STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION
OF SYSTEM MONITORING OF THE EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH POLICY

Strategic planning in youth policy, like strategic planning in the decision-making process, is now a traditional element of government governance and government responsibility. Research on youth is a major tool for youth policy support, knowledge gained from scholars should help develop a well-founded policy. The appropriate definition of tasks and needs, the search for tools for problem solving and the evaluation of policy effectiveness are mechanisms used in the process of policy formation at all levels.

Strategic planning consists of the following parts:

– diagnostics: definition of target groups for policy formation; reflection of problem, task, needs of target groups; identification of barriers and risks, and opportunities and space to change, analysis of existing mechanisms to identified needs and problems;

– drawing up an action plan (strategy): definition of objectives, choice of priorities, search tools to achieve goals, determine the responsible authorities to ensure participation in the process, providing appropriate budget and organization monitoring system;

– monitoring and evaluation: defining ways to measure qualitative and quantitative work outcomes, indicators of short-term and long-term effects.

Every year a State report on the situation of young people is being prepared in Ukraine. During the years 1998 - 2016, 17 such reports were prepared and submitted to the President, the Verkhovna Rada and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

The youth policy in Ukraine, which is being implemented with the state budget, then the indicators used to evaluate the implementation of projects do not
really measure either the effect or the quality of the programs. They can be used to see
the coverage of events (the number of people who participated in the program: for
example, "the number of participants in programs aimed at integrating Ukrainian youth
into European and world youth communities" or "the number of participants in
programs aimed at supporting youth entrepreneurship and vocational guidance
children and youth "). The available indicators do not allow us to judge the
effectiveness of the program, whether the program actually solved certain problems for
the youth, and it is not possible to see the difference and the difference from the
situation that was before the program, and that after the implementation. There is no
difference between the assessment of inputs and outputs (relative to the resources
invested and those who participated), as well as the evaluation of program results -
whether or not specific changes were made in a particular direction and why. There is
an urgent need to develop qualitative indicators that could provide in-depth assessment
of the effectiveness and impact of projects and activities, as well as the quality of the
program.

The system of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the key
document of Ukraine's youth policy. The State Institute of Family and Youth Policy
collects and analyzes data on the situation of young people at the macro level (in such
areas as employment, visits to educational institutions, economic situation, etc.), the
Strategy for the Development of State Youth Policy has no detailed indicators, and
therefore there is no proper evaluation and monitoring of its implementation and
achievements. It is very important to monitor the effectiveness of government
measures aimed at young people in order to ensure that policies and programs
contribute to the achievement of key strategic objectives for the government. In
addition, Ukraine obviously lacks independent research centers on youth issues and
youth policy. The State Institute of Family and Youth Policy can determine its own
research priorities, but they must be approved by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

It is a positive fact that according to the State Program of Youth Policy for
2016-2020 a three-tier system of evaluation will be introduced based on indicators
such as: general indicators (UNESCO Youth Development Index); index of the
process; impact index. However, the Concept does not specify concrete indicators,
which will measure the index of process and impact index. Also, there is currently no plan how exactly each involved body should collect, compare, analyze data and report on them. Effective monitoring and evaluation of the State Program for 2016-2020 - and youth policy as a whole - requires effective cooperation between ministries and other key stakeholders.

In Germany, for example, an institute has been set up to organize research on continuous monitoring and develop methods to support research work in order to organize the process of preparation and implementation of comprehensive and continuous social reporting on three themes: childhood, family and youth. Official statistics and existing studies are supplemented by their own research. Collection of current and representative information on family (home), children's and youth issues is carried out, at least in three indicators, which in turn change according to the tasks set.

Today, with the aim of introducing mechanisms for the formation of a well-founded youth policy and ensuring the basic principles of the implementation of the State Target Social Program "Youth of Ukraine" for 2016-2020, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine № 148 of 18 February 2016, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine initiated and started work on the introduction of a system for monitoring the situation of youth in Ukraine and the effectiveness of the implementation of youth policy. One of the areas of this work is the development of National Indicators of Youth Policy, based on the theoretical and methodological principles of youth policy evaluation of the European Union. Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine created a working group on the development of National Indicators of Youth Policy. The task of this work is to develop indicators and indicators that determine the socio-economic and demographic situation of Ukrainian youth, the implementation of youth policy, the development of methods for calculating the main characteristics of the situation of youth in Ukraine and the definition of official sources for obtaining relevant information. The working group included representatives of interested central executive authorities, scientific institutions, international organizations and civil society institutions (Ministry of Municipal Sports from 25.10.2016, № 4025 "On the Establishment of a Working Group".
On February 13, 2017, a regular meeting of the working group on the development and implementation of National Indicators of Youth Policy was held at the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

Achievements of the working group gives confidence in organizing the annual monitoring and evaluation of youth policy implementation implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, as well as the formation of a targeted youth policy in all spheres of young generation's life and making adjustments to the plans for implementing the youth policy.

The group has agreed 11 indicators of youth policy, which are included in the National Indicators:

– demographic indicators;
– education;
– employment and employment;
– health, prevention of AIDS and other socially dangerous diseases;
– financial position;
– youth mobility;
– offenses among young people;
– youth mobility;
– accessibility to information and communication technologies;
– civic engagement and youth involvement;
– implementation of youth policy.

Each of the indicators represents 4 or more indicators in two formats:

– objective indicators (2 to 4 indicators), which take into account official statistics (administrative statistics, enterprise surveys, agencies, population census, sample surveys of households). The sources of information are: the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine;

– subjective indicators (2-4 indicators) that take into account the data of sociological research or public opinion polling of the population or target group.
Each indicator will be presented the distribution: by gender (women / men), by age (14-17, 18-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34), by type of settlement (urban/ rural).

Thus, today central executive authorities have begun the creation of a specific system for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of Ukraine's youth policy, but without proper cooperation between ministries and other key stakeholders, namely representatives of the public youth sector, such monitoring will not be fully implemented, reflect the aspirations of the younger generation of Ukrainians.