

## Donetsk Youth Debate Centre

*13 years of experience targeting thousands of children, young people, leaders of civil society organizations and other institutions.*

*One of the most important field of activities is protection and advocating for rights of children and youth.*

*London, 2014*



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## Situation in the country

Events of the end of 2013 – beginning of 2014 in Ukraine demonstrated that the state institutions are destroyed by corruption and not able to satisfy the public needs, that resulted in EuroMaidan revolution 2014, followed by annexation of Crimea and military conflict in the East of Ukraine.

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## Civil Society is getting stronger



There are 71 767 active civic associations and 13 475 charity foundations

Fields of activity:

- “civil society, civic movements and campaigns” - 35 %
- “social services” - 32 %
- “human rights” - 30 %
- “health care” - 28 %
- “charity” - 28 %
- “education” - 27 %
- “youth” - 22 %

**CAPACITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
FORUM 2012**



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## Challenges for civil society



- Co-optation of the CSO activists for work in governmental bodies, and consequently rotation of staff in CSOs.
- Radical change in the minds of citizens towards relations with the authorities.
- New CSOs emerged and develop dynamically in the regions of Ukraine.
- Confrontation between citizens of Ukraine. "Cultural and mental break."
- War in the east of Ukraine.

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## Conflict in the East of Ukraine



431,195 internally displaced persons, including  
119 652 of children

3660 persons killed, over 2000 missing

The conflict is not solved. People are being  
killed every day.



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## Problems of children



- Standards for child protection do not correspond the conditions of Anti –terrorist operation
- Orphan children were moved to other regions of Ukraine - 566 children.
- Huge number of children went through horrors of war and needs help;
- Orphan children evacuated from the war zone have been accommodated in a temporary stay venues unsuitable for continuous accommodation;
- Children are involved into military activities on the occupied territories;



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## Children problems



- Real number of killed children in the conflict zone is unknown (official statistics says 16 persons);
- Schools and pre-school institutions don't function properly on the occupied territories, children don't have opportunity to learn;
- About 58 thousands school children moved to other regions of Ukraine from the occupied territory.

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## NGOs in the conflict area



- Over 149 voluntary groups emerged during the last 5 months. They help to provide the army and exchange hostages
- A large number of NGOs changed the field of their activities and started to work with IDPs.
- Most of NGOs had to leave from the occupied territory and mostly work with IDPs. Charity foundations work on the occupied territory.

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## Situation of Donetsk Youth Debate Centre



- ✧ The organisation and its staff had to leave the region and move to Kyiv
- ✧ Debate Centre lost its office, equipment and documentation
- ✧ All European volunteers who worked for the organisation left the country safe
- ✧ All projects are suspended and are being revised
- ✧ The present work focuses on IDP children.

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