

Volunteers' Club

The VSUES Volunteers' Club is a team of enthusiasts, united by the idea of joint creation, education, work for common welfare and daily findings in the simplest actions. The VSUES Volunteers' Club was one of the pioneer volunteer unions in Vladivostok. More than once its work got special mention from the committees for youth affairs at municipal and regional levels (The best volunteer union – 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008). Among the Club's achievements was its victory in a municipal competition called "Volunteer of the Year" for 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Club members are students of different age groups, who work with children, physically challenged and senior people in the field of children's and adults' education, public health and urban development. The volunteers organize and take the lead in a variety of projects; they are always ready to help, whether it is holiday management, or territory cleaning, or acts of charity in orphanages. They organize working groups on stage-management for University special events. Their work is not always conspicuous, but it fills a variety of social needs.

The Volunteers' Club opens its doors to new members as long as they are creative, not indifferent, and full of initiative.

Since 2002 the Club has carried out a variety of events which promote engagement of students, University staff and local community members in the areas of health protection, accident prevention, environmental protection and responsible attitude to society needs:

1. – **Ecological Events** in the form of weekend volunteering, such as Earth Day in Vladivostok, an ecological campaign named " Vladivostok Green Team", and an ecological intervention to clean up the beaches on the Egersheld Cape (Tokarevsky Lighthouse);
 - Management of working groups among students and University staff to improve city parks in the summer (Pokrovsky Park, the Park near "Varyag" plant).
2. Quarterly acts of charity in Sedanka residential care for World War II veterans, in the Orphanage № 1 branch, the Orphanage № 4, orphanages of Shkotovo, Anuchino, Mikhaylovsky areas (festivals and welfare assistance for children).
3. Charity concerts coinciding with the Day of the Elderly
4. The events aimed to prevent asocial phenomena in the society and to promote healthy lifestyle.
 - Holding "Anti-AIDS" actions coincided with World AIDS Day, and holding a Day of remembrance for AIDS victims.
 - Lecturing on youth reproductive health jointly with representatives of Primorsky region branch of the Russian Association of Gynecologists and Endocrinologists
 - Holding "VSUES – drug-free territory' actions jointly with officials of the Department of Federal Drug Control Service for Primorsky region.

Drug Abuse Prevention

Drug abuse remains a serious problem in Russia, and the addiction rate is quite high among children and teenagers. The University's experience in the field of preventive care is characterized by great breakthroughs; specifically, programs were put into effect, and one of the work areas of VSUES' Department for Youth and Social Policy is primary drug abuse prevention, including application of non-specific methods of drug abuse prevention. The work is performed at two stages of the education system – higher vocational education and intermediate vocational education. The results of this work over time show that engaging youth in University actions on drug abuse prevention makes it possible to orient youth toward a healthy lifestyle. The University's work in the field of drug abuse prevention is taken positively by both educators and other social actors engaged in primary prevention, what guarantees effective systematic approach to the solution of the drug expansion problem.

Modern methods of counter-drugs activity among teenagers, having been implemented in VSUES since 2000:

1. "VSUES – Drug-Free Territory", "Reasoned Choice" activities, within the framework of meetings with experts from the Department of Internal Affairs, Federal Drug Control Service. These activities include competitions and youth promotional events on the University's campus.
2. Questionnaire survey of students and postgraduates about drug addiction problem followed by analysis.
3. Publishing research and information on the drug problem in "Vladivostok -2000" magazine.
4. Organizational management of "Lotos" medical center and "Doveriye" social-psychological VSUES service.
5. Instituting a contract for new students in which they promise not to use drugs at the University.
6. Round table for faculty with experts in drug abuse
7. Youth contest of literary works, posters, design for badges, stickers and other media of "VSUES – drug-free territory" corporate identity.
8. "Ecstasy without XTC" youth action with the participation of youth creative teams.
9. Involvement of experts from the Department of Internal Affairs for the work in the field of drug sale suppression in the University.
10. Mandatory lectures on drug addiction in the "Life Safety" course.
11. Implementation of social projects for asocial phenomena prevention.
12. Drug abuse primary prevention trainings delivered by volunteer teachers.
13. Lectures delivered by officers from the Department for Youth and Social Policy for prevention of asocial phenomena in VSUES dormitories (drug addiction, HIV/AIDS etc.) and healthy lifestyle promotion.
14. Screening "Transit" and "Requiem for a Dream" for students in the "Underground" Theatre & Concert Complex followed by discussion in small groups.
15. Advanced training of officers in the Department for Youth and Social Policy.

"University without Prejudice" Social Project

The key problem addressed within the framework of the project, is social alienation of students of different nationalities. At present, intolerant attitudes are a global problem, which are faced throughout the world.

More than 650 foreign students from Korea, Japan, the US, Vietnam and other countries study at Vladivostok State University of Economics and Service. On arrival to Vladivostok foreign students suffer from "cultural shock" from differences in mentality, traditions, and living standards. Foreign students have difficulties with adaptation to these different conditions and cultural characteristics in Russia.

VSUES carries out extension work both with foreign and Russian students in the field of culture, customs and variations of other countries. This work area is one of the priorities for the University, and it is performed methodically.

The projects of the "University without Prejudice" program, which are implemented by students of different nationalities, help to tackle the aforementioned challenges. The project initiative group includes representatives of different nationalities. The members of the initiative group have experience in training delivery and facilitating group discussion. The project innovation is organization of joint film viewing followed by discussion.

Joint gaming, training, social films viewing, organized by the students of the University, and followed by analysis and discussion, will contribute to:

- Implementation of the projects, which are focused on social problem solving by the students, within the University.

- Youth engagement in the solution of youth and social problems (interaction with public organizations and municipal bodies)
- Rendering of help to vulnerable groups; their social adaptation and overcoming of social exclusion.