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SEMINAR

The role of youth work in supporting mental well-being of
young people affected by war

13-15 November 2023

[European Youth Centre Budapest](#)

Draft

Concept note

BACKGROUND

The Council of Europe and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine signed in 2021 a five-year [Framework Programme for Cooperation in the field of Youth Policy](#), hereafter referred to as the Framework Programme, to continue the systematic co-operation which in place since 2012.

The Framework Programme has supported youth policy reforms in Ukraine and the implementation of relevant strategy programmes, notably the National Youth Strategy 2030, the State Target Social Programme "Youth of Ukraine" 2021-2025, and new legislation in the field of youth policy and youth work in Ukraine. The priorities and modes of intervention reflect the orientations of the Council of Europe [Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#).

The Framework Programme foresees three main priorities of action:

- education for human rights and democratic citizenship (youth participation, democratic governance, human rights education, etc.)
- strengthening youth work policies and practices, supporting the recognition of youth worker as a profession (development of a qualification framework and a professional standard)
- improving the quality of youth work in youth centers, supporting the development of youth centers.

The Framework Programme correlates strongly with the [Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine for 2023-2026](#), and its project [Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: Phase III](#).

This seminar is part of co-operation within the [Framework Programme](#) corresponds to the priorities of [the Youth for Democracy programme](#).

CONTEXT

[A meeting of the Management Committee](#) for the implementation of the [Framework Programme](#) was held on 29 August 2023 at the European Youth Centre Budapest.

The meeting reviewed the state of implementation of co-operation activities which were adjusted after the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, as well as other initiatives of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe for Ukraine such as the European Youth Foundation [special call](#) to support young people from Ukraine and the [Youth for Democracy in Ukraine project](#).

Among the new priorities for 2023 and 2024, the widespread issues of mental health affecting young people of Ukraine was highlighted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine. According to the results of the "U-report Ukraine" [survey](#) conducted in February 2023, 73% of young people expressed a need for more mental support after 24 February 2022, however only 29.8% of respondents sought psychological help.

In response to the current needs of young people of Ukraine, the meeting of the Management Committee decided to organise the seminar about the role of youth work in supporting mental well-being of young people affected by war at the [European Youth Centre Budapest](#).

SEMINAR

The seminar will bring together youth workers and specialists working with young people of Ukraine to deepen the understanding and share practice about the role of youth work in addressing the emotional and mental health challenges affecting young people caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

The seminar will take place from 12 to 15 November 2023 at the European Youth Centre in Budapest.

Objectives of the seminar:

- To analyse the current challenges and needs of young Ukrainians in terms of emotional and mental well-being as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.
- To share existing practices and expertise in youth work with young people affected by traumatic events.
- Share and discuss the results and expertise of the [Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: Phase III](#) project on [trauma-informed youth work](#).
- To propose recommendations for youth work with young people facing emotional and mental health issues due to military conflict and related crimes.

ORGANISERS

The Council of Europe Youth Department is co-organising the seminar with the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine within the [Framework Programme](#). The project Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: III Phase is also involved in the activity.

PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

Participant profile requires to correspond to at least one of the following criteria:

1. Youth workers and representatives of youth centres working with young internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by traumatic events during war time in Ukraine.
2. Youth workers and representatives of youth centres from Council of Europe member states working with young people from Ukraine.
3. Experts in trauma-informed youth work.

All candidates applied online at <https://youthapplications.coe.int/>. The Council of Europe and the Ministry selected up to 25 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above.

FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Travel expenses

Travel expenses to and from Budapest will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. The participants will be informed in due time regarding travel procedures. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the seminar will be provided and paid by the Council of Europe at the [European Youth Centre Budapest](#) from **11 to 16 November 2023**. The venues are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any specific needs of participants in this respect. Please inform organisers and provide the necessary information in your application form.

The working languages are **English and Ukrainian**.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have questions or are in need of further information, please do not hesitate to contact Anna Aranzhii, Programme Officer of the Education and Training Division of the Council of Europe Youth Department via anna.aranzhii@coe.int.

The focal points at the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine are Olesia Kravchenko, Head of the Youth Policy Department (krav4enko2011@ukr.net) and Nataliia Radchuk, Head of International Cooperation and European Integration Department (natarad@ukr.net).

If you are interested in other training courses for youth workers, youth leaders and trainers that the Youth Department organises click [this link](#) or the [Project](#) website.