NEWSLETTER
UNICEF Quarterly Newsletter of the Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative

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UNICEF Conference brings together stakeholders to discuss the challenges facing the social services system in Ukraine

An International Conference Social Services for Families with Children in Municipalities was held on 15–17 September, bringing together representatives of the Government, local governments, international and non-governmental organizations, and numerous experts at its working platforms. The objective that brought together the Conference participants was to synchronize efforts and jointly determine the direction of further activities towards establishing an effective system of social services and protection of children’s rights at the local level.

More than 900 attendees registered for the Conference, including representatives of municipalities participating in the Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), supported by the Government of Germany and KfW (the German state-owned development bank) in partnership with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the World Bank and the Council of Europe, provided space for discussion of key issues.

The Conference’s agenda included the following four topics: the principles of and techniques for providing social services, the budgeting of social services, staffing, and innovation in the social services system.
The main audience of the Conference was specialists that manage the provision of social services locally — heads of local governments, managers of departments, heads of institutions that provide social services, social workers and vocational trainers.

During the Conference, its participants discussed the issues encountered in coordinating the work of the social system in municipalities in the context of current state reforms, including the decentralization process. The exchange of effective practices will enable creative solutions to be found for qualitative transformation of the social services system.

The most raised issues related to staffing of the social system in municipalities, advanced training of specialists and financing of social services. Much attention was also paid to issues of legal regulation, intersectoral cooperation, and creating public demand for social services. Representatives of municipalities were particularly interested in discovering how to start creating a system of social services and how to develop it further.

A recording of the Conference is available through QR code:
Visit of the UNICEF Representative to the candidate cities of the Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative

Rohatyn and Lviv shared their achievements related to the Initiative and showed some of their projects to Lotta Sylwander, UNICEF Representative in Ukraine, during her visit to Western Ukraine.

The children — representatives of Children’s Advisory Councils — took part in the meetings with the UNICEF Representative. They shared their impressions of past projects, as well as plans for new ones.

In Rohatyn, Lotta Sylwander visited the future Plast Youth Centre, where repairs are currently underway. In Lviv she visited the Dzherelo Inclusive Resource Centre, the Lviv Open Lab innovative educational centre and Sensoteka: a space for reading, learning and creative activities, equipped for people with disabilities. All these are projects that cities implemented for children and youth under the auspices of the Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative.
Online course for Youth Councils

The July practical online course Youth Council Management was attended by 30 representatives of ten municipalities participating in the Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative. During the training, the teams, each consisting of two representatives of Youth Councils and one representative of the local government, learned to plan Youth Council activities, advocate for the interests of young people and reach ambitious but achievable goals. The mentors helped the participants to design development plans for Youth Council activities in the coming months.

The online course was arranged by the Youth Platform NGO in cooperation with the Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine.

‘School, We Are Ready’: UNICEF and MES launch a campaign dedicated to safe learning during the pandemic

UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, has launched the ‘School, We Are Ready’ information campaign. The campaign is intended to inform teachers and school management, students and parents about the rules and conditions of safe learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2020/2021 school year; as well as to engage teachers, parents and students in using and disseminating best practices of safe learning in the new reality.

As part of the information campaign, materials have been developed to help school principals, teachers, parents and students prepare for work and study in the new environment. Detailed information and all the materials are available at: mon-covid19.info/schools.

Printed posters on the rules of respiratory hygiene, recommendations on safe learning and peculiarities of different learning formats will be sent to schools, and electronic versions will also be available for download at mon-covid19.info/schools.
UNICEF launched a competition of projects for the Children and Youth ‘Best Municipality Initiative 2020’ Award

This year UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, will for the first time make awards to the local administrations projects on youth and children’s policy that children and youth selected as the best. Cities and municipalities from all over Ukraine are invited to compete for the ‘Best Municipality Initiative 2020’ Award.

Projects from local administrations that meet the following three requirements shall be accepted for the competition:

— address an urgent issue facing children and/or youth;
— have specific and clear outcomes;
— were implemented in 2020.

The projects submitted to the competition will be evaluated in two stages. In the first stage, the jury of experts will select ten finalists. In the second stage, children and youth from Youth and Children’s Advisory Councils in municipalities that are participating in the Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative will choose a project that they consider to be the most relevant and innovative.

You can apply to participate in the competition by 15 October at: https://forms.gle/12q7vPMwtz7QsSnR6.

Please note that the completed questionnaire should be accompanied by a short (60–90 seconds) presentation video that describes the success of the submitted project.

The competition results will be announced on World Children’s Day (20 November 2020).

THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH AWARD WAS INTRODUCED UNDER THE CHILD AND YOUTH FRIENDLY MUNICIPALITY INITIATIVE.

For more information, please contact: opryshko@unicef.org
Achievements of Municipalities

For a year now, the municipalities that were the first to join the Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative have been working to implement their plans to improve the lives of children and youth.

Each of them can already report a long list of achievements in this short period. The Initiative team has conducted the first monitoring of outcomes. The report, which summarizes the main achievements of the municipalities, can be found via the QR code:
ТВОЯ ГРОМАДА ДБАЄ ПРО БЕЗПЕКУ
ДЛЯ ДІТЕЙ

ТВОЯ ГРОМАДА ДБАЄ ПРО МОЖЛИВОСТІ
ДЛЯ МОЛОДІ

ТВОЯ ГРОМАДА СТАЄ КРАЩОЮ
ДЛЯ ТЕБЕ

ТВОЯ ГРОМАДА ДБАЄ ПРО ЗДОРОВ'Я
ДІТЕЙ
Success story

First youth survey conducted in Myrhorod

Myrhorod is one of the cities that the Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative team refers to as “independent”. These cities are moving towards receiving the status of child and youth friendly with minimal assistance from the UNICEF team, and with maximum self-motivation. In order to develop a situational analysis, Myrhorod intended to conduct a population survey, but the lockdown became an obstacle to it. Therefore, the Youth and Sports Department of the Myrhorod City Council held a series of online meetings with city's youth community. According to the organizers, the involvement of youth in this process became a powerful driver for conducting the survey.

It took about two weeks for the Working Group to form a sample, design online questionnaires and obtain statistics. The launch of the survey was announced on the official website of the Myrhorod City Council, and on the profiles of the Council and its Departments on social media. The information materials were also actively disseminated by the Myrhorod City Youth NGO ‘We are the Future’. A video of the citywide survey was broadcast on local television.

A separate appropriate channel of communication and dissemination of information was chosen for each age category: for parents, stories in TV news and on Facebook; for young people, on Instagram; and for children aged 8-12 a questionnaire was developed for completion through school chats on Viber. In the first week alone, more than 500 completed questionnaires were received!

The interim survey results can be viewed below.

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c}
\text{Would you like to start your own business in your city?} & \text{Yes} & \text{No} \\
\hline
\text{Percentage} & 81\% & 19\% \\
\end{array}
\]
IN YOUR OPINION, ARE THERE ENOUGH FACILITIES FOR YOUTH RECREATION AND REST IN THE CITY?

YES  
15.3%  

NO  
84.7%

WHAT FACILITIES FOR YOUTH RECREATION AND REST ARE LACKING, IN YOUR OPINION?

- YOUTH SPACES, CENTRES: 17.0%
- EXTREME SPORTS GROUNDS FOR RIDING BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, SCOOTERS: 14.7%
- ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES (CINEMAS, BOWLING CLUBS, SKATING RINKS, ROLLERDROMES ETC.): 28.8%
- SPORTS GROUNDS: 10.7%
- PARKS, PUBLIC GARDENS: 13.1%
- TOURIST AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (ADVENTURE PARKS, CLIMBING CENTRES ETC.): 15.7%

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU?

- HEALTHY NUTRITION
- SEX EDUCATION
- FIRST AID
- HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
- FUNDAMENTALS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

YOUTH AGED 13-17

- HEALTHY NUTRITION: 28.8%
- SEX EDUCATION: 17.0%
- FIRST AID: 40.0%
- HEALTHY Lifestyles: 15.3%
- FUNDAMENTALS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY: 10.7%
Safe commotion in 2020: a myth or reality?

In early September, Lviv hosted the first big safe offline event in Ukraine after the lockdown: ‘Youth Commotion (Molodvizh) 2020’.

The Forum was held in accordance with all lockdown protocols and requirements. There was a limited number of people at the venue, and entrance was arranged through QR codes, which minimized the need for close contact between the team of volunteers and participants.

The organizers thought through every nuance: they made sure that each visitor wore a mask correctly, kept social distance and disinfected hands using sanitizers available throughout the venue. Of course, there was a temperature screening at the entrance, and each room was ventilated.

The team stressed that young people were to be aware that it was better not to attend the event if they felt unwell.

But, as they say: there are many nuances, and Youth Commotion (Molodvizh) is the one and only!

The organizers put as much effort in the Festival agenda as in ensuring safety. Serhiy Sternenko, Ulyana Suprun, Andriy Sadovy, Khayat, Alina Pash, Serhiy Kolos, Volodymyr Andreyey, Sashko Ladanivsky and many other opinion leaders and experts attended this year’s Youth Commotion (Molodvizh).

The fact that the Forum was divided into four conceptual blocks – #molodvizh_importance, #molodvizh_values, #molodvizh_opportunities and #molodvizh_follies – enabled the discussion of many topics that are important for young people, including sex education, youth rights, post-lockdown adaptation and common sense, travel in 2020, business in the context of lockdown, the values of different generations, success and the way to the top, blogging and social media detox, information hygiene and many other interesting issues.

The central question raised by the organizers was “2020 - lost or not?”, and now we are asking you the same question.

The team is convinced that 2,000 unique visitors found answers on the festival! We are summing up and preparing for the new 2021 Youth Commotion (Molodvizh)!
In November 2019, UNICEF initiated children’s sessions in municipalities, when children and young people took the places of adults in local Councils and made decisions for one day. Then the Novoukrainka municipality joined the UNICEF global movement to mark the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This municipality started using the successful tool for cooperation of children and youth with local authorities in its daily activities. Now, the local Council often works with children to develop draft decisions.
School streets in Edinburgh

Residents of large cities know what it’s like when the pavements are completely occupied by parked cars or are lacking, and one has to walk along the rows of cars. The same problem has been faced by Edinburgh (Scotland). Schoolchildren were affected the most: their way to school was very dangerous and inconvenient. Thus, the city authorities introduced so-called “school streets”. It was simply forbidden to drive on roads adjacent to schools. This ban applies only when students go to school and return home. Interestingly, there was no collapse of traffic: some people simply didn’t drive into restricted areas, and some used parallel streets. At the same time, two-thirds of parents and children surveyed said that the road to school had become much safer.

Photo source: www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com

International Experience

Welcoming a new municipality!

One more municipality joined the family of the Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative. We are welcoming the Baranivka municipality (Zhytomyr Oblast) and wishing it success in the implementation of the Initiative.
We are looking forward to your stories!

News about the Initiative is prepared and disseminated on a regular basis. Thus, we are looking forward to your stories to be included in the next issues of the Newsletter.

Send your letters to opryshko@unicef.org with a note "To the Initiative's Newsletter" and don't forget to state the name of your municipality.

Follow the news of the Child and Youth Friendly Municipality Initiative on our Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/CYFMUkraine/