

Minutes of the Final Project Board Meeting

“Strengthening National Capacity for Effective Youth Development and HIV/AIDS Response in Ukraine”

- Date and time:** 26 November 2015, 14:00-16:00
- Venue:** Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, 42, Esplanadna St., room 313
- Participants:**
- Ihor Zhdanov**, Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine
 - Sergiy Mytrofianskyi**, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine
 - Inita Paulovica**, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative
 - Vira Profazi**, Project Manager UNDP Project “Strengthening National Capacity for Effective Youth Development and HIV/AIDS Response in Ukraine”
 - Iryna Belyaeva**, Director of Youth Policy Department, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine
 - Natalia Radchuk**, Head of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine
 - Sergiy Dyatlenko**, Deputy Director of Department of Secondary and Elementary Education, Ministry of Science and Education of Ukraine
 - Natalya Pishko**, Deputy Chief of Career Guidance Section, State Employment Center
 - Larysa Moskalenko**, Head of the Center for Social Innovation Technologies, State Institute for Family and Youth Policy
 - Yuriy Yuzych**, Reanimation Package of Reforms
 - Igor Sushchenko**, Trainer "Youth Worker" Program
 - Andriy Kolobov**, National Youth Council of Ukraine
 - Yana Valchuk**, East Europe and Central Asia Union of PLWH
 - Oleg Burlachuk**, General Manager, OS Ukraine
 - Vitalii Krysko**, UNDP Programme Associate
 - Vojtech Hledik**, Programme Officer, United Nations Volunteers
 - Natalia Lukyanova**, UNDP Youth and HIV Specialist, Youth Project
 - Uliana Bila**, UNDP Project Associate, Youth Project
 - Illia Klymenko**, UNDP New World Project Coordinator
 - Ilona Yeleneva**, UNDP Grants Coordinator
 - Sofiya Oshchebska**, UNDP Youth Project Coordinator on Employment and Civic Engagement
 - Andriy Poshtaruk**, Programme Officer, UNFPA Ukraine
- Purpose:**
- 1) To present project achievements in 2014-2015
 - 2) To inform the participants and beneficiaries about the project closure and ways to mainstream project activities in overall UNDP portfolio
 - 3) To discuss further cooperation in youth development

Main topics discussed:

1. **His Excellency Minister Igor Zhdanov** greeted the participants of the Final Project Board of UNDP Project "Strengthening National Capacity for Effective Youth Development and HIV/AIDS

Response Project" (Project) and outlined the outstanding collaboration between the Ministry and the United Nations Development Programme on the following youth initiatives:

- Career guidance portal My Career, which provides career guidance for youth;
- All-Ukrainian Educational Program "Youth Worker", aimed at strengthening capacity of civil servants, NGO leaders and individual volunteers working with youth outside of formal education system;
- Innovative and practical online platform "Sportify", which is a tool to engage with sport communities and inactive youth, as well as renovate sport facilities;
- Approximation of national youth related legislation to the EU standards, which became a solid base for development of the new Law of Ukraine "On Youth" together with UNDP Youth Project.

His Excellency Minister underlined that all Project activities and results are in high demand in the society and provide new possibilities for youth. He informed about full support of Project activities on behalf of the Ministry and about their inclusion in the state youth programme.

His Excellency Minister also expressed gratitude to UNDP and other UN Agencies for their support in conducting of all-Ukrainian sociological survey on the State of Youth "Youth of Ukraine 2015". The results of the survey provide a solid base for the Ministry to develop evidence based youth policy, which takes into account the needs of today's youth.

His Excellency Minister outlined that UNDP Youth Project activities have been very successful and highly demanded; therefore there is a need to find a common solution for further work in the youth sphere.

His Excellency Minister also informed that the Project activities and results are seen as the best practice for other countries. In particular, Georgia and Moldova are highly interested in the "Youth Worker" Program implementation experience, which can result into common project for three countries.

His Excellency Minister reassured the participants that the formula for success will be found by working together, allowing continuing current activities, achieving even better results and sharing best practices with other countries.

2. **Inita Paulovica** greeted the participants and expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Youth and Sports and personally to His Excellency Minister Igor Zhdanov for outstanding collaboration and support to the Youth Project implementation. She informed that young people are an important focus of the UN System's policy. She also mentioned that youth globally becomes one of the most vulnerable categories, suffering from unemployment, unhealthy lifestyle and is risk of diseases.

Inita Paulovica outlined that UNDP works in the youth sphere according with the UN System-wide Action Plan on Youth which focuses on the following thematic areas: health, including comprehensive sexual education, employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, civic engagement and protection of rights and education. UNDP Youth Strategy for 2014-2017, identifies development challenges and issues, that youth is facing today, and more importantly offers forward-looking recommendations for strategic entry points and engagement of a broad range of partners, including young people themselves, in addressing youth empowerment issues around the world.

Ms. Paulovica also mentioned that youth should take active part in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. **Vira Profazi** informed about Project closure in the end of 2015 and presented main Project achievements for 2014-2015. The Presentation included the information about Project's main task and strategy, budget delivery by donors and components, Project achievements by components, information about partners and numbers of engaged young people, as well as social return on investment. At the end of her presentation, Ms. Profazi made the executive summary of Project's achievements in 2014-2015, which are the following:

Youth component:

- **Employment**
 - My Career Website
- **Civic Engagement**
 - Youth Worker Programme
- **Healthy Lifestyle Promotion**
 - Sportify on-line platform
 - Mass sports events
- **Strategic Planning**
 - Approximation of national youth related legislation to the EU standards
 - Law on Youth
 - Survey on the State of Youth

HIV/AIDS:

- **Humanitarian Response to Crisis**
 - Needs and human rights assessment of IDPs living with HIV in conflict-affected areas (report)
 - Monitoring of human rights violations of IDPs living with HIV (hotline)
 - Legal aid to IDPs living with HIV (Small grants to NGOs)
- **HIV, Health and Human Rights**
 - Ensuring sustainable services provision to LGBT community
 - Support of local dialogue between government and LGBT community
 - Legal amendments on providing access to medicines

4. **Sergiy Mytrofianskyi** thanked Ms. Profazi and underlined the importance of the cooperation between the Ministry and UNDP in the youth sphere. He mentioned that incredible results were achieved in the areas of employment, healthy lifestyle, youth civic engagement and strategic planning for youth development. He also mentioned that the online portal My Career, Youth Worker Educational Program as well as Sportify on-line platform were included in the Concept of the State Programme "Youth of Ukraine 2016-2020", which was recently adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers.
5. **Yuriy Yuzych** thanked Ms. Profazi for the presentation and outlined that in 2013 the Council of Europe International Review Team has conducted the review of Youth policy in Ukraine. One of their recommendations was to assure good targeting of youth policy. In particular, there is a need to direct more youth policy efforts towards the "middle" group of young people: young people who face structural deprivation, and lack of opportunities in their communities, live in rural communities, are unemployed or without decent jobs, and need improvement in their social situation. Ms. Yuzych mentioned that such activities were the main focus of the UNDP Youth Project.

Mr. Yuzych also underlined the importance of the Youth Worker Program, as it helped those youth workers, who don't receive adequate training from the state, see that they could work better and more efficiently.

Mr. Yuzych also underlined the importance of the Project's work in the sphere of employment through the career guidance portal My Career and healthy lifestyle promotion through Sportify on-line platform, which is an innovative, high in demand and practical application to engage with sport communities and inactive youth, as well as renovate sport facilities.

He also mentioned that the experience of Youth Worker Program implementation can be extended to the Eastern Partnership Countries, in particular Georgia and Moldova. Currently Mr. Yuzych recommended focusing on Youth Worker Specialized trainings, the first one to be held in December, 2015.

6. **Sergiy Dyatlenko** thanked Project team for partnership under My Career platform. He informed that the Ministry of Science and Education plans to maintain partnership with UNDP in career guidance sphere not only by carrying out career guidance for students of 11 grades but also for 9-grade students, as they often leave school to continue studies in vocational training. He also

thanked Vira Profazi and Sofiya Oshchebska for the smooth and non-bureaucratic procedures during the process of project implementation.

7. **Vira Profazi** informed about the pilot career guidance initiative in one of the schools of Kostyantynivka city in Donetsk region, which is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Science and Education. She mentioned that as a result of the project activities, all senior students of the selected school took career guidance test and received professional consultation. The project partners in Kostyantynivka plan to disseminate the best practice on the regional level. Such results clearly demonstrate the high demand from the society for such services.

8. **Natalia Pishko** informed that the career guidance test was highly recognised by the State Employment Service experts. She also thanked the Project for conducting training for 51 career guidance experts of the Employment Center and informed that less than in 2 months they have provided consultations to 440 students.

Ms. Pishko also informed about the structural change of the State Employment Center, in particular the change of its name to the National Labor Agency in 2016. The Agency will focus on work with youth that already entered the labor market.

9. **Andriy Kolobov** thanked the project team and expressed hope that the Youth Worker Program will be officially recognized in the new Law "On Youth", as a program for non-formal education with subsequent allocation of state budget to it. He also expressed hope that youth centers will become main centers for non-formal education with the help of the state and other stakeholders.

Mr. Kolobov thanked the Ministry and UN Agencies for the conducted sociological survey on the state of youth and suggested that youth should be made a separate group in all sociological surveys and gathering of statistical data.

10. **Oleg Burlachuk** thanked the project team for the reliable partnership under My Career platform. He informed that the OS Ukraine Company works for 7 years in Ukraine and faces the lack of Ukrainian career guidance products. One of the shortages of Ukrainian career guidance markets is the lack of career guidance methodology for adults, which could be useful for internally displaced people. Mr. Burlachuk informed that such methodology exists in other countries and it can be purchased and adapted to the needs of Ukrainians. He expressed hope for further cooperation with the Project.

11. **Ilona Yeleneva** informed about the Project activities under humanitarian response to crisis. She expressed hope for further work of the Project in the sphere of employment of people who are in difficult living conditions.

12. **Inita Paulovica** thanked the participants for the high evaluation of the cooperation of UNDP and the Ministry in the youth sphere.

Ms. Paulovica mentioned that starting from 2016 UNDP will focus on the following three areas of work:

- Democratic governance and reforms
- Recovery and peacebuilding
- Energy and environment

Ms. Paulovica stated that the cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other line Ministries as well as civil society and private sector can be maintained in any of the above mentioned directions.

Ms. Paulovica informed that UNDP will continue Youth Project activities as the following:

- Work through My Career portal in the direction of employment of internally displaced people in crisis affected areas;
- Healthy lifestyle promotion through Sportify platform can be continued within Donbas peacebuilding initiatives;

- Youth Worker program is closely related to the reforming initiatives and strengthening the capacity of state workers and civil society.

Ms. Paulovica underlined the importance of cooperation with Moldova and Georgia under Youth Worker Program and stated that such work clearly indicates the approach of UNDP to Eastern Partnership cooperation.

Ms. Paulovica stated that the next step should be the development of common goals and directions of work and meeting in January 2016 to discuss common vision.

13. Summarizing the meeting the participants decided the following:

- The project activities and results were unanimously acknowledged as successful;
- Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNDP and other interested stakeholders to develop the vision of future cooperation in the youth sphere
- Hold a meeting in February 2016 to discuss the developed vision of the future cooperation in the youth sphere

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Annexes:

1. Presentation of Project achievements for 2014-2015