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**YOUTH WORK IN UKRAINE:
HISTORY OF FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS**

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The article notes that modern youth is the subject of special attention of modern society. Formation and development of youth work has its beginning and perspective of modern practical experience through circles, camps, spaces, hubs, centers, etc. The purpose of the article is to analyze the formation and development of youth centers and spaces in order to build and implement a new effective model of youth work in Ukraine. The research used such methods as: analysis, comparison and generalization of scientific, historical and other sources on the investigated problem.

The article generalizes the age category of youth; the historical aspect of the development of the children's and youth movement is analyzed; the stages of development of the system of training teachers-organizers of the children's movement are defined; periods of formation and development of training of youth workers are singled out; the concepts of «youth», «youth work», «children's movement», «youth movement», «organizer of children's movement», «youth worker», «youth center» are generalized; the main tasks of youth work are highlighted; the activities of the youth center «START» of the Faculty of Social and Psychological Education of Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University are covered, namely through the areas of activity: educational and scientific, leisure, informational and consulting, project, career guidance, mentoring (trainings, seminars, trainings on the creation of startup – projects, trainings for personal growth and development of leadership qualities; master classes). It was concluded that the formation of youth work is traced from a simple form to more modern, improved work with children and youth – in circles, clubs, camps, spaces, hubs, centers.

Keywords: youth work, youth worker, youth, youth center, training of future social workers for youth work.



**МОЛОДІЖНА РОБОТА В УКРАЇНІ:
ІСТОРІЯ СТАНОВЛЕННЯ ТА ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ РОЗВИТКУ**

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У статті зауважено, що сучасна молодь є предметом особливої уваги сучасного суспільства. Становлення та розвиток молодіжної роботи має свій початок та перспективу сучасного практичного досвіду через гуртки, табори, простори, хаби, центри тощо. Мета статті – здійснити аналіз становлення та розвитку молодіжних центрів та просторів з метою побудови та реалізації нової ефективної моделі молодіжної роботи в Україні. У дослідженні використано такі методи, як: аналіз, порівняння та узагальнення наукових, історичних та інших джерел із досліджуваної проблеми.

У статті узагальнено вікову категорію молоді; проаналізовано історичний аспект розвитку дитячого та молодіжного руху; визначено етапи розвитку системи підготовки педагогів-організаторів дитячого руху; виокремлено періоди становлення та розвитку підготовки молодіжних працівників; узагальнено поняття «молодь», «молодіжна робота», «дитячий рух», «молодіжний рух», «організатор дитячого руху», «молодіжний працівник», «молодіжний центр»; виокремлено основних завдань молодіжної роботи; висвітлено діяльність молодіжного центру «START» факультету соціальної та психологічної освіти Уманського державного педагогічного університету імені Павла Тичини, а саме через напрями діяльності: навчально-науковий, дозвілєвий, інформаційно-консультаційний, проектний, профорієнтаційний, менторський (тренінги, семінари, тренінги зі створення Startup-проектів, тренінги особистісного зростання та розвитку лідерських якостей; майстер-класи). Зроблено висновок, становлення молодіжної роботи прослідковується від простої форми до більш сучасної, удосконаленої роботи з дітьми та молоддю – в гуртках, клубах, таборах, просторах, хабах, центрах.

Ключові слова: молодіжна робота, молодіжний працівник, молодь, молодіжний центр, підготовка майбутніх соціальних працівників до молодіжної роботи.

Introduction. Modern youth as a specific social group is the subject of special attention of modern society, because the change in the socioeconomic and political system of Ukraine has had an ambiguous impact on the consciousness and behavior of the young generation. Nowadays, democratic processes are observed in various spheres of life, the development of civil society is taking place, wide opportunities are provided for personal development, initiative and creativity.

The future of the state largely depends on the civic position of the young generation, therefore it increases the importance of managing the processes of national-patriotic formation of future social workers in the process of training and youth work in a higher education institution. Youth policy is at the stage of forming a well-built system



of state influence on the process of youth socialization, on the development and support of youth movements and initiatives in the field of science, culture and education, which, in turn, increases the importance of professional training of social workers to work with young people.

The purpose of the article is to analyze the formation and development of youth centers and spaces in order to build and implement a new effective model of youth work in Ukraine

Research methods. The research used such methods as: analysis, comparison and generalization of scientific, historical and other sources on the investigated problem.

Presentation of the main materials. The development of youth work in modern society is accompanied by political, social and educational factors that distinguish specific areas of such work. In general, youth work is aimed at the younger generation, namely teenagers, young people, if we take into account legislative acts, and in general for willing, active, creative people (children and adults).

According to the definition of the United Nations (UN), adolescents are persons aged 10 to 19 years, and youth are persons aged 15 to 24 years, which does not deprive the member states of the UN of the right to define these categories differently. Adolescents and young people are collectively referred to as «young people». This term can be applied to different age groups up to 34 years old. Survey of youth in compliance with the provisions of Ukrainian legislation, according to which youth are people aged from 14 to 34 [13].

In Ukraine, for the first time at the state level, the normative document Law of Ukraine «On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy» (2021) was adopted, which regulates youth work as an activity aimed at involving children and youth in social life, which is carried out by children and youth, together with children and youth or in the interests of children and young people through shared decision-making tools. The «Youth Work» chapter is singled out in the Law, which reveals the content and main tasks of youth work. It is focused on the needs of young people, aimed at the acquisition of necessary competences by young people, taking into account socio-economic conditions. Such work is organized on the principles of voluntary participation of young people, accessibility, orientation of young people on intellectual, physical, spiritual development and provision of well-being [12].

The concept of «youth work» is considered as work with a group of young people, management of a youth club, a youth center, establishing contacts with various groups of young people on the street, mentoring, etc. However, youth work is a partnership with young people [6].

According to N. Dzioba, L. Mukoseeva, N. Tilikina, and O. Shkarupa, youth work is «... a holistic social phenomenon that unites all subjects of social education and youth development (family, immediate environment, education institution, peers) with the resources of traditional education and organized activities of specialists working with youth» [7].

N. Ostanina noted that the development of club work falls on 1912–1914, during this time the activity of various children's associations was observed, despite the fact that they had different names, principles and organization of activities, they were club-type institutions. In 1917–1919, methodical work on the organization of club work with



children and youth intensified in Ukraine. In 1920–1931, 55 types of student youth clubs, which were distributed in all regions of Ukraine, were involved in the social education of students [11].

In 1971, in Ukraine, there was a tendency to create teenage clubs at the local public utility offices. In 2003, there were 1,656 such clubs, and in 2007 – 1,506. In 2017, there were 1,000 of them left, and about 100 clubs were created on the initiative of public organizations [5].

According to the Law, the main tasks of youth work include: development and satisfaction of various needs and interests of children and youth, promotion of their personal development and self-realization; formation of universal human, universal cultural and national values, educational and cognitive, civic, social, communicative, entrepreneurial and other competencies in children and youth; development of volunteerism, street cultures, informal youth associations, national and international exchange programs, youth tourism; implementation of professional orientation programs, popularization and approval of a healthy and safe lifestyle, health culture; organization of meaningful leisure time, cultural and emotional development of the personality; provision of partner training for children and youth living in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine and internally displaced persons; implementing an inclusive approach and ensuring equal access.

The youth movement is a complex social phenomenon and, at a minimum, consists of organized youth, which are legally registered in public associations, and informal self-organized youth initiative, «youth subculture», which complement each other [1]. Children's movement is a natural phenomenon. Evidence of this is his origin, character, goals and role in the child's life. The children's movement is a unique institution of socialization, a unique phenomenon of socio-civic education of the younger generation; a form of active expression of childhood, which informs adults about children's needs, problems, opportunities, peculiarities, reminds of oneself, protects one's rights. Children's social movement is a natural, independent, gradual entry of children into the world of adults thanks to various spheres of children's activities: educational, family, games [2].

Summarizing the concepts of «children's movement» and «youth movement», it can be noted that these two phenomena are similar, but differ in age category. However, we believe that they can be united by a common youth work.

The implementation of these two phenomena is not possible without the people who implement it – «organizer of the children's movement», «youth worker».

So, the organizer (teacher-organizer) of the children's movement is a teacher-educator, a professional in the field of children's movement, a participant and organizer of the life activities of the children's team. However, the analysis of modern practice revealed that there are problems of professional incompetence of adults (social pedagogues, organizers) in matters of interaction with children's associations; there are no personnel capable of supporting children's socially and personally significant initiative and activity [6].

The Law of Ukraine «On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy» (2021) defines the concept of «youth worker» as a person who carries out youth work, has undergone specialized training in accordance with the procedure determined by the central body of



executive power, which ensures the formation and implementation of youth policy, and received certificate of the established model. The purpose of youth workers' activities is also determined: implementation of youth policy, organization of youth work and creation of conditions for comprehensive self-realization of youth in various spheres of social life, disclosure of their potential, protection of interests and rights of youth [12].

Having analyzed scientific, informational, and archival sources, we summarized the results and identified the stages of training of organizers of the children's movement and training of youth workers.

Modern researchers (I. Rudenko and others) distinguish the following stages of the development of the system of training teachers-organizers of the children's movement: 10s–20s years of the 20th century (prerequisites for the creation of the system, the first experience of training volunteer scout troops); 20s – those years of the 20th century (development and introduction of forms of training for leaders of pioneering organizations); 30s–80s of the 20th century (positive traditions in the training of organizers of children's public associations in universities, colleges, specialized classes of comprehensive schools, on the basis of specially created extracurricular institutions (houses and palaces of pioneers, All-Union camps, etc.); The 90s of the 20th century – the beginning of the 21st century – the modern stage of the development of the theory and practice of the children's movement [6].

The training of youth workers can be divided into six stages:

- the first stage (1918–1944) – the emergence of socially oriented training of specialists to work with youth, when the active formation of communist ideology took place, communist education was developed, youth were involved in the party as the only officially authorized organization for it.

- the second stage (1945–1969) – creation of the foundations of professional training of personnel for work with youth, opening of the central Komsomol school, which carried out course retraining of Komsomol workers of the middle and higher ranks of the Komsomol.

- the third stage (1969–1991) – the development of an institute for professional training of personnel for work in youth (Komsomol and pioneer) organizations.

- the fourth stage (1991–2003) – formation and development of the system of professional training of specialists to work with youth within the framework of social work and social pedagogy.

- the fifth stage (2003–2010) – the formation of the specialty «Social work» in the direction of «Social welfare» and the creation of organizational and methodological conditions for the training of social workers in accordance with the level of the European educational system while preserving the structure of the domestic system of professional education «junior specialist – bachelor – specialist – master».

- the sixth stage (2011 – now) – the formation of the specialty «Social work» in the field of knowledge «Social work», which combined social pedagogy, social work and social welfare into one field. Creation of new modern educational-professional and educational-scientific programs for the training of social workers, social pedagogues in accordance with the problems of social work, methodological studies of social work as a science, innovative pedagogy and social innovation; innovative training of social workers for the social and pedagogical spheres is being formed, since the classifier of



professions presents the position of social pedagogue, and it has already been introduced in educational institutions [3].

In 2014, in order to spread and actualize youth work in Ukraine, the implementation of the «Youth Worker» program began with the support of the «UN Development Program of Ukraine» and in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, the State Institute of Family and Youth Policy and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which is based on the principles of non-formal education. The «Youth worker» program is part of the «Resuscitation package of youth policy reforms in Ukraine» and one of the priorities of the State target program «Youth of Ukraine 2016–2020», for the implementation of which funds are provided in the state and local budgets [10].

The implementation of the «Youth worker» program in Ukraine is a unique opportunity to raise the professional level of representatives of civil servants and public associations that work with young people, which will contribute to increasing the number of young people who participate in the formation of youth policy and strengthen the interaction of state and youth public institutions in the social formation of youth [10].

The main tasks of the «Youth Worker» program are to improve the theoretical knowledge and practical skills of youth leaders and specialists in the youth field, to form a database of youth specialists and best practices for the implementation of youth policy at the local and regional levels, to provide consultations on the formation of local youth policy, etc. [10].

The Law of Ukraine «On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy» (2021) defines that «youth work is an activity aimed at involving children and youth in social life, carried out by children and youth, together with children and youth or in the interests of children and youth with the help of joint decision-making tools»; «youth center – institution, enterprise, organization that carries out youth work»; «youth worker – a person who carries out youth work, has undergone specialized training in accordance with the procedure determined by the central body of executive power, which provides formation, implements youth policy, and received a certificate of the established model» [12].

The Youth Center is an institution for working with young people, which is the center of the organization of youth work in the region and one of the important partners in the everyday life of a young person.

In the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «Model Regulation on the Youth Center» (2017) it is stated that «a youth center is an institution that is formed to solve the issues of social development of youth» [14].

«Principles of activity of youth centers: accessibility, safety and comfort of the club; activity initiative; voluntary participation; non-discrimination, tolerance and inclusiveness; staff competence; continuity of education and targeted leisure time; orientation to the needs of young people; the format and variety of services are determined by young people according to their needs and interests; involvement of youth in the implementation of social initiatives; sustainable development» [14].

In accordance with the Standard Regulation on the youth center, the main tasks of the center are highlighted: «affirmation of civic position, spirituality, morality, national-



patriotic consciousness and the formation of family, national and general human values in young people; popularization of standards of European youth policy and work with youth in Ukraine, educational philosophy and approaches in accordance with the recommendations of the Council of Europe and the European Union; creation of conditions for creative personality development, intellectual self-improvement and leadership qualities in young people; promotion of a healthy lifestyle for young people; promotion of youth employment and leisure time employment, youth entrepreneurship; ensuring the development of international youth cooperation and interregional interaction of youth in Ukraine, promoting volunteering and youth mobility» [14]. Such forms of work with youth are gaining popularity in Ukraine, such as: spaces, hubs, co-working spaces, tent camping. According to the law of Ukraine «On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy» this is «a premises, a building or its part, a plot of land used for the implementation of youth work» [12].

In the manual «Youth policy in united territorial communities» it is defined that space (hubs, co-working spaces) is a place in already existing institutions where young people can freely spend time and organize sensory activities [7]. Tent camping is a form of youth work, from sports and tourism to educational; rehabilitation and recreation of children and youth; sports educational and training meetings, etc. [7].

The youth center is an important component of the youth policy of Ukraine, which contributes to the social formation and development of young people. From the analysis of various sources, it was found that youth work, the activities of the youth center during 2017–2021 quickly became popular and continues to gain its positive experience.

In 2018, the Youth Center «START» was established at Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University. The main goal of the center's activity is comprehensive development and self-realization of youth in various spheres of social life, disclosure of their potential, protection of interests and rights; promotion of social formation and development, professional orientation and organization of meaningful leisure time, support of talented youth. The main tasks of the center are: creation of conditions for creative development of personality, intellectual self-improvement of young people; involving young people to participate in scientific, artistic, sports, informational and educational events; affirmation of patriotism, spirituality, morality and formation of universal human values among young people; promotion and formation of a healthy lifestyle; creation of a favorable environment for youth employment; interaction with youth and children's public organizations; ensuring the development of international youth cooperation.

The main activities of the Center are as follows:

- educational and scientific – development of self-government through non-formal education; conducting forums, scientific conferences, training seminars, congresses, business meetings, discussion clubs on various aspects of the development of the youth movement; training and retraining of youth workers by organizing lectures, trainings, master classes, development of youth entrepreneurship; implementation of the latest mechanisms of the Council of Europe's youth policy through international partnership, internships, cultural and educational exchanges;
- leisure – organization of cultural and mass events (concerts, performances, presentations, festivals, benefits, literary and song festivals, theater and concert



evenings, creative meetings, artistic reports, intellectual games competitions, performances, concerts, dance parties, sports and entertainment, wellness events, relaxation evenings, dance evenings, balls, discos, etc.); ensuring youth sports development; promoting the revival of spirituality, strengthening moral foundations, organizing meaningful leisure time for young people;

- informational and advisory – provision of legal, informational, methodical and advisory assistance to young people; promoting youth involvement in international youth scientific, artistic, sports, and informational events, forming a powerful youth media resource – an interactive press center with media co-working; active cooperation with public and volunteer organizations of the city and the development of the volunteer movement among young people;

- project – support of projects of student self-government bodies, youth entrepreneurial initiatives, provision of youth employment in free time; promoting the development of youth initiatives in the labor sphere, retraining and upgrading the skills of young people; active interaction between authorities and youth at the local level through involvement in the creation of program strategies, events and projects; organization and implementation of concepts, projects, programs of youth organizations aimed at solving youth problems;;

- career guidance – helping young people to determine their future profession: career guidance trainings, master classes, excursions to companies, getting to know representatives of various professions;

- mentoring – support of interesting youth projects, help with management, fundraising, budget creation, communication, finding volunteers, etc. [15].

As part of the work of the «Start» Youth Center of Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University, the following activities were held in accordance with the center's work plan: trainings, seminars, trainings on the creation of startup projects, trainings for personal growth and development of leadership qualities; master classes from successful youth leaders, youth forum «Civic education of youth: state and prospects of development», training "»Youth politics and youth work in Ukraine», School of ladies and gentlemen for young people, round table «Civic competence of youth», forum «Professional youth employment», professional and personal development program «Youth. Education. Politics», trainings for children and young parents, for internally displaced people, films, lectures, etc. [16].

Today, during the period of martial law, the main direction of the center is also volunteering, which is proven by the cooperation of the «START» Youth Center of the Faculty of Social and Psychological Education of the Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University and the NGO «Cherkasy Youth Council». It was the Youth Center that became the point of delivery of targeted humanitarian aid in the city of Uman from the Spivdiya Hub program.

Conclusions and prospects for further research. The analysis of various information sources confirmed the positive experience of creating and implementing the activities of youth clubs, youth centers, hubs, spaces, aimed at: raising the standard of living and encouraging young people to participate in decision-making at all levels; support of young entrepreneurs in their activities; exchange of experience and development of competences; unification of youth over common ideas, projects for their



implementation; increasing creativity, creativity through the popularization of non-formal education.

Youth work is work with young people aimed at: personal and professional development with the acquisition of relevant competencies; youth participation in public life (sport, leisure, youth employment, education and vocational training, housing policy and transport, mobility and exchange, access to culture, health care, sex life, fight against violence and crime, gender equality, sustainable development, anti-discrimination, access to rights and the law); youth involvement in planning and decision-making at the local, regional, and national levels [4].

The development of youth work is traced from a simple form to more modern, improved work with children and youth – in groups, clubs, camps, spaces, hubs, centers.

Further theoretical analysis is needed to analyze the formation and development of youth centers and spaces in order to build and implement a new effective model of youth work in Ukraine.

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