"Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects in the focus of scientific research" – a research community-building event in Ukraine

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What is the event or activity you want to organize?

We would like to organize a national conference "Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects in the focus of scientific research" in Kyiv in November 2025, as well as a set of supporting activities before and after the conference.

The conference will convene Ukrainian researchers studying Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects. Its aims will be to connect researcheкs with each other, with the international Wikimedia research community, and with the Ukrainian Wikimedia community, as well as to present their work to the Ukrainian Wikimedia community and the general public.

The one-day conference will feature presentations and discussions from researchers across various disciplines, both STEM and humanities.

We'll gather approximately 50 participants offline (including by providing 30 scholarships to travel within Ukraine) and also offer online participation, including inviting researchers from other countries to present their work.

To build momentum and community before the conference and sustain them afterwards, we'll host six monthly online webinars around the project themes (presenting Ukrainian researchers' work on Wikimedia, presenting international research to Ukrainian research, connecting scholars with the Wikimedia community).

The conference's timing will coincide strategically with Wikimedia Ukraine's annual Science Photo Competition and with preparations for Wikipedia's 25th anniversary celebrations in Ukraine.

What do you want to achieve by doing this community building activity?

Our conference aims to establish Ukraine's first dedicated community of Wikimedia researchers, connecting currently isolated scholars across disciplines to advanced collaboration. This addresses significant gaps in

global Wikipedia research representation, as Eastern European perspectives remain underrepresented despite Ukrainian Wikipedia playing a prominent role among Wikipedia language editions.

By connecting Ukrainian researchers with international Wikimedia scholars and active Wikipedia contributors, we'll create knowledge exchanges that benefit all parties: Ukrainian researchers gain access to established research frameworks, global scholarship incorporates a Ukrainian perspective, and Wikipedia volunteers benefit from evidence-based insights for their contributions.

When do you plan to host the event/activity? What is influencing the timing of the event?

The project will take place from July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

Key milestones
- July 2025 to October 2025 — preparation activities: preparation of the conference, both directly and through supplementary events
- Early November 2025 — the conference
- November 2025 to March 2026 — followup activities, final supplementary events

Who will participate in your event/activity?

Our conference will bring together approximately 50 in-person participants, as well as some additional online viewers.

The key target group is researchers from Ukrainian universities and research institutions who study Wikipedia/Wikimedia projects across various disciplines (such as social sciences, linguistics, computer science or education). Their participation will directly advance our purpose by forming the core of the emerging Wikipedia research community in Ukraine. We've already identified some potential participants through previous webinars we've conducted on Wikipedia research.

We'll also bring a limited number of representatives of other groups:
- Active Wikipedia contributors from the Ukrainian Wikimedia community. Their participation is important to bridge the gap between research and practice, providing researchers with insider knowledge about Wikimedia's operations
- Representatives from partner institutions, such as educational organizations
- Representatives of the international Wikimedia research community, who will present their work (in the virtual format).

We'll provide 30 travel scholarships to ensure geographic diversity of participants from all across Ukraine, not just the capital city of Kyiv. We'll also pay close attention to gender diversity of participants.

In terms of people who will help shape our program, we have the project team consisting of three people (including two active researchers) and connections with several researchers who've already presented their work through our previous events.

Where will the event/activity take place?

The core event will be in-person in Kyiv, Ukraine, with possibility of remote

participation. The conference will be national in scope, with some international guest speakers joining virtually.

We'll also hold supplementary events that will take place fully online and will focus on Ukrainian participants, with some international guest speakers joining virtually.

Experience organizing similar events or activities

Wikimedia Ukraine has organized several standalone research events, most recently two webinars from Ukrainian scholars presenting their research on Wikimedia in late 2024 and early 2025 (link 1, link 2).

We also have considerable experience organizing events on adjacent topics — for researchers overall (i.e. not focusing on research about Wikimedia). The most notable one is our annual Science Photo Competition that draws scientific images to Wikimedia Commons. We've built a community of dozens of researchers who regularly participate in the contest and share their research to Wikimedia platforms through the project; you can read more about the results of the most recent contest at the link.

Specific outputs

Our conference will produce three tangible outputs that advance Wikimedia research community goals:

1) Published repository of research presentations – All conference presentations will be recorded and published on Wikimedia Commons. This comprehensive collection will provide the first Ukrainian-language Wikipedia research resource, making methodologies and

findings accessible to both researchers and Wikipedia contributors.

2) Research network communication platform – We'll establish and maintain a dedicated communication channel (a messaging app group and/or email list) connecting all participants. This infrastructure will facilitate ongoing collaboration beyond the conference, supporting the sustainability of the emerging research community. The platform will be moderated by Wikimedia Ukraine team members, including ones with academic backgrounds.

3) Action-oriented summary report – We'll produce a concise report identifying research gaps, collaboration opportunities, and future research directions. This document will guide subsequent community development activities and research prioritization.

Post-conference, the project team will maintain these outputs and organize regular online follow-up sessions and webinars using existing organizational resources. They will facilitate continuing connections between researchers and Wikipedia contributors, ensuring sustainable impact beyond the grant period.

Evaluation

One year after the conference, we will assess its success using the following metrics and methods:

1) Participant survey – We'll conduct a survey of all participants to gather qualitative feedback on how the conference influenced their research approaches, Wikipedia engagement, and professional networks. Success means at least 80% reporting a positive impact on their work.

2) Sustained community engagement – We'll track the continued activity of our research

network through measurable indicators including: online meeting attendance, number of active participants in the communication platform, and frequency of researcher interactions. Success means maintaining at least 25% of original participants as active community members.

3) Integration with the international research community – We'll follow participation of our community members in global Wikimedia research events (to the extent possible considering privacy considerations). Success means at least 10% of our conference participants taking part in international events.

Budget

The budget is available at the link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18-t9M5PbVaIys3uJeIVbcJ8DurX6_hZ9YJTHsrfxWBU/edit?usp=sharing