

# REPORT

on the outcomes of the facilitated meeting

## "YOUTH DIALOGUES ABOUT THE WAR AFTERMATH. THE BEGINNING"



April 29, 2022  
Lviv

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## General information about the event

**The goal of the event is** to start the process of developing ideas on the vision of post-war development of civic competences in Ukrainian youth.

### Agenda of the event:

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|---------------|---|
| 13:30 – 14:00 | Registration, welcome coffee  |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | Introductions and expectations from the meeting   |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | Facilitated discussion "What has changed and will change in the medium term in the field of work of the state and CSOs with young people in Ukraine?"           |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee break  |
| 16:30 – 17:45 | Facilitated discussion "What should the energy of young people during the reconstruction of Ukraine after the war be directed at? What competencies will help?" |
| 17:45 – 18:00 | Summary and wrap-up   |

**Participants:** representatives of civil society organizations, initiative groups, higher educational establishments and individual experts in youth policy.

**Format:** facilitated dialogue, which was programmatically synchronized with group discussions organized under the framework of the international conference of civil society organizations "After the war: rethinking the future of civil society", which took place in Warsaw on April 27-29, 2022.

### Objectives of the meeting:

- jointly analyze the vision of young people and representatives of youth centers of their own inclusion in the process of reconstruction of Ukraine;
- discuss the place and role of youth representatives in the post-war development of civic competencies;
- determine what challenges youth centers face today and how to respond to them;
- reflect on how youth volunteer work will be transformed after the war;
- discuss the possible vision and potential contribution of young people to the restoration of Ukraine at the end of the war, what competencies will be useful.

**Facilitators of the event and authors of the report:** Iryna Eigelson, Maksym Ieligulashvili.

This document does not constitute official assessments of the situation by the OSCE, it is just the result of the discussions and reflects the opinions and assessments expressed by their participants.

## Description of the main results and observations

The participants' introductions included a brief self-presentation and answering the question what each of them will do for themselves personally at the end of the war. It is important to note the rather proactive and encouraging rhetoric of this group, full of cautious optimism and hope for the restoration of the country. At the same time, it is worth noting that it was quite difficult for the group to formulate individual, personal desires. For the most part, they were reduced to tasks or necessary steps related to their volunteer / social activities. It was extremely difficult for some participants to imagine and determine some personal action not related to the country or region. Of course, there is a certain specific professional deformation of the environment due to living in the hot phase of an international armed conflict. But this clearly illustrates the need for a certain popularization of self-preservation / restoration programs of the activist community.

### Session 1. Changes that have occurred in youth work and activism

This part was devoted to the analysis of both those changes that have already occurred and those that are expected by the participants to happen in the medium term in the field of youth policy / work both at the level of the state and local self-government, as well as directly at the level of civil society.

Participants were asked to first prepare individual lists of changes, which were then prioritized at the level of small groups. During the presentation of each statement, its categorization and clarification took place. Accordingly, several key sets were prepared:

- transformation of interaction between the government and youth;
- rapid increase of awareness and significance of the cultural component, issues of national identity;
- transformation of personal values and priorities;
- growth agency and proactivity of youth;
- solidarity and consolidation of the population, including rallying around the national idea.



During the discussions, several key, end-to-end trends that will influence the motivation of young people were identified:

- strengthening of new social elevators and renewal of both regional and national elites. A more conscious and responsible attitude to the processes of building local democracy and national institutions, reducing political / legal nihilism and apathy;
- more accessible and operational communication, interaction with the authorities, their reorientation to a horizontal dimension with simplified bureaucracy. This allowed building closer contacts and contributed to increasing trust in the authorities and state institutions in general;
- a certain prioritization of their own requests and needs on the part of young people, interest in personal / professional growth programs and increasing personal efficiency. In case of increasing accessibility to online / offline educational programs in the world for Ukrainians, this creates an additional development factor and provides additional tools for collaboration with the world;
- accumulation of significant networking experience and building links between different social groups, regions and countries that can become the basis for significant social/economic transformation. Especially with adequate reorientation from the humanitarian work of the first months to other tasks for the reconstruction of the country;
- the growing role of Ukrainian culture, as a certain indicator and conscious tool for both popularization of the country and the reconstruction of identity, the foundation for a sense of dignity and capacity;
- the resources involved, the boosted individuals, groups and organizations give reason to expect a significant surge in the activity of civil society organizations, both institutionalized and not.

## **Session 2. What should the energy of young people during the reconstruction of Ukraine after the war be directed at?**

On the basis of the previously prepared clusters of questions, participants were asked to formulate the key tasks and focuses, at which the energy of young people should be directed during the reconstruction of Ukraine after the war, in accordance with certain levels:

- local;
- regional;
- national

- international.

According to the format of the "world café", each of the participants could both get acquainted with the achievements of the groups and add their own ideas and suggestions. As a result of the discussion and subsequent digitization, several end-to-end sets which were most represented at each of the levels were prepared. Of course, depending on the level, the focus and content of the activities changed.



### Set 1. Influence and participation in the processes of political decision-making

This set mainly concerned the participation / expansion of participation and involvement of young people in socio-political processes, management at the level of communities and the country as a whole. An important feature was that at the local and regional level, certain markers of real, measurable impact prevailed – quantitative indicators of presence, distribution of finances, etc. The national level became dominated by somewhat "declarative" formats, and the international one remained completely unaddressed.

| Local level  | Regional level  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplification of administrative processes at the local level</li> <li>• Youth state bodies under the aegis of local state institutions</li> <li>• Young people manage a % in the budget provided for youth programs</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in decision making at the oblast / state level</li> <li>• Increasing the number of young people in regional authorities</li> </ul> |
| National level   | International level   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State programs, in particular internships at state institutions</li> <li>• Youth President of Ukraine and Parliament</li> <li>• Program of donor financing of re-profiling from the public sector to the political one (regional and national level)</li> <li>• Strengthening public oversight over the actions of the state with the participation of young people</li> <li>• Annual national dialogue in forum/camp format</li> </ul> |   |

## Set 2. Coordination and networking

This set, taking into account the results of previous work, was also quite "elaborated" at the group level. Just like in the previous set, local and regional levels are more substantively and realistically defined. For the most part, the format of one-time events or certain declarations was used at the national and international level. It is worth noting that the national level in general was out of the group's focus of attention.

| Local  | Regional  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a coordination center for local NGOs (NGOs)</li> <li>• Mutual integration (local + non-native)</li> <li>• Establishment of mentoring program by institutions</li> <li>• Youth team building</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interregional cooperation between youth organizations</li> <li>• Program of guest interregional exchanges</li> </ul>   |
| National   | International   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proactive Ukrainian diaspora, which operates in the format of clubs and communities</li> <li>• Ukraine is the center of youth policy of Europe and the world</li> <li>• International Youth Forum in Ukraine</li> <li>• National Programs for Foreign Youth</li> <li>• Promoting youth involvement in international projects and youth forums</li> </ul> |

## Set 3. Key youth requests for support

Regarding the support required by young people and the organizations they develop, most participants see it in financial form: individual (bonuses / "Affordable housing") and group (support of initiatives); resources at the local and regional levels. At the national level, program requirements for supporting certain sectoral activities or areas of regulation are already being developed.

| Local  | Regional   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a local youth housing program</li> <li>• Advocacy (employment of IDPs / participation in decision-making / support of projects (performance of state functions))</li> <li>• Awards to youth activists</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financing of youth initiatives</li> </ul> |

| National   | International |
|--|---------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State support for the introduction of the position of a youth worker in business structures</li> <li>• Grant program to support young people from the creative industries</li> <li>• Support of the private and public sector in ensuring the functions of the state, in particular in the establishment and support of private universities, schools, provision of social services</li> <li>• Simplification of the procedure for the transition of the State Property Fund for the lease of premises</li> </ul> |               |

#### Set 4. Culture and history

Culture, its generation and promotion activities for the group became one of the end-to-end and keystone topics. Accordingly, the most ideas and proposals, quite diverse both in the format of events and in the areas of actors involved, were presented in this set. It is important to note that for the participants, the understanding of culture was quite broad and included the sphere of tourism, historical reconstruction, modern creative industries, informal education, etc. While the first three levels mainly focused on the development, preservation of culture, the international level focused on collaboration and popularization of Ukrainian culture.

| Local  | Regional  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural boost (cultural hubs, events, associations)</li> <li>• Tourism (preservation of monuments / excursions for visitors / active micro-initiatives / international post-military)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating conditions for the development of a new culture</li> <li>• Ethno festivals</li> <li>• Establishment of a network of cultural / tourist hubs, in particular interregional</li> <li>• Domestic tourism</li> </ul>   |
| National   | International   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant programs to finance the Ukrainian media products</li> <li>• East-west cultural exchanges</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of Ukrainian cultural products in cooperation with international partners (brand of Ukraine in the world – State Agency for Tourism Development; identification and uniqueness of the Ukrainian language, history and culture – Ministry of Culture and Ukrainian Institute of National Memory; establishment and promotion of Ukrainian media content – Ministry of Digital Transformation)</li> <li>• Establishment of Ukrainian brands and their promotion</li> </ul> |



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of a new image of a Ukrainian man and Ukrainian woman in art and not only</li> <li>• Creation of translations / voice-over of Ukrainian films</li> <li>• Dissemination of stories of young people who survived the war (informing, art, punishment for war crimes)</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## Set 5. Education

Education, similar to culture, became a set where certain ideas and proposals have been voiced at each level. And while at the local and regional levels the issues of personal development, popularization of national and regional heroics prevailed, primarily through the means of informal education, the national and international levels are perceived mainly through formal "lenses" – programs to support networks of certain institutions, exchange programs, recognition of diplomas, etc.

| Local   | Regional  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal education (preservation and transfer of memory of military events in a particular region)</li> <li>• Personal and organizational coaching</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of reconstruction of historical events</li> <li>• Program of research and popularization of local history and its heroes</li> </ul> |
| National  | International   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate University Program on the basis of youth institutions as an intermediary between business and youth</li> <li>• School of Management and Development of NGOs</li> <li>• Establishment of modern universities after the reconstruction of the state in the affected territories</li> <li>• University Educational Exchange Program (Erasmus in Ukraine)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of legal and social documents on education (Ukrainian diploma = European diploma)</li> </ul>   |

## Set 6. Business

The economic set was the least developed by the participants. At each of these levels, mostly slogans and declarations prevailed, extremely few specific or clear measures / forms of interaction, specific requests and ideas were indicated.

| Local   | Regional   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Development Strategy</li> <li>• Small business</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment in the reconstruction of the region</li> </ul> |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
|                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of educational facilities in accordance with the needs of the region</li> <li>• Support for starting a mobile business (which is easy to move to another region)</li> </ul> |
| <b>National</b> | <b>International</b>   |
|                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting international youth craft production and other businesses</li> </ul>  |

These sets are the result of processing, analysis and systematization of the general responses of young people during the meeting.

### Session 3. Knowledge, skills and competencies that young people need



Based on the discussed areas of youth activities in the post-war period, participants were asked to think about the knowledge / abilities / skills and competencies young people would need when implementing such ideas or proposals. The format of the work was a group brainstorming session, where the proposed ideas were put on a flipchart.

After analyzing and systematizing the proposed ideas, we have prepared a list of knowledge / abilities / skills and competencies that young people will need:

- 1) Skills in building and organizing teamwork, which includes networking; mentoring, personal stress resilience, willingness to take responsibility and get out of your comfort zone.
- 2) The basics of project and event management; the ability to effectively accumulate funds, manage common and personal resources; the ability to make decisions in a situation of risk or stress, while motivating and encouraging others.
- 3) Innovative / creative / global thinking; the ability to think strategically and formalize ideas accordingly; possession of knowledge management tools and analysis of the experience gained.
- 4) Communication skills and tools (self-presentation, public speaking skills, negotiations, etc.).
- 5) Mastery of digital tools and competencies.
- 6) Knowledge and skills about physical and digital security.

- 7) Teaching and informing skills, willingness to learn throughout life (Lifelong Learning).
- 8) Understanding decision-making processes at different levels and in different institutions, knowledge of how state institutions work and what tools of influence on them are effective.
- 9) Skills in creating content and organizing its production.
- 10) Eco-awareness and ability to ensure environmental interaction.
- 11) Know who we are/what our culture is.
- 12) Proficiency in foreign languages.
- 13) Urbanism.