

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT IN UKRAINE AND ITS ROLE IN THE CROSS-SECTORAL PARTNERSHIP

At the heart of volunteerism are the ideas of service and solidarity and the belief that together we can make the world a better place. In that sense, we can say that volunteerism is the ultimate expression of what the United Nations is all about.

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INTRODUCTION

Volunteer activity is the basis for the foundation and development of civil society. During the last 10–15 years, the number of individuals involved (or planning to be) in volunteer activities in Ukraine drastically increased, reflecting the increasing role and influence of the volunteer movement in the country.

In Ukraine, the volunteer movement appeared at the beginning of the 1990s, when in 1993 the UNO Volunteers Program was introduced, and 131 persons were mobilised. In May, 1998, Ukraine initiated the Regional Program “Initiatives on the Volunteer Works”. The Program’s idea belonged to the New York Open Society Institute, commonly known as the Soros Foundation, and is implemented through the national divisions’ network. The main goal of the Program is to re-introduce the volunteer movement as a basis of civil society and the continuity of democratic reforms, the increase of citizens’ volunteer work share, aimed at solving specific social problems.

In 2001, Ukraine joined in the celebration of International Volunteers’ Day (December, 5). Officially, the volunteer movement in Ukraine was acknowledged by a Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, issued on December, 10, 2003 (*Postanova Kabinetu Ministriv Ukrainy* 2014).

According to the “Democratic Initiatives” Foundation (Autumn, 2013), 21.4% of adults of almost all age groups are involved in volunteer activities in Ukraine. Among much of the volunteers (more than 80%) are youth aged between 15 and 19, and more than 72% are women (*Cikavi fakty pro volonterstvo v Ukraini* 2014).

It should be stressed that during ten years of studies of the Ukrainian Non-Governmental Organisations State and Dynamics (2002–2012), the amount of volunteer NGOs decreased from 78% in 2002 to 69% in 2011. Simultaneously, during the last few years Ukrainian organisations started engaging students, as well as the recipients of volunteer work (Palyvoda, S. Golota 2012).

Analysing the types of volunteer services or assistance, we can say they connect almost all spheres of life. According to the “Democratic Initiatives” Foundation (Autumn 2013), almost 41% of volunteers sacrifice not only their material values, but also their time (Mykoliuk 2013).

Today, there are about 14653 charitable organisations in Ukraine, the main goal of which is to help poor people. According to the National Charitable Rate, in 2012 Ukrainians donated 580 million hryvnia. (according to official statistics, the annual incomes of the charitable organisations total 4.6367 billion hryvnia, which is higher than the National Charitable Rate figure). About 300 Ukrainians annually travel the world as volunteers (*Rozvytok blagodijnyctva v suchasnij Ukraini* 2014).

The main volunteer organisations, unions and centres in Ukraine are the Ukrainian Civic Center “Volunteer”, the Volunteer Center “Good Will”, the GURT Resource Center, the Ukrainian Association of Youth Cooperation “Alternative–V”, the Inter-regional Volunteer Organisation “WORLD – Ukraine” (Solidarity, Volunteer, Initiative, Tolerance), and the UNO – Ukraine Volunteers.

The increase in numbers of the volunteer movement showed the urgency of legal regulations to determine the organisational and legal basis of volunteer activity, the development of the volunteer movement, volunteers’ legal status, financial sources etc.

This why on April 19, 2011, the Supreme Council of Ukraine adopted the project of the Law on Volunteer Activity, signed by the President on May 11, 2011. In September 2013, the President signed Decree№ 473/2013 *On introducing changes to some Presidential Decrees on Volunteer Activity* (Vidomosti Verchownoi Rady Ukrainy 2011, Vidomosti Verchownoi Rady Ukrainy 2013). Simultaneously, the overwhelming legal regulation of volunteer activity largely narrows its development potential in Ukraine.

THE HISTORY OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN UKRAINE

For a long time in history, volunteer activities were one of the features of the Ukrainian nation. The Ukrainian language dictionary presents a wide range of the corresponding synonyms (*доброчинність, доброчинство,*

добродійство, добродіяння, благодіяння...), which specifically mean one thing: *to grant help, support someone in something*.

The history of volunteering in Ukraine and Russia dates back more than 100 years. Russia has always been rich in people, who helped others in need or illness free of charge.

The first national volunteers – the Red Cross, an organisation of volunteer Sisters of Mercy at hospitals. Before World War I, the Great Princess Yelizaveta Fedorivna on her own expense, created the Marfo-Mariyinski hostel in Moscow. Not only during the war, but even during the years of the Revolution, its sisters brought in and helped the wounded from the city streets, and gave food to the starving.

In Ukraine, the term “volunteer” wasn’t introduced until the 1990s. People who engaged in socially significant activities were called the good-doers, altruists, civil activists, philanthropists (Princes Volodumur, Yaroslav the Wise, Get’man Petro Sagaydachnu, Mazepa), and private philanthropists Tereshchenkis, Semerentis, Brotskis.

In the Soviet years, when the good of the country was put far above the good of the individual, the term “volunteer” possessed a very specific ideological and patriotic twist: so called were the people who were eager to serve not the needs of the individual persons, but the needs of the general party, the communist idea or a socialistic state. During that time the concept of the “Soviet man” as a citizen meant certain social bonds, such as to pensioners, members of the Comsomol and the Communists, implemented in the forms of patronage over children, schools, veterans: mentorship over juvenile delinquents, taking part in common activities, membership in the “Timur Teams”, volunteer peoples’ brigades (*Molodiez dlia molodiezy* 2001).

In the 1990s, along with the FYSS Centers’ development, and the lack of professional cadres, the need for social work arose for the socially active volunteers.

The Ukrainian nation, after its active vote during the 1991 national independence referendum for a sovereign and independent state, got a unique opportunity to prove itself among the developed civilised countries of the world. Today, a democratic society has arisen in Ukraine, a society to be based on the principles of freedom, creation and humanism. Formal state structures are unable to react to all the social needs, hence the importance of the volunteer movement. Evidence of the start of this process and development is to be found in the foundation of the modern non-governmental organisations, more than 20 thousand in number. However, only a small part of them works with volunteers.

In May 1998, Ukraine, among other Central and Eastern European states as well as several Asian countries, started implementing the Regional Pro-

gram “Initiatives for Volunteer Works”. The Program’s idea belongs to the New York Open Society Institute, commonly known as the Soros Foundation, and is implemented through the national divisions’ network. The main goal of the Program is to re-introduce the volunteer movement as a basis of civil society and the continuity of democratic reforms, the increase of the citizens’ volunteer work share, aimed at solving specific social problems (Kapska 2000).

The Ukrainian Program’s goals and tasks consist of: Ukrainian civil activity reinforcement through development of the volunteer movement aimed at the widest possible citizenship inclusion into socially useful works in the NGOs, social services and medical sphere participation to help solve social problems (Vidomosti Verchownoi Rady Ukrainy 2011). In terms of the Program, the Volunteer Center “Good Will” was created, which started recruiting volunteers and directed them to NGOs. Since 1998, volunteer management training was introduced for more than 40 NGO representatives. To popularise the volunteer movement the book “Volunteer Activity in Ukraine: the Past, the Present and the Future”, five “Good Will” bulletins and the handbook “Volunteer Activities’ Management. How to Introduce Society to Solving its Problems” were published.

It is also worth mentioning that not only NGOs, but also state organisations try to develop the volunteer movement in Ukraine. An example of this is the activity of the FYSS, where volunteers are working alongside professional social workers. The FYSSC volunteers’ services gradually became one of the national youth policy priorities. In February–March, 1999, a social poll on an NGOs participation in working with youth was held by the Ukrainian Social Studies Institute. Representatives of more than 183 NGOs from eight regions of Ukraine took part in the poll. The most active social work with children and youth is done by youth (19%), women (12%), juveniles (12%) volunteer organisations, along with disabled social workers (18%). All the social work is done voluntarily.

During the social projects and services fair held in the Kiev City State Administration (KCSA) in November 1999, and organised by both the “Gurt” Resource Centre and the KCSA social service, 75 organisations were questioned on volunteer work needs.

The UNO General Assembly announced the year 2001 to be the International Year of the Volunteer. The main goals of the act were: to increase volunteer work approval, its support and approval, popularisation, development of the network to further promote and exchange information on it. The condition set to achieve the stated goals was the cooperation of such social sectors as civil organisations, state and private individuals.

On March 22, 2001, the President of Ukraine signed a decree to hold the International Year of the Volunteer in Ukraine.

So, all the facts mentioned above suggest that the demand for volunteer work grows annually. Many organisations were found in Ukraine, which recruit and train volunteers, or other organisations specialising solely on volunteer development. It is worth mentioning that today, in Kiev, for example, there are at least three factors enabling the promotion of volunteer activity in civil life:

1. The existence of social services users and the sphere for volunteer activities proposed by the NGOs.
2. The existence of potential volunteers, eager to be introduced to organisations and training.
3. The existence of world volunteer movement models and methodological recommendations on volunteer sector work, gradually implemented training events to develop trainers.

So, we can conclude that under modern conditions, a deeper social and state understanding of different social development aspects is needed. Social problems must be solved, and the success of the changes at hand depends on social services and support personnel qualifications, which in turn require the corresponding training; it becomes a top priority in the new national policy implementation. The great volunteer movement formation is one of the main ways for efficient social work in any country.

GOALS, TASKS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE UKRAINIAN SOCIAL VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT

The Ukrainian nation, after its active vote during the 1991 national independence referendum for a sovereign and independent state, got a unique opportunity to prove itself among the developed civilised world countries. Today, a democratic society has arisen in Ukraine, a society to be based on the principles of freedom, creation and humanism. Formal state structures are unable to react to all social needs, hence the importance of the volunteer movement. Evidence of the start and development of this process can be found in the foundation of modern non-governmental organisations, more than 20 thousand in number.

However, only a small part of them works with volunteers. In May 1998, Ukraine, among other Central and Eastern European states as well as several Asian countries, started implementing the Regional Program "Initiatives on the Volunteer Works". The program's idea belongs to the New York Open

Society Institute of the Soros Foundation, and is implemented through the national divisions' network. The main goal of the program is to re-introduce the volunteer movement as a basis of civil society and a continuation of democratic reforms, the increase of the citizens' volunteer work share, aimed at solving specific social problems. The Ukrainian program's goals and tasks consist of: Ukrainian civil activity reinforcement through development of the volunteer movement aimed at the widest possible citizenship inclusion into socially useful works in NGOs, social services and medical sphere participation to help solve social problems. In terms of the program, the Volunteer Centre "Good Will" was founded, which began recruiting volunteers and directing them to NGOs (Zvierieva, Laktionova 2001).

Along with this, a matter of great importance was and is to train the organizations' representatives in the management of volunteer activities, as it is one of the main problems why society remains uncooperative. Since 1998, volunteer management training was introduced for more than 40 NGO representatives. To popularise the volunteer movement the book "Volunteer Activity in Ukraine: the Past, the Present and the Future", five "Good Will" bulletins, and a handbook "Volunteer Activities' Management. How to Introduce Society to Solving its Problems" were published.

It is worth mentioning that not only NGOs, but the state itself seeks development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine. An example of this is FYSSC activities, where volunteers are working alongside professional social workers. The FYSSC volunteers' services gradually became one of the national youth policy priorities. It is worth mentioning that today, in Kiev, for example, there are at least three factors enabling the promotion of volunteer activity in civil life: the existence of social services users and the sphere for volunteer activities proposed by the NGOs; the existence of potential volunteers, eager to be introduced to organisation and training; the existence of world volunteer movement models and methodological recommendations on volunteer sector work, gradually implemented by training events to develop trainers.

Almost every time, the volunteers' goals coincide with the goals performed by the paid staff, and the volunteers themselves are used as assistants in the important terms of the program's goal spheres.

The volunteer's work must be professionally organised and supervised. Volunteers can do any kind of work, not just the simplest things which do not require a professional background. A volunteer is not a mere assistant or social worker taking care of others, they can be a teacher, IT-specialist, politician, engineer or designer.

In setting the goals for volunteers, organisations must take into account the individual abilities of each person. Volunteers can do work that does not

correspond with the paid tasks; they can introduce new ideas to the organisation; create and promote a common opinion on the organisation; introduce new people to the organisation; help collect donations; promote social activity.

Volunteers can do work they would have never engaged in with paid jobs. Volunteers who give their time and effort to an organisation want to be its part, they want to have a voice in it and influence the decisions made. In fact, that others are interested in what they think and take into account their point of view, proves the importance of the volunteers for the organisation. An ability to influence even a mere part of the organisation's activities is a specific motivation type, as any person feels involved in the organisation in general.

Volunteer movement development in Ukraine is based on the following tasks:

Firstly, acknowledging a level increase. The state government and local authorities must be sure in the mechanics of volunteers' participation in consultations on and studies of the issues to evaluate the qualitative contribution of the volunteer sector in general which can add to national benefit and development. Dealing with issues must be based on the better experience of smaller groups, local societies, national NGOs, as well as on the results of volunteers' international activities.

Secondly, there is motivation. The ways to introduce people to volunteer activity are outlined, depending on specific social conditions. The state can propose: its training programs for volunteers on topics such as techniques, management, finances; assistance in obtaining official status, insurance and social support to set volunteers among equal specialists in other professional spheres; a decrease in tax rates for those supporting volunteer initiatives; under certain conditions, to account for volunteer activities as a military service; providing part of the resources, such as handbooks, drugs, financial support etc., for the volunteers to use.

In this way both social and private sector employees can agree to join volunteer movements without losing their jobs. Besides, the UNO system can outline the best ways of further volunteer service support from society. It can take the form of a national volunteer crops establishment to solve environmental issues, AIDS, cultural heritage preservation and propaganda problems.

Thirdly, the introduction of an information exchange system. TV, radio, printed and electronic media can spread information regarding volunteer achievements, and in this way support the usage of the existing "better practice" and working procedures to help each community to not "re-invent the wheel". Such information exchange can be done at the local, provincial, neighbouring and distant states level due to electronic media assets.

Finally, there is propaganda. This task's fulfillment is aimed at seeking volunteer services' demands and proposals to provide services as a volunteer in terms of the spheres at hand, as well as at shaping the general supportive climate, official and social view in support of volunteer initiatives. This process must also be aimed at the acknowledgement of volunteers' status, utilising developed schemes, and the establishment of an information exchange system. It is vital here to account for the competence and professionalism of the volunteers-specialists, as well as for the advantage to society received from their labour (for example, campaigns on rational environmental utilisation programme development etc.).

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN UKRAINE: PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS

Volunteer movement development in Ukraine is influenced by the following basic directions:

1. volunteer – free labour in non-commercial organisations helping different groups of people in any activity, education, development spheres. Such a volunteer movement direction which is not age restricted enables their creative and social self-realisation, self-development and self-observance;
2. systematic or episodic volunteer assistance, provided to state institutions as part of their social policy implementation – help, aimed at educational establishments in their work, social assurance institutions in their work with children and youth with special needs, as well as with aged people;
3. volunteer activity is a result of creative self-development and the education of others, but it is not a professional activity;
4. pedagogically orientated volunteer activity is, inter alia, a mechanism to develop personality, its socialisation and spiritual foundation. This direction develops in children and youth unions (with the aim of socially significant activities), in different Family and Youth Social Services Centres (FYSSC).

The volunteer movement's characteristic feature, spontaneously developing within different social institutions, organisations and unions in Ukraine, is an inclusion of the 15–20 year old youth taking part in volunteer activities. Drawing the attention of juveniles, youth, and the elderly is an efficient way to encourage active personal self-realisation in terms of activity and communication as a cultural process.

Further detailed analysis of the process' composition reveals that volunteers, due to social and pedagogical activity, shape valuable life priorities, and obtain valuable day-to-day personal life skills: self-realisation, self-organisa-

tion, self-development, self-regulation and self-rehabilitation, and self-education and self-upbringing (Golovanova, Gapon 1996).

It is worth mentioning that one of the main problems of the Ukrainian volunteer movement is a number of difficulties in such activity. The volunteer organisers should not only familiarise themselves with the movement's history in other countries, organise work and control, learn to work out plans and tasks for the volunteers, but also to always account for the thoughts and experience of the volunteers themselves.

Today, there are the following volunteer movement centres in Ukraine:

- Coordination Council on Volunteer Movement Development and Support within the Labour and Social Policy Ministry of Ukraine;
- Ukrainian Civic Centre “Volunteer”;
- Civic Organisations Development Resource Centre “Gurt”;
- Ukrainian National Centre for Youth Social Services;
- „Pensioner” Volunteer Organisation, War Veterans Organisation Councils;
- Civic Organisations and Initiatives Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Ukraine.

In 2001, in Kiev, an initiative was pronounced to organise a “Volunteer of the Year” competition, proposed by the Civic Organisations Development Resource Centre “Gurt” and the General Domestic Policy Department. This paper clearly states the motives, number of participants, volunteer activity spheres, and evaluation criteria.

The goal of the contest was to publicly acclaim volunteer work and thank the people who gave their time, knowledge, power, energy, skills, and devotion to working for the sake of the public.

Volunteer activity spheres:

- social security;
- healthcare;
- education and upbringing;
- environmental protection;
- sports and tourism;
- culture and youth movement;
- international cooperation development;
- legal protection;
- volunteer activities' management.

In modern Ukraine, the volunteer movement has become more and more popular. Examples of such free help can be seen in the ecological and social spheres. The volunteer movement gradually enters the economic sphere. For example, the State Tax Administration of Ukraine allows volunteers (students, pensioners, former Tax Administration bodies' officials) to work as its

tax consultants. The experiment was initiated in the Zhutomur region, where 70 persons were trained using a special programme.

Volunteer movement has actively developed in the Ternopil, Zaporizhzhia, L'viv, Vinnitsa, and Kherson regions. Some of the objectives of the volunteers' activity are the Mothers' Movement Against Drugs and AIDS, helping youth be better parents, psychological assistance to pregnant women, helping gutter children, orphans and children from adverse families, and boarding school pupils.

One of the main objectives of the Lugansk region volunteer movement is the so-called "Veteran Drugstore". More than 23,500 pensioner-volunteers support and organise material help for the disabled, war veterans and people living alone. Red Cross-based centres host 37 medics-volunteers to treat people in need.

On December 19, 2003, with support from the Labour and Social Policy Ministry of Ukraine, in coordination with the Ukrainian Veteran Council, the Ukrainian Pensioner Volunteers Assembly was gathered.

Ukrainian volunteer movement development was also stimulated by implementation of a Presidential Decree approved State Program on "Health of Old People". Today, the volunteer movement is one of the effective ways for social security and life standards have increased for the elderly, with a positive specific work aimed at the inclusion of a wide range of pensioners and youth in charitable activity.

Today, more than two thousand pensioner volunteers take care of approximately half a million seniors, disabled, orphans who appeared to be in unfavorable living conditions and in need of outside assistance. The pensioner volunteer movement develops in three main ways: "Pensioner-to-pensioner" help, "Pensioner-to-children", and "Veteran Drugstores" – a special type of a store selling Ukrainian-made drugs at manufacturer's prices, or with a 30% discount. Nowadays there are more than 1700 such shops in Ukraine.

Active development of the volunteer movement takes place within the Ukrainian students' community too. For example, in 1997 the Lugansk T.Shevchenko National Pedagogical University created a "SOVA" (student volunteer-activists squad) Volunteer squad in its Historical Department.

During its existence, the squad moved from specific charitable activities to the shaping and implementation of its own social projects and participation in regional, inter-regional and international projects.

Volunteer movement development dynamics from the "SOVA" squad foundation are proof of the constant search by students for new directions, forms and ways of participation in the cities and regions' social problems resolve, and for widening the range of such participation and communications with state and non-governmental social services.

Any volunteer groups within the Youth Social Services Centres act in terms of social programs implemented by the Centres and pre-planned by the working papers and tasks which are shaped for each Centre by the state.

Nowadays, a prominent role in the increasing status of volunteers within the SSC, as well as in shaping positive public perception towards their activities, is played by the installment of a volunteer education system.

Accounting for the features of youth social services' activities and tasks, different education forms are used to train volunteers in order to sharpen their knowledge and skills, for example:

- during the year –volunteer school;
- during a year and a half – topical volunteer courses;
- during a month – volunteer-assistant training camp;
- during the week – advanced study courses.

The Centres engaged in volunteer work must plan systematic study courses, consultations, discussions, seminars, “round tables”, and training to differentiate the ways volunteers get to know the essence, directions, and types of social pedagogical work depending on their professional background for such work.

Regional YSSC documentation analysis has led to an outline of the main directions of volunteer work:

1. Social rehabilitation work, negative youth phenomenon' prevention and overcome:
 - work with youth with a tendency towards asocial behaviour;
 - prevention and overcoming alcohol and drug abuse, smoking;
 - sexual diseases and AIDS/HIV prevention;
 - support for juveniles – victims of moral, physical, sexual violence.
2. Social care and protection of the least secure children and youth:
 - support and assurance of the creative talents of disabled juveniles;
 - social support for young families;
 - social work with orphans and children lacking parental supervision;
 - social support for military-aged and unemployed youth, assistance with employment;
 - social work with female youth;
 - support for youth and children in self-upbringing, self-determination and self-improvement;
 - shaping and development of creative personality qualities;
 - development and support for talented youth and children.

Different regions have different ways and principles to introduce people to volunteer activity. The most common way is to invite students of the corresponding specialties (social workers, psychologists, lawyers, medics) to

participate in social work through volunteer groups. For example, in Zaporizhzhia 12 social teachers and students-psychologists of the Zaporizhzhia State University's Social Pedagogics and Psychology Department, work voluntarily. They contribute to juvenile sexual education in summer school camps. In the Dnipropetrovsk region the Program "Femida's Scales" is under way, carried out by the volunteer legal youth club, members of which are law student graduates of Dnipropetrovsk State University.

Within the Chernivtsi YSSC, a number of volunteer squads are comprised of local pedagogical university students. Besides them, students of the pedagogical college and medical workers actively participate in volunteer activities.

In Vinnitsa, volunteer-students of the local pedagogical university's Philology Department have drawn up a study course, "Learning Classic Literature" with its aim of improving the general cultural and intellectual level of youth with certain mental digressions. In Lutsk, volunteer work is done by 25 volunteers made up of medical college and Psychological Department students. Their professional background surely influenced the specifics of their volunteer activity.

Around the world, one of the main objects of the volunteer activities is NGOs: youth, juvenile and female. Ukrainian NGOs are insufficiently included in social work. However, there are examples of such cooperation. For instance, in Chernivtsi volunteer groups constantly communicate with active youth NGOs – "The Bukovina's Guides", "In Harmony with Nature", and the children's organizations "Sprout" and "Rainbow".

Most of the volunteers work at non-governmental organisations (NGOs). They are one of the main human resources for NGOs. Their work is a basis of the private sector. According to M. Kordinski, the Odessa "Other's Child" club leader, NGOs, having no real financial resources, use as a main resource the charitable, volunteer work of their members and other resources brought with them. The volunteer movement in Ukraine is determined by social life humanisation and is responsive to social needs. The volunteer work is considered able to be guided into the community service sphere, health care, employment, social support, cultural, urban, artistic, and religious traditions renovation.

The Kherson Youth Organisations and Informal Unions Association "Freedom" organises regional concerts together with Kherson regional YSSC specialists.

Members of the Kharkiv city youth Modelling Center "Ludus" assist YSSC psychologists to carry out club work, business games, and a "Debates" club with juveniles in local clubs.

It is well-known that religious organisations play one a prominent role in volunteer social work. Unlike civil ones, religious organisations in Ukraine

do a great amount of varied social work. However, their activity rarely coincides with, and is rarely used by the YSSC. For example, in Zhutomur 8 St. Sophia's Catholic Cathedral Legion volunteers work with a family club for children with special needs, known as "The Special Child". They carry out social patronage of disabled children at home.

Cooperation with the religious organisations of various faiths is considered helpful in widening and varying the social work done by volunteers. Some precautions in cooperation between the SSC and religious organisations are a reason of inertial thinking and oftentimes false alarms. With mutual respect to the individual religious views of each partner, these misunderstandings can be avoided.

To be able to work, volunteers need a sufficient theoretical and practical basis. For instance, between 1997–1998 in Mukolaiv, while implementing the "Volunteer Trust Phone" Program, 25 volunteers visited lectures, role and psychological training, along with practicing the "Trust Phone", and receiving the corresponding certificates afterwards.

In 2005, Dnipropetrovsk was visited by foreign volunteers. From July 13th until August 2nd, an International Volunteer Camp was organised, with participants from many foreign countries. It was dedicated to working with youth. Volunteers brought many new and interesting notions into the world of children and their development. English, French, PC, swimming, football, and volleyball classes were carried out. Informational events on member-countries national features, traditions, dances, and songs left no one unattached. Our children prepared a concert to show Ukrainian life and culture.

So, we can conclude that volunteer activity in Ukraine, however not massive, is sufficient to name it a social event, and an important part of non-governmental social services. In general, the volunteer movement can be seen as a basis for our county's prosperity, and the volunteers themselves as pioneers guiding the way to development. If you are not yet a volunteer, then you just have not realised all benefits of becoming one, so, as they say, it is "better late, than never".

CONCLUSIONS

Nowadays, the situation in Ukraine is characterised by social, psychological and economic instability which is leading to a decrease in the social living standards, social moral norms and values devaluation, and crime and violence rate increase in Eastern regions. Social and psychological problems in Ukraine reflect the psychological status of different social

groups. What is more, a group of people in need is clearly outlined. Among them are young unemployed youth and adult people, children with a lack of parental supervision or even without parents, pensioners and nowadays, displaced persons.

To solve these problems it is needed, firstly, to learn the real needs of different social groups; secondly, to outline, prove and spread social and pedagogical work methods to help solve these problems; thirdly, there is an urgent need for qualified specialists who are able to professionally introduce developed social and pedagogical work concepts and programmes.

Volunteer activity is a way to self-perceive and self-check. That is why volunteer work is participated in by different groups of volunteers, people of any age and sex, with any education, who can perceive the outlined needs of other people and voluntarily, but professionally help them.

Under modern conditions, a deep social, governmental understanding of the different social development optimisation occurs. Social problems must be persistently solved, and the success of the changes outlined depends upon the qualifications of social support specialists that envision corresponding cadre training. It becomes the top priority for a new country's policy. Shaping the great volunteer movement is one of the ways to efficient social work in any country.

Volunteers are important for any society, as they work for free, showing society that there are more important things than material goods. Environmental protection, culture, development, and a country's positive image are the main priorities for volunteers. That is what helps society to confidently stand proud, and the volunteer to be satisfied while getting valuable life experience along with professional skills and knowledge.

Volunteer activity in Ukraine, however not massive, is a social effect and an important part of non-governmental social services activity. In general, the volunteer movement can be seen as a basis for our country's prosperity, and the volunteers themselves as pioneers guiding the way of development. If you are not yet a volunteer, then you just have not realised all benefits of becoming one, so, as they say, it is "better late, than never".

In modern times, an urgent need for social, state-realised importance of different social development aspects of optimisation arises. Social problems must be persistently solved, and the success of the changes outlined depends upon the qualification of social support specialists that envision corresponding cadre training. It becomes the top priority for a new country's policy. Shaping the great volunteer movement is one of the ways to efficient social work in our country.

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Summary

Volunteer activity is the basis for the foundation and development of civil society. Volunteers are important for any society, as they work for free, showing society that there are more important things than material goods. Environmental protection, culture, development, and a country's positive image are the main priorities for volunteers. That is what helps society to confidently stand proud, and the volunteer to be satisfied while getting valuable life experience along with professional skills and knowledge. Volunteer activity in Ukraine, however not massive, is a social effect and an important part of non-governmental social services activity. In general, the volunteer movement can be seen as a basis for our country's prosperity, and the volunteers themselves as pioneers guiding the way of development. In modern times, an urgent need for social, state-realised importance of different social development aspects of optimisation arises. Social problems must be persistently solved, and the success of the changes outlined depends upon the qualification of social support specialists that envision corresponding cadre training. It becomes the top priority for a new country's policy. Shaping the great volunteer movement is one of the ways to efficient social work in our country.

Key words: volunteers, volunteering in Ukraine, the problems of volunteers, volunteer history