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REVIEWS ON YOUTH POLICIES AND YOUTH WORK IN THE COUNTRIES OF **SOUTH EAST EUROPE,** **EASTERN EUROPE & CAUCASUS** - UKRAINE -



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1. Introduction

The time we spoke about Ukraine as a young country, with needs to establish a new state structure and priorities in different policy fields had passed. Indeed it still faces political and economic instability and disintegrated legislative system in many policy fields. Ukraine became independent in 1991 after collapse of the Soviet Union. The first steps for development of a new state transformed the old Soviet structures into national ones. Facing extensive difficulties in economic and social development as well as political disintegration the reforms were mainly focused on economic and political issues and reaching stable position on international arena. Public spheres such as education, culture, health and social care systems together with youth issues for years suffered only formal changes in legislation, without aiming to improve quality standards.

Ukraine as one of the founders of United Nations and Council of Europe, tried to establish renewed relations with European Community, NATO and other international organisations, willing to develop higher standards in humanitarian sphere based on the experience of these organisations. Continuous negotiations on political and economic issues were of high priority for government and created backgrounds for implementing principles of democracy in the country and society. Being the part of several international agreements Ukraine has undertaken obligations also in youth field. Indeed most of them are reflected in the national legislation, without any concrete tools for implementation. For the last years the discussion on priorities of youth policy is developed on the highest level, going simultaneously with general development in society and need to reform also social, cultural and educational spheres.

Unfortunately there are only fragmented researches on youth policy of Ukraine conducted for last few years. Ukraine has neither national youth report, integrated strategy for youth development, structured youth work nor youth research. Thus this review is the first attempt to systemise data and information of different origins and provided by different institutions. The official statistics covering different fields of youth is not available in Ukraine.

The review is a part of country reviews on youth policies and youth work in the countries of South East Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus. The overall aim is to provide collection and provision of more comprehensive information about youth policy and youth work in relevant countries in order to foster the existing infrastructures and lead to a better knowledge of the situation of young people, of youth work and of youth policy responses. It would also lead to an enhanced dialogue between the various stakeholders and actors and between the European countries.

A specific of the Ukrainian review on youth policy and youth work is that it has been done without any strong backgrounds in research. Surveys and researches related to youth are mostly focused

on political and economical attitudes, electoral behaviour or ideological preferences. Many of them represent limited segments as students or young professionals or other groups, which are easy to define. This review is based on selection, analysis and interpretation of statistic and sociological data; systematisation of information available in open sources (mass-media, publications); content analysis of legislative documents; interpretation of policies analysis provided by think tanks; reflections of own experience and experience of other people; establishing logical relations between general facts and youth issues.

Statistic data are selected by age-relevant groups from surveys of bright scale. Sociological surveys are taken in account if they have been directed specific to youth or represent age-relevant groups. In case of lack of data those relevant to whole society are set as example relevant also to young people.

Information from open sources is understood as headline news in newspapers and Internet news services, public expertise, publications provided by think tanks, research institutions and NGOs' Internet portals, home-pages and blogs provided by youth organisations and non-formal groups of youth. As there is no integrated web-resource of data base on youth and youth policy in Ukraine, these sources could be considered as subjective sentiments, however even those are available for public.

Ukrainian think tanks provide deeper analysis of several policy fields. Systematisation of trends defined by think tanks create a background for conclusion, that youth policy, as well as culture, education and other social issues aren't seriously taken into account by experts and analytics.

Personal experience is also a value by analysing youth policy, however more as subjective background to understand and present political processes taking in account also personal role of different people participating in political events in the country mostly leaded and executed by young people. The reality is that people conducting analyzes of youth policy and participate actively in youth policy development are often in the opposition to official concepts and performance.

Taking into account the lack of concrete and precise data on youth and youth policy, it is very important to establish connections between general known facts and their influence on youth policy, or youth related elements in general political processes. During short history of independence of Ukraine young people caused the changes in development of the whole country at least twice (Granite and Orange revolutions 1990, 2004), so the contemporary history is related to youth and performed by youth. It is usual for periods of social changes that young people switch to adulthood very quickly. Young people becoming politicians during these periods focus on other issues but youth policy.

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Ukraine

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2. Executive summary

Young people in Ukraine are considered to be citizens of Ukraine aged between 14-35 years. They make up 31.0% of all population, 30.0% of them are living in rural areas. Ukraine has negative birth rate since 2002. 78.0% of young people define themselves as Ukrainians, 19.0% - Russians. There are about 2 700 thousands students in Ukraine. Youth unemployment is rated as about 30-40% from 6-8% of general rate.

Main legislative basis for youth policy are Constitution of Ukraine, Declaration on Main Principles of Youth Policy and Law on Support for Social Formation and Development of Youth. The Declaration defines youth policy as system of relations between the state and individual, young person, youth movement being implemented in legislative, executive spheres and in sphere of justice with the aim to create social-economic, political, legal conditions and guaranties for self-identification, intellectual, moral, physical development of youth, fulfilment of creative potential in their own interests and interests of Ukraine.

The Law on Support for Social Formation and Development of Youth sets main priorities for youth policy as housing, youth employment, social care, youth entrepreneurship, education and cultural development, health and physical development, law protection, support for youth and children organisations. The Law also refers to the main definitions as youth/young citizens, minors, social development of youth, first working place, and youth employment centres, young families, youth social services, youth organisations and youth working brigade.

Issues relating to youth policy and young people are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports. The Ministry is divided in 6 departments, one of them is responsible for youth policy and covered topics of youth employment and entrepreneurship; work with children and youth organisations; patriotic education and creative initiatives; healthy style of life. Two governmental institutions outside the ministerial departments, sub-coordinated by Ministry and Government and financing directly from state budget are working in sphere of social protection of family, children and youth and adoption and protection of right of child. The ministerial and governmental structure has their institutional units in 24 regions and Crimean Autonomic Republic as well as on local/self-governmental level.

Youth and children organisations, as non-governmental organisations in general, should define their geographical scope of activity (international, national, regional, local). Only international and national organisations can participate in policy development on national level. There are 202 international (17) and national (185) youth organisations in Ukraine and 16 are umbrella organisations of youth NGOs. 6 747 youth organisations are registered on regional and local levels, 63% of them are independent regional and local organisations.

The main youth organisation recognized by state as youth policy actor and involved in youth policy development is Ukrainian Youth Forum, founded 2006 by 4 youth umbrella organisations. In fact Ukrainian Youth Forum is umbrella organisation of 15 other umbrella organisations covering about 100 national youth organisations. Indeed none of these umbrella organisations has developed regional and local structures, so the outstanding local and several national organisations are not involved in youth policy development. Ukrainian Youth Forum still does not have any transparency in decision making; there is a big influence of political parties, civil servants and lack of visibility in society. That's why active youth organisations prefer direct actions for defending their rights and advocacy and don't see possibility for public dialogue and cross-sectorial cooperation.

Youth and children organisations have special status defined by the Law on Children and Youth Organisations. Youth and children organisations have special relations with state government and public authorities. The right to participate in youth policy development and decision making process as well as right to have financial support from state budget is provided by the Law. Financial support for children and youth organisations is provided by annual open calls on ministerial level (only national and international organisations are eligible to participate) or direct support from the budget. Because of formal restrictions and non-transparent decision making only small scope of organisations can get support from government.

Therefore lot of youth NGOs try to work using other recourses and are looking for support from international and private donors. Some of them are very active and recognized by society. Indeed any active international donors working in Ukraine have set youth issues as a long-term priority. Youth is rather considered as a tool to support social changes and reforms in Ukraine. In this situation a lot of youth NGO are easy "jumping" into "adult" politics, focusing their activities on elections, monitoring, human rights, education, combating corruption and community development.

The most active youth NGOs are Foundation of Regional Initiatives and Democratic Alliance, known by initiating several public campaigns, participating in cooperation with students' organisations in advocacy campaigns on students' rights and violence against youth from the site of militia (police). The biggest youth organisation Pora has developed strong regional and local structures before Orange revolution. Having split into Pora party and Civil network OPORA the both organisations remained youth oriented. The biggest youth and children organisation is scouting organisation "Plast" working by own system of education. There are several active students and youth organisations on national and local levels, most of them are not members of National Youth Forum and only several have support from the state.

Housing is one of the main challenging issues for Ukrainian youth, but existing programmes haven't improved the situation. During the last 5 years there were some positive trends in social care as combating children and youth homelessness and drop outs, promoting adoptions/foster

families, decreasing epidemics of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, creating transparency in higher education and implementing UN Convention on the Right of Child. Indeed there is lack of systematic approach to youth policy and no progress in the sphere of youth employment, participation, cultural development, human rights and rights of disabled youth.

Ukraine has neither experience in comprehensive youth research nor definition of youth work. In fact youth work is replaced by social work focused on client/paternalistic approach. According to the national survey on situation of student youth in Ukraine in 2008 only 6.7% of students are aware, how the youth policy in the country is implemented. Volunteering has been also set in connection to social work. The discussion on new Law on Volunteering is in progress.

Ukrainian youth policy has strong ideological accent. The topic of patriotism and collective actions has been on everyday agenda. There are some mixtures of military education, patriotic and tolerance issues illustrated the attempts to combine paternalistic, post-soviet and European approaches to youth policy development. There are not enough transparent financial tools for youth organizations, especially for active youth on local level.

3. Situation of Youth

3.1 Definition of youth

According to Law on Support for Social Formation and Development of Youth¹ adopted in 1993 (renewed 2006), youth in Ukraine are “young citizens of Ukraine aged 14 to 35.” The first document on youth published in Ukraine after independence 1991 is the Declaration on General Principles of State Youth Policy in Ukraine.² This document created the basis for youth related legislation and defined youth as Ukrainian citizens in the age of 14 to 28 years. Further legislation and recognition of the actual situation increased the age range up to 35. Youth policy legislation also provides the definition for young families as a married couple when both wife and husband are less than 35 years old. Children are citizens up to 18 years old. The Law on Youth and Children Organisations defines youth organisations as for those from 14 to 35 years old and children organisations for those from 6 to 18 years old. Youth policy instruments target special groups of young people such as young scientists, gifted youth and children, orphans, children without family care, social orphans, students (higher education level) and pupils (primary and secondary school level), rural youth.

3.2 Key figures on young people

According to 2010 statistics the general population of Ukraine is 45 850,900 people, 14 304,300 of them are young people in the age of 14 to 35 years (31% of population), 10 275, 890 of them are at age of 14 to 28 (21.0%). Young people from 15 to 19 years old create 6.6% of population, from 20 to 24 – 8.2%, from 25 to 29 – 7.9%, from 30 to 34 – 7.2%. 2 278, 48 thousands of young Ukrainians are children from 10 to 14 years old (5.0%), 1 925, 290 (4.2%) – from 5 to 9. 53.0% of young people are men, 47.0% - women. 30% of youth are living in rural areas, which is more or less proportional to overall population. There are about 2 Mio young families, one third lives in rural areas.³

Ukraine has a negative birth rate (9.6% birth rate and 15.4% death rate), number of population is going down since 2002. The significant factor is increased death rate among young people. In year 2008 14 271 people in age of 30-34 died. Ten years before death rate by similar numbers of overall population rate among this age group it was 9 754. The expected duration of life is 74 years for women and 62,3 for men.

¹ Law on Support for Social Formation and Development of Youth, <http://zakon.rada.gov.ua/cgi-bin/laws/main.cgi?nreg=2998-12>

² Declaration on General Principles of State Youth Policy in Ukraine <http://zakon.rada.gov.ua/cgi-bin/laws/main.cgi?nreg=2859-12>

³ Statistics of population of Ukraine, <http://stat6.stat.lviv.ua/ukrcensus>

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The number of orphanages is increasing due to rising criminality, the number of families at risk and death rate among parents. In 2008 there were 103,500 orphaned children and children without parents care. 130,000 were at risk to lose their families.

National identification of youth is similar as overall of population. 78.0% of young people identify themselves as Ukrainians, 19.2% – Russians, 0.6% – Byelorussians, 0.6% – Jewish. 60.0% recognize Ukrainian and 38.8% Russian language as mother tongue,. About 35.0% of young people are bilingual (Russian-Ukrainian), using both languages at home, in communication with friends or at work.⁴

LGBT communities are not accessible in Ukraine, however, the last non-representative survey shows that the young people from 15 to 35 are easy to show up and the people in age 20-30 represent the biggest part of LGBT community of 1,2 Million people. Up to a half young people identifying themselves as LGBT live in big cities (over 1 Million inhabitants), 11.00% - in rural and small urban areas.⁵

About 1.5 thousand minors (101 women) from 14 till 18 and older are condemned and prisoners, 28.0% of them for more as 5 years. 12.0% from 360 thousands HIV/AIDS infected people in age older than 15 years are young people between 15 and 24.⁶

About 1.2 -1.4 thousand people apply yearly for refugee status in Ukraine, more than 30% are children up to 17 years old. The number of people applying for asylum in Ukraine has been increasing over 2005-2007: 1,765 in 2005, 2,075 in 2006, and 2,272 in 2007.⁷

3.3 Living conditions and situation of young people

3.3.1 Youth employment

The statement that young Ukrainians can be considered as a lost generation is a popular discussion in Ukrainian society. There are several perspectives of this thesis. First one is the conclusion by International Labour Organisation, which consider the generations of young professionals as lost because of the low chances to find job on labour market. Second perspective is as result of youth literature and cultural trends, which makes parallels to the “lost generation” in European and American young culture in period between World Wars. Ukraine has no social

⁴ Youth of Azerbaijan, Russia and Ukraine: similarities and differences (2002-2010). Democratic Initiatives Foundation 2010. <http://dif.org.ua>.

⁵ Maymulakhin A. Y., Kasyanchuk M.G., Leshchynskyy Y.B., Odnopoloye partnerstvo v Ukrainie: otchet o provedennom issledovanii [Same-sex partnership in Ukraine: survey report] / Nash Mir Centre, Donbass-SocProject – Kyiv, 2009

⁶ Ukraine: National Report on Monitoring Progress Towards the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. Reporting Period: January 2008–December 2009. K., 2010. – 140 p.

⁷ Protecting refugees, UNHCR headquarter in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova http://www.unhcr.org.ua/main.php?article_id=22&view=full&lang=e

stability since beginning of the 1980s and is still in a process of transformation, which causes rapid changes of value systems and priorities of social development. To earn money has been the main issue for young people, as financial stability can resolve many other problems and can make individuals independent from public services. Professional priorities and economic values has been developed in order to gain social position in businesses, so – one more reflection to lost generation – young people often do not do what they want but what is necessary to do in order to survive. The educational system replied to this request very quickly by establishing a lot of institutions of law, management, banking, linguistic, pop-culture and other popular profiles. Nowadays, beside the influence of World economic crisis, Ukraine is found in the situation, that the structure and level of education isn't relevant to needs of labour market (only about 20.0% of alumni are working in the profession they were trained for).

In 2008 the unemployment rate among young people was over 13.0%, twice the rate of general unemployment in Ukraine. In 2009 the rate increased to 18.0% (30.0-40.0% of registered unemployed people are people up to 35). Young people are active in developing their own businesses and initiatives, with support from youth employment centres. 21.0% of young Ukrainians don't have any income of their own. 44.0% are afraid of becoming unemployed within next 2 years.⁸

The unemployment is much higher for young people in rural areas, which causes migration to big urban centres and abroad. 8.0% rural population and 4% urban population are involved in labour immigration processes. Up to 1 500,00 Ukrainians left the country in order to find employment abroad in 2005-2008, 45.2% of the, are young people 15-35 years old. About the third of labour migrants from Ukraine in Russian Federation and Czech Republic are young people. The most popular countries, where the number of Ukrainian labour migrants is more than 40 000,00 persons are Russian Federation, Italy, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Spain and Portugal⁹.

3.3.2 Education and training

Educational system in Ukraine includes pre-school education, secondary education, extracurricular education, vocational technical education, graduate, postgraduate and doctoral education. The Law on Education defines daytime, evening, correspondent and distant education.

School education is always in transition. In 2001 the system of 12-years school education (according to principles of Bologna Process) had been started to implement, so for 2013 the first generation of 12-years school leavers had been planned. In 2010 Ukraine returned to an 11 years

⁸ Youth of Azerbaijan, Russia and Ukraine: similarities and differences (2002-2010). Democratic Initiatives Foundation 2010. <http://dif.org.ua>.

⁹ Zovnishnya trudova mihratsiya naseleennyi Ukrainy [External labour migration of population of Ukraine] – survey of Opean Ukraine Foundation, Victor Pinchuk Foundation and World Bank. – Kyiv 2009.

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school system (starting from 6 years, leaving school age – 17). It is also suggested to have obligatory pre-school education from 5 years at the same time but the capacity for pre-school education covers 40.0% of children of pre-school age. There is lack of pre-school establishments (for today 56.0% of children have possibilities to attend pre-school institutions), as well as relevant capacities for 6 years old children going to 1st class of primary school.

Vocational education system covers technical schools of different types. The system itself has its origins in Russian and Soviet system of training of workers and covers industry, agriculture construction and services.¹⁰ The number of vocational educational establishments and number of students is decreasing (from 525 thousand students in 2000 to 393 in 2009). The rate of young people with fewer opportunities in this establishments are greater than in higher education (45.0% are orphans or from families with one parent, children from disadvantaged and problem families). Vocational training institutions are often the place where the leavers of orphanages go. . There are also higher vocational schools and centres for vocational training (vocational and art schools, agrarian colleges and special colleges for railway, medicine, military, police and fire protection).

The higher education system comprises public and private higher educational institutions. There are 4 levels of accreditation for about 1000 institutions. Accreditation system covers vocational and technical schools, colleges (level 1-2, issue diploma on junior specialist and bachelor), high schools, academies and universities (level 3-4). High school of 3-4 levels of accreditation issue diploma on bachelor, specialist and master, they also are allowed to provide postgraduate studies.

Extracurricular education is available for pupils and students, as continuation of formal education. There are institutions such as youth sport schools, military and patriotic clubs, Little Academy of Arts, Little Academy of Science, Youth Camps, Centres for creativity and aesthetic education, ecological clubs/centres, centres for technology and science, tourist clubs, young marine or young railway workers. Music and Visual Arts schools officially considered as cultural, not educational institutions and belong to the system of Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Extracurricular education is organized by the following priorities: arts and aesthetics; tourism and country studies; ecology and nature; science and technology; research and experiments in science; sports and physical culture; military patriotic; recreation; humanitarian.

Law on Education provides the right for student self-government for educational institutions, mostly in sphere of social protection of students. Tools for co-decision making in extracurricular education are missed. Education system has strong hierarchy: educational institutions should work according to educational plans adopted by ministerial units. In academic circles there is strong discussion on autonomy of universities and a possibility for students to choose studying subjects.

¹⁰ <http://proftekhosvita.org.ua/uk/flatpages/information/history/>

There is no recognition of non-formal education and training within the educational system. Ukraine has no concept of long-term learning and professional training. As a rule, the majority of population finishes its educational activity in the age under 30.

According to the Constitution every person has right to education. 4 414 281 children and youth at school age should be provided by places in primary and secondary school education. In 2010 the State Department for Adoption and Right of Child registered 3 534 not attending school because of financial reasons and insufficient parental care.¹¹ Other data demonstrate the rate of about 37 thousand children living on streets in 2007 and 17 in 2009 (the number has decreased since 2001, also due to aim oriented state policy for combating children homelessness).¹²

There are 2 709 161 high school students in Ukraine, 1.6% of them students are foreign citizens representing 130 countries.¹³

3.3.3 Culture

Youth policy refers to cultural development of youth and declares the aim to improve cultural development of children and young people. Cultural development of youth is ensured by:

Children and youth libraries, which guarantee resources for cultural development and leisure, provide free access to libraries and organize cultural activities for visitors. There are 1208 children libraries. In rural areas and small cities without children's libraries there are special departments in public libraries. Children libraries have special support such as providing learning circles, theatres, they also cover topic of children's rights and Internet security for parents and children.¹⁴ Children libraries provide access for visitors up to 15 years old. There are 15647 youth departments and/or youth libraries providing 25 free Internet centres for youth and 45 electronic data bases, organizing cultural events, learning circles and clubs.¹⁵

Children art schools different profiles as art, music, theatre, dance and others, public and municipal theatres for children and youth, regional and local cultural centres, local community clubs exist in every regional centre and district; most of them suffer from the lack of finances. Ukraine slowly revives cinema and theatre industry.

3.3.4 Health & Well-being

Health system is for free, paid directly from tax and social insurance system. Health system ensures full basic treatment; but in fact the lack of finances means that co-payment is needed.

¹¹ State Department for Adoption and Protection of the Right of Child <http://www.ditu.gov.ua/statistics/10260>

¹² Ebenda <http://www.ditu.gov.ua/general/2615>

¹³ Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, www.mon.gov.ua

¹⁴ State Children Library of Ukraine <http://www.chl.kiev.ua>

¹⁵ State Youth Library of Ukraine <http://www.4uth.gov.ua>

Dimension of illegal/unofficial payments are counted as up to 50%.¹⁶ Ukraine has the most severe AIDS/HIV epidemic in Europe. As of the end of 2007, Ukraine had registered 122 674 persons with HIV-infection. 25,318 deaths were officially reported among persons living with HIV, including 12,490 AIDS-related deaths and 12,828 deaths among persons with HIV related to other causes.¹⁷ About 40% of AIDS diagnostics are related to drug injection. Unofficial statistics report about 440 thousands AIDS/HIV infected people in Ukraine, most of them are younger as 25 years. Epidemic rate is most dangerous among street children and youth.

The next health problem is tuberculosis (5th place in WHO ranking, 11% of cases in Europe, 1,5% of population), mostly developed in people aged 25-34 years, about 200,000 children get infected every year. Epidemic is decreased since 2006.

The mortality of youth is increasing as overall for Ukrainian population. Mortality of employed men is higher than women. In comparison with 1990 in 2008 the mortality rate for age 25-39 for men and women has decreased, the mortality of men aged 25-34 is in 2-3 times higher than in case of women, big part of them influenced by external factors.

3.3.5 Human and Youth rights

Young people in Ukraine obtain right to vote and to candidate in local elections at 18 years. At 21 year they have right to be elected to the Parliament, 35 – to candidate in Presidential elections.

Young men in Ukraine in age from 18 to 25 years are obliged to have military service, for students of some high school and faculties it is possible to have military training during studying time. Young men should attend pre-service military training in secondary schools. Military service can be replaced through alternative service in Red Cross or state/municipal institution only in case of religious objections and proved belonging to registered religious organizations.

One of the positive developments in the sphere of human rights issue is an adoption of the Law of Ukraine “On the national Plan of Action for implementation of the Convention on the rights of the Child” for the period until 2016”. This Document has to demonstrate the national policy towards the children and has to improve the coordination across the government and to reflect the implementation of the whole Convention. It needs to relate to the situation of all children in Ukraine and to all the rights in the Convention and to increase visibility of children in government.

Not all the articles of Convention of Child Rights are implemented in Ukrainian legislation, especially regarding protection of vulnerable groups and Child ombudsmen. One of the positive developments is also ensuring places for orphans and decreasing numbers of children living in

¹⁶ <http://delo.ua/biznes/ukraina/medicina-kuda-uhodjat-dengi-75146/>

¹⁷ Comprehensive External Evaluation of the National AIDS Response in Ukraine: Consolidated Report (English original, January 2009). UNAIDS Ukraine

orphanages. Beside that there are many cases of violence in schools, families and in contact with police. There are still not targeted measures as providing access to education for street children, migrant and refugees; elimination of discrimination in education towards AIDS/HIV infected people; provision of full access for pre-school education in rural areas; integration of all Roma children in state system of education¹⁸

There are issues on discrimination of vulnerable groups such as drug addicts, immigrants, AIDS/HIV, violence in police and army and not fulfilled right for education and living conditions raised by several youth and human rights groups. Ukrainian human rights defenders raised following human rights issues on OSCE conference in Warsaw 30.08-08.10.2010 as: right for associations and demonstrations; free access to information; protection against tortures and violence; right for privacy; censorship and freedom of voice¹⁹

Human rights groups pointed out the raised level of violence in criminal institutions and army since the beginning of 2010.

3.3.6 Leisure, sport and lifestyles

Leisure system for young people which collapsed after soviet times has been developing for last 4 years. However youth mostly likes self-organized or unorganized activities. As result of untactful attitude to the public institution, youth lifestyles are developed and function autonomously. Young people like watching TV, meeting friends outside, receiving visits of friends at home, going to cinema, Internet, sport, work at garden. In relation to 2003 there is reduced tendency by those who like reading newspaper listening radio, reading books, listening music, doing sport but raising rate by Internet users, incl. for downloading music, movies and books/texts.²⁰

3.3.7 Mobility

About 30.0% of Ukrainians want to leave their country for defined period of time (1-3 years) for work for reason of unemployment or bad salaries. Most preferred countries are United Kingdom, United States, Germany and Italy. At the same time about 40.0% accept the sentence "Ukrainian for Ukrainians"²¹ and had negative attitudes to immigrants. Young Ukrainians are damaged by restricted visa system for travelling abroad.

¹⁸ <http://issuu.com/everychild/docs/report-en-web>. Alternative report on the implementation of United Nations Convention on Rights of Child in Ukraine 2002-2008.

¹⁹ Association of Ukrainian monitors for human rights protection in institution of criminal justice. <http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1286812494>

²⁰ Youth of Azerbaijan, Russia and Ukraine: similarities and differences (2002-2010). Democratic Initiatives Foundation 2010. <http://dif.org.ua>

²¹ Youth of Azerbaijan, Russia and Ukraine: similarities and differences (2002-2010). Democratic Initiatives Foundation 2010. <http://dif.org.ua>

There are no mobility programmes for young people in Ukraine. Travel and public transport discounts are valid only for category of students, discounts for state transport are valid are not valid for student holiday's period.

3.3.8 Participation and Volunteering

The term of youth participations refers to participation in decision making process, consulting and co-decision in youth policy development. Young people have possibilities for civic participation in several NGO's, including youth NGOs. Nowadays the youth participation has back-up in legislation like Constitution of Ukraine, Law on Support for Social Formation and Development of Youth, Law on Youth and Children Organisations. Political participation is regulated by Law on Election and Law on Political Parties.

Informal youth participation had been raised in 2002-2004, when youth was actively involved in political changes (Orange revolution) in Ukraine. After political changes in 2010 there is a trend that the youth began be involved more in informal you activities and volunteering combined with political engagement. 9.2% of young people participate in civic organisations and political parties, 2.6% – in youth organisations.

There are 202 international (17) and national (185) youth organisations in Ukraine and 16 are umbrella organisations of youth NGOs. 6 747 youth organisations are registered on regional and local levels, 63% of them are independent regional all local organisations. 4224 are independent organisations, 2523 are departments of organisations of higher level (regional or national).

Youth NGO's leaders give value to potential possibility of youth to launch political protests against police violence, political persecutions of leaders, violence against freedom of voice, restrictions to freedom of associations, raised unemployment, delayed payments and current politics in sphere of language and education.²²

There is no legal definition for volunteering in Ukraine and no relevant data to appreciate the scale of volunteering. Official recognized volunteering centres are located in Centres of Social Support for Children, Youth and Families. According to them 80% of volunteers are young people in age of 15-19 years. There are several volunteer centres and volunteering based organisations, but the relevant data re not available.

3.3.9 Social Inclusion and Housing

Housing is the biggest problem for youth in Ukraine and for the country in general. There are no efficient mechanisms for gaining new/rented living spaces for young people. The State Programme

²² Ukrainian youth 10 years after "Granite Revolution". Democratic Initiatives Foundation 2010. <http://dif.org.ua/ua/press/berkgolik>
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for Social Living Spaces and Credits for Young People and Young Families guarantees the right for own place of living, but there are no sufficient implementation tools. To gain this possibility, the candidate should prove the registration for living space, when the limits are around 5-12 square metre (the rates depend on place and are decided by local governments) living space of up to 21 overall space per person. For people, who live with parents and overstep the limits the social support is not available.

1 250, 000 families (90 thousands from them are young families) were registered as candidates for state support by gaining a flat in 2007, 70% of people are waiting for state supported living space for longer as 10 years. General calculations show, that the dynamic of building and waiting time correlates as above 73 years. About 1.0% of registered families were included into programme in 2008, for next years there were no financial tools for the Programme.

As result 53% of young people are living with parents.²³ 14% of young families rent the flat, 14% live in dormitories, 39% live with parents or other relatives. Only 17% are satisfied with living conditions. Topic of housing and reforming policy is the issue for youth organisations, which realized in November 2010 “Demo of houseless youth” campaign in big Ukrainian cities.

3.3.10 Religion, Values and Attitudes

Ukraine is one of the most religious countries in Europe; about ¾ of population identify themselves as religious.²⁴ 58% of young people identify themselves with Orthodoxy, 11% - Greek-Catholicism, 1, 0 – Protestant, 0,6 – Catholicism, 0,2 – Judaism, 0,2 – Islamic. About a half of Ukrainians visit religious establishments at least once a year.²⁵ In 2005 in frame of discussion of teaching religion in schools more than one third of young people wanted to have school programme aesthetic, more that a half – neutral. Up to half of young people define religion as life values (less than in general population).

Young Ukrainians mostly don't trust political parties, and even less the police, insurance companies and trade unions, state authorities, courts, attorneys, banks, NGO's, parliament, president, army and educational establishments. Ukrainian youth is not trustful to any institutions. Most valuable for young Ukrainians defined work and living conditions as well as right for proper education. Young people prefer equality against freedom and well-being against freedom. 30.0% identify themselves as Europeans, 60.0% - as not Europeans – 60%.²⁶

²³ Youth of Azerbaijan, Russia and Ukraine: similarities and differences (2002-2010). Democratic Initiatives Foundation 2010. <http://dif.org.ua>

²⁴ ISSP – International Social Survey Programme, www.socialindicators.org.ua

²⁵ Youth of Azerbaijan, Russia and Ukraine: similarities and differences (2002-2010). Democratic Initiatives Foundation 2010. <http://dif.org.ua>

²⁶ Youth of Azerbaijan, Russia and Ukraine: similarities and differences (2002-2010). Democratic Initiatives Foundation 2010. <http://dif.org.ua>

4. Youth policies and youth work

4.1 Institutions, actors and structures

4.1.1. Public authorities

Till the 10th of December 2010 Issues relating to youth policy and young people are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports. After Presidential Order from 9th of December the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Education and Science has been reorganized into Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports. The new body responsible for youth issues is State Service for Youth and Sports in frame on new Ministry.

The first Ministry responsible for youth had been established 1996 as the Ministry of Ukraine of Family and Youth. The Ministry integrated executive bodies as Ministry of Ukraine of Family, Youth and Sports, Committee on Minors of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and Committee on Women, Maternity and Childhood of the President of Ukraine. These institutions existed since 1991 as successors of Soviet system. In 1999 the Ministry had been reorganized as the State Committee of Ukraine on Family and Youth, in 2000 – the State Committee of Ukraine on Youth Policy, Sports and Tourism. In 2002 the Committee had been resumed as State Committee of Ukraine on Family and Youth.

2005 The President of Ukraine signed a Decree on transformation of the State Committee of Ukraine of Family and Youth to the Ministry of Ukraine of Family, Children and Youth with the purpose to improve effective implementation of basic tasks of national policy of Ukraine on family, children and youth, constitutional responsibility of the state for family, childhood, maternity and paternity protection, to guarantee social formation and development of youth following the Item 15, Article 106 of the Constitution. In February 2005 the Ministry of Ukraine of Family, Children and Youth and State Committee on Physical Culture and Sports had been integrated and reorganized in the Ministry of Ukraine of Youth and Sports. Few months later the Ministry of Ukraine of Youth and Sports had been renamed in the Ministry of Ukraine of Family, Youth and Sports.

Recently the Minister of Family, Youth and Sports has been appointed by the President of Ukraine. There were 5 vice-ministers responsible for several branches. The State Service for Youth and Sports created in December 2010 should partly re-establish the functions of disbanded Ministry in youth and sports issues.

The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports has been divided into 6 departments:

- sport education and mass sport;
- strategic planning and communication;
- sport highest achievements;

- family and gender policy;
- youth policy;
- economy and finances

Department of youth policy consisted on 4 units with general staff of 20 persons (5 per each unit).

The units are responsible for

- youth employment and entrepreneurship;
- work with children and youth organizations;
- patriotic education and creative initiatives;
- healthy style of life

There are two governmental institutions outside the ministerial departments, sub-coordinated by Ministry and Government and financing directly from state budget:

- State Social Service for Family, Children and Youth
- State Department for Adoption and Protection of Right of Child.

The Ministry is also founder of two research institutions:

- State Research Institute for Sports Education;
- State Research Institute for Family and Youth Development.

The ministerial and governmental structures have basic institutions in 24 regions and Crimean Autonomic Republic. There are Administrative Departments for Family, Youth and Sports, organized and acting under control of Head of Administration and the Ministry. Administrative Departments are responsible for providing state youth policy in regions, organizing actions, festivals, realizing national programmes and other activities relating to youth. Administrative Departments can also provide regional programmes and support for regional organisations.

Several public institutions (Departments, Administrations etc.) responsible for youth policy exist on local level (cities and districts) within local self-governmental structures. These are under jurisdiction of Head of city/community, local self-governments and the Ministry. Public institutions responsible for youth are working according to national and local policy in field of family, youth and sports.

State Social Service for Family, Children and Youth has been created as governmental service in order to protect and assist families, children and youth at risk situations. There are 1988 local centres of social service for family, children and youth and 5390 employed social workers in all regions.²⁷ The centres provide social dormitories for orphanages and children without parents'

²⁷ <http://www.dcsm.gov.ua>

care, centres for mother and child, centres for social and psychological support, centres for HIV infected children and youth, centres for social-psychological rehabilitation of children and youth with functional disadvantages.

State Department for Adoption and Protection of the Right of Child has been created 2006 for better coordination in children issues and fulfilment of United Nations Convention of the Right of Child and cooperation with UNICEF. Department is independent juridical body. Main priorities of the Department are to ensure the fulfilment of rights of the child-orphan and children deprived of parental care, to be raised in a family environment, prevent and combat child homelessness, neglect / drop outs and child abandonment. Special services for providing state policy in field of Right of Child are created on regional and district levels (services for children issues).

The Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council, the Parliament), consisting on Committees, refers youth issues to the Committee on Family, Youth Policy, Sports and Tourism. According to the competences of Parliament the Committee provides conclusions, drafts of legislation and provides parliamentary control on relevant issues in sphere of:

- state policy in sphere of family and marriage relations;
- state policy on support families formation, support for families with children, protection of homeless children;
- demographic policy;
- state youth policy;
- physical training;
- sports and sport activity;
- tourism and tourist activity;
- legislation on resorts and recreation.

Relevant committees working in sphere of youth are established in regional and local Councils, the scale of their activity is decided by local norms and regulations.

4.1.2 Youth NGOs / civil society

Civic society scene is disintegrated and divided by regional and/or political backgrounds. There is no defined state strategy on partnership between state and civic society organisations. In case of youth issues the state has followed the principles of Council of Europe and incorporated the obligation of public authorities to cooperate and to support youth and children organisations into legislation.

As usual for post-soviet countries, civic society organisations could be classified from political point of view as pro-state, neutral and oppositional. Other dimension of classification is the history: there

are active organisation-successors of Ukrainian organisations created before the soviet time, successors of soviet youth and children organisations and new/modern organisations. Civic society organisations dealing with youth issues could be also recognized on legal status: registered or legalized as civic organisations (on the base of Law on Citizens' Associations), as youth organisations (based on Law on Children and Youth Organisations) and as informal groups (not-registered). All organisations should define the geographical scale of activity in statute and other legal documents (international, national/all-Ukrainian, regional, and local). Some organisations working in sphere of youth and having youth membership are registered not as youth organisations but as citizens associations. Youth wings of political parties are registered as youth organisations.

Main youth organisation recognized by state youth actor and involved in youth policy development is Ukrainian Youth Forum, founded 2006 by youth umbrella organisations, namely the National Council of Youth Organisations of Ukraine (NCYOU), the Ukrainian National Committee of Youth Organisations (UNCYO), the Association of Youth Organisations of Ukraine "SPECTR", the Social Democratic Youth Alliance of Ukraine (SDYAU). Forum members are 15 umbrella NGOs declaring general membership of more than 100 all-Ukrainian youth associations.

According to the statute Forum sets following objectives:

- Consolidation of youth and children organisations for sufficient dialogue with the state and on international level;
- Ensuring sufficient conditions for youth associations – members of the Forum;
- Developing of system of motivation of youth to participate in youth organisations;
- Coordination of activities of youth and children organisations;
- Representation of Ukrainian youth and children organisations in international youth organisations.

In October 2008 Ukraine hosted the 8-th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth. The first public information about National Youth Forum emerged in connection to this event and as followed on gaining [Candidate] Membership in European Youth Forum. National Youth Forum hosted Youth event on the final day of the Ministerial Conference, so the most criticism directed to the Forum was that organisation had been founded in order to ensure “good face” of Ukraine during the conference. Taking in account that most active local organisations are outside of the umbrella organisations and there are no local and regional structures, a lot of youth NGOs are active outside of official frames. They are involved into social and youth work using support of international donors and internal sources. Some of them are neutral or oppositional to the state, but mostly have strong political attitude.

Indeed National Youth Forum still doesn't have any transparency in decision making, as well as the process of creation was closed, the old leaders of previous umbrella organisation, excluded from

European Youth Forum in 2000, participated in creation of new one. There were claims on high influence of political parties and Ministry servants (in many aspects Ukrainian Youth Forum and Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports have been acted as same structures with same people). National Youth Forum emerged as umbrella organisation of umbrella organisations and leaved outside the local organisations not belonging to any umbrella (6 747 youth organisations are registered on regional and local levels, 63.0% of them are independent regional or local organisations, 37.0% - departments of organisations of regional, national or international levels).

During the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth the President of Ukraine proclaimed the 2009 as Year of Youth in Ukraine and declared to develop a new youth programme. Indeed the resources for state budget were not applied for measures introduced in the Programme; the proclamations without any activity caused the raising of activity from opposite site. At the end of the year 2009 a group of youth organisations organized youth campaign "A Year without Youth." One of the organizers of this event was All-Ukrainian Youth Organization Democratic Alliance. The campaign has been supported by about 100 youth organizations and was the reaction of active youth organizations on declarations of the President and Ministers and lack of efficient tools for implementing proclaimed activities. At the end of 2009 organizations participating in campaign claimed that 97.0% of young people haven't new about Year of Youth and the campaign has the task to raise the awareness of youth about governmental proclamations and demand the fulfilment of state youth policy from the site of government. During the first month of campaign 16 public actions had been organized and 3500 letters sent to the Ministry. 50 informational materials about proclaimed Year of Youth had been published in mass-media. During the campaign the Minister of Family, Youth and Sports signed a memorandum with organizations on common actions for implementation of state youth policy. Indeed the Presidential elections and followed political changes during 2010 changed direction of organizational activities into broader human rights issues and new appointments in the government eliminated results of campaign.

Democratic Alliance unites thousands of politically active young people all over Ukraine. It is the successor of Christian-Democratic Youth of Ukraine founded in 1994 and registered 1996. Mission of organisation is to prepare, on the basis of Christian Democracy, new, responsible, patriotically-oriented, civil-political elite of the country, by means of creating conditions for development, improvement and realization of youth to the benefit of Ukrainian people. This is one of the success transformations from young wing of political party to independent youth organisation. Democratic Alliance acts under this actual name since 2007.

Since the day of its establishing "Democratic Alliance" held hundreds of different activities (seminars and conferences, congresses and round-table discussions) on local, Ukrainian and international levels on the subjects of political education of youth, democratization of Ukrainian society, honesty and transparency of the elections in the country, development of independent

mass-media, Christian-Democratic ideology, students' and pupils' self-governing, European integration, development of youth social movement, training of patriotically-oriented young political elite of Ukraine. "Democratic Alliance" took an active part in establishing youth unions, the activity of which was aimed at protection and spreading the democratic values in Ukraine. Thus, the organisation became one of the initiators of the youth coalition "Our Ukraine" (one of the actors of Orange revolution).

Last several years Democratic Alliance has made an accent on activities focused on increasing role of youth in political life of the state, its participation in policy making processes, leadership training for youth, assistance in raising the attention of Ukrainian youth to working out a strategy of Ukrainian integration to European and Euro-Atlantic structures; enlargement of youth knowledge about the spectrum of political ideologies and increase of the supporters of Christian-Democracy in Ukraine. Democratic Alliance also works in sphere of inter-religious relations aspiring to engage youth of different Christian confessions to participate in social life and initiated congress of Christian youth. Since 2000 CDYU (since 2007 Democratic Alliance) together with "Interconfessional Council of Christian youth" and with the support of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports organizes Interconfessional international camps, which are aimed at consolidation of affords of interconfessional church communities and youth organisations for the continuation of Christian dialogue and solving the social problems of Ukrainian society.

Democratic Alliance as successor of Christian-Democratic Youth and youth wing of Christian-Democratic Party is the member of Democratic Youth Community of Europe (DEMYC, since 1996). In 1998 the whole youth wing switched to another party ("Reforms and Order") and gained membership in Youth of European People's Parties. Nowadays Democratic Alliance is member of both European organisations of youth wings of political parties. Except its traditional activity in aforementioned European platforms, the organisation actively cooperates with Pan-European Union and has the full membership in Robert Schuman Institute. For some activities Democratic Alliance has gained support from ministerial budget.

One of the most influent organizations in youth field is also the Foundation of Regional Initiatives (FRI). FRI is one of the strongest actors in field of youth policy which stands outside of umbrella organisations and established with the aim to strengthen the institutions of youth movements. FRI has been founded in Trans-Carpathian region in 2002 as political movement focused on protection of freedom of election. The leaders of organisation reflected the origins of organisation to the time of establishing authoritarian rule of state in Ukraine in later 90th and resistance movement 1998-2004, which had been leaded mostly by young people. Till the end of 2004 FRI managed to developed active regional structures and was registered as youth NGO on national level.

FRI has 53 local branches in overall of Ukraine. Together with other NGOs FRI leaders organize advocacy campaigns, youth protests and monitoring of state authorities activity. The organisation defines itself as youth NGO that works all over Ukraine with the goal of fortifying the youth movement institutions, training and supporting the active members of youth associations and supporting the development of student and youth initiatives in general. During last years FRI managed to unite active youth which maintains proactive positions in the current national issues and provides active Ukrainian youth with information on educational programs and trainings and therefore contributes to personal and professional development of youth.

In 2009, FRI organized about three hundred events; had more than 10 000 young people attending the events; had one of the largest networks of activists and partners. FRI also has organized actions ““Houseless youth march”, “Remember promises you’ve got”, campaign against restrictive Law on Freedom of Peaceful Demonstrations, lobbying campaigns against legalization of coercive work of Ukrainian graduates, restriction of existing rights of students, the reduction of public order in Universities. FRI initiated all-Ukrainian public Campaign “Youth Guard”: youth is watching you!”, which aims to monitor and control the election commitments given to young people by different political actors during the elections. “Youth Guard” includes 10 non-governmental all-Ukrainian youth organisations and 2 student associations.

FRI also works internationally in frame of Programmes of German-Polish-Ukrainian youth exchanges, People in Need, Theodor-Heuss-College and other Europe-wide activities. Due to active national campaigns FRI is often headliner of national news.

One of the biggest national youth NGO is scouting organisation “Plast”. Plast is aimed to promote an all-round, patriotic education and self-education of Ukrainian youth on Christian principles. Being non-political and non-confession organisation, Plast declares education of youth as conscious, responsible and valuable citizens of local, national and world community, the leaders of the society. Moders Plast is successor of organisation established in 1911, shortly after scout movement was founded. Renaissance of Ukrainian scouting started at the latest 80th, simultaneously to national renaissance and, beside declaration of being apolitical, had strong patriotic and moderate nationalistic ideology.

To reach its educational goals, Plast uses own educational methods. Its basic principles include voluntary membership, education and learning through game and work, gradual system of studies and trials, self-governing in a circle, encouragement of initiative and self-management, perception of the nature and living in the nature, support of special interests and talents of children and youth.

Unlike most scouting organisations in the world where membership is limited by the age of 25 years, membership in Plast is lifelong and structured in hierarchy. Plast in Ukraine unites about 10 000,00 members of different ages and by that is the biggest scouting organisation in Ukraine.

Today about 130 local councils are present in all 24 Ukraine's administrative units and in Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Plast actively cooperates with state authorities and other public organisations implementing various social and educational programs. Plast traditional yearly activity is distribution of Light of Peace from Bethlehem among local communities, which makes organisations visible to the wide public. Besides Ukraine, Plast also officially exists in eight states; all organisations are united into Conference of Ukrainian Plast organisations.

Important actor in mobilizing society in period of Orange revolution was Pora citizens campaign, divided during revolution into "yellow" and "black" parts, afterwards into Pora citizens party and Civil network OPORA. Registered as public NGO OPORA and is represented by mostly young people and has member organisations in 14 regions. OPORA is decentralized network with free membership and declares principles of openness and transparency, innovations and creativity, professionalism, responsibility, regarding those to the main ideas of Orange revolution. The network mainly focus activities on education policy (elaboration and approbation of the mechanisms of civil observation of the independent external testing and university admission campaign on all the stages), housing policy (elaboration and implementation of the efficient model of condominium owners); elections process (providing the complex long-term monitoring and analysis of the election process in Ukraine and abroad; monitoring of the Ukrainian political parties' activities); local communities development (spreading and implementation of the successful models of functioning of the local communities within the framework of the national network; experience exchange OPORA uses methods of advocacy, watch-dog activity, policy analysis, civil education (trainings and consultations), legal education and protection of citizens, public media-lobbying, public journalism, direct action events and elaboration of the legislature. Every regional organisation provides local activities reacting at the needs of communities.

There are active students movement is presented by Ukrainian Students Association, Ukrainian Association of Student Self-Government, Foundation of Regional Initiatives and Democratic Alliance also launched active students' campaign. Ukrainian Students Association was active in political changes 1989-1991, switched further to students' issues as social protection of students, stipends, student freedoms. 1998 Ukrainian Students Association became full member of European Democrat Students. Most active students actions (beside political) were student protests against reducing students' card for public transport, advocacy campaign "For democracy in higher education" (advocacy of relevant norms in new Law on Education regarding rights of students' self-government). In 2005 student and youth organisations advocated right of alumnae for free job and neglecting proposal for obligatory work in state institutions for 3 years after finishing free higher education. In 2007 Ukrainian Students Association changes its activities from developing relations with state to cooperation with international institutions. Ukrainian Association of Student Self-

Government has launched and successfully finished advocacy campaign against implementing paid educational services for students.

In 2005 Ukrainian the Student Council as consultative body in Ministry of Education and Science has been established. Council consist on about 300 students self-governments..

There are branches of international students associations as European Youth Parliament, Euro 26 Association, AEGEE, AISEC, professional students associations (layers, political scientists, and medics), young wings of political parties and other professional associations. Students associations are also active in combating non-transparent procedures for financial support for youth organizations. Committee for Supporting Students Self-Governments launches several local student associations and provides monitoring of transparency of local authorities responsible for youth and the Ministry. The results of monitoring activities showed, that state institutions are not open to the requests of youth and aren't transparent in division of finances.

There are active local and regional youth associations, mostly in urban areas. To establish local youth council and enhance youth participation is the matter of good will local self-governments, administrations and organisations. There are no clear approaches and regulations in this sphere.

According to the national survey on situation on student youth in Ukraine in 2008 only 6.7% of students are aware, how the youth policy in the country is implemented and 61.1% don't feel any influence of youth policy.²⁸ The survey has referred to student youth as the most active and organized actor on youth scene.

4.1.3 International actors

Development of civic society in Ukraine has strong connection to the politics and strategies of international actors and donors, which often are not agreed and unsystematic. A lot of youth organisations and organisations working with youth are partners of international and foreign institutions, however there are not a lot of them, which combine internal and external source of founding. Nevertheless, a lot of positive developments in youth and children issues of last years have been done in cooperation or under pressure of international organisations. Sometimes it refers only formal changes in legislation without any methodological and financial background, in other cases the outputs are more visible. Nowadays Ukraine is in the period of implementation of European norms into legal frames, but still far away from implementation into practice.

²⁸ Studentska molod Ukrainy: suchasnyy vymir. Shchorichna derzhavna dopovid Presyidentods Ukrainy, Verkhovniy Radi Ukrainy pro stanovyshe molodi v Ukraini (za pidsumkamy 2008 roku), [Student youth in Ukraine: contemporary dimension. Annual state report to President of Ukraine, Parliament of Ukraine on situation of youth in Ukraine in 2008] Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports – Kyiv, 2009.

United State Agency for International Development (USAID) provides programmes on reforms, where youth policy are not included, however many youth organisations have support by implementing wider projects. Other donors as International Renaissance Foundation (Open Society Institute Network), Canadian International Development Agency, governmental programs of several EU member countries are interested in youth issue in relations to community development, elections, monitoring and education relevant programs. German political institutions as Konrad Adenauer and Friedrich Ebert foundations cooperate with students' organisations and youth wing of relevant political parties. Other most influent and visible actors are governmental structures of USA (Democracy Found), Netherlands (MATRA), Sweden (SIDA), Poland (Polish Aid). There is no common approach and understanding, even communication between the donors in youth issues.

Several actors are active on regional and local levels in youth issue. Caritas Foundation of Ukraine established with support of Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church works in field of social protection and volunteering. Caritas Ukraine works in volunteering by supporting regional volunteering centres and using individual approach to volunteering. Volunteers are mostly involved in social care projects and summer camps. Caritas continues to promote and develop volunteerism among students and youth. Between August 2007 and August 2008 the endeavours of Caritas in Lviv found themselves under the patronage of the Lviv City Council. There are currently 374 volunteers aged 14 – 70 working in five Volunteer Centres within regional Caritas organisations. Nearly 75% of them are pupils and students aged 14 – 25. Nearly 80% of them are women and girls. The main goal of each Volunteer Centre are the following: involving volunteers in the Caritas Mission; raising volunteers as active members of a civil society; creating and training volunteer leaders; fundraising for Volunteer Projects and Projects of Caritas Ukraine; improving volunteer skills and knowledge in all spheres of their activity; organizing camps and charitable events and activities. Although the volunteers are trained and operate in the context of charitable projects, the directors of Volunteer Centres also engage the volunteers in other forms of activity focused on Christian upbringing and civic development. In 2007 – 2008, Caritas Ukraine volunteers took part in 9 international volunteering summer camps, 5 international conferences and over 20 seminars. They also participated in 3 youth exchange programs; 6 volunteers entered institutes of higher education abroad, 9 volunteers were or still are on one year internship programs abroad and 11 volunteers from abroad were or still are on one year internship programs in various Caritas Ukraine branches. Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and Orthodox Church – Kiev Patriarchate have their own youth policy carried out by youth department.

Since 1992 US Peace Corps Volunteers are actively in Ukraine, working in sphere of teaching English as foreign language, youth development and community development. Volunteers teach English in secondary schools, universities and pedagogical colleges, provide in-school lessons and

extracurricular activities for young people, work for HIV prevention, promoting healthy lifestyle, developing skills in information technology, leadership, ecology and career development. The impact from Peace Corps volunteers is valuable in rural and peripheral areas.

There is a general trend to pay less attention to the youth issues by international foundations and donors. Youth issue slowly disappears from priorities defined by international and foreign actors, anyway youth are active in political processes and political parties are tending to win young people in “youth wings”.

4.2 Context of youth policies and youth work

4.2.1 Youth policy

Youth policy in Ukraine is defined by Declaration on main principles of state youth policy in Ukraine and Law on Social Development of Youth. Youth state policy is understood as systematic activity of state in its relation with individual, youth, youth movement, implemented in legislative, executive and justice spheres and aimed to create social-economic, political, organisational and legal conditions for self-determination, intellectual, moral and physical development of youth, realization of creative potential leaded by own interests as well as interests of Ukraine. The Law on Social Development of Youth refers to main definitions as youth/young citizens, minors, social development of youth, first working place and youth employment centres, young families, youth social services, youth organisations and youth work units (work camps).

The background to Ukrainian youth policy relates to the Soviet tradition. Most of the politicians responsible for youth policy in earlier 90th had been “socialized” during the soviet period and are followers of the collective doctrine of youth actions. However, current reforms and development strategies don't refer to youth policy. Without any integrative approach Soviet ideas have been retained also in different ways and make mixture with other ideas, mostly brought by international donors and institutions.

Youth in the Soviet system was totally included in the system of totalitarian state policy, which tried to provide a unified policy connected to the model of internationalism, semi-militarism in social relations and the elimination of any informal space. The communist party, having influence in state policy and being practically a substitute for state power, provided a paternalistic vision of youth policy. Youth organisations such as the 'Young Pioneers' or 'Komsomol' were seen as the “younger partners” of the Party, which should coordinate their activity with the “parental institutions”. The small informal space and participation of youth as an independent actor, and a contra-totalitarian voice, that happened in the 60th was connected to the dissidents' movement. The political and

cultural underground of the 60th created the background for the political changes in the later 80th, which continued until the disintegration of the Soviet Union. However, the strong political engagement of youth in the 90th gradually failed into the significant social passivity of the modern youth also known as “generation P” or “next generation”.

First independent civic organisation called *Tovarystvo Leva* (Lion Society) was created in Lviv by young people in 1987, focused on revival of cultural heritage, traditions and ecology. Society member played significant role in political process and transition. Mass demonstration and anti-soviet political movement was mostly leaded by dissidents in collaboration with young people.²⁹ From this time young people played significant role in political development, are focused on bright scale of issues targeting not only youth affairs but political issues in general. Second influent organisation created in Ukraine in 1989 was Ukrainian Student Association. In their first actions students demanded resolving Komsomol and Marxism-Leninism studies from higher education system. 1990 Ukrainian Student Association and Student Brotherhood of Lviv went on all-Ukrainian hunger-strike demanding resigning from new Soviet Union Agreement and to ensure military service of young people only within Ukrainian borders. The strike got the title “Granite Revolution” and became a significant point in collective memory of youth organisations. After the goals had been reached, student mass movements slowly calmed down and the wave of developing several local political, religious, professional and students societies started. Some student leaders switched to “adult” politics.

In 1990th a lot of local and regional youth organisations have been developed. After reaching independence big part of them, mostly oriented on one general goal, tried to find new identification. New political parties created during first free elections period partly integrated youth in their own structures, several new civic-political youth organisations also emerged at this time. In the next years more or less stabile organisations and structures have been established as well as first attempts to develop dialogue between youth and government has been done. A big part of political parties, which changed their structures within several electoral periods, created youth wings. Active youth tried to find space for participation and development in political parties. At the same time the process of student trade-unions started.

Till 1998 all youth organisations has been created and worked under Law on Citizens Association. In 1998 the new Law on Youth and Children Organisations was adopted. According to this Law youth organisations should provide activity focused on youth, people older than 35 years should have a part not more then 1/3 from general membership. From 1998-2001 the article on single coordination body (Ukrainian National Committee of Youth Organisations) existed, after 2001 it had

²⁹ *Padraic Kenney*. *A Carnival of Revolution: Central Europe 1989*. — Princeton University Press, 2002

been removed on the decision of Constitutional Court. Youth organisations also forced adoption of an article on established dialogue with government on youth matters, organisation of state owned institutions on supporting youth and children and state financial support of youth and children organisations on national and local level (Article 10).

The concept of the Law on Children and Youth organisations and first idea to create national youth umbrella organisation emerged simultaneously. However the Ukrainian National Committee of Youth Organisations declared the membership of organisations, achieved the legislative adoption to representation of all youth organisations and became the biggest recipient of state finances. The Committee leadership was involved also in civil service and political parties. Since that time the model of united leadership has been created. In several regions independent youth leaders created alternative organisations and blocked the organisation of Committee units.

At this time the first claims on corruption and non-transparency by distribution of budget costs come into public (the Committee was the structure, which distributed the costs directly from budget, avoiding State Committee on Youth, Sports and Tourism and these the costs were higher than all budget of the State Committee). In presidential election 1999 the Committee supported directly the acting President. At the end of election organized youth scene of Ukraine was polarized by ideology and political parties. The Committee lost its positions; state finances were reduced and cut out in 2003 after Decision of Constitutional Court. The Committee also lost representative role on international level (in 2000 also as the candidate membership in European Youth Forum). 2003 the National Council of Youth Organisations of Ukraine has been established, declared to have launched 56 youth and children organisations and declared support for their candidate on Presidential elections. After losing direct financing from state budget the Committee became a part of Social-Democratic Party (United) and became also involved in election campaign.

Two different umbrella organisations existed side-by-side till 2006, at the same time a lot of organized youth and NGOs created by youth were outside of these structures. The dualism worked mostly on central political level and targeted the distribution of budget costs. The claims of corruption continued. Lack of active organized youth movement in regions created a big gap between central and local levels. No financial support for nor the Committee nor Council was planned in the state budget 2004. As both structures were organized on the base of fight for costs, they stayed invisible for youth scene, beside that new youth movements supported from local level and by international and national non-state donors gained more influence and fixed their position during and after Orange revolution.

Youth movement remained without coordination, since in 2006 National Youth Forum has been founded by 4 youth umbrella organisations: The main founders were same National Council of Youth Organisations and Ukrainian National Committee of Youth Organisations, two others were

quite new, but founded by known leaders – the Association of Youth Organisations of Ukraine “SPECTR”, The Social Democratic Youth Alliance of Ukraine.

After 2 years Ukrainian Youth Forum gained candidate membership in European Youth Forum. The trend to have leadership as civil servants and party leaders remained, what makes strong opposition from the site of other organisations. Beside youth development on state level, when the state steered developing of umbrella structures, several youth institutions had been organized using support of international donors and institutions. 2000 – 2004 youth was especially active in political issues, supported by society and international donors.

4.2.2 Youth work

Ukraine has no definition of youth work. The meaning of “youth worker” or “people working with youth” has only descriptive meaning and is used by non-governmental actors. Officially recognized professionals working with youth are teachers in school, teachers/pedagogues in extracurricular institutions, school psychologists and social workers.

There are “Bachelor” and “Master” level in social work, taught in pedagogical schools or universities. Social workers work in local Centres of Social Service for Family, Children and Youth, (there are 5390 employed people in the 1988 Centres) and in non-governmental institutions. There is no division between social work and social work with youth.

4.2.3 Youth research

Main state institution responsible for youth research is the State Institute for Family and Youth Development. For 2008 the Institute prepared research “Student youth in Ukraine: contemporary dimension.” The research has been used to elaborate annual state report to President of Ukraine, Parliament of Ukraine on situation of youth in Ukraine in 2008. Therefore the further youth policy and state programmes on youth are being developed only on the base of fragmented researches, which are not integrated.

In 2009 the State Institute for Family and Youth Development presented the research “Volunteer – 2009” exploring the social context of volunteering, indeed the Institute focused only on volunteers registered in Centres of Social Service for Family, Children and Youth, and considered volunteering only as a part of social work.

Political attitudes and values are in focus of sociological agencies and research institutes especially during elections periods. The Democratic Initiatives Foundation provides the most continually research on selected aspects of youth. Other researches aren’t specially focused on youth, but a part of biggest research.

4.3 Legislation and provision of youth work

Main legislative basis for youth policy is Constitution of Ukraine, Declaration on main Principles of Youth Policy and Law on Support for Social Formation and Development of Youth.

Constitution of Ukraine proclaims Ukraine is a sovereign and independent, democratic, social, law-based state and guarantees basic human rights and freedoms, also gender equality, education, cultural development, employment. Ukraine is a part of basic international document in Human Rights, also joined Convention on the Right of Child.

The Declaration on main Principles of Youth Policy (1993) defines youth policy as system of relations between the state and individual, young person, youth movement to be realized in legislative, executive sphere and sphere of justice aimed to create social-economic, political, legislative conditions and guaranties for self-identification, intellectual, moral, physical development of youth, realization of creative potential in own interests and interests of Ukraine.

The Law on Support for Social Formation and Development of Youth sets main priorities for youth policy as housing, youth employment, support for youth organisation, social care, youth entrepreneurship, education and cultural development, health and physical development, law protection, support for youth and children organisations. The Law also refers to main definitions as youth/young citizens, minors, and social development of youth, first working place, and youth employment centres, young families, youth social services, youth organisations and youth work units (work camps).

Other legislative basis consists on:

- Law on Youth and Children Public Organisations;
- Law on Social Work with Children and Youth;
- Law on Ensuring First Working Place for Young Professionals Finishing Vocational or High Schools by donation of employers (not valid for 2006-2007);
- Law on Ensuring Equality Between Men and Women;
- Law on Prevention Violence in Families;
- Law on Protection of Childhood;
- Law on State Support for Families with Children.

Law on Youth and Children Public Organisations defines youth organisations as those united young people between 14 and 35 years and children organisations as those united children between 6 and 18 years old. Young people after 15 years old can be founders of these organisations. Children under 10 years can launch organisation with permissions of parents, step-parents or foster families. People older than 35 for youth organisations and 18 for children organisations can take not more than 1/3 of all members. The Law defines the right of children and

youth organisations to be involved in decision making process on national, regional and local level in issues relating youth and children.

Support for organisations is organized by:

- informing them about state policy relating youth and children;
- methodological and organisational support of social formation and development of youth and children;
- support for development institutions organisations, giving service to youth or support youth employment.

Central and regional authorities are obliged to serve budgeting for supporting projects of organisations and involve them to implementation of state programmes related to youth and children.

The Law on Social Work with Children and Youth defines social work as activity of relevant representative institutions and organisations directed to creation of social conditions for life activity, harmonized and systematic development of children and youth, protection of their constitutional rights, freedoms and interests, realizations of cultural and spiritual needs. The Law defines the meaning of

- social service
- social support
- social prevention
- social rehabilitation
- social inspection
- centres for social service for families, children and youth
- professionals in social work (employed and volunteers)
- volunteers' movement
- social management

The Law defines institutions responsible for social work:

- state represented institutions for social work with children and youth as executive institutions, minors services, social services for family, children and youth and their departments, other institutions and organisations;
- professionals in social work

Till 2009 volunteering in Ukraine had legislative back-up only in context of social service, implemented in Law on Social Service from 2003. Volunteer is understood as person, who works voluntary in charity and non-profit, express motivation to work for public good. According to this

Law Cabinet of Ministers issued Order on Volunteering Activity in Field of Social Service. Volunteering activity is defined as non-profit activity of persons (volunteers) for helping people in difficult situations and need assistant and this activity supports self-realization of volunteers. According to this order volunteers organisations can provide restricted number of services (laundry, renovation, meal etc.) and in agreement of state social services. Coordination council for Development and support of volunteering is organized by Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. Activity should be coordinated together with Ministry of Youth, Sports and Family. No activity of Council is available.

In 2005 the Parliament denied adoption of Law on Volunteering Movement on request of several NGOs as not suitable for developing on volunteering. However the similar project of Law was submitted and adopted in first reading by Parliament in 2010. After public discussions with NGOs Law was improved and systematized. Volunteering is understood as any public non-profit activity provided by persons or legal body, including work, service for people, organisations and society. Volunteering is allowed from 16 years and from 15 by permission of parents. Volunteer has own ID card provided by Executive body on request of organisations. Voluntary activity should be coordinated by special body. The discussion on Law on Volunteering is still in progress, the draft has passed first reading in the Parliament. The most claims for new Law from the site of NGOs is that the volunteering is understood only as collective actions, there is attempt to recognise volunteering only in frames of organizations with special status (organization should be registered as volunteering organizations in order to provide volunteering activities), there is only social dimension of volunteering and no provision of international dimension of volunteering.

4.4 Strategies, Programmes, Action Plans in youth work and non-formal education/learning

Main programme on youth is the State Social Programme “Youth of Ukraine 2009-2015”. For previous period the programme “State Programme for Supporting Youth 2004-2008” had been implemented.

During 2004-2008 the main approach used in developing of the programme was to implement the task of the state to civic, national-patriotic education of children and youth, involving them to social-political and economical changes, integration of Ukraine into world community.

The problems defined in the State Social Programme “Youth of Ukraine 2009-2015” were as lack of spirituality, poverty, unemployment, violence, lack of sensible leisure, which make negative influence on the youth, also reduced sport activity, developing of AIDS, tuberculosis, shadow economy and increasing rate of criminality among youth in 1,5 in comparison to earlier 90th and

labour migration. There is also lack of interest to literature, art, cultural heritage and influencing by low quality of domestic and foreign mass-culture.

For this period government has planned to realize some actions in spheres of:

- education and creative development of young people;
- patriotic education and human values;
- healthy life;
- employment and youth entrepreneurship;
- civic participation and cooperation between state and youth and children organisations;
- integration into World and European community;
- improving legislation in field of youth

Implementation of the Programme as well as work out doesn't foreseen public consultations or discussion on results achieved. It results into lack of reports on results. The government uses a client approach to the youth by planning some actions without discussing and needs assessment. So for education and creative development 3 actions were planned: competition on student and youth printed media, improving conditions in student dormitories and implementation of studying ecology and improving subject "Safety of life activity" in secondary school.

For youth employment and entrepreneurship the government provides youth business incubators and supports employment centres in educational establishments. Significant role in this sphere is support of working units – temporary employment of youth for summer holidays (600 thousand employed youth planned). Youth working units are successors of Soviet students working movement, when the students were sent to big industrial projects.

For healthy life the main project was to establish 8 centres for drug addicted youth "Your Victory", art action "Art against AIDS", student sport festival, publications on healthy stile of life.

For civic participation there were declaration of support of youth oriented institutions and attention to military-patriotic education, also to cultural heritage and action on support Ukrainian products.

For justice information and education, also improved consultation system for military servants, improving conditions for institutions dealing with youth at risk.

For civic participation Ministry recommended to provide financial opportunities of children and youth organisations, supporting volunteers units and to support leadership training for activists. There were also recommendations to create youth councils on regional level and job-shadowing programmes for youth in public bodies.

For integration it was planned to support Ukrainian participation in European Youth Forum, to support activity of 1 NGO (without definitions of work), to support National Council of Youth

Organisations by providing conference on youth councils. For youth with physical disabilities measures on leisure, rehabilitation and Internet support had been planned. For international relations Ministry points out support for setting agreements in sphere of labour migration.

For this programme support for youth and children organisations was planned, National Council of Youth Organisations and Voluntary organisation “Alternative – V” are partners for the programmes.

There are no special regulations for foreign volunteers in Ukraine. Most popular volunteering programmes are US Freedom Corp, UN volunteering and European Voluntary Service. Long term US Freedom Corp volunteers are protected by US government. EVS volunteers have no official protection and face several problems on long-term staying in Ukraine.

Special programmes are provided to support different categories of youth as gifted youth, students and children, athletes, young scientists, orphans, young families, social disadvantaged, rural youth, operated by relevant Ministries or Presidential Administration (Presidential grants).

4.5 Strategies in cross-sectorial policies

The programmes on youth involving different sectors are elaborating and implementing on the base of divided competencies and common actions.

The cooperation between different Ministries doesn't have any approach and is considered as common fulfilment of tasks defined in the state programmes (e.g. patriotic education for young military servants is provided in cooperation with Ministry of Defence). There are no strategies for cross-sectorial policies, rather the division of competences of different authorities for defined categories of young people.

National Programme Youth of Ukraine 2009-2015 indicates common activities with Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports as main actor in sphere of education and creative development of young people by organizing festivals, knowledge and skills competitions, publications (Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Labour), patriotic education and human values (Education of Science, Culture, Defence, Labour and Ministry of Interior, healthy life (Ministry of Health Protection), employment and youth entrepreneurship (Ministry of Labour, State Committee on private Enterprises).

Relevant ministries are responsible for youth issues in according to their competencies (Ministry of Culture and Tourism – for youth and children libraries, theatres and art schools; Ministry of Labour – for employment, Ministry of Social Protection – for disabled youth, Ministry of Health Protection – for health issues and others).

4.6 European and International dimension

European Union is one of the biggest donors of Ukraine. Delegation of the European Union of Ukraine (Directorate-General for External Relations, RELEX) provides national tenders on raising European awareness about European Union between youth in two dimensions: Network of European Clubs and knowledge competitions on European Integration. The main aim of this tenders is to raise knowledge and information on European Union among Ukrainian youth. The Delegation provides information on youth related programmes as Erasmus Mundus, Tempus and Youth in Action. There is National Tempus Office in Ukraine which provides support for educational and scientist programmes. In 2009/2010 28 Ukraine students and 8 young scientists participate are Erasmus Mundus students.³⁰

The International Renaissance Foundation (Open Society Institute, Soros Network Foundation) supports pro-European initiatives of Ukrainian NGOs in European awareness and education. There is Network of European Information Centres supported by Foundation. One of the priorities of the Network is to raise European awareness among youth, also through implementing non-formal education tools and supporting European School Clubs. IRF has also special programme for supporting Roma communities in cultural and educational spheres. 2010 Roma programme initiated Roma youth forum.

Youth in Action Programme is represented by informal Network of Multipliers organized by SALTO Resource Centre in Eastern Europe and Caucasus. Participation of Ukrainian youth in Youth in Action (till 2007 – YOUTH) Programme has positive dynamic since 2005.

In 2009 Ukraine hosted 2 Seminars, 4 Training Courses and 14 Youth Exchanges (the same number of projects as the Russian Federation, 2nd place after Georgia). Most of the projects were financed by Germany – 6 projects and Poland – 5 projects. Others were financed by Italy (2) and with 1 project each: Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and UK. The most popular themes for projects were European Awareness, Anti-Discrimination and Social Inclusion. Top partner countries for the projects were: the Russian Federation, Germany, Poland and Georgia. Ukrainian organisations were partners in 65 Youth Exchanges and 68 Training&Networking projects.³¹ 89 volunteers were granted for European Voluntary Service from Ukraine to be hosted in EU countries and 30 volunteers from EU stayed in Ukraine.³² Poland, Germany and Lithuania were the most popular countries for EVS. Recent developments in visa and registration of foreigners in Ukraine damaged the long-term EVS-projects.

³⁰ <http://www.tempus.org.ua>

³¹ SALTO EECA evaluation of Action 3.1 in 2009 – Warsaw, 2009

³² SALTO EECA evaluation of Action 2 in 2009 – Warsaw, 2009

Reviews on youth policies and youth work in the countries of South East Europe, Eastern Europe & Caucasus

Ukraine

Ukraine is in special focus of Council of Europe in human rights and justice related issues. Youth policy is raised in Action Plan for Ukraine for 2008-2011. Human rights education for youth and training for youth leaders and civil servants responsible for youth are mention in chapter youth issues. 2008 is declared as a year of publishing COMPASS in Ukrainian and the necessity to translate COMPASITO. For the end of 2010 there are no relevant publications or reports available. European Youth Foundation supported 38 projects taking place in Ukraine in 2007-2010.³³

United Nation institutions as United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have strong focus on youth policy and implement special projects in cooperation with governmental institutions and NGOs.

UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports had developed partnership in youth policy development and UN volunteering programme,. UNDP programmes on community development also target youth issue. In 2008 UNDP has launched the Project "Youth Social Inclusion for Civic Engagement in Ukraine". The project's overall objective is to support youth social inclusion and civic engagement by developing key social competencies, which are needed for pro-active youth involvement in society and decision-making processes, thus providing support to further enhancement of the Government's youth policy in Ukraine. The Project is funded by the UN Development Programme, UN Volunteers, Intel and other public and international donors.

Moreover, 52 Youth Centres were established in rural communities in 9 Regions and Crimea with support of the Local Development Programme, providing safe and creative places for youth to meet, socialize and engage in healthy activities. 2005-2007 UNDP supported Human Security for Ukrainian Youth project and elaboration of National Doctrine on Youth Policy, which haven't been adopted and realized. The issues raised in the doctrine as well as mainstream topic "inclusion" haven't been introduced into further legislation and state programmes.

UNICEF works in Ukraine to ensure that all children and young people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, can grow up in a caring family or family-like environment, and that their fundamental rights are met.

In 2006-2010 UNICEF have four main programmes in Ukraine:

The Advocacy, Information and Social Policy Programme is working to put child rights at the top of the political and public agenda, monitor the government's progress on child rights and to increase the involvement of young people in decision-making processes and the mass media. Monitoring of child rights and informing policy-making is assisted through the use of socio-economic analysis based on national data and using national and international experience.

³³ http://www.eyf.coe.int/fej/portal/media-type/html/user/anon/page/Projects_supported

The HIV/AIDS Children and Youth Programme is helping to build the capacity of the Government of Ukraine and civil society to halt the spread of HIV among newborns, children as well as adolescents, and to ensure that those already infected have access to quality care and antiretroviral therapy. UNICEF is also working to improve young people's life skills and increase their access to confidential and non-judgmental health services.

The Child Protection Programme is working with the government and civil society to create a system of family-based care to replace the state care system for orphans and to ensure that children who remain in institutions will have access to quality education and social services. A preventive juvenile justice system is being developed with UNICEF support. Through technical assistance and advocacy, UNICEF is assisting the government to strengthen laws and policies to protect children from abuse.

The Child Health and Development Programme aims to provide equal access to quality health care services for all children and mothers, protecting them from iodine deficiency and ensuring that children grow up in friendly family and community environments that foster their mental and physical health and development.

In the sphere of Rights of Child EveryChild Foundation started working in Ukraine in 1998. EveryChild is registered in Ukraine as a Representative Office of a foreign non-governmental organisation with its head office based in London. EveryChild Ukraine is focused on blocking admission of children into institutions and contributes to their onward progression-back to their families, into a form of substitute family care, or moving to some form of independent living. Foundation develops interventions at local and national levels which will lead to the decrease of the number of children living in institutional care. EveryChild works in sphere of developing services which support and supporting the development of alternatives to large-scale residential care The Office of EveryChild in Ukraine is actively involved in the development of long-term national and regional programmes targeted at improving childcare services and reducing the number of children placed in state care. An important step in this direction is the Comprehensive Programme for Improving Children's Services in Kyiv oblast, developed in conjunction with Kyiv oblast administration and other authorities. The foundation also promotes inter-sectoral cooperation and provides trainings. EveryChild has coordinated cooperation with other organisations by elaborating alternative Report on implementation The Convention on Rights of Child in Ukraine.

4.7 Budget/Funding

Since 2002 the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports has opened a call for all-Ukrainian children and youth organisations for providing projects in field of youth. Only organisations of national all-Ukrainian status are allowed to submit project applications. The projects applications are evaluated by evaluation committee. There are several problems in distribution of the costs namely:

- not defined priorities and lack of budget division according to such priorities; as result the efficiency of the projects is not important, but the division of the costs between different organisations
- evaluation committee is organized without consultation with NGOs; members of evaluation committee are often representatives of organisations participating in competition;
- difficulties with evaluation of result, closed information about outputs of previous projects

In 2010-2009 5 000 000,00 UAH (about 447 000,00 EUR) were distributed from the state budget for projects of all-Ukrainian youth NGO for each year. 68 projects have been supported with the budget from 30 to 100 thousand UAH in 2010 and 63 with the budget from 30 to 200 thousand UAH. 2008 the Ministry supported 170 projects for common amount of 15 350 000 UAH with budget from 30 to 220 thousand UAH. There are no setting priorities and not response to the national programmes in decision documents. Moreover, a half of costs are distributed out of open call, so the project competition is only one part, which demonstrates only formality of transparency.

Regional authorities and local self-governments launch local youth programmes, social contracts for implementations of national programmes. There is no obligation to organize open calls and to give social contacts to organisations. Situation on local levels depends on decision of local governments. Financial resources for implementation national programmes on youth are divided according to the number of young people in community / region and indicating by Ministry of Economy. Overall budget for Youth of Ukraine Programme is overseen as 262 706 000, 150 006 000 from state budget. In reality the budgeting can be covered at 11-12%.

The monitoring activity for NGOs projects supported from state budget is provided by Institute for Family and Youth Development, which is depended from government. Independent and external experts are not allowed to give expertise on efficiency of projects.

5. Trends, needs, challenges and expectations

In October 2010 youth and students NGOs succeed to resist to the Decision of Ministry of Education on providing paid service in high school education. Students have managed to organize all-Ukrainian protests and demanded the Ministry to resign from the decision. In despite of existing Student Council, which should cooperate with the in Ministry of Education and Science in student issues and represent students, the only way to articulate the interests was direct action. This case is an example which symbolizes the ability of young people to mobilize and defend their interests. Indeed it also illustrates the situation that decisions in youth matters are making without transparent consultations and negotiations, and the young people aren't aware about other policy and decision making process as direct actions. Even the consulting bodies often remain a decoration and aren't aware about real situation and positions of the youth.

Having reviewed national legislation, statistical data, structures and actors working in youth issues following conclusions can be drawn:

- Youth policy in Ukraine is fragmented, meaning the lack of integral approach and addressing the needs and interests of young people. Youth policy tends rather to deal with consequences of the problems without removing the root causes. There is no integral youth research, so the programmes and structures are building as reaction to the situations, without any relations to the needs and interests of young people.
- There is no general approach to youth issues, but set of approaches to different "categories" of young people (gifted, disabled, students, successful, problematic, orphans, addicted, poor, HIV/AIDS infected etc.). Young people representing minority groups (national/ethnic, sexual, migrants) are not taken into consideration as specific groups. There are no mechanism to address needs and interests of an average young person and relevant "inter-categorical" tools.
- Youth policy in Ukraine is rather focused on social care and protection, but not developing a young person prepared for social change and challenges. Young person is rather viewed as a problem, but not as a resource. Notwithstanding Ukraine declares transition from paternalistic to participative approach in youth policy, young people are rather "decoration" than the real force for decision making.
- Ukraine would rather deal with the issues persuade by international community, than with those identified locally. It's necessary to take into consideration that international community draws attention of Ukraine to urgent matters. Ukraine is ready to formal changes without indebt transformations, willing to keep the image on the international arena, but not developing comprehensive policies to address the issues.

- The only way to participation in policy process for youth are “direct actions” (steer demo, flash mobs, strikes and pickets, street performances, public appeals) preferred by active youth NGOs since the dialogue is complicated or not possible. Young people interested in participation in policy development would rather join youth wings of political parties than “non-political” NGOs. It means, there is more access for young people to deal as young people in political matters not specifically related to youth.
- The age limit for young people as up to 35 years is also decorative, having background in paternalistic approach and social care in order to give formal opportunities for benefits by solving social problems. It would be sensible to change the upper age for young people at 30 years and not to mix social problems and youth policy.
- Any benefits to young people are limited and therefore target by corruption. In fact any of state programmes hasn't been ensured by resources to be accessible for all the people defined as target groups. There are no external monitoring and evaluation procedures and public process by developing youth oriented programmes.
- Ukraine has no recognition for non-formal education, youth work, long-term learning and volunteering. The European standards of youth policy are only partly introduced in legislation and the programmes and are rather declarative. Ukraine is in process of negotiation of Association agreement with European Union, so the EU-related themes are present. Indeed the discussions are rather general or descriptive – the trend is to learn more about European standards, but there is a will to implement them.
- Ukraine still tends to adopt European standards to soviet traditions, namely to bring in use the terms of participation, tolerance or volunteering site by site with patriotism, military education and forced mass (collective) actions.

Being aware of a lack of information and data allowing projecting future developments in the field of youth, we can only guess, that situation of young people will be changing according to the general trends in society. Due to improvement of quality of life and satisfaction of basic needs, which was important in the first stages of transformation, one can trace increased opportunities for young people. However most of these opportunities are commercialised and accessible only for limited number of young people. That's way there is vivid interest to non-commercial international cooperation, activities of non-governmental organisations and opportunities for formal and non-formal education. In that case youth policy should be focused on enhancing those opportunities, not to leave this sphere solely to international and foreign donors.

Despite of increasing interest to information youth in Ukraine is still isolated and need to make big efforts to find access to not-commercial opportunities for studying, learning and participating in social or cultural life. In such situation political parties, movements or churches can successfully fill

this gap by having good developed structures on regional and local levels. Anyway it is obviously, that rural youth or those living in periphery don't have many alternatives and join the structures, which are available, so cooperation with different stakeholders already working with youth and education/training focused on critical thinking, participation, youth initiatives can help the young people create alternatives and reflect their needs.

In this context the establishing of youth centres and youth information centres, developing e-learning programmes for youth, as well as training of qualified youth workers can solve the problem. Indeed there is the need to revise the legislation and "social-care-approach", to refuse from "categorising" of young people and establish the system accessible for everyone who feels the need to use this. As so far the trend is that the state defines the needs of young people and sets up special structures for special categories of young people.

The mobility of youth also remains limited. Young people belonging to none of "categories" have no benefits by travelling within the country, the hostel system, hitchhiking traditions, active leisure is developed very slowly and used mostly by foreigners in big tourists' cities. Development of youth and rural tourism is almost the work of businesses and non-governmental structures. There are no mobility opportunities within the educational system.

There are not so much possibilities to study abroad; the last changes in educational system and resigning from implementing 12-grade secondary school make Ukrainian certificates not relevant for recognition abroad. Moreover if the young people make efforts and manage to find possibility to go abroad with educational purposes, they are damaged by restrictive visa system of many European countries. Young people are considered as potential migrants. From the other site, if young people have managed to go abroad for long-term period, they try to find other possibilities for staying there for job or for continued education. The limitation by visa matters make the migration potential of young people even higher, since going abroad needs to overcome a lot of barriers and still is a "dream", not a real possibility.

There are strong regional differences in approaches to deal with youth issues in political attractive spheres as language, religion, patriotic education, leisure, and volunteering or working brigades. The political and social polarisation of Ukraine has a strong regional dimension, so it is also popular to cultivate regional patriotism, which is contradicted with national and raise a lot of interregional conflicts, non-acceptances and mistrust among youth of different regions. The situation of lack of interregional tolerance will remain until the educational and exchange programmes will be provided not as pilot ones, as it is the practice for today, but as general matter. This issue also relates to the lack of recognition of youth work and training system of youth workers.

Indeed there is no clear possibility to break down the segregation of inclusion groups in particular LGBTQs, HIV/AIDS infected, disabled, social/financial, disadvantaged and refugees. The approach to treat these groups as problem and lack of inclusion strategy still remains. Young people belonging to ethnic minorities, in particularly Roma and Crimean Tatars, are not in focus of youth policy and there is no integration strategy and the consequences of it are not taking into consideration.

Naturally with the development of market economy the gap between rich and poor is growing, particularly in Ukraine due to the lack of efficient social policy and support for “middle class”. So far the differences between urban and rural, administrative centres and peripheral areas are observable. Young people rely only on themselves in terms of economical independence and social status. They generally concern about short-term achievements, rather than on personal developments. Politicians may be satisfied with striving of young people to enter adulthood as soon as possible, so the state doesn't need to take care of them as of young people anymore. Young adults are not aware about youth policy anymore, because they don't identify themselves as young people.

So long as there is no stability and tools for implementing and evaluating efficiency of youth policy, the situation of youth will depend on political situation in the country, namely on result of elections and personality of politicians responsible for youth matters. Organised youth is already got used to take part of political parties or be incorporated into the party systems. Therefore it is necessary to take it in consideration in the future that youth leaders are politically biased. There is also a tradition to build situations of “conflicts of interests” especially in financial matters, when civil servants, politicians and NGO leaders represent the same structures in processes of public consultation or division of resources. To break corruption and closeness of policy making process would be the main challenge for establishing efficient youth policy in the country.

Ukraine will probably strive to introduce European standards into legislation with fragmental harmonisation. The implementation of European standards will need relevant tools and mechanisms. For this Ukraine will need comprehensive youth research, competent expertise and practitioners in the field of youth.

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- UNDP office in Ukraine: <http://www.undp.org.ua>
- United Nations Volunteers in Ukraine: <http://ukraine.unv.org>
- State Institute for Family and Youth Development: <http://www.dipsm.org.ua>
- EveryChild Foundation in Ukraine: <http://www.everychild.org.ua>
- Network of European Information Centres: <http://ukrcei.org>
- Youth in Action Programme, unofficial source in Ukraine: <http://www.yia.org.ua>
- Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine: <http://ec.europa.eu>
- International Renaissance Foundation: <http://www.irf.ua>
- Council of Europe, Information point in Ukraine: <http://www.coe.kiev.ua>
- Youth Guard – youth is watching you!: <http://mvarda.org.ua>, <http://mvarda.zp.ua>
- UNICEF In Ukraine: <http://www.unicef.org>
- UN Population Fund Ukraine: <http://unfpa.org.ua>
- Youth Social Inclusion for Civic Engagement in Ukraine, UNDP project : <http://ysi.org.ua/>

Annexes

Statistics

Young persons in Ukraine by age groups, 2010	
14-18	2 688 806
19-23	3 566 920
24-28	3 771 584
29-35	4 732 711
TOTAL	14 760 021
TOTAL population 45 782 592	

Mortality rate in Ukraine – youth by age groups, men/women, urban/rural areas, 2010				
	Urban		rural	
	Men	women	men	women
2009				
10-14	32	21,6	37,2	23,4
15-19	76,6	32,4	115,8	42,8
20-24	165,8	54,6	233	72,1
25-29	284,6	96,6	408,7	122,1
30-34	500	167	577,6	184,1
All population	1 527,50	1 257,50	1 944,30	1 829,70

Natality rate by age groups (per 1000 women) – urban / rural areas, 2009		
	urban	Rural
15-19	23,8	46,5
20-24	81,6	128,4
25-29	84,2	102,7
30-34	54,1	54,2
35-39	21,8	20,8
40-44	3,8	3,9
45-49	0,2	0,2
15-49	40	51