



UKRAINE IN THE 1990S — A SOCIETY IN TRANSITION

TASK 1

TOPIC: ELECTORAL LAW, PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY, PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

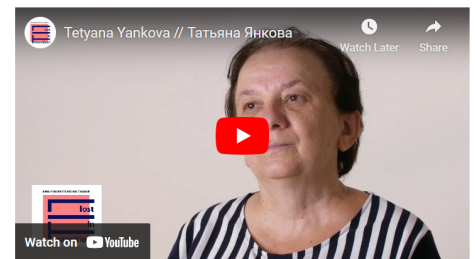
DURATION: 45 minutes

MATERIALS: links to videos or visual technology (projector, screen), markers, sheets of paper

HOW TO CONDUCT THE EXERCISE:

1. Give the children a link to an excerpt from an interview with Tetyana from Kherson about her first experience of democratic elections in Ukraine (2:15 - 5:30).

<https://youtu.be/vGIs8IXdqsU>



Ask what caught their attention most from the experience which Tetyana recalls? Ask the children the following preparatory questions:

- Do they think that participation in elections should be a right or a duty in a democracy?
- What do they think is the turnout in Ukrainian elections (presidential, parliamentary, local)? What is the turnout of young people?
- Why are fair elections one of the key attributes of a democratic and rule of law state?
- Would they want to take part in elections and why (if yes/no)?

2. Provide the children with information about attitudes towards obligations/rights to vote in different countries: "There are currently more than 20 countries in the world where participation in elections is not a right but an obligation of a citizen, for failure to comply with the obligation citizens will be fined or deprived of the opportunity to vote for up to 10 years. Such countries include Belgium, Australia, Singapore, Switzerland, etc. The turnout in these countries is up to 90 percent. In Ukraine, during the years of independence, the highest turnout for the presidential election was recorded in 1991 (84.16 percent), in 1994 the turnout was 70.4 percent, the lowest was in 2014 (59.48 percent), and in 2019, 62.8 percent of voters went to the polls. At the same time, youth turnout is consistently quite low - only 36%".

3. Invite the children to form two groups and give each group a task - group 1 should prepare arguments that participation in elections should be a citizen's obligation and group 2 should prepare arguments that participation in elections should be a right and not an obligation (10 minutes to prepare arguments in groups). After the group discussion of the arguments is over, invite the children to share their findings in a common group (one argument from each group in turn) and then ask the children to vote for the approach they support more based on the discussion.

4. Conduct a reflection with the children on this exercise. Questions for discussion:

- Why is it important to vote in elections?
- How can youth turnout in elections be increased?
- What should citizens do to make their choice informed?