«YOUNG PEOPLES’S HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT»
PROGRAMME EVALUATION
1997-2001

Kyiv – 2002
The YPHD programme evaluation report made use of the data provided by the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, MOH of Ukraine, Ukrainian AIDS Centre at the MOH of Ukraine. The following literary sources were relied upon:

Dear friends!

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is the only United Nations Agency whose activities are aimed exclusively at the interests of children. Organised at the first UN General Assembly session in 1946, UNICEF facilitates coordination between governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and commercial organisations around the world. Its purpose is to organise a world-wide movement aimed at providing the means of survival, protection, and development of children. The main task of UN Children’s Fund is to protect children’s rights throughout the world, assist in securing their basic needs, and expand opportunities for the implementation of children and adolescents’ potential throughout the world.

In 1989, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Children, the first document in human history that was approved by the majority of the countries. Having ratified the Convention, 191 countries agreed to observe and implement its principles on their territories. Ukraine adopted the Convention on February 27, 1991. Having expanded the strength of this important document on the territory of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Government undertook to implement all the requirements stated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In 1997 UNICEF opened the office in Ukraine to assist the Government in the implementation of programmes for the protection and development of children and young people. The cooperation programme between UNICEF and the Ukrainian Government stipulates the following priorities:

- Creation of a legislative basis and relevant social environment to secure the interests and rights of children and youth in accordance with Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Health protection and support to harmonic development of babies and children in early childhood through expansion of information related to the role of breast feeding, importance of complete salt iodination, medical and sanitary assistance models, and implementation and expansion of the best child-rearing practices;
- Youth protection from threatening health and development factors, such as HIV and AIDS infections, use of narcotic substances and alcohol, family violence, juvenile pregnancy, suicide, etc;
- Social adaptation and protection of the interests of children with no parental care, of orphans, disabled children, street children, and delinquents.

The Cooperation Programme between UNICEF and the Ukrainian government consists of four main directions:

- Early Childhood Care and Development
- Children in Need of Special Protection
- Young People’s Health and Development
- Social Mobilisation for Child’s Rights.

This publication summarises the implementation experience of the Young People’s Health and Development (YPHD) Programme in Ukraine and represents the evaluation results of the projects realised with the UNICEF support in 1997-2001. It was a progressive and challenging process with difficulties and successes, which we experienced together with our colleagues and partners.

By this publication we commemorate Mikayel Aleksanyan, the Head of the UNICEF office in Ukraine, who tragically perished in August 2001. He was the person who inspired us for new achievements and always put children and family first in our agenda. He made a great contribution to the development of health and well being of children and youth in our country and always provided leadership in strengthening UNICEF’s activity in Ukraine.

We are truly grateful to those who worked with us and contributed to the development of our programme, and wish to dedicate this book to our partners – children, young people, state and public organisations, mass media. Their cooperation made the YPHD programme successful.

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Preserving people’s health and, in particular, the health of children and adolescents, alongside improving the environmental conditions, is a first-priority objective in the national policy of Ukraine, both for the present generation and the generations to come.

Healthy lifestyle has not yet become an important cultural element in mass social consciousness, it is not yet associated with a comprehensive system of behaviours: balanced nutrition, physical activity, giving up smoking, alcohol and drugs use, possessing basic medical knowledge and skills, including control of one’s health, self-examination and self-care, sexual education, etc.

Demographic situation in Ukraine is estimated as extremely negative. For example, according to the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, as of January 1, 2000, the percentage of people aged between 14 and 28 among all permanent residents constituted only 22.3%, that is, 11,020.8 thousand persons. Year in, year out, Ukraine does not see even simple population reproduction (the generation of parents numerically exceeds the generation of children). Years 1989 and 1990 witnessed the most considerable decrease of childbirth. It means that in 5 to 6 years young generation will make only a small part of population, and that the number of people aged between 14 and 28 will inevitably decrease.

Demographic crisis is caused by a whole array of reasons: besides social and economic ones, they include the downfall in birth rate, rise in morbidity and mortality rates. The process of economic reorientation in Ukraine, like in some other countries in transition, can be characterised by dramatic social and economic oscillation, leading to social instability.

Objectively, social and economic indicators of children and youth status in Ukraine can be assessed as unfavourable. This can be explained by the following factors:

- **Deterioration of economic status of a considerable portion of families**, resulting in their diminished role in physical, mental, intellectual and moral upbringing. According to the «Voices of the Young» UNICEF-initiated regional survey conducted by GFK in December 2000 - February 2001 among children aged 9 to 17, 31% of children consider economic situation to be better or even much better than 10 years ago, especially in Kyiv (45%). Yet, 46% of the surveyed feel that life today became worse or much worse.
- **Rise in morbidity rates**. According to statistics, in spite of substantial difference between various groups of diseases, a general upward tendency in adolescent morbidity rate can be observed. 90% of all adolescents have deviations in general health status, 20% of these have two and more illnesses.

In 2000 children morbidity rate kept growing and rose to 1200.3 per 1000 children, while in 1999 it was 1173.9. General morbidity rate among children under 14 rose by 17.1% as compared to 1990 level.

Continuous impact of risk factors is a special feature determining children’s current health status; these include stress overloads, especially at school age, disrupting mechanisms of physical functions self-regulation and promoting chronic diseases development.

Further growth in children infectious diseases morbidity rates is a reality today caused by spread of the infections of social origin, such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, STIs.

The number of HIV-infected individuals is skyrocket-

The last few years saw the rise in social infections morbidity rates among children. The situation requires appropriate measures to be taken aimed at enhancing prevention.

- **Spread of social pathologies in children’s and youth environment.** These include alcohol and drug misuse, prostitution, suicides, aggression etc.

The past few years were characterised by considerable numerical increase of drug-addicts. Drug addiction reached levels when it starts to exert direct impact upon population’s health, and, in the first place, upon the health of growing generation. Alcohol and drug use is quickly spreading among young people. According to statistics, every fifth adolescent at the age of 15 to 18 has an experience in using drugs, every second one smokes, and every third one uses alcohol.

The problem of drugs is inseparably linked to the problem of HIV infection. An estimated 70 per cent of reported HIV cases in Ukraine are intravenous drug users, most of them young people. Morbidity prevalence and its growing rates (500 and more new cases of HIV-infection are registered every month), lack of effective prevention means resulted (according to Ukrainian AIDS Centre at MOH of Ukraine) in the situation when by September 1, 2001 there were more than 40,000 HIV-infected individuals in the country, with 2,712 of them being children. Over the period between 1987 and 2001 2,438 cases of AIDS were registered among adults, and 19 cases among children.

It should be noted that the listed numbers indicate only the officially registered portion of the HIV-infected population. According to the HIV/AIDS epidemic situation analysis conducted by UN experts jointly with Ukrainian specialists, the actual total number of the HIV-infected persons in Ukraine in 1999 amounted to 200-240 thousand persons. Ukraine ranks the first among the CIS countries by the epidemic spread rates.

The children’s and adolescents’ health is fatally harmed by sexually transmitted infections (STIs), especially syphilis. Its prevalence acquires an epidemic scale. In particular, over the last 10 years syphilis rate increased 58.2 times among girls aged between 0 and 14, 45.5 times among boys, 31.2 times among adolescent girls aged 15 -17, 20.2 times among adolescent boys. Starting in 1996, syphilis rate among children and adolescents was characterised by downward tendency, but the level still remains too high.

It is necessary to point out that young people’s personal role in preserving and strengthening their health has been, in fact, reduced to minimum. Gradually, an ungrounded opinion is formed that health is guaranteed by young age alone, and that a young organism can on its own successfully overcome any overloads, gross violations of nutrition, lack of recreation, stress, hypodynamia and other risk factors.

According to the data provided by WHO for 1999-2003, human health model is influenced 50% by lifestyle, 20% - by inherited morbidity predilection, 20% - by environmental situation, and only 10% - by the level of medical care.

Thus, 50% of factors influencing the population’s health status are controlled by the people themselves. As a result, the urgent need arises for taking specific practical decisions and measures that would improve the situation and would strengthen the adolescents’ and children’s capacities in managing their health. The most important and effective way to improve the young people’s health is building conditions to foster responsibility for one’s health status and form the need for healthy lifestyle in every young person.

So, as the analysis of children and youth status in Ukraine shows, social and economic factors prove to be the objective reasons for deteriorated young generation’s health status. Government structures are currently trying to change the situation by taking certain steps towards young people’s development and improving their health. Yet, these activities are not always effective and, typically, do not enjoy young people’s support.

New strategies should be deployed at present in order to change the situation; and it is the UNICEF-Ukraine cooperation that provides the most active support to government and non-governmental organisations in their efforts aimed at ensuring children’s and young people’s health and development in the country.

**Background for Young people’s health and development-programme (1997-2001).**

Before the programme was launched, Ukrainian young people’s health status could be characterised as follows:

- Transition to market economy and collapse of traditional support-rendering entities, as well as pressure on the families and related social shocks, had an extremely adverse effect upon Ukrainian youth’s health and well-being. Juvenile delinquency rate increased by 12% over five years, starting 1990. The number of registered drug users, mostly young people, increased more than twice over the period between 1993 and 1996. Children and young people living in the streets became common in large Ukrainian cities. Suicide rate among boys has increased by 1/3 over 1989-1995 period.

- Liberalisation of moral demands witnessed by Ukraine in the 1990s brought about a rise in sexual contacts occurrence at an early age. Concurrently, fading internal family ties and insufficient sexual education at schools or its complete absence mean that most young people were not aware of the consequences of their sexual behaviours. This, in its turn, resulted in rapid increase in pregnancy and abortion rates among adolescents, as well as STD morbidity rates. Between 1990 and 1996 syphilis rates among girls under 18 rose more than 12 times. The share of HIV-infected individuals and young people with AIDS kept growing steadily.

In 1997 UNICEF started its co-operation with Ukrainian Government on a permanent basis in order to assist in the implementation of various programmes aimed at protection and development of Ukrainian children and youth. First, the key agreement was signed between the Government and UNICEF. On its basis treaties with national counterparts were signed providing support and development for youth management-oriented approaches to young people’s health care and to satisfying their developmental needs.

The Programme is funded by UNICEF general resources, with financial support provided by UNICEF National Committees of Great Britain and Germany, the UNAIDS Programme Accelerating Fund and other donor funds.
Problems of children and youth survival, protection and development in general have a crucial significance for Central and East European region. As stated in UNICEF regional monitoring report «Youth in Changing Society» (*2000), there are four key objectives in youth problems handling:

- youth participation;
- protecting vulnerable groups of young people;
- preventing outbursts of antisocial behaviour among young people;
- ensuring and protecting young people’s political, legal and social rights, including rights to health and development.

There is no doubt that informed attitude towards health and need for healthy lifestyle, its realisation and promotion are among the key cultural achievements of humanity. Healthy lifestyle both for an individual and the country as a whole is a basic factor securing their sustainable development.

The overall goal of «Young people’s health and development» programme is to ensure the rights of young people to health preservation and development, as they are worded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In particular, the programme stipulates ensuring the following rights enshrined in CRC:

- the right of the child, who is capable of forming his or her own views for expressing those views freely in all matters affecting the child (article 12);
- the right of the child for access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of his or her social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health (article 17);
- the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of health (article 24);
- the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts (article 31);
- right to be protected from the illicit use of narcotic drugs (article 33).

As for practical aims of the YPHD programme, they are stated below:

- to ensure the right of young people to health preservation and development;
- to create youth-friendly environment;
- to support youth participation in decision-making processes.

Programme’s main objective is to develop pilot models (subprojects), demonstrating a new approach oriented at co-operation with local agencies and envisaging young people’s management, as well as securing the right of youth to health and development:

- youth participation;
- youth-friendly environments;
- youth-friendly health care services;
- mass-media mobilisation;
- HIV prevention among youth and adolescents;
- HIV/AIDS prevention among young injecting drug users.
According to YPHD programme concept, the following target objectives can be formulated:

- enabling young people to contribute positively to social development through their participation in educational, economic, state, social and spiritual activities by having them involved in developing and implementing policies aimed at identifying and accomplishing youth priorities;
- protecting young people from negative impacts threatening their survival, well-being and health (for example, from HIV/AIDS, STIs, adolescent pregnancy and abortion, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness and crime);
- raising the young people's awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention and healthy life style concept, provoking positive changes in young people's conscious behaviour;
- supporting more informed social and political discussions of young people's health and development issues.

International, government, and non-governmental institutions, agencies and funds acted as partners in programme implementation.
2.1. Evaluating healthy life style promotion projects

To develop and implement specific social projects for healthy life styles, based on the healthy life style building theory, specialists from Ukrainian Institute of Social Research compiled «Objectives for Planning a Healthy Life Style Promotion Project». According to Ukrainian scholar R. Ya. Levin, the best social project idea can hardly succeed if the project activities neglect certain global factors. As stated above, healthy life style building theory includes five priority action zones or sets of activities: shaping healthy life style; social policy; creating friendly environment in the broadest sense; mobilising various communities' efforts; developing personal capacities and capabilities; reorienting health care services.

All the factors are involved in the following key healthy life style building strategies: health education; knowledge about health; individual and community awareness and activity raising; positive changes development and achievement in health issues; organisational support; social health policy shaping; protecting the right of certain persons, social groups and communities to healthy life styles; co-operation among governmental and non-governmental institutions, agencies, foundations, societies, associations, organisations, companies etc. on partnership basis; self- and mutual assistance.

Analysis of diverse successful healthy life style building projects provides the opportunity to identify tentative activities conducted by social pedagogues and social workers by each of the discussed strategies taking into consideration the conditions under which children and youth live today.

1. Healthy life style education and the contents of a social pedagogue educational activities evolves from the most important factors affecting the healthy life style of children and youth. At the moment, the following health education factors are considered as the most vital in the youth environment:

1) Lack of specialists or their insufficient qualification.
   It is considered that health (not only physical, but also mental, spiritual, and social health) problems strongly depend on psychological discomfort in the family. The majority of parents desperately needs training about the discomfort sources, family conflicts and the ways of handling them. Yet today a lack of family conflict resolution experts can be felt almost everywhere. There is an urgent need for training of trainers (courses, seminars, trainings on adolescent and family psychology, pedagogics, valeology).

2) Educational curricula factor. Currently there are some extremely important issues, and information about them is in certain demand among young people. Besides the natural themes of sexual contacts and safe sex, information materials are in demand about future child’s health, undesirable parenthood.

2 Ibid.
consequences, etc. Health educational program for all population groups and specialists working with children and youth, will ensures the success of healthy life style building activities conducted in this strategic sector.

2. Health issues awareness and its contents are related to two sets of factors. The first set is the expediency of search for unconventional, original ideas for informational materials, search for methods and forms of information outreach to the target group in order to ensure the planned impact, to prevent the undesired information from discrediting the healthy life style concepts. The second set is associated with the necessity to take the realities of mass-media functioning into account, since media are the most effective information dissemination instrument.

1) Information impact factor. According to experts, there are concepts of material media presentation that have been time-tested over years and decades; according to them, the material is presented in a manner that makes it influence the reader not only at conscious, but also at subconscious level. After that the stereotypes start working, constantly reminding of and drawing attention to the issue. The ideal of a wealthy person is being currently formed in the society, which can include health aspect – health can be advertised as a necessary pre-condition for success in life. There is an idea of creating a gallery of national youth ideals represented by sporting stars concurrently embodying the health ideal.

2) Mass media functioning factor. To succeed in healthy life stile building, it is advisable to publish relevant materials in press and broadcast them on the radio and TV. These methods are, as a rule, envisaged by advertisement, sponsorship and patronage, introducing privileges for mass media on local and legislative levels, as well as by production of attractive and sensational materials in order to increase the audience numerically. The activities may include games, various health topical contests containing the elements of direct or indirect advertising of organisations manufacturing products and services for medical treatment, nutrition, leisure, tourism etc.

3. Developing individual, community and non-governmental organisations awareness and activism. This factor represents at once the main motive force, the potential and the environment for healthy life style development and implementation. It is the activism of a community (territorial-administrative, professional, political, ethnic, religious, cultural etc.) and its individual representatives in priority-setting, decision-making, health improvement strategy planning and activities implementation is the key mechanism, securing the efficiency of healthy life style building. Generally, all-round support to consolidation and growth of various communities and agencies, to their members’ higher activism can be considered as one of the first-priority social pedagogy tasks in this area.

1) Social indifference factor. In most cases it is difficult to stir a young Ukrainian citizen up, to arouse some interest in him, to encourage him to seek for new knowledge, to take part in activities aimed at work-47

2) Value orientation factor. Working on raising individual and community awareness and activism consideration should be given to specific orientations of a particular target group among which a healthy life style project is implemented. Sociological public research indicates life values characteristic of certain age groups and of the whole youth environment.

3) Psychic features factor. While supporting individual and community initiative and activism, certain psychological features of adolescents and youth characterising the youth environment should be taken into account. Lack of positive thinking building system and traditions, the vestiges of authoritative pedagogy with its elements of violence, spread of enforcement methods in everyday life, family and educational establishments can develop a tendency towards psychic disorders in a child starting with the first years of life.

Taking into consideration the fact that no special revolutionary approaches to handling old and new conflicts have been proposed by pedagogy and psychology so far, reliance upon the time-tested pedagogical methods and principles is advisable (step-by-step approach, accessibility, from-simple-to-complex approach etc.). That’s why negotiating psychological barriers plays an important role in enhancing individual and community activism.

4. Developing and bringing about changes in organisational support for health issues activities. Activities contents in this strategic area of healthy life style building envisages national policy initiating in the sphere of pop-
ulation health both on the supreme governmental level, and on the local level; encouraging political and organisational decisions; drawing authorities' attention to current health problems. In this case the following factors are to be taken into consideration:

1) Desired ideal factor. Almost all specialists dealing with health issues at large are well aware of the fact that only purposeful national system of multilevel and multidimensional intersectional activities is legally recognised, provided with financial, material, organisational, methodological information and human resources, and supported by all the civic institutions, capable of reorienting the entire population to healthy life style and of fostering healthy life style mentality in the society.

Such system should combine the best practices of the past with state-of-the-art achievements of the most developed countries: high living standard, environmental and social safety, advanced methods and techniques in work, education and enlightenment, service and leisure.

2) Possible reality factor. It is well-known that actual status of youth-oriented activities in Ukraine in general, and healthy life style, in particular, leaves much to be desired. For example, most neighbourhood clubs either closed down or changed their profile, and the remaining ones mostly require payment. Furthermore, as a result of governmental bodies structural and quantitative reorganisation, social workers face the necessity to handle the problems of youth alongside with physical training development and sports, families and other problems. In principle, on all the levels of state governing there is understanding that during social transition period social protection of children and youth should be a national-scale issue, but the measures taken have not yet proved effective.

According to the present-day societal traditions, genuine or declared project support on the part of local authorities, high officials and their closest environment is a substantial precondition for a specific project to succeed. We realise that to get governmental bodies support it is necessary to inform the decision-makers about health issues, trying to link the general information on healthy life style with specific regional and local problems.

5. One more feature inherent in our life is that healthy life style projects, actions and activities are predominantly initiated by public servants in medicine, social work and education. Generally, social pedagogues working strategy envisages the implementation of actually available ways of addressing the problem in combination with initiating non-governmental structures activity, while demanding substantial systematic efforts aimed at building healthy life style from local governments.

Shaping social health policy. The contents of social pedagogues' activities carried out within this area of healthy life style building consists in initiating and implementing all the possible measures targeted at building up public awareness of the need for healthy life style: educational and informational activities, enhancing individual and community activism, facilitating the national health policy, i.e. activities conducted in all four strategic area, mentioned above.

Naturally, the integral national healthy life style building system would be the most efficient lever for shaping social health policy. Yet, since this cannot be accomplished on required scale, and considering the fact that government agencies do not always have an opportunity (and sometimes a wish) to take measures in this direction, that is, forming health priorities in social consciousness, at least, through local projects, - social pedagogues are intent on developing and implementing projects aimed at promoting healthy life style together with Goose and NGOs. Proceeding from that, we can say that several factors contribute to this process:

1) Factor of defending individuals' social groups' and communities' right to healthy life style. In this case social pedagogues working strategy consists in supplementing the government's efforts, at best, and at worst, substitute for public agencies efforts. Experience in implementing healthy life style social projects proves that, in most cases, NGOs mediation is the key to successful implementation of such socio-pedagogical policies. That is why social pedagogues are interested in safeguarding success to projects in this area through support provided by various public associations.

2) Intersectional co-operation factors. One of the most important factors securing a project's success is the joint participation by as many individuals and institutions representing different sectors, as possible. For this reason this factor is used in healthy life style building. Quite often, the objective of social pedagogues operating in this strategic area is to involve various public institutions, establishments, foundations, social organisations, associations, business agencies, firms, companies etc. in co-operation in hope that in the process of cooperation each of them will make an adequate contribution to specific project development and realisation. Social pedagogues' communicative competence plays an exceptionally important role here.

3) Mediation factor. This factor requires taking into consideration two principles in the course of developing and implementing healthy life style building projects– the first initiative factor and the mediation process or for future co-operation. The first initiative factor consists in that social workers from public (medical, social, pedagogic, etc.) structures or public associations declaring concern for young people health in their operation may be the first party with a stake in project realisation. This is the objective to be addressed at the first stage of project implementation.

At the second stage, social workers should be guided by the mediation factor among involved structures, because the initiated cooperation may cease in case it is not coordinated and supported through relevant activities on continuous basis.

4) Partnership factor. This factor envisages compliance with mutual benefit principle. Efficiency of partner's resource use often depends on whether he gets any profit from co-operation. In some cases actual benefit can be generated at once, in the process of project implementation, and in other cases (predominantly) – the benefit may be a thing of the future, but in any way the partner must be sure that beside his participation in a socially useful venture, his own interests are observed. In many cases, the «image» benefit works, which means media attention to the project and, consequently, the partner's indirect publicity, etc.
5. **Self- and mutual assistance factors.** Social pedagogues' chief strategy in this field consists in holding special education, upbringing and learning events. Such events are to arm individuals, groups of people, and entire communities with special self- and mutual assistance skills, foster in them a wish and capability for these actions. The experience of successful healthy life style building projects gives grounds for listing certain specific features that should be taken heed of when social pedagogues implement their own projects.

6. As stated above, the process of mastering the capacity for self- and mutual assistance in Ukrainian social environment calls for comprehensive activities aimed mostly at upbringing, education or learning, and at best, combining all three elements. It is advisable to deploy attractive, unconventional forms of influence, different from habitual stereotypes to which young people no longer respond. Guided by these arguments, successful projects rely upon different means of exerting positive influence on children and young people.

It is advisable to use diverse methods of forming self- and mutual assistance skills not only in conformity to well-known pedagogical principles, but also to the common sense requirements. This demand arises from the facts of various political, ideological and religious associations and organisations easily resorting to self- and mutual assistance concept.

One of the vital conditions for successful self- and mutual assistance strategies is the broadest possible implementation of the method consisting in participation of representatives of target social sections and age groups of population. Impact based on «do it for yourself» principle arouses greater confidence and interest.

The most successful projects are governed by the rule «do it not for youth but with youth», involving young people who experienced some problems themselves, in healthy life style building. It is advisable for social pedagogues to spot young people who have already chosen healthy life style and to involve them in co-operation.

It is also noteworthy that conducting evaluation is a comprehensive process. It requires the capacity to have everything planned and calculated beforehand. Evaluation planning includes wording of key research questions; making a decision on using quantitative or qualitative methods, or a combination of both; developing a system of activities and methods aimed at finding the answers to basic questions; analysing data collection methods, necessary for measurements and assessments; developing a research project taking into account kinds of comparisons to be developed and data collection time frames; results dissemination plan development.

Summing up, the fact that specific social projects efficiency evaluation is addressed points at the need for professional competence building in healthy life style for specialists, who should not just execute specific projects, but master project evaluation and results analysing skills, in order to correct a specific project's contents or realisation forms. At the same time, social projects (programs) efficiency evaluation will enable the specialists to use the resources allotted for specific social problems handling, purposefully and efficiently.

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2.2. **Methodology of UNICEF’s YPHD program evaluation**

**Program evaluation objective:**

- Identifying the program's key achievements;
- Analysing obstacles in the way of program realisation;
- Identifying the best practices in program implementation;
- Studying the ways of program development and further implementation.

To conduct the UNICEF YPHD program analysis (1997-2001), subproject groups were identified in accordance with goals, objectives and implementation techniques:

1. Educational activities among young people and their leaders aimed at teaching social skills: participation in decision-making, healthy life style promotion, in HIV/AIDS prevention activities, in peer-to-peer programs etc.

2. Specialists’ training for innovative forms of work with children and youth.

3. Adaptation and implementation of existing social projects targeted at specific youth group.

4. Publishing informational, methodological and educational materials developed on the basis of healthy life style programs implementation experience.

5. Providing support to activities (conferences, fairs) aimed at disseminating practices acquired in the course of social projects realisation.

6. Carrying out the necessary research for further young people health and development activities, for situational analysis and evaluation.

7. Providing technical support to counterparts.

For every program group evaluation a specific evaluation technique is applied. Let us take a look at each of them separately.

1. **Educational activities among young people and their leaders aimed at teaching social skills: participation in decision-making, in healthy life style promotion, in HIV/AIDS prevention activities, in peer-to-peer programs etc.**

Information impact upon individual is goes through the following stages:
Health issues awareness is a substantial result of any educational program. It is important for a young person to understand the health problem urgency for everyone, the significance of its components that represent health risks factors. Problem realisation urges the young people to search for the ways of handling this problem.

Change in awareness of a certain problem can be easily identified by a set of sociological indicators.

Knowledge. Possessing knowledge necessary for decision-making about the particular way of life for a particular young person to lead, is an important impetus for addressing health problems. Furthermore, the emphasis should be laid not so much on the knowledge about healthy behaviour importance, but on the negative effect of undesired behaviour and harmful habits.

Acquired knowledge level change is identified by testing, held at the beginning and after completion of a training course.

Knowledge may or may not influence young people's behaviour. It is common knowledge it is smokers themselves that are best aware of the harm of smoking. It means that knowledge is a necessary, but insufficient factor in shaping young people's behaviour.

Attitude. A person's attitude towards her/his health may influence both searches for information about health, and health behaviour.

A person's attitude change to a certain health component is identified by the following sociological methods:

- pre-program and post-program questionnaires;
- holding focus-group discussions with target youth categories before and after project implementation;
- expert interviewing with program executors;
- interviewing volunteers participating in these change-detection programs.

Willingness to act is a person's belief in his/her ability to change his/her behaviour. This willingness change can be also identified by sociological methods:

- pre-program and post-program questionnaires;
- holding focus-groups discussions with social projects participants.

Skills. To change the behaviour (for example, give up smoking) or practice the best behaviours in terms of health, it is necessary to know how to do it. Typically, every health educational program contains a set of skills helping to practice a healthy lifestyle.

It is possible to measure the presence or absence of skills both theoretically – through specific control tasks, or through practical classes.

Behaviour. Behavioural change in participants after listening to the educational course is an important result, but very difficult to achieve. That is why international practice rarely uses the behavioural change as an efficiency indicator for healthy lifestyle programs.

Ukraine's experience shows that behavioural change occurs when a whole set of healthy lifestyle building programs is implemented. A special place here belongs to the projects considering the peer influence, especially to projects drawing upon peer-to-peer method.

To sum up, the following conclusion can be drawn: educational programs evaluation can be conducted through sociological surveys before the training starts and after it is completed. At this point, the tools should be applied making it possible to compare the data characterising awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and willingness to act and behaviour before the beginning and after the end of studying.

In this project group it is important to anticipate not only short-term results, but also long-term ones. For example, knowledge can turn into behavior after a certain period of time passes. It is necessary to compile informational materials indicating future use of experience gained through training.

For this reason, in addition to survey conducting before and after training, it is advisable to conduct the survey some time later, for example, a year later. Its findings will show how the knowledge could or could not be put to practice in particular cases, and will allow to evaluate the effect of such training. These findings might come in instrumental in developing certain educational programs, which are popular among young people, or find a substitute for programs that are not successful in the youth environment.

Generally, this type of projects may be looked upon as educational programs. Health educational programs are specific in that there is no direct link between the information received by young people, and their behaviour.

2. Specialists' training for innovative forms of work with children and youth.

Specialists training, as a rule, is a component of larger projects envisaging the application of knowledge acquired by specialists. The latter may include YFC specialists, social workers dealing with street children, etc.

For this reason specialist training's efficiency evaluation may include two parts: identifying the required level of knowledge and skills acquired through training and assessing the ability to apply the acquired knowledge in practice. Conducting evaluation, the numerical indicators of respondents should also be considered.

The first evaluation objective is accomplished through pre-program and post-program questionnaires identifying the level of acquired knowledge and skills.

The second evaluation stage may be conducted after the specialist proceeds to implementing the program for which (s)he has been trained. During public opinion poll that should be better conducted at the project stabilisation stage, it is advisable to find out the extent to which the knowledge acquired at the seminar was useful and sufficient for the project implementation; and whether the level of trainers conducting the seminar was appropriate and whether there is a need to continue training.

Considerable extent of staff mobility in social programs implementation in Ukraine complicates the work, and makes it necessary to know the ration between trained and untrained specialists.

3. Adaptation and implementation of existing social projects targeted at specific youth group.

Typically, most social projects supported by UNICEF are targeted at a specific group of young people or children and are already implemented in other countries.

UNICEF-supported projects evaluation is conducted in accordance to the classical social projects evaluation requirements. The program evaluation itself should include:

- evaluation at the stage of project development – forming evaluation, making it possible to develop
the project’s program in a proper way;  
- current evaluation is conducted approximately a year later after the project launching, in order to identify the correspondence between the expected and actual results;  
- sum-up evaluation conducted after the project implementation is completed.

Two approaches can be applied for evaluating specific social project results:

- internal evaluation conducted by the project team;  
- external evaluation, i.e. the evaluation conducted by independent entities.

The international practices show that the evaluation conducted by project staff is more effective, being a component in project implementation aimed at its development. Evaluation conducted by independent entities is more independent and helps to expand the project vision to its future development prospect.

4. Publishing informational, methodological and education materials developed on the basis of healthy life style programs implementation experience

Informational materials publication is aimed at informing young people about healthy life style issues and promoting different innovative techniques among youth and professionals. Informational materials quality and popularity among users serve as main indicators of materials’ efficiency. As a result, informational materials can be evaluated by three criteria:

1. Informational material expert evaluation conducted by specialists (reviewing).
2. Analysing informational materials popularity among users (analysis of particular organisations or persons who used mailed materials in their work).
3. Users’ evaluation of information materials. Such evaluation is advisable to be conducted through public opinion polls among users.

5. Providing support to activities (conferences, fairs) aimed at disseminating practices acquired in the course of social projects realisation.

As a rule, activities are aimed at shaping public opinion about certain activity areas. The latter may include children’s rights, healthy life style, and youth participation in building youth policies.

Such activities may be considered effective in case:

- Mass-media conduct broad coverage campaign for this activity;  
- Not only specialists, but the entire population benefits from the documents adopted in the course of activities implementation (resolutions, appeals, etc.);  
- Practices disseminated in the course of large-scale activities may provoke their participants to specific actions.

In this case the activities efficiency indicators are the following:

- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of media publications’ contents;  
- Analysing individuals and organisations familiar with the activity’s document;  
- The results of a sociological survey among participants about the prospects for applying the practices in the promoted activity areas;  
- Numerical analysis of participants;  

6. Carrying out the necessary research for further young people health and development activities, for situational analysis and evaluation.

Conducted research efficiency evaluation envisions:

- Conducting research findings expert evaluation by specialists in a certain field;  
- Situational analysis as to further activities in a certain area;  
- Enabling everyone to use the research findings (publications, presentations, etc.).

7. Providing technical support to counterparts.

The concept of technical support efficiency envisages:

- its targeted nature (those requiring technical support most should be the first to receive it);  
- expediency (getting what is needed);  
- future needs (indicators of technical support objects use for accomplishing a specific goal).

Thus, it can be argued that there are plenty of methods aimed at Young People’s Health and Development program evaluation. Choosing a particular technique depends on a specific project’s goal, objectives, and expected results.
States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

(UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 12)

Project implementation counterparts:
- Kyiv City State Administration;
- Ukrainian Institute of Social Research;
- Social Action Centre, De Montfort University;
- State Centre of Social Services for Youth;
- Social services for youth under Kyiv City State Administration;
- Kyiv City Palace of Children and Youth;
- Children’s Parliament of Ukraine;
- Non-governmental organisations «Our Children» (Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk), SPOK, All-Ukrainian public centre «Volunteer» and others;

Project goal:
Promoting positive youth participation models, inculcating management and decision-making skills to young people, providing young people with opportunities to participate actively in identifying urgent priorities and to look for solutions through various forums.

Supporting the strategies for youth involvement in social life, including peer volunteer training, youth parliaments’ operation, youth non-governmental organisations and youth councils.

The Project was implemented along the following lines:

1. Training seminars for young people in decision-making participation skills.
2. «Youth barometer» (concept, youth training, research).
3. All-Ukrainian volunteer meeting.
4. Social services and technologies development: All-Ukrainian fairs of social projects, programmes and services.
5. The first all-Ukrainian mayors meeting «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities».
6. «Children on their rights» survey.
7. Regional youth opinion poll survey.

3.1. Training seminars for young people in decision-making participation skills

Young people are always full of ideas, they have an inexhaustible potential of influencing any life aspect. They can make contributions to solving many problems faced by adults. Life in the society planned and managed by adults only who rely upon traditional approach to decision-making leads to young people's estrangement of. Young people are a fully fledged and
Representatives of 32 youth organisations participated in these training seminars; they included Students' Parliament of Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, Ukrainian Youth Forum, Youth Diplomacy Centre UNITIS, Social Work School of the National «Kyiv-Mohyla Academy» University, NGO «Young Enlightenment», Women's Consortium, NGO «Our Children» (Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk), Kyiv Social Service for Youth, etc.

In the next cycle of training seminars (February, October 1999, March 2000) – representatives of 24 NGOs took part, among them: First Students' Professional Union in Ukraine, UNITIS, children association DIM («Home»), Christian-Democratic Youth of Ukraine, Ukrainian Youth Forum, UNCYO, CYO «Young Enlightenment», Kyiv Social Services for Youth, Socio-Psychological Centre (Slavutich, Kyiv region), «Intellectual-Collegium» Youth Club (Kyiv), «Modus» press-club (Donetsk), NGO «Faith, Hope, Love», «Support» branch (Odesa), NGO «Young people of Donetchyna» (Donetsk), etc.

Training stages four, five and six covered the following areas:

- Exchanging experience and professional skills;
- Exposure to self-managed model concept and its implementation for training, practice and research;
- Studying UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Analysing the conditions influencing the children's status in Ukraine at the levels of community, organisations, economy, politics, and legislation;
- Discussing participants’ opinions regarding their organisations' activities;
- Indicating the main sectors where youth is expelled from social, professional and political processes, studying the causes of this situation;
- Identifying the ways of having children and young people involved in youth policy building in Ukraine and Great Britain;
- Principles, skills, knowledge necessary for decision-making;
- Realising the necessity of changes, studying the sources of present conflicts, identifying the strategy for operating under the conditions of resistance;
- Developing working plans for participants in order to conduct activities aimed at changing the youth participation status from «expulsion» to «involvement» and action;
- Defining the practical work sector where participants can influence the situation on the local, regional, inter-organisational level and within their own organisations;
- Developing strategies, target models and working plans conducive to successful young people’s involvement in decision-making processes.

Conclusions.

Participants in training seminars pointed out that youth policy is currently shaped without involving young people themselves into the process, with opinions and attitudes of children and young people sometimes given no consideration at all. Yet, moulding young people’s worldview, the society builds its own worldview for the future. What it will be like, depends on present day. It is young people that can provide the best answers to the questions what their concerns are, what

SECTION III. «Youth Participation» Project

fully competent element of social and political processes in the country.

In 1991 Ukraine ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Under Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention, young people have the right to be actively involved in the decision-making process. Present-day reality urges a young person to find her/his bearings in current situation, to understand her/his role and place in society, to be able to affect the ongoing processes. Instead of being passive observers in social processes, young people have the right to be influential actors in solving the problems that have direct impact upon their lives and future destiny. Implementation of this right is an inseparable part of democratic society.

The term «participation in decision-making» means an individual's involvement in the process of adopting decisions capable of influencing her/his destiny and the life of the surrounding people. Young people should have the opportunity to gain such skills both on local and national levels. These plans can be implemented provided free space has been created for open discussions, strategic thinking development and joint planning of further actions, and active and direct involvement in cooperation is secured of organised youth civic movement free from political priorities pressure. Only consolidation of progressive youth civic associations can translate these plans into reality.

UNICEF Ukraine guided in its work by UN Convention on the Rights of the Child considers ensuring CRC provisions implementation to be one of its first-priority objectives, as well as creating conditions for children's and youth's involvement in decision-making on youth issues on the national level. Over 1998-2000 UNICEF Ukraine supported a series of training courses in decision-making skills conducted among young people from Kyiv, Odesa, Donetsk, Slavutich and Dnipropetrovsk. The courses were aimed at working out influential mechanisms for young people involvement in addressing youth issues on different political and governmental levels, at teaching young people the skills of participation in decision-making process involving their problems; another objective was to reach an understanding about further action plans and about the strategies for active youth engagement in the process. The training seminars were conducted by experienced specialists from De Montfort University in Great Britain, one of the countries, where youth participation in decision-making is an inseparable part of national policy.

Training seminars involved several stages.

Stage one (June 1998) – explaining the strategy for youth involvement in active participation in decision-making process, action planning and developing projects to be implemented at the second stage of training.

Stage two (July-December 1998) – working plans implementation through monthly training seminars supported by Ukrainian facilitators in order to identify achievements and existing problems, as well as to exchange professional experience.

Stage three (January 1999) – conclusion summaries of work plans implementation, identifying achievements and problems of the previous stages, developing new working plans aimed at disseminating expertise to other regions of Ukraine.
The training seminars gave the participants the opportunity not only to be exposed to the youth participation concept itself and to study the theory underlying basic methods, but also to develop and to implement their own practical youth participation projects. Youth participation seminar trainees initiated setting up mobile children’s rights information centre. They developed the regulations on mobile information centre, put it in place, and announced a competition among NGOs for the right to own this mobile centre. In addition, project participants formed the Coordination Council, still in operation.

In the project framework the book was published entitled the Guides on Youth Participation in Decision Making and on «Youth Barometer» (Eamonn Keenan, Izzy Terry, De Montfort University, UK; Kyiv Social Service for Youth, Ukrainian Institute of Social Research) were developed and published. The trainees part took in developing a training module on youth participation (the module contains the training course on youth participation, in particular: key course components, group exercises, games, and models.). A video-report «We live a different way» was developed and disseminated featuring social projects implemented in Kyiv on the youth participation basis.

After several years of youth participation project implementation, 2001 saw the need for the development of Resource Kit on Youth Participation for Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. The Kit explains the youth participation concept (the module contains the training course on youth participation, in particular: key course components, group exercises, games, and models.). A video-report «We live a different way» was developed and disseminated featuring social projects implemented in Kyiv on the youth participation basis.

Objectives:
- studying national and international experience in conducting social research, especially, relying upon peer-to-peer communication methods;
- building working contacts with public and government organisations in order to implement the programme complying with high scientific standards in its implementation;
- developing research programme implementation methods;
- organising, selecting and training young people and managers involved;
- conducting research concerning personal problems of young people in Kyiv, crisis developments in youth environment, young people leisure and recreation problems, young people's social and economic and health status, family and marriage issues, young women's problems.

Activities: process, results.
Project managers gave much attention to volunteers training for conducting surveys. The key objective of training volunteers was to develop research and interviewing skills, as well as volunteer group activities co-ordination.

The training included two stages:
- at the first stage volunteer training was conducted by professionals;
- at the second stage volunteers prepared their groups for working in the project using the peer-to-peer communication methods.

In April 1999 seminars for young interviewers and project managers were held in Kyiv.

Training objective:
- informing volunteer-interviewers’ team leaders and «Youth Barometer» subproject coordinators about the fundamentals of sociological surveys organisation and conducting;
- exposing interviewers to interview principles and interviewing technologies;
- training volunteers for conducting surveys within the framework of «Youth Barometer» subproject;
- involving the trainees in discussing the most urgent problems for different youth groups in Kyiv.

To facilitate theory mastering, Ukrainian Institute of Social Research has developed a practical module for vol-

3.2. «Youth barometer» (concept, youth training, research)

Youth barometer is a project jointly implemented by Social Services for Young People under Kyiv State City Administration and the Ukrainian Institute of Social Research with UNICEF support. The programme drew upon scientific research methodology targeted at studying youth problems by young people themselves; at analysing changes and processes in youth environment, at mobilising youth for handling their problems; at developing specific social programmes and at influencing their implementation.

This project is specific in that sociological research was carried out by young people aged between 15 and 25. Youth participation in the project envisioned choosing the research subjects, analysing the collected data, results processing and summarising, using the research findings for solving problems at the district and city level.

Goal.
Developing the mechanism for conducting research focusing on youth topical issues, conducting the research and taking the its findings into consideration for identifying NGO and GO operating strategies.

Activities: process, results.
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The following aspects were covered in the module:
- key sociological terms and definitions;
- sociological survey scheme;
- primary data collection;
- requirements to interviewer, interviewer’s working technology, safety measures during survey;
- data analysis technology;
- making use of the obtained data.

After the training course the module was updated taking into consideration volunteer-interviewers’ suggestions, proposals and recommendations.

In the course of training volunteer-interviewers tried to indicate the most topical issues for research, developed questionnaires for survey to be conducted among young people of Kyiv by themselves.

On May 21-23 and 28-30, 1999 three-day seminars on volunteer-interviewers training were held. Young people from Kyiv, wishing to work as interviewers within the volunteer groups under NGOs and district social services for young people, took part in the seminar. Professionals and volunteers trained during the first seminar acted as trainers at the second one.

Volunteer-interviewers training objective was to provide the «Youth barometer» subproject participants with theoretic and practical knowledge about principles, methods and techniques of sociological research that would enable them to develop and conduct sociological research among children and young people.

**Training objectives:**
- providing «Youth barometer» subproject participants with basic knowledge in sociology, and with theoretical principles underpinning sociological research;
- implementing interviewers’ practical working skills while conducting and co-ordinating social research and introducing its results;
- detecting programme participants’ capabilities and interests with regard to various sociological research aspects, and promoting their further development;
- developing participants’ communicative, organisational and analytical capacities;
- teaching subproject participants the fundamentals of team work, communication skills while dealing with strangers.

Volunteer-interviewers conducted surveys among «Young People for Health» meeting-march participants, Social Services for Youth visitors, «Kyiv Youth - 99», deputies of city and district councils of Kyiv, social services fair visitors, etc.

About 70 volunteer-interviewers took part in the project. Approximately 1.5 thousand persons were surveyed by volunteer-interviewers over 1999.

«Youth barometer» conducted the survey during march-meeting «Young People for Health» in 1999 and 2001. The questionnaires included a set of questions concerning health and young people’s life styles. One of them was aimed at finding out young people’s attitude to alcohol, smoking, going in for sports etc. (see Table 1).

| Table 1. Answers break-up to the question «What is your company’s attitude to those who ... » |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                 | Respectful      | Indifferent     | Mocking         |                 |                 |
| **1. [...do not use alcohol at all** | 24              | 41              | 64              | 50              | 13              | 12              |
| **2. [...do not smoke**        | 31              | 45              | 66              | 50              | 3               | 5               |
| **3. [...eat only “healthy” foods** | 20              | 25              | 65              | 60              | 15              | 15              |
| **4. [...practise sports on regular basis** | 70              | 70              | 29              | 28              | 1               | 2               |

Analysing young boys’ and girls’ attitude to healthy life style components, it should be noted that the last two years witnessed a change in the attitude to the very fact of using alcohol, smoking, eating healthy food. In 1999 peers not using alcohol were treated with respect by 24% of meeting-march participants, and in 2001 – by 41%. The number of young people displaying respect to those abstaining from smoking out of persuasion increased 1.5 times. Similar indicator displaying the attitude to only «healthy» food eaters also saw a 5% increase. So, the positions taken by young people with regard to healthy life style became more radical.

This conclusion is confirmed by the data shown in Table 2.

| Table 2. Answers break-up to the question «Do you smoke?» |
|-----------------|-----------------|
|                 | 1999 | 2001 |
| **Yes**        | 27   | 19   |
| **Sometimes**  | 19   | 22   |
| **No**         | 53   | 60   |

Answers to the question about smoking also prove that the life style of march-meeting participants improved: in 1999 27% of young boys and girls were smoking, and in 2001 – 19%. It is quite possible that the fact that smoking was forbidden on the entire meeting-march territory was a key factor in this change.

**Challenges.**

The most urgent problems faced by volunteer-interviewers while conducting surveys within the framework of «Youth barometer» subproject, were those caused by lack of experience. Specific problems are listed below:
- problems in communicating with strangers;
- a great number of refusals to be interviewed;
- lack of time for conducting an interview within a short period;
- some questionnaires were not handed back by the respondents;
- problems of recruiting volunteer-interviewers and their motivation.
Conclusions.
The advantage of «Youth barometer» subproject is that youth problems were studied through the efforts of young people themselves. In the subproject frame young people were exposed to the state-of-the-art research methods and techniques that can be applied to studying the problems of their city and mediated impact upon youth issues, acquired skills of conducting sociological research and learned the ways of involving their peers in such activities.

Young people themselves suggest the research subjects, conduct surveys, compile materials and interpret the collected data, and this is an important project aspect.

It is noteworthy that often young people just play the role of interviewers, without taking part either in research programme development, or in results analysis. So the special attention should be paid to the participation of young people at all stages of project implementation particularly in results processing and bringing them within the reach of various audiences, i.e. youth, professionals and decision-makers.

«Youth barometer» subproject implementation results show that young people display quite a high level of commitment to participating in such programmes. Relying upon peer-to-peer method makes it possible to carry out a more in-depth analysis of a set of questions that are of concern for the city youth, to identify the first-priority social problems from the young people’s perspective, and not government officials working with youth. Today «Youth barometer» programme became one of the activities in which not only Social Service for Young People under Kyiv City State Administration is engaged, but many cities of Ukraine as well.

3.3. All-Ukrainian volunteer meeting

From October 30 to November 3 2000 All-Ukrainian Volunteer Meeting was held in Kyiv. All-Ukrainian public centre «Volunteer» assumed the responsibility for organising and holding this activity. More than 150 representatives from all regional centres of social services for young people and Centre «Volunteer», as well as delegates from over 60 government agencies, non-governmental organisations and educational establishments, took part in the meeting.

Participants shared their experience of volunteer work, established partnerships, were exposed to international practices, since the meeting was attended by delegates from other countries, presented their projects at the fair of social projects, services and technologies.

The International conference «Volunteer movement: development prospects at the threshold of the 21st century» was held within the meeting framework, where a strategic plan was developed for volunteer non-governmental organisations and volunteer teams operation.

The Conference participants adopted the appeal to the President of Ukraine, the Supreme Rada, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, local governments, international non-governmental organisations, NGOs and mass media.

To the President of Ukraine, the Supreme Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, local governments, international non-governmental organisations, public organisations and mass media

We, the participants of the International Conference «Volunteer movement: development prospects at the threshold of the 21st century» — volunteers, university faculty, researchers, practitioners in volunteer movement in Ukraine and other countries, Social Services for Young People staff implementing social programs, recruiting volunteer assistants, volunteer movement coordinators and leaders of volunteer teams under government, non-governmental and private organizations, appeal to the head of state, the Government and the Supreme Rada, local governments, non-governmental organizations and mass media.

Volunteer movement is a charity, humanitarian activity targeted at providing social assistance to certain population categories, and to developing social wellbeing and prosperity. These activities do not envisage material remuneration and are based on the principles of implementing moral values and humanitarian convictions.

111 organizations participating in the conference presented advanced methods of volunteer movement and the results of their activities. Such form of working with youth, as volunteer movement, currently exists in all the regions of Ukraine.

In spite of all the immensity of work, volunteers’ endeavours stay unrecognised because of their informal nature.

Now our humanitarian, charity activities need support and development.

It is for this reason that the 52-nd General Assembly session of the United Nations Organization declared 2001 to be the International Volunteer Year, during which work will be conducted aimed at promoting volunteer activities and expanding volunteer movement.

We are convinced that joint efforts by government and non-governmental organizations will enhance the efficiency of our work, and thus will improve the situation in the country and the status of vulnerable population groups.

Participants in the International Conference «Volunteer movement: development prospects at the threshold of the 21st century»

Kyiv, November 1-3, 2000

Conclusions.

Over a few years volunteering in Ukraine not only acquired broad scope, but also gained an honourable status among young people.

Today, volunteer movement is supported by national entities at different levels. In March 2001 Presidential Directive «On Holding the International Volunteer Year in Ukraine in 2001» was signed. In the beginning of 2002 the State Committee of Ukraine on Family and Youth established the Co-ordination Council on development of volunteer movement in Ukraine.

UNICEF programmes contributed to the volunteer movement development as a youth participation component, and some time later young people themselves, as well as Ukrainian Government, started supporting it.
3.4. Social services and technologies development: All-Ukrainian fairs of social projects, programs and services.

All-Ukrainian fairs of social projects, programmes and services were held in Kyiv in 2000 and 2001. The event was organised by the State Centre of Social Services for Youth with support provided by UN Children’s Fund in Ukraine.

The fair was aimed at presenting innovative technologies in the field of social work with children, young people, women and different categories of families, and at identifying priority action areas.

The major objectives of All-Ukrainian fairs of social projects, services and technologies are as follows:

- Shaping social policy, developing social projects and programmes;
- Developing social services sector;
- Identifying the most effective social technologies and ways of providing social services;
- Developing volunteer movement;
- Building partnerships between government and non-governmental organisations, social-oriented establishments, etc.

First All-Ukrainian fair of social projects, services and technologies took place on November 1-3, 2000 in the city of Kyiv, in the building of the Ukrainian House Exhibition Centre. Organisations from all the regions of Ukraine - winners at their local fairs held in April 2000 - were invited to take part in the All-Ukrainian fair.

The fair participants had the opportunity to study the system of interaction between government agencies and non-governmental organisations working for youth policy implementation and with their practical activities.

113 organisations and agencies participated in the second All-Ukrainian Fair of Social Projects, Programmes and Services in November 2001, including representatives of social services for youth centres and NGOs from all the regions of Ukraine, Armed Forces of Ukraine, National Employment Service, Penalty Enforcement Department, All-Ukrainian Public Centre «Volunteer», Ukrainian family planning association, Ukrainian Veterans Organisation Council, Labour Unions Association of Ukraine, «Faith, Hope, Love» public movement and other organisations.

In 2001 a survey was conducted among the visitors within the framework of the All-Ukrainian Fair of Social Projects, Programmes and Services.

According to the survey findings the fair visitors identified the following priority activity sectors in social work with young people:

- Preventing negative developments in youth environment;
- Disseminating knowledge on building healthy lifestyle;
- Organising meaningful leisure for children and youth;
- Providing assistance for children and young people with specific needs;
- Providing psychological, juridical and medical counselling and assistance;
- Organising the work of «Trust phone»;
- Disseminating information about the rights of children and young people;
- Assisting young people in finding jobs.

Most fair participants are convinced that volunteer participation in social work has broad prospects and will expand in future, and that important work can not be carried out by the volunteers’ efforts only. Cooperation with professionals should be a must. Conditions are to be created for volunteers’ work and incentives should be provided for them. Increased numbers of volunteers and their activism guarantee the improvements for all age groups of citizens.

Such fairs are expedient, according to visitors, because their feature programmes and services suitable for today’s needs, they give an opportunity to be exposed to other organisations’ practices, to try their forms and models of work; the fairs also propose the ways of handling current problems and offer a lot of innovative and interesting information.

Fair participants’ suggestions regarding social services for youth development in Ukraine can be divided into three categories:

1. Organisational – step-by-step development, clear identification of object and activities, developing service-providing network; handling the issues of financing and activity sector expansion.
2. Informational – developing social advertising in quantitative and qualitative terms, raising the awareness of social work necessity at all the levels of government, exchanging expertise by organisations working in social sector.

3. Immediate working strategies – increasing the number of volunteers, providing incentives for them, focusing attention on children and young people with specific needs, involving professionals in the work, etc.

The overwhelming majority of participants considers it necessary to hold similar fairs in future.

Conclusions.

Taking into consideration the obtained survey results, it can be argued that the key activity goal, i.e. presenting social projects, programmes and services provided by government and non-governmental organisations to public, has been accomplished. During the All-Ukrainian fairs of social projects, programmes and services, visitors could receive interesting and useful information, and since most of them were social workers, social agencies and funds representatives, there is hope for building cooperation among organisations and for more active volunteer movement.

Holding such fairs plays an important role in establishing and developing social work in Ukraine; it gives the opportunity to involve public in handling problems of various population categories on the local level, contributes to developing charity and volunteer movement.

3.5. First All-Ukrainian mayors meeting «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities»

The Kyiv State City Administration has been co-operating with UNICEF Ukraine since 1997. Their joint actions resulted in successful launching of projects and programmes in Kyiv aimed at mobilising the city community for solving young people’s social problems. The key activity areas included motherhood and childhood protection, preventing and overcoming crisis situations in the youth environment.

Practical outcomes resulting from the implementation of the projects «Street children», «Children with specific needs», «Mobile Centre for Children’s Rights», «Youth barometer», «Youth information centre», «Resource centre», «Training centre», «Youth cafe-clubs», «Street games centres», «Youth-friendly clinics», were not only supported by young people and local authorities, but were also highly appreciated by experts during the official visits to Ukraine paid by the UN Deputy Secretary General, UN Children’s Fund Executive Director Carol Bellamy in October 1998, and Regional UNICEF Director for CEE/CIS and Baltic countries John Donohue in July 1999.

On July 2, 1999 there was a meeting between the UNICEF Regional Director and Mr. Oleksandr Omelchenko, the Kyiv Mayor; the negotiations resulted in the proposal on joining efforts, capacities and experience of Ukrainian city municipalities for children’s rights protection.

On November 5, 1999 the Appeal by Ukrainian capital’s mayor, Oleksandr Omelchenko, about launching «Mayors for Child Rights» movement was adopted.

Kyiv Mayor initiative was supported by 12 mayors of Ukrainian cities and by delegates to the children’s municipal assembly «My City – my concern».

Ukrainian city mayors’ association submitted a proposal supported by UNICEF Ukraine to hold a city heads’ meeting under the motto «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities» that was conducted in May 28 - 30 in Kyiv.

29 delegations from different cities of Ukraine, belonging to the Ukrainian cities’ Association arrived to take part in the meeting; delegations came from Alushta, Berdyichiv, Bohuslav, Vyshorod, Dnipropetrovsk, Evpatoria, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kahrarlyk, Kamyanets-Podilsky, Kaniv, Kremenchuk, Lyssychansk, Nizhyn, Nova Kakhovka, Pereyaslav-Khmel’nytskyi, Pochayovo, Poltava, Svalyava, Severodonetsk, Slavutych, Starokostyantynivka, Pereyaslav-Khmel’nytskyi, Pochayovo, Poltava, Svalyava, Severodonetsk, Slavutych, Starokostyantynivka, etc.
ARTICLE 3. «Youth Participation» Project

Truskavets, Chernihiv, Kherson, Khmelnytsky, Yaremcha, Yalta and from the city of Kyiv.

Goal.
Support the creation of interaction system between local government agencies, youth organisations and the whole society for solving the social problems of children and young people in Ukrainian cities.

Objectives:
- Mobilising Ukrainian cities' population for effective solution of young citizens' problems on both national and municipal levels;
- Identifying how young people themselves can contribute to solving their own problems, what can be done by GO and NGO representatives and by mass media for exercising and ensuring the rights of children and youth;
- Adopting the meeting resolution concerning the establishment of youth-friendly cities;

Project implementation counterparts:
- State Committee of Ukraine on Youth Policy, Sports and Tourism;
- UNICEF;
- State Centre of Social Services for Youth;
- Kyiv State City Administration;
- Kyiv Social Service for Youth.

The meeting participants included representatives of various government and non-governmental organisations from Ukrainian cities:
- City Heads or city government's representatives;
- Heads of city Social Services Centres for Young People;
- Leaders of non-governmental youth organisations;
- Local mass media representatives.

Activity: process, results.
145 persons were officially registered as the first all-Ukrainian «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities» meeting participants.

Meeting participants had the opportunity to study the system of interaction between government agencies and NGOs of Kyiv operating for youth policy implementation, as well as their practical activities.

The city heads meeting resulted in adopting the Resolution of the First All-Ukrainian City Heads Meeting «Mayors for Youth-friendly Cities» declaring the intention to establish youth-friendly cities and support the «Mayors For Child Rights» initiative.

Conclusions.
City heads meeting «Mayors for Youth-friendly Cities» demonstrated that cooperation of different agencies both at the local and national levels is a complicated problem, but joining efforts for addressing specific issues, for example problems of young people, can be only effected on the local level.

Integration and cooperation between government and non-governmental organisations, social services for youth is necessary for this kind of work. Satisfying the basic needs of young people, supporting young families means supporting the future of the nation, and developing youth movement means building the future of the country. These are the key ideas promoted in the Resolution, which testifies to high efficiency of the participants' work, their focus on youth problems and their will to develop further cooperation.

Resolution of the First All-Ukrainian Meeting of City Heads «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities»

Realizing social significance of young people in establishing and developing the future of Ukraine and acknowledging that during transition periods young people are the most vulnerable and socially unprotected category, participants in the First All-Ukrainian City Heads Meeting «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities», representatives of municipal authorities, public and youth associations, and mass media state:

- The importance of youth policy ensuring young people's health, development and self-fulfilment;
- The need for co-operation between government and non-governmental agencies, public, mass media and young people themselves in handling youth problems;
- Willingness and readiness to carry out specific activities for creating the environment that is safe and friendly for young people's health.

We, the participants of the First All-Ukrainian City Heads Meeting «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities», supporting the President and the Government of Ukraine in pursuing national youth policy, recognising UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and joining the international «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities» movement, declare our intentions:

1. To join and support the «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities» initiative.
2. To develop and implement a program for interaction among city authorities, non-governmental organizations and mass media in every city in order to promote the initiatives, rights and capacities of young people.
3. To support further development of social and specialized services for youth providing young people with informational, legal, psycho-pedagogical, medical and other forms of social assistance.
4. To develop the mechanism of attracting and encouraging private business, stakeholders, volunteers, mass media, public to helping families in crisis, HIV-positive young people, street children, orphans and young people with specific needs.
5. To identify the youth policy priorities in every city based on objective evaluation of present situation, social and young people's needs.
6. To set up information network of youth-friendly cities aimed at exchanging experience, methods and technologies of youth policies and specific programs implementation.
7. To build substantial resource basis for youth policy, national funding for youth programs through lobbying young people's interests and needs in national policy as a whole.

We express the hope that «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities» initiative will be approved and supported in all cities and regions of Ukraine.

Participants of the First All-Ukrainian City Heads Meeting «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities»
May 29, 2000, Kyiv

First All-Ukrainian City Heads Meeting «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities» voiced its unreserved support to the
3.6. «Children on their rights» survey

In October 2000 sociological survey «Children on their rights» was conducted among children aged between 9 and 17 by «Social Monitoring» centre with UNICEF support. The pressing need for analysing children's opinion was caused by preparations for the special session of UN General Assembly devoted to children's status and their rights protection.

Survey goal:

- Studying actual current children's status in Ukraine, ensuring children's rights according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Identifying the most urgent childhood problems and sectors requiring immediate intervention at the level of social policy changes.

Objectives:

- Collecting information about the opinions of various children groups concerning exercising their rights;
- Indicating the level of children's awareness about their rights;
- Identifying the level of trust to various information sources, children's social consciousness and expectations.

In the course of the project implementation:

- 5,221 children aged from 9 to 17 and 99 experts and teachers were surveyed.
- Five focus-group discussions were held with decision-makers and non-governmental organisations representatives.

The survey was conducted in 106 populated centres in five regions of Ukraine, including 82 villages and 24 cities.

The collected information affords the possibility to estimate children's social consciousness, the level of satisfying basic needs, the level of knowledge about the children's rights and the opinion on children's rights observing in Ukraine, on social environment, children activity level in handling their own problems and satisfying their needs, the extent to which information is accessible and the knowledge level, plans and prospects for the future; it also enables us to make conclusions about the most vulnerable sectors of social policy regarding children's rights protection and the possible ways of improving it.

The share of children, who for the first time heard about some rights stated by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the course of the survey, is a symptomatic indicator for the level of knowledge about the children's rights. The share of children, who have not even heard about certain rights, amounts to 9 to 28%. The least known right among the respondents was the right to be protected from intrusion into private life – 28% heard about it for the first time during the survey. The rights to be protected from the information threatening child's well-being (22% heard of it for the first time), to be protected from kidnapping (21%), from forced, unbearable, unsafe labour (21%), from sexual exploitation (21%) were also little known. The rights at least superficially familiar to the majority of respondents included the right to parental, relatives', society's and state care, the right to use the child's culture and language (only 9% heard about these rights for the first time). The right to education is rather well-known (unknown to only 12%) and the rights of orphaned and disabled children to special care (unknown to 11%).

According to the survey findings, 8% of children know none of their rights, declared in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost two thirds (57%) of children aged 15 - 17 receive the information about the rights granted to children under international agreements on child rights from school curriculum; 9-12 - year old children – from TV programmes. For adolescents at the age of 13-14 the information emphasis in child rights moves visibly towards mass media (72%), yet the second place in the relative rating among the information sources belongs to parents.

One fifth among the most socially vulnerable children groups (disabled children, Gypsy (Roma) and migrants’ children, children from problem families and families with many children) know nothing at all about the children’s rights.

The level of knowledge about their legally enshrined rights among the children staying at residential institutions for orphans and children deprived of parental care is not high. Only 26% of children state that they know their rights. 27% know their rights in general, but do not know them specifically, 30% know very little about their rights. 13% of children from boarding schools consider that they don't...
have any rights at all, just duties. Legislative nihilism was displayed by 12% of the surveyed, who stated in their answers that children do not need to know their rights – the child’s life won’t change, no matter if (s)he knows her/his rights or not. Over one third (36%) of surveyed children could not even name the rights they knew.

According to evaluation by experts dealing with children’s rights in some way in their work, in Ukrainian community the requirements of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are really known only to the immediate protectors of these rights and to specialists working with children. Some experts are sure that the key provisions of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are not known to anyone at all. As teachers admitted, a third of them from time to time feel lack of knowledge on the child rights, and some of them face this problem daily. Only one sixth of teachers, educators and lecturers suppose that they are thoroughly knowledgeable in the child rights.

Conclusions:

- the children’s awareness level about their rights is quite high;
- nevertheless, the knowledge is not deep. Children lack apprehension and understanding of what certain rights mean and the ways it could be implemented;
- discussing the rights and rights’ protection issues has not yet become a norm for most children. That means that the level of children’s knowledge on their rights can not be considered as adequate.

The survey resulted in designing the following recommendations:

- children’s legal education should start at elementary school, but using the language understandable for them (games, drawings, appliqué works, computer improvisations etc.); the programme should be gradually complicated by involving such forms as training, seminars, practical work. Introducing such practices to educational establishments requires teachers’ special training both in raising awareness about the children’s rights, and in alternative teaching methods;
- special attention should be given to children belonging to vulnerable categories who remain completely unaware of their rights. That’s why special programmes and methods should be developed for working with this group in conjunction with social workers, family and youth affairs staff, specialists working with minors, psychologists, police services, etc.;
- dispatching informative messages about the children’s rights to children through various mass media sources is extremely important;
- developing information dissemination development based on peer-to-peer method remains a topical issue;
- particular emphasis should be laid on raising awareness on children’s rights among disabled children, children at residential institutions, street children, children from problem and large families and other least socially protected categories of children;
- various forms of indirect adult education should be developed and implemented in practice (including parents) on child rights, their views, needs, expectations, values, specific features of culture and superstitions.

3.7. Regional youth opinion poll survey

According to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is an active and useful family, community and society member. Yet, addressing children and adolescents systematically for their opinions has not been a common practice until recently. Trying to find out young people’s opinions on a more systematic basis, UNICEF started a series of regional public opinion polls among young people, the ultimate objective being to set up a database that will help the

Table 3. Children’s awareness level about their rights, %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Right</th>
<th>Which children’s rights do you hear about for the first time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protecting children from sale and trafficking</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right for highest attainable standards of health care</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection from cruel treatment</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to be protected from drug abuse</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right of orphaned children to special care</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to be protected from sexual exploitation</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to adequate nutrition</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right of disabled children to special care</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children should not be engaged in hazardous labour</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to education</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to adequate living standards</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to express opinions freely</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to be protected from interference into the child’s private life</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The children’s right to survival and healthy development</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to recreation and leisure</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality of rights for all children</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to care</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to be protected from harmful information</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right of children in conflict with the law for justice development</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility of information on child rights</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The children’s rights for developing their talents</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to getting information</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s right to enjoy their culture</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to join social associations</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to confess her/his own religion</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not know of any right</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
organization to evaluate whether children's rights are observed.

Project goal:

- supporting children's participation in social life, enabling them to make their opinions, views and problems heard by the government, families, and society;
- covering the issues and problems, which children and young people consider to be of first-priority;
- providing assistance for government, non-governmental organisations, teachers, businessmen, mass media and young people themselves in better understanding of what children's ideas about their rights and what key sectors require improvement and modification;
- providing necessary information for ensuring efficient democracy and adequate management;
- contributing to the preparation towards the UN Special Session on Children (New-York, May 2002) and Global Movement for Children.

The regional survey «Young Voices» initiated by UNICEF was conducted in December 2000 – February 2001 in 35 countries of Europe and Central Asia among children and youth; it had scientific premises and was based on large-scale respondents' involvement. 400 surveys were conducted in every country, with the exception of Russia and Ukraine; in each of these countries 800 surveys were conducted among children and young people aged from 9 to 17.

In Ukraine «Young Voices» survey was held by GFK Group. The survey is a unique one in that it provides the possibility to hear what it is that bothers young people today.

First-priority questions regarded as basic during the survey:

- How happy are our children?
- How do children feel at school?
- What is the level of children's integration into modern Ukrainian society?
- What is the level of harmful or illegal substance abuse among children?
- What do children expect from politics?
- How do children estimate the situation in their families?
- How safe do children feel?
- What is the children's awareness level? How well do they know their rights?
- How do the children see their future?

Major survey findings obtained in Ukraine are briefly presented below.

How happy are our children?

- Approximately two thirds of Ukrainian children feel totally happy; 59% feel mostly happy. At the same time 37% feel happy only sometimes.
- The collected answers show that the time, spent with friends (65%), family (53%), and at school (48%). Punishments and reprimands (59%), and being at school (47%) are the moments when children feel unhappy.
- Children are equally worried by family disorders and problems at school (45%), unsatisfactory economic situation rounds second (17%).
- 31% of children consider that the economic situation is better or much better than ten years ago, especially in Kyiv (45%). Yet, 46% of the surveyed state that the life today is worse or much worse.

How do children feel at school?

- 99% of Ukrainian children attend schools, 14% work, mostly from time to time.
- Most children attend school in order to learn something (68%) and improve personal skills and capacities (55%). 42% mentioned their professional ambitions, 20% attend school because they have to do that; 18% like school.
- Most children have good or very good relations with teachers and classmates, one third have normal relations with teachers. 44% of children point out that they feel at ease or completely at ease discussing students' issues at school, communicating with teachers and with their classmates, in particular. 11% find the communication difficult.
- If given the opportunity to be entirely frank with a teacher, 1 or 5 children would not come out with any criticism concerning school life. The same portion of students would like to have better relations with teachers or improve school life organisation.

How do children see their future?

- Forecasts for their personal future and the future of Ukraine are very optimistic: 74% consider that their future will better or much better than their present, 62% state that Ukraine will become a better or much better place for living, yet 9% hold the opposite views.
- Better future is associated with better living standards and alleviation of social problems.
- Besides, children see as their ideal better political life in the country, i.e. more efficient state system, more independence and easing social tension (41%).
- 29% of children would like to live some other country, most of them named Western Europe and North America. Yet, 60% intend to live in Ukraine.
### What is the level of children's integration into modern Ukrainian society?

- 42% of Ukrainian children are members of public organisations, mostly sports clubs (22%).
- The main topics discussed with peers are school issues (49%) and leisure activities (24%).
- Children trust their mothers (95%) and fathers (78%) most of all. The level of trusting medical workers (73%) and teachers (66%) is also quite high. Approximately 50% of children don't trust the government. The share of children not trusting the President/Head of state is the same. Approximately one third of the surveyed don't trust the police, one of five does not trust the army and adults in general.
- Relations inside the group are characterised as warm and are based on mutual respect; relations with other groups are based on mutual respect as well as competition. Almost half of the children admitted that all their friends are welcome in the families, 13% - that most friends are not welcome guests in their families.
- Those surveyed consider that children from their families (67%) and children with physical disabilities (58%) suffer from negative attitude of other children, almost half of the children feel that they are treated badly (46%).

### How do children estimate the situation in their families?

- The relations with parents are estimated rather positively (the majority of children have better relations with their mother than with their father). Parents were described as caring, loving and easily getting along with their children. Bad relations were caused mostly by insufficient communication and negative attitude to children on the parents' part.
- 62% of children consider that their opinion is taken into account at home when a decision concerning them is made. Yet 23% wish to be more often addressed on the matters of spending spare time.
- 63% of Ukrainian children experienced violence or aggression - mostly through verbal abuse or physical maltreatment (11%), especially in large families (75%).
- 61% stated that their parents display anger if they think their children are misbehaving. Still, approximately a half of all the parents treat children with understanding in such situations. 59% try to talk to their parents in case they feel they are treated unjustly, while 40% do not.
- When children behave well, parents react gently (57%). Some children are awarded (26%). 37% of children say they would not change anything in family life even if they were given such an opportunity.
- The main values, which children are taught in the families, are respect for other people, the ability to appreciate good relations with others (76%), as well as honesty (50%) and discipline (41%).

### What do children expect from politics?

- 21% of children think that their opinion is not adequately considered by the local authorities during decision-making concerning children, other 46% stated that their opinion is not considered at all. Ukrainian children wish their opinion to be considered during decision-making on such issues as leisure (38%) and school/education (21%). Besides, children hope that the government will improve the situation in the social sphere (46%).
- 29% of children think that the elections are an effective method of improving situation in the country. However, in the opinion if 24% of the surveyed, elections are ineffective, or almost ineffective, 27% - effective to the same extent as ineffective, 21% - had doubts about their answers.

### How safe do children feel?

- Most Ukrainian children feel safe in their environment. Yet 19% of them admitted that they feel unsafe, especially those living in Eastern regions of the country (24%). Children feel danger in people with threatening appearance and are afraid of violence.
- 19% have friends or family members who suffered from violence. This is mostly physical violence or thefts. 7% of children were violence victims themselves.

### What is the children's awareness level? How do they know their rights?

- Most Ukrainian children suppose that they possess at least some information, albeit insignificant, about computers (84%), about their rights (80%), about drug abuse prevention (76%), HIV/AIDS (75%) and sexual contacts (72%). The rights the children managed to recollect at once: the right to study and play (70%), the right to safety and health care (46%), the right to self-respect and freedom (34%). One out of five couldn't mention any rights. The portion of children who are aware of their rights to some extent consider that their right to healthy environment, justice and protection from violence are not thoroughly observed in Ukraine.

### What is the level of harmful or illegal substance abuse among children?

- 72% of children smoked at least once in their life. Over a half have friends their own age who used alcohol.
- 42% of children have friends or acquaintances their own age, who are tobacco-dependent.
3.8. Support of children parliament movement in Ukraine and youth NGOs networks

Appeal of the World Children Parliaments Assembly in 1999 provided an impetus for setting up the children’s social organisations Association «All-Ukrainian Children’s Parliament», (hereinafter - CSOA «ACP»). On its basis the Centre for Youth Diplomacy «UNITIS» at Kyiv City Palace of Children and Youth (KCPCY) formed an initiative group in 2000 that came out with the appeal for setting up the Children’s Parliament in the city of Kyiv (CPK). The Founding session took place in 2000. In November the same year the All-Ukrainian meeting of children parliament’s representatives from Ukrainian cities was held, called «Children’s Parliament – Convention on the Rights of the Child Implementation in Ukraine». At the meeting the regional delegations were exposed to the experience in setting up CPK. The meeting participants adopted the resolution emphasising the need to set up the All-Ukrainian Children’s Parliament; a meeting was scheduled for spring 2001, and it took place in May as the Founding Assembly.

CSOA «ACP» was formed by signing the Founding Agreement about CSOA «ACP» setting up at the Founding Assembly held on May 19-20 2001 in (KCPCY). The CSOA «ACP» Charter was adopted by the Founding Assembly.

Young people health and development – setting up computer network for the children’s informational agency under All-Ukrainian Children’s Parliament project was presented at the Founding Session by the Youth Information Agency «Yun-Press».

According to the addresses of the parties signing the Founding Agreement, the involved regions can be identified: Kyiv, Nadvirna in Ivano-Frankivsk region, Chernivtsi, Sevastopol, Slavutich, Kirovograd region, Zaporizhzhya, Iviv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Odessa.

The Charter envisages the following goal and objectives:

- disseminating information among children about their rights and freedom protection on the basis of ideas and principles stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and promoting the Convention implementation in Ukraine;
- involving children and young people of the school age in participation in decision-making at municipal and national level;
- cooperation with Ukrainian and international relevant agencies in jointly-developed projects implementation;
- building cooperation with government and non-governmental structures with regard to children’s and young people’s social life;
- developing intercultural dialogue in the context of peace and non-violence;
- developing action strategies children and youth in the contexts of social activism and the right to participate in social life on municipal and national levels;
- conducting training courses in youth policy issues throughout school year;
- facilitating progressive reforms in Ukraine and contributing to their implementation;
- defending legitimate interests of children through ways envisioned by the effective legislation of Ukraine;
- contributing to cultural development and spiritual enriching of Ukrainian youth;
- providing support and various kinds of assistance for young people’s self-fulfilment in life.

Children’s parliament members identify themselves as «active young people, eager to do something practical», and the project’s object is «passive youth», requiring activation and whose attention should be concentrated on handling social issues. The parliament’s activities envision training of leaders and rallying young people.

Key counterparts:
- UNICEF;
- Administrative Department of the UN Higher Commissariat for refugees;
- Ukrainian National Youth Organisations Committee;
- Association of young Ukrainian politicians and politologists;
- Kyiv City Palace of Children and Youth.

In addition, club associations of KCPCY joined the project: «Yun-press, «UNITIS», «Business-centre», ecological and medical sections. There were reports about cooperation with mass media (broadcasting on «Promir» radio channel, publications in «Day» newspaper, youth publications of A4 format), specific activities were covered on TV.

According to CSOA «ACP» charter, the highest governing body is the children’s parliament assembly. It reviews all the projects, it has the right to make the ultimate decision. The Presidium is in charge of organisational support for parliament’s work and implements its decisions into practice.

Activity: process, results.

Organisational Committee session on setting up CSOA «ACP» – in March 2001, two CSOA «ACP» assemblies in May and October 2001, the conference «Children Parliament movement: prospects and possibilities for UN CRC implementation Third Millennium (May 2001), «All Wars Are Waged against Children» project (July-August 2001).

Now the All-Ukrainian Parliament goes through the stage of establishment and rapid development of parliament movement in the regions. Due to financial constraints ACP is unable to hold the profile commissions’ meetings, operating only through sessions, or thorough presidium and leaders' meetings. Current activities are conducted in the commissions of participant parliaments.

For example, the commissions of KCP hold their meetings in KCPCY approximately once a week, where they discuss their projects. They design work plans and draft the reports, with their activities being managed by the president of KCP. To date profile commissions already work independently, without assistance of co-ordinators whose help was required only at the first stage.

The majority of regional parliaments come to Kyiv for the second time to gain the activity co-ordination skills, yet some of them have already come out with their own initiatives for large-scaled projects. Four projects were adopted to be implemented in Ukraine in the nearest future: setting information resource centres (Zaporizhzhya), participation in the Seventh All-Ukrainian Festival of Children’s Talents dedicated to the World Earth Day in «leadership» nomination (Kirovohrad), in all-Ukrainian action «Youth Against Violence», which includes planting trees across the park alleys, holding a conference and discos (Lviv), educational training project of state development model and elections modelling (Kyiv).

Much attention is paid to developing informational support for CSOA «ACP» operation. In order to provide regular information exchange a computer network of children’s information agencies was created in five Ukrainian cities.

Project’s achievements.

Young project participants admitted the positive impact, which their activity in the parliament had on them: they became better organised, got rid of certain inferiority complexes, acquired leadership skills, got to know new friends, expanded their horizons, gained respect of their friends and acquaintances.

Young people actively undertakes the development and implementation of various peer-oriented projects. There are already well-trained young leaders capable of conducting training classes on child rights, communicative skills development, team work co-ordination, handling organisational issues, and compiling documents.

In KCPCY the project realisation created conditions for testing and implementing new ideas developed by its specialised clubs’ members.

Thanks to project managers’ efforts and to young people’s support, regional parliaments were united into one nation-wide structure, which, in its turn, provided a powerful impetus for parliament movement development in the regions.

The CSOA «ACP» members created a web-site www.pc.org.ua; they also publish a periodical information bulletin on child rights and parliament work. Information exchange goes on regularly in the computer network of children’s information agency under the All-Ukrainian Children’s Parliament on the theme of «UN CRC Implementation at the threshold of the Third Millennium».

All the participants consider the parliament an effective mechanism of youth participation principle implementation, since in their opinion it is their immediate right. They feel the responsibility for the destiny of the nation as the next generation of leaders, and the parliament already gives them the opportunity to acquire the practical experience in participating in state development.

Support was also provided in the framework of these activities to youth NGOs united into All-Ukrainian Network in order to consolidate their efforts and provide mutual assistance in implementing projects targeted at primary prevention and at promoting healthy life styles according to peer-to-peer method. UNICEF and UN Population Fund supported two Youth Forums; approximately 70 youth organisations participated in them.

Challenges.

Kyiv has an extended network of school self-government as a form of youth participation in decision making. The Kyiv Children’s Parliament is looking for an effective form of cooperation with this public structure. Generally, the participants’ understanding of relations between parliaments and self-governing bodies differs to a certain extent. Some consider them equal, while the others state that these are just different leadership forms, specific for different sectors or levels (national, local, school), and some think that self-government should become parliament’s substructure or vice-versa.

The inadequacy of practical parliament work can be felt, such as holding hearings on specific urgent issues, adopting national declarations or considering the «views of youth» on the ways to handle problems in youth environment, etc. The majority of planned activities are large-scale actions not always corresponding to parliament’s functions.

An important challenge in youth participation is the attitude of adults, especially decision-makers. Adults should pay more attention to children’s initiatives in decision-making.

Conclusions.

The project affords the possibility of implementing youth participation principle in practice.

The project implementation sphere expanded from Kyiv to almost all Ukrainian territory. Undoubtedly, youth participation has to pass the establishment stage both in youth environment, and among the government bodies’ representatives, who do not yet consider children’s parliament as their partner. Methodological and technical support provided by UNICEF makes it possible for the youth parliament to get established.

Project participants use the parliament form for addressing topical issues of youth environment. They display positive attitude to participation in implementing other profile projects on healthy life style promotion, spiritual and intellectual development of young people, raising their cultural level.

In fact, the children’s parliament is not the first one in Ukraine. In late 1990-s two parliaments existed already, but they ceased to exist because their leaders «grew older.» For parliaments’ continuous existence, not only children’s initiative, but also understanding and support on the part of adults are needed.
General Conclusions to the «Youth Participation Project»

Guided in its activities by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, «Youth participation» project contributes to implementing its provisions and to creating conditions for involving adolescents and young people in decision-making process with regard to youth issues on the national level.

With this end in view, a series of trainings involving young people was held in 1998-2001 in the project framework where effective mechanisms of engaging young people in handling youth issues on different levels of power and self-government were developed. Young people had the opportunity to master the skills of participating in making decisions concerning their problems and to come to consensus regarding further action plans and strategies for their active involvement in this process.

These training courses’ practical importance in the project framework is the following:

- The self-governed model concept and its implementation in training seminars, in practice and during research have been analysed in detail;
- The key provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child were studied and discussed during the seminars;
- The analysis of factors affecting Ukrainian children's status on the society, organisational, economic, political, legislative levels, etc. was discussed;
- Young people had the opportunity to share their experiences, mastered the principles, skills and knowledge, necessary for participating in decision-making.

Much attention within the project framework was given to mobilising volunteer movement, to developing social work in Ukraine, to supporting social services for youth system.

In order to attract the public attention to voluntary charity activities (volunteering) and social work a number of activities have been carried out throughout years 1999-2001.

The first stage in this activity was marked by the All-Ukrainian Volunteers Meeting held in October 2000. This meeting enabled the volunteers to exchange experiences and ideas, to discuss the ways of organising the volunteers work in every specific social service for youth, NGO, depending on specific region, the volunteers’ specific work, professional competence, capacities and intentions. This meeting contributed to further mobilisation of volunteer movement and to uniting Ukrainian volunteers.

The «All-Ukrainian Fair of Social Projects, Programmes and Services» held in 2000-2001 became the next stage.

These activities are beneficial for the following reasons:
- The possibility was provided to study the experience of existing organisations and to apply their forms and models of work;
- The ways of solving current problems were suggested;
- The opportunity was provided to acquire a lot of new and interesting information.

Holding similar fairs is an important activity for establishment and development of social work in Ukraine, it affords the possibility to engage public in handling social problems faced by different citizen categories on the local level, contributes to developing charity and volunteer movement.

The first Ukrainian meeting «Mayors for Youth-Friendly Cities» in 2000 contributed to the development of youth participation strategy at the city level and enabled children and youth to participate actively in the identification of their priority concerns, and in the decisions making process.

«Youth Participation» project’s achievements include the surveys «Youth Barometer», «Children on Their Rights» and «Young Voices» that made it possible to study the actual situation in Ukraine as to young people's and children's status with regard to their rights stipulated by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to identify problems and issues considered to be of first-priority by children and young people.

One of the most important activity sectors in the framework of «Youth participation» project is supporting the children's parliament movement in Ukraine.

The accomplishment of children's parliament is that it involves children and young people in practical activity on implementing UN CRC principles and ideas, disseminates the information on children's rights and freedoms protection among them, and helps to implement the Convention in Ukraine.

Children's parliament as one of youth participation forms enables young people to fulfil their potential, to exercise their right to participation in social life, to influencing it in order to handle the problems and ensure steady social development.

Young people participating in the children's parliament admit the positive impact of their activity in parliament on them: they became better organised, acquired leadership skills, got to know new friends, expanded their horizons, gained respect of their friends and acquaintances.

Due to project managers' efforts and young people's support, regional parliaments were united into one nation-wide structure, which in turn provided a powerful impetus for parliamentary movement development and expansion in the regions.

Summarising the «Youth participation» programme results, a mention should be made, first and foremost, of purposeful activities conducted by UNICEF and national counterparts aimed at involving children and young people into active participation in country's social life (see. Diagram 3).
SECTION III. «Youth Participation» Project

Diagram 3.

Raising awareness of specialists and young people on the contents «Youth participation» (training, seminars, studies, guides’ development and publishing, etc.)

Adapting existing youth participation technologies and developing new ones (research)

Pilot projects implementation

Youth participation promotion (mayors meeting, fairs, conferences)

Long-term result

Youth participation support by young people (expanding NGO network, parliaments, volunteers numerical increase)

National support for youth participation (including pilot projects into the budget, increasing the number of similar projects, government documents adoption, developing the system of social services for youth under KCNA)
SECTION IV.

Project «Youth-Friendly Environments»
(Youth information centres, clubs, playgrounds etc)

Project implementation partners:

- State Centre of Social Services for Youth;
- Social Service for Youth under Kyiv City State Administration;
- Regional centres of social services for youth;
- Local authorities, schools, clubs etc.,
- Canadian Society for International Health;
- Alcohol and Drug Prevention Information Centre;
- «Science, Art and Culture » foundation;
- Mass Media.

Project goal:

- Promote creation of «youth-friendly» environments, where young people can gather in their free time to enjoy recreational and cultural activities, have access to information on healthy lifestyles, and receive counselling and social support;
- Provide training and support to parents and adults working with adolescents, such as teachers, health and social service providers, NGO staff, community leaders and policy makers to enable them to develop approaches and methodology for social outreach work and conducting prevention activities in their schools and communities;
- Design and develop new approaches and methods of social and preventive activities at schools, clubs etc.

The Project covered the following areas:

1. Setting up youth information centres.
2. Setting up youth clubs (clubs – cafes).
3. Introducing interactive and outreach forms of youth and social work: organising street playgrounds for the kids, organising street happenings aimed at HIV and drug use prevention among teenagers and young adults, designing extracurricular activities aimed at children's development, HIV prevention and work with risk group youngsters.
4. Training young people in HIV prevention and working with high-risk youth groups at peer-to-peer basis.
5. Setting up a mobile information centre on child's rights.
6. Resource centres for youth, social services and youth NGO staff. Designing and printing informational and educational materials (IEM).
4.1. Youth information centres (YIC)

Within the framework of this subproject, UNICEF supported setting up and operation of 5 youth information centres in Ukraine. In Kyiv it is the Youth Information Centre (YIC), which is a subdivision of the Centre for social development of children and young adults SPOK, and Youth Innovation Centre «Media-M» set up under the auspices of the Kyiv Shevchenko National University. In Odessa, the Centre operates under the non-governmental organization «Our Children», in Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk – under NGOs. Subprojects on creating and developing youth information centres have been implemented in Ukraine since 1998.

The important feature, which makes the centres different from mass media, is that final information product is created by young people and targeted at young people. Operation of YIC stipulates involvement of significant number of children and young adults into the programme, thus providing an alternative to the negative street phenomena, i.e. idling and wasting efforts and time, and bringing them together around interesting and important activities. The young people directly participating in the programme have a chance to express themselves, acquire professional skills and practical experience. The YIC products are aimed at specific audiences; they create favourable conditions to supply young people with health-care related information. Besides, YIC permit to make public young people’s views on current events in the city, the country and the world, to draw public attention to the issues, which are important for children and young people. YIC grant information services both to individuals and youth organisations in need of organisational advice, search for partners, activities promotion, uniting their efforts in bad habits prevention.

Project goal:

- involving young people into the search, analysis and dissemination of information about health-related problems and ways of their resolving;
- creating information space for all categories of children and youngsters;
- rendering preventive counselling and information services to children and young adults.

Objectives:

- planning and implementing educational activities; supplying young people with information back-up on the issues of negative phenomena prevention, promotion of healthy life styles, mobilising city youth and community participation for resolving social problems, supporting youth civic movement;
- designing self-made printed materials, social advertising, newspapers, magazines;
- setting up an information archive;
- involving children and adolescents in the process of preparing and publishing of information materials;
- providing information services for various categories of children and young adults;
- international cooperation; studying and disseminating the advanced international practices in creating self-made printed materials and distributing them in youth environment;
- human resources training for youth information centres;
- establishing linkages with other institutions, organisations, associations and individuals working in similar areas.

The main focus of the programme are the young

- NGO members, students, undergraduates, people with special needs, those who are facing crisis situations and need help.

The make-up of the programme’s implementers depends on whether the YIC were set up under NGOs or state organisations. At NGOs the programme is implemented by their members, at the Social Service under Kyiv City State Administration – by information department, and enlisted specialists: mass media professionals, YIC volunteers and members of children and youth non-governmental associations.

Activities: process, results.

The history of YIC dates back to 1997, when a seminar on designing printed information and educational materials was held for the YSSC specialists, NGOs and institutions in Kyiv. The first YIC opened their doors in 1998-1999 in Kyiv and Odessa.

In 1999 a training seminar in healthy life styles was conducted for volunteers and YIC staff in Odessa. It was aimed at studying the mass media’s impact on young people’s mode of life and behaviour and principles underlying the printed materials design.

In the course of the seminar, its participants evaluated and developed IEM aimed at harmful habits prevention among peers.

Over the programme’s expansion in time and space its scale was undergoing changes. Thus, YIC SPOK in 1999-2000 worked on setting up youth information centres under district (urban) social service and non-governmental organisations.

Generally speaking, the main YIC operation area is publishing. YIC design their own materials on healthy life style promotion, negative phenomena prevention among the young people; children’s rights protection, operation of children and youth organisations. On the basis of YIC SPOK’s Web page was created. It is being updated and new design is being developed. The Centre provides an opportunity for city organisations to design their own materials. The «Big Game» magazine, covering operation of youth organisations, volunteers and scouts movement, summer camps, other events and activities, is under development.

Today YIC SPOK has its own youth TV and broadcasting studios. The TV studio once a month transmits the «Overcoming» programme, aimed at the young people with special needs, videos about cigarette smoking, alcohol and drug use hazards, HIV/AIDS threat were created.
From the beginning the studio operated on the «peer to peer» principle. Therefore, the entire production chain, from script writing to technical processing, is being performed by young people. Those who have been working on the programme for some time now offer training to the new volunteers.

Broadcasting materials are in great demand among the educational establishments interested in transmitting the programmes addressing the issues of children’s rights, smoking and alcohol abuse prevention through school broadcasting centres.

The Odessa public youth information centre was created in 1998 under the NGO «Our Children». It functions as the coordinator for the consolidation of state bodies’, NGOs’ mass media and public efforts in covering youth-related problems and offering ways of their resolving. YIC operation significantly facilitates search for information, accelerates information exchange, and permits to enhance the efficiency of measures and steps taken.

Over the years 2000 and –2001, YIC carried out training for 150 volunteers, who then became part of the permanent task force. They organised «round tables», seminars, trainings, produced a number of videos and clips on healthy life styles.

YIC in Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk are focused on producing the articles on youth-related issues for mass media.

The main challenge for YIC is young age of its members, which means not only rapid change of interests, but also rapid change of social status.

At various stages, all YIC created with UNICEF support faced similar problems of staff rotation: young people were growing up and choosing careers, new young people were arriving, who had to be taught everything anew.

Another problem is presented by the constant need for substantial material resources to ensure YIC operation on the equipment, producing competitive state-of-the-art information products.

Conclusions.

YIC programme proved the necessity for further activities, improvement of existing ways and methods, youth involvement in programme operation, volunteers training, establishing direct contacts with mass media, search for new partners and sources of financing needed for high-capacity technical back-up.

YIC are an inseparable component of YPHD programme.

The operation of all the other subprojects is covered by YIC, thus providing the opportunity for young people to participate in the project and volunteers’ movement. They became most instrumental in influencing public awareness, providing information about social services for youth and organisations were they could be obtained.

4.2. Youth clubs-cafes

The project «Youth cafe-clubs» was launched in 1998 within the framework of YPHD programme.

One of the main aspects of youth cafe-clubs activities is prevention of negative phenomena in youth environment, and, in particular, promotion of healthy life styles.

Youth cafe-clubs became cigarettes-, drugs- and alcohol-free places, where young people acquired vast opportunity to structure their leisure. The cafe-clubs have quickly become popular with the youngsters; by summer 2000 they actively functioned within the youth social services in Leningradsky, Podilsky, Kharkivsky and Zhovtnevy districts of Kyiv, under the auspices of such NGOs as SPOK, «Vidrada» and in the city of Odessa.

Cafe-clubs’ goals:

- Creating safe and friendly environment to promote development and healthy life styles;
- Ensuring free access to the information concerning healthy life style, counselling and social support;
- Developing young people’s creative potential; providing leisure facilities, providing opportunities for physical and spiritual development.

Objectives:

- Setting up youth-friendly environment, where teenagers and young adults could get together for recreation and entertainment;
- Providing information on healthy life styles;
- Conducting individual counselling;
- Offering social support;
- Carrying out trainings and seminars to disseminate knowledge on healthy life styles alternatives.

Activities: process, results.

A range of seminars and trainings was organised as part of preparatory work for the setting of youth cafe-clubs.

In October 1998 youth training on organisational aspects of youth clubs’ operation was conducted with UNICEF support. Among the trainees were the representatives of governmental and non-governmental institutions, youth social services from Leningradsky, Podilsky, Kharkivsky and Zhovtnevy districts of Kyiv, members of Students’ parliament (the Kyiv National T.Shevchenko University, NGO SPOK, «Vidrada», DUC-78, youth and children’s clubs «Compass» «Hospodar», «Harmony», «Iskra», «StoiK» (National Technical University «Kyiv Polytechnic Institute»).

The discussions helped to identify ways and methods of rendering assistance to the cafe-clubs staff, their appearance and Code of Ethics, and ideal model of such a club. Over the training course the participants learnt a whole range of new terms and concepts, necessary for efficient operation of a youth club-cafe. Role and functions of club-cafe staff, requirements to them and behavioural models were also discussed in the course of training. A study on specific information back-up and video materials use in youth club-cafe was carried out.