



Recommendations for facilitating the process of becoming independent and maintaining a sense of security for adolescents leaving foster families

The recommendations were prepared at the Experience Exchange Center of the Polki Moga Wszystko Foundation and are the result of the work of 30 young people (over 16) from Ukraine, most of whom are in the care of Ukrainian foster families or foster care and education centers. The young people taking part in the workshops are staying in Poland in the Lower Silesia, Lublin, Mazovia, Silesia and Warmia-Masuria voivodeships.



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VOICE OF YOUTH

Daily life

1. Regulate residence card provisions for people over 18 (possibility to obtain a residence card between 16 and 18 years old).
2. Regulating the establishment of bank accounts in Poland.
 - Problem: the lack of a legal guardian causes difficulties in setting up an account for those under 18,
 - Need: e.g., when receiving a social grant in college, payment can only be made to an account, which causes difficulties for young people who are under 18, studying and do not have a legal guardian.
3. Facilitating access to a doctor (free of charge from the NFZ).
 - Problem: inability to receive medical advice without a temporary/legal guardian making an appointment and being present at the time of the visit (making it longer or significantly more difficult to receive medical care when the legal guardian has many children in his care and is additionally employed - he has to work).
 - Need: to enable people
 - 16-18 years old - to receive medical care without a legal/temporary guardian,
 - after 18 years old the possibility to have health insurance (in case the person is not studying and working).
4. Enabling the creation of a trusted profile without a legal guardian (16-18 years old).
5. Establishment of a Refugee Rights Protection unit within the Ombudsman's structure, to which problems can be reported and legal assistance obtained from 16 years old.
6. Access to information on which applications to facilitate transit in the municipality can be used and training on these applications.



7. Access to information in municipalities in Ukrainian about cultural and other events that can be used free of charge.
8. Create a system of incentives for employers to hire young people from Ukraine.
9. Introduce commission-free transfers from a Polish bank account to a Ukrainian bank account (at least in state-owned banks).
10. Facilitating the departure of young Ukrainians under 18 years old from Poland.
 - The problem: e.g., people over 16 years old who have entered Poland have been separated from their adult families, who cannot leave Ukrainian territory. If a young person from Ukraine has been placed in Polish foster care then he cannot return to Ukraine (even if he has relatives there under whose care he will stay).
11. Granting rights to young Ukrainians under 18 years old, the same as those of Ukrainian students studying in Poland.

Accommodation

1. Organize a system of rental housing subsidies.
2. Allowing Ukrainian youth studying at private universities to live in dormitories.
3. Assisted/supported housing for young people from Ukraine, which would be secured by local governments.
4. Exemption from income tax for those who rent apartments to young people from Ukraine.



5. At the level of local governments, introduce a system of municipal guarantees for the implementation of the rental contract for young people from Ukraine.
6. To allow people from Ukraine who are 18 years old and have nowhere to go to become independent, to remain in care until they are 25 years old or at least for another 2 years (not making this solely dependent on study and the approval of the director of the institution), even when they are working or studying.
 - The problem: currently there are regulations that young people can remain in custody if they are studying until the age of 25 with the approval of the facility's director. Some directors do not give their consent and force the youth to leave the facility just after turning 18. The situation is even more difficult for those who take a job and must, according to the regulations, move out.

Education

1. Enable access to universal and free A2 and B1 Polish language courses for children, adolescents and adults.
2. Introducing courses to prepare Polish teachers to teach Ukrainian youth.
3. Develop tools to facilitate learning in Polish educational institutions, e.g., tests or a "0" semester before starting school.
4. To develop a system of matching the level of education of Ukraine and Poland: it is about XI and XII classes.
5. Organize universal and accessible career counseling in Ukrainian, including free access to Gallup tests.
6. Sanctioning the possibility of online learning from Ukraine (no compulsion to go to a Polish school if online learning in Ukraine is confirmed).
7. Special discounts or subsidies for young people from Ukraine to study at private universities.



8. Discount on public transport also for those young people who stay in Poland but study online at a school in Ukraine.
9. Introduce the nostrification of the Ukrainian high school diploma (EIT/NMT).
10. Provide, at key examinations, Ukrainian language interpreters\language supporters or allow the exam to be taken in Ukrainian.
11. Introducing free sworn translations for Ukrainians nostrifying educational documents.
12. Special assistance for young people from Ukraine in finding work, after graduation, in their learned profession.

The recommendations were prepared at the Experience Exchange Center of the Polki Moga Wszystko Foundation organized within the framework of the project «Strengthen familial care/alternative care service for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and children placed in foster care», implemented with the support of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).