the ADA STRA FELLOWS logo, a title in all caps, and a brief description.

- CONNECTIVITY**
Emphasising opening Ukraine to the world and vice versa.
- UNIFYING**
Bridging society, state, and business.
- QUALITY**
Believing in the value of every topic, provided it's well-analysed.
- ACHIEVEMENT PRIORITISATION**
Valuing accomplishments before recognition.
- OPENNESS**
Always welcoming new ideas and opportunities.
- INDEPENDENCE**
Central to our operations.

05 Ops & Finance

Website Reboot DONE

The updated site has a modern design, improved navigation and enhanced functionality, making it easier for users to access our research, publications and updates. In addition, a newly created knowledge library and updated forms of team communication will help us to more effectively develop external partnerships and increase visibility.

Audit of Resources DONE

To accurately assess our capabilities and respond effectively to the needs of our stakeholders, we conducted a comprehensive audit of our workforce. We renewed our team by dismissing some of those who were no longer engaged in research activities. Currently, the project involves analysts who are strongly motivated to develop their careers in ADAstra's analytical department and to direct their efforts to its development. This refined focus ensures that our team remains highly effective and committed to our mission.

New Management Team Hired DONE

Six months ago, three new members of the management team joined the project in the areas of education coordination, communications and finance. Over the past month, following an audit of the organization's resources, 6 new members joined the team to further strengthen our operations. These new roles include overseeing strategic direction, managing education projects, public relations, and ensuring effective communication. This expansion strengthens our ability to communicate effectively and quickly to meet stakeholder needs, create new products, etc.

05 Ops & Finance

Partnerships

DONE

Academia:

- National Aviation University (NAU) to student internships and regular guest lectures
- Kyiv University of Culture (KUK) to student internships
- Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University to student internships and practical training
- International Relations at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (IIR KNU) includes project cooperation and regular guest lectures
- Kyiv School of Economics (KSE): project cooperation agreement

Business:

- Yakaboo Agreed to help students get right educational resources for study and acces for research books
- UNIT.City (Office)

International Funds:

- FES (have ongoing project collaboration)
- International Renaissance Foundation (developed connections)

Communities:

- UGS
- Ukrainian Bar Association (joint events and experience exchange)
- Ukrainian Association of International Law (joint events and research)
- UDONATION Foundation (joint events to support young researchers)
- Ukrainian Students' League (information cooperation)

Government:

- MFA
- NACP (NAZK)
- Min Justice
- Min Economy
- Hennadii Udovenko Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine

05 Ops & Finance

Partnerships DONE

International Coalitions:

RISE Ukraine joined

A coalition of Ukrainian and international organizations working for the integrity, sustainability and effectiveness of Ukraine's recovery.



Three Seas Think Tanks Hub joined

A platform for cooperation between different think tanks based in the Three Seas Initiative (3SI) member countries.



The Network of Think Tanks on the Eastern Partnership joined

The platform provides an opportunity to identify and discuss developments and critical issues for the future of neighborhood and enlargement policies.



05 Ops & Finance

Fundraising **IN PROGRESS**

— Grant Application **IN PROGRESS**

Successful Applications:



- FES: We secured funding for a media monitoring project aimed at enhancing Ukraine's communication strategy in the Global South, improving the understanding and support for Ukraine within these regions.

Failed Applications:



- USAID: Our proposal for establishing a School of Research Methods was not approved.
- International Renaissance Foundation: A proposal for an information campaign project related to EU accession based on research conducted with foreign think tanks was not successful.
- International Renaissance Foundation: Another attempt for funding the School of Research Methods also failed.

Pending Applications:



- MATRA: Institutional support application.
- Democracy Support Fund: A project aimed at developing scientific research capabilities.
- USAID: Awaiting response for the School of Research Methods project.
- U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Public Diplomacy Small Grants Program: Proposal for the School of Research Methods.
- GMF: Institutional support application.
- U.S. Embassy, Public Diplomacy Small Grants Program "Strategic Communications": A project aimed at enhancing strategic planning among government officials and diplomats.

05 Ops & Finance

Fundraising IN PROGRESS

— Business Coalition for Research FAILED

The Business Coalition for Research (BCR) was established to bridge the gap between Ukrainian business and research institutions, while addressing the need for funding and trust in local research. BCR aimed to provide mentoring, information support, technical assistance, scholarships, and financial support for research projects. Despite its potential, the initiative faced challenges, including the low priority businesses placed on corporate social responsibility during the war. Feedback from entrepreneurs indicated that investing in research projects during this time was not possible, leading to the failure of the project.



— Patreon Support & Other Revenue IN PROGRESS

ADAstra receives steady support from our community through Patreon, generating 100 USD monthly. In addition, we secure 250 USD from various other revenue streams, including donations from individual supporters and fees from webinars and workshops conducted by our experts

06 Conclusions

Despite the difficulties, we have overcome critical milestones and look forward to a better future.

ADASTRA's visibility has increased significantly, making us known to donors who are now ready to support us financially in the coming months by adding us to their own short-term financial plans.

This recognition has allowed us to strengthen key partnerships, especially with universities, which will allow us to expand our research efforts.

Students, in particular, have recognised our impact and are very active, expressing a strong desire to hold more offline events at UNIT.City and create more research and publications. In particular, students note that the information they receive from our media, website and online events helps them in their studies and career development.

In addition, our public projects have a satisfaction level of 9/10, which is a good sign for the continuation of these initiatives. Our team has stabilized, and we now have a clear understanding of our direction, which lays the foundation for further success.

06 Conclusions

ADAstra with UNIT.City

In an effort to attract young talent and generate innovative research, we promote our programs and opportunities within the UNIT.City community, encouraging participation and collaboration. This initiative aims to create a dynamic environment where young professionals can engage in and benefit from cutting-edge research and development.

The UNIT.City ecosystem has been visited by a wide net of invited guests, including renowned scientists, government officials, and opinion leaders. By organizing events and forums with these influential personalities, we contribute to strengthening UNIT.City's reputation as a hub for innovation and international cooperation. This partnership strengthens UNIT.City's reputation as a leading place for talent and ideas, contributing to the realization of a dynamic and progressive community, and ADAstra as a center committed to innovation

07 Next Steps

Reasons for continuing cooperation

IN PROGRESS

Engaging young people and the audience:

Our young professionals and audience are interested in innovations and modern technological achievements. Cooperation with UNIT.City provides a platform for engaging in cutting-edge developments, contributing to the formation of a community of progressive individuals.

Commitment to innovation:

We are committed to continuous improvement and innovation. By integrating artificial intelligence into our research processes, we strive to remain the best in the development and implementation of analytical methodologies and contribute to the creation of a qualitative approach to research.

Increased impact and reach:

The partnership with UNIT.City allows us to increase our impact and reach a wider audience. This collaboration gives us the opportunity to connect with other like-minded organizations and individuals, facilitating a dynamic exchange of ideas and resources.

WHAT WE WILL LOOK FROM UNIT.CITY:

We are looking for a residence in UNIT.City, preferably an office space. However, access to coworking spaces will also be helpful as it will create a favorable environment for our team to work and collaborate.

07 Next Steps

What we can offer at UNIT.City by the end of the year:

A series of workshops and seminars led by and with the participation of our experts, which can cover a wide range of topics in which the team specialises and are relevant to UNIT.City residents and target audience.

We are also ready to assist in creating high-quality research products that cover relevant topics. These will be reports, policy briefs, and analytical articles that can be used to inform and make decisions, including in UNIT.City.

Organise networking events with our network of academics, diplomats and opinion leaders. These events will help create an atmosphere of innovation and cooperation, strengthening UNIT.City's reputation as a hub for influential discussions and strategic development, and ADASTR's reputation as a centre that is ready for innovation and dialogue with the audience.

2024

UNET.City