



KVPU



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Report

National Campaign

“Use your Labour rights”

**Prepared by the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU)
with support of International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and
contribution from the LO-TCO**

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Summary

Ukraine remains a far cry from the aforementioned standards. Despite the fact that our country is defined as a social state by the Constitution, its actual characteristics testify to the contrary. Poverty of the working population, low living standards, huge discrepancies between the life of the rich and the poor are indicators pointing at serious problems in the area of social and economic rights. The majority of the problems calls for substantial long-term reforms, but so far political will and readiness for their implementation is evidently lacking

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine the unemployment Rate in Ukraine increased to 8.90 percent in the third quarter of 2014 from 8.60 percent in the second quarter of 2014. Unemployment Rate in Ukraine averaged 8.41 percent from 2003 until 2014, reaching an all-time high of 10.30 percent in the first quarter of 2009 and a record low of 6.50 percent in the third quarter of 2008.

The KVPU has faced recently many injustice cases of illegal staff reduction in many enterprises of Ukraine. People and especially young employers are helpless in fighting for their social and economic rights and, being desperate, they join the groups of unemployed resigning themselves.

Thus this campaign has been an endeavor to make the working youth aware of their rights and the mechanisms how these rights could be protected.

During the Campaign the following activities were conducted:

- Development of informational components for the national labour rights campaign;
- Organization and carrying out of the National Informational Campaign "Use your Labour Rights" with 2 one-day seminars for the KVPU youth-trade union activists and one-day seminar for journalists working on human rights,
- Round Table with the participation of decision makers;
- Dissemination of key campaign messages among all KVPU branches in all Ukrainian oblasts.
- As a follow-up activity - dissemination of the Campaign information in mass media and all KVPU working places during short meeting in labour unions;

Informational Component

KVPU together with independent experts developed a booklet "Do you think your rights are protected?" (attached to this report). This booklet was disseminated among young workers and youth in the main streets of Kiev on 24 April 2015. The purpose of this activity was to draw attention of young people and the media to the social injustice in the country. Up to 5 National TV channels were involved in depicting the campaign.

Mikhailo Volynets, the Chairman of the took part in the Campaign, calling on the citizens of Kiev to join the workers movement to fight for their labour rights. (See the photos below)



The main key messages that the KVPU activists were giving to the young people in the streets are:

1. If you feel that your rights are not protected a trade union can help defend your rights;
2. You can organize a trade union at your enterprise/company with 3 persons;
3. The KVPU is ready to assist you in defending your rights.

By disseminating the booklets the people were encouraged to read the booklet and ask questions.



Result: After the event the KVPU has received about 30 phone calls from different people asking how they could join the KVPU.

Trainings

The KVPU conducted two mini trainings and one round table for journalists with participation of decision makers.

The first training was conducted for 23 young activists from all KVPU regional branches (the list is attached) on 15 April 2015.



The second training was conducted on 27 April 2015 for 19 KVPU youth activists representing Donbass area of the country followed up by a round table for journalists and decision makers.

The agenda of the training included:

- Employment situation in Ukraine;
- Violation of Labour rights in Ukraine;
- Mechanisms of defending labour rights;
- International mechanisms in defending labour rights.



Results: 42 activists received knowledge about the instruments of defending labour rights and were encouraged to conduct internal brief meetings at their workplace during May Labour days explaining the labour defending mechanisms.

Internet/media Campaign “KVPU Youth Stands Up For Work Safety”

28 April has also long been associated with the world's trade union movement's commemoration of the victims of occupational accidents and diseases.

The right on health and safety workplace is a fundamental human right and decent work implies safe work. As one of the key actors in the world of work, trade unions have an active role to play in building a culture of prevention on occupational safety and health, both at national and workplace levels.

Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU) within the current KVPU/PERC project took an active part in promotion decent work agenda and work safety among youth. Ukraine has faced a number of safety norms' violations for the last years. Thus the KVPU youth conducted a safety workplace campaign on 28th April 2015 to draw attention of decision makers and employers to the occupational safety and decent work agenda.





Statistics: Every year around 400 young people die in illegal coal pits, trying to earn their living. At the same time the number of employees, working in conditions that do not respond the sanitary hygiene norms makes up: in various mines – 71,3%, coke and oil refinery production – 59,0%; ready metal production (besides machinery) – 52,8%; chemical processing and chemicals production– 41%, electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply – 33,0%. (Figures indicate percentage from the total number of employees).

Round Table and Dissemination

The Round Table (RT) for journalists and decision makers were organized on the 27 April 2015 followed the training for youth activities. The RT was focused on the informal employment for youth and youth leadership. The issues raised during the RT were: youth employment after graduation from educational institutions and labor rights protection in labour unions. Mikhailo Volynets, head of the KVPU emphasized that the youth leadership is vital for the current economic challenge's as old-timers (meaning heads of primary trade unions) don't adapt to new economic situations as fast as young people.

At the Round Table there were Andriy Pavlosvsky, former People's Deputy, Pavel Kishkar, Peoples deputy, Oleg Musiy, People's Deputy; TV Channels, ICTV, "1+1" and 5 printed media representatives, including trade union newspaper "Aspect". Many questions during the RT session were devoted to coal mining industry and miners as couple of days before there had been 2-day rally of miners who demanded their salary debts payment and non-closure of the mines.

Next Steps

The Project gave push to the youth people of the KVPU to take up leadership in primary trade union and organize KVPU summer school in each region to educate youth activists on the one hand and on the

other hand a group of Ukrainian parliamentarians decided to write a bill, which will defend the youth workers from non-employment especially those who just graduated from educational institutions.

This campaign allowed the KVPU to have a chance to increase its membership due to dissemination of informational materials.