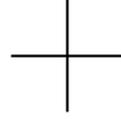




KHERSON CITY CENTER
OF YOUTH INITIATIVES
"TOTEM"

REPORT ON ACTIVITY

2015



According to the “Totem” Center mission in 2015 NGO carried out cultural and educational activities, simultaneously reacting on the actual challenges, in particular armed conflicts in Ukraine. We were concentrated on the programs, which have peacemaking component such as multicultural variety, defense and maintenance of cultural values. Our activities assisted to create awareness of young people of national identity and processes in our country on the way to European integration of Ukraine.

All projects were realized in close partnership with other NGOs and cultural institutions.





«MUSEUMS IN THE LINE OF FIRE - MOVE FROM VICTIM TO PEACEMAKER» project

Actuality of project:

In the whole world objects of cultural/historical heritage and museums become hostages and victims of military actions during the armed conflicts. Employees of museums and public try to do everything for the rescue of museum buildings and exhibits, fixing losses. However, even after the end of armed conflict there are many problems, related to adjusting of trust in the communities the representatives of which stood on the different sides of line of contact. In the modern world many countries faced these problem; now Ukraine also. In such situation it is needed to help museums and their staff not only in the decision of urgent problems of safety of the collections but also to inspire them, to increase their awareness of their important role in peaceful life of society, to give them modern instruments of communication and confidence building.

Our actions:

Trainers «Totem» developed and conducted workshop for the leading specialists of museums of Eastern Ukraine, which appeared in the area of military conflict. Results were presented October 11-13, 2015 in Chisinau, Moldova on international conference for the specialists, representatives of mass media and international culture community.

Results:

Workshop helped the representatives of museums to become sure that they remain in general cultural space with the country and that the problems of these museums and communities are extremely important as for colleagues (Ukrainian and foreign) as for Ukrainian society on the whole. We talked about the mission of museum, about the necessity of the renewed look to the role of museums, which are on sufferings territories. With the help of our trainers participants generated ideas and actions directed to consolidation of society under conditions of overcoming of crisis caused by divergences in a world and political views and (as result) by the armed conflict.



«MULTICULTURAL TAVRIYA» project

In partnership with the Kherson regional branch of the Sociological association of Ukraine and Department on domestic policy of Kherson regional state administration, with support of Embassy of Great Britain in Ukraine.

- *Tavriya (from ancient Greek Ταῦρος) it is the old name of steppe area where modern Zaporozhia and Kherson oblasts located.*

Actuality of project:

Intolerance is one of most global problem of the modern world; searching of facilities of achievement of peace and prevention of conflicts, extremism and violence on ethnic ground is on the focus of governments, national and international organizations. The decline of level of tolerance blows up principles of democracy, results in violation of individual and collective human rights. On the other side, the high level of tolerance is instrumental in strengthening of political and social foundation of the democratic state system, civil society, and national unity.

The problem of tolerance is connected to all spheres of public life – social, religiously confessional, political, personality, cross-ethnic. Issues of cross-ethnic tolerance became more actual in the world in connection with growth of amount of cross-ethnic conflicts, threat a peaceful coexistence and necessity of establishment of structural co-operation of representatives of different ethnic groups at cross-national level and inside national/ethnic communities. For modern Ukraine this issue is actual as never before. Today it is basis for warning of conflicts in the future.

The Kherson region and the South region of Ukraine (Tavriya) was historically formed as unity of different people, nationalities, that is why exactly we can give the example of peaceful coexistence, respect to the cultures of different people, which live on one territory.



Our aim:

To assist involving of young people to the study of cultures of different nationalities and ethnic groups as the way to personal development, cultural enriching and tolerance.

Our actions:

The group of NGO's activists (sociologist, historian, culture expert, journalist, etc.) are carrying out cultural research – meetings and interviews with representatives of different national and ethnic groups, study of archives. Cross-cultural tourist routes were developed; visitors can use them on the new web-site www.tavriya.info, and it is possible to use them as virtually as for real trips.

Results:

12 ethnic-cultural touristic routes were developed.

Database of local national-culture societies was collected; their activities are popularized through new web site.

History of Tavriya is popularized through biographies of the well-known people.

Local journalist and photographers are involved to creation of their own materials in social networks and mass-media.





«ART-APPROACH TO DIALOG» workshop

Workshop «Art-approach to dialog» is the part of the project «From destruction to creation. Ways of reconciliation in Ukrainian society» which is realized in partnership with NGO «Fund of community of city of Kherson «Defense», together with Institute on international cooperation of Association of people's universities of Germany (DVV International) and public organization «Informational-researching center «Integration and development» with support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany.

Actuality of project:

In Ukrainian society we have some issues, which provoke conflicts even at the level of families, working collectives, even friendly companies, and able to divide community and society. As an example, we chosen theme of «Heroes», and indeed it is one of the most difficult and conflict themes in the society. For the changes of circumstances the acknowledged at one time hero can become an antihero or go out into oblivion, or other situation: the same character is perceived by different parts of the society as a hero and antihero simultaneously.

Our aim:

To teach young people to analyse these themes, reflect and understand other point of view is the actual task on the way to develop community and society, which could find resolution for any conflicts in a peaceful way.

Our actions:

We gathered together young artists, and at first they studied this theme during three-days workshop, and then presented the results of their creative researches on an exhibition «(SUPER) Heroes : reloading» on November, 7, 2015. Municipality of Kherson helped to find interesting space in the city center for this exhibition– bomb-proof shelter with appropriate atmosphere that pushed visitors to thinking about modern heroes and feeling of «heroism» through photos, video, painting and installations.

Results:

More than 500 young people visited the exhibition and participated in discussions. 25 young authors got new skills of working with debatable issues important for the society;

The project caused strong mass-media resonance – over 60 publications for general audience over 80 thousands.



DOCUMENTARY THEATER

In close partnership with the Kherson branch of Sociological Association of Ukraine.

Activity in this direction realized in close partnership with the Kherson regional branch of Sociological Association of Ukraine because modern documentary theater is connected to sociological science.

In a few last decades the method of «verbatim» is used in an actual theater widely. Verbatim is the theatrical technology of creating plays on the basis of real interview, biographic and ethnographic researches, case study, verbal history, sociological methods of collection of primary information (such as focal groups, etc.). Scriptwriter has to keep features of original speaking as much as possible, and artists have to reproduced these features on the stage.

In 2015 “Totem” Center creates 3 documentary plays; each of these performances has not only artistic value but sociological, anthropological, historical and linguistic interest also.

- «Apartment 22» documentary play connected to the issue of internal conflicts in a family involved to the military actions in the Eastern Ukraine. Two shows and public discussions were organized in Kherson and two in Odessa.

- «Fugitive» play presented the new for Kherson format of “the theater of witnesses”. This play was a kind of comparison of the newest history of Ukraine and Egypt, in fact both countries has experience of public protests of people on the main square of the capital; there were 2 “Maydan” in Ukraine and 25 in Egypt. The most scale events took place on the Tahrir square in Cairo, and they were the same bloody, as well as in Ukraine. What does it mean for our countries? How do two different nations understand democracy? Are they such different actually? In borders of the «Fugitive» play “Totem” Center presented the personal experience of living in Cairo during protest actions of one Ukrainian man and parallel with Ukrainian realities. The feature of theater of witnesses is that characters play themselves. The new format of theatre play appeared very interesting for Kherson audience – there were

a lot of important and serious questions about religious and ethnic tolerance, about women rights and freedom of speech.

- Innovative play of «Song is Heroic» combines the elements of concert of folk collective «Well» from village Heroyskoye (“Heroic” in translation) of the Kherson oblast and talk-show with participation of experts and representatives of authorities which created public discussion of reform of village, decentralization and its consequences and prospects, and other actual problems of the Ukrainian village.



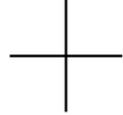
SAUCE (SOUC) PROJECT – SOUTH UKRAINIAN CULTURE.

In 2015 «Totem» Center continued to develop the web-site about arts and culture of the South of Ukraine. Art-works of authors from Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odessa regions and Crimea are collected on one internet-resource, and also there are discussions and art critics on this web-site. Thus, SAUCE is the virtual platform for exchange of information about events in the different spheres of culture, presentations of authors and projects, generation of new ideas, discussions. This web-site is free of charge and opened for participation of any creative individuals and groups (both formal and informal) and for all, who work in any genre of arts or just interested in cultural events. It is possible to add images, video, audio, texts to the proper sections with description of idea/conception, and also to take part in discussions. Authors can appeal for a comment or review to the Ukrainian and foreign experts.

During 2015 more than 50 authors from the South region created more than 90 publications.

12333 unique visitors were registered.

<http://coyc.com.ua>



FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2015

During this year all projects were financed by the partners without direct expenditures of the CYI “Totem”.

Charges: 60775,02 UAH that includes:

Program activities - 43912 UAH

Administrative costs – 16863,02 UAH

The rest of financial means is kept on the bank accounts of the “Totem” Center for using in next periods.

In 2015 CYI “Totem” got considerable support from local community in the form of granting of apartments for events, transport, services, working hours of activists and volunteers.

Many thanks to all people, who lives and works together with us in a creative rhythm!

