



British Embassy
Kyiv



ENGAGEMENT, CONNECTIONS, AND EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH IN UKRAINE RESEARCH





LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AR of Crimea	the Autonomous Republic of Crimea
CMU	Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
IDP	internally displaced person
KI	key informant
KIIS	Kyiv International Institute of Sociology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
SW	software
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VS	vocational school
FGD	focus group discussion
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
PR	Public Relations
WHO	World Health Organization

The views and opinions contained in this document do not necessarily reflect the official position of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) or the British Embassy in Kyiv.



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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Civic engagement of young people and their willingness to commit themselves to self-education, charity, volunteering, and caring for the environment has a positive impact on local communities, increases their resilience, and encourages the leadership capacity of young people. The youth's capability to take a proactive position in bringing about positive change in their communities requires a platform that unites young people and other stakeholders representing the state, civil sector, business, etc. To address this, the youth infrastructure and network of youth spaces operating at the national, regional, and local levels have been prioritised in the country's youth policy.

In October-December 2021, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine (MoYS) carried out complex research within the Project "Engage, Connect, Empower: Building Resilience through the Integrated Action of Dynamic Youth and Local Government for the Environment (BRIDGE)" funded by the British Embassy. The Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) implemented the data collection stage within this research.

On one hand, the study evaluates the youth's role in building communities' social cohesion and resilience through engagement in community-based initiatives and youth infrastructure. On other hand, this study aims to profile the capacity of youth spaces (centres), including the assessment of their physical infrastructure, human and social capital, means of external communication, the experience of providing the services to vulnerable populations, and barrier-free access for young people with disabilities and for young people with limited mobility.

The study was implemented before the 24 February 2022 Russian Federation's military offensive led to the full-scale war in Ukraine. It triggered an unprecedented humanitarian crisis across the entire country affecting the lives of young people and communities in various ways. Over 7.1 million people have been internally displaced since the invasion of Ukraine¹ of whom almost one-third of young people aged 18-34. Those young people moved to other regions of the country looking for safety and shelter, losing property, access to education, and standard living conditions. While others have remained in their habitual places of residence with limited access to livelihoods and essential services. As for youth infrastructure, starting from February 2022, youth spaces promptly redeployed their activities using existing capacities. Those elements of youth infrastructure have been supporting the distribution of humanitarian assistance to the population affected by the war in Ukraine. They are becoming volunteer focal points, headquarters for assistance to displaced persons, collection of humanitarian aid, assistance to the military, and territorial defence². However, some youth spaces have been affected by the war. According to the Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, 17 youth centres in Ukraine were destroyed or occupied³.

The research combines two surveys, one of which targeted youth centres personnel and another youth aged 14-35. Additionally, the research gathers information via the focus group discussions carried out with youth, youth centres personnel, youth-focused organisations, local authorities, and the private sector to complement the results of the quantitative study component. For the purpose of data collection, 24 regional teams of interviewers in a total of 155 people (of which 139 were women

¹ https://ukraine.iom.int/sites/default/files/ukraine_internal_displacement_report_r2_apr_2022_eng.pdf

² https://mms.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/16/Molodizhna_polityka/Molodijna%20polituka/molodizhnyy-tsentrid-chas-viyny-rekomendatsii.pdf

³ Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine. April 5, 2022. <https://mms.gov.ua/news/ministr-vadim-gutcajt-zaproponuvav-yevropejskim-kolegam-realni-kroki-dopomogi-ukrayinskij-molodi-molodizhnim-centram-ta-molodizhnim-pracivnikam-u-zvyazku-z-rosijskoyu-agresiyeyu-v-ukrayini>



and 16 men), as well as 2 focus group moderators were involved in the research activities. A brief description of the methodology is given below, and a detailed description is given in appendix one of this report.

Youth sample survey: The field stage of the nationwide youth survey lasted from late October to late November 2021. A total of 2,432 respondents represented by youth residing in 24 oblasts of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv were surveyed by a face-to-face survey. A stratified, four-stage probabilistic sample, random at each stage, was developed to carry out a youth survey.

The sample represents the population aged 14-35, who permanently reside in Ukraine, do not serve in the military, and are not in prisons or medical institutions (hospitals, medical boarding schools). The sample did not include territories that are temporarily not controlled by the Government of Ukraine: AR of Crimea, certain regions of Donetsk, and Luhansk oblasts.

Survey of Youth Centre Employees: The field stage of the survey among youth centre employees lasted from 1 November to 10 December 2021. A total of 201 respondents were surveyed, 180 of them via a face-to-face survey and 21 through a telephone survey. All respondents were youth centre employees. One representative from the youth centre who met the established selection criteria was invited to participate (18 years or older, has information on all aspects of the youth centre work).

The survey was conducted according to the list of youth centres compiled by the Ministry of Youth and Sports

DEFINITION: YOUTH

Persons aged 14 to 35 who are citizens of Ukraine, foreigners, and stateless persons who stay in Ukraine on legal grounds, according to the Law of Ukraine “On basic principles of youth policy”.

of Ukraine and submitted to IOM. All the youth centres included in the list were subject to the survey. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, a research team faced the problem of establishing first contact with youth centres. According to the instructions, the first contact

(before the visit) had to be established by phone to minimise the number of ineffective trips. It took a long time to establish the first contact, and in some cases the contact could not be established (due to a lack of relevant contacts). To minimise such cases, the team followed a precise protocol, which included (but was not limited to) the following recommendations: search for any contacts using open sources, phone calls at least three times on different business days and different business hours. Furthermore, contact was established via e-mail or messenger, communication with village or city councils, etc.

Focus group discussion. In addition, 15 online focus group discussions were held in November-December, including 8 discussions with young people aged 14-35 (including young people with disabilities), 3 discussions with key informants, 2 discussions with youth centre employees and 2 discussions with youth centre visitors. Among the participants were residents of urban and rural settlements. In total, more than 105 participants from the city of Kyiv, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson oblasts took part in the discussions.

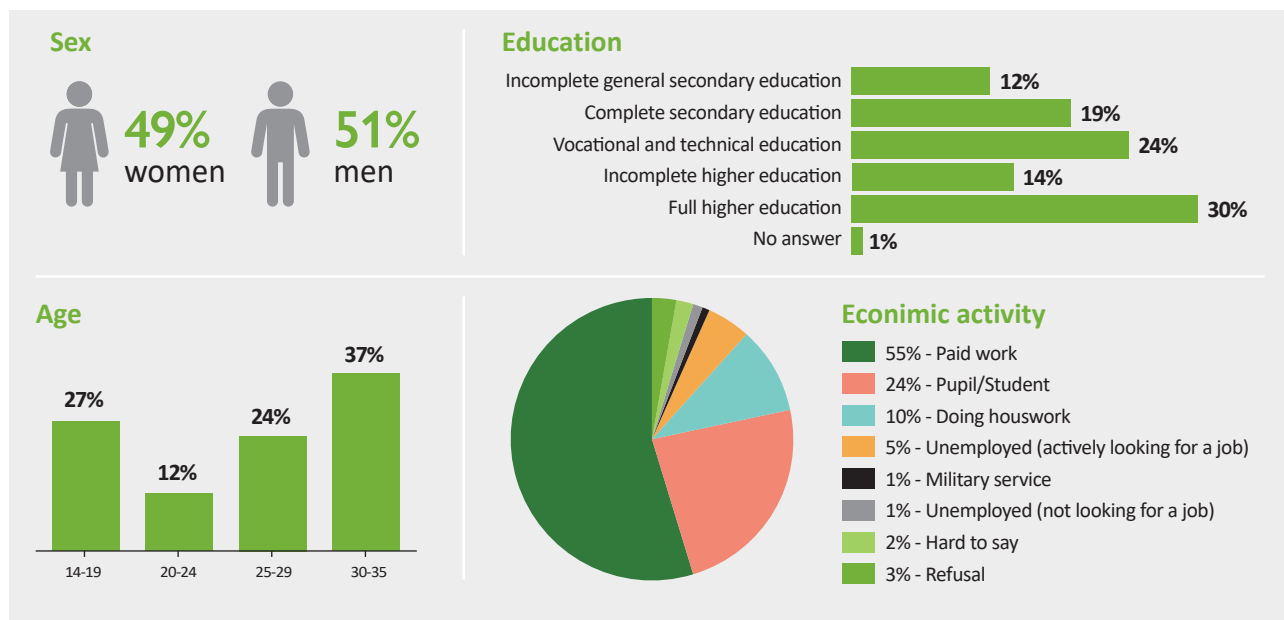
The report consists of two parts, one highlighting the results of a survey of young people, and the other - the results of a survey of employees of youth centres.

DEFINITION: YOUTH SPACE (CENTRE)

Youth space (centre) is an institution, enterprise, organization that carries out youth work the purpose of which is to promote socialization and self-realization of young people; intellectual, moral, spiritual development of youth, the realization of their creative potential; national and patriotic education of youth; promotion of a healthy lifestyle of young people; youth employment and leisure time, youth entrepreneurship; providing opportunities for civic education for young people and the development of volunteering; increasing the level of youth mobility .

SECTION 1 SURVEY OF THE YOUTH

DEMOGRAPHICS

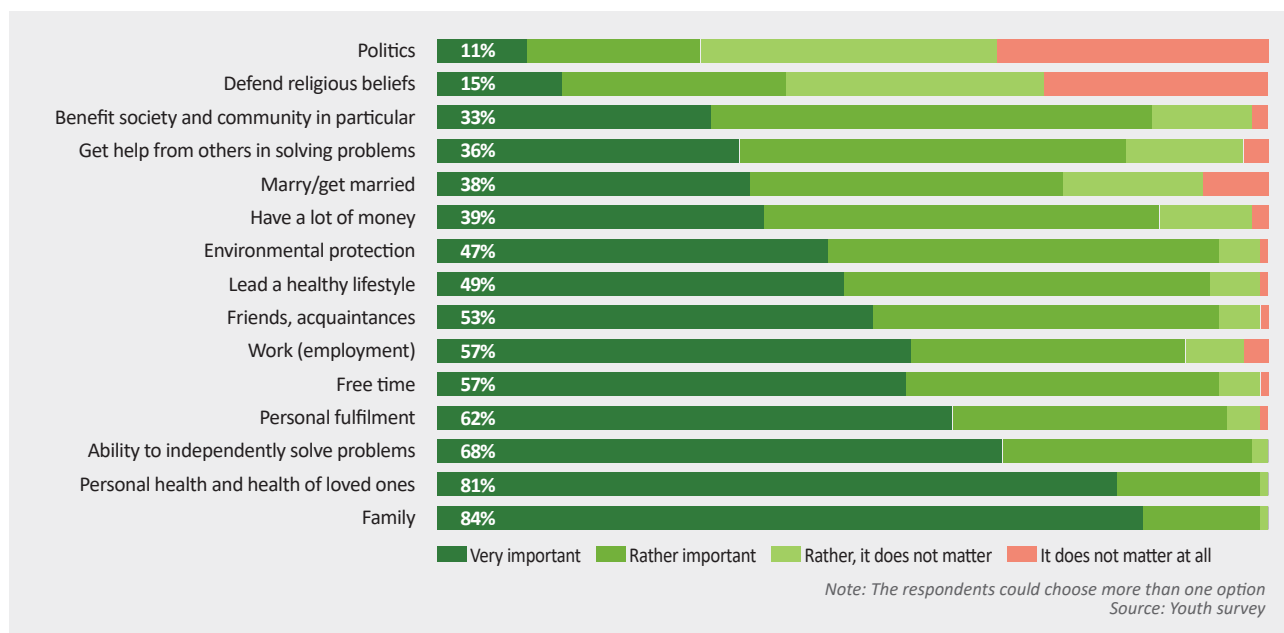


Among the surveyed youth, 3% were unemployed, 2% were persons with disabilities, 1% were veterans, and the same shares were internally displaced persons and youth deprived of parental care (1% each).

If aggregate of approximately 1% of respondents are refugees, foreigners, stateless persons, and other categories of the population, including young people from large or low-income families or young people with many children.

1.1 DIMENSION OF SOCIAL COHESION

Figure 1. Values important for youth





Values and socioeconomic orientations of young people

The top three important values for young people, there are their own health and the health of loved ones, family, and the ability to solve problems on their own. It is noteworthy that for young people it was important to be independent while solving problems and issues.

Involvement in community life and initiatives

In times of crisis, it is especially important to create conditions to strengthen young people's sense of belonging to communities and cohesion. The focus group participants associated the emergence of a sense of belonging to the community with involvement in activities aimed at achieving a common goal, including problem-solving or leisure activities. The respondents mentioned that a sense of belonging arises when they feel that the results of their activities will be appreciated by other members of the community. On the one hand, it was expressed by the formation of the perception of others.

For example, young people who play sports mentioned that it is important for them that others perceive them as successful players in sports competitions. On the other hand, it was significant for the respondents that the results of their activities were recognised and rewarded. For example, a student who studies hard should receive a scholarship. Others pointed out that a sense of belonging arises when they feel cared for by other people.

Two-thirds of the surveyed youth (68%) said they felt part of the community in which they live. One-quarter of respondents (25%) do not feel this way and 7% did not answer this question.

Young people aged 25 to 35 feel more a part of the community than younger generations of respondents.

In my city, young people are making a lot of effective changes in environment protection, in entertainment, and including establishment of a youth centre. However, youth can take these measures when it does not need some financial support. If the measures need funding, this often includes policies that can have both positive and negative factors. For example, we have a public participation budget where young people can submit a project to the city council for funding. Unfortunately, politics is already included here.

Men, Head of the organization of the scout NGO, Drohobych

Specifically, 70 per cent of these young people reported they felt being part of the community vs. 66 per cent of youth aged 14 to 19 and 61 per cent of those aged 20 to 24. Young people from rural areas more often feel a part of the local community than urban youth (75% of respondents in rural areas vs. 65% of respondents in urban areas). There is also a relationship between belonging to households with members with disabilities and feeling part of the community: young people belonging to such households feel being part of the community less often (59% of respondents) than the rest of the male and female respondents (69%).

Young people in rural areas are more likely to participate in activities and initiatives that would change the community for the better (67% vs. 58% of young people in urban areas) and are more confident that there are no barriers to their involvement in these activities (70% vs. 59% of young

Figure 2. Awareness of activities and initiatives and willingness to join them

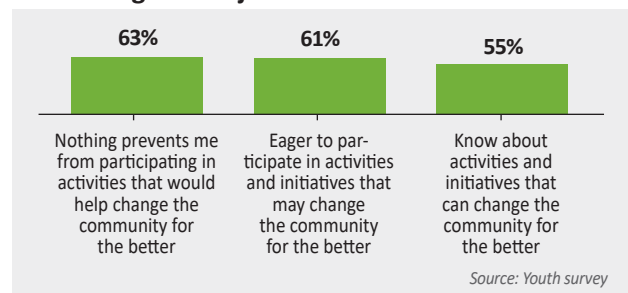


Figure 3. Types of civic activities for the last 12 months

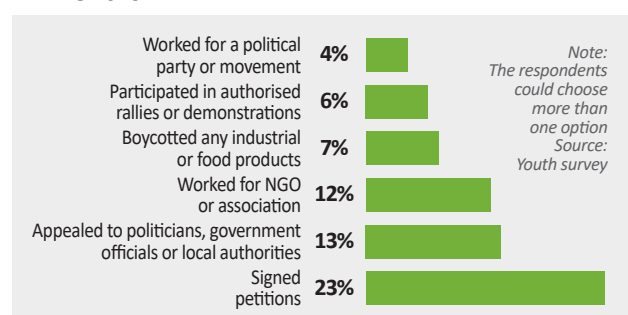
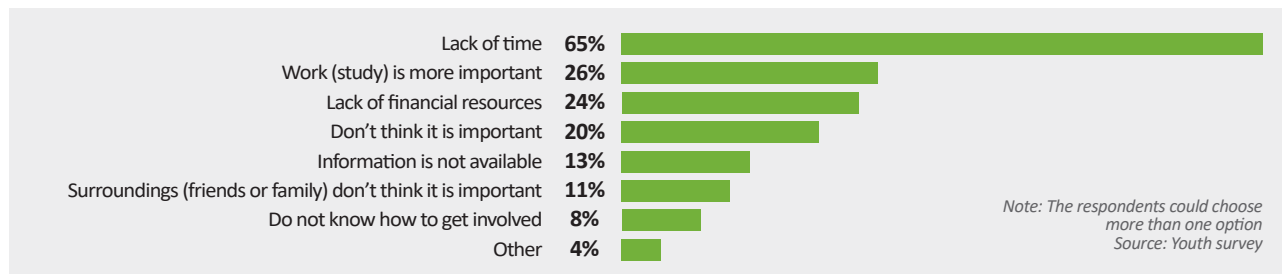


Figure 4. Reasons for the absence of charity, volunteering and interest representation



people in urban areas). Though their level of awareness of these activities is lower and closer to that of the urban youth, 57 per cent and 53 per cent of respondents in rural and urban areas are aware, respectively. Moreover, the young people from households with members with disabilities more often believe that nothing prevents them from joining initiatives for the benefit of the community (25%) compared to young people from households with members with disabilities (21%).

Among various types of charity, volunteering, and advocacy, the surveyed young people most often helped retirees and persons with disabilities (81%), advocated for offended people (79%), and assisted in the study or work of strangers who were not their relatives or friends (79%). The reasons for lack of involvement in charity, volunteering, advocacy, and educational activities are often lack of time (65%), the higher priority of work or study (26%), and lack of material resources for such activities (24%).

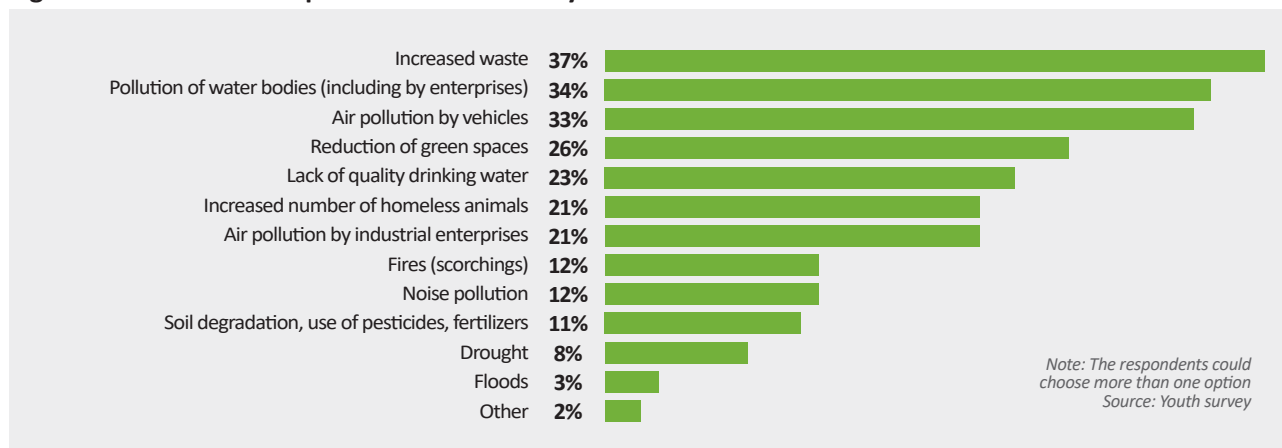
The lack of interest, desire, and indifference (27%), as well as lack of time (16%), most often prevent young

people from initiating change in their communities. Among various types of public activities, young people most often signed petitions (23%).

More than half of the surveyed young people (53%) are unaware of measures and initiatives aimed at protecting the environment and improving the environmental situation in their communities. Eighteen per cent of respondents said they neither carried out such activities and initiatives nor were involved in them despite their awareness. Only six per cent of male and female respondents said that there were such activities and initiatives in their communities and that they joined them. Another five per cent of those surveyed did not answer the question of whether they are aware of environmental initiatives in their communities.

The majority of the surveyed young people (85%) said that environmental issues were important to them personally. Among the most acute environmental issues relevant to their locality, the surveyed youth most often cite the increase in the amount of waste, water pollution, in particular, by enterprises, and air pollution by cars.

Figure 5. Environmental problems relevant to youth localities





Impact on the course of one's life

The male and female respondents were asked to indicate how much in their opinion they can manage the course of their lives. They rated their own impact on their lives on a 10-point scale, where 1 point means “I have no influence at all” and 10 points mean “I have a strong influence”. Most surveyed young people mostly believe they have a rather strong impact on their lives. 40 per cent of male and female respondents scored 7 or 8 on this scale, which means that they think they control their lives. Twenty-eight per cent of respondents scored 9 or 10 on this scale, which shows even greater confidence in control of their lives. A minimum of 2 per cent of respondents scored their impact on life at 1 or 2 points on this scale. The average score for the impact on their lives of all respondents was 7.3 points. At the same time, those surveyed aged 20 to 29 feel more confident in control of their lives than the younger and older male and female respondents. On average, they rated their impact on their own lives at 7.5 points, while those aged 30 to 34 rated it at 7.3, and those aged 14 to 19 at 7.1. Among representatives of different macro-regions, the respondents from the country's west have the greatest confidence that they have an impact on their lives, as for them, the relevant score averages 7.7 points, while for the young people from other macro-regions 7.1 to 7.3.

Trust vs. caution: the view of the young people

Similarly, the male and female respondents were asked to indicate what they thought was more important: trusting people or being cautious. On this scale, 0 points meant “Being cautious” and 10 points meant “Most people can be trusted”. Most often, the respondents gave 5 points on this scale, i.e. halfway between trust and caution. At the same time, more respondents gave 0 or 1 point, options that correspond to the value of caution (10%), than 9 or 10 points that correspond to the value of the trust (4%). The average score of all respondents for this question was 4.7 points. There is some difference in the assessment of what is more important, trust or caution, among the respondents from different macro-regions. Representatives of the Eastern and Western macro-

regions are the most inclined to trust others (their average scores are 5 and 4.9 respectively), while young people from the Southern macro-region are the least inclined (their average score is 4). The differences between the young people in households with people with disabilities and those without them also deserve attention. The young people from households with members with disabilities have an average score of 4.2 on this scale, which shows a lower level of trust in others than that of the respondents from households without members with disabilities, where the average score is 4.8.

Hard work vs. good luck and connections

What is more important for success: to work hard or to have luck and useful connections? The surveyed young people answered this question on a 10-point scale, where 1 point means “Hard work is a path to a good life over time” and 10 points mean “It is not hard work, but luck and connections that lead to success”. The male and female respondents are more inclined to attribute success to hard work: 65 per cent of them scored it 1 to 5 on this scale, which is closer to the first “pole” (“Hard work”). This share includes 32 per cent of respondents who scored 1 or 2 points, i.e. who are the most confident in the importance of work for success. Scores of 6 to 10, which correspond to the importance of luck and connections as opposed to hard work, were given by 35 per cent of respondents, including 10 per cent of those who scored 9 and 10, i.e. who are the most inclined to rely on luck and connections.

The average score of all respondents on this scale was 4.5 points, which is closer to the importance of hard work, but at the same time is close to the middle between these two “poles”. The drastic difference between hard work or luck and connections as a key to success depends on the type of community and the macro-region where they live. The male and female respondents from rural areas believe hard work to be more important than luck and connections (their average score for this question was 4 points vs. 4.7 points of respondents from urban areas). The youth of the Western macro-region also value hard work more highly (the average score is 3.7 points) than those from the rest of the macro-regions, where this score is slightly closer to the “pole” of luck and connections (4.6 to 4.8 points).

1.2. YOUTH CENTRES: VISITS, ACCESSIBILITY, SERVICES, SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Accessibility of youth spaces (centres)

It is especially important to create conditions to strengthen young people's sense of belonging to communities and cohesion, including a platform such as youth spaces where young people may interact, communicate and become active agents of positive changes in the communities. The majority of respondents (78%) said it is accessible to all categories of young people, while 14 per cent said it is not accessible to all young people. Another 8 per cent of respondents did not answer this question.

About one in five respondents aged 30 to 35 believe that youth centres are not accessible to all categories of young people. This is more than in the younger age groups, in each of which 5 to 13 per cent of respondents believe that youth centres are not accessible to everyone.

Young people in rural areas more often than those living in urban areas say that youth centres are accessible to different youth categories (82% vs. 75% of the urban youth). Conversely, the urban youth more often did not call these centres inaccessible to all (the corresponding shares are almost the same for both groups of youth: 13% of rural and 15% of the urban young people) and more often could not answer this question (10% of urban respondents vs. 5% of the rural youth provided no answer).

The young people from households with members with disabilities more often say that youth centres are not accessible to all youth categories (23% vs. 13% of respondents from households without members with disabilities). Besides, the respondents who live in households with members with disabilities more often than the rest of those surveyed said they did not know whether their local youth centre was accessible to all categories of youth (13% vs. 8% of respondents from households without disabled members).

Almost half of the young people who do not know whether there is a youth centre in their community or locality (47%) said they would like to receive information about such a centre and its activities. Forty per cent did not want to receive this information and 13 per cent did not answer the question of whether they were interested in information about youth centres.

Why do the young people not visit youth centres?

The male and female respondents who said they had never visited youth centres and did not plan to visit them listed the reasons for their unwillingness to visit such centres. The most common reasons are the lack of time and interest. Seventy-three per cent of respondents do not visit youth centres due to a lack of time and 44 per cent due to a lack of interest. Other reasons are

Figure 6. Reasons for the unwillingness to visit a youth space/youth center

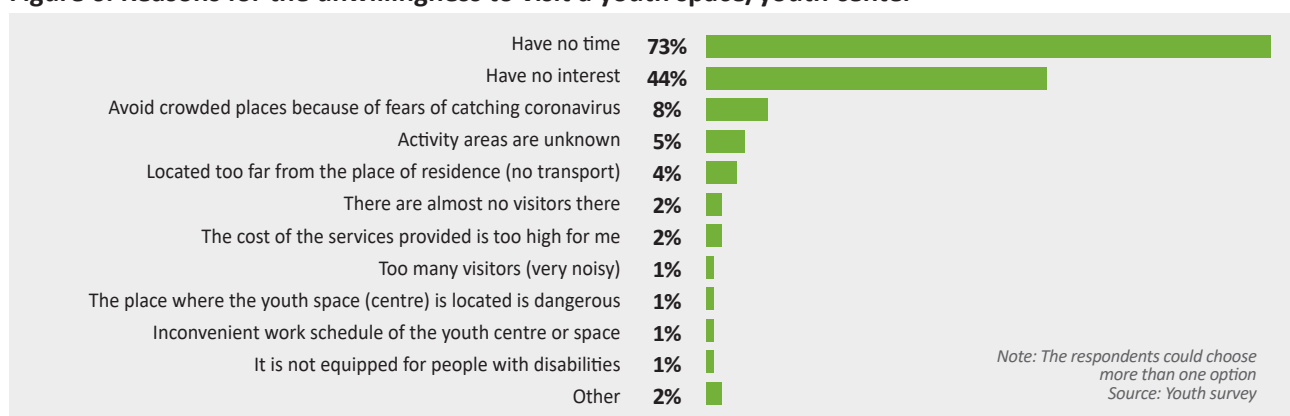
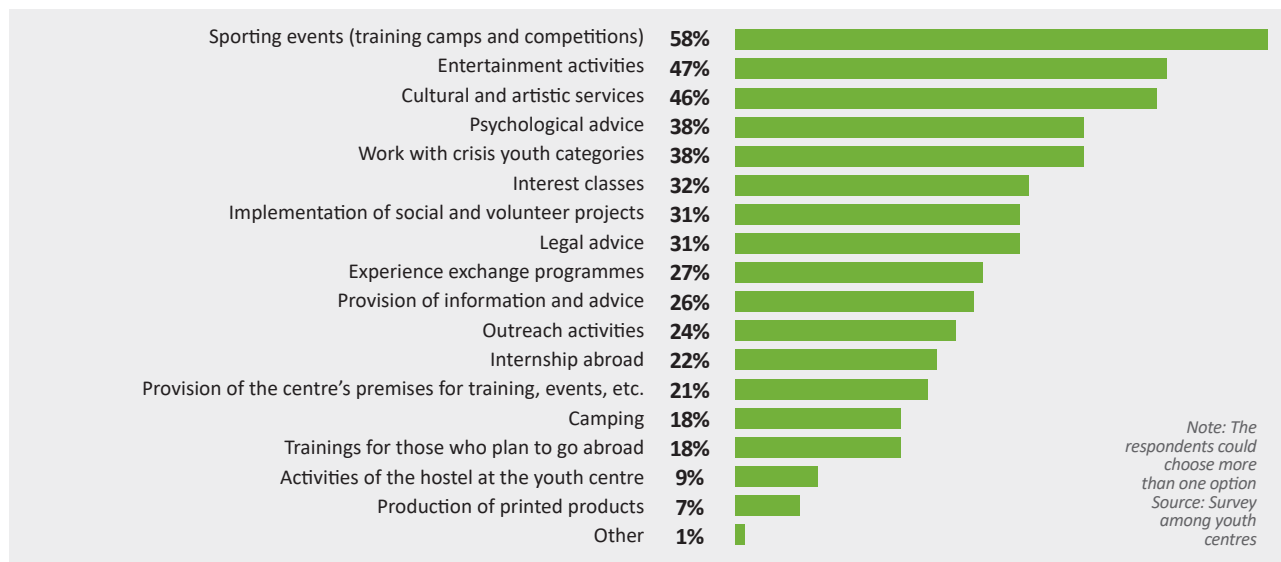




Figure 7. Expected services of a youth centre/space



mentioned much less often. These include avoiding crowded places due to the fears of catching coronavirus (8%), insufficient information on the activities of youth centres (5%) and the fact that youth centres are located far from the place of residence of respondents (4%).

The importance of the presence of youth spaces (centres) in community

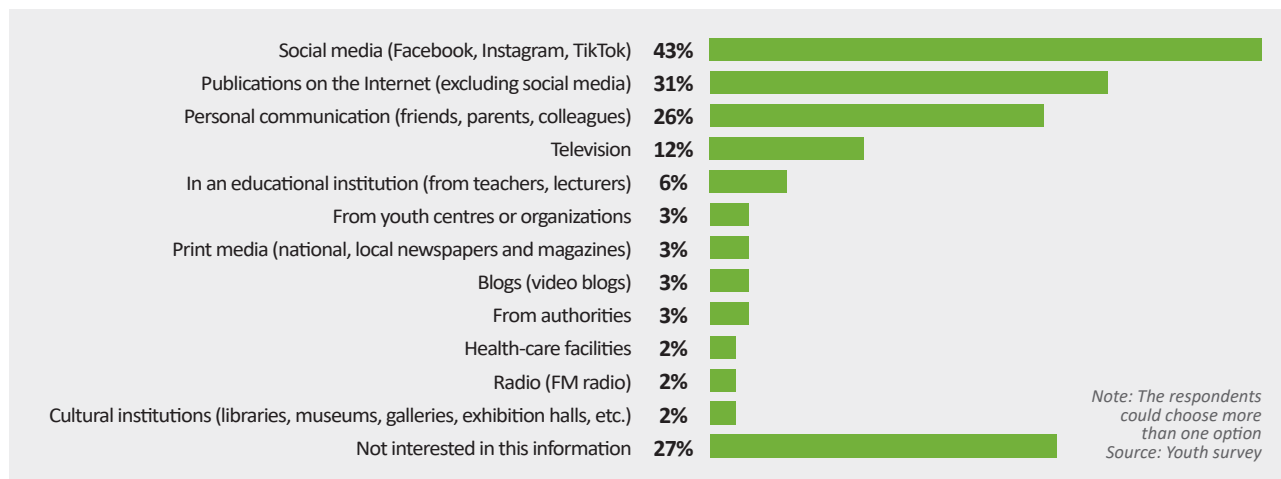
For 63 per cent of respondents, it is important that there is a youth centre or space in their community. At the same time, 22 per cent of respondents said it was not important to them personally, and 16 per cent did not answer the question of whether it was important

for them personally to have a youth centre in their community.

The functioning of the youth centre in the community is more important for women (68% of them compared to 58% of men), for rural youth (69% compared to 60% of urban youth), and for young people from Western and Eastern macro-regions (70% of respondents in Western and 67% in the Eastern macro-regions compared to 59% in the South and 55% in the Central macro-regions).

However, almost half of the respondents (46%) do not know whether there is a youth centre or space in their

Figure 8. Sources of information about youth centres



community or locality. Most of the surveyed young people, who knew that there were youth centres in their locality or community, said that they attended, had attended or would attend them. The majority of respondents (78%) said that the youth centre in their community or locality was accessible to all categories of youth. 73 per cent of respondents do not attend youth centres due to lack of time, and 44 per cent — due to lack of interest.

Expected services of youth centres

More than half of the respondents (58%) believe that youth centres should hold sports events, 47 per cent - entertainment events, and 46 per cent - that youth centres should provide cultural and artistic services. According to the surveyed young people, social networks are their most popular source of information about youth centres.

Social media are the most popular source of information about youth centres for surveyed young people. These are the main source of information

about youth centres for 43 per cent of male and female respondents. They are followed by other online publications, excluding social media content: 31 per cent of respondents use them as a source of information about youth centres. For 26 per cent of respondents, personal communication, through which they learn about youth centres, is the important source of information.

Social media as sources of information about youth centres

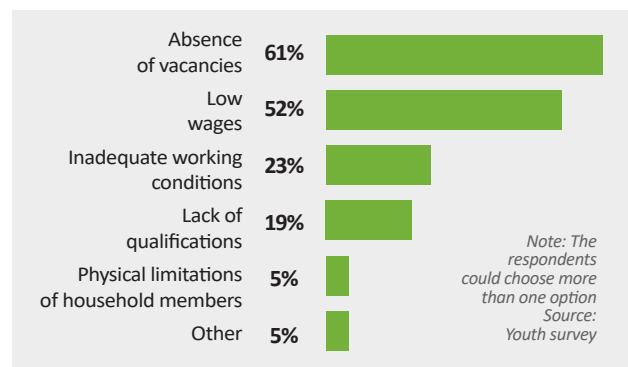
Facebook is the most widely used social media platform by the Ukrainian youth in terms of receiving information about youth centres. It was mentioned by 69 per cent of respondents who named at least one social media as a source of information about youth centres. It is followed by Instagram which is used for this purpose by 53 per cent of respondents. Social media platforms and services such as YouTube (28%) and Telegram (20%) are used slightly less often, while TikTok (8%), Twitter (3%), WhatsApp (3%) and LinkedIn (1%) are the least often used.

1.3. LABOUR MARKET SITUATION AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

Unemployment: incidence, reasons

Unemployment is quite common in the households of the surveyed youth: 29 per cent of respondents reported that in the last 12 months there were cases when members of their household could not find a job and were unemployed. Lack of vacancies and low wages are the main reasons why surveyed participants or members of their households could not find work. Positive attitudes towards working abroad prevail among the surveyed youth: 48 per cent of respondents are positive about this and are ready to consider this option.

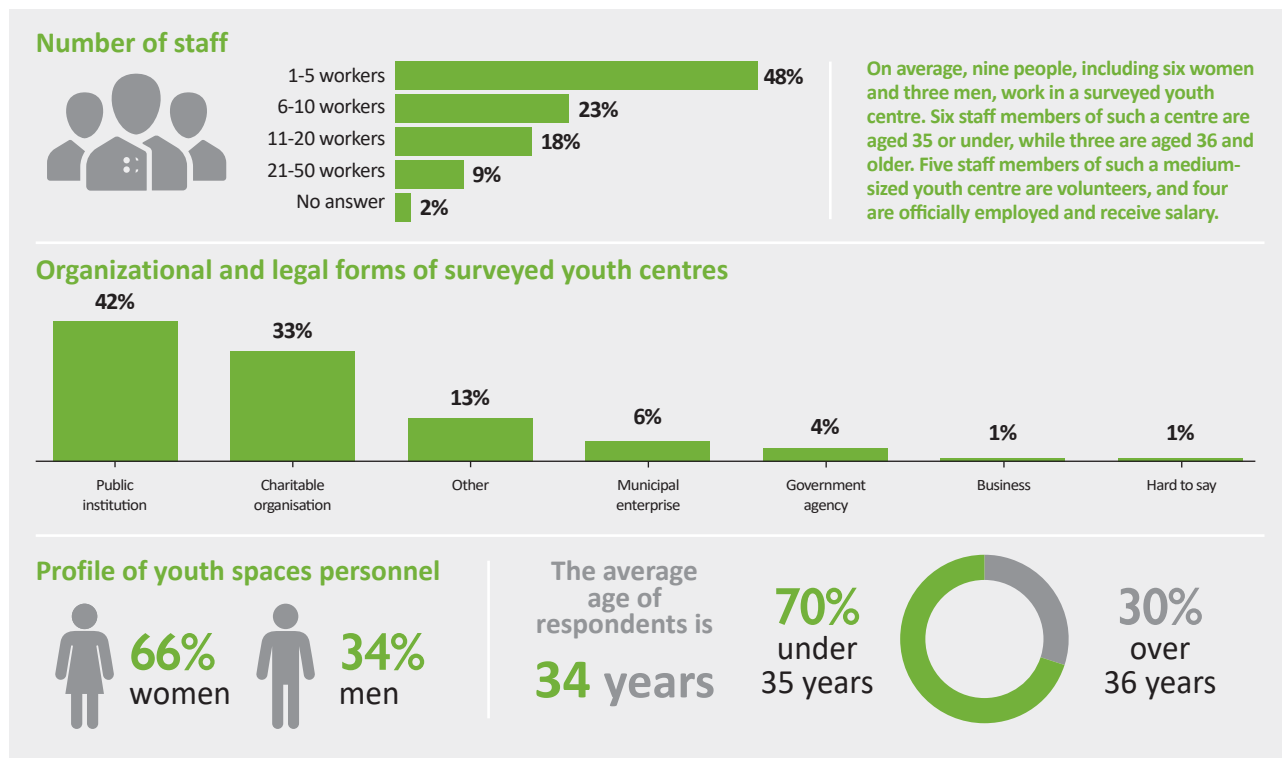
Figure 9. Reasons for unemployment





SECTION 2: SURVEY OF YOUTH SPACES (CENTRES)

PROFILE OF YOUTH CENTRES



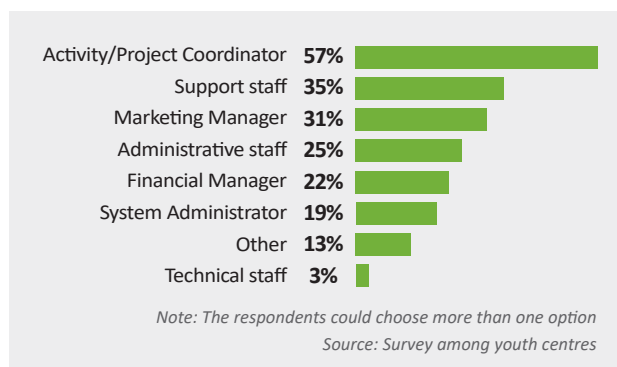
More than half (64%) of the youth centres covered by this survey are funded from the local or state budgets. Charitable contributions are an important source of funding for youth centres. They are received by 36 per cent of the centres surveyed. Slightly less (35%) are funded by international programmes or charities. Paid services provided by youth centres make up 10 per cent. Only 6 per cent of the surveyed centres reported a lack of funding at the moment of the survey.

The interviewed youth centres indicated the administrative-territorial unit they covered. Almost half of the youth centres (48%) operate on the territory of urban territorial communities. Approximately every fifth centre (19%) works in rural territorial communities, and every tenth (10%) — in township territorial communities. 15 per cent of youth centres operate in regional centres, 3 per cent — in administrative centres of enlarged districts, and 2 per cent — in Kyiv.

Staff of youth centres

Only 35 per cent of youth centres employees confirmed that their centres were fully staffed and had the required number of specialists. Whereas almost the same share of centres said that they were fully staffed but needed to expand (32%) or that they were not yet staffed (31%).

Figure 10 Staff that youth centres lack



Youth centres need, first of all, event and project coordinators, office managers and assistants. Seventy-nine (79%) per cent of the surveyed centres employ specialists certified in youth work, including those who have taken short-term specialised courses. On average, there are nine people working in each of the surveyed youth centres.

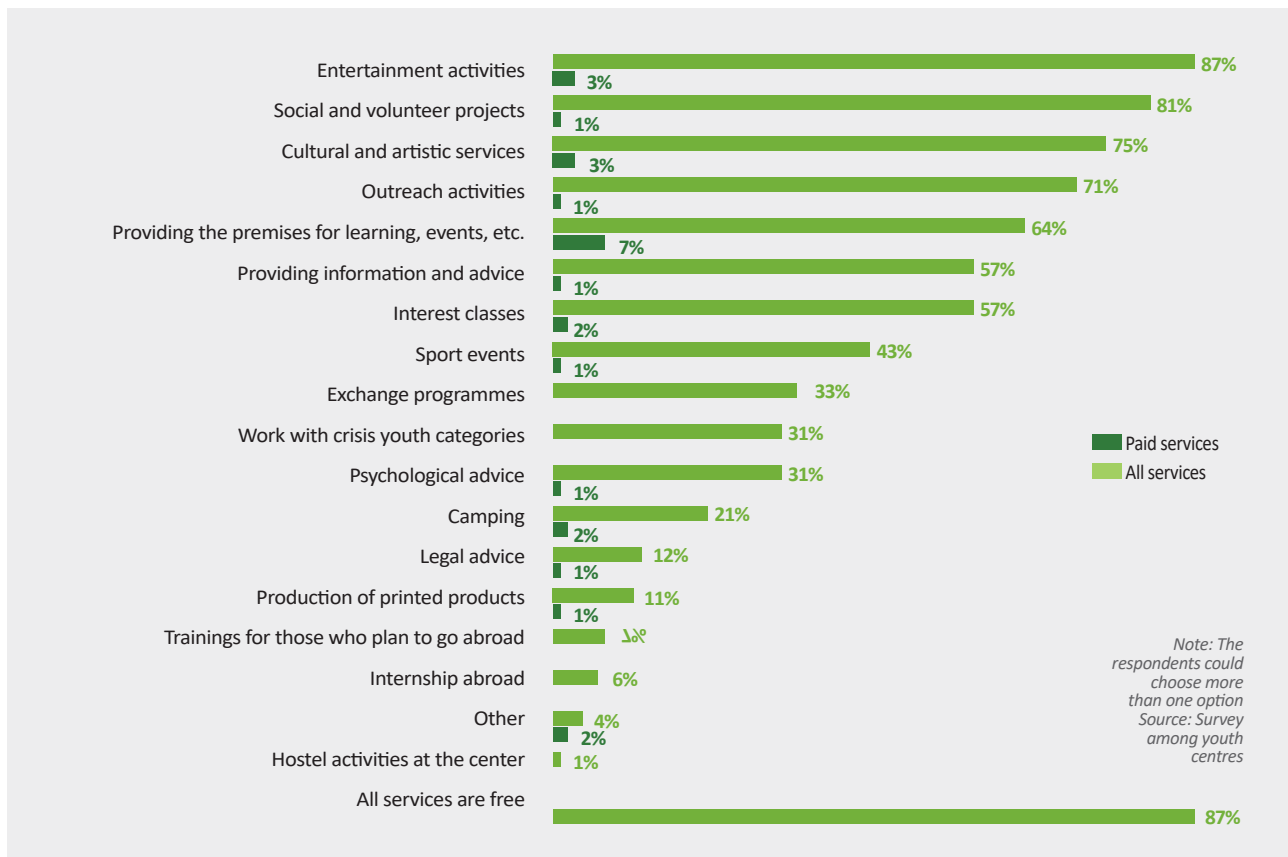
Youth centres that reported being understaffed or in need of expansion indicated which workers they lacked. These are mostly coordinators of events and projects — 57 per cent of the centres lack such specialists. Approximately a third of youth centres in need of workers require support staff, such as office managers or assistants (35%).

2.1. SERVICES OF YOUTH CENTRES

Youth centres indicated services they provide and which of these services are provided on a paid basis. The most common services are entertainment activities carried out by 87 per cent of the surveyed centres, and social and volunteer projects implemented by 81 per cent of the centres. The most typical are cultural and artistic services, provided by 75 per cent of youth centres, included in the survey. On the other hand, there are services that young

people are more interested in, and youth centres provide them comparatively rarely. These are, in particular, sporting events, legal advice, internships abroad and trainings for those planning to go abroad. Such gaps between the demand and supply of youth centre services may suggest that youth centres should tailor their services closer to the needs of the target audience and inform young people about the availability of such services in the centres.

Figure 11. All services and paid services of youth centres





Projects and programmes

Programmes and activities named by the youth centres include education and training on topics of democracy and governance, media literacy, mental health, sexual education, conduct during emergency situations, English language, public speaking, programming, robotics, first aid, as well as financial literacy training through educational and play-based activities, and development of youth leadership skills.

Youth centres promote environmental protection, hold charity events, fairs, and career events, implement volunteer projects, provide training for people who work and engage with youth, organise excursions, hikes and camps. A significant part of projects mentioned by youth centres as an example of their activities relate to creativity, entertainment and sports.

Areas of work in youth centres

The most common areas of work of the surveyed youth centres are the intellectual, moral, spiritual development of youth and realisation of their creative potential (83% of youth centres have such work-

stream), youth socialisation and self-realisation (79%) and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle of young people (76%). Activities in the areas of youth civic education and volunteering (72%), support for youth initiatives (70%) and national-patriotic education of youth (68%) are also common for the portfolio of youth spaces.

The most common services for youth centres are often referred to as the most successful. In particular, 43 per cent of youth centres mentioned intellectual, moral, spiritual development of youth and realisation of their creative potential among the most successful areas of work, and 41 per cent named youth socialisation and self-realisation. In the third place (33%), among the most successful areas of work, according to youth centres, is a national-patriotic education of youth.

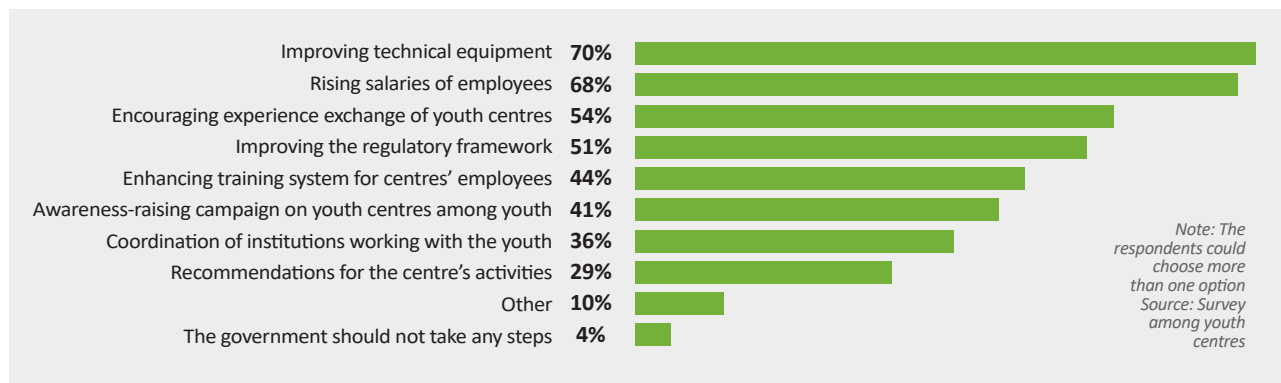
Youth centres most often lack services in such areas as promoting youth employment, occupation of youth in free time and youth entrepreneurship. It was indicated by 39 per cent of interviewed centres. Among the lacking areas, increasing youth mobility (14%), support for youth initiatives (13%), and other areas were mentioned much less often. In addition, 32 per cent of youth centres did not name a single area of work they lacked.

2.2 EXPECTATIONS OF YOUTH CENTRES FROM THE STATE

The interviewed youth centres were asked to indicate what priority steps, in their opinion, the state should undertake to promote the activities of youth centres.

According to the surveyed centres, most of all, they expect the state to improve the technical equipment of youth centres and raise the salaries of their employees.

Figure 12 Expected steps from the state to support youth centres



What legal and regulatory changes do youth centres need?

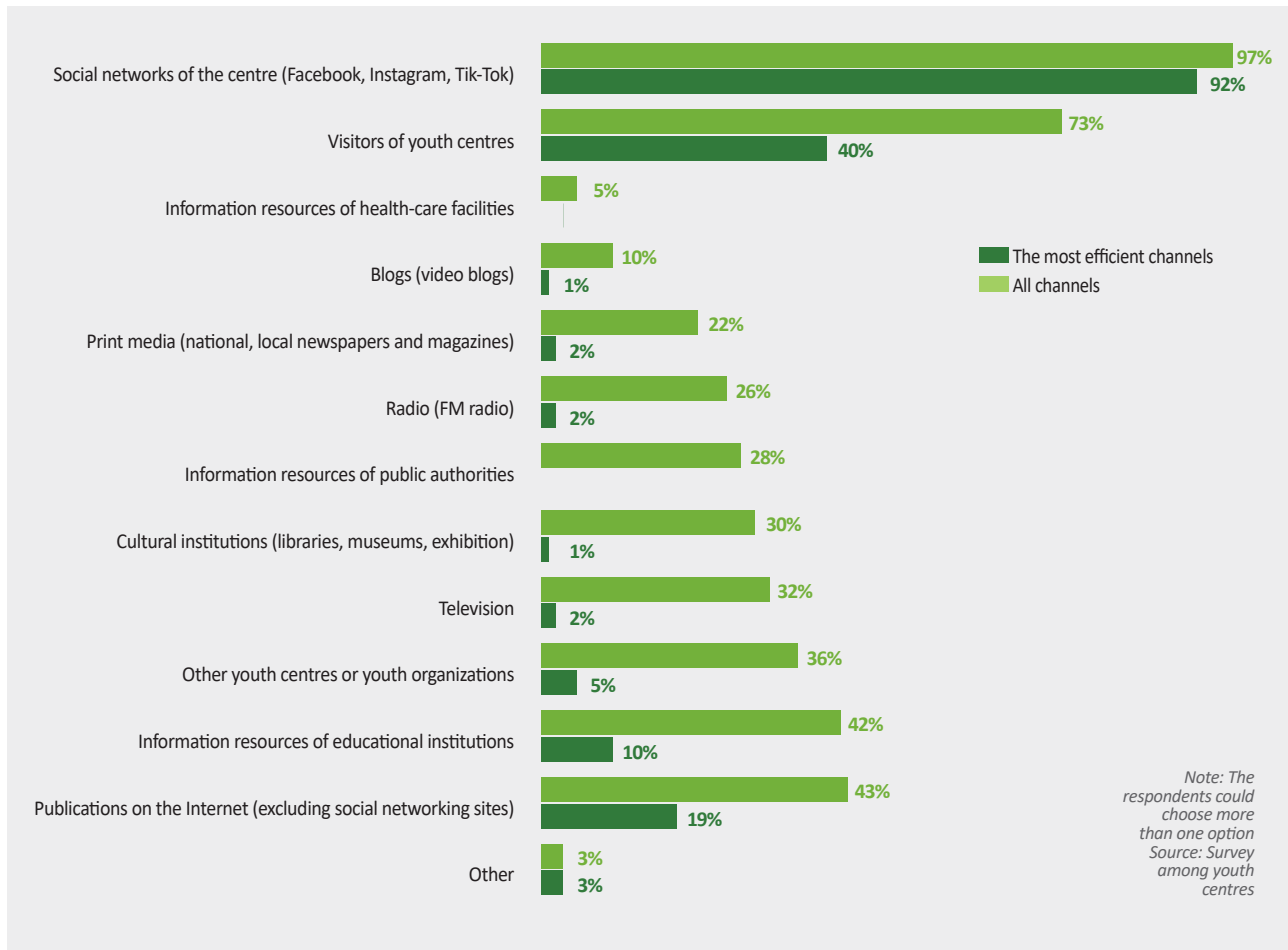
Despite the fact that the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (CMU) approved standard regulations on youth centres on 20 December 2017, respondents expressed the need to develop standard regulations on youth centre, introduce standards for the activities of the centres, which indicates a low awareness of youth centres of the current legal and regulatory framework.

Youth centres also consider necessary such steps as approving programmes for the development of youth centres, providing necessary material support, legislative regulation of the activities of private or commercial youth centres and the development of self-benefiting arrangements for youth centres, which will enable them to provide paid services and create funds.

Monitoring the needs of the target audience and decision-making mechanism based on feedback. Most youth centres monitor the needs for courses, programmes or activities among their visitors. They usually carry out such monitoring through surveys (34%) or feedback forms on websites or social networks (33%), less often — through on-line surveys (15%). Two per cent of the centres surveyed also mentioned other ways of monitoring the needs of the target audience they use. This was usually oral personal communication with visitors of the centre. Fourteen per cent of the surveyed centres reported they did not monitor the needs of youth, and 1 per cent of the centres did not answer this question.

Channels for the dissemination of information about activities of youth centres. Social networks such as Facebook and Instagram are the most common online resources of youth centres. The surveyed

Figure 13. Channels of disseminating information about the centres' activities and the most effective channels





centres maintain their pages on these social networks (92 per cent on Facebook and 72 per cent on Instagram). Approximately one in five youth

centres (21%) has their own website. Tik-Tok pages are even less common: 9 per cent of youth centres surveyed have them.

2.3. FACILITIES OF YOUTH CENTRES (BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT)

Equipping youth centres. Almost half (46%) of youth centres used their premises free of charge, 32 per cent rent premises.

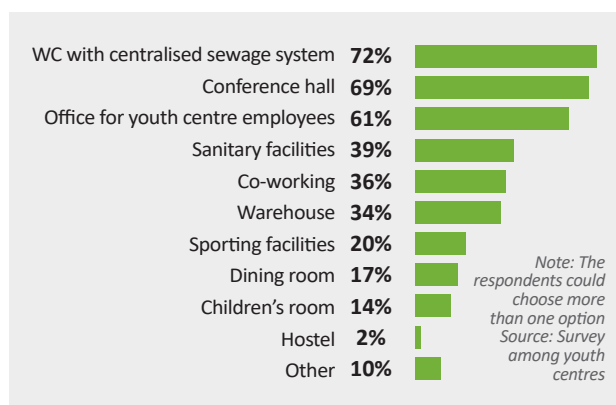
Youth centres cooperate with businesses less often. This was reported by 37 per cent of the surveyed centres. Youth centres mainly report receiving funding and sponsorship from businesses. In addition, private companies provide youth centres with facilities, transport and materials, as well as information on their vacancies for young people visiting youth centres.

Only 12 per cent of the youth centres surveyed reported their premises were, according to staff of youth centres, fully adapted for people with disabilities or reduced mobility. In 40 per cent of youth centres, the premises were partially adapted, and in almost half (45%) — not adapted. Two per cent of youth centres did not indicate whether or not their facilities were adapted to the needs of people with disabilities and people with reduced mobility.

The reason for the lack of access and adaptability for people with disabilities or reduced mobility of youth centres is the lack of funds to re-equip their premises (75%). The most common means of barrier-free access in youth centres are ramps (available in 42 per cent of the surveyed centres), while less than 10 per cent are

equipped with a call button at the entrance, elevators or special lifts, tactile paving tiles, sound systems or use a Braille font.

Figure 14. Availability of different purpose premises



Unfortunately, we do not have statistics on how many young people in our community have a disability. However, I can say that our community is not adapted, not inclusive of people with disabilities. Therefore, it is really more difficult for such people to even leave their own home. I am not talking about getting into an event or anything. It is much harder.

Woman, NGO employee

ANNEX 1 OVERVIEW OF THE METHODOLOGY

In October-December 2021, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Ukraine, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology conducted comprehensive research aimed at creating databases on ways to

strengthen the role of young people in building the cohesion and sustainability of their communities through participation in civic initiatives, including youth infrastructure and youth centres. Geographical coverage of the survey: 24 oblasts of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv.



The research combined several components: a sample survey of youth centre staff in 24 oblasts and the city of Kyiv, a nationwide representative sample survey of youth aged 14-35 residing in 24 oblasts and the city of Kyiv, and focus group discussions (FGD) with youth and key informants. For the purpose of data collection, 24 regional teams of interviewers in a total of 155 people (of which 139 were women and 16 men), as well as 2 focus group moderators were involved in the research activities.

Youth survey

The field stage of the nationwide youth survey lasted from late October to late November 2021, including a survey pilot. A total of 2,432 respondents were surveyed in a face-to-face survey. A stratified, four-stage sample, random at each stage, was developed to conduct a youth survey.

The sample represents the population aged 15-35, who permanently reside in Ukraine, do not serve in the military, and are not in prisons or medical institutions (hospitals, medical boarding schools). The sample did not include territories that are temporarily not controlled by the Government of Ukraine: AR of Crimea, certain raions of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Initially, the population of the oblasts was stratified into urban (cities and urban-type settlements) and rural populations (except for the city of Kyiv, where the population is entirely urban). For each stratum, in proportion to the population, it was determined how many interviews should be conducted in it, as well as how many settlements where the survey will be conducted should be selected. In the case of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, only the territories currently controlled by the Government of Ukraine were used for stratification. In the first stage, territorial sampling units (hereinafter — TU) were selected. In the general case, TU corresponds to the part of the administrative-territorial unit of the state system of Ukraine — administrative raions of oblasts, cities of oblast subordination, and administrative districts of the city (where relevant). The selection of TU was carried out randomly using the PPS method, namely in proportion to the TA according to available official

statistics. In the second stage, polling stations were selected in each TU by simple random selection (SRS). The basis for the sample is the base of polling stations formed for the last Parliamentary Elections in 2019. In urban settlements, it is a part of a settlement; in a rural area, a polling station mainly corresponds to a village or a group of two or three villages; in villages and settlements with a large population, it can be a part of a settlement. At the third stage, in each selected polling station from the list of all addresses, the starting address was randomly determined — street, house number, and, in the case of multi-storey buildings, the apartment number from which the interviewer, using a fixed selection step, successively went through the required number of addresses to select and survey a given number of respondents. At the fourth stage, at each address, the interviewer compiled a list of people aged 14-35 living there and randomly selected one respondent for the survey.

In order to carry out analysis at the nationwide and macro-region levels, as well as by sex or age, the statistical scales that adjust the ratios of the respective groups in the sample to the available statistics (data from the State Statistics Service on population distribution by sex, age, type of settlement and region as of 01.01.2021) were developed.

Survey of youth centre employees

The field stage of the survey among youth centre employees lasted from 01 November to 10 December 2021. One representative from the youth centre who met the established selection criteria was invited to participate (18 years or older, has information on all aspects of the youth centre work). A total of 201 respondents were surveyed, 180 of them — by a face-to-face survey and 21 — by a telephone survey. All respondents were youth centre employees.

The survey was conducted according to the list of youth centres compiled by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and submitted to IOM. All the youth centres included in the list were subject to the survey. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, a research team faced the problem of establishing first contact with youth centres.



According to the instructions, the first contact (before the visit) had to be established by phone to minimise the number of ineffective trips. It took a long time to establish the first contact, and in some cases the contact could not be established (due to a lack of relevant contacts). To minimise such cases, the team followed a precise protocol, which included (but was not limited to) the following recommendations: search for any contacts using open sources, phone calls at least three times on different business days and different business hours. Furthermore, contact was established via e-mail or messenger, communication with village or city councils, etc.

Focus group discussions (FGD)

In addition, 15 online focus group discussions were held in November-December, including 8 discussions with young people aged 14-35 (including young people with disabilities), 3 discussions with key informants, 2 discussions with youth centre employees and 2 discussions with youth centre visitors. Among the participants were residents of urban and rural settlements. In total, more than 105 participants from the city of Kyiv, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson oblasts took part in the discussions.

Ethical research standards and data security

Data collection, storage, and analysis were conducted in accordance with ethical standards and the protection

of the rights of research participants, ensuring voluntariness, anonymity, and confidentiality.

All respondents aged 18 and older gave oral informed consent to participate in the research. For respondents aged 14-17 inclusive, in addition to their oral consent, consent was obtained from their parents or legal guardians by signing informed consent. The consent form included information on the topic and purpose of the survey, confidentiality, voluntary participation, the right not to answer certain questions, and to refuse to participate at any time during the survey.

All information collected during the research, including the data set, is stored electronically. Only members of the research team have access to the data. Unauthorised access to data is excluded. The data is stored on a secure server, which is accessible only to the research team.

Rules of conduct during the coronavirus pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, in the implementation of the field stage of the research by a face-to-face survey, the interviewers complied with the requirements established by the internal protocol of the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology on the implementation of research during the pandemic, drawn up in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO).

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