

CHILDREN AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

ACTING FOR CHILDREN. ACTING WITH CHILDREN.



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in cooperation with the Government of Ukraine and partners call on municipalities to join the Worldwide Child and Youth Friendly Community Movement. We offer communities at all levels an effective tool that helps implement mechanisms to protect interests, increase prosperity, safety for children and young people, as well as promote respect for their views.

The Child and Youth Friendly Community Initiative is a global movement initiated in 1996 in the framework of practical implementation of the resolution adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). Today, the initiative spans the world and already covers more than 3,000 municipalities in 38 countries on five continents. Currently, the Child and Youth Friendly Community Initiative covers 30 million children.

Partners of the initiative in Ukraine are United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine; Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine; Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine; All-Ukrainian Association of Local Governments "Association of Ukrainian Cities"; Association of local self-government bodies "Association of consolidated territorial communities"; Public union "National Youth Council of Ukraine".

We support the ambitious goal of attaining leadership in terms of the number of child and youth friendly communities, thus promoting the image of the country that not only respects rights of children and young people, but also makes investing in them as a priority. It is important to note that there is no place for a formal approach in this process: only those who deserve and demonstrate through concrete action will receive the honorable status of a **Child and Youth Friendly Community and the corresponding logo**.

THE CHILD AND YOUTH FRIENDLY COMMUNITY: WHAT IS IT?



A global movement that brings together local authorities, civil society, and business to reach consensus in key areas of developing well-being for all children and youth.



Safeguards to ensure that there are no "invisible" children and youth in the community. Focusing on innovative solutions, the initiative stimulates social elevators and provides new opportunities for children and youth from vulnerable populations.



Opportunity of positioning the municipality as a place where children's and youth rights are respected, as well as, through the UNICEF accreditation procedure, an actual prospect of attracting investment to the municipality.



Change of priorities in all decision-making: by joining the initiative, local authorities recognize that well-being of children and youth as well as respect for their interests are the key objectives of their activities.



A friendly environment, where favorable conditions for development are created and where every child and young person can fully realize his/her potential.



Practical tool that accelerates the implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and *Revised European Charter on The Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life*, as well as contributes to the realization of the *Sustainable Development Goals* at the local level. It contributes to comprehensive protection of interests of children and young people by coordinating efforts of all departments, structures, and actors.



Child and youth participation in community life. The initiative promotes the engagement with children and youth at all stages of local development. As a result, children and youth can constantly keep changing their community for the better.

HOW CAN ONE JOIN?

-  **1** Make the decision to join the initiative and sign the respective Memorandum with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).
-  **2** Analyze the situation of child and youth rights in municipality.
-  **3** Select at least 3 goal areas that the municipality will work on.
-  **4** Draft an action plan and the budget to be implemented in the coming years.
-  **5** Obtain the **initiative candidate logo**, which can be used both in internal communication and for communicating with municipalities of other countries, partners, and businesses.

HOW CAN ONE OBTAIN THE STATUS OF CHILD AND YOUTH FRIENDLY COMMUNITY?

In the next 2 or 3 years, the municipality works to implement the action plan drawn up earlier. UNICEF evaluate its implementation. If the results are deemed appropriate, the municipality receives the honorary status of a **"Child and Youth Friendly Community"**.

The next step is a new cycle of work in the selected areas, as establishing a friendly community is not an outcome but a process of practical changes. Participation in the initiative proves that authorities and community members keep caring about children and youth, and they do not want to stop at what they have achieved.



ASSISTANCE BY THE UN CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF) AND PARTNERS

- Situation of children's and youth rights as per UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Drafting and Budgeting of the Action Plan.
- Facilitating the cooperation among Ukrainian municipalities and Child Friendly municipalities all over the globe.
- Children and young people participation in local development.
- Fundraising.

CONTACT US

For more detailed information and if you wish to join the program, please, contact us:

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www.unicef.org.ua