

## **Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union**

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In English and Russian

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### **2009 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting** *Session 8, Human Rights Education*

## **Ukraine**

### **“Understanding Human Rights” National Educational Program**

The Understanding Human Rights National Educational Program is a non-governmental initiative. The program initiators are the representatives of the non-governmental organizations and individuals, who are either experts in the sphere of human rights education or are activists of the human rights movement.

The program intends to influence formal educational system as well as to promote the development of informal education in the sphere of human rights.

The program is implemented through the projects of partner organizations, which are united by the common goal and approaches applied according to the common plan of action.

As of April 2009 the program consists of separate components, which are separate nevertheless complementary projects. Financial support for these projects is gained from different sources.

The program development creates new components through engaging new partners on the basis of overlapping (compliance) of strategies, conceptions, goals and tasks with the program conception.

#### **Background**

It is difficult to determine when the idea of the program development emerged. It is obvious though that separate activists and non-government organizations, which strategic goals were similar to or overlapped, were convinced in the necessity of such a program.

Practical steps concerning the program development and its implementation were made in 2007.

Understanding the necessity of such a program and having the strategy for the years 2007-2009 as the basis, the representatives of the International Renaissance Foundation Program on the Rule of Law in the spring 2007 organized a short meeting of the representatives of non-government organizations that work in the sphere of human rights education. In the course of the meeting there was announced an initiative regarding the consolidation of efforts of the non-government sector in the sphere of human rights education.

In December 2007 there was carried out a non-formal expert meeting related to perspectives of development of human rights education in Ukraine. Due to this meeting needs for educating separate target groups were specified, available possibilities were determined and a plan of action for the first stage of the program implementation (for the years 2008-2009) was developed.

The plan of action for the years 2008-2009 is being implemented at present. The research methods related to analyzing the needs for human rights education for different target groups, expert potential, organizations and available methodological manuals are also being performed.

### **Program Sphere of Influence**

There is a lack of human rights understanding in our society. Due to the low level of knowledge of the society about human rights, fundamental freedoms and the mechanisms of their protection even the endeavors of citizens aimed at representing and protecting the public interests very often remain ineffective.

Several components that specify this problem could be emphasized.

The first component implies the existing practice, when the human rights content is substituted. More and more often human rights are used as a political tool or a magical word combination that help to veil the lack of words or something else in political arguments.

The second component implies the deficiency of a continuous public (official) system in human rights education. According to the reports of our government, the system of legal education provided in grades 1 to 11 was established in Ukraine. Such information was provided to the UN Committee against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as an answer to the questions of the Committee to the 5<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian Periodic Report on execution of the Convention against Torture. However, first of all, human rights education is not completely identical to legal education. Secondly, for several years in a row there has been discussed a problem concerning the deficiencies caused by the content of the Legal Science program, which is taught in the 9<sup>th</sup> grades. Thirdly, the majority of the subjects related to human rights education are suggested as optional, and thus, taking into consideration busy school programs, in most cases remain without attention. Finally, the level of knowledge of the teachers in the sphere of human rights education remains low.

The third component implies the lack of specialists who are able to use effectively and in a quality manner the educational tools in order to protect and advocate human rights.

The fourth component implies the lack of practical specialized educational programs for non-government organizations that would teach how to use effectively the tools for human rights protection (for example, how to carry out a monitoring, to organize social public events, to prepare awareness campaigns, to plan strategic legal proceedings, etc.).

There are non-government organizations in Ukraine today that fulfill different measures in the sphere of human rights education. Some Ukrainian methodological experience is available as well as materials of the Council of Europe and the United Nations regarding human rights education.

### **Program Main Goal**

Development of human rights culture in Ukraine

### **Special Goals and Main Target Groups**

The raising of knowledge concerning human rights understanding, democratic values, mechanisms of their protection and advocacy, ways of cross-cultural understanding and peaceful solution of conflicts among socially active youth, activists of non-government organizations, journalists and separate groups of government agents, such as officials of law-enforcements agencies or the system of education.

The program is aimed at the development of an alternative non-government model of education in the sphere of human rights. First of all such model is necessary in the context of

absence of a government program. Secondly, it would complement a government program as soon as it is developed.

The program is intended to influence an informal system by suggesting the best experience, participation in the government conception development, creation of a system of monitoring of the government program execution that would be held by non-government organizations.

Special goals depend on the separate target groups that receive education, on their commitment (“involvement”) to the problem that is of public interest. They also depend upon the level of their possible influence on the problem as well as upon the formative needs in the sphere of human rights education. The special goals are specified by the separate documents containing a description of the educational program designed for these target groups.

Special goals include the achievement of a certain level of knowledge, skills and the development of an attitude. These goals are mostly oriented at the basic level of preparation. There are separate educational measures, which can be attended by the graduates of the basic level, such as, for example, programs that give knowledge on how to fulfill the human rights monitoring and so on.

The following target groups are involved in the educational process as of April 2009:

- Socially active young people;
- Activists of non-government organizations;
- Teachers of schools and higher educational establishments;
- Journalists;
- Activists who work in the interests of persons with disabilities;

Officials of the law-enforcement agencies (the Minister Deputy of the Department of the Monitoring of Human Rights observance in the activity of the internal affairs bodies of the MIA of Ukraine Minister Administration).

### **Program Implementation Scheme**

As of April 2009 the program's plan of action is implemented by way of three projects:

Project: Human Rights Education Program in Ukraine – the joint project of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee. The project is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway.

The majority of the educational measures are carried out due to this project. These are the seminars and trainings within the framework of the program. The project foresees the logistics of measures and the practical implementation of the plans of measures. The project also foresees the expert and resource support of initiatives related to human rights protection and advocacy of the graduates of the program educational measures.

Project: Understanding Human Rights– the project of the public organization M’ART. The project is financed by the Rule of Law Program of the International Renaissance Foundation.

This project foresees methodical support of the program measures, development of the methodical materials and manuals, PR-support of the program, functioning of the program web-site and the program evaluation.

Project: International experience of educational programs introduction in the sphere of human rights. The program is financed by the East-East Program: Partnership Beyond Borders of the International Renaissance Foundation.

This project allows participation in the program measures of foreign experts, observers and participants of individual measures.

The plan of action is expected to be based on more projects of partner organizations by 2010.

## **Achievements**

Period: February 2008 – April 2009.

There have been carried out 8 educational Schools for different target groups (youth – 2 groups, teachers – 3 groups, activists who work in the sphere of human rights education – 2 groups, officials of the law-enforcement agencies (the Minister Deputies of the Department of the Monitoring of Human Rights observance in the activity of the internal affairs bodies of the MIA of Ukraine Minister Administration) – 1 group);

The Program has had 187 graduates so far: 71 – teachers, 49 – youth, 41 – activists who work in the sphere of human rights education, 26 – the Minister Deputies of the Department of the Monitoring of Human Rights observance in the activity of the internal affairs bodies of the MIA of Ukraine Minister Administration. There have been established a network of the graduates; The manual on human rights education for youth for organizers of youth human rights educational programs has been adapted and published in Ukrainian (156 pages, the edition constitutes 1000 copies);

Within the framework of the contest on initiatives of the youth groups related to human rights, 7 projects of the Program graduates have been provided with the expert and resource support; 15 graduates of the Program are actively involved in the implementation of the further stages in capacity of trainers and experts;

In order to share information concerning education in the sphere of human rights there was created a general mailing list [hr\\_education@googlegroups.com](mailto:hr_education@googlegroups.com);

There has been a web-site created, which would serve as a communication platform and a virtual methodical center for the graduates network: [www.edu.helsinki.org.ua](http://www.edu.helsinki.org.ua).

## **Geography**

Representatives of the 26 regions of Ukraine took part in the educational measures of the program:

the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (9 people); Vinnitsa oblast (6 people); Dnipropetrovsk oblast (8 people); Donetsk oblast (12 people); Zhytomyr oblast (3 people); Zakarpacie oblast (2 people); Kyiv (17 people); Kirovograd oblast (7 people); Kryvyi Rig oblast (2 people); Lugansk oblast (14 people); Lviv oblast (11 people); Odessa oblast (7 people); Sevastopol (6 people); Sumy oblast (6 people); Ternopil oblast (2 people); Kharkiv oblast (15 people); Kherson oblast (12 people); Cherkasy oblast (11 people); Chernihiv oblast (7 people).

One participant of one of the educational measures was from Moldova.

## **Experts, Teachers, Trainers**

Highly skilled experts, teachers and trainers were involved to conduct sessions within the framework of the program:

Alla Tyutyunnyk, Kherson Regional Mercy and Health Foundation;

Aliona Gorova, Ukrainian center “Porozuminnya”;

Andriy Poluda, Belarus Helsinki Committee (Belarus);

Andriy Yurov, Youth Human Rights Movement (Russia);

Anna Lenchovska, Congress of National Communities of Ukraine;

Anatoliy Podolskiy, Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies;

Arkadiy Buschenko, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union;

Borys Zvozkov, public organization “Pravovaya Initsiativa” (Belarus);

Volodymyr Kaplun, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group;

Volodymyr Yavorskiy, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union;

Yevhen Zaharov, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group;

Enver Djuliman, Norwegian Helsinki Committee;  
Kostyantyn Reyutskiy, public organization “Postup”;  
Marzena Rafalska, association “Educator” (Poland);  
Mariya Yasenovska, Kharkiv Regional Foundation “Gromadska Alternatyva”;  
Marko Stanislavlevytsch, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia;  
Nazar Kulchytskiy, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Secretariat of the Government  
Commissioner on European Court of Human Rights Affairs;  
Olexander Voitenko, All-Ukrainian Association “Nova Doba”;  
Oleksiy Gotsul;  
Oleg Martynenko, the Department of the Monitoring of Human Rights observance in the activity of  
the internal affairs bodies of the MIA of Ukraine Minister Administration;  
Olha Davydchuk, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Secretariat of the Government  
Commissioner on European Court of Human Rights Affairs;  
Roman Romanov, International Renaissance Foundation;  
Roman Koval, Ukrainian center “Porozuminnya”;  
Serhiy Burov, public organization M’ART;  
Serhiy Fedotov, public organization “M.Art.in-club”;  
Tetyana Revyaka, center “Vyasna” (Belarus);  
Yuriy Bilousov, the Department of the Monitoring of Human Rights observance in the activity of  
the internal affairs bodies of the MIA of Ukraine Minister Administration;  
Yuriy Zaitsev, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Secretariat of the Government  
Commissioner on European Court of Human Rights Affairs.

### **Methodology**

The basis of the program pedagogical conception is the pedagogic of participation.

The program educational measures include traditional academic forms of education as well as active and interactive ones.

The training is oriented at participants’ personal experience and takes into account their psychological and physical peculiarities. The inclusive approach is used in the educational measures. Educational groups usually include physically challenged people, and that is considered in the logistics and methodology of measures.

Modern pedagogical technologies are integrated into the educational process. They include such technologies as Forum theatre, Free to choose, as well as using of films during training. Apart from obligatory sessions and lectures there are evening facultative meetings – a Debating club. As a basis for discussions we use films, which are the awardees of the International Film Festival: Human Rights Documentary Days.

### **Initiatives of Youth Groups Related to Human Rights**

The contest on the initiatives of youth groups related to human rights is a certain continuation of education and serves as one of the methods to support the local activity of the graduates.

In 2008 7 projects of the Program graduates received expert and resource support, 15 projects received expert support.

### **Network Development**

It is intended to activate the development of the network of the activists in 2009. First of all it concerns those who undergo training within the framework of the program.

All the graduates are included into the specifically created mailing list. Participants of the separate measures create mailing lists of their groups, and communicate through social networks.

The network support foresees activation of the web-site [www.edu.helsinki.org.ua](http://www.edu.helsinki.org.ua) that has been already created, organization and work of the Human Rights School network (teachers of middle schools who underwent training), development of the conception of a social network for the human rights movement activists.

### **Actions Planned for 2009**

- 1) The Human Rights School for teachers;
- 2) The course for coordinators of youth educational measures in the sphere of human rights;
- 3) Regional Human Rights Schools for youth (for 4 groups);
- 4) The Human Rights School for activists who work in the interests of persons with disabilities;
- 5) The seminar on human rights for journalists;
- 6) The seminar on the human rights monitoring;
- 7) The final conference on perspectives of the human rights education development in Ukraine;
- 8) Preparing of methodic recommendations (including publishing of the work versions) concerning the organization of educational measures on human rights for 6 target groups, trainings for which are taken place throughout the year 2009 (the activists who want to organize youth educational measures on human rights at the local level; young activists; journalists; activists who work in the interests of persons with disabilities; activists of non-government organizations and groups, which execute human rights monitoring within the framework of their activity; teachers);
- 9) Providing evaluations of the educational measures within the framework of the program and developing recommendations related to improvement of its effectiveness; Providing informational support of the program and establishing the educational process using the elements of distance learning, including maintaining the web-site, developing tasks and evaluation within the framework of the educational courses distance blocks, PR-programs;
- 10) Development and interaction of the network of participants of educational measures within the framework of the program as well as support of their activity.

### **Acknowledgement for the Partner Support!**

A lot of questions concerning the program should be considered, such as how the decisions are going to be taken in the future within the framework of the program, and who are considered to be the partners of the program. However, now we would like to thank those organizations that provide us with methodic materials, expert and financial support.

#### **Financial Support:**

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway;  
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#### **Expert and Methodical Support:**

Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union;  
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All-Ukrainian Association “Nova Doba”;  
Kharkiv Regional Foundation “Gromadska Alternatyva”;  
Kherson Regional Mercy and Health Foundation;  
Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group;  
Public Organization M’ART;  
Congress of National Communities of Ukraine;  
Human Rights Center “Postup”;  
Belarus Helsinki Committee;  
Public Organization “Pravovaya Initsiativa” (Belarus);  
Youth Human Rights Movement;  
Public Organization “M.Art.in-club”;  
Kherson Public Organization “Nova Generatsiya”;  
Ukrainian Section of Amnesty International;  
Sevastopol Human Rights Protection Group;  
Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies;  
Eastern-Ukrainian Center for Civic Initiatives;  
Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Warsaw, Poland);  
Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia;  
Association “Educator” (Poland);  
Kirovograd Regional Department of the All-Ukrainian Charitable Organization “All-Ukrainian Network of PLWN”;  
All-Ukrainian Youth Public Organization of Persons with Vision Deficiencies “Generatsiya Uspishnoi Dii”;  
National Assembly of the Disabled of Ukraine;  
Please, forgive us if we forgot to include someone into this list – we will correct it!