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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31652/2411-2143-2025-52-111-116>**Local press as a source of information on the activities of the Podillia "Prosvita" during the period of the UPR Directory (1919-1920)****Inna Ya. Zavalnyuk**

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The purpose of the article is to study the problems of the formation and functioning of the Podillia "Prosvita", which promoted the idea of creating an independent Ukrainian state on the pages of the local press in 1919-1920, fostered a sense of patriotism among citizens, and served as a cultural, educational, political, and moral guide. **The methodological basis** of the study was formed by such general scientific methods as analysis and synthesis, which consisted in determining the grounds for the creation of centers of "Enlightenment" in Podillia, the development of the educational movement in the region during the era of the Directory of the UPR; using the comparative historical method through the prism of the local press, the difficulties in the activities of "Enlightenment" and extracurricular education in the conditions of the unstable situation of the government of S. Petliura were considered. Petliura's government; it was found that in general, the activities of the "Enlightenment" societies during this period were weaker than during the Central Rada and the Hetmanate, which is explained by the difficult internal and external situation of the Directorate, the weakness of its central and local bodies, in particular, cultural and educational institutions; the method of analyzing documentary information allowed to thoroughly study the content of periodicals of Podillia, which reported on the active work of the national-democratic centers of "Enlightenment" in 1919-1920, actively covered the political course of the Directory, published appeals of the revolutionary leaders to the population, actively promoted the cultural and artistic life of Podillia, supported the development of national education, Ukrainianization, and reform of the school system; talked about the influence of conscious representatives of rural communities on the development of the Ukrainian movement, and popularized folk customs, traditions, and calendar holidays. **It is concluded** that during the UPR, the Podillia Prosvita played the role of a unifying body that, through the local press, promoted the idea of national identity among the people, inspired the struggle for the independence of the Ukrainian state, fostered a sense of patriotism, and cared for the morality and high spirituality of the people. The magazines served as a cultural, educational, political, and moral guide for Ukrainians.

Keywords: Prosvita Society, Directorate, Ukrainian state, press, education, culture, literature, art, spirituality.

Місцева преса як джерело інформації про діяльність подільської «Просвіти» в період Директорії УНР (1919–1920 рр.)

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Анотація.

Метою статті є вивчення проблем становлення і функціонування подільської «Просвіти», що пропагувала на сторінках місцевої преси 1919-1920 рр. ідею створення незалежної Української держави, виховувала у громадян почуття патріотизму, слугувала культурним, освітнім, політичним та моральним орієнтиром. **Методологічну основу** дослідження склали такі загальнонаукові методи як аналіз і синтез, які полягали у визначенні підстав для створення осередків «Просвіти» на Поділлі, розвитку просвітницького руху на теренах краю в добу Директорії УНР; за допомогою порівняльно-історичного методу крізь призму місцевої преси розглянуто труднощі у справі діяльності «Просвіти», позашкільної освіти в умовах нестабільного становища уряду С. Петлюри; виявлено, що в цілому діяльність товариств «Просвіта» в цей період проходила слабше ніж за часів Центральної Ради і гетьманату, що пояснюється важким внутрішнім і зовнішнім становищем Директорії, слабкістю її центральних, місцевих органів, зокрема, культурно-освітніх установ; метод аналізу документальної інформації, дав змогу ґрунтовно вивчити контент періодичних видань Поділля, що повідомляли про активну діяльність національно-демократичних осередків «Просвіти» у 1919-1920 рр., активно висвітлювали політичний курс Директорії, публікували звернення лідерів революції до населення, активно пропагували культурне та мистецьке життя Поділля, підтримували розвиток національної освіти, українізацію та реформування шкільної системи; розповідали про вплив свідомих представників сільських громад на розвиток українського руху, популяризували народні звичаї, традиції та календарні свята. Зроблено **висновки**, що за часів УНР подільська «Просвіта» відігравала роль об'єднуючого органу, який через місцеву пресу пропагував серед народу ідею національної ідентичності, надихав на боротьбу за незалежність Української держави, виховував у людей почуття патріотизму, дбав про моральність і високу духовність народу. Часописи слугували культурним, освітнім, політичним і моральним орієнтиром для українців.

Ключові слова: товариство «Просвіта», Директорія, Українська держава, преса, освіта, культура, література, мистецтво, духовність.

The problem statement. At the turn of the millennium, the tumultuous events of Ukraine's modern life, the armed struggle against its eternal enemy, Russia, do not give us the right to forget the past. Among the many spiritual factors that preserved the culture and language of the Ukrainian people and brought Independence Day 1991 closer, the Prosvita Society is representative.

The educational movement in Podillia spread after 1917. The national activity of Prosvita led to a noticeable increase in its ranks, especially in 1919, when 203 branches operated in the region. The growth of the national consciousness of Podillia's inhabitants was encouraged by encouraged

events (the front line passed through the territory of Podillia), pressure from the previous dictatorship, and later from the German and Polish authorities. Citizens were looking for ways to liberate Ukraine from its enslavers, so the spirit of patriotism grew. This civic organization was outside the influence of any political party or ideological trend. This was due to the fact that, as stated in its charter (1906), Prosvita aimed to promote the cultural and educational development of the Ukrainian people in Podillia. Young people were particularly active and dedicated in their efforts to improve social change and life.

Analysis of sources and recent research. The main historical sources containing information about the educational movement in the region during the period of the UPR Directory are official documents and newspaper periodicals of that time. During the period under study, a significant place in the newspapers was occupied by the activities of Prosvita and the difficulties faced by out-of-school education in the unstable situation of the Petliura regime. Correspondence about the activities of the branches of Prosvita showed that, despite the spread of the educational movement, not a single congress was organized in Podillia, and local educational societies operated only on paper. In this context, it was recommended that the regional and district unions resume their activities and immediately take over the functions of organizational and methodological guidance of the regional "Prosvita" (Zhittya Podillya. 1919. April 29).

The press covered in detail the role and position of the educational movement in Ukraine. Certain historical aspects of the development of Prosvita, its cultural and educational activities in Podillia, the content of the journals of the UPR Directory, and their role in shaping the national consciousness of Ukrainians were studied by scholars L. Bazhenov, V. Lozovyi, H. Kucherov, E. Nazarenko, V. Matsko, V. Nesterenko, E. Sokhatska, and others.

The purpose of the article is to study the problems of the formation and functioning of the Podillia "Prosvita", which promoted the idea of creating an independent Ukrainian state on the pages of the local press in 1919-1920, fostered a sense of national patriotism among citizens, and served as a cultural, educational, political, and moral guide.

The results of the research. One of the most important issues in the context of the task of building the Prosvita was the issue of educational activities among Ukrainian women. From this point of view, the article by V. Maksymets "Realize a Woman" published in the Vinnytsia newspaper "Shliakh" is noteworthy. The author suggests that "enlightenment" should be more widely included in the work of women, especially young people. To do this, it is necessary to organize literary evenings where Ukrainian girls could learn songs in their native language, listen to the works of prominent women writers, and hear historical stories about the struggle of past generations and the heroism of Ukrainian women. And women intellectuals should play an important role in this work. According to the author, their task is to raise the cultural level of women and thus fulfill one of the main tasks of the time: "to raise a woman to the height on which she should rightfully stand, having a sensitive soul, a good heart, and a natural mind" (Shliakh. 1919. December 1).

Newspapers reported on the government's allocation of a one-time grant to the Vinnytsia Prosvita Society in the amount of 1200000 rubles for the construction of educational buildings for the first and second Ukrainian gymnasiums in Vinnytsia (Republican News. 1919. January 5), the work of the Kamianets-Podilskyi Prosvita Society (Word. 1920. September 30), the opening of the Kamianets-Podilskyi People's University (Narodna Volia. 1919. November 4) etc. Some newspaper articles raised issues related to the return to the Proskuriv "Prosvita" of the premises that had been requisitioned for the officers' canteen and the Propaganda Bureau of one of the military units of the Directorate (Holos Selo. 1919. October 17), the unsatisfactory organization of auditoriums in Kamianets-Podilskyi for lectures by the famous scientist Danylo Zabolotnyi (Ukraine. 1919. November 4), about the lack of educational personnel in the Horodok society "Prosvita" (Podillia. 1919. March 27), about the dominance of people hostile to the Ukrainian idea in the Letychiv district administration of the Podil province who have a negative attitude to the educational cause (Tribuna. 1918. December 29). Most publications (articles and letters from readers) contain constructive criticism and specific suggestions for improving the activities of educational organizations.

In general, the activities of the Prosvita Society during this period were weaker than during the Central Rada and the Hetmanate. This can be explained by the difficult internal and external situation of the General Directorate and the weakening of central and local institutions, including cultural and educational ones (Rudyi, 2000, p. 273).

In December 1918, in Kamianets-Podilskyi, with the permission of military censorship, the local authorities, together with the local Prosvita, launched the publication of the newspaper "Zhittya Podillia" (Life of Podillia), "which was to become an operational mass media outlet" (Stetsiuk, 2006, p. 362). A powerful editorial team rallied around this newspaper (the editor was the historian Y. Sitsynskyi), which managed to turn it into a publication not only of high quality in terms of printing and technical design, but also patriotic in its orientation (Gandziuk, 2009, p. 116).

Through its magazines, the local branch of the Prosvita society launched a wide range of political, cultural, and educational activities. The newspapers "Narodna Zhyttia" (editors: P. Romaniv, I. Shtanko, M. Rozhekevskiyi) were published in Lipivka and "Shlyakh" in Vinnytsia (editor: V. Ostrovskiyi). The main goal of these newspapers was to defend Ukraine from Moscow's aggression (Maslovsky, 1994, p. 58). The newspapers contained many materials about the brutal terror of the Bolsheviks in the Vinnytsia region and expressed support for the unity of the UGA and UPR troops in the fight against the Denikins: "Let us remember that the army is defending the land and the will of the Ukrainian people from Denikin's tsarist henchmen and bloody communists" (Kravets, 1995, p. 3). One of the issues of the "Shlyakh" also contained a mandatory oath of the Ukrainian army, which called for "courageously, to the last drop of blood, to fight against any enemy of the UPR and the working people, always behave as required by military laws and the honor of a warrior-knight, in this way to live and die with honor" (Levchenko, 1993, p. 42).

The materials published in the newspapers also referred to the influence of representatives of the conscious part of rural society on the rise of the Ukrainian movement (Handziuk, 2009, p. 112). For example, according to an unnamed contributor to the Shliakh newspaper, in the village of Kovalivka, Bratslav County, activists from a sugar factory organized a party against pro-Polish and pro-Denikin propaganda, which was attended by senior Ukrainian officers. The participants sang the national anthem and sent fervent greetings in honor of all those who defended the homeland and the leaders of the Ukrainian revolution (Shliakh. 1919. 20 October).

A series of correspondences referring to the national assembly and county peasant congresses discussed issues of Ukrainian statehood, the activities of the UPR government, assistance from the peasantry, schools, culture, and education, and condemned the actions of peasants who conducted anti-national agitation (Zavalniuk, 1995, p. 62).

Podillia's newspapers also covered the state policy of the Directory, published appeals of revolutionary leaders to the people, and actively promoted the cultural and artistic life of Podillia, national education, especially Ukrainization and reorganization of schools (Dmytrenko, 2006, p. 146). The latter was necessary for the development of children's awareness of the need for knowledge, as well as the ability to learn to work and think. Also considered were the reasons, directions, content of school education reform, factors of influence, mechanisms of school reforms, building a single labor school (Kukurudziak, 1996, p. 45), etc.

The idea of a unified national school was promoted by the newspaper "Volia", an organ of the Olhopol district school council (Gandziuk, 2009, p. 106). Among the publications about the lives of local teachers and students were reports on the measures taken by local authorities to provide primary school students with textbooks and introduce the Ukrainian language. Another important issue was free and compulsory education in lower and higher primary schools (Rudyi, 2000, p. 97).

Public interest in the culture of the native word was aroused by the Prosvita societies, which were quite active on the ground. This was actively covered on the pages of the magazines of the time: in the Mohyliv district, in October 1919 alone, educators distributed 15,000 newspapers in the district, organized 10 theatrical performances for the Cossacks of the UPR army (Narodna Volia. 1919. November 7.), in Kamianets-Podilskiy a library and a reading room were opened for the needs of conscious Ukrainians, which worked seven days a week (Trudova gromada. 1919. July 12), in Vinnytsia educators took care of the monuments of the past, providing a loan of 1000 rubles. They also supported the Commission for the Protection of Cultural and Historical Monuments of the district administration, etc. (Gandziuk, 2009, p. 100).

After the liberation of Vinnytsia from the Bolsheviks, Prosvita took over the symphony orchestra created by the artistic subdivision of the provincial department of public education, which gave its first concert on August 14 in the society's People's Summer Garden (Shliakh. 1919. 16 August).

The commission, formed by the Vinnytsia District People's and City Councils, was in charge of the People's Museum of Arts and Antiquities (1500 different items), the provincial book collection (which contained all requisitioned libraries), and six public libraries composed of books taken from private collections (SAVR, f. 255, op. 1, d. 130, p. 84). Amateur choirs were created at almost all of these institutions. As the conductor of the Zhvanets National Choir and inspector of the higher elementary school, D. Oleksiuk, noted in the newspaper Zhyttia Podillia, the purpose of such groups was to replace the Moscow "Dunka" among the peasants, "which is heard in the village as soon as it gets dark," with the folk song Zhyttia Podillia. 1919. March 1).

Members of Prosvita took an active part in public life and the development of educational institutions in the countryside (Gandziuk, 2009, p. 104. For example, in Bila village, a kindergarten and a music club were opened on their initiative (Life of Podillia. 1919. January 11); in Kamianets-Podilskiy, conscious Ukrainians gathered in a cultural and educational center where they recited poems by national poets and studied classical works accompanied by an orchestra (Ukrainian Cossack. 1919. 25 October), and courses in cutting and sewing for women from rural areas were

opened at the department of vocational education of the Podil People's Council (Life of Podillia. 1919. 15 February).

At the same time, the enlighteners cared about the spiritual enrichment of their compatriots, tried to revive their Russified face, and popularized folk traditions, customs, and calendar holidays. And they succeeded (Gandziuk, 2009, p. 103). According to one of the newspapers, after the event, people expressed their admiration and joy: "A concert of carols was held in the People's House of Kamianets in Podillia. When the National Choir performed the piece "Heaven and Earth" from the "Bohohlasnyk," something distant and mysterious came alive in the souls of the audience, the audience completely froze, trembling to every sound, and then gave a bubbling wave of applause to the performers who stood on the stage with the "star" in Ukrainian costumes..." (Life of Podillia. 1919. January 12).

The Ukrainian Galician Army also supported the creation of Prosvit and provided them with literature. It provided assistance to local teachers who taught the population (Bilhorayskyi, 1991, p. 82).

In May 1920, the society launched Ukrainian language courses for civil servants and individuals (Khvylya. 1920. May 4). In June, with the assistance of the organization, an art workshop for local talents and a theater group with the participation of actors and directors of the Ivan Franko Theater began operating (Ukraine. 1920. 2 June).

The constant change of power, especially Soviet Russia's attempts to establish itself by destroying Ukrainian statehood, caused many difficulties for the society. "Prosvita had to officially adopt a charter based on class principles.

On May 8, 1920, the general meeting of the second Vinnytsia "Prosvita" contributed to the return to national principles of the society's activities, rejecting the international charter adopted during the Bolsheviks' stay in the city (Khvylya. 1920. May 7). The third Vinnytsia society, created for the population of the neighborhood by the staff of a psychiatric hospital, did the same. The need to consolidate efforts in the face of the danger coming from the east contributed to the decision on May 25, 1920, to unite the activities of all Vinnytsia organizations of "Enlightenment" into a union of city societies at a meeting of the third Vinnytsia branch (Khvylya. 1920. May 27). In June 1920, the third Vinnytsia "Prosvita" celebrated the fourth anniversary of Ivan Franko's memory.

In mid-1920, there were still reports of active national-democratic centers. It was only after the establishment of Soviet rule that the course of "Sovietization" of Prosvita was proclaimed (Malyuta, 2007).

Conclusions. Thus, during the UPR, Podillia's Prosvita played the role of a unifying body that, through the local press, promoted the idea of national identity among the people, inspired them to fight for the independence of the Ukrainian state, fostered a sense of patriotism, and cared for the morality and high spirituality of citizens. The magazines served as a cultural, educational, political, and moral guide for Ukrainians.

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