

**DOI: 10.52363/passa-2024.1-5**

**UDC 351.82: 316.346.32-053.6 (100)**

*Sabii Yu. - adjunct, National University of Civil Defense of Ukraine, Kharkiv*

*ORCID ID: 0009-0003-2057-049X*

## **PECULIARITIES OF YOUTH POLICY FORMATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

*This article examines the key aspects of youth policy formation at the international level, analyzes the main approaches and strategies used by various states and international organizations. Special attention is paid to the role of international cooperation and interaction in the field of youth policy, as well as consideration of successful examples and practices that can be useful for the further development of this field.*

***Keywords:** youth policy, international cooperation, state management, social integration*

Formulation of the problem. In the modern world, youth is a significant and dynamic social group that plays a key role in the development of society and the state. Formation and implementation of an effective youth policy at the international level are becoming important tasks for governments and international organizations that seek to create favorable conditions for youth development and ensure their active participation in public life.

Features of youth policy formation at the international level include a set of measures aimed at solving youth problems, such as access to quality education, employment, health care, and participation in political life. These measures require coordination of efforts of various countries and international organizations, exchange of experience and best practices, as well as consideration of cultural, economic and social characteristics of various regions.

Analysis of recent research and publications. Formation and formation of youth policy is based on the research of Ukrainian scientists M. Perepelitsa, M. Golovenka. Scientists S. Tolstoukhov, K. Plosky, V. Barabash and others. investigate modern aspects of the implementation of youth policy in Ukraine and abroad. Youth policy as a component of European social policy in the conditions of globalization was studied by A. Turen, Yu. Platynskyi, V. Rukavyshnikov, L. Halman, and others. Western European researchers R. Thomson, D. Roche, S. Tucker, R. Flynn were engaged in studying the theory and practice of youth policy in European countries. Without belittling the achievements of scientists, the future life and development of Ukraine's youth is a pressing issue in our country today. Because of this and taking into account the European integration vector of Ukraine's development, it is necessary to continue improving the youth policy.

The purpose of the article is to identify and analyze the peculiarities of the formation of youth policy at the international level, as well as to develop recommendations for improving the effectiveness of this policy in the context of global challenges and trends.

Presenting main material. Turning to the global practice of youth policy formation at the state level, researchers try to find analogies with the social, political and other conditions of their country, where the process of formation of sectoral policy continues. In our case, we plan to use foreign experience, understanding the usefulness of some of the conclusions of its study.

International experience confirms the need to develop a special state policy for youth. This is convincingly demonstrated by the practice of implementing youth policy (and enshrining it in the constitutions) in countries such as Germany, France, Sweden, the USA, Italy, Spain, etc. The complication of conditions for the reproduction of labor and intellectual resources of Western societies at the current stage of technological restructuring of the world economy, the crisis of traditional institutions of socialization of the young generation (primarily families and schools), the complication of the structure of society itself and the growing role of youth in it - all this confirms the need for special attention to youth policy. Therefore, the problem of youth policy formation should be

considered in inseparable unity with the basic laws of the functioning of social reality and the logic of society's development.

Youth policy in Western societies originates in the 1950s and 1960s, reflecting one of the objective patterns of the stage of development of these societies, in particular, the strengthening of the role of the "youth factor" in socio-economic and political processes.

Looking at the evolution of youth policy in Western countries, the following trends can be noted: in the 1950s, youth policy had a conservative paternalistic character and was focused mainly on risk groups, people from disadvantaged families, and immigrants. Today, youth policy covers almost all strata of youth in different countries of the world. Social services for youth work according to uniform international programs, taking into account regional characteristics. Youth is now considered not only as an object of youth policy, but also as its active subject.

The United Nations plays a special role in the formation of international legislation in the field of youth policy. In 1965, the UN General Assembly adopted the "Declaration on the spread among young people of the ideals of peace, mutual respect and mutual understanding between peoples". The main principles for the further planning and implementation of youth activities - participation, development, peace - were determined by the resolution of the UN General Assembly of December 14, 1995, which approved the World Program of Action for Youth until the year 2000 and for the following period. Resolution 54/120 of January 20, 2000 endorsed the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programs adopted in August 1998 at the first World Ministerial Conference on Youth. [1].

The main goal of youth policy is legally enshrined in international documents - the active involvement of youth and youth organizations in public life both at the national level and on a global scale.

In European countries, youth policy is either an independent part of state policy with a clearly defined structure and close interaction of its components, or is at the stage of formation. At the same time, it is possible to single out the main elements that characterize the youth policy of all European states:

- firstly, in all European countries such an element of youth policy is clearly marked as the scope of its distribution: geographical and social groups;
- secondly, the role and mechanism of interaction between the government and youth non-governmental commercial organizations is legally defined;
- thirdly, training and qualification of specialists in the field of youth policy is a mandatory element;
- fourthly, special attention is paid to such elements of youth policy as cooperation, management, vertical and horizontal structure;
- fifth, resource support for the processes of development and implementation of youth policy (financial and human resources).

According to the statement of the United Nations, 90% of member states have an integrated youth policy. This means that there are political structures that unite political and professional institutions with youth organizations that are subjects of youth policy.

At the moment, it can be said that youth legislation exists in most European countries, although the issue of integrated youth policy is still being discussed. Often youth legislation is limited to the field of youth work and formal education. In many countries, various interdepartmental bodies have been established at the national level to address youth policy issues.

Youth organizations are the main channel of youth participation in youth policy. However, their place and role in the implementation of youth policy vary greatly between different countries and still do not have a clear definition. It should be noted that in the process of forming the youth policy of most European states:

- local youth organizations, which are the basis of youth policy, are practically invisible in the structure of its implementation;
- national youth organizations do not always use their potential to develop youth policy;
- many youth organizations are in a crisis of legitimacy due to declining membership.

The trend observed in recent decades indicates that young people prefer new forms of participation in public life over traditional youth organizations. This includes informal associations and youth groups that implement individual projects or programs.

The tasks of youth policy also differ between European countries. In some countries, the main emphasis is on prevention and combating social problems of young people, while in others - on providing social, political, economic, educational and other opportunities for young people.

A good example of the second approach is the youth policy of the Federal Republic of Germany. The main characteristics of its youth policy, according to the federal youth program "Chances in a Changing Society", are:

- interdisciplinary youth policy. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to unite and coordinate the efforts of all interested structures and departments.
- proactive youth policy. We need not only state support for youth, but also promotion of active participation of young people in society.
- holding a large-scale dialogue with young people. Direct contact with young people and participation of young people in public life is necessary for the successful implementation of youth policy.
- strengthening cooperation with state and local self-government bodies, private entrepreneurs, associations and social groups [2].

Despite the differences in the structural organization of youth policy, most European countries show relative similarities in determining the main priorities of youth policy. Main priorities:

- education - training - employment;
- youth work and non-formal education;
- health care;
- dwelling;
- Social Protection;
- family policy;
- leisure and culture;

- defense and military service.

One of the most important components of youth policy is education and lifelong learning. In most European countries, much attention is paid to the issues of professional retraining and the relationship between formal and informal learning, education and training, as well as the needs of the labor market. Education is a key means of forming an active citizenship and participation in society.

Research shows that, despite a rather stable situation regarding the physical health of young Europeans, there is a deterioration in the moral and spiritual health of young people, which emphasizes the need to prevent the abuse of psychoactive substances.

Although the concept of "youth housing" is rarely used as a component of youth policy, it should be noted that in the near future this issue will attract special attention. European youth have quite wide opportunities for social protection and support from the state. However, these opportunities are gradually being replaced by vocational education programs.

Youth justice in Europe receives insufficient attention, although youth offending is both a cause and a consequence of social rejection of the younger generation.

Historically, leisure time, cultural education and education of youth have been priority areas of youth policy in European countries. However, the successful implementation of policies in these areas requires the integration of policy measures in the field of youth leisure and the active involvement of young people in the organization of this leisure.

The policy of supporting youth and children's public associations in European countries is very unique. The youth policy of European states is an international standard. The inclusion of youth issues in the agenda of intergovernmental and interstate cooperation has become a pronounced trend in recent decades. In this connection, issues of youth policy are reflected in the activities of international organizations, in particular the UN.

In the formation and implementation of youth policy, the UN singles out two interrelated elements. The first is that young people must independently determine their

interests and provide them with adequate support. The second is that national governments should promote the positive aspirations of young people, expand their activities and create conditions for active participation in public life. However, this support should not be only formal: decision-making bodies should set parameters and adopt specific programs in the field of youth rights, interests and needs.

The UN has adopted various conventions, pacts and recommendations for the protection of youth rights. Their documents define the main directions of youth policy and ways to solve youth problems. Among the main problems affecting the development of modern youth, the UN singles out issues of peace, education, professional training, work, health care, housing, family life and culture.

The problems of youth employment and their participation in the economic sphere are of primary importance among youth issues. The UN recommends that civilized states take the following measures for the implementation of national policies: ratify and implement international labor conventions related to youth; implement policies aimed at full employment and elimination of youth unemployment; to protect equal rights of youth during employment; to provide the first workplace for young people entering the working life; create new jobs for young people; provide assistance to young people in acquiring entrepreneurial skills; strengthen institutions dealing with employment issues, including those that work directly with young people; to provide information about prospective employment opportunities before entering educational and professional institutions; promote the development of youth cooperatives and farms; take into account the interests of young people when planning long-term capital investments and rational use of human resources; to increase the access of young people to technical and general educational training under promising programs that develop entrepreneurial qualities; promote more active participation of working youth in decision-making in the field of production and management.

In the field of education and vocational training, the UN recommends that governments take the following measures: promote the ratification and implementation of international conventions related to youth education; to activate programs to eradicate

illiteracy among young people; to ensure free, compulsory and high-quality primary education for all children; to take measures to democratize education taking into account the interests of young people; to encourage young people to participate in reforming educational programs and the content of education; eradicate discrimination in the education system based on race, gender, religious beliefs and national origin; implement programs that encourage young people to continue their education throughout their lives; to provide youth with wide access to professional and technical training; create opportunities for basic professional education for young men and women in difficult economic situations; support new non-formal education programs.

In the field of demography and family life, the UN believes that national governments should promote the education of young people about family life; strengthen the role of the family in the education process; implement social policy aimed at strengthening the family as the main social center of society; teach teenagers about family life and gender relations; provide adolescents with adequate information and services in the field of family planning; take care of living conditions of young families [3].

In the field of health care, within the framework of youth policy, the UN recommends governments to: promote the implementation of legislative provisions on youth health; to provide young people with proper medical care; conduct research on specific problems related to youth health; to create medical institutions to restore the health of young people who use drugs; fight alcoholism and drug addiction among young people.

In the field of culture, sports and leisure, the UN suggests governments: promote the implementation of the concept of national culture; to encourage the participation of young people in the protection and development of cultural heritage; to ensure wider access of young people to cultural life; support the contribution of youth to the development of national and world culture; take into account the cultural interests of each youth group; to stimulate creative artistic activity among young people; to contribute to the artistic education of young people; to encourage training of young artists and writers; take care of young talented people; provide technical and financial support to youth



cultural and sports centers; to contribute to the physical education of young people; to provide youth with a base for recreation and entertainment; to encourage youth participation in tourism, international cultural, sports and other events; facilitate the travel of young people for personal, professional and educational needs by providing affordable fares, the provision of hostels and the possibility of staying with families.

The solution of social welfare issues within the framework of youth policy, according to the documents of the United Nations Organization, is proposed to be carried out in the following forms: provision of social assistance to youth groups that are in the worst economic and other conditions; providing young people with full access to public services.

The UN documents define government action programs for various categories of youth: urban and rural youth, young women, workers, students, migrants and refugees, disabled youth, young offenders, etc. [4].

In particular, for students, governments are encouraged to: improve the situation of students in the field of social security, financial aid and housing; ensure equal access to higher education for all; to encourage the participation of student associations in the decision-making process in the field of education and training; promote the expansion of students' contribution to the development of society.

One of the most important tasks in the formation and implementation of youth policy, the UN considers the combination and effective coordination of activities of all structures of society related to youth problems.

The UN pays special attention to the direct participation of young people in the development and implementation of youth policy. State bodies and workers responsible for the implementation of youth policy should, through direct meetings with young people and youth organizations, conduct a dialogue that will allow the state to know and understand the needs of young people from their own point of view.

Conclusions. So, we can say that at the international level, youth policy is becoming an important direction for ensuring sustainable development and involving young people in public life. The analysis showed that the key aspects of this policy are the participation

of young people in decision-making and ensuring access to education and employment. Different states and international organizations apply different approaches to the formation of youth policy. In particular, there are successful practices of integrating youth programs into national development strategies, actively involving youth in social projects and creating platforms for their self-realization. The article provides a number of successful examples of youth policy implementation that may be useful for other countries. In particular, these are programs for the development of leadership skills, support for youth entrepreneurship and the creation of youth councils that actively influence decision-making at the local and national levels.

For the further development of youth policy, it is recommended to strengthen intersectoral cooperation, ensure stable funding of youth programs, and actively involve young people in the process of developing and implementing policies related to their future. These conclusions emphasize the importance of a systematic and innovative approach to the formation of youth policy at the international level and the need for active participation of young people in this process.

### **References:**

1. Youth in the conditions of the formation of the Independence of Ukraine (1991–2011): annual report to the President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the situation of youth in Ukraine. - K.: BAITE Company LLC, 2011. - 316 p
2. The youth of Ukraine in the mirror of sociology / general. ed. O. Balakireva, O. Yaremenko. K.: UISD, 2001. 210 p.
3. Kulyk O. M. Political and managerial activity in the youth policy system: essence, structure, functions. Public administration: theory and practice K.: NASU, 2007. No. 2.
4. Dombrovska, S. M. State management of higher education in conditions of transformational changes: monograph. Kh.: Oberig, 2010. 176 p