

REPORT

**on the Results of the Study
of Local Youth Policy Programs
Based on Current Needs and
Opportunities**

**Bereznehuvatska Settlement Territorial Community
of the Bashtanskyi Raion of Mykolaivska Oblast**

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TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CTC – City Territorial Community
LSGs – local self-government bodies
RLA – regulatory and legal act
IDPs – internally displaced persons
ME – municipal enterprise
ME – municipal establishment
MI – municipal institution
YC – youth council
YC – youth center
YS – youth space
NGO – non-governmental organization

INTRODUCTION

Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine has been a major disturbance for Ukrainian society. The war has affected the emotional state, everyday life, public opinion, interpersonal relations, socio-economic situation, employment, general civic activity, life, and civic position of young people. The consequences of these unprecedented changes will affect the development of social institutions in Ukraine for a long time to come.

This study analyzes local programs, regulations, local youth structures, youth civic associations, and relevant structures of local self-government and civil society organizations that work in the community and support youth. The study will help identify shortcomings and obstacles and develop appropriate recommendations on possible ways to address them, which will help to activate the youth movement.

The team of the Charity Foundation "Stabilization Support Services" as part of the "Vidnova" – Towards a Locally Led, Inclusive and Transparent Reconstruction Process in Ukraine project, which is being implemented with the support of the international humanitarian organization "People in Need", conducted a study of local youth policy programs based on the current needs and capacities of the Bereznehuvatska Settlement Territorial Community.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CTC

Name: Bereznehuvatska Settlement Territorial Community of the Bashtanskyi Raion of Mykolaivska Oblast

Composition: 41 settlements. The administrative center is Bereznehuvate settlement. The Bereznehuvatska community borders on Khersonska and Dnipropetrovska oblasts.

Murakhivskyi starosta okruh with the center in Murakhivka village: Novohryhorivka village, Bila Krynytsia village, Velyke Artakove village, Murakhivka village, Ternivka village, Bereznehuvate settlement, Kalynivka village.

Lepetynskyi starosta okruh with the center in Lepetykha village: Lepetykha village, Chervonyi Yar village, Vesele village, Kavkaz village, Novorosiysk village.

Vysunskyi starosta okruh with the center in Vysunsk village: Liubomyrivka village, Yakovlivka village, Veselyi Kut village, Vysunsk village, Semenivka village, Pryshyb village, Odradne village, Vasylivka village.

Kaluzskyi starosta okruh with the center in Kaluha village: Kaluha village, Sokolivka village, Fedorivka village, Romanivka village, Ozerivka village, Novooleksandrivka village.

Novoukrayinskyi starosta okruh with the center in Novoukrayinka village: Novoukrayinka village, Serhiyivka village, Novoochakiv village, Petropavlivka village.

Maliyivskyi starosta okruh with the center in Maliyivka village: Maliyivka village, Chervonyi Stav village, Novosevastopol village, Tetianivka village, Dobre village, Novovolodymyrivka village, Novoserhiyivka village.

Address: 56203, Mykolaivska Oblast, Bashtanskyi Raion, Bereznehuvate settlement, Soborno-Mykolaivska Square, Building 10
Phone number: (05168) 9-11-58, (05168) 9-18-05
Email address: berezenslrada@meta.ua
Website: <https://berezneguvatska-gromada.gov.ua>
Head of the community: Serhiy Serhiyovych Boiko
Total area: 1,263.7 square kilometers
Population: 15,583 people
Destination to the oblast center (Mykolaiv) – 76 kilometers

Youth policy structural units: Department of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sports of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council as a legal entity

Advisory and consultative bodies: There is no Youth Council or IDP Council under the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council.

Network of educational institutions: 23 general education institutions, of which 17 are operational; 22 pre-school education institutions, of which 15 are operational; House of children's creativity, MI "Inclusive Resource Center", Bereznehuvate Professional Lyceum. The buildings of two secondary schools were destroyed as a result of the full-scale invasion.

Educational institutions in the community operate online, with the exception of the Bereznehuvate Professional Lyceum, which has appropriate security arrangements.

Medical facilities: municipal non-profit enterprise "Bereznehuvate Central Raion Hospital" of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council and municipal non-profit enterprise "Bereznehuvate Primary Health Care Center" of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council, which includes 6 outpatient clinics and 6 health centers.

Network of cultural institutions: 22 clubs, the public library of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council, which includes a library for children and 14 library branches, the Bereznehuvate Folk History and Local Lore Museum, and the Bereznehuvate School of Arts.

Youth centers and spaces: youth spaces on the basis of the Bereznehuvate Lyceum and the Bereznehuvate House of Culture.

Sports infrastructure: There are 104 sports facilities on the territory of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council. Of these, there is 1 stadium with stands for 1,500-3,000 seats; 72 surface sports facilities (sports grounds with training equipment – 19; football fields – 3; sports grounds with artificial turf – 3; other sports grounds – 47); 11 gyms with an area of at least 162 square meters; 9 indoor and semi-outdoor shooting ranges with a distance of at least 25 meters; and 11 other sports facilities. The community has a children's and youth sports school.

STATISTICS DATA

A total of 15,583 people live in Bereznehuvatska STC. 2,034 IDPs were registered in the community as of September 25, 2023.

Youth aged 16-19 years – 769 people; 20-25 years – 1,510 people.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Purpose of the study

- identify key barriers and limitations faced by youth councils, IDP Councils and youth organizations in the creation, participation in the recovery and prioritization of local community-level activities;
- assess the availability and impact of local programs and policies in the youth sector, identification of strengths and weaknesses, opportunities for involving young people in consultative decision-making, and prioritization of local changes in the community.

Subject of the study

- local policies and programs in the youth sector, with a focus on analyzing mechanisms that promote active youth participation in consultative decision-making and implementation of recovery initiatives;
- executive structural subdivisions of local authorities involved in the formation and implementation of youth policy; youth NGOs and advisory bodies; NGOs and associations whose work is aimed at supporting youth in the local community.

Focus of the study

- Existing local targeted programs for the development and implementation of youth policy.
- Current local regulations (decisions, orders, etc.) aimed at developing and implementing youth policy.
- Reports on the implementation of programs/activities at the local level aimed at the development and implementation of youth policy.
- Other local/regional regulations and documents (and their drafts) directly or indirectly aimed at developing and implementing youth policy.
- Institutional support for local youth policy. Presence of structural units of local authorities in the field of youth policy. Advisory and consultative bodies and youth centers with a focus on youth engagement.
- Civic engagement in the youth sector. Youth public associations and activities of other civil society organizations in support of youth.

Objectives of the study

1. Analyze local youth policy programs, determine whether the implementation of local targeted programs aimed at supporting young people is provided with adequate financial and organizational resources.
2. Analyze regional and local targeted programs (draft programs, events) on youth involvement in local self-government.
3. Analyze local legal acts that provide for measures aimed at integrating young IDPs into the community; in particular, the inclusion of IDPs and consideration of their needs.
4. Identify possible shortcomings in the targeted programs and regulations to ensure the implementation of youth policy.
5. Identify the need for amendments to targeted programs and regulations on youth policy implementation.
6. Research barriers and challenges to engaging young people in decision-making at the local level.
7. To analyze the factors that facilitate youth involvement in decision-making at the local level and the level of youth participation in these decisions.

8. Develop methods and tools for involving young people in decision-making at the local level.
9. Develop policy and practice recommendations to improve youth engagement in local decision-making.

Methods and tools of the study

Stage 1: Collecting primary data

Analysis of open sources: In-depth analysis of the information available on the official websites of local authorities and local institutions that ensure the implementation of youth policy.

Submitting official requests to the relevant institutions, obtaining additional data necessary for the study.

Stage 2: Analysis of the collected information

Critical analysis and synthesis: processing and analyzing the collected information to identify key aspects, problems, and gaps in youth programs and policies. Use of analytical methods to synthesize data, identify trends, and identify promising areas for further action.

Stage 3: Preparation of recommendations

The final stage of the study focuses on the development of specific, evidence-based recommendations aimed at improving existing programs and policies in the youth sector to meet the current needs of young people and develop their capacities.

Research period: August – September 2024.

RESULTS OF THE REVIEW OF LOCAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH POLICY

Purpose of the study

In preparing the report, we analyzed open sources and documents on the community website, and sent relevant requests to local authorities of the Bereznehuvatska STC and the Bashtanska Raion State Administration regarding the development and implementation of targeted programs in the youth sector and regulations at the local level, which are adopted by local self-government bodies (in accordance with Articles 26, 43 of the Law of Ukraine “On Local Self-Government in Ukraine”).

Sources of Information:

1. Website of the Bereznehuvatska STC.
2. Official responses to requests in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On Access to Public Information”.
4. Statistical information on youth in the community.
5. Local regulations (regulations, programs, decisions, orders, action plans, etc.).

The official website of the Bereznehuvatska STC does not have separate sections with information on youth policy.

The programs of the Bereznehuvatska STC are publicly available on the official website of the community in the “Documents Archive” section, and there is no separate search option. The search is carried out through the “Decisions” option, which requires information on the date and number of the decision of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council approving a particular program. This makes the search very difficult.

<https://bereznehuvatska-gromada.gov.ua/docs/924264/>

The website has a separate section “Development Plan” where you can find the [Development Strategy of the Bereznehuvatska Amalgamated Territorial Community](#) and the [Plan of Socio-Economic Development of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council](#).

Summary Table on the Analysis of Open Sources

Oblast/ settlement, community	Name of the local authority or institution that ensures the implementation of the local policy link to the website (name of the authority, link to the website)	Is there a separate section on the website for youth? (yes/no)	Does the website have a separate section on youth policy programs		Does the website have a separate section on regulations that facilitate the implementation of youth policy?		Availability of information on programs that support the implementation of youth policy		Accessibility of information on legal acts related to the implementation of youth policy	
			Local (yes/no)	IDPs (yes/no)	Local (yes/no)	IDPs (yes/no)	Indicate (easy, medium difficulty, high difficulty, no information available)	Available for download (yes/no)	Indicate (easy, medium difficulty, high difficulty, no information available)	Available for download (yes/no)
Mykolaivska Oblast, Bereznehuvatska STC	Bereznehuvate Settlement Council https://bereznehuvatska-gromada.gov.ua/	No	No	No	No	No	Unavailable	Yes	Unavailable	Yes

Information on Existing Local Programs in the Field of Youth Policy

There are no existing local programs in the field of youth policy on the territory of the Bereznehuvatska Settlement Territorial Community.

1. "PROGRAM OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEREZNEHUVATE SETTLEMENT COUNCIL FOR 2024-2027".

(Decision of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council dated December 19, 2023, No. 1)

<https://berezneguvatska-gromada.gov.ua/plan-socialnoekonomichnogo-rozvitku-berezneguvatskoi-selischnoi-radi-11-56-48-22-02-2021/>

The purpose of the Program is to ensure and maintain positive and overcome negative trends in the sectors of the economy, increase industrial and agricultural production and, accordingly, create new jobs, develop small and medium-sized enterprises, increase the efficiency of housing and communal services, improve road infrastructure, address the most pressing and urgent issues of the humanitarian and social spheres, improve the standard of living and quality of life of the population, which is in line with the implementation of the strategy.

The program covers almost all the areas that ensure the life and development of the Bereznehuvatska STC: education, healthcare, economy, infrastructure, etc. But there are no measures to support young people in any of them. The program has no mention of the development and support of youth policy at the level of the territorial community.

Below is the only task in the program to support youth in the community.

1.2.1 Supporting and implementing youth initiatives (creating conditions for the development of human resources)

INFORMATION ON CURRENT LEGAL AND REGULATORY ACTS ON YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

The Bereznehuvatska STC lacks regulations on youth involvement in local self-government.

Institutional support for local youth policy (Structural units of local authorities in the field of youth policy. Advisory and consultative bodies, youth centers, spaces, youth civic associations, etc.)

1. Department of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sports of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council. (Department of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sports)

The department is established and operates as a legal entity. (Regulation on the department. The decision of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council from August 22, 2024 No. 9) <https://berezneguvatska-gromada.gov.ua/docs/1765635/>

The purpose of this department is to create conditions for personal development and creative self-realization of every citizen through a system of multidisciplinary, multi-level preschool, general secondary and out-of-school education, to ensure accessibility,

free and compulsory education for all who need it, to form a quality information and educational space, to provide the population with quality services in the field of culture, youth and sports through the implementation of relevant state and local programs, through a network of communal enterprises, institutions and establishments to meet the needs of the population.

There is only one objective among the department's tasks related to youth policy:

- assistance to youth and other civil society organizations in their work on family and youth issues.

2. Youth council: absent.

3. Youth center: absent.

4. Youth space: operates on the premises of the Bereznehuvate Lyceum and the Bereznehuvate House of Culture.

Summary Table of the Analyzed Local Legal and Regulatory Acts

Oblast/ settlement, community	Total regulations (including draft regulations)		Of these, by topic		
	Regional and local programs	Local regulations	Programs to support youth policy	Regulations aimed at supporting youth policy	Draft regulations to support youth policy
Mykolaivska Oblast, Bereznehuvatska STC	1	2	0	0	0

Summary Table on the Inclusion of IDPs in Programs and Local Regulatory and Legal Acts, Consideration of Their Needs and Interests

Oblast/ settlement, community	Programs and regulations to support the population			Programs (including drafts) and regulations to support IDPs	
	Total	of which contain- ing measures and provisions to support IDPs	of which require changes or additions	Total	of which require changes or additions
Mykolaivska Oblast, Bereznehuvatska STC	2	0		0	0

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE ANALYSIS OF LOCAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH POLICY

The analysis of the information obtained as a result of the study of the current state of youth policy in the Bereznehuvatska STC leads to the conclusion that no youth policy has been developed at the community level, although the prerequisites for supporting youth, shaping and developing the youth sphere in the community are in place. The Bereznehuvatska STC has an extensive network of general education institutions, cultural institutions, out-of-school education, and vocational education. The difficulty here is that both pre-school and school education institutions operate online.

We can identify two components that have a positive impact on work with young people.

1. **Local self-government institutions that ensure the implementation of state youth policy at the community level:** Department of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sports of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council.
2. Work of youth spaces on the basis of the Bereznehuvate Lyceum and the Bereznehuvate House of Culture.

However, the analysis of the current situation indicates the absence of the following in the Bereznehuvatska community:

- Local youth policy programs
- Advisory body (youth council)
- Youth center
- Youth public organizations and associations
- Public organizations working with youth
- IDP Councils and any local NGBs that would take into account the interests and promote the active involvement of young IDPs in civic activities and community integration.

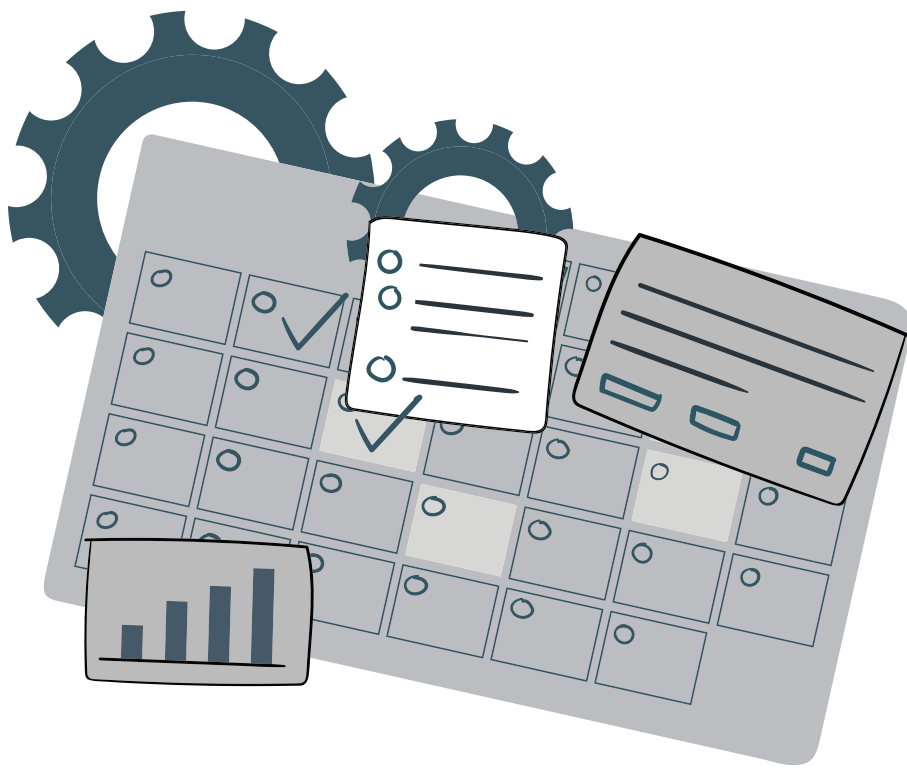
Recommendations

Decentralization implies an increase in responsibility at the level of the territorial community for the implementation of youth policy at the local level. Of course, the community independently decides on specific forms and measures of youth policy, taking into account its resources and strategic vision. However, every territorial community should have a youth policy, and it should be focused on the needs of young people.

At the level of the Bereznehuvatska STC, we recommend:

- By order of the village head, a Working Group on the development and formation of youth policy at the level of the territorial community should be established with the involvement of local government officials, representatives of civil society, active youth, parents, and providers of educational, cultural, and sports services.
- Develop a roadmap for reforming the youth sector at the level of the Bereznehuvatska STC.
- Develop and approve a targeted Program to Support Youth Policy in the Territory of the Bereznehuvatska STC with the involvement of young IDPs for 2025-2030.

- Establish an advisory body under the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council – the Youth Council. It will ensure the participation of young people in decision-making at the level of the territorial community and will allow them to gain practical experience working with local self-government bodies. Active youth from among IDPs should be involved in the work of the Youth Council.
- Support the creation of a youth NGO at the community level, promote participation in community service among young people, and provide support in the process of registering an NGO.
- Consider establishing a youth center in the community.
- Expand the network of youth spaces on the basis of educational, cultural and library institutions so that young people outside the administrative center of the community have the opportunity for communication, informal education and leisure.
- To amend the Regulation on the Department of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sports of the Bereznehuvate Settlement Council, providing for tasks in the field of youth policy and the employment of a dedicated officer to ensure the implementation of these tasks.



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