

Annual Adult Learners' Weeks in Ukraine: Diversity and Traditions

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Abstrakt

Príspevek podáva prehľad o tradícii pořádání každoročních Týdnů vzdělávání dospělých na Ukrajině, které se zaměřují na rozšíření a podporu vzdělávání dospělých a celoživotního vzdělávání v celé zemi. Charakterizuje různé tematické dny a početné akce během těchto Týdnů, nejdůležitější problémy, o kterých diskutují účastníci, i návrhy obsažené v usneseních a doporučení z ukrajinských Týdnů.

Abstract

The overview of the tradition of holding annual Adult Learners' Weeks in Ukraine aimed to expand and encourage education of adults and lifelong learning around the country is presented in the report. The diverse thematic days, focuses and numeral events during the Weeks, the most important problems discussed by the participants as well as proposals included in the resolutions and recommendations of the Ukrainian Weeks are characterized.

On the initiative of the Ukrainian Coordination Bureau, the Program "Adult Education in Ukraine" was adopted in our country in 2000. Based on the UNESCO supported Program, the International Adult Learners' Weeks have started annual realization of this Program in Ukraine. Its objectives are to expand and encourage education of adults in Ukraine and to raise their citizenship identity, as well as to promote awareness of adult education as a necessary condition for state development perspective.

Adult education in Ukraine becomes of invaluable importance for individuals self-improving, development of their citizenship identity and contributing to the solution of the global problems humanity faces nowadays. Now adult education involves various categories of men and women, fledgling specialists and experienced professionals, disabled or retired persons, representatives of different industry fields. It performs many functions and covers advanced professional training and retraining, psychological and pedagogical education for parents and community members, ecology education program for community, engaging with spiritual and cultural heritage etc.

On September, 2000, the First Adult Learners' Week in Ukraine was carried out, supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the NGO "World Pedagogical Museum", the member of the Ukrainian Coordination Bureau. The noted scientists, politicians, educators, physicians, representatives of research and industrial spheres participated in the 1st Week. During this Week, following events were carried out:

- presentation of intellectual achievements in Ukraine;
- experience exchange on family adults learning;
- seniors and long-livers experience exchange on the lifelong learning;
- four-hour educational program given by the noted scientists with scientific pedagogical support of mobile Adult Education Institute organized by the members of previous initiative group;

- presentation of the regional, town, community, group and individual programs for raising adults' educational level in Ukraine within 2000 - 2001 academic years.

The Second International Adult Learners' Week ran in Ukraine in September, 2001. The program of this Week was adopted taking into account surveys performed for different categories of the adult learners and considering specifics of their professional activities. It included courses of lectures given by the leading Ukrainian experts and scientists, discussions on various subjects, workshops and round tables, presentations of activities of Ukrainian organizations and foreign educational and cultural centres, etc. Two radio programs about the Week events were created.

During that Week in Ukraine, following events took place:

- training of the representatives of state institutions and NGO targeted to engage the personalities have influence on the solution of important social problems;
- discussion on various aspects of co-operation with mass-media on the Lifelong Education Program coverage and promoting;
- holding the Pan-Ukrainian Workshop on extending the Adult Education in Ukraine program to the regions of Ukraine;
- presentation of the Adult Learning programs from different countries to Ukrainian community, as well as various schools and learning technologies;
- presentation of adult learning practices implemented at the enterprises, organizations, institutions. Determination of the conditions necessary for successful realization of the Lifelong Education Program by the employees and employers;
- lectures and meetings for parents; discussions on the children' problems and on the society where they live, as well as on the problems concerning employment, AIDS, healthy life and medical care for adults in Ukraine;

The Third Adult Learners' Week in Ukraine, 2002, presented the public report on the state of Adult Education in the country and its development perspectives. The memory of Grigoriy Scovoroda, the outstanding Ukrainian philosopher of the XVIII century, was honoured. The Week's principal theme was an aphorism of the great ancient statesman and enlightener Grand Prince of Kyiv Vladimir Monomakh: "Whatever good you know, do not forget it, and what you do not know, learn it". The thematic Week's Days on *Public Education and Enlightenment, Education for Work, Education in Regions of Ukraine, Education and Information, Family Education* were carried out. As part of the Family Education Day the annual presentation of Father's Day was started. In addition, the displays of the educational institutions for adult learners in Ukraine were presented.

Delegations of Russian Federation and Republic of Poland (headed by Prof. Leshek Kozhenievsky) took part in the 3rd International Adult Learners' Week in Ukraine. The final Ukrainian-Russian conference devoted to summarizing of national Adult Learners' Weeks in Ukraine and Russia was held in Anapa (RF).

The Fourth Adult Learners' Week in Ukraine ran in September, 2003, under the principal theme *Adult Education for Life Safety*. The themes of the Week's Days were: *Public Education and Information for Life Safety, Education for Protection of the Human Rights to Health, Labour, Life, Human Environment: Knowledge for Protection, Family and Public Libraries for Social Enlightenment, Adult Education in the Regions of Ukraine*.

The Week's participants expressed wishes and proposals, such as: to organize learning of the unemployed according to employment market demands; to promote co-operation and experience sharing between Ukrainian and Poland educators concerning issues of postgraduate education, pedagogical staff retraining, unemployed training, teachers' activities safety, to work out an integrated psychological and pedagogical conception of the adult education.

Next year, 2004, the Ukrainian Coordination Bureau for the Adult Education Program approved to hold the Fifth Adult Learners' Week in Ukraine also in September, under the

principal theme *Adult Education for Democracy*. As usual, all members of the Ukrainian Parliament were welcome to take part in the 5th Week, political parties and social organizations were invited this year. The delegations from the Republic of Poland and Russian Federation participated in the 5th ALW in Ukraine.

The Fifth ALW in Ukraine included separate thematic events. On the First Section Day, under the theme *Education of Community and Democracy*, after the official opening ceremony participants reviewed and discussed Ukrainian and foreign experience in Lifelong Learning. The Section Day under the theme *Spirituality and Democracy* aimed to highlight the spiritual world and knowledge of the up-to-date person. It was held in the oldest Ukrainian Kyiv-Pechersk Monastery - unique masterpiece of art of 11th century. The Section Day devoted to *Ukrainian Democracy Source* focused on the problem of theory and practice of adult citizenship development in Ukraine. The event took place in the millenary town of Pereyaslav-Khmelnitsky and was hosted by the ancient Pereyaslav-Khmelnitsky State University. The Day on *Security for Democracy* concentrated on the psychological and pedagogical fundamentals of human health and security of vital functions. The Week's participants visited the Educational Centre for Aviation Security of the International Airport in Boryspil town (Kyiv region). The Antonov Aircraft Works, the manufacturer of the worldwide biggest aircrafts AN-124 "Ruslan" and AN-242 "Mriya" was presented as a participant of this Section Day. The Section Day devoted to *Family and Democracy* addressed to the modern problems of individuals learning, upbringing and development in the context of the continuing vocational education. The Social Youth Service in Kyiv was among the organiser of that day.

In view of coming Presidential and Parliamentary elections the Ukrainian National Coordination Bureau of Adult Education organized the working meeting "Moral Ideals of State Power for Community" in *February 2005*, devoted to development of adult psychological culture and to holding the 6th Ukrainian Adult Learner' Week in September 2005. Within this meeting Ukrainian educators, scientists, journalists, representatives of Ukrainian editions contributed to the discussion on issues of providing further community development in Ukraine so that will have long-term political resonance.

The agenda of the working meeting was:

- 1) Mass fraud, manipulation of public consciousness, doing moral harm to the Ukrainian people.
- 2) Moral characteristics of the future candidates to be the people's representatives in the Parliamentary elections in March 2006.
- 3) Decriminalization of the Ukrainian people's consciousness. Civic honour and honour of the statesmen.
- 4) Preparation for the public estimation of both political parties' and MPs' reports as well as their activities within the period of their service, that to be hold during the 6th Ukrainian Adult Learner' Week. Do parties realize their program goals and moral responsibilities for keeping political promises and for deception on the electors?

Besides above mentioned tasks during the working meeting some more issues were discussed: reviewing of the institutions and organizations involved in public education; building up social morality by means of educational institutions, mass media and religious organizations; raising public opinion influence on the political decisions in order to provide adopting moral laws by the Parliament; reasons of authority's meanness and treason; the problem of training present and would-be statesmen etc.

The Sixth Adult Learner's Week in Ukraine ran, as usual, in *September, 2005*, in Kiev, Ukraine, according to program concepts of "Adult Education Throughout Life" developed and approved by participants of ALW. The principal theme chosen for this Week was *Adult*

Education for Liberty of Conscience and Faith. The Week epigraph became expression of a great Ukrainian statesman of XVIII Ivan Mazepa: “*Die for Faith and Defend Liberty!*”

The specific Days theme were: *Liberty of Conscience and Faith: Philosophical, Pedagogical, Psychological Measures; Professional Competence Problems, Improvement and Self-improvement of Adults; Ecological Education in Ukraine: the Condition and Prospects of Development; Theoretical and Methodological Foundation for Adult Education; Liberty of Conscience and Faith in Terms of Actual Stage of Community Development.*

Up to 1320 adult participants – men and women of various Ukraine’s regions, professions, social positions (employed and unemployed persons, disabled persons, pensioners) ranging in age from 19 to 88 – have taken part in actions of that Week.

During the event 132 reports and briefs from various fields of science were prepared and made, cutting edge academic and scientific books display was carried out, five excursions were held, including survey excursions and public discussions on further development. The Week participants have pointed to increase of lifelong education importance and its quick spreading in the countries taking care on their spiritual, intellectual, political, economical and cultural growth, Ukraine included.

Apart from discussing actual problem of building up social morality and moral values by educational institutions, mass media, public, political, and religious organizations, there was held the dialogue on the problem of public opinion influence on the political decisions. Summarized proposals and wishes of the Week participants were submitted to Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. In addition, the Week program gave Pan-Ukrainian exams on Ukrainian language, history and culture for all adults who express their wish to participate. Within these exams, participants submitted essays in written, which were estimated and published in the educational magazine “Wonder World”.

In pursuance of recommendations approved during this Week, previous discussions and proposals made during previous Weeks, the discussion on the draft Law on Adult Education was held. As usual these recommendations were presented to Governmental and local authorities, leaders and representatives of public organizations, scientific institutions, educational establishments and enterprises to consider in their activities and to provide implementation of the recommendations.

The Seventh Adult Learners’ Week was devoted to the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster and carried out in Ukraine in September, 2006, with the principal theme *Education for Kin, Earth and Water Conservation.* After official opening ceremony participants and foreign guests reviewed and discussed actual problems such as vital functions security, state and conditions of nuclear and radiation safety in Ukraine, secondary and vocational education for convicted persons, prospects of the post-school education and social rehabilitation for disabled people.

During the Week 127 reports were made. The separate thematic events were held, including visiting prison in town Bila Tserkva (Kyiv region), Research Institute for Nuclear Regulation. All the Week’s events were widely covered by the Ukrainian mass media.

The constant partners of ALW in Ukraine supporting holding the Weeks are the Ministry of Education and Science, the Academy of Pedagogical Science of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Association “Znanie” (Knowledge), the Institute of Psychology, the Institute of Pedagogies and Psychology of Vocational Training of Ukraine, the State Institute of Professional Training and Retraining of the Ministry of Industrial Policy, the Pan-Ukrainian Association of Post-Graduate and Lifelong Professional Education, M. Dragomanov’s National Pedagogical University, Kyiv Institute of Social and Cultural Relations, the State Scientific Pedagogical Library of Ukraine, All-Ukrainian Association of Continuous Adult Education, the Ukrainian Step-by-Step Foundation, the International Academy of Safety of Vital Functions and others.

The Governmental bodies and scientific institutions also are represented at the Weeks' events, including Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine, Ministry for Family, Youth and Sport, Industrial Policy Ministry, Ministry of Health_Protection, State Committee for Water Saving, State Nuclear Regulation Committee, National Academy of Public Administration patronized by the President of Ukraine, National Academy of Science, Academy of Pedagogical Science, Academy of Medical Science.

It is foreseen to continue the tradition of organising adult learners' week in the coming years, improving and innovating according to the experience made during the previous years. We believe that Ukraine's Adult Learners' Weeks help to develop International ALW movement and contribute to Adult Learning achievement.

Zdroje:

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