

## REPORT FROM THE 1<sup>st</sup> INFORMAL MEETING OF A WORKING GROUP BY NATIONAL LEVEL AT THE ADULT EDUCATION (AE) SPHERE

December 2, 2010, Kyiv

Working meeting of a group by various civil, educational scientific organizations and international foundations which support problematic of the adult education (AE) as a part of informal continuous educational programme, took part in Kyiv. The meeting is organized by the League of Professional Women (LPW) and supported by *dvv international* Ukraine. An idea, proposed for interactive discussions, was born at the non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and their experts, interested in providing of the AE conception. The key purpose of the working meeting, announced by the LPW President Olena O. Lazorenko, is to organize a special national (Ukraine's) group at the educational sphere with a focus on non-formal and informal learning. The meeting's participants made exchange of information on the activities by represented NGO's, and discussed what joint projects at AE sphere the presented NGO's could realize in future.

The meeting's members received information on sphere of activities and interests by the following organizations: Center of International Private Interprices (Oksana Pinchuk), Ukrainian Association of Employees and Enterprisers Center of Small and Middle Businesses (Vyacheslav Bykovets), International Education Committee (Victoria Mykhailenko), Public Affairs Section at the US Embassy in Ukraine (Vira Ternovska), Ukraine's Representation of *dvv international* Ukraine (Svitlana Kuts, Olha Nykolska), Confederation of Employees of Ukraine (Rodion Kolyshko), National Academy of Pedagogic Science (Volodymyr Luhoviy), Ukraine's Chamber of Commerce (Yuliya Badychko), League of Professional Women and its Consultative Group/National Academy of Sciences in Ukraine (Olena V. Lazorenko and Lyudmila Fylypovich).

According to presentations, Ukraine got a serious need in the AE, not known to public and state, as well as to subjects of the named educational process. At the EU countries, the system of state informal learning has been working successfully for years, including the AE, but in Ukraine this section of educational services is not systematic, situative, spontaneous and has no effectiveness in general, this section is covered by NGO's and civil activities (NGO's, charity foundations etc.), or by corporative programs. It is necessary to draft the fact of pilot researches of the AE programs' providers and educational needs of socially unprotected and marginal groups, made in Lvyyv and Poltava Regions, Ukraine. Its results are to be published as analytic report at the end of year by the LPW.

In contrast to European countries, demonstrate state interest to the AE at human rights protection, health care policy, learning of foreign languages irrespective of the final results, Ukraine is just start to understand the AE perspectives and positive influences of continues learning on increase of personal live qualities. At present it is really important to give unemployed Ukrainians, or those who feel necessity of work's change, such learning instruments which are to give them better sociality, lengthen of life, active work and handing of life and professional experience. The AE problematic is actual to the educational sphere and policy, to employees, who is interested in getting of high qualified specialists, competitor to Western experts. It is important to develop a national qualification system, co related to international standards. But there are a lot of problem at the named sphere. It is necessary not only to make the AE items actual to the Ukrainian State, its citizens, but to formulate a special conception on the most optimal system of the AE, including organizing of different components for its structure, united on the name of the joint purpose. It is necessary to elaborate mechanisms of organizing and functioning of the AE system, withdrawing principles and sources (social capital) of its work on social maintenance – for society, state, entrepreneur or every person.

It is necessary to understatement what spheres of economy (state and private owned, big, middle and small businesses) need a specialist, learned at the AE system. Economic practice of last couple of

years proves that society destroy stereotypes about not necessity of adult specialists – employees are ready to give job / work to an adult specialist, who is able to continue his / her education and to get new knowledge or experience or qualification. So, it is necessary to fix auditoriums of pupils / students to learn on different levels and various professional directions on the base of qualified markers system.

It could be nice to fix structures, able to provide withdrawn learning. The most dynamic are NGO's, their training programs, small educational institutions, which are ready to reform their plans and learning processes according to needs of society and labor market. According to the meeting participants, the most popular professions of present time had not been allowed 10 years ago at the list of professions to the Ukraine's high education institutions. It is necessary to underline that every 4 years Ukraine changes its data base of most needed professions, that is why it is important to work on methodic, gives prognoses on list of professions and directions, which are to be popular in future. It's a pity, but Ukraine has no scientific research at the named sphere (the AE). Ukraine needs such scientific analytic conceptions at the AE sphere, based on foreign knowledge and experience, with their theoretical and practical information; state and charity institutions and foundation at the Western Europe and USA claim they are to give Ukraine necessary instruments. But the named structures work on order, though, they are to support Ukraine's needs only if our party is to ask for support, including practices of Ukrainian specialists abroad.

The most serious problem is a problem of communication with state institutions, the question how to give information about the AE to governors, involved into providing of educational policy, is actual, too. A model, supported by Ukraine's state, is the only one to work under these circumstances. From the sphere of public discussions at civil society, discussions on the AE items are to be put into sphere of state policy. For this purpose it is necessary to organize a group to lobby public interest on the AE problematic at the state institutions, media, society. But Ukraine has no traditions and practice on lobbying of social important projects, within specialists at this sphere.

The first step at the common activities of a national level' group is to be a work on convention and organizing of a conference "Adult Education in Ukraine" in 2011; the LPW plans to invite representatives of all parties, interested at the AE, including state institutions, providers and customers of the AE services, NGO's. The conference is to become a place of ideas and information exchanges, which are to format joint understanding of the problem's importance and to work out recommendations on the AE program in Ukraine. The meeting participants decided to work on the following directions:

- 1) To create positive media space by opening the AE internet page at the LPW site: [www.lpw.org.ua](http://www.lpw.org.ua);
- 2) To make state institutions interested in the AE problematic and the AE mega project;
- 3) To activise the NGO's;
- 4) To communicate with business structures, by appealing to its social responsibilities.

For those who want to join the working group of national level, please write on the following address: [lpw\\_network@i.ua](mailto:lpw_network@i.ua)

The meetings photos are here: <http://lpw.org.ua/ua/news/?pid==599>

Report is made by Prof. L. Fylypovich, Kyiv