

## Youth Partnership

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



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# CONTRIBUTION OF NON-PROGRAMME COUNTRIES TO EU YOUTH WIKI CHAPTER I: UKRAINE YOUTH POLICY GOVERNANCE

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## 1.1. TARGET POPULATION OF YOUTH POLICY

According to the Law of Ukraine “[On Promotion of Social Development of Youth in Ukraine](#)” (Article 1) young people/young citizens are persons aged 14 to 35 years. According to the [State Statistical Service](#), at the beginning of 2015 the young population amounted to 11 700 000 people (around 32% of the population of Ukraine).

For statistical purposes young people are classified in four age groups. The biggest group are young people aged 30-34 years and 25-29 years (3.5 million people each), persons aged 20-24 years (2.7 million), the youngest group aged 15-19 years (2 million). These numbers have remained quite equal in the last years.

The following definitions of youth and youth groups are used in the law:

- The Strategy of State Youth Policy - 2020 defines children aged 14-18 as a separate group, stating that “children of 14-18 are also target of youth policy”. The term “minors” is used for same demographic group in the Law of Ukraine “On Promotion of Social Development of Youth in Ukraine”. This term comes from the [Criminal Code](#), which defines increased legal protection, but also increased responsibility. The “minors”, as a separate group aged 14-18, are also target of social policy and specific regulations for labour policy and employment.
- The Law “On Promotion of Social Development of Youth in Ukraine” defines “young families” as a specific target group in the field of housing policy. The term describes a spouse, in which wife or husband or both are younger than 35, or an incomplete family, when a parent belongs to the age groups 14-35.
- The term “rural youth” is used in relevant documents regarding youth, education and rural development for young people living in rural areas in the context of preferences in education and housing.
- [The Law “On Scientific and Technical Activities”](#) introduces the term of “young scientists” for young people aged up to 35, with a third-level degree (MA or PhD) and working in the field of science and technology, or scientists aged under 40, holding doctoral degree or engaged in postdoc research. The law provides regulation in participation of young scientists in administration of relevant educational or research institutions. Other internal documents may provide frames for grants and financial support for young scientists.

The definition of youth depends on other specific sectoral policies and/or programmes, usually in farming of age limits of 14-35. Since 2012, discussions on reducing the age rate up to 28 or 30 years have been taking place in Ukraine.

## 1.2. NATIONAL YOUTH LAW

The [Law of Ukraine “On Promotion of Social Development of Youth in Ukraine”](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro spryjannja social'nomu stanovlennju ta rozvytku molodi v Ukraini, Vidomosti Verhovnoji Rady Ukrainy (VVR), 1993, N 16, st. 167) was adopted in 1993 with amendments

between 1994 and 2017. A new, comprehensive Law on Youth has been under parliamentary consideration since 2015, as the current law is declarative and less binding, particularly in relevance to the current budgetary policy and decentralisation. Despite of the nature of the law and expecting new debates, newest documents, adopted at the governmental level are aimed to organise the priorities according to the key policy fields, considering that the process of decentralisation requires new regulations for sharing responsibilities between national actors, regions and municipalities.

The main principles of youth policy are defined by the [Law of Ukraine “On Promotion of Social Development of Youth in Ukraine”](#) (Article 2):

- respect for human values, human rights values, rights of nations, historical, cultural, national specifics of Ukraine and its nature;
- youth participation in the process of development and implementation of policies and programmes regarding development of society and particularly youth development;
- reflecting the needs of youth and correlation of these needs with the economic capability of the country;
- accessibility of the social services and equality of legal security for young people;
- responsibility of the country for the creating conditions development and self-development of young people;
- the unity of efforts of the state, society, political and public organisations, enterprises, institutions, organisations and citizens in the field of social development of youth;
- responsibility and obligation of each young person to observe the Constitution and legislation of Ukraine.

The law also refers to main definitions such as: youth/young citizens, minors, social development of youth, first working place, youth employment centres, young families, children, youth and family social services, youth organisations and youth work units (Article 1). It further sets up the main priorities in the fields of housing, youth employment, support for youth organisations, social care, youth entrepreneurship, education and cultural development, health and physical development, law protection, and support for youth and children organisations.

The national youth programmes, which should reflect the principles of the law, are integral parts of the legislative basis for youth policy and are approved by the Government (Cabinet of Ministers). The measures, elaborated within the programmes, should have a direct relation to the budgetary documents, ensuring their implementation.

The current [State Target Social Programme “Youth of Ukraine” 2016-2020](#) (Deržavnacil’ovaprohrama “Molod’ Ukrajinu” na 2016-2020 roky) sets out six priorities for the respective period:

Priority 1. Support for civic and national-patriotic education – implementation of measures aimed at the revival of national patriotic education, strengthening of civic engagement of youth.

This priority is planned to be implemented in the following directions:

- Enhancing prevention of law breaking through raising legal awareness, legal culture and legal behaviour of young people.
- Building patriotic awareness of young people, specifically in education institutions and youth settings through development of historical memory; promoting Ukrainian culture and folk traditions; raising awareness of national originality; engagement of young people in activity beneficial for society.
- Developing the sense of personal and national dignity in young people, break inferiority stereotypes, developing respectful attitude to contribution of national minorities in state-building processes in Ukraine.
- Developing a caring attitude towards the environment.
- Supporting youth initiatives and creating conditions for young people's intellectual, creative and cultural development.

The issue of national-patriotic education refers to the [Strategy of National-Patriotic Education of Children and Youth for 2016-2020](#) approved by the President of Ukraine (Stratehija nacional'no-patriotyčného vyzovannja ditej ta molodina 2016-2020 roky, Ukaz Prezydenta Ukrajiny vid 13 žovtnja 2015 roku # 580/2015) and implemented by the Cabinet of Ministers. The strategy itself relates to several laws, including the Law on Education, but not to the Law on "Promotion of Social Development of Youth", although the Ministry of Youth and Sports is also involved in implementation.

Priority 2. Healthy lifestyle for young people – implementation of measures aimed at promoting and establishing a healthy and safe lifestyle and health culture among young people.

This priority is aimed to be implemented in two areas: promotion of a healthy and safe lifestyle and fostering mental health of young people, reproductive health, life safety and family culture. It is planned to be implemented in by the tools of non-formal education, research, policy debates and dissemination of information with the involvement of research institutions and relevant executive bodies.

Priority 3. Development of non-formal education – implementation of measures aimed at gaining knowledge, skills and other competences in non-formal settings, by participating in volunteering activities.

The key activities in the field of non-formal education is the implementation of the [National Youth Worker Programme](#) (Natsional'na prohrama "Molodizhnyy pratsivnyk"), developing youth centres, youth camping, introduction national youth portal for information and learning and implementation of "Youth Passport" as a tool for recognition non-formal educational experience for better social mobility of young people.

This priority refers to the need to develop a strong system of non-formal education and youth work and reflects the need to reform existing youth institutions. Therefore, the term "youth employment centres" should be renewed upon the need to organise multifunctional youth centres

around the country. The issue of recognition of non-formal education is reflected in the new [Law on Education](#).

Priority 4. Employment of young people - creating conditions and implementing measures aimed at youth employment (provision of primary and secondary employment and youth self-employment).

This priority sets new values for guidance and employment to work with motivation, information and training for young people, promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment, and by gaining vocational skills through volunteering and internships.

Priority 5. Housing for young people – creating conditions for providing youth with housing.

This priority stipulates implementation of activities aimed at providing young people with housing, in the first place targeting people with special needs, young families that are composed of combatants, people with disabilities, victims of war, and young families one of whose members died (missing) or died of wounds, concussion or injury received during the defence of the country, by analysing the current legislation, its improvement and effective implementation of existing state and regional programmes in this area.

The central institution for implementation housing policy of young people is the “[State Fund for Support for Youth Housing and Construction](#)”. The fund operates the preferential mortgage loans and support for young families with limited living conditions under general law on state loans guarantee, real estate, building and construction. In fact, it covers a very limited number of young people and depends on budgetary policy. The fund works under the [State Programme on Provision of Youth Housing on 2013-2017](#) (Derzhavna prohrama zabezpechennya molodi zhytloom na 2013-2017 roky, Kabinet Ministriv Ukrayiny (KMU), Postanova vid 24.10.2012 # 967) for a budget allocated for 16 775 families.

Priority 6. Partnership support for young people living in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine and for internally displaced persons – implementation of measures aimed at social development and support of internally displaced young people, which covers special focus on the young people, living in the Antiterrorist Operation Zone.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports provides support for youth and children organisations based on open competitions for financing for youth measures. The regional administration and municipal institution are in charge of organising support for youth organisation on respective level. The youth organisations are subject to the special [Law on Children and Youth Organisations](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro molodižni ta dytjačihromads'ki orhanizaciji, Vidomosti Verxovnoji Rady Ukrainy (VVR), 1999, N 1, st. 2), which defines youth organisation as public organisations united people in the age of 14-35 years. Children organisation unite children and youth aged 6-18 years.

The issue of social protection of young people, including those with fewer opportunities where in fact the issue of youth policies in the period of 2005-2010. The State Service for Children, Youth and Family was a special institution under the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, operating social centres and providing social support to young people. After dissolving the Ministry of Family of Youth and Sports in 2010 and creating the State Service of Youth and Sports under the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports, the State Service was dissolved as well. The

function of social protection of children, youth and family has been transferred to the Ministry of Social Affairs. There is no specific policy for social protection, guidance and inclusion for young people. The current social policy refers only to the administrative services for the target groups.

Other legislative documents relevant for the youth policy:

- [Law on State Programme “National Action Plan to Implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child until 2016”, 2009](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro Zahalnodержavnu prohramu “Natsionalnyi plan dii shchodorealizatsii Konventsii OON pro pravadytyny” na period do 2016 roku, Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy (VVR), 2009, N 29, st. 395);
- [Law on Protection of Childhood, 2001](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro okhoronu dytynstva, Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy (VVR), 2001, No. 30, st. 142);
- [Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 532/2013 on the Strategy for the State Youth Policy – Development for the Period up to 2020, 2013 \(“Ukraine Youth Strategy”\)](#) (Pro Stratehiiu rozvytku derzhavnoi molodizhnoi polityky na period do 2020 roku Prezydent Ukrainy; Ukaz, Stratehiia vid 27.09.2013 No. 532/2013);
- [Law on Non-Discrimination, 2013](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro zasady zapobihannia ta protydii dyskryminatsii v Ukraini, Verkhovna Rada Ukrainy; Zakon vid 06.09.2012 No. 5207-VI);
- [Law on Volunteering, 2015](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro volontersku diialnist, Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy (VVR), 2011, No. 42, st. 435);
- [Law on Education, 1991 \(amended in 2015\)](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro osvitu, Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady URSR (VVR), 1991, No. 34, st. 451);
- [Law on Higher Education, 2014 \(amended in 2015\)](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro vyshchuosvitu, Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2014, No. 37-38, st. 2004),
- [Law of Fundamental Healthcare Principles of Ukraine, 1993 \(amended in 2015\)](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro Osnovy zakonodavstva Ukrainy pro okhoronu zdorovia, Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy (VVR), 1993, No. 4, st. 19),
- [Law on Social Work with Families, Children and Youth, 2001 \(amended in 2012\)](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro sotsialnurobotu z simiamy, ditmy ta moloddiu, Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy (VVR), 2001, N 42, st. 213),
- [Law on Physical Culture and Sports, 1994 \(amended in 2015\)](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro fizychnu kulturu i sport, Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy (VVR), 1994, No. 14, st. 80)
- [Law on AIDS Prevention and Social Security of the Population of Ukraine, 2009](#) (Zakon Ukrainy Pro zapobihanniazakhvoriuvanniunasyndromnabutohoimunodefitsytu (SNID) ta sotsialnyizakhystnaseleennia, Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy (VVR), 2011, N 30, st. 274);
- [Family Code of Ukraine, 2002 \(amended in 2015\)](#) (SimeinyikodeksUkrainy, Verkhovna Rada Ukrainy; Kodeks Ukrainy, Zakon vid 10.01.2002 No. 2947-III).

### 1.3. NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

There is no comprehensive national Youth Strategy in Ukraine. The main strategical issues are covered by three documents: the [Strategy of Development of National Youth Policy till 2020](#), The [Roadmap for Reform: Youth Policy in Ukraine](#) and the [Concept of the State Target Social Programme “Youth of Ukraine” 2016-2020](#).



The “[Strategy of Development of National Youth Policy till 2020](#)” (Stratehija rozvytku deržavnoji molodižnoji polityky na period do 2020 roku, Ukaz Prezydenta Ukrainy vid 27 veresnja 2013 roku #532/2013) was adopted in 2013. It is designed more as a brief political statement and fits on four pages. The document declares sufficient legislative basis for youth policy available and indicates the main challenges in the field of youth as access to education, employment, physical and mental health, housing, and lack of foreign language skills.

Although the strategy identifies the main challenges as insufficient legal framework, lack of evidence-based approach, weak communication and co-operation between various state agencies and youth organisations, not defined rights and obligations of young people, who should participate in youth policy implementation.

The aim of the strategy is to ensure the implementation of a comprehensive, consistent and co-ordinated activity of state authorities, local self-government bodies and civil society actors representing the interests of young people in the elaboration and implementation of state youth policy, the creation of socio-economic, political, organisational, legal frames and conditions for promoting education, employment, initiatives, creativity and youth innovation.

The strategy sets out six priorities for youth policy: access to education, healthy style of life, youth employment, housing, participation and European integration. In fact, these priorities are reflected in the “Youth of Ukraine” 2016-2020 Programme and other supportive documents. The Strategy has indicated descriptive measures with three timeframes:

1. 2014-2015 – implementation of new age limits for youth as 14-28 and adoption of regional and local programmes;
2. 2016-2018 – developing framework for better youth participation and increased financial support for youth organisations;
3. 2019-2020 – Creation of conditions for providing young people with the necessary social services in education, vocational training, employment, and housing; transfer of functions for the implementation of the state youth policy to local self-government bodies and public associations representing the interests of young people.

The main institution responsible for the implementation of this document is the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#). The document contains neither monitoring plan nor clear indicators for measuring the progress of implementation.

In the context of the general reforms that were launched in Ukraine in 2014, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in co-operation with the civil society partners from the Reanimation Package of Reforms coalition and Centre for Reforms, has drafted a “[Roadmap for Reform: Youth Policy in Ukraine](#)” (Dorožnja karta reformuvannja molodižnoji sfery) for the period 2016-2020. This document contains the main areas of reforms, implementation tools, and indicators for assessing performance. It also reflects new challenges that arose for the country and for youth policy.

The reform is focused on development of an active youth sector and increasing youth participation and engagement in line with the European standards by taking into account the recommendations from international organisations. The European standards should be incorporated in the new Law “On Youth” (Direction 1 of the Roadmap). The process of drafting

the new law began in 2015. The law should guarantee the rights of young people, their civic engagement, sufficient institutional framework for non-formal education and youth work, including youth centres, support for vulnerable youth, as well as implement the main principles of the [Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life](#). The second direction of the reform is the “Youth for Ukraine” 2016-2020 Programme, which indicates the main priorities, measures, tools and expected outputs. Direction 3 covers increasing international co-operation in the field of youth, and Direction 4 transparency and efficiency in the use of state funds.

Therefore, the context of the national youth policy in Ukraine for 2016-2020 is defined by the [Concept of the State Target Social Programme “Youth of Ukraine” 2016-2020](#). The programme also reflects the needs of young people and defines the problems to be addressed.

The main challenges for youth policy are defined as:

- non-systematic nature of citizenship and national-patriotic education;
- lack of motivation and skills for independent learning;
- low youth employment rate in the labour market for the profession they were trained/educated, as well as undeveloped practical skills by young professionals;
- difficulties in transition from education to independent employment;
- insufficient development of youth entrepreneurship;
- insufficient use of innovative potential of young people;
- low quality of secondary school education;
- high level of morbidity and mortality among young people, a weak motivation to practice healthy and safe lifestyle, insufficient knowledge and skills of young people in the field of life safety;
- insufficiently developed practice of gaining of knowledge, skills and abilities outside the formal educational settings, which should help to increase competitiveness of young people on the labour market;
- low level of career guidance of youth people;
- lack of a positive dynamic towards reducing the crime rate in the youth environment, violence as well as lack of systematic work in the field of their prevention;
- low level of provision of young families with housing;
- insufficient level of organisation and culture of youth leisure;
- insufficient integration of Ukrainian youth into the European and world youth community.

The “Youth of Ukraine” 2016-2020 Programme is aimed at creating conducive conditions for development and self-realisation of Ukrainian youth, building its active citizenship position and national-patriotic awareness. The programme is aimed to increase of up to 50% versus 2015 (13.8%) in the number of young people participating in youth programmes and activities aimed at solving topical problems of youth. At the same time, the proportion of active participation of the Ukrainian society in national-patriotic activities in 2020 should reach 25%. It is also expected to receive a holistic system for non-formal education of young people, a certified training system for youth workers, improvement of legal framework for development youth entrepreneurship, raise the level of self-governance of civil society, ensure involvement of young people in volunteering, reduce the rate of law-breaking among youth by 20%, ensure efficient implementation of state and regional programmes for youth housing (especially for vulnerable

groups, people with special needs, war combatants with disabilities and their families), ensure integration of Ukrainian youth into European and global structures and increase by 25% the number of young people who participate in the European youth projects, in particular in the Erasmus+ Programme.

Neither the roadmap nor the “Youth of Ukraine” Programme contain any monitoring and evaluation provisions, besides a general statement that the Ministry of Youth and Sports is responsible for evaluation. The evaluation itself relates exclusively to the research and annual State Report on Situation of Youth and sets up conditions for quantitative approach. There is currently no official data on evaluation and/or revision of the roadmap, programme or the strategy itself, nor any approach for their evaluation.

## 1.4. YOUTH POLICY DECISION MAKING

The main authority responsible for implementing the youth policy in Ukraine is the [Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine](#). According to [Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 220](#) (Položennja pro Ministerstvo molodi ta sportu Ukrainy, Postanova Kabinetu Ministriv Ukrainy #220 vid 2 lypnja 2014 roku) its youth-specific tasks include the development of measures to promote healthy lifestyles, youth employment, conditions for the intellectual and creative self-development of youth, social development of children and youth, and humanistic values and patriotism among young people. Further, it is responsible for state support to youth and children’s associations, and for promoting volunteering.

The main structure of the ministry which is responsible for youth policy is the Youth Policy Department.

The Youth Policy Department consists of the following units: Unit of the support of youth and children NGOs; Unit of the support of social formation of youth; Unit of the Regional Youth Policy and Youth Initiatives Support; Unit of the promotion of youth development and promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

On the legislative level [the Committee on Family, Youth Policy, Sports and Tourism Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine](#) is in charge of youth issues. Committee activity directions are: state policy in the field of family relations, state policy in the field of rehabilitation and recreation for children, state policy to facilitate the development of the family, to families with children, the protection of street children, the demographic policy, national-patriotic education of children and youth, state youth policy, physical education, sports and sporting activities, travel and tourism, resorts and recreational. The committee is empowered to consider and to give conclusions for draft legislations in the field of youth, which are being prepared for submission to the parliamentary voting.

The institutional body for civil society participation in the formulation and implementation of government policy in the field of youth and sports is the [Public Council under the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine](#). The main objectives of the Public Council are: the promotion of citizens’ constitutional right to participate in the management of state affairs, monitoring the activities of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, promoting public opinion in the formulation and implementation of public policy in the youth field, the field of physical culture and sports.

Members of the Public Council are representatives of civil society institutions working in the area of youth and sports. The council works under a general legislative framework on participation of civic society in the decision-making process.

The structure of the public administration in Ukraine consists of the regional, district and local administrations. The main authorities responsible for the youth policy on the regional level are the Offices on Youth and Sports within the Regional State Administrations, accountable and controlled by the Chairman of the RSA and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine. On the local (municipal) and district level youth policy departments or sectors are placed within relevant departments responsible for youth, sports and/or education and social services. It should be noted that in 2015 Ukraine began the [decentralisation reform](#), and the structures of youth policy decision making are in the process of change.

The regional and local administrations and municipalities may initiate creation of public youth councils under the general law regulation on participation of civil society in decision-making processes. There is no special legal framework for youth councils.

## 1.5. CROSS-SECTORAL APPROACH WITH OTHER MINISTRIES

There is no formalised and institutionalised mechanism for cross-sectoral co-operation in the youth field. The involvement of other ministries in the implementation of youth policy is based on inter-ministerial working groups and/or meetings. Partnership and co-operation are carried out within the framework of separate agreements on co-operation between institutions.

The implementation of the programme [State Target Social Programme “Youth of Ukraine” 2016-2020](#) is entrusted to the Ministry of Youth and Sport in co-operation with other ministries. There are cross-sectoral issues with the [Ministry of Education and Science](#) in the field of citizenship education, with the [Ministry of Health](#) in the field of prevention and healthy lifestyle, with the [Ministry of Social Policy](#) in working with vulnerable youth, with the [Ministry of Interior](#) in the issues of legal education and prevention, with the [Ministry of Economic Development and Trade](#) in the field of housing and employment, with the [Ministry of Defence](#) in the area of national-patriotic education or with the [Ministry of Culture](#) in the field of cultural development and self-development of youth.

## 1.6. EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH POLICY

Assessment and changes in the implementation of youth policy are reflected in the [Annual State Reports on Situation of Youth to the President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers on the youth](#). State reports are elaborated on the order of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. For the preparation of the report, data from central and local executive authorities, ministries, State Statistical Service research institutions and the results of sociological research are used. The [State Institute of Youth and Family Policy](#) is organised under the Ministry of Youth and Sport and its mandate is to carry out ongoing research and draft State Reports. The Ministry of Youth and Sport allocates financial resources to the preparation of the report.

Each annual report covers a specific topic as situation on students or situation on rural youth. The report from 2015 was dedicated to the issue of national-patriotic education, whereas the document from 2016 reflected the values of young people. The report from 2017 should reflect the issues of values and needs of young people, their civic and national-patriotic engagement (including engagement in anti-terrorist operation, volunteering and civil society) and the influence of youth policy on young people.

In order to introduce mechanisms for evidence-based youth policy, “[11 National Youth Policy Indicators of in Ukraine](#)” have been developed by the group of experts under the Ministry of Youth and Sports, based on the main priorities of the State Target Social Programme “Youth of Ukraine” for 2016-2020: 1. Demographic indices; 2. Education; 3. Employment; 4. Financial situation; 5 Health; 6. HIV/AIDS prevention; 7. Legal offences among youth; 8. Youth mobility; 9. Access to information and communication technologies; 10. Civic activity and youth engagement; 11. Youth policy implementation. These indicators should be applied for the first time this year.

By 2015, research in the youth field was incomprehensive and fragmented. In 2015 the Ministry of Youth and Sports committed to providing comprehensive annual youth research. The national surveys are supported by UN agencies in Ukraine. The survey “[Youth of Ukraine – 2015](#)” includes analysis of the state of youth today, mechanisms of personal fulfilment and inclusion of youth in social processes and public life, activity of youth organisations and social challenges faced by youth, including financial security of young people and their families, youth employment, access to high-quality education, provision of housing, reasons for asocial behaviours, status of health and practice of healthy life style. The survey conclusions were taken into account while elaborating the “Youth of Ukraine” Programme. In 2016 the new survey “[Values of Ukrainian Youth](#)” explored the issues of social development of young people, mechanism of self-realisation and engagement, participation in civil society organisations, level of national-patriotic education, practice of healthy lifestyle, challenges in access to education, the labour market and housing. In 2017 the survey on “[Civic literacy in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova](#)” organised by the UNDP office is taken in account in elaborating citizenship education programmes.

## 1.7. CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION IN THE YOUTH FIELD

Several United Nations organisations are involved in youth policy development in Ukraine, including [the United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#), [the United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#), [the United Nations Children’s Fund \(UNICEF\)](#) (which focuses on particular at-risk groups) and [the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#) (which works particularly on drug policy and HIV prevention). These organisations direct their work within existing priorities of youth policy and support the Ukrainian Government in resolving urgent issues, as evidenced by the creation of a United Nations working group on youth, which includes representatives of all UN agencies. Representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sports also take part in meetings of this group.

The co-operation between the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine is defined by the [Framework Programme on Co-operation in the Field of Youth Policy 2016-](#)



[2020](#). The programme is compiled in accordance with the roadmap for reform and the “Youth of Ukraine” Programme and contains activities aimed at strengthening the reforms. The Framework Programme is a part of the [Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine](#) and contributes to the implementation of reform by prioritising actions in three areas: human rights education and education for democratic citizenship, support for youth work development and recognition of non-formal education, peace-building and intercultural dialogue.

The EU Programme Erasmus+ is available for Ukrainian youth and youth organisations as for representatives of Partner Countries from Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. According to the data of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the level of participation in the projects is rather low. The increase in number of projects is set up as a tool for improving international co-operation and European integration of youth.

There are also two bilateral programmes for cross-border youth exchanges available. [Ukrainian-Polish and Ukrainian-Lithuanian Youth Exchange Programmes](#) invite submission of grant proposals annually based on open calls. The decision-making process is run by bilateral councils composed of ministry and civic sector representatives.

## 1.8. FUNDING YOUTH POLICY

Funding for youth policy is provided by the state, local budgets and other sources. Since 2015 the Ministry of Youth and Sport has been co-operating with international donors, mainly with UN agencies in co-funding measures and activities. The budget necessary for implementation of youth policy is defined on an annual basis when drafting respective annual budgets regarding their actual capacity. The financing of youth policy programme implementation is channelled through the Ministry of Youth and Sport. Activities are arranged around the general directions outlined above.

The distribution of budgetary costs is set up in the [allocation plan of “Youth of Ukraine” 2016-2020 Programme](#). The total budget planned for the period of the programme (2016-2017) amounts to 501 286 680 Ukrainian hryvnia (UAH) (approx. €16.7 million). The annual budget for 2016 amounted to €1.8 million (approx. 11% of the total budget for 2016-2020), €3.17 million (19%) is scheduled for 2017, and 21%, 24% and 25% respectively of the total budget for the next three years. The costs are allocated on the central and regional levels; the most expenditure for 2016 was planned for regional budgets (79%). For the next years the contribution from the central budget is planned at the level of 45%. The finances are assigned mostly for youth activities (trainings, workshops, competitions, conferences, roundtables and other), publication and other materials; less for research and methodological support. The reporting procedure requires only quantitative data identifying the number of persons participating in activities or direct beneficiaries from the actions. There is no budget allocated for planning and evaluation.

One third of the budget of the “Youth of Ukraine” Programme is allocated for citizenship and national-patriotic education. The expenditure for these measures should increase from 21% in the 2016 annual budget to 31% in 2017 and will increase to 35-37% in the upcoming years. The measures directly relating to national-patriotic education amount to 40% of the budget. The same

allocation is planned for supporting youth initiatives and development. The next 20% of costs cover the sphere of legal (including prevention) and ecological education.

Nearly 21% of the budget is allocated for development of non-formal education and includes development of youth work, training for youth workers, youth camps, research and “Youth passport” as a tool of recognition of non-formal education. These costs would be reduced in 2017 to 20%, compared to 28% in 2016.

Support for youth and children organisations amounts to 20% of the total budget (23% for 2016 and 19% for 2017). The main tool for co-operation between public authorities and youth public organisations are open calls for the projects (programmes, measures) proposals, developed by civil society institutions for children and youth. The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine holds annual funding contests for projects developed by youth and children’s NGOs. The winners are determined by the results of the open competition and receive funds for the implementation of projects from the state budget of Ukraine. Similar calls are also held by regional and local government administrations for regional and local projects. There is no binding requirement to provide open calls, nevertheless in 2016 those were organised by 22 of the 25 regional administrations of Ukraine. In three regions the expenditure spent for NGO projects was higher than the operational measures of the departments.

The support of the employment of young people is provides 9% from the total budget and is fairly equal for each year. 6% of the budget is allocated for housing issues, that is 4% for 2016-2017 with a further increase in the next years. The state budget allocates 5% of expenditure for development of international youth co-operation and 3% for supporting youth living in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine and for internally displaced persons, 4% and 2.5% for 2016 and 2017 respectively with a small increase for the period 2018-2020.

## 1.9. CURRENT DEBATES AND REFORMS

Debates on the future development of youth policy began in 2014 with the change of government and the declaration of comprehensive reforms in the country. At the first stages of the discussion, a new law on youth was discussed. The draft of the law was elaborated with the involvement of civic activists and experts. Nevertheless, the process of submitting it to the parliament is delayed both because of political and technical circumstances. The proposed reform involves changing approaches to budgeting, requires many changes in other laws, as well as an appropriate cross-sectoral approach, which is not used in overall policy fields.

In general, reforms are based on the implementation of the principles of youth participation and other provisions of the charter as reflected in the components of the roadmap and the “Youth of Ukraine” Programme, such as: introduction of non-formal education and youth work, reforming the system of camps, creating employment conditions, volunteering, mobility, participation in public organisations and transparent financial support. Owing to the lack of new comprehensive legislation and institutional capacity of the actors, some issues are still not covered by the reform, especially legal framework for youth councils, housing, and inclusion of vulnerable youth.

The attempt to place civil education and national-patriotic education as one integral component of reform without any methodological guidelines is controversial. These two areas are formally combined into one reform tool, but are subject to different programmes and use different approaches that often conflict with each other. Despite the need to define a unified approach and methodology that would meet the principles of reform, such discussions are present only in narrow circles of experts. The National Youth Worker Programme, which aims to train professionals in youth policy, does not actually address the topic of national-patriotic education.

The issue of youth centres is also in a state of constant debate and reform. At the time of the beginning of the reform, Ukraine had no clear database of institutions that worked in the format of youth centres or were close to them. During 2016-2017, within the framework of an NGO project, it was possible to arrange a network for institutions of different forms of ownership and to define quality criteria and priorities for youth centres. To ensure the systematic development of youth centres, appropriate changes to the legislation are needed. The draft law was submitted to parliament but did not receive the necessary support. Now, the institutional and infrastructural reforms in this field are much faster than the changes needed at the legislative level. The issue of youth centres and youth work is also important for the process of decentralisation.

In view of the decentralisation process that began in Ukraine in 2015, regional and local authorities responsible for the implementation of youth policies in the nearest future receive bigger financial opportunities for the realisation of programmes for youth.

The youth policy in Ukraine was pre-regulated and administered by state authorities. The directions, tasks and funding of youth policy were formed by administrative ways. The process of decentralisation transfers the powers from the centralised management to the local self-government bodies and forms a new approach – from “work with youth” to “youth participation”. At the same time, the organisation of work with youth on the local level does not have a clear definition in decentralisation documents. Youth issues remain for consideration by local self-governments. The amount of funding and the number of specialists responsible for work with youth will be determined by the local community on its own. The reform itself requires appropriate professionals, methodologies and recommendations for the development of local infrastructure for youth. On the other hand, especially at the level of rural communities, the need is to create a qualitatively new infrastructure based on existing capacities. The current discussions and consultations cover the issues of providing trainings for professionals and ensuring employment of civil servants responsible for youth in new decentralised communities; elaborating methodology for youth centres/youth spaces on regional, sub-regional and local levels; introducing amendments to the Budget Code and Law on “Promotion of Social Development of Youth” for reorganising youth employment centres into youth centres.