

# Annex 5 Programming Lessons from Extra-Curricular Civic Education



**ENGAGE**  
**Enhance Non-Governmental Actors  
and Grassroots Engagement**



**Re: Lessons of extra-curricular activities USAID/ENGAGE implementation**

**From:** Pact Inc

**To:** Interested parties

**Date:** March 18, 2019

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ENGAGE project under its extra-curricular (non-formal education) activities support events and other actions to educate citizens on their fundamental responsibilities within a democratic society, promote social cohesion, support initiatives that address bullying, reduce gender stereotypes, reach underserved communities such as PWDs and IDPs, etc.

During first two years of ENGAGE program 50 projects were focused on variety of target audiences and objectives. Below would be briefly described main outputs and some outcomes of non-formal education efforts with comparison to public opinion data on nonformal education needs and practices.

## **Coverage by extra-curricular efforts**

Implementing partners conducted more than 500 various events, for example, forum-theaters, flash mobs, awareness-raising campaigns namely among youth and elderly people, to counteract corruption, inform citizens about human rights and inclusive governance, and increase tolerance toward PWDs. In abovementioned directly participated **over 30,000 individuals**, 119 interactive presentations were conducted for more than 5,000 students in nine regions and more than 700 IDPs attended study and public events.

In addition to direct engagement activities series of info materials via traditional and Internet media were disseminated. Striking examples are

Ukrainian Toronto Television - program advocated for critical thinking on politicians and social stereotypes. The show received more than 20,000,000 views online, including on the official YouTube channel for Toronto Television. The program is top rated on Channel 24 and UA Pershiy.

Hromadske TV: Cherkassy - series of videos and info materials promoting activities of local NGOs that address issues of inclusion, civic education, garbage sorting, volunteering, human rights, and others. In total, over 8,000 YouTube users viewed these videos, while another strong positive-oriented program produced by Hromadske TV:Cherkasy is “18:000”, which received more than 30,500 views on YouTube and 64,600 on Facebook.

Cross Media (Zaborona) - released a series of videos, aimed to educate Ukrainian citizens on issues that are largely taboo and not often discussed in society. The content, developed by Cross Media Organization reached more than 100,000 Facebook users (total coverage - over 320,000 views), over 13,000 views on YouTube, and over 30,000 unique viewers on the project platform.

Expose to non-formal education efforts is arguably impressive, but what it actually leads to is in the next section.

## **Fast-tracking results of extra-curricular activities**

Policy changes are one of the prompt outcomes that can be relatively easy tracked. In total, 23 policies changes, developed by 7 CSOs, were approved by the authorized state bodies for their further implementation in next spheres: establishing youth council, sustainable energy development, IDPs integration, providing public monitoring, planning and promotion of resolution of energy and water supply issues at local level. All changes were adopted on regional and local levels.

These areas of policy changes on one hand demonstrates diversity of addressed citizens needs and, on another hand, hardly definable direct connections to common agenda and mutual synergies and reinforcement between implementing partners.

There are some correlations in increased civic literacy among target audience of extra-curricular activities and same subset of general population. Among engaged in extra-curricular activities 44 % of direct participants are individuals aged 25-54. Within this age group, the considerable increase in the level of civic literacy among general population happened in the summer 2018 (from 8% to 14 % for 25-34 years, from 8 % to 17 % for 45-54 years).

Accompanying increase in civic literacy there were some changes in the perception of civil activism and the role of CSO. Trust to civil organizations and its members increased from 53% (2017) to 60% (2018), to individual civil activists and informal communities of activists from 35% to 40%. Over a half (54%) of those who trust individual civil activists and informal communities of activists tend to believe that they can solve current problems and help people. Thus, it might become the background for further citizens awareness raising and engagement into CSOs activities and coalitions in particular.

A bit different situation is for age group 18-24, whose level of civic literacy decreased in comparison with 2017 from 10 % to 8 % in 2018. Youth constituted 30 % of target audience of all sub-awards in extra-curricular civic education.

Also need to mention, that Propensity Score Matching Analysis, which compared ENGAGE participants and general population indicators (considering such variables as region, age group, sex) shows that if person attended ENGAGE supported events, s/he has 4.57 time more chances to be aware on civic engagement mechanisms.

Previous fast-tracking results demonstrates what was achieved but not fully covering the needs and demand of citizens on extracurricular activities ant it is analyzed in next section.

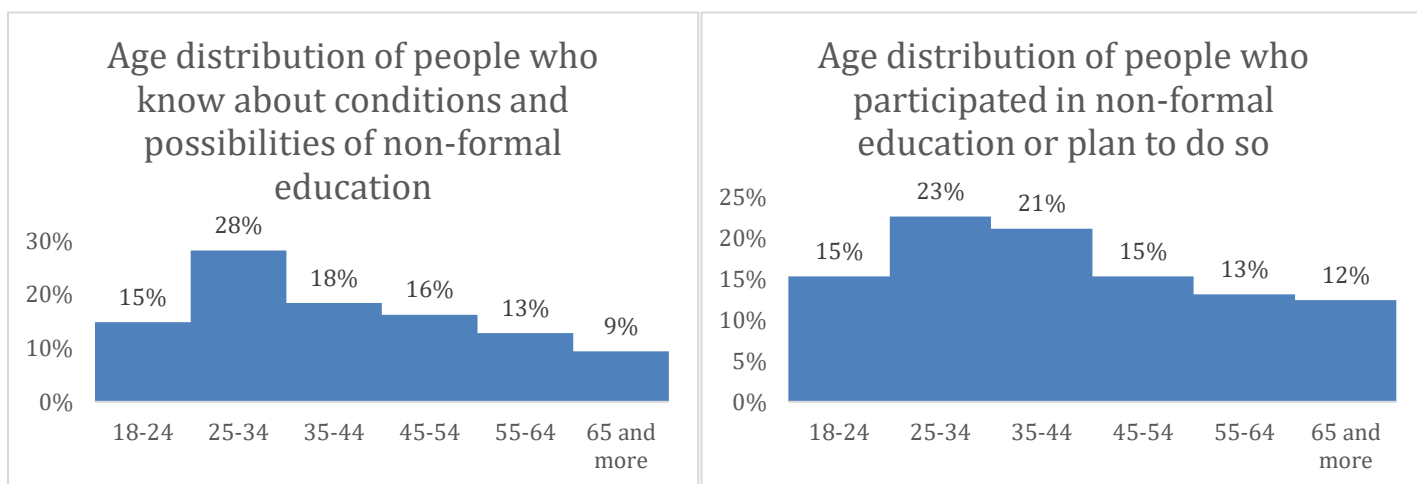
### **Knowledge of and participation in non-formal education in Ukraine**

The ENGAGE project conducted a National Civic Engagement Poll in November-December 2018 (sample size n=2,073, margin of error does not exceed 2.2% for national sample%) and included data on the Ukrainians knowledge on and behavior with non-formal education. The following dimensions were accessed in the survey:

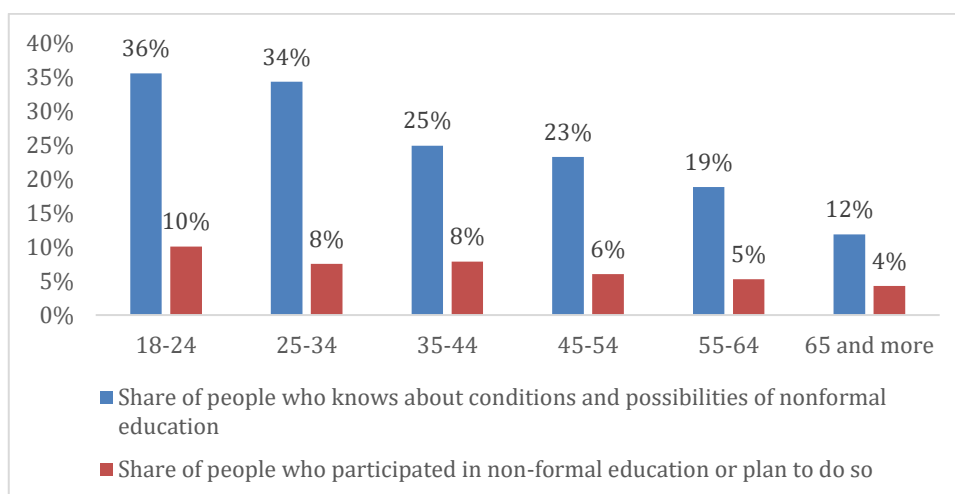
- Knowledge and participation in non-formal education
- Improved knowledge in certain fields
- Improved practical skills
- Ways of learning (online, offline, etc.)
- Sources of received information

Knowledge and participation in non-formal education is low. The general knowledge about the condition and possibilities of non-formal education is 24%, the participation level is 2% (which is within the margin error) and 5% planned to join to one of the activities.

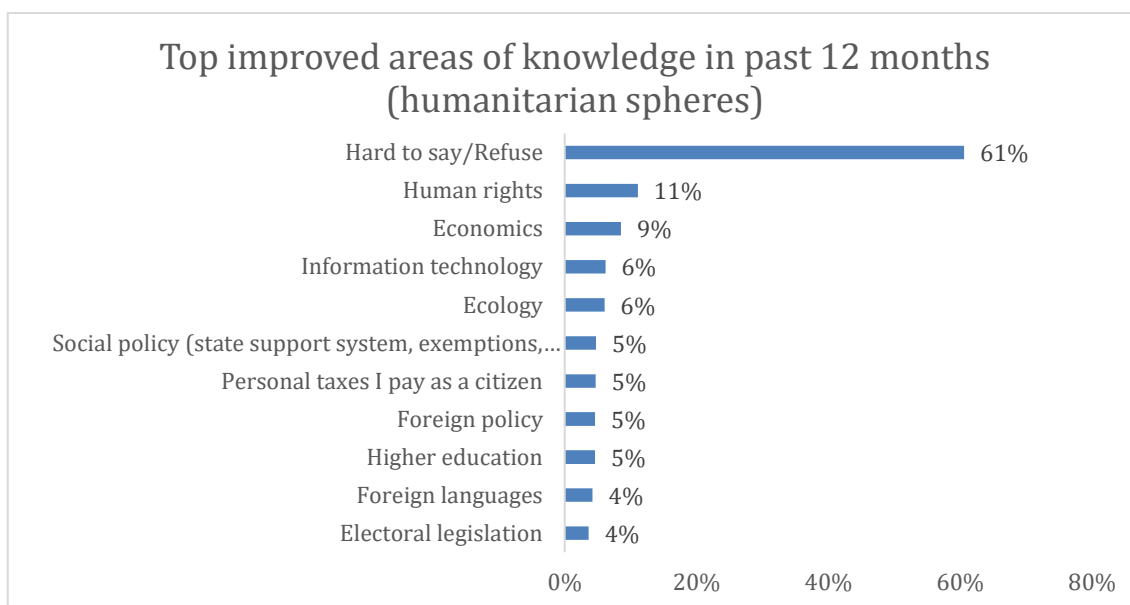
The age distribution of abovementioned dimensions demonstrates that the most interested and knowledgeable about non-formal educations are people aged 25-34 y.o. Histograms below are right skewed, what indicates that in absolute numbers people older than 25 years old tend to use non-formal education opportunities more than Ukrainians 18-24.



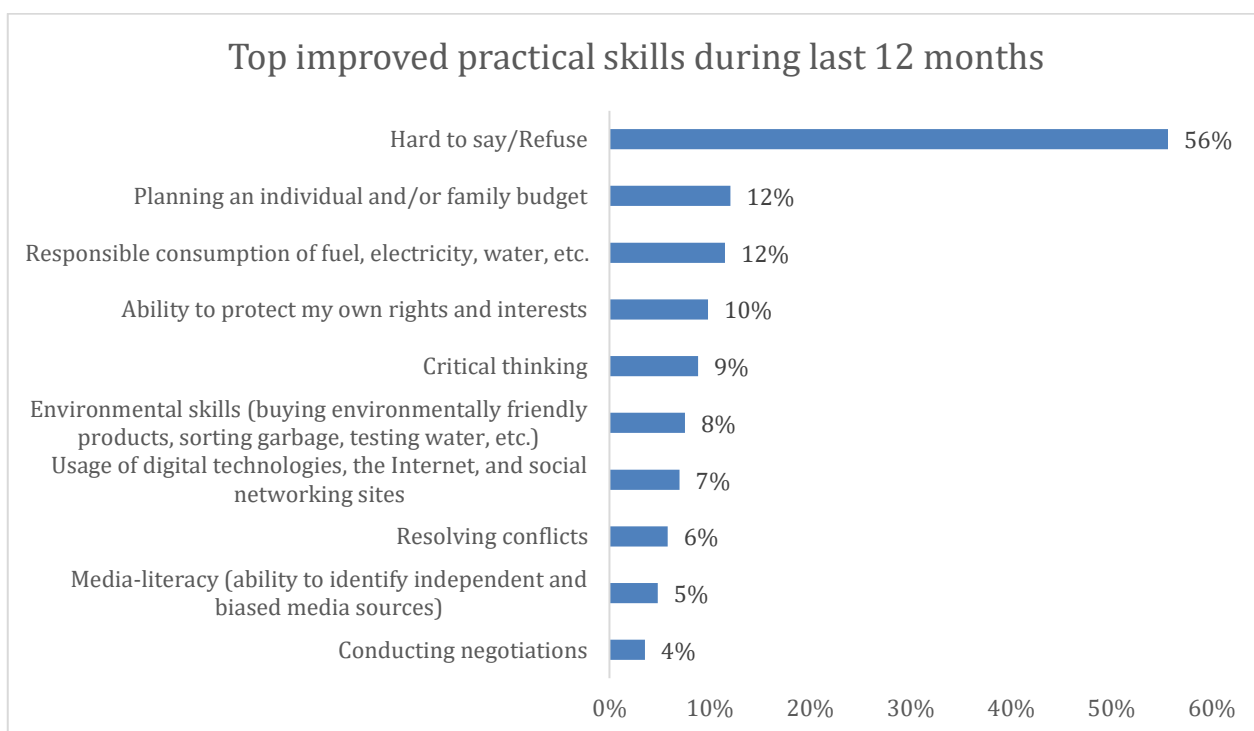
At the same time, if we compare the share of people who know about non-formal education and participated (or plans to) in such activities the finding would be that younger people know more and participates more (histrogram below). This means that on average younger people are better informed but at the same time their share in the category of people who participated or plan to is less.



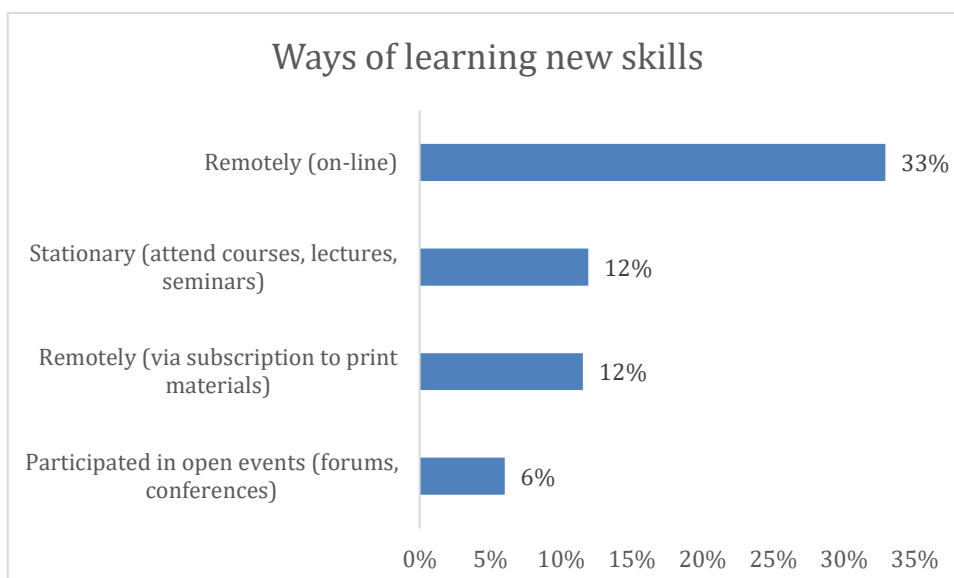
The majority of the population (61%) has not improved their knowledge on humanitarian spheres in the past 12 months. The most popular topics of which people have become more aware in the past 12 months were human rights, economics, and information technology and ecology.



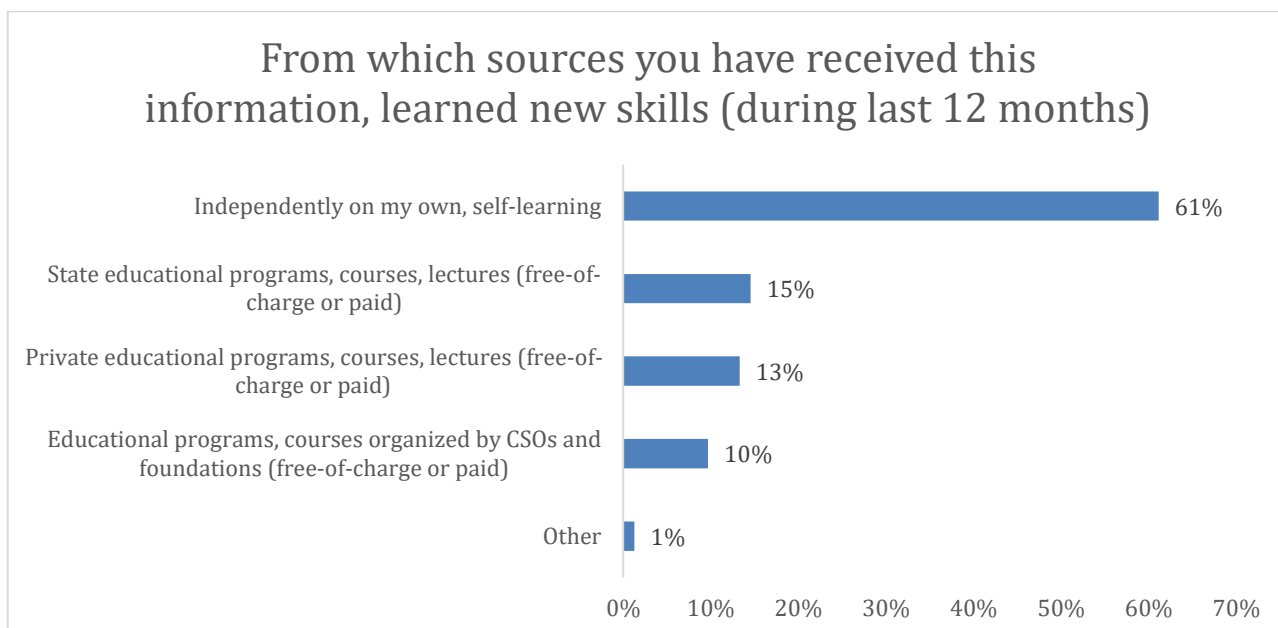
Similarly, more than half (56%) have also not improved their practical skills in the past 12 months. Of those who have attempted to improve practical skills, the most popular areas are: planning own budgets, responsible consumption, ability to protect their own rights and interests, and critical thinking. These set and abovementioned areas correlate with population main indicator (51%) of irreversibility of reforms – increased level of personal income. In other words, people want to know more and improve their skills in spheres where they can improve their personal life.



Of those who have improved new practical skills, the most popular way to learn is online and the least popular is participation in open events.



The most popular source for accessing non-formal education is self-learning – 61%, of people who improved their skills or knowledge in the last 12 months did so independently through self-learning.



To sum up this section there are next conclusions:

- Knowledge and participation in non-formal education is low across the population. Younger people (18-24) are more aware about non-formal educational opportunities but the most active in non-formal education are people aged 25+.
- Over half Ukrainians have not accessed non-formal education in the past 12 months—they have not attempted to improve knowledge or practical skills in any areas. Of those who have, the most popular set of skills and information people improved during the last 12 months are related to advancing in spheres of personal income and protection of human rights.
- The most common way of receiving information and new skills is online self-learning.
- The least popular way to learning new skills is participation in open events.

#### **Enrolment induction field and further direct engagement**

Under non-formal education activities were reached reasonably large amount of people with direct engagement that creates background for future. Civic participation differed dramatically

between the general population and Pact's participants (According to participants database analysis). There are 55% of activists among the latter, and only 9% among the former. According to CEP, growing dissatisfaction of the general population with the level of life and perception that changes are not possible (from 39 % in 2015 to 47 % in 2018), didn't led to disfranchisement of people. To the opposite: there is a growing number of those, who are ready to contribute their skills and efforts into the process of reforms to facilitate the changes in the state (from 5% in 2015 to 10% in 2018).

Progress in awareness about discrimination issues of vulnerable groups of citizens (LGBTIQ people, IDPs and women) and increase the professionalism of journalists who cover discrimination and intolerance, gender issues, and human rights protection, Zaporizhia Regional Charitable Foundation "Gender Z" implemented project "The School of Tolerance for Journalists on LGBTIQ, Gender Equality and IDPs". Thus, the level of literacy and tolerance of journalists towards indicated vulnerable group increased significantly - for over 60%. Furthermore, the database of journalists correctly representing the project topics was developed. In addition, work in eliminating stereotypes within society was conducted: Cross Media Organization released a series of videos, aimed to educate Ukrainian citizens on issues that are largely taboo and not often discussed in society. By doing so, these videos intensified public discussions of those issues, and thereby provided an impetus for developing grassroots initiatives to address these issues. The project also contributes to raising awareness about gender violence, gender discrimination, and other gender-related topics.

All these creates stimulating environment could be used for further work but diversity of results and actual nonformal learning practice of general population denote that highly dispersed activities in this case weakly boost each other and more focusing and prioritization on issues should be done.

## **Conclusion**

- Extra-curricular activities demonstrated variety of fast-tracking results that at the same time partners appear to be operating in a vacuum, and products of activities are often underutilized.
- Main practice for nonformal learning for adult population is self-learning remotely (online), the least popular way to learn new skills is participation in new events.
- People more interested in activities that related to improving skills in spheres of personal income and protection of human rights.