The development of modern penal legislation, including rules governing the treatment of juvenile convicts sentenced to imprisonment, is impossible without the experience of past years. Therefore, we consider it appropriate to refer to history of educational work with juvenile convicts for its improvement at this stage, search for the best means of correcting this category of persons.

The purpose of this paper is to study the development of a system of institutions for juvenile convicts in Ukraine and regulation of educational work with them during the Soviet period.

The author notes that the lack of clear scientific guidance and experience was a serious obstacle to the reform of penal institutions. It was concluded that the legal basis for the functioning of correctional institutions for juvenile convicts, which was established in the pre-revolutionary period, was abolished and replaced by another system, which, according to its creators, was considered more humane towards juveniles and minors. It was believed that most of the crimes had been done because of ignorance, and a new life in the state of workers and peasants would gradually eradicate the conditions that contributed to commitment of socially dangerous acts. However, despite the change of a type of correctional institutions for juveniles, the main means of correction as before the revolution was the combination of general and professional training with education.