

# AFEW-UKRAINE'S WORK WITH VULNERABLE YOUTH IN UKRAINE IN 2015

## Introduction

*AFEW-Ukraine* work with street children and vulnerable youth since 2007 has been funded by several donors: Danish AIDS Fondet, Johnson and Johnson and AIDS Fonds Netherlands. Besides, Embassy of Netherlands in Ukraine has provided support to the project on training street children as peer leaders in 2011.

Since the start up of the project Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights of Key Populations in 2011, based on the situation analysis, the target group

**In 2014-2015 funding support for work with MARA in 2014 was provided by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Bridging the Gaps project) and Danish AIDS Fondet.**

As Kyiv Center for street children, opened in 2009, was fully handed over to the Municipal Social services, and not supported by *AFEW-Ukraine* anymore, as it was initially planned, in 2014 our work in Kharkiv, to respond to the previous requests from local administration and civil society partners. **Kharkiv drop in centre** was opened in March 2014. The staff of the drop in centre was trained using the experience of Kyiv drop in centre that was opened with support of Danish AIDS Fondet – in 2012 social workers



for the programme was expanded to reflect the changed situation in the country.

Currently we include children and youth in "difficult life situations" that do not necessarily live full time on the streets, but those who are registered by the police, have drug abuse problems, come from crisis families – so currently the group includes Most at Risk Adolescents (MARA).

from Kharkiv visited Kyiv drop in centre with study visits, and several joint trainings were conducted for the staff over these years. Special focus in Kharkiv drop in centre is done on **young drug users and young delinquents** – the staff of the center also works in youth detention facility in Kharkiv oblast with adolescents preparing for release on developing their safer behaviour skills in relation to HIV and STIs, as well as drug use, and referring them for support to the drop in centre after release.

Mostly funding from Danish AIDS Fondet was used for support and development of the Knowledge Centre.

**1. Knowledge Centre** is an informational and resource online platform for specialists working with street children and vulnerable youth. It was established at the end of 2014, was developed and started fully functioning in 2015.

The platform represents working platform for knowledge sharing, self-education and communication among service providers in Ukraine, as well as Moldova, Georgia, Belarus, and Azerbaijan.

The platform is a joint development of Ukrainian Institute of Social Research and *AFEW-Ukraine* with financial support from several donors – UNICEF, AIDS Fondet and Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Knowledge Centre's address is <http://knowledge.org.ua/en/>.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/KnowledgeUA/>

Since the moment of its start, the Knowledge Centre conducted 29 webinars, covering approximately 2000 participants from Ukraine and other countries. All webinars were recorded and are available at: <http://bit.ly/2eTPs2H>

Number of visitors of the Knowledge Center website for the last year is more than 5 000.

*AFEW-Ukraine* and partners promoted the Knowledge Centre during conferences, exhibitions and other events held in Ukraine, often using well known figures for visibility of the Centre.

**Welcome to «Knowledge Center»**

NGO «Ukrainian Institute for Social Research named after O. Yaremenko» in partnership with «International Charitable Foundation «AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW-Ukraine)» are glad to present the «Knowledge Center» – the project implemented with technical support of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

*Screenshots from the Knowledge Center's homepage*

Very popular Ukrainian singer and musician Dmytro Shurov (Pianoboy)



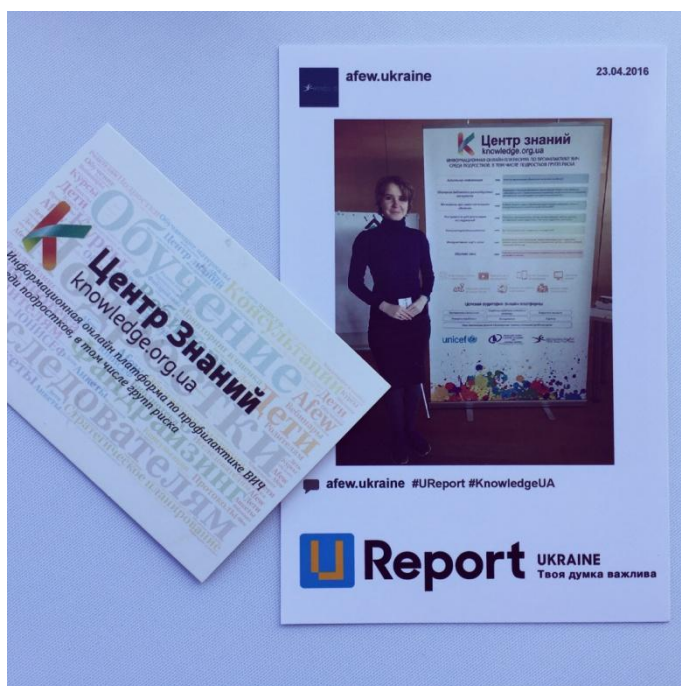
Presentations of Knowledge Center at the International Scientific and Practical Conference "Effective approaches to working with adolescents with substance use experience"



Commissioner on the Rights of Children at the office of the President of Ukraine Mykola Kuleba is our big supporter



Presentations of Knowledge Center at the U-Report launch in Ukraine



## 2. AFEW-Ukraine as a resource center

In summer 2015, using the contributions from several donors, including the contribution from AIDS Fondet, AFEW-Ukraine purchased the premises – 90 square meters that accommodates the office, and also has a room for organizing meetings, mini trainings, and a library of informational materials.



*Strategic planning of the Resource Center development by AFEW-Ukraine staff*

Thanks to this AFEW-Ukraine had a chance to start working with the students from school of social work of National University Kyiv Mohyla Academy, where we presented our programmes, and discussed the specifics of working with youth using drugs.



*Information and educational materials for specialists working with MARA*

Work with volunteers and peer leaders is still in plans. Given that the premises were purchased only in summer 2015, and the first half of 2016 was a transitional period for AFEW-Ukraine, waiting for the second phase of the project “Bridging the Gaps”, we will further develop activities with volunteers next year.

In 2015 we initiated and hosted the meetings of the expert group on MARA (focusing on young drug users), that included representatives of international and local organizations, Social services, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy, State Service of Drug Control, and others. The expert group also helped AFEW-Ukraine to prepare the International Conference on the innovative methods of work with most at risk adolescents that took place in November 2015.

### 3. Support of drop-in centre in Kharkiv.

The Centre in Kharkiv was funded through project Bridging the Gaps: Health And Rights For Key Populations in 2015-2016. The movie about the Centre and some of its clients is available at <https://youtu.be/oUvaRUCcePE>



Drop-in centre repair



Since the moment of its set up in 2013 by the end of 2015 the Center served 1299 young clients.

### 4. Developing and presenting the standards for work with young drug users

The Standards of rehabilitation program for adolescents at the age 14-18 years who have experience of psychoactive substance use were developed by AFEW-Ukraine's subgrantee in Chernivtsi (Western Ukraine), and presented on the national level during the International Scientific and Practical Conference "Effective approaches to working with adolescents with substance use experience" in November 2015.

The standards are available at <http://afew.org.ua/standarti-programi-korektsiyi-deviantnoyi-povedinki-pidlitkiv-vikom-14-18-rokiv-yaki-mayut-dosvid-vzhivannya-psihoaktivnih-rechovin/> (only Ukrainian version)

СТАНДАРТИ ПРОГРАМИ КОРЕКЦІЇ  
ДЕВІАНТНОЇ ПОВЕДІНКИ ПІДЛІТКІВ  
ВІКОМ 14-18 РОКІВ, ЯКІ МАЮТЬ ДОСВІД  
ВЖИВАННЯ ПСИХОАКТИВНИХ РЕЧОВИН



Standards of rehabilitation program for adolescents at the age 14-18 years who have experience of psychoactive substance use

## 5. International Scientific and Practical Conference “Effective approaches to working with adolescents with substance use experience”

The conference took place in Kyiv on November 18-20 2015. It gathered more than 200 participants from all regions of Ukraine and 9 other countries.

All information about the conference is available on *AFEW-Ukraine* website: <http://afew.org.ua/en/from-knowledge-to-actions-kyiv-hosted-a-conference-dedicated-to-working-with-adolescents-that-use-drugs/>

Conference presentations, videos and other materials: <http://afew.org.ua/en/category/conference-materials/>

