

MEDIA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS REGULATION IN UKRAINE

Digest #36 - June 2026

DSLU 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 18 June, the EU [opened](#) the first cluster of **acquis** in its accession negotiations with Ukraine. The EU has set benchmarks for the rule of law and fundamental rights, the functioning of democratic institutions, public administration reform, and economic criteria that Ukraine must meet. In the media sphere, relevant requirements [include](#) *“enhancing freedom of expression and media freedom and pluralism through reinforcing the independence and institutional capacity of public service media and the media regulator as well as the safeguards of protection of journalists”, and “adopting and commencing the implementation of the data protection legislation in line with the EU acquis, including strengthened capacities of the National Commission on Personal Data Protection”*. These benchmarks mirror Ukraine’s Rule of Law Roadmap and National Program for Adaptation of EU Acquis priorities on Chapters 10 and 23.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA REGULATION

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](#), [#15192](#), and [#15256](#), 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

On 2 June, **Draft Law [#15289](#)**, which implements [PACE Resolution No 2646](#) (Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy), was registered in the Parliament. The draft law establishes **rules for the disclosure of information from pre-trial investigations in criminal proceedings involving persons holding political office and additionally imposes criminal liability for illegal disclosure of such information**. In this regard, the disclosure conducted without the order of the investigating judge or in excess of the authorized scope which goes beyond the public interest test is punishable by probation supervision for a term of 3-5 years or by deprivation of liberty for the same term, with the deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities for a period of up to 3 years. The Parliamentary Committee on Law Enforcement Activities processes the draft.

On 3 June, **Draft Law [#15294](#)** was registered in the Parliament. The law amends Article 301 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, **criminalizing the sale or distribution of pornographic material to a minor**, as well as the production, sale, or distribution of such material without the consent of the person depicted on them. The violation leads to a fine of 85,000-170,000 UAH (approx. 1,662-3,324 EUR), probation supervision for 5 years, or the deprivation of liberty for 5 years. Additionally, the **draft prohibits forcing an adult to participate in the creation of pornography**, which is punishable by the deprivation of liberty for a period of 3-8 years, with

the deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities for a period of up to 3 years. The draft constitutes another attempt at decriminalizing the creation and distribution of pornography by adults on their own will after a failed vote last month and is currently being processed by the Parliamentary Committee on Law Enforcement Activities.

Draft Law #15344, registered in the Parliament on 22 June, amends the legal provisions related to the provision of cloud and data center services. In particular, the draft law **empowers the Head of the Security Service of Ukraine to require (in written form) the Internet providers to provide access to data identifying physical or legal persons who are users of certain services**. Although such measures are justified by the need for rapid response to emerging cyber threats, **there is a need to review the provisions to minimize the risk of potential power abuse and eliminate the risk of user privacy abuses**. The draft law is currently being processed by the Parliamentary Committee on Digital Transformation.

On 26 May, **Draft Law #13181 on the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights**, analyzed in detail in [the April 2025 digest](#), **was voted on by the Parliament in the first reading**. The draft provides an improved version of the [current law](#), strengthening the Ombudsman's legal powers as the current personal data protection regulator, granting full access to restricted information and state secrets of all security levels. The draft law amendments could be submitted by MPs by 9 June. Thus, **the draft is currently being prepared for the second reading**.

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 #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

In June, the NBC's work focused primarily on the enforcement measures. On 11 June, due to the continued inability to carry out an inspection of the media service, **the regulator [decided](#) to file a lawsuit seeking the revocation of the license** of LLC TV Company "Author TV" (TV-Channel 41).

On 25 June, **the NBC [fined](#) the online media "ua.news" of the LLC "Information Agency "News Flash" in the sum of 95,117 UAH (approx. 1,860 EUR) for depicting in its materials the Autonomous Republic of Crimea as part of the Russian Federation's territory.** The publication did not explain that Crimea is a Ukrainian territory currently occupied by the aggressor state. During the proceedings, the media regulator applied a special procedure for serious violations under martial law conditions.

The NBC **[has also expanded the List of Aggressor State On-Demand Audiovisual Media Services and Services of Audiovisual Service Providers](#)** by requesting the blocking of 72 websites related to 6 new (namely, Light HD TV, HD KINO, ONLINE VKINO, KinoFlux Kinosvinka, Smotret-TV) and 8 previously prohibited media services.

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.

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