

# Empowerment Lab Survey on Youth Development in Ukraine

The key agents of change for tomorrow

«I WOULD WISH FOR WORLD PEACE;  
HEALTH FOR ALL CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ELDERLY;  
SO THAT PEOPLE WOULD NEVER SUFFER  
FROM HUNGER AND WAR.

I ONLY NEED A GENIE FOR THESE REASONS, OTHERWISE,  
I CAN HELP PEOPLE IN NEED OF MY HELP MYSELF».

NINA, 15 YEARS OLD

I WOULD BECOME INVISIBLE,  
AND WOULD HELP PEOPLE THAT CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES,  
ALSO, I WOULD EAVESDROP ON OTHER PEOPLE'S CONVERSATIONS

ALINA, 13 YEARS OLD

I WOULD BECOME A FAMOUS DOCTOR  
AND WOULD OPEN UP MY OWN HOSPITAL  
I WOULD CURE ALL PEOPLE.

OLGA, 13 YEARS OLD

I WOULD WISH TO BECOME A PRESIDENT,  
THOUGH THIS SOUNDS CHILDISH,  
I WOULD HELP SERIOUSLY ILL PEOPLE AND  
ANIMALS THAT HAVE BEEN ABUSED.

NASTYA, 15 YEARS OLD

Geneva,  
January 2018

## **Empowerment Lab (EMPLAB)**

Empowerment Lab is a non-for-profit organisation found in December 2016, in Geneva, by human rights advocate Marija Musja in response to a crisis of youth development and human trafficking in Ukraine.

This survey was conducted at the early stage of the organisations' creation to better understand youth development. Projects developed by EMPLAB are based on the result of this survey with the respect to the experience of international community.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by public donations.

The survey was developed by Alla Armen and written by Marija Musja.

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## Foreword

### Ukrainian paradigm

Short overview:

#### Youth Development

The development of modern Ukraine depends greatly on the potential of its young citizens and on their ability to become experts in their chosen profession and, one day, leaders of their country.

The longstanding and ever-increasing socio-economic and political turmoil have create an environment in which young people grow up without knowing who they are, what they want and what social roles are available to them.

The absence of conditions that nurture self-realization causes many young people to suffer from low self-esteem. This barrier triggers an indifferent attitude towards their own life and the world around them. Many young people become involved in criminal activities, drug addiction, drug trafficking, and prostitution that lead to the spread of HIV infection.



### Country background

Ukraine is one of the largest direct neighbours of the European Union, as well as being one of the most resource rich countries in the EU with a population of 45 millions. After gaining independence in 1991, Ukraine failed both to introduce economic and institutional reforms or curb corruption, and has therefore become vulnerable to external influences, with a low social-economic development.

**Transparency International Corruption Index, 2016, ranked Ukraine 131<sup>st</sup> out of 176 countries.** <sup>1</sup>

The EuroMaidan revolution in 2014 began as a student demonstration supporting European integration, and became a clear indication that young people in Ukraine want to live in a country free from corruption. The overthrow of the Ukrainian

president spurred wide-scale reforms in the country. In March 2017 the European Union approved visa-free travel for Ukrainian citizens to most EU countries. <sup>2</sup>

Despite assistance from the EU the results of the new government's attempts to bring structural reforms remain fragile.

Credit Suisse has calculated that household wealth of Ukrainians from mid-2015 to mid-2016 decreased by 19%. <sup>3</sup> That puts Ukraine in the lowest group of countries with wealth below USD 5,000 many of which are heavily concentrated in central Africa and south Asia.

**Today, nearly 60% of Ukrainians live below the poverty**

## SHORT SUMMARY OF THE SURVEY

The survey was conducted in a small district - Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy and nearby villages in Odessa Oblast. Eight different schools participated in this survey, including the two ranked with the highest and lowest grades on academic completion in the region. Overall, the survey covered a total of 359 children, 171 boys and 188 girls, aged between 13 -16 years old.

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### 1. The survey on self-awareness, self-esteem and motivation:

- The most desired professions among children are: doctor (11%), sailor (9%), programmer (8%) teacher (8%) and chef (5%).
  - The most popular professions for adults in children peer group are: sailor (14%), doctor (12%), teacher (8%), chef (7%), lawyer (7%).
  - Only 1% of girls are interested in programming.
  - The most popular professions among girls are creativity-related.
  - Girls are the key agents of change for tomorrow.
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### 2. The survey on usage of the Internet for self-directed learning online:

- The most popular devices that children use are: phone (90%), computer (77%), tablet (38%).
- 95% have access to the Internet at home; 80% have access to the Internet on phones
- 16% of children spend less than 2 hours online per day. 34% - from 2 to 4 hours. 29% - from 4 to 6 hours. 21% said they spend online 6 and more hours per day.
- 36% of children said they use the Internet less than 2 hours per week for studying purposes. 31% - from 2 to 4 hours. 16% - from 4 to 6 hours. 17% said 6 and more hours per week.
- The most popular websites among children survey are: VKontakte (93%), YouTube (70%), Odnoklassniki (26%), Online Games (20%), Instagram (17%), Facebook (13%), Other (8%).
- Online learning: 35% have no experience of studying online. Video (52%), application software (27%), online courses (16%), online lecture (6%).
- The most popular source of online learning are social media platforms: VKontakte, YouTube, Google, Yandex and Wikipedia.
- Only 8% have experience with e-learning platforms.

## About us

### Empowerment Lab

We believe girls are the key agents of change for tomorrow.

#### What we do

EMPLAB empowers girls with technology. We teach girls to express themselves and develop their creativity through technology.

#### Our Vision

We envision a world where technology is used as a tool to create solutions for social problems.

#### Our Mission

Our mission is to empower girls with the core skills of the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

- Creativity: we encourage curiosity and support creative thinking
- Technology: we are teaching girls programming skills
- Life-long learning: we promote self-directed learning online

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### Projects

We live in the digital age. Without the knowledge and skills of digital technology, many people are left behind, unable to fulfil their potential in life.

Girls are especially vulnerable to this as digital expertise is usually seen as the preserve of boys and men. The gender gap is more profound in disadvantaged communities, where young girls are less likely to have access to quality education in computer science.

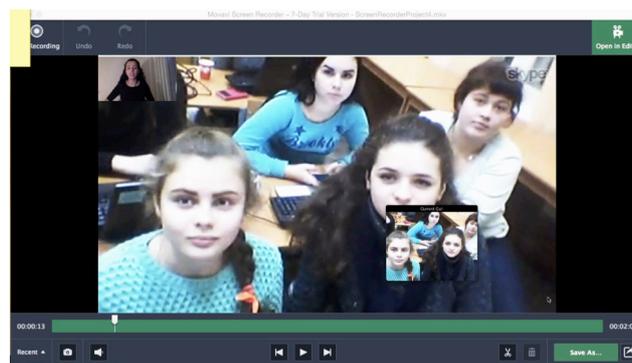
Yet the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector continues to grow across the world and a shortage of specialists is a golden opportunity for girls everywhere.

**We make sure that the girls of today are able to express themselves and be creative so that they can become the successful and dynamic women of tomorrow.**

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**Creativity in Code** project addresses the gender gap of girls in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) by training them in programming & creative digital technology.

**Learn more about the project on our website:**  
[www.emplab.org](http://www.emplab.org)

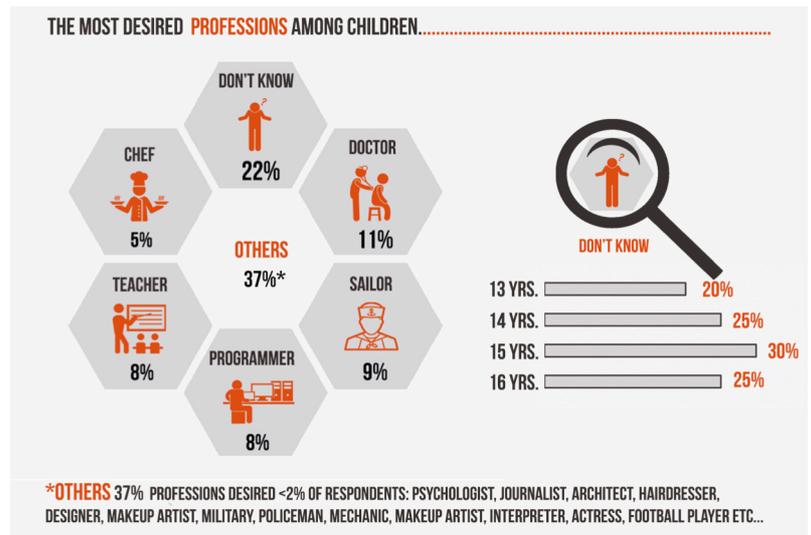


# 1. THE SURVEY ON SELF-AWARENESS, SELF-ESTEEM AND MOTIVATION

We determined from the poll that the most desired professions among children are: **doctor (11%), sailor (9%), programmer (8%) teacher (8%) and chef (5%).**

**22%** of children surveyed don't know what they want to become.

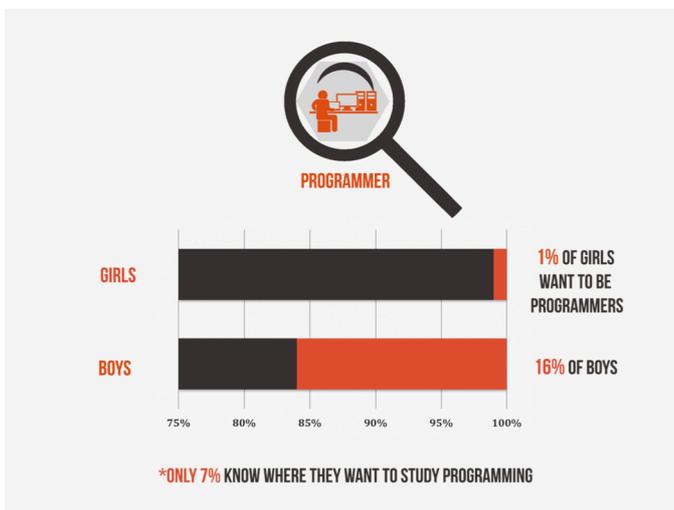
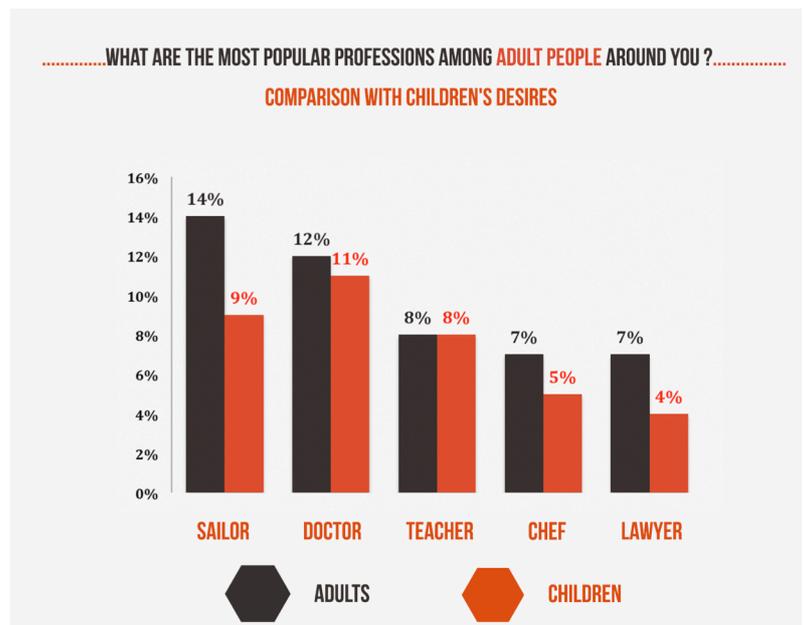
Others **37%** professions desired are: psychologist (2%), journalist (2%), architect (2%), hairdresser (2%), designer (2%), makeup artist (2%), military (2%), policeman (2%), mechanic (2%), makeup artist (2%), interpreter (2%), actor/actress (2%), football player (2%), flight attendant (2%), pharmacist (2%), prosecutor (2%), photographer (1%) film producer (1%), singer (1%), pilot (1%), blogger (0,5%) & physicist (0,5%).



When we asked 'what are the **most popular** professions for adults in your peer group' the results were the same, i.e.

- **sailor (14%),**
- **doctor (12),**
- **teacher (8%),**
- **chef (7%),**
- **lawyer (7%).**

*"It shows that in the past 20 past years nothing has changed much". Marija Musja*

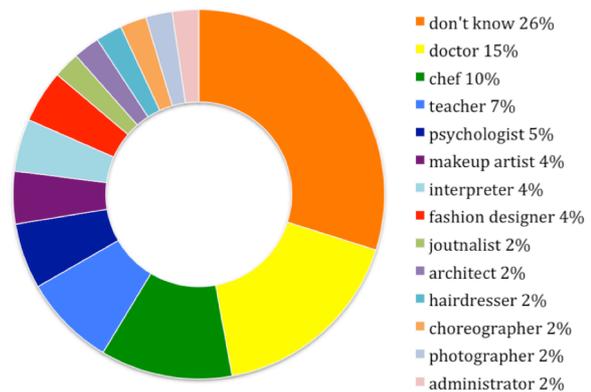


**8% of children surveyed want to become a programmer. 99% of those are boys.**

**Only 1% of girls** expressed their interest in programming.

**Only 7% of those who want to become a programmer** know where they want to study programming.

The vast majority of professions sought by girls are considered to be creativity-related such as: chef, teacher, makeup artist, interpreter, fashion designer, journalist, architect, hairdresser, choreographer, photographer.



## Girls are the key agents of change for tomorrow

One of the questions we also asked children was: If you had Aladdin's magic lamp, what would your dream be? The aim of the question was to allow children to use their imagination fully and to dream big, without letting social constraints influence their aspirations.

Here are some of the girls' answers:

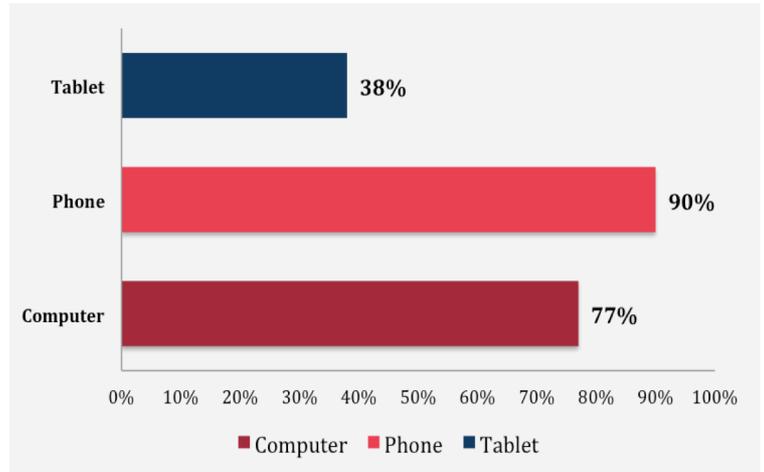
- *"I would wish for world peace; health for all children, youth and elderly; so that people would never suffer from hunger and war. I only need a genie for these reasons, otherwise, I can help people in need of my help myself."*
- *"I would wish to become an intelligent, independent person. I would want to distribute information, researching other people's lives. I would want to resolve the issues with inequality and ecological problems in my own nation."*
- *"I would become a famous doctor and would open up my own hospital. I would cure all people."*
- *I would help the homeless and children that live in the orphanages. I would want to become a singer."*
- *"I would become invisible, and would help people that cannot help themselves, also, I would eavesdrop on other people's conversations."*
- *"I would become a lawyer and would protect human rights. I would want to accomplish world peace and equality."*
- *"I would wish for all people to value and respect people which are right next to you and to value and respect you."*
- *"I would wish to become a president, though this sounds childish, I would help seriously ill people and animals that have been abused."*
- *"I would become the richest and the most influential person in the world, to accomplish world peace, to eradicate poverty, alcoholism, drug addiction, and all kinds of addiction."*
- *"I would have liked to make all people happy, to end all wars, to reunite families with the loved ones they lost."*
- *"I would make it so no animals would be homeless, all of them would be provided with a new home and a caring family."*

## 2. THE SURVEY ON USAGE OF THE INTERNET FOR SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING ONLINE:

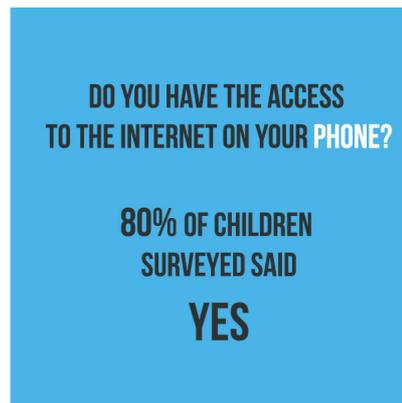
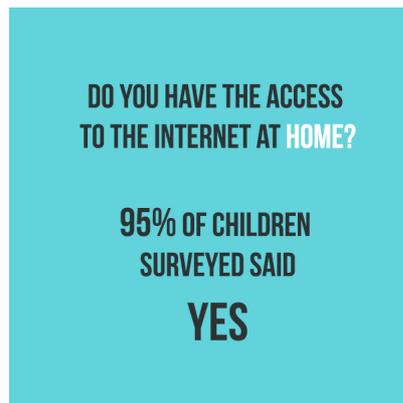
We asked children what kind of device they use everyday.

90% of children surveyed said they use the phone; 77% have a computer and 38% a tablet.

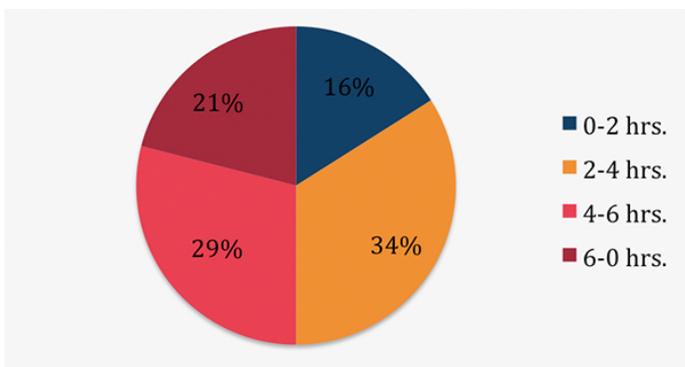
The majority of children said they use more than one device



### Access to the Internet:

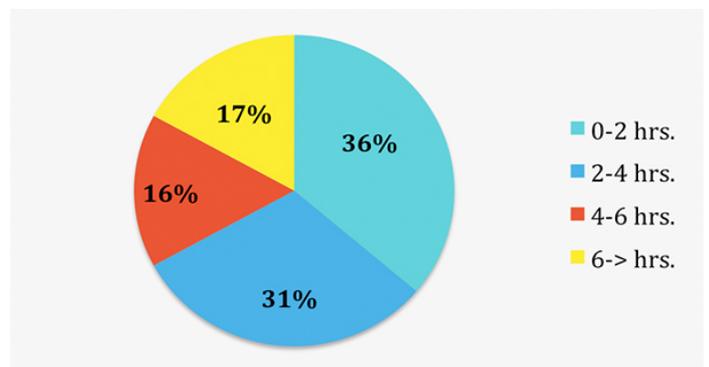


How many hours **per day** do you spend **online**?



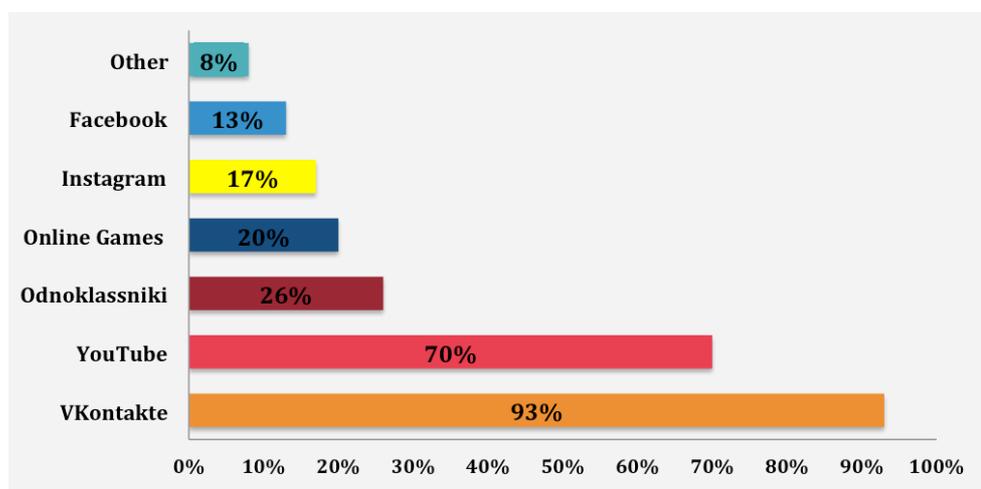
16% of children spend less than 2 hours online per day. 34% - from to 2 to 4 hours. 29% - from 4 to 6 hours. 21% said they spend online 6 and more hours per day.

How many hours **per week** do you spend online **for studying** purposes?



36% of children said they use the Internet less than 2 hours per week for studying purposes. 31% - from 2 to 4 hours. 16% - from 4 to 6 hours. 17% said 6 and more hours per week.

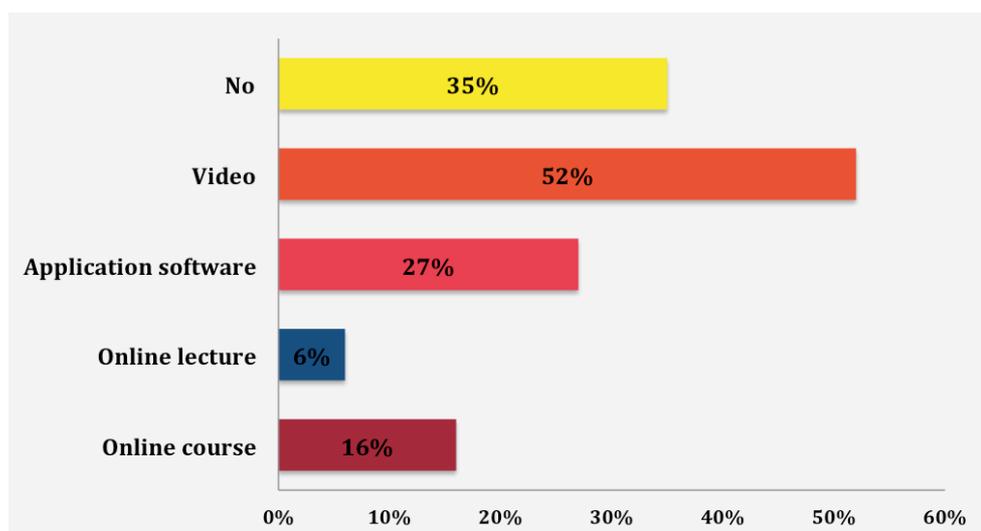
## The most popular websites among children surveyed are:



Other – 8%  
Facebook - 13%  
Instagram - 17%  
Online Games - 20%  
Odnoklassniki - 26%  
YouTube - 70%  
Vkontakte – 93%

*\*Vkontakte & Odnoklassniki - is a Russian-based online social media.*

## Do you have any experience of online learning?



- 35% of children surveyed said they have no experience of studying online.
- 52% said they have learned something new by watching videos.
- 27% have experience of learning with an application software.
- 6% of children surveyed said they watched a lecture online at least once;
- and 6% mentioned online courses.

- The most popular source of online learning are social media platforms: VKontankte, YouTube, Google, Yandex and Wikipedia.
- Only 8% have experience with e-learning platforms.

## Reference:

1. [https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption\\_perceptions\\_index\\_2016](https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016)
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[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-17-1270\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-17-1270_en.htm)
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  4. <http://www.stalkerzone.org/un-ukraine-60-population-live-poverty-line/>
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