

MEDIA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS REGULATION IN UKRAINE

Digest #35 – May 2026

DSLUI monthly digest on media and digital rights regulation in Ukraine provides an overview of the proposed and adopted legislation in the spheres of freedom of expression, media regulation, privacy and data protection, Internet regulation in general, and the activities of the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine (hereinafter – NBC) in the area of Media Law implementation.

EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

On 6 May, the **Ukrainian legislative package on combating SLAPPs harmonized with EU standards** was presented at a roundtable discussion attended by state representatives and civil society. The legislative amendments, prepared by the Parliamentary working group (of which DSLUI is a part), have already received positive feedback from the Council of Europe and are expected to be finalized and presented in early summer.

On 20 May, the **Cabinet of Ministers** appointed **Olga Krevska as Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation for European Integration**. With the experience of 8 years in the field of European integration, Krevska will be responsible for harmonisation of Ukrainian technological standards with European ones and development of global partnerships. According to Krevska, **full integration of Ukraine into the EU Digital Single Market** constitutes the main priority of her work.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA REGULATION

Draft Law [#12191](#), decriminalizing the dissemination of pornography, described in detail in [the November 2024 digest](#), **was not adopted and withdrawn from consideration by the Parliament**: out of 226 necessary votes, only 207 MPs voted in favor. This decision preserves the status quo and leaves erotic content creators at risk of criminal persecution despite the taxation of their activities through such platforms as OnlyFans.

On 18 May, the **Draft Law [#15256](#) on Specifics of the Publication of Laws was registered in the Parliament**. The draft law empowers the Head of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to immediately and officially publish the adopted law in case the President of Ukraine does not sign the document within required 15 days (without returning the law with the substantial proposals for repeated review). **This draft law is important in context of the adopted legislative initiatives that undergo no progress and remain unsigned for months**. The Parliamentary Committee on Rules of Procedure, Deputy Ethics and Organization of Work of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine processes the draft.

There was no progress on drafts described in the [previous digests](#), including Draft Law [#7033-d](#) on the prevention of disclosure of certain information in the texts of court decisions, Draft Law [#12111](#) on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Media Activities, Draft Law [#12253](#), which improves the legal provisions of the [Law on Advertising](#), Draft Law [#13457](#) which introduces criminal liability for facilitating fraud through the dissemination of information, Draft Law [#13597](#) on combating discrimination, two draft laws on accelerated consideration of EU integration-related drafts ([#13653](#) and [#13653-1](#)), two draft laws criminalising the insult of military personnel ([#13384](#) and [#13384-1](#)), and draft law [#14202](#) on accessibility of media services for people with disabilities. Draft Laws [#14372](#), [#15186](#), and [#15192](#), analyzed in the [previous digests](#), remained unchanged in status.

Draft Law [#5870-d](#) on conditional access to media services and Draft Law [#12320](#) on safeguarding the barristers' activities are still awaiting the President's signature.

PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION

No progress was made on other [previously analyzed documents](#), such as the draft laws on [the criminalization of electronic communication fraud](#), [counterintelligence activities](#), Draft Law [#13181](#) on the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Draft Law [#8153](#) on Personal Data Protection, and Draft Law [#14118](#) on third parties' access to public electronic registers. Draft Law [#15150](#) on the new draft of the [Civil Code of Ukraine](#), analyzed in [April](#), is still being prepared for the second reading.

INTERNET REGULATION

No legislative steps were taken regarding earlier submitted initiatives, namely Draft Law [#13311](#) imposing liability for adopting unlawful decisions while applying sanctions, Draft Law [#14150](#) on Public-Private Interaction in the Field of Cybersecurity, Draft Law [#13505](#) on the Prohibition of Use and Distribution of Hostile Software Products and Hostile Information Technology, Draft Law [#14197](#) strengthening enforcement powers in the sphere of electronic communications, and two sanctions-related drafts ([#11492-1](#) and [#12406](#)). Draft Laws on digital accessibility ([#14278](#) and [#14278-1](#)) and Draft Law [#12349](#) on the Cyber Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine remained unchanged in status. [Draft Law #11115](#) on Regulation of Information-Sharing Platforms That Disseminate Mass Information, which was recommended to be adopted in the first reading, is yet to be voted on.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING OF UKRAINE

On 15 May, the NBC [concluded](#) its process of electing members of Suspilne's Supervisory Board in the sphere of physical education and sports - **Oleksandr Yarema received the most votes at the conference**, becoming a member.

Additionally, the co-regulatory body in the sphere of audiovisual media services [has continued](#) recruiting experts to the expert panel, which will prepare expert opinions on compliance with [the Broadcasting Rules on Memorial Days for linear audiovisual media](#). The candidates' submissions are accepted till 7 June.

Digital Security Lab Ukraine is a non-governmental organisation aiming to create a human-rights-centered digital environment in Ukraine. We work towards achieving this goal by providing digital security support to high-risk Ukrainian human rights and media organisations, and contributing to policy development in the field of human rights on the Internet through conducting legal monitoring, research, analysis, advocacy, and awareness-raising campaigns.

Contact us: dslua@dslua.org



Digital
Security Lab
Ukraine