



RIPE

# Identifying and Documenting Best Practices to Survive Natural Disasters or War

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Intermediate Report and Discussion



# Background

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- RIPE 86 Meeting
  - Identifying and Documenting Best Practices to Survive Natural Disasters or War: Call for Action
- Where we started and why

## Two things were evident at that time (May 2023)

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- Ukrainian community has unique experience in dealing with crisis situations, and is willing to share it with the broader community
- Urgent priorities and daily challenges do not allow for documenting that experience and turning it into best practices

# Timeline of events

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- 24 Feb. 2022 – Russia invaded Ukraine
- Community response
  - Second week of March 2022 – Keep Ukraine Connected made its first drop
  - RIPE Meetings

# May 2022 – RIPE 84, Berlin

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- Resiliency of the Internet in Ukraine – Emile Aben
- Global NOG Alliance: Taskforce to Keep Ukraine Connected – René Fichtmüller
- Domain Defence in Depth – Dmytro Kohmanyuk
- RIPE NCC Update – Hans Petter Holen (RIPE NCC's responses to the Russian war in Ukraine)

# October 2022 – RIPE 85, Belgrade

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- The Internet in Ukraine: 200 Days of Resistance – Svitlana Tkachenko
- Impact of the First Months of War on Routing and Latency in Ukraine – Valerio Luconi
- Updates to the Registry from Distressed Areas – Athina Fragkouli (options to protect resource holders under occupation)

# May 2023 – RIPE 86, Rotterdam

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- Regional Success Stories in the Conditions of War - Olena Kushnir
- Current Policy Topics – Angela Dall’Ara 2023-03 (Voluntary Transfer Lock)
- Identifying and Documenting Best Practices to Survive Natural Disasters or War: Call for Action – Alena Muravska

# Working group – Starting point

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- People:
  - a solid group of volunteers with various expertise and backgrounds
  - RIPE NCC support (Admin, Comms, Legal)
- Defined:
  - Scope of the group
  - Communication channels, planning and reporting
  - Document layout



# Document layout

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- Networks and equipment damage/loss
- Power outages and blackouts
- Network security
- Starlinks
- Organising aid logistics (Keep Ukraine Connected)
- Best business practices (staff, decision-making, business model))
- Additional – private / public cooperation and coordination

# Method of collecting materials

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- Interviews
- Legal framework
  - consent to collect, store and share the data
- Interview questions
  - proved to be challenging

# Why interviews?

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- “We’ve learned to make decisions quickly, react to threats, use new technologies. And thanks to this, we kept Ukrainians connected even in the darkest times, and continue to do everything for this, even near the war zones.”
  - Maksym Smilianets – co-owner of Viner Telecom ISP, co-founder of Telecom Ukraine Conference (RIPE NCC Open House Internet in Ukraine, 2 March 2023)

# Generic view on the situation

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- BGP routing
- Local caches
- Physical connectivity
- Information warfare
- Hardware
- Cybersecurity
- Staff

# What didn't we anticipate at RIPE 86?

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- Timing – I believe we were one year too late
- The impact that the war has on people in the long run
  - How it affects people
  - Their resources and mental state
  - Even if the situation remains the same, it continues to have a negative impact

# Do we still believe in it?

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- Experience not documented often gets lost and forgotten
- If made available for the broad community, it can save valuable time and lives for those in crisis situations
- For whom:
  - those who rebuild or maintain their networks after damage
  - those who are planning future networks and want to build in resiliency from the start

# How to move forward? (At least for now)

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- Ukrainian community asked us to hold on, and give them a bit more time
  - be kind and supportive
- Alternative sources and methods to collect data
  - Experience of Keep Ukraine Connected (what equipment they have sent, what requests they get, for what issues, etc.)
  - ...?

Thank you

