

YOUTH WORK WITH THE UKRAINIAN DISPLACED YOUTH PROJECT



Vienna, Austria 2024

Funded by



INFO ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project address the challenges faced by thousands of young Ukrainians who have been displaced within the country or forced to seek refuge abroad as a result of full-scale russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

State institutions and civil society organisations in Ukraine and in Europe currently lack the necessary expertise to effectively support these individuals.

EXPECTED RESULTS

establishment of a network of **over 50** professionals and volunteers dedicated to working with displaced Ukrainian youth.

publication of comprehensive recommendations based on European expertise on youth work with displaced youth.

TARGET GROUPS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:



Youth workers who engage in practical work with displaced Ukrainian youth, both internally and externally.



Local and central government representatives in Ukraine and other countries.

TWO LEVELS OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Practical Level:

for youth workers on the ground.

Policy Level:

for government officials to inform and shape youth policy.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT - IMPLEMENTED AND PLANNED:



Preparatory meeting in Vienna -

March 2024



Training for youth workers in Vienna -

April 2024



Zoom Conference -

July 2024



Final Conference in Warsaw -

October 2024

PREPARATORY MEETING AND TRAINING IN VIENNA

Summary & Results



Preparatory Meeting of Project
Partners in Vienna, Austria

March 8, 2024



Training on Youth Work with Ukrainian
Displaced Youth in Vienna, Austria

April 21-27, 2024

OVERVIEW OF THE TRAINING IN VIENNA IN NUMBERS:

36 participants (incl. central government officials, local authorities, leaders in youth work)

4
countries



Austria



Portugal



Poland



Ukraine

8 partner organisations

5 working days

9 study visits

9 training sessions

2 facilitators

over **90** pages of brainstorming results

98% positive feedback about the training

36 Youth Pass certificates issued

around **10** pages of brainstorming results

KEY TOPICS OF THE TRAINING SESSIONS:

- the characteristics and challenges of Ukrainian youth in Europe;
- challenges of internally displaced Ukrainian youth;
- strategies for working with displaced youth in open youth work settings;
- the specific needs of internally displaced Ukrainian youth in Europe;
- drafting recommendations for youth work in Europe and Ukraine with displaced Ukrainian youth.

MAIN FINDINGS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Problems of forcibly displaced Ukrainian youth (identified by participants)

- 1** Cultural Identity
- 2** Lack of information
- 3** Uncertainty of the future
- 4** Financial security
- 5** Language barriers
- 6** Isolation (lack of community)
- 7** Lack of volunteers and capacity for volunteering
- 8** Trauma and psychological
- 9** Pressure of 2 educational systems
- 10** Youth work

WE GROUPED THEM INTO THE FOLLOWING KEY PROBLEMS:

- Psychological
- Educational
- Economic
- Residential
- Social (socialization, integration)
- Language barrier
- Cultural identity
- Youth participation and youth work



PROBLEMS OF YOUTH WORK WITH UKRAINIAN YOUTH ABROAD

- 1 Lower needs aren't satisfied / higher are not needed
- 2 Lack of information about spaces and activities
- 3 There is not enough advertising in those places or social networks where there is a target audience
- 4 Advertising not appropriate for the target audience (in the wrong places, in the wrong language, in the wrong way)
- 5 Wrong offered activities or events, Events that are not relevant for the target audience
- 6 Incompetence of the workers, not knowing the context, background, needs
- 7 Language issue
- 8 Sponsorship and lack of interest from the government to the Ukrainian context
- 9 No motivation to volunteer
- 10 Networking with other Ukrainians
- 11 Failure of the target audience to leave their "information bubble"

PROBLEMS OF YOUTH WORK WITH UKRAINIAN YOUTH IN UKRAINE

- 1 Absence of the necessary legal framework
- 2 Insufficient attention to youth work on the part of the state



- 3 Lack of motivation among youth workers - motivation at the level of volunteering
- 4 Lack of necessary funding (lack of funding for youth centers, youth events, low wages for youth workers, etc.)
- 5 Emotional burnout of youth workers
- 6 Lack of human resources
- 7 Insufficient training of youth workers

SOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants drafted recommendations on youth work on 2 levels:

1 Youth workers



2 Government



RECOMMENDATIONS

Youth work in European countries

- 1** Establishing cooperation in the field of youth policy with a focus on forcibly resettled Ukrainian youth between the authorities of Ukraine and the host country.
- 2** Financing the work of Ukrainian youth centers abroad.
- 3** Creation of youth councils at Ukrainian embassies.
- 4** Establishing cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and embassies, consulates, and youth ministries of other countries regarding the advocacy of recommendations for Ukrainian youth.
- 5** Conducting research with the aim of generalizing information about the number of young people, their age, interests in terms of settlements in the country of residence, and the needs of Ukrainian youth abroad, taking into account the age of young people in Ukraine, 14–35 years. Conducting surveys on an ongoing basis
- 6** Formation by the Ukrainian side (embassies and consulates of Ukraine) of the list of opportunities for young people in the territory of the host country:
 - a list of institutions that work with young people.
 - a list of projects aimed at youth activities with addresses and contacts.
 - a list of public organizations that position themselves in work with young people and implement projects for young people.
- 7** Involvement of Ukrainian youth and youth workers in the development of policies regarding Ukrainian forcibly resettled youth in European countries
- 8** Informing/consulting NGOs founded by Ukrainians about current youth support programs in the EU (Erasmus, etc.). Implementation of a project to work with grants for Ukrainian youth organizations in the EU (writing, organization, practice in the EU).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Youth work in European countries

9 Organization of a training program for Ukrainian youth workers abroad.

10 Information support regarding the participation of Ukrainian youth in local and national youth programs.



11 Informational support for obtaining public services.

12 Organization of joint youth projects by youth workers from Ukraine and the host country in order to support Ukrainian youth and preserve Ukrainian national identity in the process of integration into host societies. Emphasis on the national identity of Ukrainians in youth work.

13 Creation of mobile groups of youth workers to work with Ukrainian youth from remote areas.

14 Creation of an information product by the Ukrainian diaspora in cooperation with the relevant authorities of Ukraine.

15 More Ukrainian youth centered agenda in youth centers in hosting countries. Provision of relevant services in youth centers.

16 Work in the style of "one's own for one's own", involvement of Ukrainian youth workers to work in the youth centers of the host country.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Youth work in Ukraine

- 1** Creation of an interministerial working group on solving the problems of youth, in particular forcibly displaced (authorities involved in solving relevant problems).
- 2** Ensuring a comprehensive approach to solving the problems of youth, in particular youth workers forcibly displaced due to the cooperation of local authorities. self-government – central authorities.
- 3** Development and implementation of a nationwide information campaign that would answer the question of youth "how can I influence", and which would have measurable results and an open dialogue + assessment of needs in this direction (a nationwide program on the involvement of youth in decision-making at the level of the community, region, state).
- 4** Provide high-quality training of specialists in related fields – psychologists, social representatives, etc.
- 5** Introduction of a special course "youth work, theory and practice" in universities.
- 6** Involve specialists from educational institutions in youth events (informal education).
- 7** Increase in state funding of youth work.
- 8** Provide social and psychological support for youth workers.
- 9** Involvement of youth infrastructure institutions in the reconstruction of Ukraine.
- 10** Formation of "youth-friendly" institutions (Service providers).
- 11** Forming a list of mandatory services in accordance with community requests.
- 12** Mandatory availability of youth programs at the TG level (and their funding).
- 13** Constant promotion of youth work/politics among young people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Youth work in Ukraine

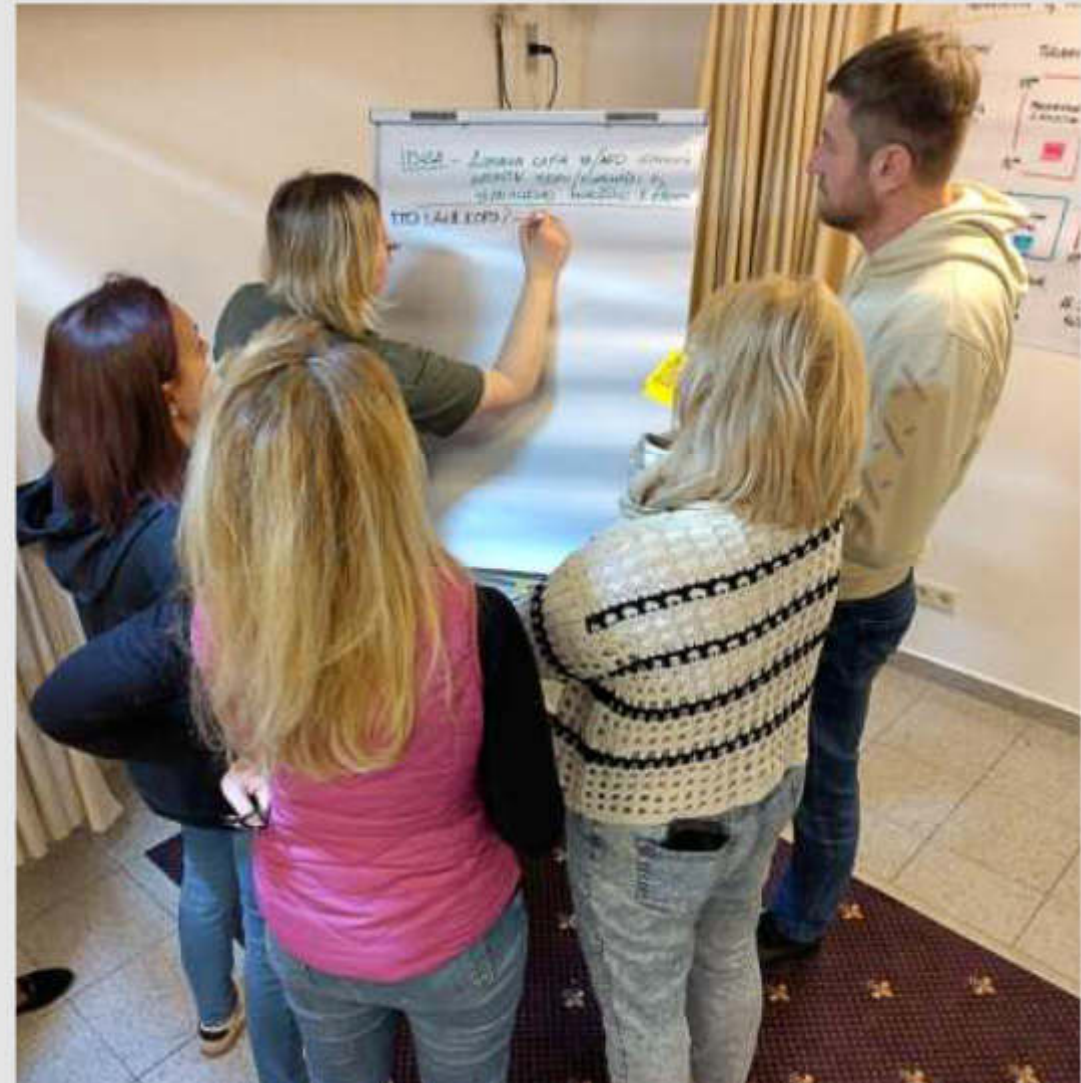
- 14** Implementation of classes on financial literacy, understanding the nature of other basic directions that are needed in adult life, in schools, kindergartens and universities together with the Ministry of Education.
- 15** Allocation of institutions/premises for youth centers to communities (for example, school basements on weekends).
- 16** Emphasis on the needs of youth in Ukraine (education, leisure time, material condition, employment)
- 17** Implementation of a qualitative indicator of youth work
- 18** To ensure work with veteran youth as a separate direction. Training of specialists in this field.
- 19** Provide work with disabled youth with IDP status as a separate area. Training of specialists in this field.
- 20** To introduce youth exchanges within Ukraine, as well as abroad.



IDEAS FOR SOLVING CERTAIN PROBLEMS OF UKRAINIAN YOUTH

Elevator Project Pitch

- ✓ Creation of National Patriotic Center Education preparing for Military Service
- ✓ Roadmap of organizations working abroad with Ukrainians
- ✓ Questionnaire for Ukrainian Youth
- ✓ Conflict mitigation & adaptation policy for ppl. working with Ukr. Displaced Youth
- ✓ Strategy of Drug Policy through conversation & acceptance
- ✓ Youth Space @ Ukrainian-Polish Hub



OUR CONCLUSIONS:

- 1** The project aims to improve youth work with displaced youth, but often their basic needs are not met, causing youth work to fall by the wayside.
- 2** Austrian experience can help improve youth work with Ukrainian youth, but their mentality and needs differ.
- 3** Ukraine's experience can benefit youth work in EU countries, particularly in Austria, by learning from individual youth centers in Ukraine.
- 4** A strategy for working with displaced youth should be formed through interministerial initiatives or coordination councils initiated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.
- 5** The Association of Youth Workers of Ukraine can play a key role in preparing practical recommendations and programs for youth workers, volunteers, and institutions working with displaced youth.

NEXT STEPS:

1

Finalization of recommendations by participants

2

Preparation of a roadmap for their implementation