

The editor's-in-chief address

Dear Reader!

"Ukrainian Information Space", which in the status of an international scientific journal, is published twice a year since 2018, and has dared to take on the mission of being almost the only chronicler of national journalism and information in Ukraine. With an indispensable study of the dramatic past lessons, honest and picky tracking of ambiguous trends of the disturbing present, and with a reliable look into the future. All this is described on the journal pages — with an attachment to the European, and more broadly, the global context of media development and book publishing in the era of state-of-the-art technologies for the creation, distribution, and the existence of a particular information product.

And this is under the conditions that several professional editions, including the legendary "Journalist of Ukraine", have not withstood chronic troubles, primarily of a financial nature, have ceased to exist. And the same range of scientific university periodicals with the once keyword "Journalism" in the titles have been reformed in recent years under the trendy now, but generalized and somewhat blurred by objects and subjects of research brand "Social Communications".

The beginning of this year turned out to be such when the profession, rank, vocation, and responsibility of a journalist in particular and journalism, in general, were given special attention not only by all Ukrainians but also by the world community.

The detonator of an unusual phenomenon for our realities was the unexpectedly bold decision of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) to impose sanctions on TV channels 112, ZIK, News One, and the odious politicians behind them. In fact, it is a ban on their activities.

Powerful support for such an important, albeit belated, decision was provided not only by the not indifferent Ukrainian community but also by Europe in the person of the G7 ambassadors accredited in Ukraine. During the meeting with the President of Ukraine on this issue, they agreed that "there is a need to combat disinformation within the framework of media freedom and pluralism".

However, the journalistic community, unfortunately, did not show such coherence. Loud phrases such as illegal decision, attack on freedom of speech, political massacre, pressure on the media, censorship returns — are used in the lexicon of highly paid owners recognized by many viewers creative employees of these channels, picked up for distribution by other media. And such statements "from the other side" were predictable.

The position of the head of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, Serhii Tomilenko, was not clear. From his Facebook page, he hastened to

publish statements that this is an attack on freedom of speech, an "emergency" that he intends to report to the International Federation of Journalists, the European Federation of Journalists, and the OSCE Office for Media Freedom.

This statement by the head of the only organization in Ukraine, which unites thousands of journalists, outraged the community. For example, the Kyiv organization of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine has shown state, national and political maturity. Here they quickly made a special statement, in which they strongly dissociated themselves from the union's head statement and called the activities of banned channels "media occupation of the Ukrainian information space", "planting Russian meanings", "deliberate discrediting of everything Ukrainian".

Especially intensive discussion on the issue of "journalism and time", "the rank of the profession and the measure of a journalist's corruption" unfolded after these statements on social networks.

There is a trend: colleagues who have been trained in real journalism are rightly outraged by the behavior of the head of the National Union of Journalists. The modern communicators, formed on the "sewer technology" of ignorant journalists, who obviously include Mr. Tomilenko, are still ready to serve the oligarchs-owners of the media, slyly appealing to the European standards of our profession, to the inevitability of compliance of these balance standards. In a sick society, which is waging a grueling war on three fronts — Russian, oligarchic, and Little Russian (Malorossian), such standards can not be mechanically imposed. Certainly, the Board of the NUJU, which in its current composition discredits the best traditions of national journalism and requires decisive renewal. This flirtation with the enemy under the guise of ephemeral "rights to information" should end.

The situation with the agreement statement of the head of the NSJU and the controversial discussion around it, exposed several problems that have accumulated both in the journalistic community and in the theory and practice of Ukrainian journalism. It is also the concepts content of "freedom of speech", "fact objectivity", and the distinction between propaganda and information terrorism, information and disinformation, mass media and mass destruction. It is also the quality of journalists' training at the relevant faculties of universities, and the presence (or absence) in their curricula of such basic concepts that formulate a kind of Ukrainian journalists' professional profile: professionalism, decency, patriotism.

A separate topic for discussion is journalism standards. How justified and expedient are now attempts to blindly copy the journalism standards of a developed democratic society (especially in matters of maintaining information balance) in a country whose genetic code of the nation is still not cured?

Motivated by an extraordinary event for the society, the heated issues mentioned above are somehow raised by the authors of the current issue of "Ukrainian Information Space" in their articles.

The first section of the journal — "Current issues of Ukrainian information space" is full of hot topics.

Professor Mykhailo Poplavskyi's article analyzes, using the examples of KNUKIM's practice, social networks not only as a rich source of information for journalism but also as an effective means of promoting educational services and the image of an educational institution to a wide range of young people.

In the analytical review of Professor Mykola Tymoshyk, the reader will find answers to the question: why the curriculum of journalism faculties of Ukrainian universities has recently become less and less journalistic and why the creative methods of Western schools of journalism are slowly being introduced in this matter, which colleagues from Europe generously shared with Ukrainians in the 10s of this millennium.

Recent Professor Yaroslav Kalakura's study is devoted to the acute problem of information management in the conditions of the occupation-hybrid war of Russia against Ukraine. Professor of the Faculty of Journalism, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Marian Zhytariuk emphasizes and concretizes the above-mentioned decision of the National Security and Defense Council to close three pro-Russian TV channels in the specifics of the media and political component of this problem.

In the section "Theory and practice of contemporary journalism", the research results are presented by Victoriia Haluzhdina-Horobets (on the phenomenon of social networks in the modern information space), Oksana Harachkovska (on the specifics of the interview genre) and Ihor Sklenar (on the peculiarities of the mass media use by the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church during the coronavirus pandemic).

As always, full of the spirit of unknown truth and valuable experience about the past of Ukrainian journalism and book publishing through the fate and creativity of famous or even unknown personalities — Borys Hrinchenko, Serhii Efremov, Serhii Zhyhalko, as well as several authors of the Ukrainian-language book of Bukovyna from the time of its precedence, depending on cultural Austria.

It was to be hoped that our regular section "Reviews, Messages" would be interesting for readers.

I invite all colleagues who share the editorial policy of our journal to cooperate.

**Mykola Tymoshyk,
Editor-in-Chief
of "Ukrainian Information Space"**