

Iaroslav GalanPhD in Physical Education and Sports, Associate Professor
NGO "YOUTH. SCIENCE. SPORTS. HEALTHY MOVEMENT OF UKRAINE"**Olena Yarmak**PhD in Physical Education and Sports, Associate Professor
NGO "YOUTH. SCIENCE. SPORTS. HEALTHY MOVEMENT OF UKRAINE"**Svitlana Duditska**PhD in Physical Education and Sports, Associate Professor
NGO "YOUTH. SCIENCE. SPORTS. HEALTHY MOVEMENT OF UKRAINE"**DP5YOU: DIGITAL TRAINING FOR YOUTH IN SUPPORTING REFUGEE
AND MIGRANT CHILDREN IN UKRAINE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Summary. The article presents an analysis of the scale of the migration crisis that arose as a result of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the challenges faced by refugee and migrant children. Given the growing number of children needing social adaptation, there is an urgent need to train qualified youth (youth workers) who can effectively work with this vulnerable category. Given the best European practices, it is essential to create innovative tools to improve the professional competence of specialists. Therefore, the DP5YOU project envisages the creation of a digital platform for training youth workers specializing in working with refugee and migrant children. The digital platform will contain training modules, self-assessment tools, certification systems, and interactive resources to improve youth workers' professional competence. The development and implementation of the DP5YOU platform will help improve the social adaptation of children, strengthen international cooperation, and exchange best practices in the field of youth policy.

Keywords: refugee children, migrants, youth, digital platform, European experience.

Галан Ярослав Петровичкандидат наук з фізичного виховання та спорту, доцент
Громадська організація «МОЛОДЬ. НАУКА. СПОРТ. ЗДОРОВИЙ РУХ УКРАЇНИ»**Ярмак Олена Миколаївна**кандидат наук з фізичного виховання і спорту, доцент
Громадська організація «МОЛОДЬ. НАУКА. СПОРТ. ЗДОРОВИЙ РУХ УКРАЇНИ»**Дудіцька Світлана Петрівна**кандидат наук з фізичного виховання і спорту, доцент
Громадська організація «МОЛОДЬ. НАУКА. СПОРТ. ЗДОРОВИЙ РУХ УКРАЇНИ»**DP5YOU: ЦИФРОВЕ НАВЧАННЯ ДЛЯ МОЛОДІ
ЩОДО ПІДТРИМКИ ДІТЕЙ-ПЕРЕСЕЛЕНЦІВ ТА БІЖЕНЦІВ В УКРАЇНІ
Й ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКОМУ СОЮЗІ**

Анотація. У статті представлено аналіз масштабів міграційної кризи, що виникла внаслідок повномасштабного вторгнення Росії в Україну, та викликів, з якими стикаються діти-біженці та діти-мігранти. З огляду на зростання кількості дітей, які потребують соціальної адаптації, існує нагальна потреба у підготовці кваліфікованої молоді (молодіжних працівників), які зможуть ефективно працювати з цією вразливою категорією. Враховуючи кращі європейські практики, важливим є створення інноваційних інструментів для підвищення професійної компетентності фахівців. Метою статті є обґрунтування та розробка концепції цифрової платформи для підготовки молодіжних працівників до ефективної роботи з вразливими категоріями внутрішньо переміщених осіб та дітей-біженців у країнах ЄС. У статті проаналізовано законодавчу базу України у сфері молодіжної політики, зокрема, Закон України «Про основні засади молодіжної політики» та Національну молодіжну стратегію до 2030 року. Аналіз діяльності провідних європейських молодіжних організацій дозволяє виявити ключові тенденції та підходи, які можуть бути надзвичайно корисними для розробки ефективних стратегій в Україні. Європейський молодіжний портал – це багатомовний онлайн-ресурс, який надає молодим людям інформацію про можливості для освіти, працевлаштування, волонтерства, участі в демократичному житті та інших ініціативах, спрямованих на їхній розвиток. Тому проект DP5YOU передбачає створення цифрової платформи для навчання молодіжних працівників, які спеціалізуються на роботі з дітьми біженців та мігрантів. Платформа DP5YOU стане ефективним та доступним цифровим інструментом для молодих людей (молодіжних працівників), які працюють з вразливими групами дітей. Вона забезпечить доступ до якісних навчальних матеріалів, допоможе створити інтерактивне навчальне середовище для підвищення професійної компетентності та обміну кращими європейськими практиками та практичним досвідом. Основними можливостями платформи є навчальні модулі, система самооцінювання, бібліотека ресурсів, календар подій та можливість отримання сертифікатів. Цифрова платформа міститиме навчальні модулі, інструменти самооцінки, системи сертифікації та інтерактивні ресурси для підвищення професійної компетентності молодіжних працівників. Розробка та впровадження платформи DP5YOU сприятиме покращенню соціальної адаптації дітей, зміцненню міжнародного співробітництва та обміну кращими практиками у сфері молодіжної політики.

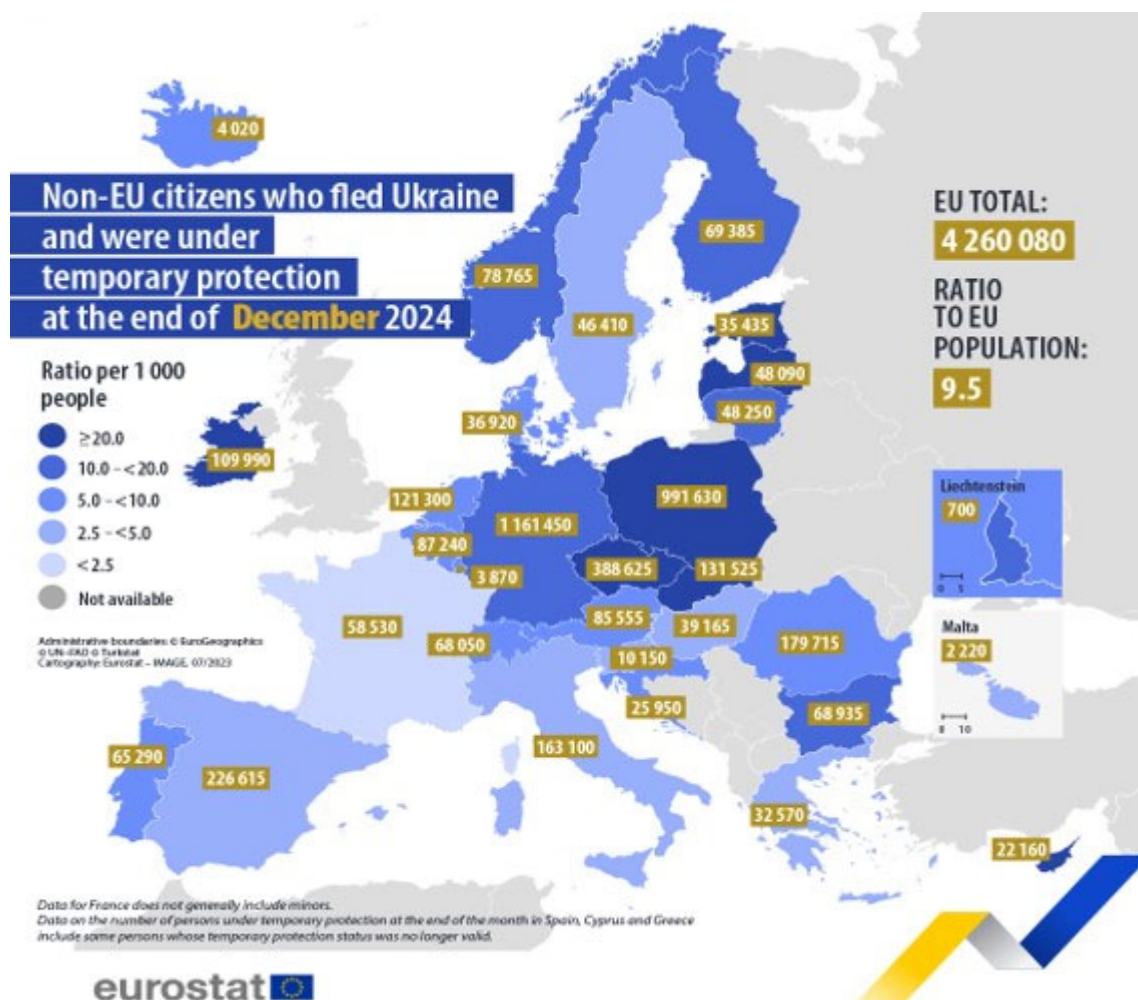
Ключові слова: діти-переселенці, мігранти, молодь, цифрова платформа, європейський досвід.

Formulation of problem. The full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022, provoked an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, which resulted in a significant increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). In the context of integration and social support, special attention is needed for migrant children and their families who have suffered significant psychological trauma and faced numerous socio-economic difficulties [7; 8]. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as of April 2024, about 3.5 million migrant people live in Ukraine. The most significant number of IDPs is concentrated in Dnipropetrovska oblast (approximately 479 thousand people, or 14 % of the total number of IDPs) and Kharkivska oblast (approximately 414 thousand people, or 12 %), located in eastern Ukraine. Kyiv city (approximately 343 thousand people, or 10 %) and Kyiv region (approximately 268 thousand people, or 8 %) are the third and fourth largest host cities, respectively, in terms of the number of IDPs. Women and children predominate among IDPs. According to the IOM, women make up about 59 % of the total number of IDPs and children about 27 %. [9]. In the current conditions caused by martial law in Ukraine, the training of qualified

young people capable of working effectively with vulnerable groups of children (IDPs, refugees) in Ukraine and the EU is of particular importance. That is why it is crucial to provide young people with the necessary knowledge and skills to facilitate the adaptation, social support, and integration of children affected by the hostilities. An important aspect of this process is creating a safe and inclusive educational environment both within Ukraine and abroad, which will allow children to receive quality education and psychological support necessary for their development and socialization [14].

Analysis of recent research and publications. A significant number of Ukrainians were forced to leave for the European Union. According to Eurostat, as of December 31, 2024, 4.3 million Ukrainians were granted temporary protection in the European Union (EU). Figure 1 shows the countries that have received the most significant number of Ukrainian refugees, but it should be emphasized that this information is constantly changing [6].

According to Eurostat, as of the end of December 2024, the largest share of temporary protection recipients in the EU countries were women aged 35-64 (24.5 %), significantly higher than the rate of men of the same age group (11.5 %). Women also predominate in the 18-34 year old segment (15.9 %



vs. 10 % for men). At the same time, among children under 14, there is a slight predominance of boys (12.1 %) over girls (11.7 %). The 14-17 age group shows relatively low rates for both sexes (4.6 % for men and 3.5 % for women), and the share of people aged 65 and older is the lowest: 1.7 % for men and 4.4 % for women (Figure 2).

Thus, women of working age (18-64 years) constitute the largest category of beneficiaries of temporary protection, while the youngest age group (under 14 years) is slightly dominated by men.

Identification of previously unsolved parts of the overall problem. The information presented is vital for understanding the scale of the migration crisis caused by the war in Ukraine and for planning assistance and support programs for IDPs and Ukrainian refugees in the EU.

Given these circumstances, the issue of training young people (youth workers) to work effectively with children and adolescents of IDPs and refugees is of particular relevance.

The purpose of the article is to substantiate and develop the concept of a digital platform for training youth workers to work effectively with vulnerable categories of internally displaced people and refugee children in the EU.

Presentation of the main research material. It is essential for Ukraine to study the best practices for training professionals who work specifically with vulnerable populations, including refugee and migrant children. Consideration of the legal regulation of various aspects of the development of the youth (youth workers) training system in Ukraine requires an analysis of the provisions of the legislation. Understanding the legal framework is key to substantiating the construction of a digital

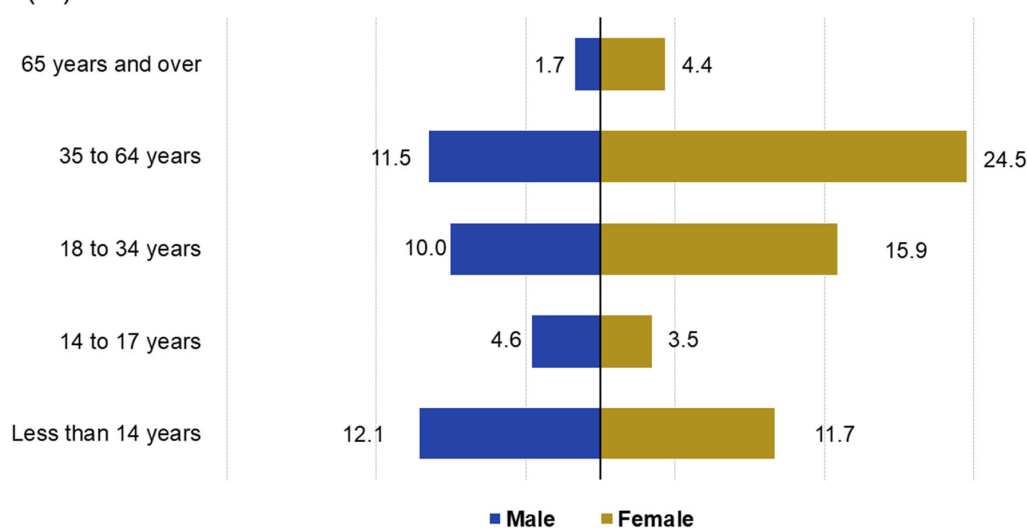
platform for training youth workers working with refugee and migrant children in Ukraine and the EU. The analysis of the current legislation allows us to identify gaps and determine the need to create innovative tools to ensure practical training.

The Law of Ukraine, "On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy" [10], defines strategic directions of the state policy to create conditions for the comprehensive development of youth. This law lays the foundation for the development of youth work. Still, it does not contain specific mechanisms for training specialists to work with vulnerable groups, including IDPs, emphasizing the need for additional tools.

The National Youth Strategy until 2030, approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine [11], aims to increase young people's competitiveness and economic activity. It envisages measures to develop young people's professional skills. It aims to develop youth policy in Ukraine, particularly training specialists working with children and youth, including youth workers. However, it does not contain information on the training of specialists to work with IDPs.

The State Targeted Social Program "Youth of Ukraine" for 2021-2025 [1] provides a set of measures to support young people, including awareness-raising campaigns, analysis of the situation of different categories of youth by age, gender, and place of residence, as well as consolidated cooperation between government agencies, youth centers, and public organizations. One of the program's key areas is to increase youth workers' participation in implementing initiatives aimed at developing their professional competencies and promoting the integration of young people into

Structure of beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex, EU, end of December 2024 (%)



Note: EU total excluding:
Hungary - data by age group not available.
France - data for minors generally not included.
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpsm)

eurostat

Figure 2. Gender and age distribution of Ukrainian refugees in the EU as of December 31, 2024

the socio-cultural space. The program also focuses on international cooperation, which can contribute to implementing best international practices in the field of youth work.

The analysis of the national legal framework shows that the current legislation creates a general framework for the development of youth policy and social work but does not contain enough specific mechanisms for training youth workers who will work with vulnerable IDPs. Therefore, innovative tools, such as a digital platform, are needed to ensure effective specialist training.

The analysis of the European Union's legislative framework in youth work reveals key trends that reflect the evolution of approaches to youth development. The Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe CM/Rec (2017) [2] serves as a basis for forming a coherent and flexible system of education and training of youth workers. This document emphasizes the need to consider the diversity of work, adapt to new trends and areas of activity, and ensure quality training for paid employees and volunteers. It is worth noting that the European experience of training youth workers to work with vulnerable populations, in particular with migrant children, is extremely valuable and relevant for Ukraine, as European youth worker training programs are usually based on an interdisciplinary approach that combines knowledge of psychology, pedagogy, social work, law, cultural studies, and other fields.

An analysis of the activities of leading European youth organizations reveals key trends and approaches to youth work that are extremely valuable for developing effective strategies in Ukraine. The European Youth Portal [5] is an example of a centralized online resource where

youth workers can access information about study, work, volunteering, policy, and funding opportunities.

The Council of Europe's Youth Work Portfolio [4] emphasizes the importance of developing the competencies of youth workers and leaders. The organization also offers self-assessment tools for youth workers and youth organizations and supports the development of youth workers' capacity by providing training resources and educational materials. An important aspect is the recognition of non-formal education standards and best practices for youth workers.

The European Academy of Youth Work (EAYW) [4] promotes innovation and development of youth work in Europe. A unique feature of the Academy is the organization of annual events aimed at improving networking through cooperation between youth workers, government officials, and academics. The main goal is to provide opportunities to explore the latest trends in digitalization, inclusion, and sustainable development.

The SALTO-YOUTH network of resource centers [13] supports youth workers' participation in Erasmus+ projects by providing examples of digital tools such as the European Training Calendar.

Youthpass [15] is an example of a tool for recognizing and validating non-formal education outcomes, emphasizing the importance of self-reflection and structured learning. An important aspect is the provision of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps certificates to participants. This program helps young people document their achievements and competencies through self-reflection and structured learning.

Thus, the European experience emphasizes the importance of online resources, competence development, networking, and recognition of non-



Figure 3. Official symbols of the DP5YOU project and partner organizations (within the framework of the Erasmus+ program)

formal education. These aspects should be taken into account when developing national youth worker training programs to ensure their effectiveness and compliance with modern requirements.

In order to implement EU best practices, we are conducting a study within the framework of the European Union project ERASMUS-YOUTH-2024-CB, “Digital Platform of Knowledge and Skills Development for Youth Working with Child Migrants and Refugees at European Level” (DP5YOU). Five organizations are involved in the project: one from Portugal, two from Ukraine, and two from Moldova (Figure 3), which shows the project logo and the logos of the organizations.

The project is co-funded by the European Union.

Thus, considering European experience and modern approaches to training youth workers is an important step in creating an effective educational system. The combination of digital technologies, international cooperation, and adaptation of best practices allows for a comprehensive approach to training youth workers who work with vulnerable children.

Our analysis of the regulatory framework and successful practices operating in the context of the European youth space provides a methodological basis for developing a conceptual model of a digital platform aimed at high-quality training of youth

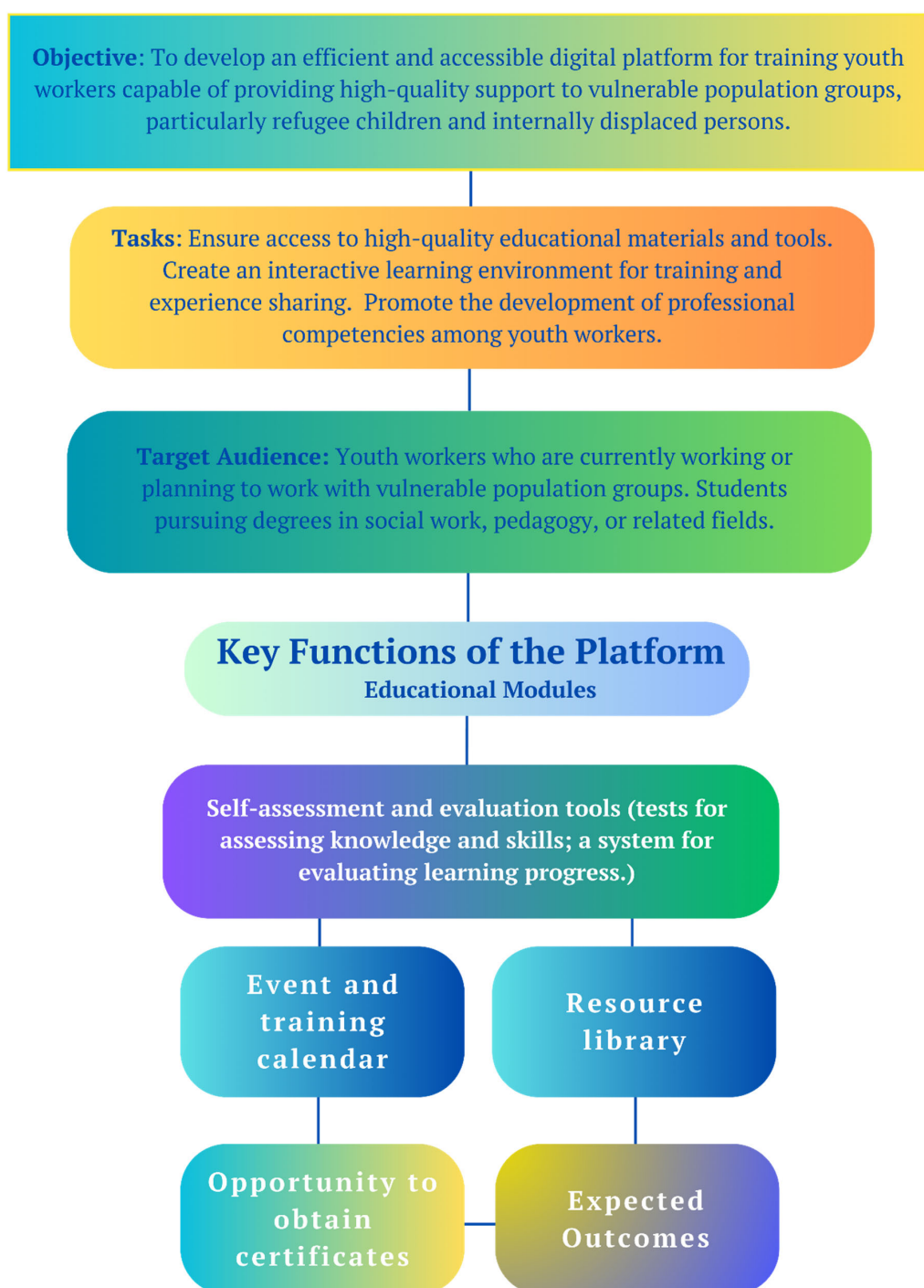


Figure 4. Structure and components of the digital platform for training youth workers within the DP5YOU project

workers to work with refugee and migrant children in Ukraine and the EU. Particular attention is paid to the interdisciplinary approach, which, according to many experts, is considered [12; 16] as part of forming professional competence through the implementation of links with the disciplines of professional training. In our case, this approach integrates knowledge from various fields, such as psychology, pedagogy, physical education and sports, ecology, social work, law, and cultural studies. This approach allows us to provide a comprehensive understanding of vulnerable children's needs and problems and develop effective methods of working with them. Given the dynamic nature of the modern world, the methodology involves using modern technologies and innovative approaches to education, including developing interactive training modules, using multimedia materials, and the exchange of experience between youth workers.

The digital platform for training youth workers is an innovative tool to improve their skills and effectiveness in working with young people. It provides access to training materials, guidelines, interactive courses, and practical cases adapted to modern challenges in youth policy. An essential component of the platform is the possibility of networking and exchanging experiences between youth workers, experts, and NGOs. The platform also provides functionality for online training, seminars, and consultations that will facilitate the professional development of specialists. Figure 4 shows the structure and components of the digital platform for youth worker training.

The digital platform being developed as part of the DP5YOU project will contain several training modules aimed at the comprehensive development of participants. These include educational programs, health initiatives, learning tasks, environmental activities, sports and recreational activities, and digital skills development. Particular attention will be paid to leadership and career issues, preparation of motivational videos, integration of European values, stimulation of volunteering and civic engagement, development of innovation and entrepreneurship, and provision of psychological support. This comprehensive module structure will ensure multi-disciplinary learning and help train highly qualified professionals who can adapt to modern challenges in various fields.

Figure 5 shows the digital platform's interface, which has a clear structure and contains a navigation menu with the main items: "Home", "About the Project", "News", "Partners", "Materials", "Results," and buttons for selecting the interface language (English and Ukrainian).

There is also information about the project's purpose, a Project Overview block with a Learn More button that provides access to detailed information about the project. The central element of the digital platform interface is the information block, which provides brief information about the project, project participants and partners, events that have been held and current materials, and subscription to news.

In general, the interface of the digital platform is visually simple but functionally rich, contributing to its convenient and efficient use. The presence of

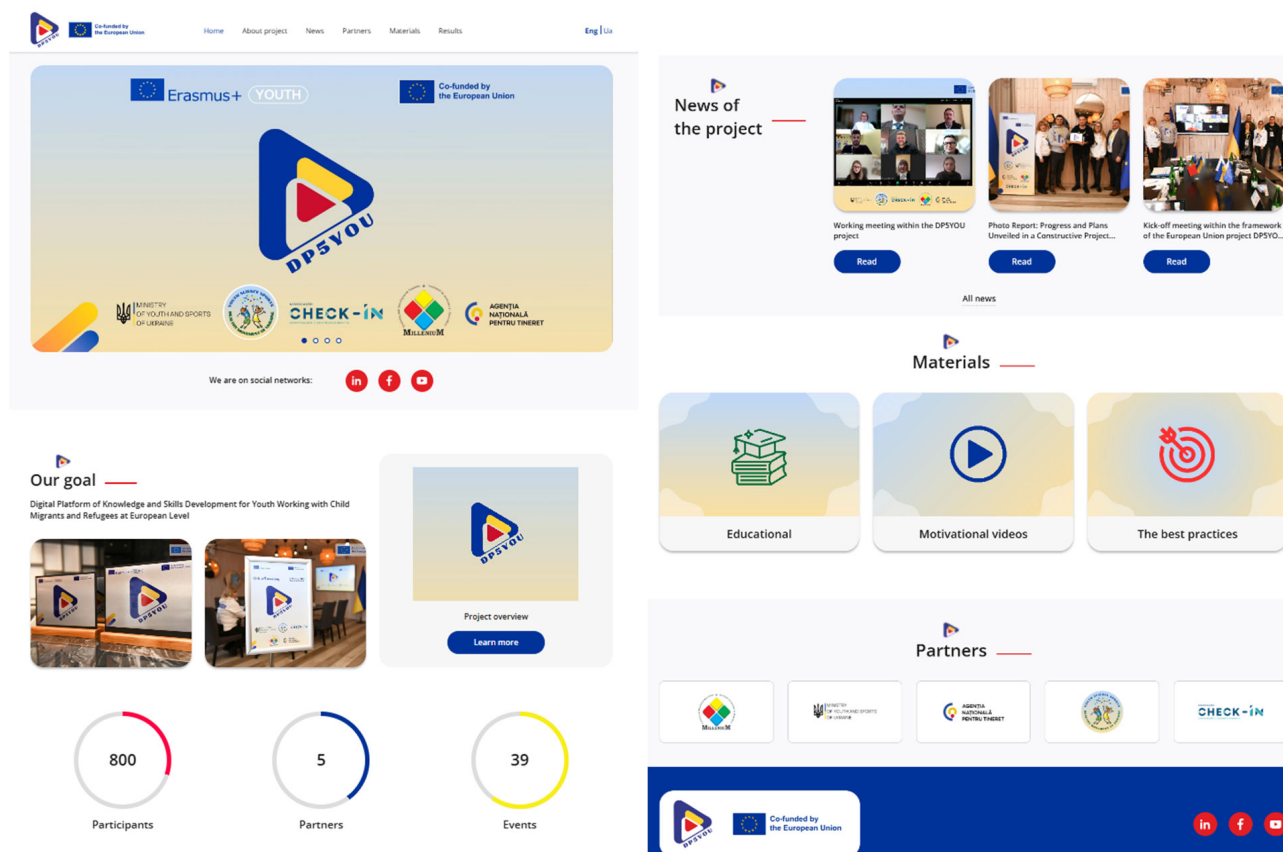


Figure 5. Interface of the digital platform within the DP5YOU project

links to social networks emphasizes the project's integration with modern communication channels and allows users to receive up-to-date information from various sources. The "Our goal" section clearly defines the strategic focus of the digital platform to support youth workers in their important work. The "Learn More" button provides an opportunity for an in-depth look at the project and its objectives. The information block serves as a kind of hub where key information about the project, its participants, and partners is collected, making it easier to navigate and find the necessary data. The news subscription function ensures constant communication with the audience and informs them about current events and materials. In general, the interface of the

digital platform demonstrates its focus on creating a convenient and informative environment for users.

Conclusions. During the hostilities in Ukraine, the number of migrant and refugee children in need of attention and support has increased significantly, making the training of qualified youth workers critical. Creating a specialized digital platform within the DP5YOU project is an appropriate step to ensure effective training and exchange of experience among professionals working with vulnerable populations. Digital technologies allow the training process to be scaled up to reach a wide range of professionals regardless of their geographic location.

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