



**Гончаренко
центр**

education and culture

GONCHARENKO CENTRE

The largest non-governmental network of
free educational, cultural and volunteer
spaces in Ukraine



Today Goncharenko Centres are more than 30 open educational and cultural hubs in different parts of Ukraine: from Odesa to Kyiv, from Kharkiv to Chernivtsi, from Dnipro to Rivne.

Each month, tens of thousands of Ukrainians learn foreign languages, financial literacy, digital security, and dozens of other subjects for free at the Goncharenko Centers.

The history of the Goncharenko Centre network began in 2019, when Ukrainian MP Oleksiy Goncharenko and a team of like-minded people started free English language teaching in remote villages of Odesa region.

However, in less than two years, it became clear that the demand for quality free education was much greater. Thus, in February 2021, a completely innovative project for Ukraine was born - a network of educational and cultural spaces called the Goncharenko Centre.

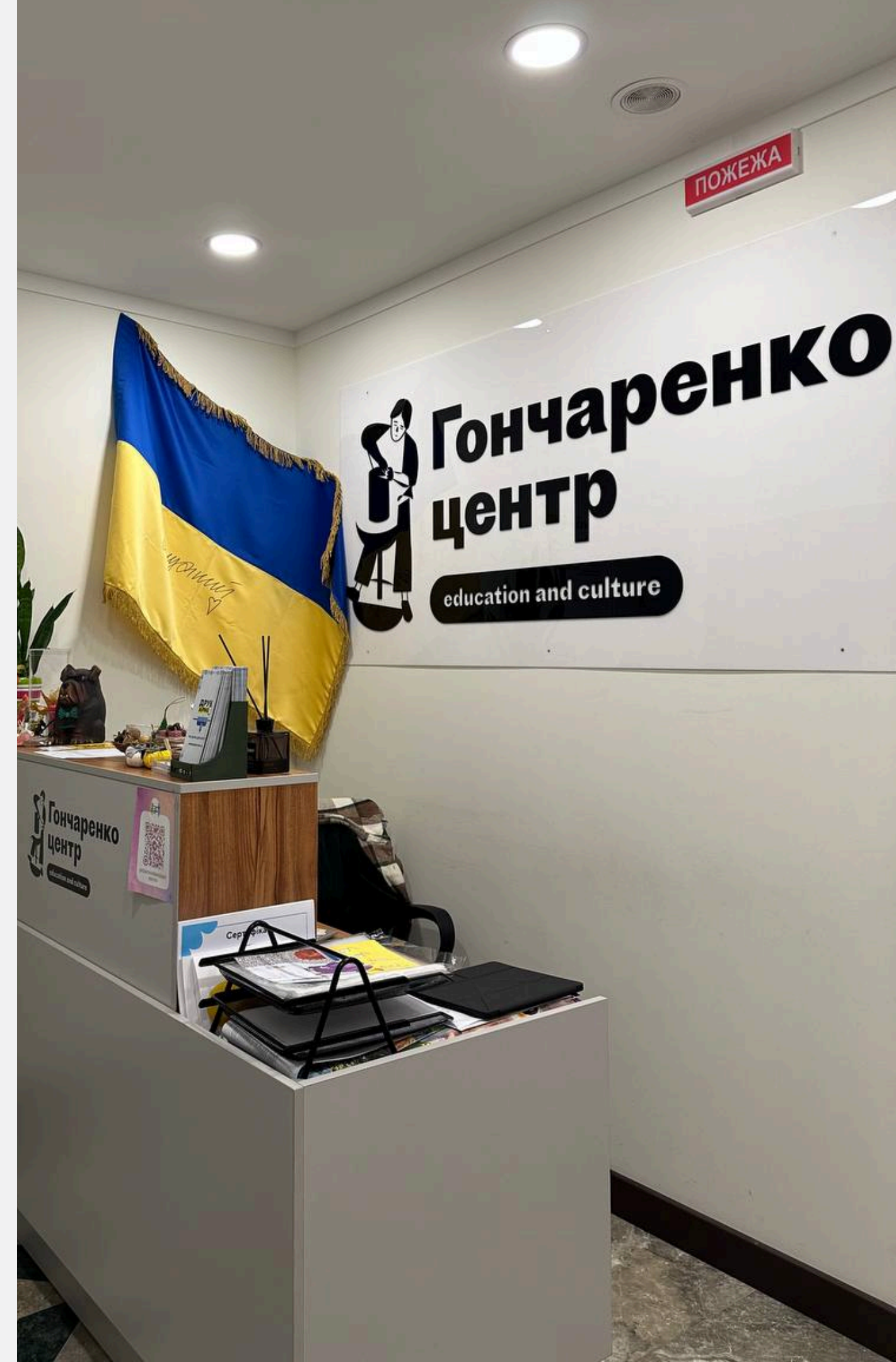
The first to receive visitors were the educational hubs in Podilsk and Balta, both in Odesa region. Later, the Goncharenko Centres went beyond the region and became a truly national project, opening in the east, west, north, and center of Ukraine.



Although today the number of Goncharenko centres in Ukraine is approaching the mark of 35 spaces, there could be much more of them.

Before the russian full-scale of Ukraine in February 2022, the Goncharenko Centre network had powerful hubs in Lyman, Kramatorsk, and Kostiantynivka in Donetsk region, as well as in Kherson and Oleshky in Kherson region, which are still under russian occupation.

For security reasons, the project team closed the centers in the frontline cities, but retained a team of teachers: this is how the Goncharenko Centre Online, a free online platform that has become the flagship of the educational project, was born.



The Russian invasion has impacted not only the number of Goncharenko centres opened, but also the format of the network. On February 24, 2022, the educational and cultural activities were expanded to include volunteering. The spaces became a place of unity for thousands of volunteers who began to help internally displaced persons and the Ukrainian army.



Today, Goncharenko centers across the country weave camouflage nets for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, print the necessary for the military details on 3D printers, and raise millions of hryvnias to help the army.

Goncharenko Centres were the first among Ukrainian volunteers to raise funds and purchase a Gvozdika self-propelled artillery system for the Special Operations Forces.

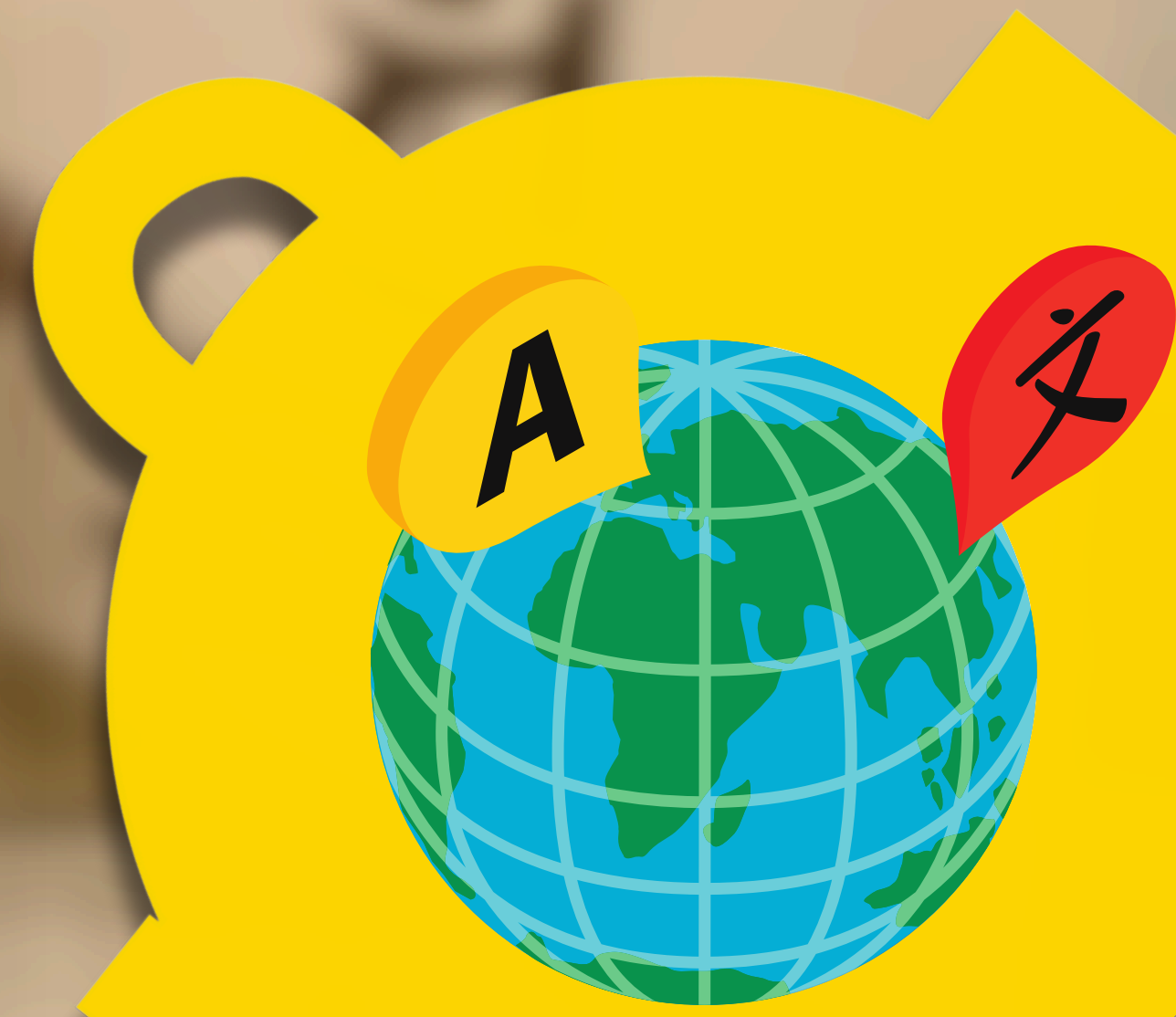
In addition, for more than two years of the full-scale war, the project's volunteers have donated more than 75 cars, hundreds of drones of various types, dozens of anti-drone guns, powerful aviation systems, and other means and devices necessary for Ukrainian soldiers.



Getting back to education. The basis of every Goncharenko Centre is free Ukrainian and English language courses for children and adults. The "basic" set of courses also includes financial literacy, digital security, and career guidance programs. That's not all.

Today, Goncharenko centres across the country teach not only English, but also German, Polish, French, Spanish, Turkish, Italian, Japanese, and Chinese for free. For whom? For Ukrainians of all ages, regardless of any criteria.


The mission of the Goncharenko Centres is to develop high-quality, free and accessible education in Ukraine.



What are the results in practice? In the first three years of the project, the centres have united **600 000** Ukrainians, **300 000** of whom — in 2023 alone.

Thanks to a team of enthusiasts, partners, and friendly organizations, we have managed to build a network that successfully operates not only in large cities and regional centers, but also in small communities with a population of up to 10,000 people. After all, we believe that everyone should have access to education, regardless of the size of the settlement.





In addition to English for civilians, the Goncharenko Centres also teach a specialized English course for the military of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

We were the first to develop a modern program and start helping our soldiers improve their foreign language skills. As a result, more than 2,500 soldiers have already completed the course, connecting directly from the trenches, hospitals or training centers.

Recruitment and training is ongoing, so right now the number of Ukrainian soldiers who have improved their English for free with the Goncharenko Centres continues to grow.



In addition to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the Goncharenko Centers also provide free English training to employees of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.

Special courses for Ukrainian rescuers are held both offline and online, following a specially prepared program that will help emergency workers communicate with foreign colleagues and learn from their experience.



The Goncharenko Centres also cooperate with the State Employment Service of Ukraine, jointly implementing free English language courses for IDPs.

Thus the project team helps IDPs strengthen their positions in the labor market and reduce the general unemployment rates in Ukraine. After all, knowledge of English is increasingly becoming a mandatory requirement for employers.

A separate area of work of the Goncharenko Centres is free legal aid for military personnel, IDPs and Ukrainians abroad. This is the responsibility of a separate Legal Goncharenko Centre, which celebrated its first year of operation in May 2024.

During this time, our lawyers have provided free legal assistance to more than **75,000** Ukrainians. Most of them - **65,000** - are members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Currently, the Legal Centre's team has four separate hotlines that help Ukrainians on a daily basis: for military personnel, their families, internally displaced persons and Ukrainian refugees.

All services, as well as everything else in the Goncharenko Centres, are provided free of charge.





Another project of the Goncharenko Centres is the Plus-Plus initiative to support women from military families. The project provides comprehensive legal and psychological assistance to wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters of Ukrainian soldiers.

In less than a year of operation, we have formed a community of more than 5,000 heroic women who are undergoing psychological therapy together, learning how to start a business, and meeting at joint workshops and educational lectures. The main aim here is to support those who are waiting for their loved ones from the frontline.

As of today, the Goncharenko Centres are a powerful community that always remains open to new members and partners. We are always happy to cooperate with governmental and non-governmental organizations from different countries that share our values.

Among those who have already become our partners, patrons or friends are the University of Pennsylvania, Cisco Systems, Michael Ashcroft, a member of the House of Lords, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, the State Employment Service of Ukraine, the Kruk UAV Operator Training School, the DrukArmy volunteer movement and dozens of other organizations.





Despite the full-scale war and constant shelling, we continue to do our job well. Our centers operate steadily in the "rear" cities of Chernivtsi, Frankivsk and Rivne, as well as in Kharkiv, Dergachi, Rohan, Dnipro and Kryvyi Rih, which are close to the front line.

We are working in Odesa and the region, no matter how hard the occupiers try to intimidate us with strikes. In Chernihiv, Myrhorod, Kodyma and more than 30 cities of Ukraine. We work wherever there is a demand for quality free education. And we will continue to work.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR
SUGGESTIONS, YOU CAN ALWAYS
WRITE TO OUR E-MAIL**

goncharenkocentre@gmail.com

Let's keep in line.



**Гончаренко
центр**

education and culture