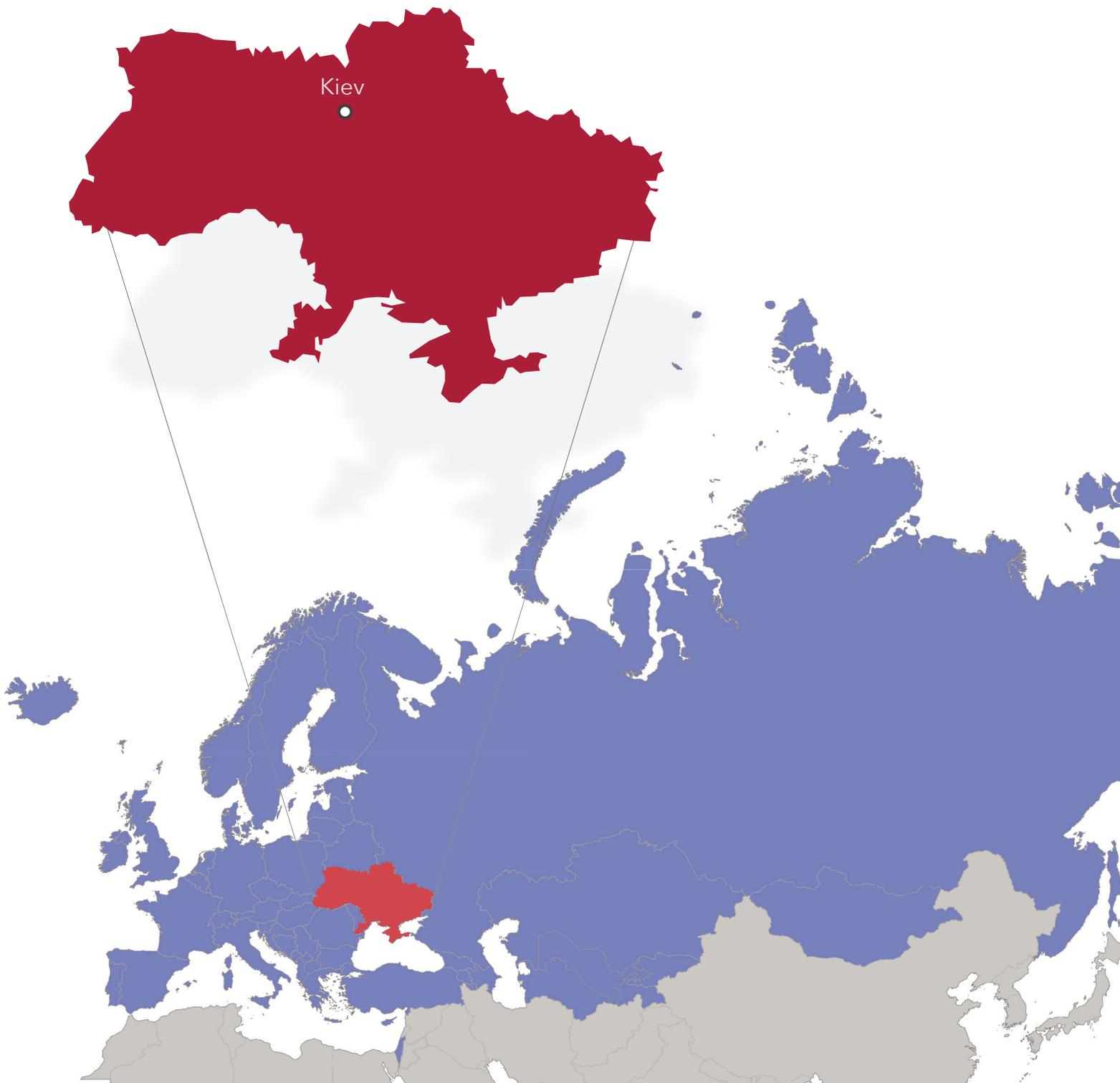


Sexuality Education in the WHO European Region

UKRAINE



UKRAINE



Status of sexuality education

Several elements of sexuality education were introduced in Ukrainian schools as a part of various mandatory and optional subjects, though its delivery differs across the country and within the individual educational institutions. In early 2017, a reform of the educational system in Ukraine began which included a revision of the educational programmes and a restructuring of the educational system.





Laws and policies

In Ukraine, the legal basis for sexuality education in schools rests on a number of state standards approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine 'Resolution on Approval of the State Standard of Primary Education' (2011)¹ and 'Resolution on Approval of the State Standard of Basic and Complete General Secondary Education' (2011, last change 2013)², which prescribe the requirements for school education. These documents do not specifically mention topics related to the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of learners, but they do support the introduction of health-related subjects in schools as well as the development and the approval of training programmes for this purpose.

Implementation of sexuality education

Sexuality-education topics are integrated into different mandatory subjects in primary (1–4 grades) and secondary (basic grades 5–9 and comprehensive grades 10–11) schools. Most of the topics are delivered within mandatory subjects: Basics of Health (grades 1–9, age 6–15 years) and Biology (grade 8, age 13–14 years). Some elements are also covered under Basics of Law (grade 9, age 14–15 years), Ethics (grades 5–6, age 9–10 years) and Physical Culture. Additional elective subjects and lessons, which include sexuality-education topics, can be introduced in schools by the school administration. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can be invited to conduct additional educational activities in agreement with the school administration.

It is difficult to determine the exact number of hours taught in Ukrainian schools pertaining to sexuality education. For example, the subject Basics of Health is designed for 45 academic hours per year, but topics related to sexuality education are integrated into the overall programme of this subject. Nevertheless, a number of topics are dealt with extensively, mainly covering biological aspects and body awareness, HIV/STIs, love, marriage and partnership. Other topics, such as contraception, pregnancy and birth, gender roles and sexual violence are touched upon

more briefly. Sexuality education is also linked to information on access to services and contains information on HIV testing and medical consultation.

Differences in the delivery of sexuality education exist throughout the country, for several reasons, including personal rejection of sensitive topics by individual teachers, lack of skills to address topics related to sexuality and the influence of local religious communities.

Training of teachers on sexuality education

Most teachers in secondary school are trained to teach the Basics of Health subject, which includes sexuality-education topics. Most of them were trained to teach the subject as a second specialty (in addition to the core subject, e.g. biology or physics). However, there is a gap in the training of Basics of Health teachers for primary school. Additional courses for teachers are mostly organised in the framework of HIV prevention. The Ministry of Education and Science approves recommendations and materials for teachers for use in schools. Representatives of different organisations (e.g. Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, Institutes/Academies of Postgraduate Teacher Education, Departments of Pedagogical Universities, NGOs and international organisations) are developing such materials.



Sexuality education outside the formal school setting

A number of NGOs provide sexuality education in non-formal settings. The Women's Health and Family Planning Foundation (IPPF member association) implements programmes on a peer-to-peer basis. It also organises plays, summer schools, contests and thematic activities for a teenage audience on SRHR topics. The Youth Association TEENERGIZER delivers sessions for youth on topics related to HIV prevention. Local TV and radio companies sometimes broadcast series of thematic episodes with the participation of medical staff and representatives of NGOs working in the field of SRHR.

Challenges

The opposition to sexuality education exists mainly from some religious communities or associations. Such associations can act both at the ministerial level as well as oppose the implementation of programmes at the level of a specific region.

Good-practice example

The 'Right to Love' programme was developed for young people (18+ years) with learning disabilities. This programme was created by the Women's Health and Family Planning Foundation in cooperation with the Ukrainian NGO 'Coalition for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities'. This is a comprehensive sexuality-education programme and has been implemented throughout Ukraine.

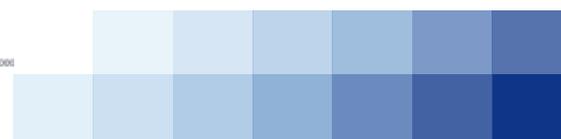
Country facts



Ukraine

Total population ³	45 309 000
Population aged 15–19 years (% of 15–19-year-olds in total population) ³	2 405 000 (5.3%)
Government expenditure on education (% of GDP) ⁴	6.7
Youth unemployment rate (% of labour force aged 15–24 years) ⁵	23.1
Gender Inequality Index rating ⁶	0.284
Births per 1 000 women aged 15–19 years ⁷	23
% of 15-year-olds who have had sexual intercourse ⁸	boys: 24 % girls: 9 %
Average age of mother at birth of first child ⁹	25

For references go to last page



References / Definitions

- 1 Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine 'On approval of the State Standard of Primary Education' (2011) (<http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/462-2011-%D0%BF>, accessed 25 June 2017)
 - 2 Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine 'On approval of the State Standard of Basic and Complete General Secondary Education' (2011, last change 2013) (<http://zakon3.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1392-2011-%D0%BF>, accessed 25 June 2017)
 - 3 Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence, 2016 [online database]. New York: United Nations Statistics Division; 2017 (<http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=POP&f=tableCode%3A22>, accessed 25 June 2017).
 - 4 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 June 2017).
 - 5 Human development data, 2015 [online database]. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2017 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/data#>, accessed 25 June 2017).
 - 6 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 June 2017).
 - 7 Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1 000 women ages 15–19). Washington (DC): World Bank; 2016 (<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT>, accessed 25 June 2017).
 - 8 Growing up unequal: gender and socioeconomic differences in young people's health and well-being. HBSC 2016 study report (2013/2014 survey). Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2016 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/growing-up-unequal.-hbsc-2016-study-20132014-survey>, accessed 25 June 2017).
 - 9 Mother's mean age at first birth. Index Mundi [data from CIA world factbook, various years] (<http://www.indexmundi.com/factbook/fields/mother's-mean-age-at-first-birth>, accessed 25 June 2017).
- Government expenditure on education:** current, capital and transfer spending on education, expressed as a percentage of GDP. Range in the region is approx. 2.0–8.5.
- Youth unemployment rate:** percentage of the labour force population aged 15–24 years that is not in paid employment or self-employed, but is available for work and has taken steps to seek paid employment or self-employment.
- Learner:** a child or young person who is enrolled or attends classes in school, including primary (basic/elementary), secondary (middle) and high school.