

POLITICAL-LEGAL ACTIVITY OF YOUTH IN POSTMODERN SOCIETY

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INTRODUCTION

The young generation in postmodern society is placed in qualitatively new historical conditions, as it grew up under the influence of the restructuring of not only society, but also the consciousness of the previous generation. Currently, the ideological-political maturity of the consciousness and culture of young people is at the controversial stage of formation, the rejection of ideological and political stereotypes of the totalitarian era, the establishment of new political and value orientations, beliefs and socio-political feelings, attitudes towards the development of political-legal competence, the formation of a tolerance culture, political correctness. At the same time, there is a rethinking and reassessment of political ideals, ways of participation in the social-political life of the university, the city, the region, in the development of local self-government.

Representatives of the younger generation interact with various social institutions and the state, therefore, understanding their rights and responsibilities, knowledge of the processes taking place in the world, is an important component of the formation of an individual who participates in the public-political life of the country. Thus, the formation of politically active youth becomes a significant aspect for the development of civil society. In addition, young people are an electoral group endowed with great potential, which determines the state's activities in relation to youth policy and those values that are transmitted to the younger generation. A state that cares about the nation's future and strives to change life for the better definitely takes into account the opinions and views of young people. Ignoring them is the same as not using the real potential basis for the development of society.

1. Emergence of the prerequisites of the problem and problem formulation

Youth policy in the postmodern situation faces more and more complex and non-trivial tasks, since the postmodern society is unstable, accompanied by a change in state boundaries, opposition to the positions and interests of political players, and hierarchical management structures give way to horizontal ones. Networks generate a new model of governance in which

youth policy takes the form of a fragmented system open to the presentation of competing models.

The last years of the Ukrainian statehood development have actualized the need for scientific understanding and development of principles and mechanisms for the optimization of youth policy, taking into account the national specificity, which is not reduced to a standardized, unified set of institutions and technologies, but depends on socio-economic conditions, on the state system, on political culture, from established traditions of power perception. In modern Ukraine, there is a search for such a model that adequately meets the interests of the government, society and youth. And since young people are an interested and active player, a participant in the transformations taking place in the country, in order to develop effective strategic priorities in youth policy and use the potential of innovative activity of young people for the benefit of the development of civil society, creative deconstruction of traditional models of political and legal activity of young people is necessary. The youth environment is a laboratory that produces and tests previously unknown values, attitudes, behaviour patterns, cultural norms and patterns¹.

2. Analysis of existing methods of solving the problem and task formulation for optimal development of political-legal activity of youth

Studies of the political-legal activity of youth are based on the use of philosophical, general scientific methods, methods of a systematic approach to the analysis of ways and means of forming the political-legal activity of youth, in determining the socio-political position of youth in a postmodern society.

The structural-functional approach is used to determine the functions of political activity in the conditions of the transition of society from an authoritarian to a democratic political system.

The institutional approach is used to analyse the interaction of the process of political-legal activity and the political system of society, where political institutions, political parties, and public associations play the main role.

The normative-value approach was embodied in the analysis of the system of political values, their formation and role in the process of political socialization of the young generation.

To a large extent, sociological methods are used, in particular, the method of content analysis, with the help of which Ukrainian periodicals are studied, processed and systematized.

¹ Політологія: курс лекцій : навчальний посібник. Тернопіль : Магнолія-плюс, 2004. 236 с.

The geopolitical method systematically examines the place, possibilities and limits of regulating the political and legal activity of youth within the framework of the integral process of globalization and related phenomena and processes in the youth environment: youth mobility, youth transnational crime, regionalization and separatism, network extremism, unemployment, etc.

Each person must understand his contribution to the management of the state, his place in it and his capabilities. This understanding consists not only of knowledge about the structure of the state, about the parties that function, about the connections between them, but also the ability to critically interpret the social order, make adjustments to it, adhering to universal human values. It is believed that the higher the level of importance of democratic values and freedoms in the public consciousness, the higher the level of political activity should be, the more civilized the nature of the interaction of citizens with the government should be. Conversely, a low assessment of the importance of democratic rights and freedoms causes a large part of the population to become apathetic and distant from the political sphere².

Therefore, the special attention of society should be directed to the formation of a young person who must learn: to position himself as a responsible person who respects the rights of other people; be tolerant of political, moral, aesthetic, worldview orientations and preferences; to manifest a desire for such forms and directions of activity that would consolidate social efforts, make the life of every person meaningful, civilized and promising; to be active in the political-legal sphere. The task of the state is to help every young citizen to have the opportunity to consciously choose his own path.

3. Concept, essence and forms of political-legal activity

According to the results of a scientific search, it was determined that the political-legal activity of an individual (or the public activity of a citizen) is a manifestation of actions, and behaviour of a citizen that can be correlated with the legal norms fixed (established) in society and aimed at solving various problem situations, related to the functioning of society. Activity, thus, is a form of realization of the human rights system, freedoms and responsibilities, and is an essential manifestation of political and legal consciousness³.

² Юрій Н. М. Політична соціалізація молоді в умовах трансформації суспільства: порівняльний аналіз міжнародного і українського досвіду : автореф. дис. ... кандидата політичних наук за спеціальністю 23.00.04 – політичні проблеми міжнародних систем і глобального розвитку. Одеська національна юридична академія, Одеса, 2002. С. 8.

³ Політологічний енциклопедичний словник / за ред. Шемчуненка. Київ : Видавництво, 2001. С. 45–47.

The meaning-making nature of political and legal activity is best revealed by analysing the concepts of “politics” and “law”, which, reflecting the needs of the social system as a whole, closely interact. They have a lot in common:

- have a common aim – regulation, ensuring stability, stability of existence and development of the social system;
- their content is determined by a single system of social factors (historical, national-cultural, economic, etc.);
- ensure stability in society by defining the basic rights and responsibilities of society members.

The following characteristics can be noted among the differences:

- differ in the targeted orientation of their participants’ actions (politics is aimed at the conquest and use of political power, while law is focused on equal protection of various interests of different subjects in a specific interaction);
- differ in actual content (the content of politics is more diverse and dynamic, and the content of law is limited to a set of legal norms, which fix the legal policy of the state);
- differ in spheres of practical application (politics affects almost all spheres of social life, the scope of law is much narrower);
- do not coincide in the forms of their external expression (unlike law, politics can be expressed in different forms (ideological concepts, political actions, etc.));
- differ in methods, forms and means of ensuring the implementation of political and legal decisions (law is ensured by measures of coercion, politics – by measures of persuasion and trust)⁴.

Political-legal activity can be both constructive and deconstructive in nature⁵.

The following forms of activity are constructive:

1. Initiative – based on the initiative of an individual, his activity, or the activity of certain groups. Its purpose is to adopt changes for the formation and development of civil society, as well as to create favourable conditions for further life activities:

- participation in election campaigns;
- electoral participation;
- participation in the formation of state authorities;

⁴ Політико-правова свідомість молоді: психологічний аналіз монографія / З. Ф. Сіверс, В. М. Духневич, О. Ю. Осадько ; за заг. ред. З. Ф. Сіверс ; Нац. акад. пед. Наук України, Ін-т соц. та політ. психології. Кропивницький : Імекс-ЛТД, 2020. С. 18–19.

⁵ Баранова, Г. В. Формы проявления социально-политической активности, характер ее воздействия на развитие общества. *Гуманитарные, социально-экономические и общественные науки*. 2014. № 5–1. URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/formy-proyavleniya-sotsialno-politicheskoy-aktivnosti-harakter-ee-vozdeystviya-na-razvitiye-obschestva>

- participation in the activities of public organizations;
 - participation in referendums.
2. Constructive social networks – activity is manifested through forms of interaction with the public:
 - signing petitions;
 - writing socially important posts;
 - commenting on publications for their distribution;
 - publication of posts with certain issues.
 3. Refraining – based on the transfer of problem solving to other subjects:
 - writing appeals to authorities.
 4. Demonstrative – expressed in forms of imitation of independent activity at the expense of other people or projects.
 5. Social protest – based on the expression of dissatisfaction:
 - protest actions;
 - demonstrations;
 - rallies;
 - pickets.

Deconstructive activity is characterized by negative, conflicting forms of activity, the results of which sometimes have unpredictable, destructive consequences that destabilize society and the state. It can be manifested in active and passive forms.

The active form is based on the active manifestation of certain actions, in order to express disagreement with certain actions or events:

- boycott of elections;
- protest actions leading to conflict actions;
- power strikes;
- blocking;
- starvation.

The passive form is based on the lack of citizens' initiative in solving any issues and making socially important decisions:

- indifference in solving important political issues;
- coercive participation in solving issues or activities of organizations;
- participation out of habit without analysing the issue.

The forms of political activity are largely determined by the structure of the political system, its level of development, and the ability to openly defend one's interests to various social groups and strata of society. The growing satisfaction of citizens with state policy in various spheres should strengthen the positions of the political class and lead to forms of participation expressed in more or less explicit support of the current course. On the contrary, unpopular decisions lead to growing discontent, replenishment of opposition groups and, as a result, to protest forms of political participation.

4. Political-legal activity of youth

The age range of young people varies. Across Europe, various national and supranational politicians, political organisations, non-governmental organizations and governmental or public bodies use age ranges ranging from 13 to 30 years, and in some cases even older⁶. According to the Law of Ukraine “On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy”, youth are young people, citizens of Ukraine, foreigners and stateless persons aged 14 to 35, who are in Ukraine legally⁷.

Young people aged 14–18 are the most active, ambitious, enterprising and achievement-oriented. During this period, the sphere of professional interests is defined, as well as the first attempts to interact with the governance system and public institutions.

At the age of 18–24, young people already have certain material resources. This is a time of searching for ways of self-realization and manifestations of activity, opportunities for integration into society outside of close friends and family, finding the first permanent workplace, showing entrepreneurial initiative, a period of risky behaviour and vulnerability, when young people overcome the first serious failures and learn adaptive behaviour. This is also a time to consolidate leadership skills.

The period of marriage, the birth of the first child, the completion of the transition to the labour market, the period of the riskiest behaviour for young people is the age of 24–29 years.

At the age of 29, young people fully enter adult life, acquire obligations, clearly outline the sphere of their interests and preferences⁸.

The political-legal activism of youth is manifested in youth initiatives in the field of democratization and human rights, in the implementation of youth social innovations, involvement of youth in volunteer activities in civil society organizations at the local and national levels, in the training of youth workers on issues of increasing the civic activity of youth, etc.

With the development of Internet technologies, young people increasingly show political activity in the virtual space due to the convenience and great opportunities for self-expression.

The results of a national youth survey conducted by the Centre for Independent Social Research (CISR) of the International Republican Institute (IRI) as part of the “Dream and Act” program revealed that 52 % of youth

⁶ Голосування поза шаблоном : практичний посібник. Посібник щодо підвищення обізнаності серед молодих виборців для органів адміністрування виборів. URL: <https://rm.coe.int/vote-outside-the-box-ukrainian/16809fc1b0> Рада Європи, червень 2020. С. 10.

⁷ Про основні засади молодіжної політики : Закон України. *Відомості Верховної Ради України*, 2021. № 28. Ст. 233.

⁸ Про Національну молодіжну стратегію до 2030 року : Указ Президента України від 12.03.2021 р. № 94/2021. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/94/2021#Text>

aged 14–15 and 32 % of youth aged 16–35 consider themselves active members of their communities. This is most often manifested through the participation of young people in the development of public spaces, attending cultural and sports events. Also, 35 % of young people supported electronic petitions, 25 % followed the activities of officials, and 17 % engaged in volunteer activities for social and political causes. 28 % of 14–15-year-olds and 25 % of 16–35-year-olds indicated their involvement in youth councils.

According to the results of the sociological study “Generation of young Ukrainians: life priorities, political activity and social memory”⁹, conducted among young people regarding the situation with the observance of human rights enshrined in the Constitution in Ukraine, 20 % could not answer. The opinions of others were divided: 41 % believe that human rights are respected, 39 % – that they are not. 72 % of respondents are interested in human rights issues, 11 % are not interested in it, and the rest could not answer. With the fact that human rights are violated only in poor countries; only in authoritarian countries / dictatorships; can be followed only in rich countries; human rights are something that only lawyers deal with, 15–22 % of respondents agree, 54–66 % disagree.

When asked about the level of awareness of political events in Ukraine and the world, 29 % of respondents reported that they are not interested in politics. The rest are interested, and forums, blogs, social networks (38 % of respondents), television (37 %), friends, acquaintances, relatives (35 %) are the main source of information for them. News sites are preferred by 29 % of respondents, newspapers, magazines – 7 %, radio – 4 %.

Young people remain the main provider of Euro-Atlantic integration and positively evaluate the current geopolitical and socio-political processes taking place in Ukraine: 82.5 % support Ukraine’s accession to the European Union and 79.8 % – to NATO, 79.3 % – anti-corruption reform, 78.7 % – creation of a standing professional army, 78.4 % – deregulation and stimulation of entrepreneurship and investment development, 77 % – public administration reform.

55 % of respondents do not think it is possible for them to participate in any meetings, demonstrations, protests related to the problems that concern them and their loved ones; 26 % assume this possibility.

According to the results of an electoral-behavioural study by the sociological group “Rating” published in 2021, only 11 % of young people (19–29 years old) were among those who took part in local elections. Those who did not vote gave three main reasons: “I do not live at the place of

⁹ Малолеткова О. Чи знає молодь, чим живе країна : орієнтир для дій. Є те, що насторожує в поглядах цього покоління й потребує особливої уваги держави. *Урядовий кур’єр*. 2021. № 238. С. 1.

registration” (30 %), “I was busy on the day of the election” (22 %), “elections are not interesting” (12 %). And if the first two factors can be eliminated – there would only be a desire, then the problem that “elections are not interesting” is difficult to solve with unsystematic approaches¹⁰.

Therefore, the state takes various measures to involve as many young people as possible in politics and to create the most favourable conditions for the selection of young activists. Numerous channels and mechanisms are emerging that offer young activists to show themselves in the field of struggle for good and justice, implement a socially significant project, build a political career, or develop and put into practice their leadership qualities. Social and political organizations consider young people as a personnel reserve capable of replenishing their ranks. It is not surprising that young people form the basis of the niche composition (volunteers and ordinary activists) of political parties and socio-political associations.

One of the most important forms of political activity is electoral activity. Youth participation in elections provides the necessary knowledge about the organization of the political system and the functioning of state authorities. And, of course, thanks to the electoral participation of the country’s citizens, democratic principles are implemented, which allows for a change of power.

Active participation of youth in politics performs several socially significant functions. First, like any participation, it is aimed at realizing and protecting one’s social group interests. In this sense, it is typical for young people to unite in communities, where the main feature is the commonality of interests, views and ideas. Second, political participation has an important communicative function. Participants exchange information in several directions at once: with their supporters and associates, with their opponents and competitors, with state authorities, as well as with other structures of civil society. Each direction of interaction has its own specifics and requires certain expenditure of resources. In addition, with the help of participation in politically oriented organizations, young activists acquire the necessary experience and leadership qualities that allow them to apply for high-status positions in the future¹¹.

Currently, there are two main directions of youth involvement in organizational forms of political activity in Ukraine. The first is carried out through the functioning of pro-government youth involvement structures and is mainly expressed in the form of participation-support; the second one is

¹⁰ Цьомик Г. Не зовсім втрачене покоління: Наскільки виправданими є сподівання на молодь, яка начебто має змінити якість політики на місцях. *Український тиждень*. 2021. № 1–3. С. 45.

¹¹ Трынов Д. В. Политическое участие молодежи: поддержка vs протест. *Социодинамика*. 2019. № 12. С. 298–314. URL: https://nbpublish.com/library_read_article.php?id=31195

implemented through oppositional channels of involvement, which orient young people to protest participation.

The formation and functioning of pro-government political involvement can be linked to the activation of state youth policy and law-making activities.

The legal framework of youth policy in independent Ukraine was formed in the 1990s (Declaration “On General Principles of State Youth Policy in Ukraine” (1992), Laws of Ukraine “On Promotion of Social Formation and Development of Youth in Ukraine” (1993) and “On Youth and Children’s Public Organizations” (1998)), therefore it has signs and shortcomings of the post-soviet perception of the role and realities of young citizens’ lives. Times have changed, new challenges and needs have arisen, many new things have appeared – youth workers, youth centres, street cultures.

In the post-soviet legislation, there were also many things that were enshrined in the European Charter on the Participation of Youth in Municipal and Regional Life (1992). The preamble of the Charter states that the active participation of young people in decision-making and activities at local and regional levels is important if we want to build a more democratic, solidary and prosperous society. After all, local authorities, which are closest to young people, play a very important role. At the same time, they can provide an opportunity for young people not only to get acquainted with the principles of democracy and citizenship, but also to practice them.

In order to improve the functioning system of national youth policy, methods and tools for its implementation, and to consolidate European approaches to youth policy, the Law of Ukraine ‘On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy’ was adopted, which entered into force on 22 May 2021¹².

According to the Art. 5, youth participation in the formation and implementation of youth policy is ensured by taking into account the position of youth when making decisions related to youth, involving youth work subjects in the implementation of youth policy. It is worth emphasizing that Ukrainian youth played an active role in the development and discussion of the draft of this Law of Ukraine. In particular, during 2020, the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, in cooperation with the European Union project “EU4Youth program – Youth Engagement Roadmaps”, discussed draft law No.3718 “On the basic principles of youth policy” with representatives of children’s and youth public organizations, youth councils and student self-government, youth leaders and activists, youth workers in most regions of

¹² Про основні засади молодіжної політики : Закон України. *Відомості Верховної Ради України*, 2021, № 28

Ukraine. And the most important thing is that the text of this Law of Ukraine was written in close cooperation and with the participation of young people¹³.

Mechanisms and tools of youth participation in the formation and implementation of youth policy:

- informing about the decisions and actions of state authorities, local self-government bodies, which concern youth, by publishing relevant information on their official websites, through mass media, social networks and with the help of other means and methods of communication available to youth;

- conducting consultations, including online, with subjects of youth work, other interested parties, conducting youth surveys, etc.;

- establishing a dialogue with youth by supporting youth initiatives, forming youth councils, appointing youth advisers, holding public hearings, public discussions, creating working groups involving youth work subjects;

- ensuring partnership between youth and state authorities and local self-government bodies at all stages of youth policy formation and implementation, joint evaluation of the effectiveness of youth policy decisions and measures;

- provision of youth representation in consultative-advisory bodies formed by state authorities, local self-government bodies in the manner determined by legislation;

- involvement of youth work subjects in the implementation of youth policy tasks in accordance with the procedure defined by law.

State authorities and local self-government bodies guarantee the observance of the right of youth to participate in the formation and implementation of youth policy in the way determined by law.

The law provides for the activities of the Youth Council, which:

- promotes the realization of the youth's right to participate in the formation and implementation of youth policy;

- submits proposals to the body under which it was formed regarding the organization of consultations with young people;

- provides proposals, conclusions, recommendations regarding issues of formation and implementation of youth policy, which must be considered by the body under which it was formed;

- develops, together with youth and children's public associations, other subjects of youth work, proposals regarding the priorities of youth policy at the regional and local levels;

¹³ Реформування молодіжної політики відповідно до сучасних запитів молоді та держави. Щорічна доповідь Президентові України, Верховній Раді України та Кабінету Міністрів України про становище молоді в Україні (за підсумками 2012– 2021 років) / редкол.: Попатенко М. М., гол. ред. колег. ; Бондар Т. В. та ін. Київ : ТОВ «Ройлайд», 2021. С. 19.

- monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of youth policy implementation at the regional and local levels;
- participates in the development of projects of regulatory-legal acts aimed at the implementation of youth policy;
- studies the state of laws implementation in Ukraine and other normative-legal acts concerning youth at the regional and local levels;
- carries out a public examination of the financing of youth policy measures;
- performs other tasks defined by the youth council regulations.

The Youth Council acts on the basis of voluntariness, openness, transparency and reports to the public on its activities at least once a year.

The National Youth Council of Ukraine operates throughout Ukraine and at the international level promote and protect the rights of young people¹⁴, which is a public union uniting the majority of youth public organizations in Ukraine.

The law also provides for the creation of a consultative-advisory body – the National Council on Youth Affairs. In accordance with the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On the approval of the Procedure for the formation and operation of the National Council on Youth Affairs and amending some acts of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine” of 10 September 2022 No. 1011, the Procedure will enter into force six months after the termination or cancellation of martial law. The purpose of the council is to ensure the participation of young people in public and political life.

The main tasks of the National Council are:

- assistance in ensuring the actions coordination of executive authorities on issues of formation and implementation of youth policy;
- preparation of proposals for the formation and implementation of the state youth policy;
- determination of ways, mechanisms and methods of solving problematic issues that arise during the implementation of the state youth policy;
- promoting the efficiency of central and local executive bodies in the field of youth policy;
- promoting the improvement of the regulatory-legal framework in the field of state youth policy;
- ensuring coordination and cooperation between central and local bodies of executive power and local self-government bodies.

Youth and children’s public associations received a wide range of tools for full partnership participation in the formation and implementation of youth policy, solving issues of their own institutional development.

¹⁴ Національна молодіжна рада України. URL: <https://nycukraine.org/>

In addition, the law regulates the activities of the Ukrainian Youth Fund. According to the document, the Fund is a budgetary institution that performs special functions to promote the implementation of youth policy tasks, the activities of which are directed and coordinated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine. The Fund's activities should stimulate the development and implementation of modern projects in the field of youth policy. However, the fund itself will not solve all the problems of the youth. It is only a marker that will show local authorities the possibility of what needs to be worked on. In Europe, 80–90 % of youth funding comes from local authorities, not the state budget. In order for the community to start giving money to young people, it is necessary for these young people to be at least self-organized. Therefore, the logic of the fund is to help develop networks of youth organizations that would reach every community.

Thus, the state's desire to control the political activity of the youth leads to the creation of numerous organizational forms of participation in politics. Youth work is carried out by youth workers with the aim of implementing youth policy, organizing youth work and creating conditions for the comprehensive self-realization of youth in various spheres of social life, revealing their potential, protecting the interests and rights of youth. Local self-government bodies and local executive bodies can create jobs for youth workers, including concluding employment contracts with them to involve them in youth work at enterprises, institutions and organizations of communal ownership.

The law provides for the creation of an extensive network of youth centres, which in their essence are centres of practical work with young people. These are unique institutions that contribute to the development of young people, civic education, popularization of a healthy lifestyle, volunteering, youth entrepreneurship, increasing the level of youth mobility, etc. Their areas of work are formed in accordance with the needs and interests of young people of a particular settlement.

The concept of youth spaces was also introduced, which can be created on the basis of educational, cultural, health care, physical culture and sports institutions, enterprises, institutions and organizations regardless of the form of ownership and subordination and be used for the purpose of carrying out youth work, in particular, the organization of meaningful leisure time for children and youth, provision of services for non-formal education, development of street cultures, etc. Such youth hubs, platforms and co-working spaces work successfully in most regional centres of Ukraine, and are actively developing in small towns and villages of Ukraine. Every year, the Prize of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine is awarded for special

achievements of youth in the development of Ukraine, which contribute to the development of youth initiatives at the local level.

Since 2019, the public union “National Ukrainian Youth Association” has been operating, the main task of which is to ensure the maximum representation of various groups of youth in the formation and implementation of state youth policy in accordance with the principles of the European Charter of Youth Participation. It includes the 10 largest youth organizations of Ukraine, including: public union “Association of Youth Centres of Ukraine”, public organizations “Ukrainian Association of Students”, “Ukrainian Association of Youth Councils”, “Regional Initiatives Foundation”, “Ukrainian Academy of Leadership”, “Youth Nationalist Congress”, “All-Ukrainian Youth Movement “National Alliance”, youth organization “Plast – National Scout Organization of Ukraine”, Union of Ukrainian Youth in Ukraine, “Building Ukraine Together” initiative. This representation contributes to the direct contact of the structure of the National Ukrainian Youth Association with young people through: about 500 branches of founding organizations (in particular, through student self-government bodies represented by the 160 largest universities of Ukraine), more than 300 youth centres and more than 300 youth councils that are being formed at local executive authorities and local self-government bodies. The National Ukrainian Youth Association promotes the development of youth policy in Ukraine through the development of civic education of its members and partners, support of their civic activity, joint advocacy of the rights and interests of youth. The priority vector of the further development of the National Ukrainian Youth Association is to ensure maximum horizontal informal connections between the members of the founding organizations of the union, student self-government and youth councils through the implementation of joint projects and initiatives¹⁵.

In order to increase youth participation in the process of adopting socially important decisions, support of the activities of youth councils, as well as to promote the formation of new ones, in 2020, the public organization “Ukrainian Association of Youth Councils” was formed, whose members are 47 youth councils, among which 8 are established at regional councils and regional state administrations.

¹⁵ Реформування молодіжної політики відповідно до сучасних запитів молоді та держави. Щорічна доповідь Президентові України, Верховній Раді України та Кабінету Міністрів України про становище молоді в Україні (за підсумками 2012–2021 років) / редкол.: Попатенко М. М., гол. ред. колег.; Бондар Т. В. та ін. Київ : ТОВ «Ройлайд», 2021. С. 21.

Another subject that actively influences the formation of youth activity is the Council on Youth Affairs, established as a consultative-advisory body by the President of Ukraine¹⁶.

However, numerous experts in the field of state youth policy differ in their assessments of the effectiveness of the functioning of youth organizations. Such positive effects in their activities are emphasized, such as: ensuring the formation of civil and patriotic respect for the homeland in the youth environment, the opportunity to directly participate in the discussion of draft laws concerning the rights and interests of young people, to state their problems, to conduct a dialogue with the authorities, to be heard and understandable, to form an active public position.

The main argument of the opponents is that youth self-government organizations replace real mechanisms, access to which is strictly limited by “adult” politicians for reasons of “whatever happens”. This forms the adaptive practices of officials in young parliamentarians, which are built on the mechanisms of successful interaction with the leadership, demonstration of loyalty, imitation of productive activity. Showing loyalty for some young activists can ensure promotion, patronage from influential politicians and contribute to their career prospects.

In our opinion, the lack of formation of the final result, which this activity is aimed at, makes it impossible to ensure sustainable development in youth work. Youth work is reduced to conducting a large number of youth events, without proper coordination, reporting and the ability to monitor effectiveness; the result of youth work is the reporting of the department’s activities, and not the real impact of these activities on the youth environment.

The application of conceptually updated approaches and the use of a wide range of innovative mechanisms and tools for working with youth through the dissemination of the best practices of recent years, the implementation of the recommendations of Ukrainian and international experts, the youth sector of the Council of Europe, the use of the experience of youth work in the EU countries, the UN recommendations on supporting young citizens in all spheres of life provided by the State targeted social program “Youth of Ukraine” for 2021–2025¹⁷. In order to rationally use resources, it is envisaged to concentrate efforts on the following tasks: increasing the level of competences of young people, in particular, civic ones; raising the level of the

¹⁶ Указ Президента України «Про Раду з молодіжних питань» від 10.09.2021 р. № 462/2021. URL: <https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/4622021-40073>

¹⁷ Про затвердження Державної цільової соціальної програми «Молодь України» на 2021–2025 роки та внесення змін до деяких актів Кабінету Міністрів України: Постанова Кабінету Міністрів України від 02.06.2021р. № 579. URL: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/prozatverdzhennya-derzhavnoi-cilovoyi-socialnoyi-programi-molod-ukrayini-na-20212025-roki-ta-vnesennya-zmin-do-deyakh-aktiv-kabinetu-ministriv-ukrayini-579-020621>

culture of volunteering among young people; activation of youth involvement in decision-making processes; strengthening the social cohesion of youth, including through youth exchanges within Ukraine and in partnership with other states and international organizations; implementation of training programs for specialists who work with young people, in particular the “Youth Worker” program; ensuring the functioning of youth centres and the state institution “All-Ukrainian Youth Centre”; promoting the creation of conditions for the development of the capacity of civil society institutions to achieve the objectives of the Program.

In addition, the decree of the President of Ukraine approved the National Youth Strategy until 2030¹⁸, which ensures the creation of additional opportunities for the formation, development and improvement of the level of competitiveness of young people, the realization of their constitutional rights and freedoms, the establishment of a healthy lifestyle in the youth environment, the promotion of the initiative and activity of young citizens in all spheres of life of society and the state.

The involvement of youth in the development of civil society, the encouragement of socially active youth, the support and development of youth initiatives at the local and national levels, and the cooperation of local self-government bodies and youth are aimed at:

- grants of the President of Ukraine for gifted youth;
- Prize of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for the contribution of youth to the development of parliamentarism, local self-government, which is awarded to citizens of Ukraine who are youth according to the law, as well as youth and children’s public associations, which actively contributed to the processes of state formation, the development of parliamentarism and local self-government, achieved significant results in solving social and legal issues;
- Prize of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine for special achievements of youth in the development of Ukraine, which is awarded annually to twenty laureates whose special achievements during the previous year contribute to the development of youth initiatives at the local level;
 - national competition “Youth Capital of Ukraine”;
 - an annual competition of projects developed by youth and children’s public organizations, the implementation of which is financed from the state budget.

A noticeable increase in youth activity is taking place at the local level. So, for example, in the Sumy region¹⁹ in 2016–2020, the number of young people who were involved in the organization and participation in youth

¹⁸ Про Національну молодіжну стратегію до 2030 року: Указ Президента України від 12.03.2021 р. № 94/2021. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/94/2021#Text>

¹⁹ Інформація від Сумської ОДА.

events increased from approximately 65,000 people in 2016 to 80,700 people in 2019. The number of events supported directly in cities, districts and territorial communities of the region. This served to increase by almost 30 % the volume of local budget funds allocated to youth policy. The number of young people involved in the implementation of youth policy increased by 20 % thanks to the support of youth projects on a competitive basis with funds from the regional budget.

A significant role is played by young people due to their own willingness to take risks in conditions of uncertainty, the advantage compared to other population groups that it is easier to adapt to the conditions of a rapidly changing environment, possessing a high level of mobility, activity and innovation. Therefore, the use of innovative potential, the carrier of which is the youth, is a significant, strategic tool for political and socio-economic development for Ukraine.

Consequently, Ukrainian legislation ensures the development of youth initiative and activity in all spheres of social life; development of youth self-government; grants the right to create children's and youth public organizations; promotes youth participation in the formation and implementation of state youth policy; promotes the involvement of young people in the work of consultative-advisory bodies under the bodies of executive power and local self-government bodies, etc.

However, one cannot fail to recognize the fact that social, political and economic troubles, military actions in the country affect the lives of our citizens in different ways. For someone, injustice, political or economic problems become the trigger that activates complexes of prosocial or creative motivation and determines the content of political and legal activity. For some, on the contrary, the same factors cause protest motivation or motivation for destruction and start the processes of maladaptation or non-constructive behaviour.

Therefore, the second direction of youth involvement in organizational forms of political activity, as noted above, is oppositional ways that orient youth to protest participation, use negative information to draw the attention of disaffected youth to socio-political problems. The authorities are accused of being unable to solve the accumulated problems, and further proposals are put forward to get out of the crisis or force the state to act in the public interest. Activists are provoked into direct forms of political participation – rallies, marches, mass flash mobs, individual picketing, etc. At the same time, oppositionists do not always pay due attention to the procedure for coordinating these actions with the authorities, insisting on the constitutional right of citizens to peaceful protest. In this regard, they often come into direct confrontation with law enforcement agencies.

Our youth became not just a witness, but also a full-fledged participant in several social revolutions. Thus, the first serious social upheaval was the so-called “Revolution on Granite”, when in October 1990 students announced a hunger strike and achieved the fulfilment of their demands from the country’s leadership. In 2000–2001, a series of protest movements took place, organized by the political opposition in connection with the murder of journalist Heorhii Honhadze and aimed at the resignation of President L. D. Kuchma and all the leaders of the security forces. In 2004, the Orange Revolution took place in the country (protests, rallies, pickets, strikes and other acts of civil disobedience, which were caused by massive falsifications of the 2004 presidential elections in favour of the pro-government candidate V. F. Yanukovych, which led to the re-election of the President of Ukraine), and in 2013–2014 – the Revolution of Dignity (protest actions caused by the illegal dispersal of a peaceful action by students and public activists opposing the departure of the country’s leadership from the course of European integration). All these events were accompanied by “maidans” – protests on the main square of the country – and are perceived differently by representatives of different generations: for some it is history, and for others it is a part of life. More than 328,000 cases of mass events related to the Maidan events were recorded in Ukraine in just two years.²⁰ According to experts²¹, the Maidan gave a significant impetus to the development of civil society in Ukraine, new opportunities for development opened up.

In general, this kind of large-scale social upheavals lead to changes not only in the political system of the state, but also in the organization of life activities of each member and various social groups. Consciousness has changed, new patterns of thinking, new forms of social, political, and economic involvement of people in social processes have appeared. Moreover, each time such processes took place under certain conditions, affecting the peculiarities and specifics of the inclusion of a person in the life processes of groups, communities and society in general²².

The main mechanism for attracting youth to opposition groups can be considered to be drawing their attention to various socio-economic problems through popularization of alternative ways of development of the state and society. To a large extent, the institutions of political involvement create conditions for the manifestation of political and legal activity by young

²⁰ Євромайдан. URL: <https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Євромайдан>

²¹ Чи стала Революція гідності рушієм розвитку громадянського суспільства – експертне опитування. URL: <https://dif.org.ua/article/chi-stala-revoluyutsiya-gidnosti-rushiem-rozvitku-gromadyanskogo-susplstva-ekspertne-opituvannya>

²² Політико-правова свідомість молоді: психологічний аналіз монографія / З. Ф. Сіверс, В. М. Духневич, О. Ю. Осадько ; за заг. ред. З. Ф. Сіверс ; Нац. акад. пед. наук України, Ін-т соц. та політ. психології. Кропивницький : Імекс-ЛТД, 2020. С. 200.

people. They also determine the main parameters of political participation of young activists. Competing with each other in the political space, they offer a relevant program of action, attracting young supporters who become their personnel base. These forms of engagement have their own organizational structure, a certain amount of resources, implement specific technologies and strategies of political behaviour.

However, young people more often focus on informal associations without “party” obligations, based on elements of subculture and communicative advantages of social networks. The reason that forces young people to refuse regulated participation in political life is the lack of systematic and well-thought-out work of “adult” organizations with this age group. Initiative youth is used mainly as a reserve to replenish party ranks or as a “combat vanguard” during mass events. Most senior officials, unfortunately, do not want to listen to her opinion, considering only their life experience and not understanding the needs of the younger generation.

Modern youth is also an active participant in the trade union movement, solidarity and protest actions of trade unions in the struggle for their rights and guarantees. In modern conditions of development and digitization of social processes, it is the young and creative people who promote the ideas of digitalization and informatization of trade union work, organize information campaigns in social networks aimed at protecting the rights and interests of working people, contribute to increasing the level of media literacy, and implement communications between trade union organizations and members trade unions in different countries of the world.

So, today, it would seem that more and more opportunities are opening up for young people in Ukraine to satisfy their interests and needs, but at the same time, the conditions for such self-realization are becoming more difficult.

The modern demographic and socio-economic crisis, which is manifested in the decrease in the number of young people and their share in the total population, the presence of problems with employment and ensuring decent working conditions for young people, the increase in the level of poverty and low income during the period of the military conflict, requires increased attention to the formation and implementation youth policy in our country.

5. Factors that negatively affect the political-legal activity of youth and methods of its formation

In our opinion, youth activity in modern Ukrainian society depends not only on external factors, on the environment in which a person lives. It is formed, first of all, at the moral-ethical level, because only by realizing that he is necessary for his state and those around him, a person wants to do something and change life for the better.

Often, a young person shows no interest in political life due to his young age, is unable to assess the events taking place in the state, as they are beyond his interests. Due to unstable financial situation, a person of working age aims to earn money for existence and ensure a decent future. A factor of political-legal inactivity is also the fact that a person does not have sufficient knowledge and experience to analyse the political situation. Political, social, economic and cultural instability in the state also has a negative impact on youth; military actions on the territory of Ukraine; discrediting of modern youth by the older generation and society, low level of trust in state institutions.

The formation of motivation for political activity is based on awareness, interest in information about politics, awareness of the ability to influence the course of the political process. The mechanism of political activation of youth can be vertical, initiated by the state (electoral, party activity), or horizontal, that is, initiated by society.

As a kind of mechanism that integrates the activity of an individual, regulates its activity, behaviour, development and determines the process of self-determination and social dedication of an individual, the civic position acts as an essential expression not only of citizenship, but also an external manifestation of the political-legal consciousness of an individual, as it reproduces internalized in the process of socialization norms and rules, principles and views, ideas and values in the plane of social relations, in particular through the attitude and nature of activity in solving current social problems and contradictions²³.

Civic position is revealed and formed in specific cases, determined by the limits of those obligations that a person is ready to take on or share with others. That is, it is determined by the limits of assuming or not assuming responsibility. But both submission and declared evasion of responsibility can indicate the existence of a civil position. It is obvious that a person who avoids participation in certain public political actions, who distances himself from the political life of society, from political processes thereby reveals his attitude to this reality and, as a result, finds such a locus in the structure of social relations that allows him, in his opinion, to build proper relations with society. In this regard, we consider it necessary to talk about certain forms of citizenship – from active citizenship (and, accordingly, readiness to fulfil one's civic duty) to maximum self-removal from the processes of social and

²³ Воропаева Т. С. Структурные и типологические особенности гражданской позиции как системообразующего фактора активности личности: автореф. дис. ... канд. психол. наук. Киев : КГУ, 1990. С. 17.

political life²⁴. For example, with the beginning of military operations in Ukrainian society, processes were actualized that required self-determination in the situation, tasks, cooperation partners, etc. One part took the path of volunteering and helping the army and volunteer battalions that restrained aggression at the front, and the other part of citizens supported separatist slogans or simply did not object to them.

Therefore, in modern conditions, the formation of the political culture of youth deserves special attention, which will contribute to the awareness of the general historical responsibility of Ukrainians as a nation, as well as the education of all social and ethnic groups in the spirit of patriotism, the constant increase in the importance of the sovereign state and the unity of the people of Ukraine. In addition, political culture makes it possible to reveal a desire for law and order, for the preservation and development of specific Ukrainian traditions. In the process of upbringing, the formation of the individual consciousness of a young person, certain feelings, stable moods, ideas, traditions that reflect his basic interests is of significant importance. Political culture reflects the degree of political maturity and youth activity in the process of political communication.

In addition, the legal education and upbringing of a young person, the development of the necessary legal qualities in him is gaining importance. According to the Ukrainian scientist-pedagogue M. Fitsula, a physically healthy person cannot be considered harmoniously developed when he, having extensive knowledge, working well or studying, violates laws and rights. A person's ability to understand the rules of coexistence and the requirements of laws and to behave accordingly is not innate, it is formed under the influence of special educational measures, it is a consequence of communication with other people, participation in various types of activities²⁵.

The main requirement for youth policy in a situation where, for example, it is necessary to overcome electoral passivity is the refusal of pressure. Manipulation at this time will have a number of negative consequences that will prevent the achievement of the ultimate goals. Legal education contributes to the formation of legal needs, interests, attitudes, value orientations, which largely determines the choice of appropriate actions and deeds. The legal need activates the subject, prompts him to evaluate legal validity, to systematically pay attention to legal phenomena and objects that contribute to his satisfaction in one way or another. It is quite obvious that the ultimate goal of education is the transformation of the meaning and values of

²⁴ Політико-правова свідомість молоді: психологічний аналіз монографія / З. Ф. Сіверс, В. М. Духневич, О. Ю. Осадько; за заг. ред. З. Ф. Сіверс ; Нац. акад. пед. наук України, Ін-т соц. та політ. психології. Кропивницький : Імекс-ЛТД, 2020. С. 192.

²⁵ Фіцула М. М. Педагогіка. Київ : Видавничий центр «Академія», 2000. С. 271.

democratic-legal statehood through their reflection, approval and acceptance by the citizen into internal regulators of his behaviour. Simply, people's knowledge of laws, the state system, and the judiciary is not yet a guarantee of the citizenship of these people's actions in the political-legal sphere.

The formation of political-legal activity of young people should be of a systemic nature. Thus, the study of civic education at school will give pupils an understanding of the principles of the existence of the political system in the state, levers for managing political forces; understanding of their own rights, freedoms and responsibilities, which will prepare them to accept these values in adulthood. It is important to encourage students of higher education institutions in the process of classes, scientific work, and extracurricular activities to self-evaluation, self-analysis, and self-improvement in the field of the functioning of law and legal relations, and on this basis to develop the desire for consistent, systematic, and independent resolution of topical problems characteristic of the existing practice of legal relations in the team, at work, in the system of public communication, ensuring livelihoods, education, creativity, etc²⁶.

A priority role in the educational process should be given to active methods, the use of which is based on a democratic style of interaction, contributes to the formation of critical thinking, initiative and creativity. Such methods include: social-project activity, situational role-playing games, sociogram, the method of the open tribune, social-psychological trainings, intellectual auctions, creation of problem situations and situations of success, analysis of conflicts and models of behaviour styles. In the formation of the views and beliefs of young people, it is essential to create situations in which there is a need to defend one's position, in the process of which one's own opinion begins to be formed, the internal position is strengthened, and the ability to assert one's own adequate beliefs about one's nation, one's state, and the world community appears. During such discussions, the culture of thinking and the culture of speech, logic, intellectual abilities are revealed, there is a change in views on social phenomena, one's life and civic position, and a reassessment of values.

It is necessary to create conditions for a conscious choice of professional activity through practice and internship; to develop civic competences of an open society for all groups of young people, including digital skills, critical thinking skills, media literacy, for the ability to adapt in a rapidly changing

²⁶ Бутенко В. Г. Роль правових цінностей у формуванні громадянськості студентської молоді. Участь молоді у розвитку громадянського суспільства в Україні : колективна монографія / Палагнюк Ю. В., Костева Т. Б., Соловійова А. С. та ін. ; під заг. ред. проф. Ю. В. Палагнюк, доц. О. Л. Файчук. Миколаїв : Ліон, 2021. С. 300.

world; promote the participation of young people in the activities of civil society institutions.

An interest in solving one's own problem can also become a stimulus for the formation of political-legal activity. For example, the protection of one's own rights when a young person finds himself in a situation of injustice and the chance to avoid it is possible only through the manifestation of such activity. It can be writing petitions, participation in rallies and actions, electoral participation. The same applies to social injustice that an individual can observe around. By learning ways to protect oneself or others, an individual better understands the structure of the state and society, the level of involvement of citizens in public life, as well as the presence of social inequality.

Youth independence and initiative, the desire of young people to participate in the life of society and the state, to satisfy and realize their own needs and interests lead to the creation and functioning of social movements, organizations, and associations. They act as an environment for communication and interaction between people, where their own norms and rules, rights and freedoms, duties and responsibilities apply²⁷.

Y. Yivzhenko's opinion is correct, he notes that "the student organization is one of the social institutions that allows to accelerate the formation of political-legal activity of young people. They (organizations) arise on the initiative of students and contribute to the solution of urgent problems of young men and women. Through their activities, student organizations draw the attention of state bodies and the public to the needs of students, encourage them to optimize the search for ways to improve the state youth policy, motivating society to change taking into account the requests and needs of young people". The functioning of youth public organizations precisely on the basis of the educational institution provides a public component of extracurricular activities, which especially effectively contributes to the formation of the civic position of future specialists in the process of education²⁸.

The military actions on the territory of Ukraine significantly increased the civil activity of young people. Nowadays, the expert community has recorded an increase in the interest of young people in the decisions of the country's

²⁷ Юрій Н. М. Політична соціалізація молоді в умовах трансформації суспільства: порівняльний аналіз міжнародного і українського досвіду : дис. ... кандидата політичних наук : 23.00.04 – політичні проблеми міжнародних систем і глобального розвитку. Одеса : Одеська національна юридична академія, 2002. С. 11.

²⁸ Івженко Ю. В. Особливості діяльності студентських громадських організацій як фактора формування соціальної активності особистості. *Наукові записки Ніжинського державного університету ім. Миколи Гоголя. Психолого-педагогічні науки*. 2014. № 4. С. 32–36.

leadership, their involvement in civic and political initiatives is intensifying, the level of patriotic sentiments in society is increasing, volunteerism has become quite relevant, even a real volunteer movement has emerged, which plays an important role in expanding rights and opportunities individuals, in promoting active citizenship and in creating inclusive and sustainable communities. Volunteering supports the empowerment of individual young people, provides qualified personnel, supports the work of non-profit organizations, expands the life experience of volunteers and helps to build connections. At the same time, the volunteering experience of young Ukrainians is not recognized by the state either as work experience or as the acquisition of non-formal education. This situation, unfortunately, does not contribute to the popularization of volunteering in Ukraine and does not motivate young people to become volunteers.

Taking into account the international experience of youth policy, the priority tasks of the formation of a work system with youth in conditions of decentralization are to provide information to young people and create conditions for involving them in active participation in the life of the community²⁹. It is necessary to form a comfortable environment for the life and development of young people in communities, and the priority areas of its implementation should be financial and personnel support, development of youth infrastructure, and involvement of young people in the process of developing and making decisions and monitoring their implementation.

The state targeted social program “Youth of Ukraine” for 2021–2025, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 2 June 2021, defines one of the tasks of implementing training programs for specialists who work with young people, including the “Youth Worker” program, with the expected as a result, more than 27,000 representatives of civil society institutions and specialists, who work with youth, will be trained³⁰.

Also worthy of attention is the State educational program “Youth Worker”, launched by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, the State Institute of Family and Youth Policy and the UN Development Program, which is based on the principles of non-formal education and aims to organize short-term educational training for representatives of the state and public sectors, firstly, to unite people who work with youth and introduce each other, and secondly, to provide them with the necessary knowledge for work in the

²⁹ Молодіжна політика в умовах децентралізації : методичні рекомендації для спеціалістів, які реалізують державну політику в молодіжній сфері / за ред. І. В. Пешої. 2-ге вид. Київ : ДУ «Державний інститут сімейної та молодіжної політики», 2019. С. 33.

³⁰ Про затвердження Державної цільової соціальної програми «Молодь України» на 2021–2025 роки та внесення змін до деяких актів Кабінету Міністрів України : Постанова Кабінету Міністрів України від 02.06.2021 р. № 579.

youth field, which will also allow unifying approaches to youth work in Ukraine.

The comprehensive program “Youth worker” (with the support of the DOBRE program) is aimed at representatives of local self-government responsible for work with young people, representatives of youth councils and public organizations working in the field of youth policy, activists of cultural and educational institutions in the united territorial communities – partners of the DOBRE program with the aim of increasing their competence in working with young people and attracting them to participate in the life of the community.

Thus, the activation of youth participation, on the one hand, serves as the basis for the development of civil society, on the other hand, it is a form of teaching youth democracy, and provides:

- effective youth self-government (involvement of youth in decision-making);
- work of youth centres (consolidation of socially active youth);
- support and development of youth leadership (preparation of young people for civic and active activities);
- legal and democratic education of Ukrainian youth (knowledge of democratic rights and freedoms);
- popularization of the role and importance of youth participation and activities of civil society institutions (state request for youth activity).

Thus, today it is necessary to learn not to adapt to the conditions of a changing environment, but to find new tools to influence it, to form proactive youth. And public activism is precisely a component of proactivity³¹.

CONCLUSIONS

According to the study results, it was established that young people in a postmodern society have the ability to express their opinions on political issues more freely than middle-aged and elderly people, to cooperate with authorities and participate in the channels of mobility created by the state, to claim status positions and build a career in politics. Therefore, due to the youth, there is a real boom in youth initiatives, social movements, startups and business ideas.

In periods of exacerbation of political contradictions, young people are at the epicenter of the struggle, actively support representatives of radical political forces, loudly declare themselves by participating in protest rallies,

³¹ Малиновська Н. Л. Розвиток громадянської активності молоді через освітній процес. *Задучення патріотично активної молоді до розвитку громадянського суспільства як чинник соціальної безпеки України* : тези доп. II Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції (м. Миколаїв 5 черв. 2019 р.). Миколаїв, 2019. С. 29–31.

marches, pickets, thereby influencing the political centers of power. In our opinion, the task of the state's youth policy in this aspect is to prevent the radicalization of protests, in particular by responding adequately to them, anticipating the safety of participants and taking into account their interests.

Having analyzed the new regulatory framework, we can conclude that the main condition for progress in the youth field is the need for coordinated cooperation (with the direct participation of youth) of state authorities and local self-government in partnership with civil society institutions, institutions working with youth, youth centers, consultative-advisory bodies, pupil and student self-government bodies, international organizations, youth workers, representatives of employers and businesses.

The incompleteness of administrative data on the quantitative indicators of the youth work implementation can be attributed to insufficiently resolved problems. Since a well-founded youth policy is formed on the basis of reliable information about the situation of youth, their needs and opportunities in a specific community, taking into account all available resources and involving the cooperation of representatives of the public sector and business, the results should be periodically evaluated according to measurement indicators. Careful collection and control of the completeness and reliability of relevant indicators at the local and regional levels will allow to objectively assess the state of affairs at the national level and contribute to a more rational use of the State Budget of Ukraine in the field of youth policy.

To increase the public activity of youth at the local and regional levels, a participation budget should be introduced for the implementation of youth initiatives, in which representatives of youth organizations and organizations working with youth can participate.

In addition, in order for young people to understand their own capabilities, educational work should be carried out: teaching civic education in educational institutions, information campaigns to highlight the tools of interaction of young people with the authorities at the national, regional and local levels.

Political education can be implemented within the framework of the non-formal education development and with the involvement of youth public organizations / wings of political parties in this process. However, such educational programs should not support any political forces or ideologies, but only provide general knowledge about the political process and various ideologies. It is necessary to involve young people in internships, trainings, taking part in various political games, modeling of the electoral and legislative process, schools of active citizens and other forms that form practical skills and increase the interest of young people in political life.

It is obvious that there should be a common understanding of effective steps and reforms in the context of the youth sphere for all state-makers: scientists, power structures, executive institutions and the youth itself as a full-fledged subject. The state should contribute to increasing the role of young people in society, increasing their political-legal activity, acquiring a worthy place in society.

SUMMARY

Theoretical-legal foundations and problematic aspects of the formation of political-legal activity of youth in postmodern society are analyzed in the article. The main forms of youth political activity are characterized. An analysis of the results of a sociological study and a national survey of young people regarding life priorities and political-legal activity was carried out. Considerable attention is paid to the characteristics of the mechanisms and tools of youth participation in the formation and implementation of youth policy. On the basis of the analysis of the legal framework of youth policy, conclusions were made regarding the main trends and specifics of youth participation in political processes, which is expressed through the activities of various public organizations and movements. State measures of encouraging socially active youth are presented. The directions of youth involvement in organizational forms of political activity are justified. The author's vision regarding the formation of political culture and the motivation of political-legal activity of youth is offered.

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