

## SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF YOUTH: NEW CHALLENGES FOR YOUTH POLICY IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

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**Introduction.** In the era of globalization, the state youth policy acquires a new meaning and becomes a specific direction of development, which should be implemented in the interests of youth, society, state, taking into account the capabilities of Ukraine, its economic, social, historical, cultural development and world experience. In turn, increasing the level of socio-political activity of young people is a key factor in the transformation of public opinion and qualitative changes in the political, social and economic life of the state, which is especially important during the struggle of the Ukrainian nation for its self-identity and the right to freedom.

**Overview of recent researches and publications.** Both Ukrainian and foreign scientists addressed the issue of studying the concept of youth policy, its main principles. In European countries, such researchers as R. Thomson, D. Roche, S. Tucker, R. Flynn, A. Scizerotto, H. Hasperoni, D. Halli, S. Paugham, K. Mantheim paid considerable attention to this field. Also, the study of the problem of implementation of the state youth policy remains in the center of scientific interest of many domestic scientists, such as: I. Palii, M. Holovaty, S. Holub, Yu. Ruban, B. Savchenko, V. Tsvetkov, O. Yaremenko. Individual issues of youth development are defined in the works of I. Ilyinskyi, E. Libanova, I. Tkachuk and in state targeted youth programs.

Despite the significant achievements of the above-mentioned foreign and domestic scientists, the definition of new vectors of youth policy of Ukraine in the context of the adoption of new legislative acts, further implementation of decentralization reform and the low level of youth participation in the socio-political life of the country require the formation of a new approach to the implementation of youth policy at the local level.

The **purpose** of the article is to improve the theoretical and methodological aspects of the implementation of youth policy, taking into account foreign experience and under the influence of globalization changes in conditions of low level of social and political activity of young people.

**Research results.** The first steps towards the development of youth policy in independent Ukraine were made with the adoption by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of the Declaration "On the General Principles of State Youth Policy in Ukraine" (December 15, 1992) [1] and the Law of Ukraine "On Promoting the Social Formation and Development of Youth in Ukraine" (February 5, 1993) [2], which define the general principles of creating organizational, socio-economic, political and legal conditions for

the social formation and development of young people, the main directions of implementation of the state youth policy in Ukraine. According to Article 1 of the above-mentioned Law on Youth, young citizens are citizens of Ukraine aged 14 to 35.

One of the latest steps in the legislative process on the implementation of youth policy was the adoption in 2021 of the Law "On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy" [3], which defines youth policy as a direction of state policy aimed at creating socio-economic, political, organizational, legal conditions and guarantees for the socialization and integration of children and youth into social processes carried out in the interests of children and youth and with their participation.

At the same time, in 2017, the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine developed a model for the implementation of youth policy in the context of decentralization. The model forms a new approach – from "youth work" to "youth participation" and is based on intersectoral cooperation and takes into account the territorial features of youth work in accordance with the specific needs of young people [4]. This development includes three levels of youth policy implementation and provides for coordination of actions of executive authorities, local self-government and youth representation.

Another important component of youth policy implementation in Ukraine is the Youth Council – an advisory body to the local council. Such youth associations represent the interests of young people, protect them, thereby developing their skills necessary in the 21st century. The activities of Youth Councils are regulated by the Resolution of the CMU "On the Youth Consultative and Advisory Body" dated December 18, 2018 [5]. Today there is a National Youth Council (a state-level body), a Youth Council of each oblast (for example, the Youth Congress of Vinnytsia or the Youth Council of Sumy Oblast), and local-level Youth Councils (in territorial communities).

In general, the youth policy of Ukraine is in a state of formation. The consequence of this is the low level of awareness of Ukrainians about the essence and directions of youth policy. According to the results of the U-Report study [6], among 4.5 thousand respondents, more than half of the respondents (57%) are unaware of the initiatives and activities carried out by state institutions for youth, more than a third of Ukrainians (36%) do not participate in the activities of youth organizations, but would like to join them.

It should be noted that the world community began to implement a targeted policy towards the younger generation since the 1950s-60s. In 1965, the UN General Assembly adopted the "Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding among Peoples" [7]; in 1985, declared the International Year of Youth, the "Guidelines for the Further Planning and Implementation of the Appropriate Follow-up Activities Concerning Youth: Participation, Development, Peace" were approved; in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution of December 14, 1995, the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond was adopted; Resolution 54/120 of January 20, 2000 approved the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policy and Programs [8].

In March 2005, the European Youth Pact was adopted. The purpose of the document is the development of youth participation in education and training, its social integration into society [9]. Subsequently, in 2007, in its communiqué "Promoting the full participation of young people in education, employment and society", the Commission focused on close communication in all areas in order to create conditions for the development of the youth sphere [10].

Speaking more specifically about the implementation of youth policy in European countries, in Belgium youth policy is partially implemented by specialized youth and traditional sectors of government, such as education, employment, health, etc. In this country, youth policy is entrusted to the ministry, which includes a department for youth affairs.

Implementing youth policy in Belgium, considerable attention is paid to youth workers. A wide range of training courses and postgraduate programs are offered in this field. Some of these courses are directly related to youth work, others to related fields such as social work. The Belgian government offers courses in related fields that are relevant to youth work and provide training for youth work professionals.

The elements of youth policy in Belgium (as in most developed European countries) are youth support, its comprehensive development, solving youth problems and their preconditions, promoting international relations of youth, proper organization of professional training of those who work with youth [11].

Another country where youth policy has been developing for a long time is Armenia. Although the country does not geographically belong to Europe, it is often compared to European countries. The legal framework for the implementation of youth policy in Armenia is the Law "On State Youth Policy of the Republic of Armenia"

[12] of 2005, the Constitution and other legal norms. The State Youth Policy Strategy is also adopted every few years. According to this Strategy, the state youth policy in Armenia has been implemented systematically since 1995 [13].

Comparative characteristics of the main components by which youth policy is regulated and implemented in Ukraine, Armenia and Belgium are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

**Comparative table of the main components of youth policy implementation in Ukraine, Armenia and Belgium**

Country	Legislative basis	Directions and tasks of youth work (according to legislation)
Ukraine	Citizens aged 14-35 are considered youth Youth policy is regulated by the Law "On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy" [3]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Creation of conditions for the involvement of youth in the public, political, socio-economic, cultural life of society, popularization of the role and importance of youth participation in the decision-making process.</li> <li>– Supporting youth in realizing their socio-economic potential, including solving housing issues, issues of professional development, employment, meeting educational, medical, cultural and other needs.</li> <li>– Formation of civic, national and cultural identity of Ukrainian youth.</li> <li>– Promoting the institutional development of youth and children's public associations, youth centers, strengthening their role in the process of youth socialization.</li> <li>– Development of youth infrastructure.</li> <li>– Development of national and international youth cooperation.</li> </ul>
Armenia	Citizens aged 16-30 are considered youth Youth policy is regulated by the Law "On State Youth Policy of the Republic of Armenia" [12]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provision of guarantees for young people.</li> <li>– Ensuring guarantees in the field of youth employment and job placement.</li> <li>– State support for socially disadvantaged families.</li> <li>– Expanding support for entrepreneurship among young people.</li> <li>– Creation of the necessary conditions for the preservation of health, spiritual and physical development, civil and military-patriotic education of youth.</li> <li>– State support for gifted, talented and creative youth, young scientists and youth organizations.</li> <li>– Study of youth problems, accounting of statistical data.</li> <li>– Expansion of international youth cooperation.</li> </ul>
Belgium	Citizens aged 12-29 are considered youth Youth policy is regulated by the Decree on the promotion of youth work [14]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Promotion of cooperation between institutions involved in the implementation of youth policy and coordination of activities in the field of youth policy at the national level.</li> <li>– Provision of methodical guidance in planning, implementation and evaluation of local self-government work with youth.</li> <li>– Coordination and organization of training and exchange of experience of persons involved in work with youth.</li> <li>– Development of international cooperation in the field of youth policy.</li> <li>– Ensuring the availability of information about the rights, duties, opportunities and responsibilities of young people for young people and those engaged in youth work.</li> </ul>

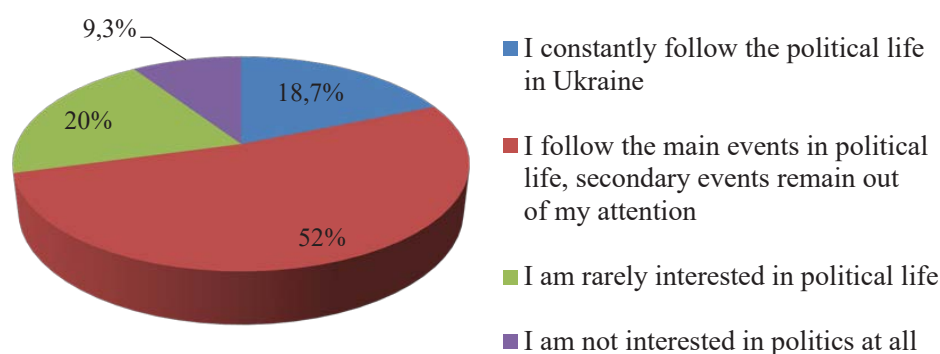
Studying the expectations, opportunities, preferences and desires of young people is an integral part of youth policy implementation. The value orientations of young people change over time, and the preferences of young people also differ depending on their age. That is why an independent survey of Ukrainian youth on their civic and political activity was conducted. In order to better understand the choices of each participant, we have also added sections on education and leisure, mobility, work and employment, values, which are an integral part of the lives of young people in every corner of the world.

For the online survey "Youth Participation in Public Processes" a non-representative sample was selected, the general population of which consists of young people from Ukraine, Armenia and Belgium aged 14-35 years. The size of the non-representative sample is 100 people and is sufficient to study the problems and desires of young people and provide practical recommendations.

The diversity of opinions in the sample was ensured by conducting a survey among young people of different age, gender, religion, education and experience. Young people who were surveyed are residents of different regions, different settlements of different sizes.

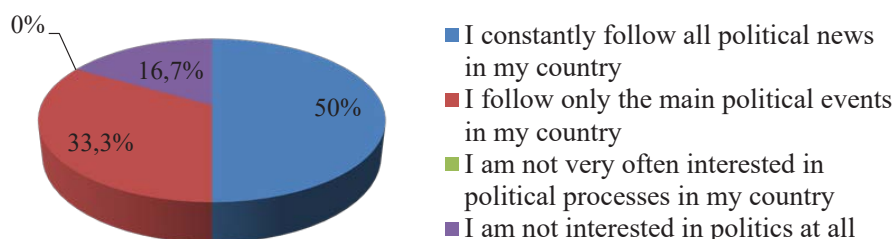
The survey involved 100 young people from Ukraine, Armenia and Belgium aged 14-18 and 19-25 years. 65.3% of them are young people aged 19-25, 34.7% – 14-18 years old. Two thirds of the respondents are women, the rest are men. In addition, the majority of young people surveyed (94.7%) are not married.

The second section concerned the socio-political participation of young people. Unfortunately, the level of interest of young people in political events in Ukraine is relatively low, only 18.7% of respondents constantly follow political life, while every fifth (20% of respondents) is interested in political life very rarely. At the same time, half of the respondents (52%) are interested only in the main political events, leaving out secondary events. All data are shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1. How interested are you in the political processes taking place in Ukraine?**

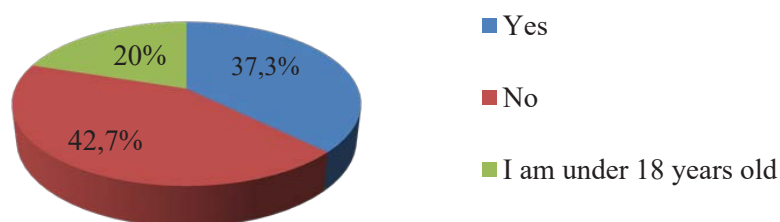
Young people in Belgium and Armenia are more interested in political events in their countries. Half of the respondents constantly follow political life. The percentage of answers to this question can be seen in Figure 2.



**Figure 2. Are you interested in political processes in your country?**

According to the authors, if the percentage of youth involvement in public and political life is quite low, then, accordingly, participation in government structures leaves much to be desired. Political participation of young people in the government should start from their regions/locations, where they can first engage in volunteer or public activities. To do this, it is necessary that young people see the future in these settlements, wish for their development and become part of it themselves.

The majority of young people over 18 years old have not participated in elections of any level in the last 5 years. Less than 40% of respondents voted in the elections. The distribution by questions is shown in Figure 3.



**Figure 3. Have you participated in elections in the last five years?**

Such low interest in elections can be explained by the fact that youth policy is just beginning to develop, young people are represented in politics in a very small share. According to a study conducted in 2015 by the information-analytical center "RATING Pro" [15], the youngest deputies are the deputies

of city councils of regional centers, whose average age is 41 years, the oldest are the deputies of regional and district councils at the age of 46 years. That is, the average age of local deputies exceeds the threshold for defining youth in Ukraine.

At the same time, young people abroad constantly participate in elections and cast their vote for the elected representative of the authorities. More than 80% of respondents voted in the elections during the last five years, the rest do not have this right yet, as they are under 18 years old.

The majority of young people surveyed in Ukraine and abroad are not members of political parties. In percentage terms, 90% of youth from Ukraine and 66.7% of youth from Belgium and Armenia are not party members. 10% of Ukrainians are under the age of 18 to join a party, compared to 16.7% of foreign youth. However, almost one in five foreign youth is still a member of a political party.

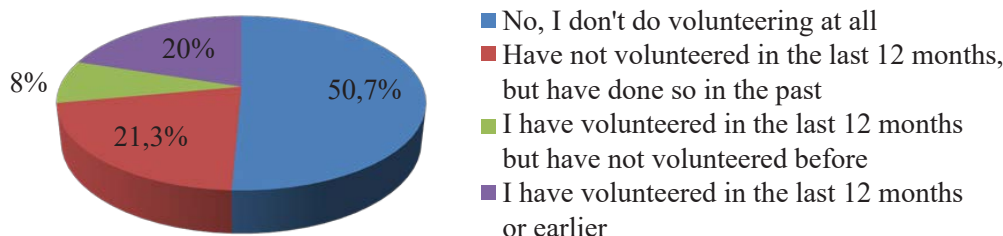
Civic participation is closely linked to the political activity of young people in any country. In other words, if a young man or a young woman does not participate in the public life of his or her locality, one should not expect them to be active during elections.

The survey shows that young people are mostly involved in the activities of pupil or student self-government bodies or did not participate in the activities of any CSOs during the last 12 months. Respondents were offered a fairly wide list of organizations of different directions, but every fifth respondent did not participate in the activities of civil society organizations at all. More than a half of the respondents are members of student / pupil self-government, and almost every fifth (16%) is interested in the activities of sports or leisure organizations. More detailed data for each of the proposed answers can be seen in Figure 4.



**Figure 4. In which civil society organizations have you participated in the last 12 months?**

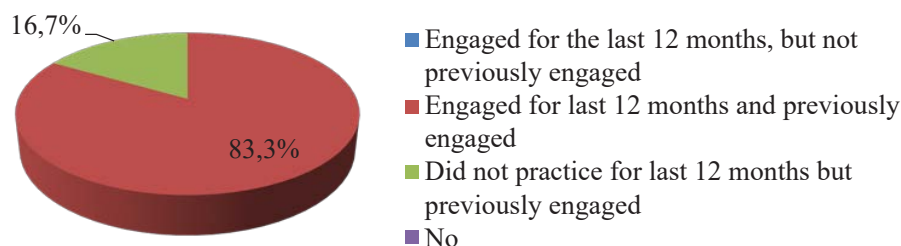
50.7% of Ukrainian youth surveyed do not volunteer at all. 28% of young people have had volunteering experience in the last 12 months, but 8% of them have not volunteered before. More details about the participation of Ukrainian youth in volunteering are shown in Figure 5.



**Figure 5. Have you ever been a volunteer?**

Representatives of Belgium and Armenia, on the contrary, prefer charitable and volunteer activities. Thus, every respondent answered that they participate in the activities of such organizations. Also, most of the surveyed foreign youth (66.7%) participate in organizations related to education. A common activity of foreign

youth is volunteering. Figure 6 shows the percentage of participation in volunteer activities of young people from Belgium and Armenia.

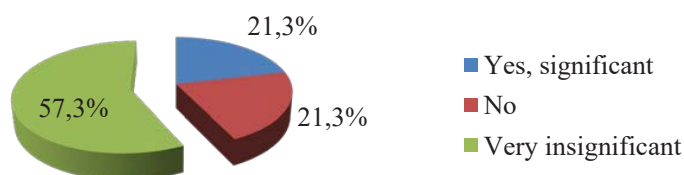


**Figure 6. Have you ever volunteered?**

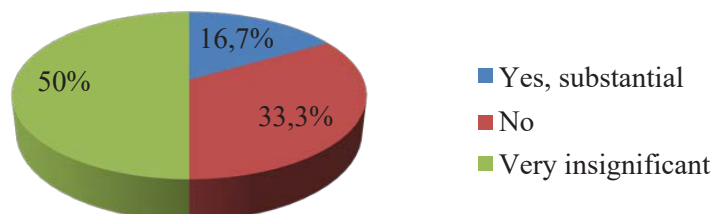
The vast majority of Ukrainian and foreign youth (70% and 83.3% respectively) are aware of the existence of youth centers. The surveyed youth evaluate the activities of such centers as "average", "above average" and "excellent".

Support of youth by the state plays a significant role in the future of the country. The adoption of one law is not enough for the full development of youth policy, for the involvement of young people in the political and public life of the state.

According to the survey, 57.3% of Ukrainian respondents feel insufficient support for youth from the state. A slightly smaller percentage (50%) of foreign youth also indicated little support from the state. The above data is confirmed by Figures 7 and 8.



**Figure 7. Do you personally feel any youth support from the state?**

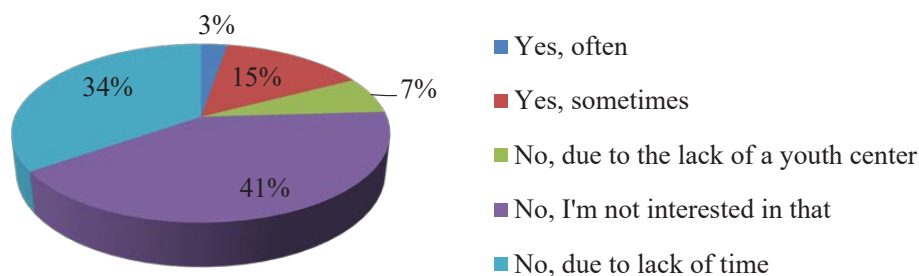


**Figure 8. Do you personally feel any youth support from the state?**

The results regarding the awareness of the existence of youth centres and their activities were opposite. The vast majority of young people from Belgium and Armenia (83.3%) know about the existence of YCs and their activities, while Ukrainian youth (64%) do not know about such institutions. That is why foreign young people are active participants in the activities of local youth centers (33.3% attend youth centers on a regular basis, 50% – from time to time, the rest do not have youth centers at their place of residence), while domestic youth are not interested in this at all. Only 14.7% sometimes attend youth center events. The statistics on this issue are shown in Figure 9.

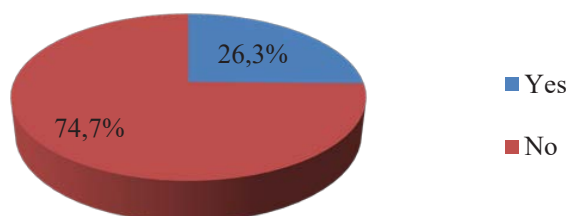
The questions of the next, third section concerned education, training and leisure. The obtained results allow us to conclude that the majority of the surveyed youth, both Ukrainian and foreign, are satisfied with the level of their education. The affirmative answer to the question "Are you satisfied with the level of your education?" was given by 41.3% of Ukrainians and every second citizen of Belgium and Armenia. Similarly, for the majority of respondents "to get education/training" means to get a profession/career, as well as to become educated and prepare for life.

According to the results, young people from Ukraine, Belgium and Armenia spend their free time at home or outdoors, with family and/or friends. In addition, every third (34.7%) said that in their free time they prefer to go to the cinema, theater or concert.

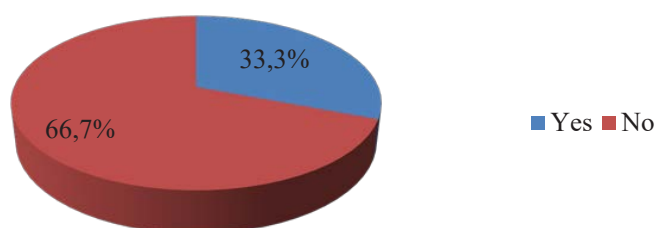


**Figure 9. Have you participated or do you participate in the activities of the youth center?**

Unfortunately, young people lack places where they could spend their free time in their place of residence. Figures 10 and 11 show the data obtained from young people from the three countries studied. According to the authors, the lack of places for youth leisure affects the development and formation of young people and determines their enthusiasm at the initial stages, because it is in the MCs that activities of various directions are carried out, as well as educational work with young people.



**Figure 10. Are there enough places in your settlement where young people can gather for leisure activities free of charge?**

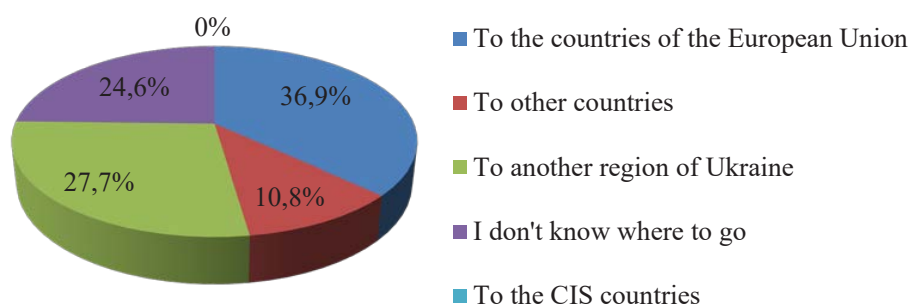


**Figure 11. Do you have enough places where young people can gather for leisure?**

The next section dealt with youth mobility and migration orientations. Young people traveled both outside their locality and region, and abroad. Only a small proportion of Ukrainian youth have not visited other countries. Young people from Ukraine, Belgium, and Armenia named visiting relatives, studying, and traveling as the most frequent reasons for leaving their localities and regions. The main reason for going abroad for young people is travel and recreation. The most popular foreign countries for Ukrainian youth to visit are Turkey and Poland.

The interests of young people from the three countries regarding leaving their place of residence coincide – 66.7% of Ukrainian and 83.3% of foreign youth want to leave their place of residence. However, while Ukrainian youth consider other cities of Ukraine for moving (see Figure 12 for more details), foreign youth consider only other countries of the world, including the European Union.

As for emigration from their home country, young people from Belgium and Armenia want to go abroad mainly to gain work experience or study abroad. Some Ukrainian youth want to live in their country, others want to work abroad. Among those who expressed a desire to emigrate, the main reasons for this decision are that their country (Ukraine, Armenia, Belgium) lacks the necessary opportunities for youth development, as well as the desire for material well-being. However, the majority (64.9% of



**Figure 12. If you wanted to leave your settlement, where would you go?**

Ukrainian youth and 60% of foreign youth) still just want to get a job and life experience in a foreign country and then return home.

The questions of the sixth section concerned another important component of youth life – employment and work. Since the survey was conducted among young people, most respondents are students, but there are also those who have permanent or temporary jobs.

The respondents who are employed found their first job mainly with the help of friends/acquaintances or through an online advertisement.

Seven answers were offered to the question "What is your form of employment?" (full-time, part-time, variable, freelancer, remote, evening or night work, weekend work), but the most common answers were "full-time" (32% of Ukrainian youth and 42.9% of foreign youth) and "part-time" (22.7% and 14.3% respectively).

The last section of the survey contained questions on the definition of value orientations. Identifying one's own values is an integral part of every young person's entry into adulthood. The set of values that are important for young people directly affects the right decisions, and therefore the priorities set.

Ukrainian youth most of all want to achieve family happiness (28%) and to have the opportunity to realize their talents and abilities (20%), as well as to be free and independent in their decisions and actions (14.7%) and to make a career (13.3%). The opinions of young people from Belgium and Armenia on this issue were almost equally divided.

Values that are now important for young people, regardless of their country of residence:

– Health (healthy lifestyle, overcoming a certain disease) – 76% of Ukrainian youth and 85.7% of foreign youth;

– Material situation, money – 61.3% and 57.1%, respectively;

– Availability of good and faithful friends – 50.7% and 84.3%, respectively.

In addition, the Ukrainian youth (58.7%) currently singles out peace and tranquility on the Ukrainian land as one of the main values for themselves. Achieving the set goal is also important for Ukrainian youth, it was chosen by 64% of respondents. For young people from Belgium and Armenia, in addition to the above values, peace and tranquility, achievement of social status, and career are also important.

Among the problems that concern modern youth in Belgium and Armenia, corruption and incompetence of the authorities prevail (28.6%), and young people have the same attitude to other problems. At the same time, Ukrainian youth is concerned about a much wider range of problems – from the state of the economy in the country to interfaith conflicts. More detailed information about the problems of interest to young people in Ukraine is shown in Figure 13.

In general, the socio-political activity and interest of Ukrainian youth is quite low and requires constant work and improvement. It should be noted that Ukrainian youth are mostly satisfied with their level of education and want to stay in Ukraine, even if they want to leave small settlements.

Conclusions. Thus, the study allows to identify the main problems in the implementation of youth policy, which are the factors of low social and political activity of Ukrainian youth:

– the absence of a youth direction in the Strategies for the development of territorial communities, which makes it impossible for youth bodies to function, and also jeopardizes the financing of such associations;

– a critically small number of established Youth Councils in the communities;

– lack of youth centers in communities where young people can gather and generate ideas;

– young people are not aware of the existing institutions of civil society, where they can express themselves, acquiring the skills necessary in modern realities;





Figure 13. Which of the following problems concern you the most?

- low interest of young people in volunteer movements and charitable initiatives;
- a low percentage of young people voting in elections; accordingly, an electoral mass is not created;
- the majority of young people from rural/township settlements want to go to other parts of the country or abroad.

That is why solving the problem of low social and political activity of young people should be a priority at the present stage of development of the state youth policy both at the central level and at the community level.

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**Iryna Semeniuk**, PhD in Economics, Associate Professor at the Department of Management and Administration. **Natalia Makhnachova**, PhD in Economics, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Management and Administration. **Diana Madzharova**, Student, Vinnytsia Institute of Trade and Economics of State University of Trade and Economics. **Social and political activity of youth: new challenges for youth policy in the era of globalization.**

The article is devoted to the study of domestic and foreign experience in the implementation of youth policy. The basic conceptual principles of implementation of domestic and foreign experience in the implementation of youth policy are presented. It is established that the youth policy of Ukraine is in a state of formation. It is determined that the main factors of low socio-political activity of young people in Ukraine are: low political consciousness (in terms of participation in elections and membership in political parties); low level of involvement in the activities of public organizations; low level of participation in volunteer movements; migration sentiments to leave their communities. It is established that solving the problem of low socio-political activity of youth should be a priority at the present stage of development of the state youth policy both at the central and community levels.

**Key words:** youth policy, social activity of youth, political activity of youth, model of implementation of youth policy, globalization.

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В епоху глобалізації та зовнішніх загроз національній безпеці проблема розвитку державної молодіжної політики в Україні набуває нового значення. Разом з тим, підвищення рівня громадської та політичної активності молоді залишається ключовим фактором формування національної свідомості. У статті представлено основні концептуальні засади впровадження вітчизняного та зарубіжного досвіду реалізації молодіжної політики. Визначено, що молодіжна політика України перебуває у стані формування та становлення. Також визначено, що підходи до впровадження державної молодіжної політики таких країн як Вірменія та Бельгія дозволяють забезпечити можливості для молоді стати рушієм змін у своїх громадах та державах. З метою вивчення очікувань, можливостей, вподобань та бажань молодих людей як невід'ємної частини процесу визначення ефективності реалізації державної молодіжної політики, було проведено опитування молоді віком 14-25 років з України, Вірменії та Бельгії стосовно їх громадської та політичної активності. Визначено, що в цілому громадська та політична активність, а також зацікавленість у громадському житті української молоді є досить низькою. Дані результати є протилежним до отриманих результатів опитування молоді з Вірменії та Бельгії. Визначено, що основними чинниками низької громадської та політичної активності молоді в Україні є: низька політична свідомість (стосується участі у виборах та членства у політичних партіях); низький рівень залученості до діяльності ОГС; низький рівень участі у волонтерських рухах; міграційні настрої виїхати за межі своїх громад. Крім того, відсутність чіткої моделі реалізації молодіжної політики на рівні територіальних громад, мала кількість створених Молодіжних рад в громадах по Україні, відсутність Молодіжних центрів у громадах, де молодь може збиратися та напрацьовувати ідеї лише поглиблюють вищезазначену проблему. Таким чином, вирішення проблеми низької громадської та політичної активності молоді має стати першочерговим завданням на сучасному етапі розвитку державної молодіжної політики як на центральному рівні, так і на рівні громад.

**Ключові слова:** молодіжна політика, громадська активність молоді, політична активність молоді, модель реалізації молодіжної політики, глобалізація.