



LAW OF UKRAINE

On Fostering Youth Socialization and Development in Ukraine

(enacted by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine by Resolution N 2999-XII of 05/02/93 and further amended)

The Law defines overarching principles underpinning creation of organizational, socio-economic, and legal political conditions for socialization and development of young Ukrainian citizens for the benefit of individual, society and the state, as well as main areas of Ukraine's youth policy implementation concerning youth socialization and development.

Article 1. Definition of Terms

The terms defined below shall have the following meanings within this Law:

Youth, young citizens – citizens of Ukraine between 14 and 35 years of age (*paragraph 2 as amended under Law N 1659-IV as of 23/03/2004*);

Minor – citizens under 18 years of age;

Youth socialization – process of multi-faceted engagement of young people in life of society as a system and treating young people as part of this system;

First job place – a job place of a young person after completion or termination of education in an education institution, completion of vocational training or re-training, or after discharge from fixed-term military service or alternative (non-military) service;

Youth employment centres – specialized state institutions established for addressing issues concerning youth employment, ensuring young people's engagement in labour during the time free from studying, fostering development of youth initiatives in labour sphere, providing re-training and in-service training for youth;

Young family – a married couple with spouses under 35 years of age, or single-parent family with mother (father) under 35 years of age (*paragraph 7 as amended under Law N 1659-IV as of 23/03/2004*);

Social services centres for families, children and youth – special institutions providing social services to families, children and youth who find themselves in challenging life situations or in need of external support (*paragraph 8 in Art.1 as in force of Law N 3109-III of 07/03/2002 and Law N 2353-IV as of 18/01/2005*);

Youth civil society organizations – associations of citizens between 14 and 35 years of age set up with the purpose of exercising and protecting their rights and freedoms and meeting political, economic,

social, cultural and other common interests (*paragraph 9 as amended under Law N 271-V of 19/10/2006*);

Youth taskforces – temporary groups established to provide youth secondary employment during the time free from studying (*Article 1 supplemented by paragraph 10 under Law N 3142-IV as of 29/11/2005*).

Article 2. Principles of Youth Socialization and Development

Youth socialization and development shall be underpinned by the following main principles:

- Respect to common values of mankind, human rights, rights of nations, historical, cultural and national specificity of Ukraine and its nature;
- Direct participation of youth in building and implementation of policies and programmes which concern society in general and young people in particular;
- Consideration of the needs of young people and their mapping against economic capacity of the state;
- Accessibility of social services for each young citizen and equality of legal guarantees;
- Responsibility of the state for creating environment conducive of youth self-development and self-accomplishment;
- Unity of efforts taken by the state, all layers of society, political and civil society organizations, enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens in the cause of youth socialization and development;
- Responsibility of each young citizen before the society and the state for observance of the Constitution and Laws of Ukraine.

Article 3. Legislation on Fostering Youth Socialization and Development

Ukrainian legislation on fostering youth socialization and development is based on the Constitution of Ukraine and is contained in this Law, the Law of Ukraine “On the National Programme for Support of Youth” for relevant years and other sub-laws (*part 1 of Art. 3 as amended under Law N 2203-IV as of 18/11/2004*).

Where an international agreement the binding force of which is endorsed by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine establishes rules other than those stipulated by this Law, rules of such international agreement shall prevail.

Article 4. Mandate of State Executive Authorities and Local Self-Governments in the Area of Youth Socialization and Development

A coordinating function with regard to state policy implementation in the area of youth socialization and development shall be performed by the central executive body tasked with ensuring building of state policy in the area of youth, physical culture and sport. (*part 1 of Art. 4 as amended under Law N 5462-VI as of 16/10/2012*).

The Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and local executive authorities shall establish within their structures dedicated units on state youth policy implementation.

The central executive body tasked with ensuring building of state policy in the area of youth, physical culture and sport together with other state executive authorities shall develop, and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall approve social norms and benchmarks for youth socialization and development, adherence to and implementation of which shall be mandatory for administrations, local self-governments, public associations, as well as enterprises, institutions and organizations irrespective of their ownership, and individuals who use hired labour (*part 3 of Art. 4 as amended under Law N 3483-IV as of 23/02/2006, and Law N 5462-VI as of 16/10/2012*).

Article 5. Funding of Youth Socialization and Development Activities

Youth socialization and development activities shall be funded from the State Budget and local budgets, and other sources not prohibited by the law.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, when approving the State Budget of Ukraine, shall allocated funds within the state budget directed towards youth socialization and development. These funds shall be managed by the central executive body tasked with ensuring building of state policy in the area of youth, physical culture and sport (*part 2 of Art. 5 as amended under Law N 5462-VI as of 16/10/2012*).

Local self-governments, when approving local budgets and according to the law, shall include expenditure for implementation of youth socialization and development activities.

According to the law, the state budget and local budgets shall contain target funds for implementation of youth and children policies which foster youth socialization and development.

Article 6. Social Services Centres for Families, Children and Youth

Social services centres for families, children and youth and their specialized units shall be created for the purpose of supporting youth socialization and development (*Art. 6 as in force of Law N 3109-III as of 07/03/2002, and Law N 2353-IV as of 18/01/2005*).

Article 7. Youth Labour

The state guarantees the right to labour for employable youth equal to that of other citizens. Specific requirements for labour of minors are defined by the law.

The state shall ensure first job places for employable young people for the period of at least two years after completion or termination of education in general education institutions, vocational technical colleges or higher education institutions, or completion of vocational training or re-training, or after discharge from fixed-term military service or alternative (non-military) service. The two-year term of first job placement shall be calculated with consideration of a young citizen's employment period prior to call-up for fixed-term military service or alternative (non-military) service.

Young citizens who referred to the State Employment Service in search of employment shall receive free information or professional advice on the choice of employment type, occupation, place of work and receive professional training or re-training as necessary.

The state shall promote establishment of youth employment centres and youth civil society organizations (agencies, job centres, offices, etc.) to ensure youth employment, implementation of

youth professional training programmes, and enhancing their professional qualifications. A framework regulation on youth employment centres shall be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine *(part 4 of Art. 7 as amended under Law N 294-IV as of 28/11/2002, and Law N 429-IV as of 16/01/2003)*.

Youth employment quotas are established for enterprises, institutions and organizations within the range defined by the Law of Ukraine “On Employment of Population”. Employment of young people with disabilities shall be regulated by the norms set for number of job places to be allocated for people with disabilities under the Law of Ukraine “On Basic Principles of Social Protection of People with Disabilities in Ukraine”. *(part 5 of Art. 7 as in force of Law N 2429-IV as of 01/03/2005, Law N 3483-IV as of 23/02/2006, as amended under Law N 5067-VI as of 05/07/2012)*.

In the event of rejecting employment application of young citizens subject to the established quotas, enterprises, institutions and organizations shall be liable to penalty in the amount established by part 2 Art. 53 of the Law of Ukraine “On Employment of Population”. *(part 6 of Art. 7 as amended under Law N 429-IV as of 16/01/2003, and as in force of Law N 5067-VI as of 05/07/2012)*.

(Part 7 of Art. 7 removed under Law N 5067-VI as of 05/07/2012).

The state shall ensure conditions for youth secondary employment *(part 8 of Art. 7 as amended under Law N 2856-VI as of 23/12/2010)*.

Youth employment centres acting on the basis of framework regulation and youth civil society organizations (agencies, job centres, offices, etc.) on the basis of availability of relevant permission issued by the State Employment Centre, shall assist in providing employment for young people, including pupils of secondary schools and undergraduate and post-graduate students higher education institutions outside their classroom hours, provide career advisory services and preparation for work in their new professions.

The State Employment Centre shall provide local executive authorities, local self-government bodies, youth employment centres, social services centres for families, children and youth access to information about availability of vacant job places (vacant positions) including those reserved for people with disabilities *(part 10 of Art. 7 as amended under Law N 3109-III as of 07/03/2002, Law N 2353-IV as of 18/01/2005, Law N 3483-IV as of 23/02/2006, Law N 5067-VI as of 05/07/2012)*.

The state shall promote activity of youth taskforces. Youth taskforces may be established by state executive authorities, local self-government bodies, youth civil society organizations, general education institutions, vocational technical schools, higher education institutions, and youth employment centres. A framework regulation on youth taskforces shall be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine *(Art. 7 supplemented by this part under Law N 3142-IV as of 29/11/2005)*.

The state guarantees employment in the field of acquired specialty for the period of at least three years to young specialists – graduates of state vocational technical schools and higher education institutions – concerning which the demand was determined by the state contracting order.

Article 8. Support to Entrepreneurial Initiative and Entrepreneurship of Youth

The state shall support and promote development of entrepreneurial initiative and entrepreneurship of young people.

The state shall foster establishment of youth business centres and business incubators to implement programmes for preparing young people for entrepreneurial activity and delivery of advisory and information services. With this purpose the system of actions to support youth entrepreneurship shall be developed to include long-term preferential loans, granting of production premises, business risk insurance, etc.

Local self-government bodies may establish preferential rates for registration of enterprises set up by young citizens and youth civil society organization, subsidized from their local budget funds.

Article 9. Assisting in Raising Young People's Standard of Living

With consideration of the minimal living cost and actual budget capacity, the state shall increase the amount of benefit allowance provided to families with minor children, and student allowance and other types of financial assistance provided to young people engaged in studying at vocational technical schools or higher education institutions.

To promote priority areas in the development of society and to encourage young people to engage actively in particular areas, the state established scholarships and defines other forms of youth support according to the law (*part 2 of Art. 9 as amended under Law N 2203-IV as of 18/11/2004*).

Financial support, including student allowance for pupils and students on full state provision are established on the minimal subsidiary level.

Procedure for paying additional increments to student allowance base to reward academic achievement and increased student allowance for separate youth categories shall be established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

(Force of part 5 of Art. 9 is suspended for 2004 (except for privileged travel fare for students of higher education institutions with accreditation levels I-IV and student of vocational technical schools funded from the state and local budgets in local municipal passenger transport and railway transport within Ukraine) according to Law N 1344-IV as of 27/11/2003.) (Force of part 5 of Art. 9 is suspended for 2003 (except for privileged travel fare for students of higher education institutions with accreditation levels I-IV and student of vocational technical schools funded from the state and local budgets in local municipal passenger transport and railway transport within Ukraine) according to Law N 308-IV as of 26/12/2002.) For secondary school pupils and full-time students in general, vocational and higher education the state guarantees within a year benefits for travel within Ukraine by railway, water transport, municipal motor transport (except taxi). relevant allocations are stipulated in the State Budget of Ukraine as a separate budget item. The procedure for granting such benefits is determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. According to the law, local self-government authorities may establish procedures for granting benefits for pupils' and students' travel in local passenger transport and allocate relevant expenditure in their local budgets.

Article 10. Youth Housing Issues

The state ensures that young citizens have the right to housing equal to that of other citizens, promotes youth housing construction, setting up youth residential facilities, etc.

When allocating land plots for individual home construction, local self-government authorities shall approve quotas for land plots designated to young families for home building.

State executive authorises and local self-governments, together with enterprises, institutions and organizations develop and implement programmes aimed at creating conducive housing conditions for young people living in hostels.

Young families and citizens may obtain preferential long-term state loans subsidized from the state budget for construction and purchase of homes and flats, for payment of initial equity contribution when joining youth residential facilities, housing construction and housing society, and for provision of household.

Youth who resettle to labour-deficient rural settlements and local youth engaged in farming, processing and service industries within the agricultural sector, in social spheres of such settlements shall be provided with housing and household outbuildings from the State Budget of Ukraine (*part 5 of Art. 10 as amended under Law N 1276-VI as of 16/04/2009*).

Young families without children shall repay loans at the annual interest rate of three per cent from the amount due to repayment.

Young families with one child shall be exempt from paying loan-related interest rates; young families with two children are additionally entitled to repayment of 25 per cent of credit liabilities from the budget funds; and young families with three or more children are entitled to repayment of 50 per cent of credit liabilities.

Young people residing in rural areas and working in agricultural production, processing and service industries within the agricultural sector operating in rural area, or engaged in social infrastructure or village self-government bodies shall also use benefits stipulated by the Law of Ukraine “On priority focus to social development of rural areas and agricultural sector in the national economy” (*part 8 of Art. 10 as amended under Law N 1276-VI as of 16/04/2009*).

Procedure for granting preferential long-term loans to young families and their preferential repayment is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

With birth of a child, a young family that obtained a loan may receive assistance to repay loan from funds which remain at disposal of a company which employs the young couple (mother or father).

The effect of this article extends to young scholars, a young married couple with a spouse being a young scholar, and single-parent families with the mother (father) being a young scholar, provided that these young scholars are Ukrainian nationals and are employed at state-owned enterprises, state research institutions and organizations, higher education institutions and post-graduate institutions accredited at levels III-IV in positions of researchers the list of which shall be determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, or are enrolled in full-time post-graduate, fellowship or doctoral programmes. (*Article supplemented by part 11 under Law N 581-IV as of 20/02/2003*).

Article 11. Education, Cultural Development of Youth

Ukraine guarantees to young citizens the right to education, cultural development, leisure and recreation equally with other citizens.

The procedure for implementation of the right of youth to education, government guarantees for gaining education, definition of rights and responsibilities of parties in the learning and instruction process are regulated by education legislation.

Young citizens may receive preferential long-term loans subsidized from the state budget or local budgets for gaining education at higher education institutions within different formats of learning and irrespective of ownership type, on the territory of Ukraine. These funds are allocated within respective budgets as separate budget items (*part 3 of Art. 11 as amended under Law N 876-VI as of 15/01/2009*).

Young citizens without children shall repay loans at the annual interest rate of three per cent from the amount due to repayment (*Art. 11 supplemented by this part under Law N 876-VI as of 15/01/2009*).

Young citizens with one child shall be exempt from paying loan-related interest rates. Young citizens with two children are additionally entitled to repayment of 25 per cent of credit liabilities from the budget funds; and young families with three or more children are entitled to repayment of 50 per cent of credit liabilities (*Art. 11 supplemented by this part under Law N 876-VI as of 15/01/2009*).

Procedure for granting preferential long-term loans to young citizens for gaining higher education and their preferential repayment is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (*Art. 11 supplemented by this part under Law N 876-VI as of 15/01/2009*).

State executive authorities and local self-governments may establish, together with stakeholder ministries, research associations, other unions and youth foundations, dedicated scholarships for talented students of higher education institutions and allocate funds for their internship at leading research institutions within the country and abroad.

State executive authorities and local self-governments, together with enterprises, organizations, higher education institutions, citizens' associations, may establish educational and learning institutions that assist in deepening knowledge, meeting creative interests, developing abilities, organizing engaging leisure and recreation for young people as well as institutions that facilitate search for, support and development of young talents in various spheres of life.

Pupils, students and minors have the right to free and preferential use of cultural sites. Procedure for granting such privileges is defined by local authorities (*Concerning suspension of part of Art. 11 see Law N 380-IV as of 26/12/2002 and Law N 1344-IV as of 27/11/2003*).

The state promotes development of youth tourism and international youth exchanges. State executive authorities and local self-governments may establish privileges for youth and children's tourist groups concerning use of transport, hotels, cultural and other services. Procedure for granting such privileges and sources of funding are determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, local executive authorities and local self-governments (*Concerning suspension of part of Art. 11 see Law N 380-IV as of 26/12/2002 and Law N 1344-IV as of 27/11/2003*).

Article 12. Healthcare and Physical Fitness of Youth

The state ensures that young citizens have the right to healthcare, engagement in physical activity and sport equal to the right of other citizens.

The Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local healthcare authorities, healthcare institutions together with enterprises, institutions and organizations ensure annual medical examination of all young citizens and minors.

Healthcare authorities ensure development of network of healthcare institution specialized in the area of substance abuse which provide young people with required free aid, develop and implement gate-

keeping programmes and actions targeted at prevention of socially dangerous diseases among young people as well as promotion and strengthening of healthy lifestyles.

Enterprises, institutions and organizations, upon solicitation from young citizens or their representatives, cover in part or in full medical assistance for most complicated cases in commercial healthcare institutions in the country or abroad.

State executive authorities develop and recommend, and general education, vocational and higher education institutions include in their curricula physical education courses and organize special sports clubs.

(Force of part 6 of Art. 12 is suspended for 2004 under Law N 1344-IV as of 27/11/2003.) (Force of part 6 of Art. 12 is suspended for 2003 under Law N 380-IV as of 26/12/2002.) The state introduces the system of benefits and rewards for enterprises that direct part of their profit for the development of physical culture and sport, sports facilities construction, organization of recreation and recreational activities.

(Force of part 7 of Art. 12 is suspended for 2004 under Law N 1344-IV as of 27/11/2003.) (Force of part 6 of Art. 12 is suspended for 2003 under Law N 380-IV as of 26/12/2002.) Pupils, students and minors have the right to free and subsidized use of sports and fitness facilities. Procedure for granting these privileges, compensation of cost and fee difference is defined by local self-government authorities.

Article 13. Youth Legal Protection Guarantees

Any direct or indirect restriction of rights and freedoms of youth on the basis of age, except those stipulated by the law, are unlawful and entail liability as stipulated by Ukrainian laws.

Realization of young people's rights and freedoms during their socialization and development may not affect or impede interests of the society or other citizens' rights.

Unlawful decisions of state or public bodies, actions or omissions of public servants may be contested by young people or their representatives in court as per prescribed procedure.

Protection of minor citizens' rights is carried out by the state according to the law.

Article 14. Legal Status of Youth Civil Society Organizations

The state ensures the right of young people to establish youth civil society organizations. Youth civil society organizations are not-for-profit organizations and their legal status is defined by Ukrainian legislation.

Youth civil society organizations have the right to present to state executive authorities and local self-governments proposals on issues of youth socialization and development.

Article 15. Guarantees for Activity of Youth Civil Society Organizations

State executive authorities and local self-governments have the right to provide funding to programmes and projects of youth civil society organizations aimed at enhancing youth socialization and development and implementation of their socially beneficial initiatives, provide subsidies to

youth civil society organizations, and to hand over for free use to youth civil society organizations and foundations buildings, facilities, land plots and other property necessary for carrying out their statutory activity.

Article 16. Final Provisions

1. This Law comes into force from the time of its publication.
2. Laws of Ukraine and other sub-laws adopted prior to this Law coming into force shall be effective in parts which do not contravene this Law.
3. The Cabinet of Ministers shall:
 - bring its enactments into compliance with this Law;
 - develop sub-laws resultant from this Law;
 - ensure that ministries and other central executive bodies revise or invalidate any sub-laws contradicting this Law.

President of Ukraine

Leonyd Kravchuk

Kyiv, 05 February, 1993