



Under One Umbrella: Preparing Young People for Life Beyond the Institution

Every year, young people leave children's homes with few resources, little guidance, and a system that largely considers its job done. For those aged 15–20 in Chernivtsi, the gap between institutional life and independent adulthood can feel vast –and largely invisible to those who haven't lived it.

Under One Umbrella was created specifically for this group: young people from children's homes and those already navigating life after leaving care. Across six themed sessions, they built the practical knowledge and human connections that institutional upbringing rarely provides –understanding their rights, exploring university pathways, developing communication and decision-making skills, and finding space to simply imagine their own futures.

One session –an open-air art therapy workshop at the Vyshyvanka Day Square – invited participants to paint their visions of the future on canvas. It was a quiet but deliberate act: giving young people who are rarely asked what they want permission to answer that question for themselves.

What made the programme stick was what happened between the sessions: the relationships. By the end, participants had direct connections to trainers, psychologists, local authority representatives, and youth centre staff –people they could actually call. That network, built through trust rather than referral, is the kind of infrastructure that outlasts any single project.

6
SESSIONS

Getting acquainted
Life skills workshop

15–20
AGE RANGE

Rights & civic activism
Art therapy outdoors

4
PARTNERS

Career start – university visit
From knowledge to action

Implemented as part of the British Council's Youth Connect for Ukraine programme, in partnership with Chernivtsi Youth Centre "Residence of Youth," the Department of Social Policy, NGO "Svitymo," and the Centre for Socio-Psychological Rehabilitation of Children.




