

Youth Partnership

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



Under 30' Podcast – special editions on Ukraine Background information on the situation of young people and youth sector in Ukraine before and after 24 February

This information was collected from a variety of open and public sources and reflects the reality until 4 May 2022

Youth sector information before 24 February

2022 Young people¹

At the beginning of 2021, 10 262 900 young people aged 14-34 in Ukraine lived in Ukraine (up to 25% of the population of Ukraine). Two thirds of young people in Ukraine lived in urban settlements (6 933 200 people), and one third - in rural areas (3 329 700 people).

Youth infrastructure

In 2017 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Standard regulations on youth centre². **260 youth centres** were operating in Ukraine in 2020.³ These youth centres operated at **local, regional and national levels** as state or municipality institutions, NGOs, local initiatives of libraries or universities, youth clubs etc. In 2019 **the All-Ukrainian youth centre⁴ state institution** was established under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine with the aim, inter alia, to develop non-formal education and quality of youth work in youth centres in Ukraine.

As a result of the decentralisation reform in Ukraine, newly established amalgamated communities were given additional duties and responsibilities in youth policy. The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine highlighted that in the context of decentralisation, the main step confirming the capacity of the community to promote youth policy was the creation of a youth centre/youth space.⁵

¹ P.7 - https://mms.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/16/Molodizhna_polityka/dopovid-molod-2012-2021-pdf.pdf

² <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1014-2017-%D0%BF>

³ https://mms.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/16/Molodizhna_polityka/dopovid-molod-2012-2021-pdf.pdf

⁴ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/246-2019-%D0%BF>

⁵ <https://rm.coe.int/call-for-partnership-for-youth-centres-yfdua/1680a10e37>

According to the Survey *Youth of Ukraine - 2017*, 87% of young people did not participate in any activity related to the life of their community, but half of the respondents were willing to engage in community initiatives. Most survey respondents indicated youth clubs, centres, or hubs as their preferred place for developing skills. More than half of the respondents were willing to attend youth clubs on a weekly basis if there was one in their area. Training courses, hobby clubs, national patriotic organisations and child organisations were also frequently mentioned. However, less than a quarter of young people reported being aware of the activities of youth centres in Ukraine, with the highest levels of awareness among young people from Eastern Ukraine and Kyiv.

The growing number of youth centres required more qualified youth workers to operate in those youth centres and build educational programmes based on youth participatory approaches and non-formal education. The Council of Europe project “Youth for Democracy in Ukraine” addressed these challenges by providing research and capacity-building, advisory and support workshops for fourteen youth centres in 2021 and planned to continue this work in 2022-2023 during the second phase of the project.⁶

Ukrainian youth sector was also involved in the regional and European activities of the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership, in particular contributing with the learning and expertise from Ukraine to regional events on youth work development and thematic studies on Covid 19 impact on young people and the youth sector.

Youth sector information after 24 February

2022 Young people

According to the Situation report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), on 27 April 2022⁷ IOM reported that the results of a rapid representative assessment show that some 17.5 per cent of Ukrainians (7.7 million individuals) are currently displaced. More than 8.3 million who fled the country. As of 25 April, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimates that 5.26 million people – 90 per cent of them women and children – have already crossed international borders fleeing the war in Ukraine. According to the revised estimations, over 24 million people – more than half of Ukraine’s population – will need humanitarian assistance in the months ahead, about 8 million more than what was estimated less than two months ago. At the moment of writing this background paper, there is no clear statistic on young people 14-35 y.o. who are directly affected by the conflict, who are IDPs or who flee the country. If almost 25% of the population of Ukraine are young people, it could be estimated that about 1.9 million (or more) young people have been forcibly displaced by the ongoing hostilities in Ukraine, including more than 2 075 000 who have fled the country. Following the same logic of this estimated calculation, about 6 million young people could be affected in the hardest-hit areas.

Youth infrastructure

⁶ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/kyiv/-/teams-of-youth-centres-partners-of-the-council-of-europe-project-youth-for-democracy-in-ukraine-implement-projects-on-strengthening-youth-participatio>

According to the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine as of April 3, only 30% of youth centres and spaces are functioning, 8 youth centres destroyed, damaged or occupied.⁷

Example

The Chernihiv Regional Youth Centre was destroyed after a Russian rocket attack. The youth centre was in an architectural monument from 1939 which was built as a cinema.⁸ According to the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, before occupant Russian troops came, there was laughter and events for youth⁹. 58 million UAH (over 2 million USD) were allocated for equipment and repair of the centre in 2021.

The Chernihiv Regional Youth Centre was established on 22 August 2017 to service young people in Chernihiv and communities in the Region: <http://www.cheyouth.com.ua/>. It targeted approximately 242 025 young persons (25% of the region's population).

Chernihiv Region marked in red on the map below.

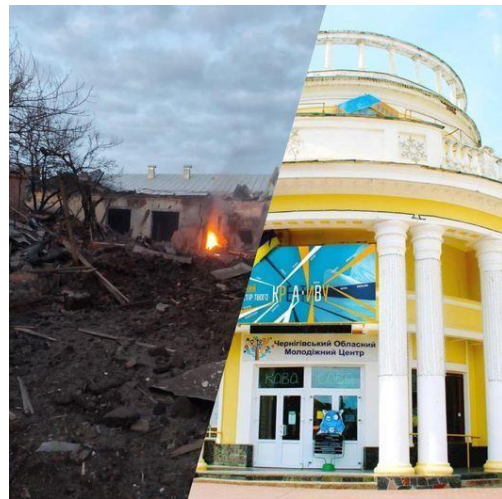


Photo of Chernihiv Regional Youth Centre before and after the rocket attack, above right.¹⁰

Youth councils and youth centres in Ukraine: a new role in time of the Russian military attack on Ukraine

Youth centres and youth spaces in Ukraine have become shelters for internally displaced persons from the affected cities. The centres provide support with finding temporary accommodation, priority medication, food, initial counselling and referral. Many of these centres are partners in the youth sector project [Youth for Democracy in Ukraine](#).

⁷ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/40-molodi-v-ukrayini-postrazhdalo-vnaslidok-zbrojnovi-agresiyi-rosiyi>

⁸ <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-regions/3415104-u-cernigovi-obstrilami-zrujnuvali-istoricnu-budivlu-molodiznogo-teatru.html>

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/minmolodsport/posts/261431912825775>

¹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/minmolodsport/posts/261431912825775>

The Ukrainian Association of Youth Councils, together with the Youth Councils of Ukraine, has established a coordination headquarters for youth councils. The headquarters was created specifically to address the logistical issues of the affected population and internally displaced persons, sending food, medicine to the villages and cities in need of Ukraine.

All-Ukrainian Youth Centre (AYC) organised an online meeting of representatives of youth centres in Ukraine on 21 of March 2022¹¹. Youth workers from almost every part of Ukraine discussed the current activities of youth centres, current issues and challenges of youth work. Following the agreement, regular Zoom-meetings of youth centres are weekly organised by the AYC. As well as the AYC developed [the recommendation for youth centres how to organise it's work in the war time.](#)

Coordination of humanitarian support: a new role for the youth sector in times of conflict

The launched online platform “SpivDiia” (*JointAction in English*) is supported by the Humanitarian Coordination HQ, Office of the President of Ukraine, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of the Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine.

The platform is launched in March 2022 to bring together all volunteer and state initiatives for humanitarian aid at times of war. It runs two different forms: “I can help” and “I need help”. The platform focuses on the following directions of support: Spivdiia Hubs, Spivdiia Children, Spivdiia Shelter, Spivdiia Employment etc. As it was expected, **youth centres and NGOs across Ukraine were registered as the local hubs of humanitarian support** within the network of Spivdiia hubs. Cooperation hubs – spaces to support people in need affected by the war - are already being opened. Such hubs already exist in several oblast and Youth Centres are actively contributing to them. More information about the platform: <https://spivdiia.org.ua/en>

The project of the Council of Europe “Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: Phase II”

Since March the project of [the Council of Europe “Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: Phase II”](#) follows the current situation in the field of youth policy and youth work in war time in Ukraine. A survey carried out at the end of March 2022 in co-operation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and the UNDP in Ukraine revealed that 60% of youth workers (out of a total of 188 who took part) were internally displaced. Yet, 4 out of 10 youth workers continued to provide youth work, and 5 out of 10 remained partly active in youth work. According to this survey, 51,35% of youth workers need an exchange of experience with other youth workers and 50,27% require information support about opportunities in the field of youth. 47,03% needed funds to provide humanitarian support. 30,27% asked for financial support for teamwork and team support, and 27,03% asked for financial support for programme activities.

Four online meetings of youth workers were organised in April 2022, to follow-up on the needs and inform youth workers about the help they could get in wartime. They also discussed youth work experience across Ukraine and in other countries in war and post-war contexts. [First meeting](#) explored the survey results on current needs of youth workers, which arose because of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine; gaining information on assistance that can be

¹¹ <https://mms.gov.ua/news/vseukrayinskij-molodizhnij-centr-organizuvav-zustrich-molodizhnih-pracivnikov>

obtained in war time. [Second meeting](#) focused on the experience of youth work in other countries during the war and in the post-war period and the possibilities of adapting those approaches by youth workers in Ukraine to respond to the challenges arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. During [the third meeting](#) youth workers focused on the experience of humanitarian and youth work in different regions of Ukraine during the war period. During the [fourth meeting](#), various grant opportunities for youth work during the war were shared, including [the call for pilot activities of the European Youth Foundation](#) and special EYF call within [the youth campaign “Democracy Here, Democracy Now”](#). These meetings met the expectations of the youth workers. They created a supportive atmosphere for youth workers and identified the requests of participants for the themes and content of further meetings and actions focused on support of youth workers from Ukraine in war time. Different focuses for each meeting gave an opportunity to have a secure space for sharing experience, ideas, and inputs through creating a participatory and peer to peer learning environment.

In order to support youth workers to find requested psychological support and advice the Council of Europe “Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: Phase II” in co-operation with the Council of Europe “Internally Displacement in Ukraine: Building Solutions. Phase II” is organising in May 2022 [the training for youth workers](#) with the Israel Trauma Coalition. The training is focusing on basics of prevention of burnout, compassion fatigue and first psychological aid for youth workers (non-psychologists).