Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth





CONTRIBUTION OF NON-PROGRAMME COUNTRIES TO THE EU YOUTH WIKI

CHAPTER V: UKRAINE PARTICIPATION

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CHAPTER 5: PARTICIPATION

5.1 General context

On 24 February 2022, Russian aggression against Ukraine began and is still ongoing at the time of finalising this report. This aggression has had a significant impact on the situation of young people and government procedures in the youth sector in Ukraine. This youth wiki chapter was developed by considering existing regulations and opportunities before the start of the aggression, while also paying attention to the latest developments and challenges that have arisen as a result of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. These developments and challenges naturally or forcefully limit young people's participation in decision making and related procedures. It should be noted that, due to the current situation, and in search of ways to cope with them, there are plans for a range of reforms and adjustments to be implemented for at least the next 5 years. However, the results of these actions cannot be fully foreseen or assessed at this early stage and hence cannot be fully mirrored in this report.

According to the Law of Ukraine "On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy" (Закон України «Про основні засади молодіжної політики»), adopted in 2021, the term "youth" covers citizens aged 14 to 35 years. As of 1 January 2022, Ukraine was home to 9 969 315 young individuals aged between 14 and 35. This number represents a decrease of 293 600 (2.9%) compared to January 2021 and accounts for 24.3% of Ukraine's total permanent population.

Among this demographic, young men constituted 51.3% (5 112 300 individuals), while young women made up 48.7% (4 857 000 individuals). However, these figures have been significantly affected by the Russian aggression towards Ukraine. Notably, a substantial number of young women have temporarily left the country for safety reasons. The total count of individuals within this age group who have temporarily departed remains unconfirmed. Likewise, it is unclear when or how many of these individuals will return.

Under Ukraine's "Law on the Basic Principles of Youth Policy", a primary objective of youth policy is to foster conditions that encourage youth participation in public, political, socio-economic and cultural spheres. This also entails promoting the role and significance of youth involvement in decision-making processes. Consequently, the youth perspective is de facto considered during the formation and implementation of youth policies. This also includes involving youth work in policy execution.

5.2 Youth participation in representative democracy

According to the Constitution of Ukraine, politics in Ukraine operates within the framework of a semi-presidential republic and a multi-party system. The Cabinet of Ministers exercises executive power, while legislative power is vested in Ukraine's Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada. According to Article 5 of the Constitution, the people are the bearer of sovereignty and the single source of power in Ukraine, exercising their power directly and through state and local authorities.

The executive branch consists of a president who is elected by popular vote for a 5-year term. The president nominates the prime minister, who must be confirmed by parliament. The prime minister and cabinet are *de jure* appointed by the parliament on submission of the president and prime minister respectively.

The legislative branch is comprised of the Verkhovna Rada, which has 450 members, elected for a 4-year term. The Verkhovna Rada initiates legislation, ratifies international agreements, and approves the budget. Although the powers of the 9th Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada will formally expire in September 2024, the

status of the election is uncertain under the given circumstances.

Decentralisation, or decentralisation reform, began in 2014 as a reform of local self-government in Ukraine. Its main goal is to create conditions for the formation of effective and responsible local authorities, capable of providing a comfortable and safe environment for people to live in the territory of Ukraine. The reform involves the transfer of powers and resources from state bodies to local self-government bodies, as well as the creation of a basic subject of local self-government – a capable territorial community.

As part of the decentralisation reform, united territorial communities have been formed in Ukraine on the basis of which a new administrative-territorial system was formed in 2020.

Youth participation at the territorial community level

The Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" provides different participation modalities for citizens in order to deal with local problems. According to the law, forms of participation include local referendums, general assemblies at the place of residence, local initiatives, public hearings, and bodies of self-organisation of the population. All of these forms of participation are regulated by a common norm of the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine". The procedures for exercising the right to assembly, local initiatives and public hearings are regulated by a local regulatory act, which is the charter of the territorial community, or by a special regulation adopted by the council if there is no charter.

In each of these forms, young people can participate alongside adult leaders to address community issues or initiate measures to solve specific problems facing young people.

Young people as voters

According to the <u>Electoral Code of Ukraine</u>, citizens of Ukraine who are 18 years old on the day of voting have the right to vote. A citizen recognised by the court as incompetent does not have the right to vote.

Young people as political representatives

According to the <u>Electoral Code of Ukraine</u>, all citizens of Ukraine who have reached the age of 18 on the day of voting have the right to be elected to government bodies, and those who have reached the age of 21 on the day of the election are eligible to be elected as a People's Deputy of Ukraine. A citizen of Ukraine who has reached the age of 35 can be elected President of Ukraine.

A citizen of Ukraine who, in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, has the right to vote in elections can be a member of a political party. In accordance with Article 70 of the Constitution of Ukraine, citizens of Ukraine who have reached the age of 18 on the day of their holding have the right to vote in elections and referendums.

5.3 Youth representation bodies

Youth parliament

There is no youth parliament in Ukraine.

Youth councils and/or youth advisory boards

The National Council on Youth Affairs, the first consultative and advisory body under Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, advocates for youth rights and needs in state policy. Headed by the prime minister, the 24-member council consists of a permanent composition of eight individuals, including representatives from the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other government ministries. The remaining 16 members, chosen from active participants of youth NGOs, student self-government bodies, youth councils, and local executive and self-government bodies, make up the council's rotating composition. Members are elected every 3 years.

The National Ukrainian Youth Association (NUMO), founded in 2019, is an association of the eight Ukrainian NGOs working with youth. NUMO is the Ukrainian acronym of the National Ukrainian Youth Association (Natsionalne Ukrainske Molodizhne Obiednannia). The association includes the Ukrainian Student Association (Українська асоціація студентів – УАС) and Plast, the National Scout Organisation of Ukraine (Пласт – український скаутинг), the largest scout organisation not only in Ukraine but also across the former USSR. The association was founded by a number of other all-Ukrainian organisations: the Ukrainian Youth Association in Ukraine (СУМ в Україні), the Foundation of Regional Initiatives (Фундація Регіональних Ініціатив – ФРІ), the Youth Nationalistic Congress (Молодіжний Націоналістичний Конгрес – МНК) and the National Alliance (Національний альянс). Two structures created after the Revolution of Dignity were also involved in the creation of NUMO: the Association of Ukrainian Youth Centres (Асоціація молодіжних центрів України) and the Ukrainian Academy of Leadership (Українська академія лідерства).

The goal of the association is to ensure the representation and participation of young people in the public life of Ukraine and the world in order to form an effective open youth policy. The main objective, at the initial stage of the activity, is to ensure maximum representation of different layers of youth in the formation and implementation of the state youth policy, and qualitative civic education.

The <u>Public Association "National Youth Council of Ukraine"</u> (Національна молодіжна рада України) is a national youth platform which was established in 2015. The goal of the organisation is to represent and protect the civil, political, social and economic rights of young people in Ukraine, to expand opportunities for personal development and active youth participation in political life. The National Youth Council of Ukraine includes 17 leading youth organisations, of which 12 are all-Ukrainian.

The <u>Ukrainian Youth Councils Association</u> (Українська асоціація молодіжних рад) was founded in 2020. The association includes 47 members. The members of the association are youth councils from different levels (community and regional level). Its main aim is to improve the capacity of member organisations and networking.

In 2021, the Council on Youth Affairs (Рада з молодіжних питань) was created. The Council on Youth Affairs is a consultative and advisory body under the President of Ukraine. The council was created to enable young people to actively participate in public debates and decision making regarding youth policy. Leaders of youth movements and organisations, athletes, founders of youth social initiatives, and cultural figures are involved in the council. Council members are appointed by the president.

Higher education student unions

As per Article 40 of the-Law On Higher Education, student self-government encompasses all students, excluding military cadets, of a higher education institution, irrespective of course or mode of study. All students possess equal rights, including the ability to run for and vote in elections for various self-governing bodies.

Student self-government operates both directly and through elected bodies, chosen by students via secret ballot. These bodies follow a regulation approved by their representative entity.

The financial foundation of student self-government is at least 0.5% of the special fund of the educational institution as determined by its Academic Council. These funds are used for fulfilling their roles and responsibilities, with at least 30% allocated to support the scientific activities of the students.

The <u>Ukrainian Association of Students (UAS)</u>, previously known as the Ukrainian Association of Student Self-Government until 2016, is an independent national student union. It voluntarily unites students and student self-governing bodies and organisations from higher education institutions to implement and safeguard their rights and cater to various public interests, including economic, social, cultural and environmental interests.

Since 2 December 2007, when it became a member of the European Union of Students, the UAS is the only Ukrainian national student association with full membership status of this international organisation.

The UAS is governed by an executive committee, consisting of the president, first vice-president, vice-presidents, and other members elected via a secret ballot at the general assembly. Currently, these roles have a tenure of 18 months, with the association's president leading the committee.

The National Student Union (NSS) is an all-Ukrainian youth public organisation that unites people studying in more than 120 higher educational institutions of Ukraine. The main goal of the union's activity is the representation and protection of scientific, educational, labour, socio-economic and other rights, as well as the interests of students, and the formation of a highly conscious youth community of Ukraine.

School student unions

School student self-government is a method of involving school students in systematic participation in the educational process. Self-management is the independent activity of school students, which takes place under the co-ordination of the responsible teacher (Law of Ukraine "On Education", Article 28).

According to the <u>Law of Ukraine "On Education"</u>, public self-government in educational institutions empowers participants to collectively address the organisation and provision of education, protect their rights and interests, manage leisure and rehabilitation activities, and participate in public oversight and institutional management, as defined by law and founding documents.

School student self-government, a form of public self-government, is led by a general assembly or student conference. Its executive body, accountable to the general assembly, might be a student committee, council, or parliament. These bodies' decisions are advisory, and meetings occur at least semi-annually.

All students have an equal right to partake in school self-government, either directly or through elected bodies, via secret or open voting. These bodies operate under legislation and the institution's statute.

School self-government bodies must rely on comprehensive assistance from teacher organisers or the deputy director for educational work to resolve issues like premises, equipment, documentation, and funding, with the institution head's approval. However, financial support for student self-government work

is not provided.

5.4 Young people's participation in policy making

Formal consultation mechanisms

The Law of Ukraine "On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy" (Закон України «Про основні засади молодіжної політики») indicates that youth participation in the formulation and implementation of youth policy is ensured by taking into account the position of youth when making decisions concerning youth, involving youth work issues in the implementation of youth policy.

The law underlines the importance of youth participation in youth policy formulation and implementation through:

- 1) dissemination: authorities publish information regarding youth-related decisions on official websites, media outlets, and social networks;
- 2) consultation: authorities conduct electronic and other consultations, including youth surveys;
- 3) dialogue: authorities support youth initiatives, establish youth councils, appoint youth advisors, hold public discussions, and form working groups;
- 4) partnership: authorities ensure youth partnership at all youth policy stages and joint assessment of policy effectiveness;
- 5) representation: youth representation is provided in consultative and advisory bodies as defined by law;
- 6) involvement: youth work subjects are involved in the execution of youth policy tasks.

The law further defines:

Youth council

A youth council can be established as a regional or local youth organisation under local authorities with the goal of involving young people in the creation and execution of youth policy at regional and local levels. The council advances the right of youth to participate in policy making, makes proposals regarding the organisation of consultations, offers conclusions and recommendations on youth policy, develops policy priorities at regional and local levels, monitors and evaluates policy implementation, participates in the development of regulatory and legal acts, studies law implementation at regional and local levels, carries out public examination of youth policy financing, and performs other tasks specified in its regulation. It operates based on principles of voluntariness, openness and transparency, reporting to the public annually.

Youth advisors

Central and local body heads may appoint advisors on youth issues. The legal status, appointment procedure and principles of activity of these advisors are determined by the relevant body.

National Council on Youth Affairs (under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine)

The National Council on Youth Affairs is a consultative and advisory body formed to develop a unified stance on the creation and implementation of youth policy and to establish interaction between central and local executive authorities, local self-government bodies and subjects of youth work. The council includes representatives from youth and children's public associations, student self-governments, youth councils, central executive bodies and others. The council studies law implementation, participates in strategy preparation, offers proposals, listens to and evaluates information on policy implementation, interacts with

foreign bodies and international organisations, prepares annual reports, and exercises other powers as provided by the Procedure for the Formation and Activities of the National Council on Youth Affairs. Meetings are held at least once every 6 months. The law describes the following mechanisms of youth participation in the formulation and implementation of youth policy:

The Council on Youth Affairs (under the President of Ukraine)

The Council on Youth Affairs, established under the President of Ukraine, is a consultative and advisory body. According to the <u>Decree of the President of Ukraine "Council on Youth Affairs"</u> signed in January 2022, its main tasks include:

- 1) proposing developments related to:
 - improving mechanisms for youth involvement in public life, policy making, resolution of local issues, and the development of civil society institutions catering to youth;
 - co-ordinating efforts and ensuring interaction between state authorities, local bodies, and youth work subjects, specifically for the effective implementation of the National Youth Strategy until 2030:
 - improving legislation in the field of youth policy;
- 2) participating in preparing drafts for the president's messages to the public and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on internal and external affairs concerning youth;
- 3) promoting information and educational activities to familiarise youth with state formation processes and the operations of state and local government bodies.

Key institutions implementing youth policy

The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine is the primary authority for implementing youth policy. As per the President's Decree 390 of 2013, the ministry's tasks include promoting healthy lifestyles, youth employment, intellectual and creative self-development, social development of children and youth, humanistic values and patriotism. The ministry also provides state support for youth and children's associations and promotes volunteering, with the Youth Policy Department as its main youth policy arm.

The <u>Ministry of Education and Science</u> oversees all levels of formal education (pre-school, primary, secondary, tertiary), vocational, and out-of-school education.

The <u>Ministry of Health</u>, divided into four state services and a central body, handles youth-friendly clinics (specialised subdivisions usually part of children's clinics that provide medical services and consultation for youth, particularly on HIV and STI prevention), developed in collaboration with UNICEF.

The <u>Ministry of Social Policy</u> provides social services to "particularly vulnerable groups". It manages Centres for Social Services for families, children and youth, the Centre for Social Rehabilitation of children with disabilities, the State Complex for Social Rehabilitation of children with disabilities, and the State Service for Labour.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "On the list and subjects of responsibilities of the committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of the ninth convocation" (from 29 August 2019, No. 19-IX), the Committee on Youth and Sports was established, and the following subjects of its responsibilities were determined:

- state youth policy;
- national and patriotic education;
- physical culture and mass sports;
- high performance sports and sports activities;
- regulation of the use of funds for the development of sports received from lotteries.

Local public authorities with competences in the youth field

On the local level, the Departments of Youth and Sport in local and district state administrations are responsible for youth policy.

All-Ukrainian Youth Centre

An expert resource centre for youth work, which works every day for the development of youth infrastructure and youth work throughout Ukraine.

Directions of work

Development of a three-level system of interaction of youth centres

For the effective implementation of the law, the strategic goal of the All-Ukrainian Youth Centre is to promote the creation of regional youth centres in those regions where they do not exist, and to establish their work according to the three-level system in those regions where they are already established, in order to strengthen the work of local centres.

Development of youth infrastructure

The All-Ukrainian Youth Centre provides quality consultations to youth centres for the implementation of the necessary projects and programmes for the development of youth in Ukraine. For this purpose, the All-Ukrainian Youth Centre, together with other subjects of youth policy and/or independently, conducts research on the state of youth centres, youth spaces and other youth infrastructure, as well as their activities.

In accordance with the results of research, as well as requests from institutions working with youth, the All-Ukrainian Youth Centre initiates and implements projects and programmes for the development of youth centres, youth spaces and other youth infrastructures in order to achieve youth work in the field in accordance with youth demand.

For the effective implementation of projects and programmes, the All-Ukrainian Youth Centre employs qualified trainers who teach specialist youth programmes and best practices, and also co-ordinates an extensive network of trainers and facilitators throughout Ukraine.

Dissemination of successful youth work practices

The All-Ukrainian Youth Centre collects, improves and disseminates successful practices of youth work. For those who work with young people and create products for young people, the All-Ukrainian Youth Centre provides consultations and assistance in implementing their activities.

The task is to ensure a high level of openness and transparency of operational and strategic processes of institutions, including through the creation of improved policies and instructions. It is also important to act as a bridge between the authorities, youth centres and public organisations, as well as international partners.

The centre also has an important role as an intermediary for international donors and organisations looking for reliable and relevant local contacts among the local community and youth NGOs.

SpivDiia

This is a nationwide platform based on a network of support centres in almost all regions of Ukraine, which unites volunteer, state, and business initiatives for humanitarian aid and support services to the citizens of Ukraine during the war. It has the following elements:

1) SpivDiia Hub

These are regional spaces that operate on the basis of youth centres and spaces, and active volunteer organisations. The hub provides a range of services to support the civilian population affected by the war in Ukraine.

2) SpivDiia Children

SpivDiia for the sake of children is a safe space where children can receive psycho-emotional support through a non-formal education programme including creative activities, movement and cognitive activities, and interaction with other children and adults.

3) SpivDiia Shelter

This is a self-organised place where internally displaced people can temporarily live. SpivDiia Shelter maintains and provides the necessary resources for other shelters.

4) SpivDiia Legal Service

This is the provision of free legal aid to people affected by the war, through the provision of advice by professional lawyers, in particular on the processing of appeals, compensation, subsidies, social and other benefits, etc.

5) SpivDiia Psychological Support

Individual and group psychological consultations, and educational and informative events to support every needy Ukrainian.

6) SpivDiia Employment

This service offers expert assistance in employment. The project combines enquiries from job seekers or companies with current vacancies, as well as career counselling.

7) SpivDiia Entrepreneurs

This provides support for restarting and adapting your business during the war. The service combines the needs of businesses looking for help and those that are ready to help, and creates a new ecosystem for the interaction of entrepreneurs.

5.5 National strategy to increase youth participation

There is currently no specific strategy for increasing young people's political and civil society participation.

However, the issue is addressed in two national documents below:

- <u>"National Youth Strategy until 2030" (Національна молодіжна стратегія до 2030)</u>, which was adopted in 2021;
- <u>Ukraine Recovery Plan</u>, drafted in 2022.

The purpose of the "National Youth Strategy until 2030" (Національна молодіжна стратегія до 2030) is to create opportunities for young people living in Ukraine to be competitive, to take part in the life of society, and to consciously contribute to its further development.

The National Youth Strategy until 2030 introduces new approaches to youth development in Ukraine. This strategy aligns with the sustainable development goals of Ukraine, the youth policies of the UN, the Council Europe and the European Union, and addresses demographic, security, and economic challenges.

The strategy is rooted in the principles of:

- **integrity and thoroughness** decisions must meet youth interests and involve a range of parties, including state authorities, local bodies, and public-private and social partnerships;
- subsidiarity the state's actions are supplementary to the independent actions of the youth;
- **participation** youth participate in decision making, with the state providing means and opportunities;
- evidence and scientificity decisions are based on objective data about the situation of young people;
- **inclusiveness** decisions foster youth independence and create opportunities without excluding any group;
- equality of opportunities decisions respect human dignity irrespective of individual characteristics.

The strategy prioritises:

- **safety** enhancing environmental safety and youth resilience;
- health promoting healthy lifestyle skills and physical culture;
- **capacity** fostering youth participation in social life and civic competence;
- **integration** increasing the social and cultural integration of youth.

To encourage youth participation in public life, the strategy proposes to:

- create opportunities for personal growth, develop key competences including leadership and entrepreneurship;
- provide exposure to state formation processes, public service and principles of integrity;
- enhance civic competences, promote quality education and creative industries;
- increase youth competitiveness and employment, reduce economically inactive youth, and foster entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship;
- develop youth centres in Ukraine and train youth workers;
- support formal and informal training on youth participation tools for state representatives;
- involve youth in environmental issues, develop civil society institutions in the youth sphere;
- improve youth digital competences and provide access to high-speed internet.

The National Youth Strategy until 2030 identifies the lack of subjectivity, low awareness of diverse lifestyles, and barriers to youth inclusion in society as challenges in creating equal opportunities for young people.

The strategy emphasises promoting social and cultural integration, tolerance and solidarity among young citizens.

The goal of integration is to actively involve diverse youth groups – particularly vulnerable and socially isolated ones – in public life, enhancing mobility and intercultural interaction.

To increase the mobility, social and cultural integration of young people, the strategy suggests:

equality and inclusion:

- 1. ensuring equal opportunities for youth self-realisation;
- 2. preventing and countering stereotypes and discrimination;
- 3. promoting gender equality in social and work relationships;
- 4. running social and educational campaigns to foster respect for the rights of persons with disabilities;
- 5. supporting young people from families at risk of poverty and social isolation for integration and full participation in social, public and economic life.

· cultural integration and identity:

- 1. promoting mutual respect among young people and increasing awareness of cultural diversity and diverse youth lifestyles;
- 2. cultivating a broader concept of Ukrainian identity among young people, based not only on origin but also on values and choices;
- 3. engaging young people, including young immigrants, Ukrainians living abroad, and foreigners interested in Ukrainian culture, in Ukraine's social, economic and cultural life.

mobility and participation:

- 1. developing volunteer activities and youth mobility within Ukraine and with other states;
- 2. facilitating youth participation in international exchanges, particularly through the programmes of the Council of Europe and the European Union;
- 3. encouraging and supporting people with disabilities to fully participate in economic, social and public life.

• preparation for independent living:

- 1. implementing projects and measures to prepare young people for independent living;
- 2. facilitating social adaptation of young people who have served a sentence of restriction or deprivation of liberty;
- 3. improving mechanisms for providing housing to young people.

reintegration and engagement:

- 1. reintegrating youth living in temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and internally displaced persons into the cultural, informational and educational space of Ukraine;
- 2. introducing effective socio-humanitarian mechanisms of integration for young people living in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine;
- 3. engaging youth living in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and internally displaced persons in active social life in Ukraine.

Strategic goals of the Ukraine Recovery Plan ("Youth and Sports" working group):

- Goal 1. Participation of young people, women and men (different categories) in public life to hasten the victory day, rebuild Ukraine and ensure European integration (including through the activities of the Ukrainian Youth Foundation, All-Ukrainian Youth Centre, civil society institutions, youth centres and spaces, youth councils and volunteering).
- Goal 2. The development of a physically active and healthy nation is a priority of the state's humanitarian policy.
- Goal 3. Recovery and development of reserve sports and high-achievement sports, including the priority of Olympic sports.
- Goal 4. Restoration and development of sports infrastructure.
- Goal 5. Increase in the level of Ukrainian national and civic identity up to 85%.

5.6 Supporting youth organisations

Legal/policy framework for the functioning and development of youth organisations

According to the Law of Ukraine <u>"On the Main Principles of Youth Policy"</u>, the organisational and legal principles for the formation of youth and children's public associations include:

- 1. The formation, activity and status of youth and children's public associations are determined in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Public Associations".
- 2. A youth public association or a children's public association is established as a youth/children's public organisation or a youth/children's public union following due organisational and legal form.
- 3. Citizens of Ukraine, foreigners and stateless persons who have reached the age of 14 and are in Ukraine legally can establish youth and children's public organisations.
- 4. The founders of a youth public union can be youth public organisations that are legal entities under private law, and the members (participants) of a youth public union can be public youth organisations that are legal entities under private law and individuals aged 14 to 35 years. The founders of a children's public union can be children's public organisations that are legal entities of private law, and members (participants) of a children's public union can be children's public organisations that are legal entities under private law and natural persons aged 6 to 18 years.
- 5. Individuals aged 14 to 35 may be members (participants) of youth public organisations. Individuals aged 6 to 18 can be members (participants) of children's public organisations.

Membership of youth and children's public associations is fixed.

Persons older than the specified age brackets may be members of youth and children's public associations, provided that their number in such an association does not exceed 20% of the total number of individuals who are members of the association. Persons younger than the specified age bracket may be members of youth public associations, provided that their number in such an association does not exceed 20% of the total number of individuals who are members of the association. The number of elderly persons in the elected bodies of youth and children's public associations cannot exceed 50% of the number of the elected body.

Admission of children under the age of 14 to youth and children's public associations is carried out with the written consent of their parents or other legal representatives, including in electronic form with the use of a qualified electronic signature.

Public financial support

Every year, the Ministry of Youth and Sports announces a grant competition for youth and children's NGOs. From 2021, organisations should apply online through https://grants.vzaemo.diia.gov.ua/.

Proposals can be submitted by youth and children's public organisations and their separate subdivisions, which are listed in the register of non-profit institutions and organisations.

The priorities for 2023 are the following:

- 1. increasing the level of competences of young people with the aim of forming a culture of social entrepreneurship among young people, and encouraging them to start their own business;
- 2. increasing the level of competences of young people in order to promote the harmonious mental development of young people, forming a culture of life safety in young people;
- 3. increasing the level of competences of young people in order to reintegrate young people from the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation;
- 4. increasing the level of volunteering culture among young people.

In line with the Law of Ukraine "On the Main Principles of Youth Policy", the Ukrainian Youth Foundation should be created. The Ukrainian Youth Foundation will be a legal entity under public law, authorised by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to support youth projects and fulfil certain youth policy tasks. During martial law, the foundation will be created on the basis of a partnership between the state and international organisations (the state provides funds for the foundation, and international organisations provide funds for grants for youth).

Regulations on the Ukrainian Youth Foundation are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine upon submission of the central executive body, which ensures the formation and implementation of youth policy. The Ukrainian Youth Foundation determines youth projects for the implementation of which grants are provided.

The main tasks of the Ukrainian Youth Foundation are:

- 1) selection of youth projects, provision of grants for their implementation, monitoring of the implementation of youth projects;
- 2) promoting the implementation of youth policy tasks, the development of innovative forms, methods and tools of youth work;
- 3) co-operation with Ukrainian and foreign individuals and legal entities of private and state ownership;
- 4) creation of favourable conditions for the implementation of youth projects, including by monitoring the process of their implementation;
- 5) stimulating the development of the latest competitive and inclusive youth projects;
- 6) supporting the implementation of international co-operation projects and programmes, including international youth exchanges, and promoting the creation of a positive image of Ukraine in the world;
- 7) support of youth and children's public associations, and other structures of youth work at all stages of the implementation of youth projects funded with grants provided by the Ukrainian Youth Foundation.

A draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the establishment of the Ukrainian Youth Foundation and the procedure for providing grants for project support was developed in 2022.

Some financial support is also available from local budgets for community-based youth organisations.

Initiatives to increase the diversity of participants

One of the main objectives of youth work in Ukraine is the implementation of an inclusive approach and ensuring equal access of every young person to quality services and youth work opportunities. The state aims to support all initiatives which involve young people.

Also since 2014, Ukraine has had a large number of donors who implement a large number of youth projects, including USAID, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, UN agencies, and GIZ. Diversity, inclusion, active youth participation and other democratic values are mandatory for projects funded by these donors. Such projects include engagement of disadvantaged youth, capacity building of youth centres, development of youth work in communities, development of recommendations, as well as youth participation in the decision-making process and partnership between local government and local youth councils and/ or youth initiatives.

5.7 "Learning to participate" through formal, non-formal and informal learning

Policy framework

<u>The Concept of civic education development in Ukraine</u> was adopted in October 2018. According to this concept, the main strategic directions of civic education are:

- legal education of citizens, in particular in terms of understanding and ability to exercise their own rights and obligations;
- strengthening the ability to participate in public life and use opportunities to influence the decision-making process at national and local level (ensuring the right to participate).

Additionally, the concept states that civic education should cover all types of education (formal, informal, informal), as well as all components, education levels and age groups of citizens, in particular adult education, and be aimed at the development of civic competences. Civic education should be practical and should help in acquiring the necessary competences.

Civic education in formal learning

According to Article 8, p. 2 of the Law of Ukraine "On Education", formal education is defined as education obtained following a set curriculum defined by legislation, with specific branches of knowledge and/or specialities (professions), enabling students to achieve learning outcomes for a corresponding level of education, with qualifications recognised by the state.

The Concept of civic education development in Ukraine says that in formal education, civic competences are acquired during the educational process, in extracurricular activities, and in particular in student and student self-government bodies, in partnership with public associations.

State authorities and local self-government bodies, institutions of civil society and educational institutions of various forms of ownership, in accordance with the main content areas of civic education, ensure the achievement of the following results in formal education:

- reflection of the content of civic education in education standards;
- creation of an educational environment based on respect for human rights and democracy, responsibility for one's own and collective decisions, academic integrity and scientific validity;
- creation of legislative grounds and provision of guarantees to ensure the activities of self-governing bodies in educational institutions;
- creation and implementation of educational programmes on civic education within the framework
 of training and advanced training of pedagogical and scientific-pedagogical workers together with
 civil society institutes engaged in civic education;

provision of the academic component of civic education.

Civic education in non-formal learning

According to Article 8, p. 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On Education", non-formal education is an education that is usually obtained under curricula but does not provide for the awarding of state-recognised educational qualifications by level of education, but may end with the assignment of professional and/or partial educational qualifications.

The Concept of civic education development in Ukraine says that state authorities and local self-government bodies, institutions of civil society and educational institutions of various forms of ownership, in accordance with the main content areas of civic education, should ensure the achievement of the following results in non-formal education:

- creation of educational programmes and resources, including internet resources;
- promoting the implementation of civic education components in out-of-school education institutions and informal education structures;
- implementation of civic education programmes in co-operation with cultural institutions (people's
 houses, libraries, cultural centres, museums, concert halls, etc.), social protection (social service
 centres, services for children and other institutions working with vulnerable segments of the
 population), departments of education, culture, tourism, youth and sports, youth centres, public
 associations.

Civic education in informal learning

According to Article 8, p. 4 of the Law of Ukraine "On Education", informal education (self-education) refers to an education that provides for the self-organised acquisition of certain competences by a person, in particular during daily activities related to professional, social or other activities, family or leisure.

The Concept of civic education development in Ukraine says that state authorities and local self-government bodies, institutions of civil society and educational institutions of various forms of ownership, in accordance with the main content areas of civic education, shall ensure the achievement of the following results in informal education:

- provision of conditions for civic self-education through the provision of information in public spaces (names of squares, streets, etc.; information plates; exhibitions in museums; library funds, etc.);
- creation by local self-government bodies of conditions for acquiring practical governance and management skills by members of the local community by involving them in decision making at the local level;
- assistance in providing citizens with accessible resources for their own development, including publishing, cinema, cultural products, tourism, online platforms and active information about such resources;
- maintenance of information resources that contribute to the development of civic competences and the formation of critical thinking, and providing information through mass media for the development of civic competences.

5.8 Raising political awareness among young people

Programmes and organisations focused on formal school education

The "Schools for Democracy" educational reforms support programme in Ukraine focuses on the

implementation of the Charter of the Council of Europe on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Teaching Human Rights. The programme is implemented by the European Wergeland Centre (Oslo, Norway) with the support of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Council of Europe;

Association of teachers of history, citizenship and social disciplines "Nova Doba" – the main
directions of its activity include: development of educational programmes, textbooks and manuals
on history and civic education, initiation and organisation of youth programmes aimed at the
development of civic competences; conducting trainings, seminars, conferences for teachers,
students and school administration.

Programmes and organisations focused on non-formal civic and political education

Ukrainian Leadership Academy

The Ukrainian Leadership Academy is a values-based formative platform of personal and social development for young people. The academy combines an annual programme between school and university for motivated teenagers aged 16 to 20 and large-scale social projects for society.

The academy is one of the leaders in engaging active youth and the most powerful youth leadership movement in Ukraine.

The training programme lasts 10 months. It combines elements of physical, emotional and intellectual development.

Students get practical experience of social and business projects, get internships in ministries and influential organisations; volunteer at international and all-Ukrainian forums, promotions and marathons; independently organise educational courses, meetings, and sports competitions; travel in Ukraine and the world.

The academy is a national network of centres in Kyiv, Lviv, Mariupol, Kharkiv and Mykolaiv. Since the Russian invasion in 2022, only the centre in Lviv remains operational.

Open University of Maidan

The Open University of Maidan (OUM) is an All-Ukrainian public education movement that emerged during the Revolution of Dignity on Maidan in 2013-2014. Today, it is a public organisation based in Kyiv with 22 regional departments. It creates and develops new formats of non-formal education and self-education that are available for everyone. OUM is a platform for the expression of new ideas concerning the future of Ukraine, civil society formation, and the development of civil competitions.

Internship programme in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

This project has been successfully operating since 1995 under the joint initiative of the Association of former members of the US Congress and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Since 2014, the internship programme has been administered by the NGO "League of Interns" with the support of the USAID Programme "COUNCIL: Accountability, Responsibility, Democratic Parliamentary Representation" and the Eastern Europe Foundation. The recruitment of participants for the internship programme takes place on an annual basis. In addition to internships in the Verkhovna Rada, there are similar programmes in the central bodies of government and the presidential administration.

Since it began, about 1 500 people have passed through the internship programme.

The purpose of the internship programme is to provide young people with the opportunity to directly participate in legislative and state decision-making processes, gain experience working in legislative and

executive bodies, and create prerequisites for their professional growth and successful social and political activity.

The internship component involves participation in the committees and apparatus of the Verkhovna Rada. Interns take an active part in the development of laws and regulations, write analytical notes on the issues of current legislation, and prepare draft laws for the first reading, explanatory notes and comparative tables.

Young Generation will Change Ukraine

This programme is supported and run by the Bohdan Havrylyshyn Charitable Foundation "Young Generation will Change Ukraine". The target audience of this programme is young people aged 20 to 35 who are activists of public organisations, civil servants, deputies of city, district and regional councils, and students. The purpose of the "Young Generation will Change Ukraine" programme is to study the successful experience of socio-political and economic transformation in leading European countries in order to prepare participants for future political activity, participation in local and parliamentary elections, work in state bodies and non-governmental organisations.

The main idea behind this programme is to unite the progressive young generation on the basis of common values and views on the world, which in the future can create political parties of different ideological platforms (socialist, centrist or liberal), allowing graduates of the programme to contribute to the successful socio-political and economic transformation of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian School of Political Studies

Initiated in 2005 by the Laboratory of Legislative Initiatives and the Council of Europe, the Ukrainian School of Political Studies (USPS) is an educational project fostering a culture of fair, trusting, and dialogic public policy. USPS is instrumental in shaping many of Ukraine's successful young politicians, administrators, journalists and lawyers.

USPS provides a unified communication platform for individuals committed to humanistic values, democratic principles, and societal change. It unites leaders from politics, business, media, social activities, and academia across Ukraine.

Using innovative educational approaches, USPS encourages a multifaceted understanding of Ukrainian and global contexts, and facilitates exchanges between leaders from diverse public sectors. It offers not only knowledge but also career-building skills, supporting emerging leaders in decision making and social problem solving.

USPS's activities encompass three or four annual national training sessions, a Strasbourg session, thematic meetings, international events, study tours, and supplementary educational modules. The faculty comprises leading Ukrainian and international public and political figures.

Over the past 12 years, USPS has emerged as a prominent educational and communication platform for Ukraine's new political generation. Its alumni play pivotal roles in implementing democratic reforms, integrating Ukraine into the European community, and promoting human rights and the rule of law.

The Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU)

The Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU) is an all-Ukrainian non-governmental organisation whose main task is to observe election campaigns, maintain relations between voters and the authorities, and protect the voting rights of citizens. Branches of the organisation operate in 24 regions and in more than 200 districts of Ukraine. The NGO was established on 20 February 1994. The organisation is neutral of political parties and candidates, and acts on the basis of volunteering, equality of its members, self-government,

legality and transparency.

Since its creation, the CVU has monitored all national election campaigns, without exception, as well as most local election campaigns.

The main areas of CVU activity are:

Democratic monitoring. The CVU monitors election campaigns in Ukraine, as well as monitoring the activities of elected officials and democratic institutions, which includes analysis of the fulfilment of pre-election promises and compliance of their activities with generally accepted democratic norms.

An active citizen. This direction includes programmes related to increasing legal literacy and citizen activity in the field of protecting their rights and interests. Among these, the most relevant are community development programmes, as well as the provision of consulting services to the population in public reception centres.

Education of citizens. The CVU pays considerable attention to voter education during election campaigns regarding the specifics of election legislation and mechanisms for protecting voters' rights. It also conducts educational campaigns in the inter-election period, for example, regarding the Constitution of Ukraine, the law on local self-government, administrative and territorial reform, etc.

The International Republican Institute

The International Republican Institute (IRI) runs three projects on political education. Two of them – "Academy of Political Leadership" and "School of Young Politicians" – are nationwide. The third – "Promoting the Development of Local Self-Government in Ukraine" – is aimed at training politicians at the local level.

The Academy of Political Leadership is aimed at training new responsible and effective political leaders, and involves practical training and the creation of a platform for the exchange of experience between young politicians from different regions of Ukraine. The programme traditionally includes three sessions of two-day training seminars on the following topics: "Political Leadership", "Effective Media Communications" and "Organisation of Public Lobbying Campaigns". Seminars are usually held in different regions of Ukraine. The target audience of this programme is young people between the ages of 19 and 40, deputies of local councils, activists of political parties and public activists.

The purpose of the School of Young Politicians is to provide knowledge to active young people who aspire to develop in the public or political sphere, regarding the specifics of the activities of political parties, methods of state-building in Ukraine, as well as the specifics of local self-government. Graduates of this school receive a number of benefits, namely: access to all vacancies of state institutions; guaranteed internship in state bodies; free attendance at all subsequent seminars of the school; membership of the "Club of Young Politicians"; and participation in round tables and political talk shows.

International and foreign organisations implementing programmes in the field of political/civic education in Ukraine

The British Council

"Active citizens" programme

"Active citizens" is a programme of the British Council for young people in the field of intercultural dialogue and social development.

The programme started in 2009 and is implemented in more than 78 countries of the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, South and East Asia, and North and South America.

The purpose of the programme is to promote social changes and ensure sustainable development by

creating and building a network of young leaders with the involvement of youth organisations that are the drivers of reforms in their communities and providing them with knowledge and skills that will contribute to building relationships between people on the basis of equality and equal opportunities, respect for diversity, and the ability to conduct conflict-free dialogue.

In Ukraine, the project is designed to develop knowledge and skills among young people that would contribute to intercultural dialogue and conflict resolution throughout Ukraine, primarily in the East of Ukraine.

Within the framework of the House of Europe programme, financed by the European Union, the British Council organises Active Citizens Camps – platforms for the development of leadership potential and social responsibility of young people, sharing of experience, generation of ideas, and awareness of opportunities for increasing the capacity of communities.

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Ukraine

The representative office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Ukraine, together with Ukrainian NGOs, organises the following regular projects on political education:

- · Higher political school;
- Workshop of European politics;
- School of the European politician;
- Eastern partnership leaders for change.

The goal of the Eastern partnership leaders for change project is to promote the political modernisation of the Eastern Partnership countries (in particular, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova) by training representatives of political parties and public leaders. Seminars within the framework of the project involve familiarisation with the processes of European integration, giving participants expert assessment of the Eastern partnership, and conducting interactive trainings to improve their communication skills.

USAID implements a number of projects in Ukraine, including:

<u>Enhance Non-Governmental Actors and Grassroots Engagement (ENGAGE)</u> – an activity implemented by Pact in Ukraine.

The purpose of ENGAGE is to increase citizen awareness of and engagement in civic activities at the national, regional and local levels. ENGAGE focuses efforts at both the grassroots level to educate and activate citizens to engage in civic initiatives as well as the national and regional (oblast and rayon) levels to improve organisational capacities, build coalitions, support advocacy and watchdog initiatives. ENGAGE primarily focuses on key democratic reforms and cross-cutting themes, such as anti-corruption, decentralisation, government transparency and accountability including electoral processes, inclusive development of persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, intersex and other vulnerable groups, youth, and EU integration. To address citizen demands for anti-corruption reforms, ENGAGE maintains an anti-corruption focus on all its programme components.

The "Mriemo ta diemo" programme is aimed at the development and support of youth in Ukraine, and the creation of a favourable environment in which young people will have the opportunity to realise their dreams, ideas and visions of the country's development. Using a youth-oriented approach – not for youth, but with youth – the programme promotes youth innovation, entrepreneurship, strengthening participation in decision making in communities and solving problems at the national level, and also strengthens the

potential of Ukrainian youth to be the driving force of pluralism and respect for diversity. "Mriemo ta diemo" involves young people in the development and implementation of projects and initiatives, and also conducts research in order to form youth policy based on the needs and interests of young people and to move towards effective and sustainable change.

Governance and Local Accountability (HOVERLA)

HOVERLA works to ensure that Ukraine's system of local self-governance is increasingly institutionalised and effective, that subnational governments are more self-reliant, and that citizens can play an increasingly influential role in local governance processes.

Decentralisation Offering Better Results and Efficiency (DOBRE) Programme

The DOBRE Programme is working to enhance good local governance and create improved conditions for the development of consolidated communities, to increase citizen engagement in decision making, and to ensure accountability and transparency in public administration.

Council of Europe in Ukraine

"Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: II Phase" project.

"Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: Phase II" stresses the importance of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030 and reflects current youth policy reforms in Ukraine, notably the National strategy of the State Youth Policy 2030, and the State Target Social Programme "Youth of Ukraine" 2021-2025.

The project engages youth policy stakeholders and youth work providers in Ukraine in the implementation and dissemination of recommendations of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to member states on access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (CM/Rec(2015)3), on access to rights for young people (CM/Rec(2016)7) and on youth work (CM/Rec(2017)4).

The project includes the following components and activities:

- youth participatory and gender sensitive youth policy;
- youth work recognition and quality;
- social cohesion and inclusion.

UNICEF in Ukraine

UPSHIFT programme

The UPSHIFT programme is a global innovation programme of UNICEF, which is implemented in more than 20 countries. In Ukraine, the programme is implemented with the NGO "Kharkiv Professional Development Foundation".

UPSHIFT is a programme that allows teenagers and young people to propose and implement innovative solutions to current problems in the school, community, city, etc., based on the Human Centred Design approach. With the help of an experienced mentor, participant teams carry out step-by-step research on a chosen problem, study the target audience and test their ideas. As a result, teams create project ideas and have the opportunity to attract funding for their implementation.

The UPSHIFT programme combines social innovation training, mentoring and financial support. It gives young people the skills and resources to identify problems in their communities and propose innovative

solutions to those problems. The programme builds the resilience of young people, and their communities benefit from the solutions offered by young people.

Political parties of Ukraine periodically carry out their own educational projects.

In particular, they conduct short-term events – seminars, lectures and trainings within the framework of political education. At the same time, the common feature of these projects is the predominant focus on youth and officials of their own political party, rather than educational work with wider segments of the population.

5.9 e-participation

There is no special law on e-participation for youth, but there are several ways in which youth can take part in digital participation.

Diia

<u>Diia</u> ("Action"; also an acronym for Ukrainian: Держава і Я, "State and Me") is a mobile app, a web portal and a brand of e-governance in Ukraine.

Launched in 2020, the Diia app allows Ukrainian citizens to use digital documents on their smartphones instead of physical ones for identification and sharing purposes. The Diia portal allows access to over 50 governmental services. Eventually, the government plans to make all kinds of state–person interactions available through Diia.

It is also possible to conduct surveys on issues of public administration through the "Diia" application. Citizens of Ukraine over the age of 14 can participate.

The relevant <u>resolution was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine</u> in February 2022, "To provide the Ministry of Digital Transformation with the technical possibility of conducting a survey on the Unified State Web Portal of Electronic Services within a three-month period, in particular, using the mobile application of the Unified State Web Portal of Electronic Services (Diia)".

Electronic petitions

The Constitution of Ukraine (Article 40) guarantees the opportunity for every person to directly address or send individual and group appeals to state bodies, local self-government bodies and officials.

An electronic petition is a special form of collective appeal of citizens to the President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, a local self-government body, which is mandatory for consideration if the required number of signatures is obtained.

In accordance with Article 23-1 of the <u>Law of Ukraine "On Citizen Appeals"</u>, citizens can apply to the President of Ukraine (https://petition.president.gov.ua/), the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (https://itd.rada.gov.ua/services/Petitions/), or the local self-government body with electronic petitions through the official website of the body to which it is addressed, or the website of the public association that collects signatures in support of an electronic petition.

Under Article 23-1 of Ukraine's "Law on Appeals of Citizens", an e-petition addressed to the president, the

Verkhovna Rada, or the Cabinet of Ministers requires at least 25 000 signatures within three months of its publication to warrant special consideration.

The charter of a territorial community determines the signature requirements and collection period for epetitions to local self-governing bodies. However, the Law of Ukraine specifies that such an e-petition must gather a certain number of signatures within three months of its publication, based on the population of the relevant administrative-territorial unit:

- up to 1 000 residents at least 50 signatures;
- 1 000 to 5 000 residents at least 75 signatures;
- 5 000 to 50 000 residents at least 100 signatures;
- 100 000 to 500 000 residents at least 250 signatures;
- 500 000 to 1 million residents at least 500 signatures;
- over 1 million residents at least 1 000 signatures.

The support or rejection of an e-petition is publicly announced on the official website by the head of the local council.

Responses to e-petitions, detailing the results and justifications, are published on the official website of the addressed body the business day following the petition's consideration. A written response is also sent to the e-petition's author and the relevant public association that gathered signatures.

If a petition lacks the required signatures, it is processed as a regular citizens' petition. The president, Verkhovna Rada, Cabinet of Ministers, or local self-governing body defines the procedure for considering e-petitions addressed to them.

U-Report Ukraine

U-Report is UNICEF's digital platform that brings together proactive youth who express their opinions and seek to influence change in the country.

It is designed to collect the opinions of young people aged 14-24 about various spheres of social life in the form of surveys, for example environmental issues, volunteering, media literacy and many others. The results of these surveys help communicate the views of young people to key stakeholders to initiate lasting change.

Ukraine became the first country in Europe where the project was launched, in 2015. Since then, about 93 000 respondents have taken part in the surveys. U-Report showed its results and became a driver of positive changes for young people in Ukrainian society.

For example, U-Report polls helped convince local authorities to open a youth centre in Lviv, launch a national entrepreneurship development programme, and create mental health support services at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of the U-Report surveys contributed to the development of an educational programme on sex education and menstrual hygiene among teenagers, and were also taken into account during the formation of the National Youth Strategy in Ukraine until 2030.

U-Report actively co-operates with government structures and international and public organisations within the framework of surveys.

The sociological component of the project is implemented in Ukraine by the NGO <u>"Ukrainian Institute of Social Research named after Oleksandr Yaremenko"</u>.

5.10 Current debates and reforms

Ukraine Recovery Plan

The Ukraine Recovery Plan was created in July 2022 with the objective of providing economic, social and environmental resilience in the marathon to victory, to find efficient solutions for the soonest recovery of the crucial economic and social processes and natural ecosystems, and to develop a modernisation plan to ensure expedited sustainable economic growth and well-being of the people.

The plan presently reads as a rough wish-list generated by different national government bodies.

The Ukraine Recovery Plan is still a draft. The document has not yet been approved. Youth and youth participation are the priorities alongside other areas.

Recognition of "youth worker" as a profession

In April 2021, the new law on "The main principles of youth policy of Ukraine" became the first law in which the terms "youth work" and "youth worker" are mentioned.

Youth worker was added to the National Occupational Classifier of Ukraine on 16 December 2021.

• Establishment of the "National Council on Youth"

The establishment of the National Council on Youth was foreseen by the law on "The main principles of youth policy of Ukraine".

The Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers "On the establishment of the National Council on Youth" was approved on 10 September 2022 to establish a system of co-management that consists of representatives of government institutions, youth NGOs, youth councils, and student self-government.

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