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REVISED EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

1st National Report on the implementation of
the European Social Charter (revised)

submitted by

THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE

(Articles 3, 11, 14, 23 and 30
for the period 01/01/2005 – 31/12/2007)

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CYCLE 2009

**EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER
(revised)**

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THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE
for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007
on articles 3, 11, 14, 23, 30**

Article 3 – The right to safe and healthy working conditions

With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to safe and healthy working conditions, the Parties undertake, in consultation with employers' and workers' organisations:

- 1 to formulate, implement and periodically review a coherent national policy on occupational safety, occupational health and the working environment. The primary aim of this policy shall be to improve occupational safety and health and to prevent accidents and injury to health arising out of, linked with or occurring in the course of work, particularly by minimising the causes of hazards inherent in the working environment;
- 2 to issue safety and health regulations;
- 3 to provide for the enforcement of such regulations by measures of supervision;
- 4 to promote the progressive development of occupational health services for all workers with essentially preventive and advisory functions.

Appendix to Article 3§4

It is understood that for the purposes of this provision the functions, organisation and conditions of operation of these services shall be determined by national laws or regulations, collective agreements or other means appropriate to national conditions.

Information to be submitted

Article 3§1

- 1) Please describe the national policy on occupational health and safety and the consultation with employers' and workers' organisations in formulating this policy. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.
- 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the national policy in consultation with employers' and workers' organisations.
- 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

General goal of the national policy

The national policy on occupational safety is formulated by the Verkhovna Rada according to Article 43 of the Constitution of Ukraine and is aimed to provide proper, safe and healthy working conditions, prevent accidents and occupational diseases.

Relevant provisions are contained in the Labour Code of Ukraine, the special Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety No. 2694-XII of 14.10.1992, the Law of Ukraine on Mandatory State Social Insurance against an Accident at Work and Occupational Disease that Caused Loss of Working Capacity No. 1105-XIV of 23.09.1999, and regulatory legal acts adopted pursuant thereto.

Basic provisions concerning the realization of the workers' constitutional right to protection of their life and health in the labour activity process and to proper, safe and healthy working conditions are laid down in the Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety that regulates, with appropriate public authorities involved, employer-employee relations on occupational safety, occupational health and working environment, and establishes a uniform procedure for organization of occupational safety in Ukraine.

This law applies to all legal and natural persons that use, subject to laws, hired labour, to persons providing themselves with a job on the self-employed basis, and to all working persons including temporary workers and wage labourers working on the basis of a fixed-term employment contract.

The national policy on occupational safety is based on the following principles:

- priority of workers' life and health, full responsibility of the employer for provision of proper, safe and healthy working conditions;
- increasing the industrial safety level by securing complete technical control over the conditions of productions, technologies and products as well as assisting enterprises in provision of safe and harmless working conditions;
- comprehensive solution of occupational safety tasks based on national, sectoral and regional programmes on this matter as well as subject to other areas of economic and social policy, scientific and technological achievements, and environmental protection;
- social protection of workers, full indemnification of damage to persons who suffered from accidents at work and occupational diseases;
- establishing uniform occupational safety requirements for all enterprises and entrepreneurial entities regardless of ownership forms and activity areas;
- adaptation of working processes to an employee's abilities with due account for his/her health and psychological conditions;
- usage of economic methods for occupational safety management, the state's participation in financing of occupational safety measures, involvement of voluntary contributions and other revenues for these purposes, obtaining which is not in conflict with laws;
- public awareness activities, training, vocational education and skills improvement of workers on occupational safety;
- securing coordination of activities of public authorities, institutions, organizations, citizens' associations handling problems of healthcare, occupational safety and health, and cooperation and consultations between employers and workers (their representatives) as well as between all social groups in decision-making on occupational safety at the local and national levels;
- using international experience of the organization of work for improving working conditions and increasing occupational safety based on international cooperation.

Pursuant to Article 38, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, state supervision over compliance with laws and other regulatory legal acts on occupational safety is exercised by:

- a specially empowered central executive authority for occupational safety – the State Committee of Ukraine for Industrial Safety, Occupational Safety, State

Mining Supervision and State Regulation of Safe Handling of Industrial Explosive Materials (Derzhhirpromnahlyad), activities of which are directed and coordinated by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;

- a specially empowered central executive authority for radiation safety – the State Committee for Nuclear Regulation of Ukraine (Derzhatomregulyuvannya), activities of which are directed and coordinated by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;

- a specially empowered public authority for fire safety (the State Department for Fire Safety (Derzhpohzbezpeky)) being a governmental body of public administration operating within the Ministry of Ukraine for Emergencies and Protection of Population against the Chernobyl Accident Consequences (MfE) and subordinated thereto;

- a specially empowered public authority for occupational health – the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service (Derzhsanepidemsluzhba – a governmental body of public administration operating within the Ministry of Health (MoH) that exercises public sanitary and epidemiological supervision and control over compliance with provisions of sanitary legislation; conducts analysis and assessment of risks for human health and life, substantiation of risk management measures, public sanitary and epidemiological examination, surveys, investigations, laboratory and instrumental studies and testing as well as conducts sanitary, hygienic, toxicological, epidemiological and other assessments of human life activity environment; examines, evaluates and forecasts public health indicators depending on the life activity environment conditions; determines factors adversely affecting human health; analyses the sanitary and epidemiological situation.

Activities of the bodies of state supervision over occupational safety are regulated by the Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety No. 2694-XII of 14.10.1992, the Law of Ukraine on Usage of Nuclear Energy and Radiation Safety No. 39/95-VR of 8.02.1995, the Law of Ukraine on Fire Safety No. 3745-XII of 17.12.1993, the Law of Ukraine on Securing the Population's Sanitary and Epidemiological Wellbeing No. 4004-XII of 24.02.1994, other regulatory legal acts and regulations on these bodies approved by the President of Ukraine or by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

A specially empowered central executive authority for labour and social policy (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy) ensures state expert examination of labour conditions with involvement of the state sanitary and epidemiological service, exercises control over certification of workplaces for their compliance with regulatory legal acts on occupational safety (Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine *On the procedure of certification of workplaces for labour conditions* No. 442 of 1.08.1992).

A uniform scientific and technological policy on occupational safety in various economic sectors is pursued by ministries and other central executive authorities that develop and implement sectoral programmes for the improvement of occupational safety, occupational health and working environment with involvement of trade unions, provide methodological guidance to enterprises in a sector concerning occupational safety, conclude agreements on the improvement of

labour conditions and occupational safety with corresponding sectoral trade unions, etc.

At the regional level, enforcement of laws and implementation of the national policy on occupational safety within corresponding territories is accomplished by local executive authorities (local state administrations) and local governments, namely:

- they compile, with participation of representatives of trade unions, employers, Derzhirpromnahlyad and the Fund of Social Insurance against Accidents, and secure implementation of regional programmes for the improvement of occupational safety, occupational health and working environment as well as of occupational safety activities within regional programmes of socio-economic and cultural development;

- secure social protection of employees, particularly engaged in works with harmful and dangerous working conditions, take measures to certify workplaces for compliance with regulatory legal acts on occupational safety, etc.

State-level integrated management of occupational safety, realization of national policy, and exercise of control over performance of the functions of public administration of occupational safety by ministries, other central executive authorities, Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local state administrations and local governments is performed by a specially empowered central executive authority for occupational safety supervision – the State Committee of Ukraine for Industrial Safety, Occupational Safety and Mining Supervision (Derzhirpromnahlyad).

Measures taken to implement the national policy in consultation with employers' and workers' organisations.

Pursuant to Article 32, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, to coordinate activities of the bodies of public administration of occupational safety, a National Council for the Population's Safe Vital Activity is established and working (hereinafter referred to as the National Council), chaired by a Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine. The National Council comprises heads of the bodies of state supervision over occupational safety, central executive authorities, the Fund of Social Insurance against Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases, the Pension Fund, scientific and research institutions, representatives of trade unions and employers.

The National Council:

- develops and implements measures to create an integral system of public administration of human life protection at work and prevention of domestic traumatism, and submits proposals for improvement of the system to the Cabinet of Ministers for consideration;
- organises and ensures control over compliance with legislative acts and decisions of the Government of Ukraine, organises and ensures elaboration of the National Programme and draft laws relating to the implementation of the state policy on the population's safe vital activity, and submits proposals on improvement of legislation on these matters to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, etc.

In order to improve the system of securing occupational safety, occupational health and preventing accidents, the national policy and strategy in this field is regularly evaluated and periodically reviewed in the light of changing risks.

Annually, based on monitoring of the state of occupational safety, occupational health and working environment, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, together with Derzhirpromnahlyad, central executive authorities and social partners determine priorities of activity in the field of occupational safety.

The list of priorities includes, inter alia:

- strengthening prevention of accidents, occupational diseases and injuries at work, and reducing the risk level of their emergence;
- improving the mechanism of public administration in the field of occupational safety and industrial safety;
- implementing economic levers of management in the field of occupational safety, stimulating economic entities to create safe working conditions, etc.

The main objective of the national policy and determined priorities of activity of central executive authorities consists of promoting the development and maintenance, on the national level, of the culture of prevention in occupational safety and occupational health.

To implement these priorities, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine annually issues an order to approve *the Action Plan to implement priorities of activity of central executive authorities*.

Organization of the system of industrial hazard prevention

Organization of the system of industrial hazard prevention at the enterprise level

The culture of prevention of industrial hazard according to the Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety assumes that all the partners – executive authorities, employers and workers are involved in the process of industrial hazard prevention within the clearly defined bounds of responsibilities according to a determined structure.

Pursuant to Article 13, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, an employer shall be required to create, at the workplace in each structural unit, working conditions according to regulatory legal acts as well as ensure compliance with statutory requirements on workers' rights in the field of occupational safety.

To that end, the employer ensures functioning of a system of occupational safety management, namely:

- creates appropriate services and appoints officials that ensure settlement of specific matters of occupational safety, approves instructions on their duties, rights and responsibility for performance of the functions assigned to them, and controls compliance with the instructions (Order by the State Committee of Ukraine for Occupational Safety Supervision *On the approval of the Model Regulations on the Occupational Safety Service* No. 1526/10125 of 01.2004);

- develops, with involvement of the parties, a draft collective agreement and, upon its approval by a general meeting (conference) of the working collective and

signing by the parties' authorized representatives, implements comprehensive measures to achieve established rates and to increase the existing occupational safety level.

A collective agreement is concluded between the owner or a body authorized thereby, on the side, and one or more trade union organisations or other bodies authorised by the working collective for representation, or, if no such body is present, representatives of workers elected and authorized by the working collective, on the other side.

A collective agreement or accord is concluded pursuant to the Law of Ukraine on Collective Agreements and Accords No. 3356-XII of 1.07.1993 based on obligations assumed by the parties to promote regulation of labour relations and socio-economic interests of workers and owners.

According to Article 20, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, in a collective agreement/accord the parties provide for securing social guarantees to workers in the field of occupational safety at a level no lower than prescribed by laws; specify their responsibilities; list comprehensive measures to achieve the established rates of occupational safety and health and working environment, to increase an existing occupational safety level, to prevent occupational traumatism, occupational diseases, accidents and fires, and define amounts and sources of funding of the above-mentioned measures.

To fulfill a comprehensive action plan for achieving established rates and increasing the existing level of occupational safety, ways of minimising risk emergence factors in the working environment are defined.

If it is impossible to eliminate risks peculiar to works with harmful or dangerous working conditions or to reduce such risks to a sufficient degree, the above-mentioned action plan also includes the employer's guarantees for workers engaged in such works, establishment of compensations and benefits, including those not provided for in legislation (changes in the organisation of production and labour, reduced working hours, additional paid leaves), necessary means of collective and individual protection, sanitary conditions, treatment and prevention activities, work rate setting and labour remuneration, establishment of the form, system and amounts of wages and other labour payments (extra payments, bonuses, premiums and the like), etc.

Provisions of a collective agreement apply to all workers of the enterprise regardless of their being trade union members, and are binding both on the owner and a body authorised thereby and on the enterprise workers.

To secure efficient functioning of the system of occupational safety management, the employer also:

- ensures implementation of necessary preventive measures according to changing circumstances;

- introduces leading-edge technologies, scientific and technological achievements, means of production mechanisation and automation, ergonomic requirements, positive experience of occupational safety, etc.;

- ensures proper maintenance of buildings and structures, production equipment and facilities, and monitor their technical conditions;

- ensures elimination of reasons leading to accidents or occupational diseases, and implementation of preventive measures prescribed by commissions proceeding from investigation of the reasons;
- organises occupational safety audits, laboratory research of working conditions, assessment of technical conditions of equipment and facilities, workplace certification for compliance with regulatory legal acts on occupational safety as per the procedure and terms specified by laws, and takes measures based on their results to eliminate unsafe and harmless production factors;
- develops and approves regulations, instructions, and other acts on occupational safety that are valid within an enterprise and establish rules of work and conduct of workers in the enterprise territory, in production areas, construction sites and workplaces according to regulatory legal acts on occupational safety; provides regulatory legal acts and enterprise acts on occupational safety to workers free of charge;
- exercises control over an employee's compliance with manufacturing processes, rules of handling of machines, mechanisms, equipment and other means of production, usage of collective and individual protection means, performance of work according to occupational safety requirements;
- organises advocacy of safe working methods and cooperation with workers in the field of occupational safety;
- takes urgent measures to render help to injured persons, involves professional search and rescue teams as required in case of accidents or emergencies in the enterprise.

According to this article, workers engaged in works with harmful and dangerous working conditions as well as in works connected with pollution or unfavourable meteorological conditions, are provided, free of charge at established rates, with protective clothes, protective footwear and other individual protection means as well as detergents and disinfectants. Workers engaged in one-shot jobs related to elimination of consequences of accidents, natural disasters, etc., and not specified in their employment contracts must be provided with the above-mentioned means.

Employers submit an annual report on working conditions and occupational safety according to a form of the Uniform State System of Recording Indicators of Working Conditions and Occupational Safety that is approved by the Order of the State Committee of Ukraine for Occupational Safety Supervision (Derzhnahl'yadohoronpratsi) No. 27 dated 31.03.1994.

Indicators of the uniform state system are used in examination of the working conditions and occupational safety situation as well as in elaboration of comprehensive measures to achieve established standards and increase the existing level of occupational safety.

The employer is directly liable for any violation of the above-listed requirements.

The Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety provides for guarantees of the workers' rights to occupational safety:

- when entering into an employment contract with an employer;
- when working;
- benefits and compensations for hard and harmful working conditions;

- provision with protective clothes, other means of individual protection, detergents and disinfectants;
- recovery of damages in case of an injury to a worker's health or in case of a worker's death;
- women's occupational safety;
- occupational safety for minors;
- occupational safety for disabled persons.

However, the law also establishes the worker's obligations concerning compliance with requirements specified in regulatory legal acts on occupational safety, the acts being integral part of the occupational safety management system at enterprises.

The worker is required to:

- take care of his personal safety and health as well as of safety and health of people around in the process of doing any work or staying in the enterprise territory;
- know and comply with requirements specified in regulatory legal acts on occupational safety, rules of handling of machines, mechanisms, equipment and other means of production, and use collective and individual protection means;
- undergo preliminary and periodic medical examinations according to the procedure established by law.

The worker is directly liable for any violation of the above-listed requirements.

In order to render methodological assistance to employers in creation of such a system, Derzhhirpromnahlyad developed *Recommendations on the Design of an Occupational Safety Management System at an Enterprise* that include a procedure of development and implementation of an OSMS, a model structure of the regulations, and estimated contents of its sections (main principles of an occupational safety policy, functions of the occupational safety management system, tasks and ways to handle them) (Order by the Ministry of Emergencies No. 398 of 27.06.2006, revised Order by Derzhhirpromnahlyad No. 33 of 22.02.2008).

The occupational safety management system at enterprises (hereinafter referred to as OSMS) is organised in a way to secure efficient control of occupational production hazards for prevention of any possible consequences.

The OSMS Regulations as well as job descriptions and occupational safety instructions per profession and job category establish general and specific rights and responsibilities of each worker and his powers in the field of occupational safety.

Organisational measures securing the OSMS operation provide for influence from enterprise workers' public associations (occupational safety commission, employees' representatives, trade unions, etc.).

The OSMS structure and tasks, the procedure of interaction among structural units on occupational safety matters, frequency and procedure of internal inspections, responsibility of service and unit managers and workers are stated in the enterprise OSMS Regulations approved by the employer's order or direction.

The occupational safety management system at enterprises is a component of the general system of occupational safety management on sectoral, regional, and national levels. Requirements in the Regulations are binding on all wage workers.

Organization of a system of state prevention and supervision

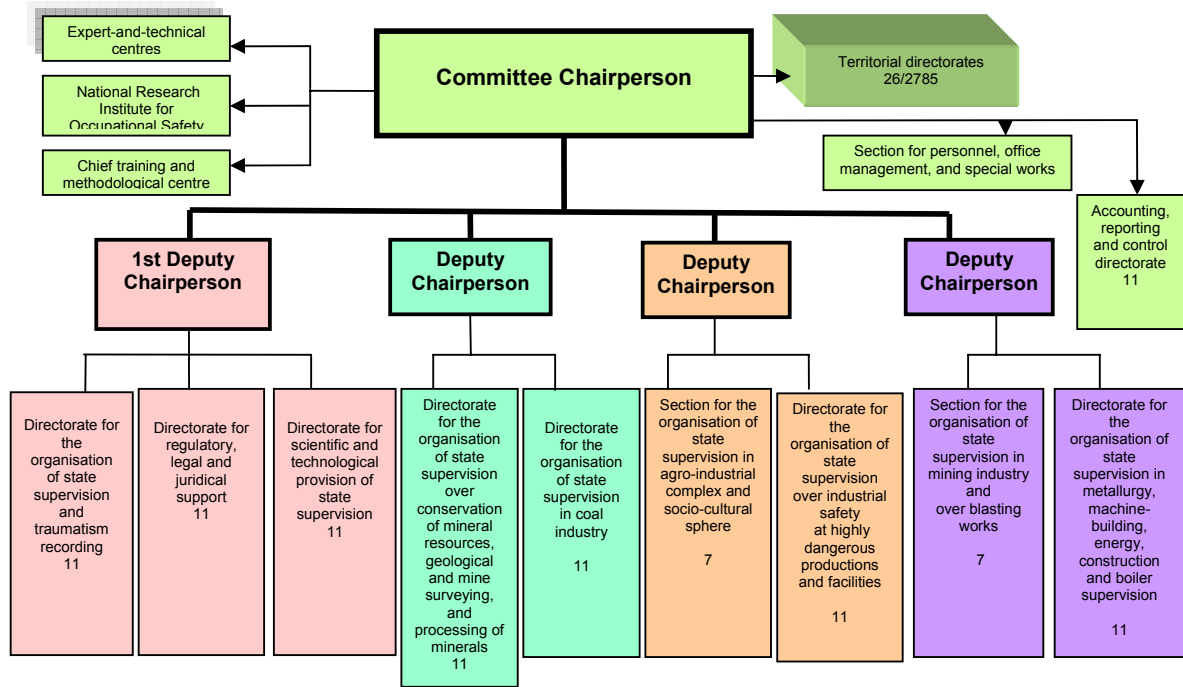
Derzhhirpromnahlyad, according to its functions, promotes shaping of an occupational safety culture through integrated occupational safety management and verification of occupational safety efficiency on various levels by means of exercising state supervision over the occupational safety situation, namely:

- coordinates work of ministries, other central executive authorities, the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea;
- local state administrations;
- local governments;
- enterprises and other economic entities in the field of occupational safety, occupational health, and working environment.

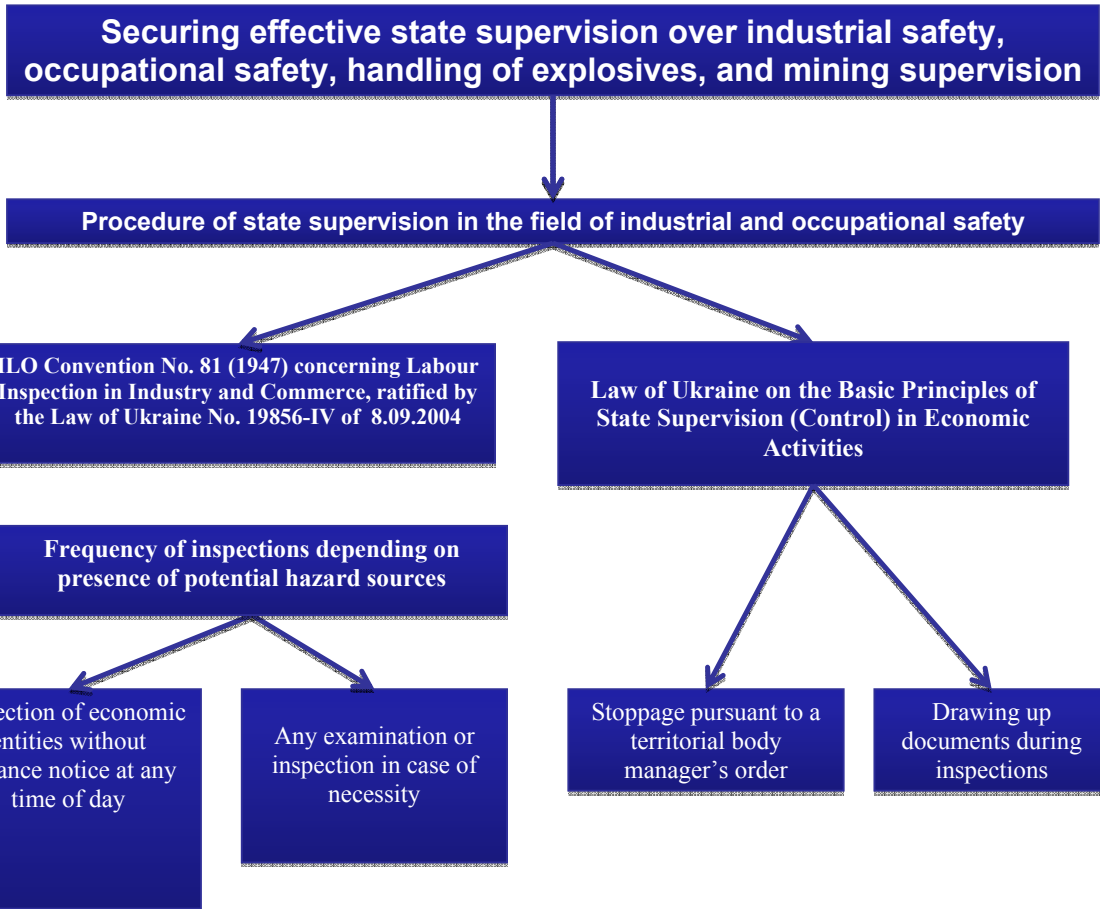
State supervision is exercised according to the Law of Ukraine on the Basic Principles of State Supervision (Control) in Economic Activities No. 877-V of 5.04.2007 or according to provisions of an international treaty, namely according to the International Labour Organisation Convention No. 81 (1947) concerning Labour Inspection in Industry and Commerce ratified by the Law of Ukraine No. 19856-IV of 8.09.2004.

The State Committee of Ukraine for Industrial Safety, Occupational Safety and Mining Supervision

<p>Main functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exercising state supervision over industrial safety and occupational safety, mining supervision, supervision over conservation of mineral resources and over handling of industrial explosive materials; • investigating accidents and injuries at work: group, lethal and with grave consequences; analysing reasons, and preparing proposals to prevent them; • carrying out technical investigation of circumstances and reasons of accidents related to domestic gas usage, etc. 	<p>Powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inspect economic entities on any kind of activity; • stop works, productions, facilities, or enterprises; • impose fines; • submit to prosecutor’s offices materials on inaptitude of enterprise managers and officials, etc.
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System total – 2900 including
 Central office – 115
 Territorial directorates - 2785



State supervision is organised as per the sectoral principle taking specificity of each individual sector into account.

State supervision over industrial and occupational safety in Ukraine is exercised by 26 territorial directorates situated in all regions of Ukraine and by 114 Derzhhirpromnahlyad inspectorates. The system includes 2900 persons including 115 in the central office and 2785 in territorial directorates.

According to 1-ND form reports on Derzhhirpromnahlyad's supervisory activities, the supervision indicators are as follows:

	2005	2006	2007
Average number of working staff, persons:	16831316	16593294	16774574
Number of supervised enterprises	595882	768286	744364
Number of revealed breaches to occupational safety regulations	2435841	2466966	2450446
Number of suspensions of works and facilities	241252	252776	257820
Number of fines imposed on workers	81795	93470	105504

When exercising state supervision, Derzhhirpromnahlyad officials (including state inspectors) have the right to:

- visit, without hindrance, supervised enterprises (entities) or productions of natural persons who use, according to laws, hired labour, and inspect, in the presence of the employer or representative thereof, compliance with legislation on the matters assigned to their competence;

- obtain from the employer and officials written or oral explanations; conclusions of expert examinations or audit; materials and information on relevant matters; reports on the level and status of preventive activities, reasons of breaches of law and measures taken to eliminate them;

- issue, in due procedure, binding orders (instructions) on elimination of any breach or shortcoming in the field of occupational safety, conservation of mineral resources and safe operation of highly dangerous facilities to the employers, managers and other officials of the legal and natural persons who use, according to laws, hired labour, to ministries and other central executive authorities, Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local state administrations and local governments;

- prohibit, stop, terminate, or restrict: operation of enterprises, separate productions, shops, divisions, workplaces, buildings, facilities, premises; manufacture and operation of machines, mechanisms, equipment, transport and other means of production; performance of certain works; usage of new hazardous substances; sale of products; as well as cancel or terminate authorisations and licenses issued thereby until any breach endangering workers' life has been eliminated;

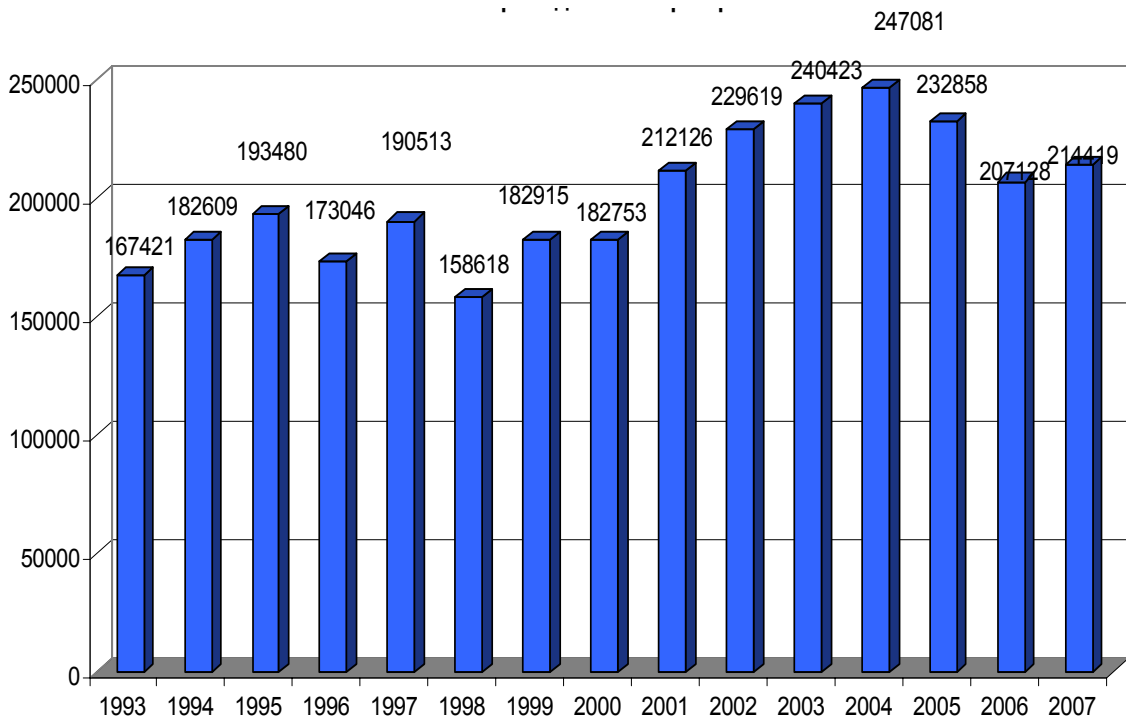
- hold workers guilty of breaches of occupation safety laws administratively liable;

- send employers representations on inaptitude of some officials, and submit materials to prosecutor's offices to hold such persons liable in accordance with laws.

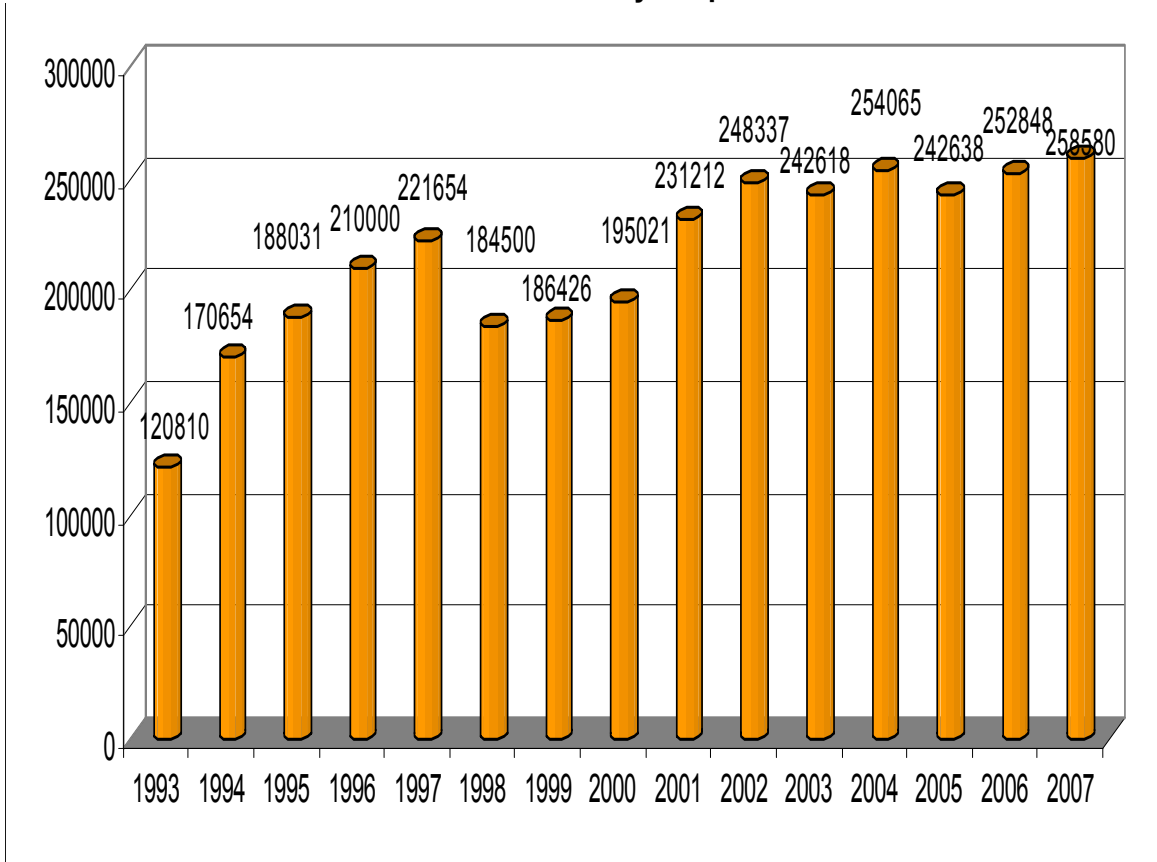
Derzhirpromnahlyad has developed a unified methodology for management of state supervision organisation in all branches of industry.

The Regulations on the procedure of state supervision organisation (Order No. 92 of 30.03.2004) and the methodological recommendations on state supervision over safe performance of work at enterprises of relevant economic sectors have been designed to assist the state inspector, inspecting officials and the employer in conducting internal audit of occupational safety at his enterprise without assistance, and to help workers in having the employer provide safe working conditions.

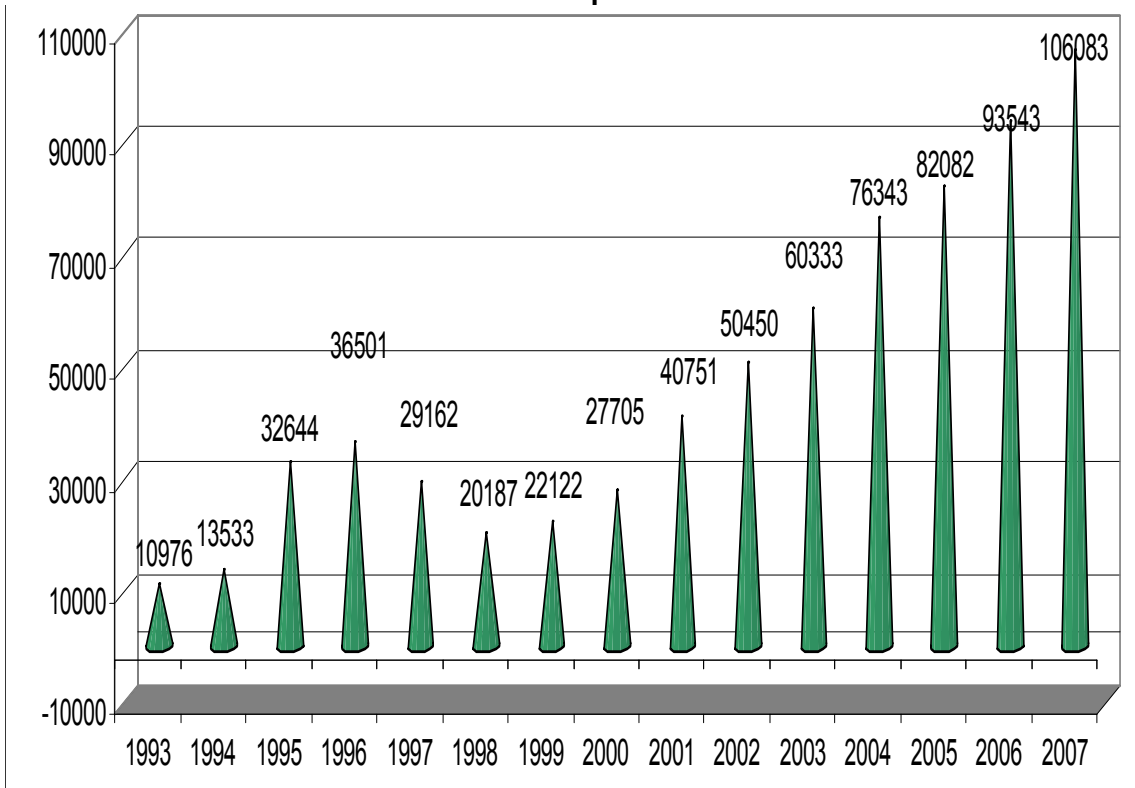
Number of inspections conducted



Number of work/facility suspensions



Number of fines imposed on workers



Improving the system of occupational safety and health support (research and training)

Scientific and technological expert examination

Basic and applied scientific research on the problems of occupational safety and occupational hazard identification is organized in the framework of a national programme and other programmes on these matters and conducted by research institutes (including the National Research Institute for Industrial and Occupational Safety), design and engineering institutions and organizations, higher educational institutions, and specialists according to Article 37, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety.

To increase efficiency of scientific and technological support for the state supervision over occupational and industrial safety, to organize a single analytical space concerning technical conditions of equipment with increased hazard operated at enterprises of the country as well as concerning its impact upon the risk of accidents or injuries at work, and to master modern methods and tools of scientific, technological, expert and educational activities, an Integrated System of Scientific and Technological Support for State Supervision has been created, which combines scientific, expert and technical potentials of the National Research Institute for Industrial and Occupational Safety (NRIIOS) and of the Committee's expert-and-technical centres.

Apart from the Committee's expert-and-technical centres, there are a great number of enterprises of various ownership forms working to conduct, according to authorizations issued, technical examination and expert survey of increased-hazard equipment.

Most considerable of them include expert examination of projects, expert examination prior to issuance of an authorization for works involving increased hazard, and expert inspection of equipment.

Expert organizations record technical conditions of increased-hazard equipment thereby enabling an inspector to determine the safety status at a concrete enterprise. Based on expert examination, supervisory bodies issue authorizations for works and register technological transport. An expert is one of the central figures in investigation of large-scale accidents and settlement of issues on industrial safety conditions at facilities.

For the purpose of implementing the national policy on occupational safety to increase the industrial safety level by means of ensuring complete technical control over the conditions of productions, technologies and products as well as assisting enterprises in provision of safe working conditions, Derzhhirpromnahlyad established a system of scientific and technological support for state supervision over occupational and industrial safety that consists of a network of expert technical centres, Prombezpeka Ukrainian Centre of Compliance Certification state enterprise, and the Certification Centre Kyiv state enterprise.

A procedure of assessment of specialists entitled to carry out technical inspection and/or expert examination of increased-hazard equipment, which was approved by the Order No. 16 of 20.12.06, has been implemented. The Order No. 211 of 20.09.07 on identification of authorized organizations has been issued.

A meeting of the commission for identification of authorized organizations has been held, and a register of authorised organisations has been updated. Six organisations were identified as authorised in 2007.

The Order No. 153 of 6.07.07 approved the Regulations of the Integrated System of Scientific and Technological Support for State Supervision.

Subject to European legislation, the Committee developed requirements to such organizations, which prevents dishonest and unqualified entities from conducting expert examinations (Derzhhirpromhahlyad's Order No. 195 of 3.09.2007 *On the approval of the Requirements to specialised and expert organisations provided for in the Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 687 of 26.05.2004*).

The safety level at our enterprises greatly depends on how scrupulously and completely technical expert examination will be conducted. The Committee therefore works continuously to create a regulatory framework governing the procedure of such examinations to let all expert organizations work according to uniform rules, on even terms, transparently, and with proper quality.

To handle these matters the Committee established an advisory and consulting body – the Council for policy-making in expert examination of industrial and occupational safety. It consists of representatives of all stakeholders: heads of private and public expert organizations, officials of supervisory bodies, representatives of trade unions and employers.

The Order of Derzhhirpromnahlyad No. 199 of 11.09.07 appointed NRIIOS as a leading organization in scientific and technological support for state supervision, established a Council of heads of the System's entities, and approved the Regulations of the Council.

A Scientific and Technological Council of Derzhhirpromnahlyad has been created.

A network of expert-and-technical centres consists of 28 enterprises situated in all regions of Ukraine, which have a modern resource and technical base and skilled experienced specialists carrying out more than 15 basic expert activities.

In 2007 alone, Derzhhirpromnahlyad's central office issued 3751 authorizations for works and operation of increased-hazard equipment.

More than 500 enterprises are included in the register of specialized and expert organizations.

Training on occupational safety

Requirements for study of occupational safety basics, training and skills improvement of occupational safety specialists, with account for production specificity of respective economic entities, and the procedure of training and knowledge tests of officials and workers, including those engaged in increased-hazard works, on occupational safety are stated in Article 18, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety.

Training on occupational safety is regulated by the *Model regulations on the procedure of training and knowledge tests on occupational safety* approved by the Order of Derzhnahlyadohoronpratsi No. 15 of 26.01.2005 and registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine under No. 231/10511 on 15.02.2005. The

regulations are aimed to implement in Ukraine a system of continuous training on officials and other workers on the matters of occupational safety.

Workers, when taking on and during employment, as well as pupils, cadets, learners and students, during work study and vocational training, undergo briefings, trainings, and knowledge tests on occupational safety.

An enterprise-level commission that tests knowledge on occupational safety includes specialists of the occupational safety service, representatives of legal, production, and technical services, a trade union representative, or a person for occupational safety authorized by workers.

Workers, including officials, who did not undergo training, briefing and knowledge tests on occupational safety, are not allowed to work.

Derzhhirpromnahlyad pays great attention to study requirements of new laws and regulatory legal acts on occupational safety.

Training for representatives of central and local executive authorities, enterprise managers and officials of enterprises having more than 1000 working staff is provided by the Derzhhirpromnahlyad's Chief Training and Methodological Centre; training for other persons and experts on occupational safety is provided by the Derzhhirpromnahlyad's expert technical centres, sectoral and regional training centres.

To provide training on occupational safety for enterprise officials and specialists a network of educational institutions was established including about 200 units.

Training of state inspectors on supervision over industrial and occupational safety and training on industrial and occupational safety for specialists of Derzhhirpromnahlyad's central office have been provided; subject plans and curricula on industrial and occupational safety, model curricula, and methodological recommendations (within the limits of competence) have been approved; work experience has been provided to internship of management workers and specialists of territorial directorates and sectoral inspectors in respective structural units of Derzhhirpromnahlyad's central office; advisory and methodological aid has been rendered to educational institutions (enterprise units) on industrial and occupational safety.

Officials and specialists of Derzhhirpromnahlyad and its structural units took part in organization and holding of nine scientific and practical conferences, three scientific and technological council meetings, and more than thirty meeting workshops. Derzhhirpromnahlyad takes part in annual meetings of the Interstate Council for Industrial Safety as Ukraine's plenipotentiary representative.

About 148 thousand officials and specialists have undergone training on occupational safety in Derzhhirpromnahlyad's training centres during 2005-2007 - Chief Training and Methodological Centre (CTMC) and regional expert-and-technical centres (ETC) – including 40920 in 2005, 50350 in 2006, and 56590 in 2007.

INFORMATION
on occupational safety training in 2005-2007

№		2005		2006		2007		Total 2005-2007	
		ETC	CTMC	ETC	CTMC	ETC	CTMC	ETC	CTMC
1.	Total number of persons trained on occupational safety (officials and specialists): including:	34406	3476	43130	4359	48460	4919	125996	12754
	- managers	9635	845	12080	935	13571	1050	35286	2830
	- chief engineers	3574	326	4230	335	4753	376	8757	1037
	- specialists on occupational safety	3760	886	4710	1110	5290	1248	13760	3244
	- other specialists	17437	1419	22110	1979	24846	2245	64393	5643
2.	Technical experts		1029		1044	-	1173	-	3246
3.	Specialists entitled to conduct mining works	1350	50	1200	29	1176	26	3726	105
4.	Officials and specialists on occupational safety supervision (Derzhhirpromnahlyad), total: including:	-	609	-	597	-	836	-	2042
	- heads of structural units and their deputies, inspectorate heads and their deputies	-	110	-	112	-	126	-	348
	- state inspectors	-	459	-	445	-	670	-	1574
	- specialists	-	40	-	40	-	40	-	120
	TOTAL:	35756	5164	44330	6029	49636	6954	129722	18147
	Overall:	40920		50359		56590		147869	
5.	Psychophysiological examination of workers engaged in highly dangerous works	8445	793	9745	591	10949	603	29139	1987
	TOTAL:	44201	5957	54075	6622	60585	7557	158861	20136
	Overall:	50158		60697		68142		178997	

Public awareness

According to Article 23, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, bodies of public administration of occupational safety inform Ukraine's population and workers in due course on the realisation of the national policy on occupational safety, on the implementation of national, sectoral or regional programmes on these subjects, on the rate and reasons of accidents, occupational traumatism and occupational diseases, and on the implementation of their decisions concerning workers' life and health protection.

This information is provided on the national, sectoral and regional levels; the number of the injured due to accidents, occupational diseases and emergencies at work, including fatal cases, is specified.

Mass media publications include *Okhorona Pratsi (Occupational Safety)* magazine, *Technopolis* magazine, *Okhorona Pratsi ta Sotsialne Strakhuvannya (Occupational Safety and Social Insurance)* and *Bezpeka Zhyttediyalnosti (Safe Vital Activities)* regional thematic newspapers.

Most important decisions made by Derzhhirpromnahlyad as well as main events in Derzhhirpromnahlyad, its territorial directorates and ETCs are regularly covered in its official website.

Overall, 755 information messages on Derzhhirpromnahlyad's activities and more than 2000 on the work of its territorial directorates were prepared.

Consultations between the bodies of state supervision over occupational safety, public authorities, trade union representatives, employers' and workers' organisations concerning measures to improve occupational safety and health

National and sectoral levels

One of the principles of national policy on occupational safety consists of ensuring coordination of activities of public authorities, institutions, organisations and citizens' associations handling problems of healthcare, occupational health and safety, as well as cooperation and consultations between employers and workers (their representatives) and between all social groups in decision-making on occupational safety at the local and national levels.

Occupational safety and labour protection is a component of the General Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, all-Ukrainian associations of employers' and workers' organisations, and all-Ukrainian trade unions and trade union associations, based on which the above-listed parties cooperate. Appropriate agreements are implemented and occupational safety and labour protection issues are addressed at the sectoral and regional levels.

According to the Law of Ukraine on Mandatory State Social Insurance against an Accident at Work and Occupational Health that Caused Loss of Working Capacity, the Fund of Social Insurance against Accidents is managed on the parity basis by the State, representatives of insured persons, and employers' representatives.

Besides, according to Articles 28 and 33, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, competences of the specially empowered central executive

authority for occupational safety include development, with the participation of ministries, other central executive authorities, the Fund of Social Insurance against Accidents, all-Ukrainian associations of employers and trade unions, of a nationwide programme for improvement of occupational safety and health and working environment, and supervision over its implementation, as well as adoption of new regulatory legal acts on occupational safety, review and revocation of existing ones.

Based on the Agreement on Cooperation between Derzhhirpromnahlyad and the Trade Unions Federation of Ukraine dated 22 March 2006, measures were taken, in cooperation with oblast trade union associations, aimed to reveal facts of concealment of accidents at work, investigate and register them.

To address in a coordinated way the matters in competence of the State Committee for Industrial Safety, Occupational Safety and Mining Supervision, to discuss the most important areas of its activity on the collective and free basis, a Derzhhirpromnahlyad's Board was formed, being an advisory body.

The Board includes representatives of central executive authorities, the Trade Unions Federation of Ukraine, the Employers' Confederation of Ukraine, other public organisations, creative unions, enterprises, scientific institutions, and other organisations, which ensures not only trilateral cooperation between public authorities, employers and workers aiming to find ways for improvement of working conditions and environment, but also coordination of activities and cooperation on basic matters of occupational safety and prevention of industrial hazards.

During the period between 2005 through 2007, 36 meetings of the Derzhhirpromnahlyad's Board were held; representatives of the Committee took part in joint board meetings of other executive authorities, the Trade Unions Federation of Ukraine, the Employers' Confederation of Ukraine, joint forums, etc.

Enterprise level

Trade unions and associations thereof in the person of their elective bodies and representatives exercise, pursuant to Article 41 of the Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety and to provisions of the Law of Ukraine on Trade Unions, Their Rights and Activity Guarantees, public control over the compliance with occupational safety laws, provision of safe and harmless working conditions, creation of proper production and sanitary conditions, provision of workers with protective clothes, protective footwear, and other means of individual and collective protection. If workers' life or health is endangered, trade unions have the right to require the employer to stop work immediately at workplaces, in production areas, workshops and other structural units, or at enterprises or productions of natural persons using, subject to laws, hired labour, overall for the period necessary to eliminate any threat to workers' life or health.

If there is no trade union at an enterprise, public control over compliance with occupational safety laws is exercised by a person authorised by wage workers.

Article 20, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, defines that matters of occupational safety regulation are included in a collective agreement/accord to be concluded between the owner or a body authorised thereby, on the side, and one

or more trade unions or bodies authorised by the working collective for representation, or, if no such body is present, representatives of workers elected and authorised by the working collective as per the Law of Ukraine on Collective Agreements and Accords, on the other side.

In order to ensure workers' proportional participation in addressing any matters of occupational safety and health and working environment, a commission for occupational safety may be established at an enterprise by its working collective's decision pursuant to Article 16, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety.

The commission consists of representatives of the employer and of the trade union, as well as includes a person authorised by wage workers, specialists on occupational safety and health, and representatives of other enterprise services according to the Model Regulations of the Enterprise Commission for Occupational Safety approved by Derzhhirpromnahlyad's Order No. 55 of 21.03.2007 and registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 4.04.2007 under No. 311/13578. The commission's decisions are of recommendatory character.

In a collective agreement/accord the parties provide for securing social guarantees to workers in the field of occupational safety at a level no lower than prescribed by laws; specify their responsibilities; list comprehensive measures to achieve the established rates of occupational safety and health and working environment, to increase an existing occupational safety level, to prevent occupational traumatism, occupational diseases, accidents and fires; and define amounts and sources of funding of the above-mentioned measures (Article 20, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety).

To draw attention of society, central and local executive authorities, economic entities, associations of trade unions, and employers and workers to the need of solving problems of industrial and occupational safety in Ukraine, events on the occasion of the Occupational Safety Day are held in Ukraine every year. Information resulting from the events is published in central and regional mass media and placed on the Committee's website to be brought to notice of all economic entities and workers.

Considering multifaceted activities of Derzhhirpromnahlyad (integrated management of occupational safety, industrial safety, mining supervision), Derzhhirpromnahlyad takes active part in elaboration of a draft Concept and Nationwide Programme for the Formation and Implementation of a Safety Culture Concept in all areas of vital activity.

Risks that require regulation

Creation, replacement and maintenance of workplaces – production equipment

According to Article 21, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, designing of production facilities as well as development of new technology, means of production, workers' collective and individual protective means must take occupational safety requirements into account. Building, reconstruction, technical re-equipment, etc. of production facilities, engineering infrastructures, or social or cultural facilities, manufacture and implementation of technologies, new for the given enterprise, and the above-mentioned means is not allowed without

prior expert examination of a production design/documentation for their compliance with regulatory legal acts on occupational safety.

Manufacturing processes, machines, mechanisms, equipment, means of transports, chemical substances and compounds thereof, and other unsafe products purchased from abroad are allowed for operation (usage) only provided expert examination has been conducted for their compliance with regulatory legal acts on occupational safety that are in force in the territory of Ukraine.

Usage of harmful substances in production is not allowed if they have not undergone hygienic regulation and state registration.

Requirements concerning safety and safe operation of manufacturing processes, machines, mechanisms, equipment, means of transport, chemical substances and compounds thereof, and other unsafe products are contained in a number of state standards and regulations.

The number of increased-hazard facilities in Ukraine was 6495 as of 1 January 2008.

Harmful and poisonous substances and materials

Chemical

In the production process, enterprises use dangerous chemical substances. The most potentially dangerous of them are 8 productions of explosive agents and utilisation of unusable ammunition, 12 oil processing and 5 gas processing plants, 11 productions of organic synthesis products, 44 large-capacity productions of inorganic substances (ammonia, chlorine, acids, fertilizers), and more than 2500 facilities using chlorine and ammonia.

Main priorities of supervision activities in chemical, oil-processing and petrochemical complexes include supervision over the following: production of explosive agents and utilisation of conventional ammunition types; production of inorganic substances and mineral fertilisers; industrial safety of productions using chlorine and ammonia; productions using dangerous chemical substances and equipment with expired useful life; compliance with safety requirements during repair and routine maintenance at chemical productions; performance of gas-dangerous work at water supply and sewerage facilities; development of safety declarations for increased-hazard facilities and their insurance; amending and supplementing the CMU Resolution No. 956 of 11.07.2002 *On identification and declaration of safety of increased-hazard facilities*.

Safety regulations for utilisation of conventional ammunition types registered with the Ministry of Justice on 1.10.2007 under No. 1131/143498 were revised and developed during 2005-2007. Their task is to establish uniform occupational safety requirements for all enterprises engaged in utilisation of conventional ammunition types; to increase the industrial safety level at the above-mentioned enterprises; to assist enterprises in creation of safe and harmless working conditions.

Work was carried out to update the State Register of Increased-Hazard Facilities. As of 25.12.2007, 6545 increased-hazard facilities were on the register.

In June 2007, a meeting workshop was held on increase of efficiency of state supervision over industrial safety of chemical industry.

In the framework of the Nationwide Programme for Adaptation of Ukrainian Legislation to the European Union Legislation approved by the Law of Ukraine No. 1629-IV of 18.03.2004, the National Research Institute for Industrial and Occupational Safety plans to elaborate, in cooperation with the Institute of Labour Medicine, a regulatory legal act on occupational safety called *Requirements to employers on protection of workers against harmful impact of chemical substances*.

This act is necessary to implement into Ukrainian legislation the provisions of the EU Directive 98/24/EC on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work, with account for the provisions of Directives 2000/39/EC and 91/322/EEC establishing the lists of indicative exposure limit values of harmful chemical substances at work.

Implementation of provisions of the regulatory legal act suggested for elaboration must provide the level of protection of workers from harmless impact of chemical agents, in line with that existing in the European Union, with corresponding decrease of the occupational disease rate caused by that impact.

The Committee's Scientific and Technological Council held a meeting on the "Industrial safety in using the technology of shooting operations involving emulsion explosive agents (Ukrainite PP-2B, EPA, Anemix, Emonite).

Asbestos

State supervision over industrial and occupational safety at asbestos cement industry enterprises (production of construction materials) is exercised by Derzhhirpromnahlyad inspectors pursuant to the following regulatory legal acts:

- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers No. 1631 of 15 October 2003 concerning the requirement on an entrepreneurial entity's having Derzhhirpromnahlyad's authorisation for commencement (continuation) of increased-hazard works or of operation of increased-hazard facilities, machines, mechanisms, and equipment;

- Regulatory legal act on occupational safety (NPAOP) 26.65-1.01-82 *Occupational safety and industrial health standards in asbestos cement industry*.

According to existing regulatory legal acts, supervision activities during inspections focus on:

- proper maintenance of production-purpose buildings and structures including warehouse space and facilities for storage and transportation of asbestos and cement;

- availability of a proper manufacturing process (regulation) and organization of production in accordance with the process;

- compliance with requirements of operation of production-purpose equipment including increased-hazard facilities;

- availability and usage of individual protective means (protective clothes, protective footwear, and individual protective means for respiratory and hearing organs) and collective protective means (including ventilation and aspiration (dust removal) systems)) in the production area.

Safe usage of asbestos in Ukraine according to provisions of the ILO Convention 162 and Recommendation 172, hygienic assessment of working conditions at Ukrainian enterprises producing asbestos cement articles, epidemiological study of carcinogenic risks in asbestos cement production is in the competence of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the Institute of Labour Medicine of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine.

Article 3§2

- 1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.
- 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework in consultation with employers' and workers' organisations.

The national system of occupational safety in Ukraine includes legislative and regulatory legal acts on occupational safety. As far back as 1992, Ukraine was one of the first Soviet states to pass the Law on the Occupational Safety. In 2002, a new wording of this Law was passed that was completely adapted to the European Union requirements.

According to Article 3, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, occupational safety legislation consists of this Law, the Labour Code of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine on Mandatory State Social Insurance against an Accident at Work and Occupational Health that Caused Loss of Working Capacity, and regulatory legal acts adopted pursuant thereto.

The regulatory legal framework on occupational safety is being improved all the time, and regulatory legal acts are being developed subject to international and European standards.

The Index of the State Register of regulatory legal acts on occupational safety includes 1150 acts (100%) as of 2008 including 827 (72%) acts on occupational safety adopted before 1991.

According to the Regulations on the State Register of regulatory legal acts on occupational safety approved by Derzhhirpromnahlyad's Order No. 151 of 8.06.2004 registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 23.06.2004 under No. 778/9377, regulatory legal acts are included according to the principle of compliance to the classifier of economic activities.

The total number of regulatory legal acts for economic activities is 1005 (including 145 covering a few activities):

- Agriculture – 19
- Forestry – 9
- Fishing industry – 11
- Coal and peat production – 57
- Hydrocarbon production – 12
- Metal ore production – 2
- Non-metallic minerals production – 10

Food industry – 36	
Tobacco industry – 1	
Textile industry – 12	
Production of clothes and furs – 2	
Production of leather and leather footwear – 6	
Wood production and processing – 4	
Pulp-and-paper industry – 2	
Publishing – 6	
By-product coke making and oil processing industry – 10	
Chemical production – 74	
Rubber and plastic industry – 27	
Production of non-metal mineral items – 38	
Metallurgy – 78	
Conservation of mineral resources – 49	
Metal working – 116	
Production of machines and equipment – 20	
Production of electric machines and equipment - 5	
Production of equipment for radio, television and communications – 46	
Production of medical, measuring, optical devices and tools – 5	
Production of transport equipment – 43	
Production of furniture, toys and other items – 5	
Waste processing – 3	
Production of electric power, gas and heat – 20	
Heat production and distribution – 6	
Production and distribution of electric power – 14	
Water collection, treatment and distribution – 1	
Construction – 43	
Wholesale trade and trade mediation – 1	
Retail trade – 6	
Public catering – 4	
Transport and transport services – 132	
Post and communications – 12	
Financial mediation – 3	
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- On improvement of public administration in the field of combating HIV/AIDS and TB in Ukraine, 30.11.2005, № 1674/2005 (as amended by the President's Decree № 46/2007 of 26.01.07);	42
- On additional urgent measures to counteract HIV/AIDS in Ukraine, 12.12.2007, № 1208/2007;	42
- On the decision of the Council for National Security and Defence of Ukraine dated 18 January 2006 "On measures to increase efficiency of combating dangerous contagious diseases", 14.02.2006, № 132/2006);	42
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Article 3§3

1) Please describe the enforcement of safety and health regulations. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

2) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics (for example Eurostat data) or any other relevant information on the number of accidents at work, including fatal accidents, in absolute figures as well as in terms of standardised accident rates per 100,000 workers; on the number of health and safety inspection visits by the labour inspectorate and the proportion of workers and companies covered by the inspections; and on the number of breaches to health and safety regulations and the nature and type of sanctions imposed.

State supervision and the industrial safety status

(measures to supervise compliance with occupational safety and health regulations)

During the period between 2005 and 2007, Derzhhirpromnahlyad has inspected:

- central executive authorities – to check their performance of the functions of public administration of occupational safety at the sectoral level;
- the executive board of the Fund of Social Insurance against Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases of Ukraine and its territorial units (on the annual basis) for implementation of preventive measures aimed to remove harmful and hazardous production factors, prevent accidents at work, occupational diseases and other threats to health of the insured caused by working conditions;

- oblast state administrations for performance of their functions of public administration of occupational safety at the regional level;
- Derzhhirpromnahlyad's territorial units for organization and exercise of state supervision by them.

The following organizations belonging to Derzhhirpromnahlyad's scope of management have been inspected:

- activities and executive discipline of expert-and-technical centers, Prombezpeka Ukrainian Centre of Compliance Certification state enterprise, and the Certification Centre Kyiv state enterprise; the Chief Training and Methodological Centre of Occupational Safety for organization and provision of training on occupational safety; quality of work on issuance of authorizations by Derzhhirpromnahlyad's territorial units; meetings have been held with executive officials of those territorial directorates; expert-and-technical centres for carrying out expert activities in production of chemical industry and in other sectors.

Total number of *comprehensive inspections* alone, which were conducted in 2007 by Derzhhirpromnahlyad and its territorial units, is 2374.

In 2007 alone, *62 targeted inspections* and *more than 214 thousand operational surveys* of supervised enterprises were conducted in various industries and in the non-manufacturing sphere, in organizations and institutions. In case of a threat to workers' life and health, Derzhhirpromnahlyad's officials suspended operation of more than 258 thousand entities and performance of works. More than 106 thousand workers, including over 25 thousand enterprise managers, were held administratively liable. The sum of fines exceeded UAH 8.6 million.

Findings of the inspections have been summarized. Measures have been taken to improve the status of industrial safety, occupational safety and conservation of mineral resources at Ukrainian enterprises.

Summaries based on results of the inspections are sent to the following bodies for responding and taking measures to eliminate drawbacks revealed: Derzhhirpromnahlyad's territorial directorates, Derzhhirpromnahlyad's expert-and-technical centres, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Ministry of Coal Industry, Ministry of Fuel and Energy, Security Service of Ukraine, Ministry of Transport, Naftogaz Ukraine NJSC, Ministry of Agrarian Policy, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Industrial Policy, Ministry for Family, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, individual enterprises and institutions.

Derzhhirpromnahlyad conducts continuous analysis of supervisory activities of its territorial units, accident rates and occupational traumatism in regions of Ukraine, prepares and submits daily, weekly and monthly operational and analytical information on occupational traumatism and results of supervisory activities to the Secretariat of the President of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers, and Derzhhirpromnahlyad's management.

In cooperation with NRIIOS, Derzhhirpromnahlyad developed programmes for information provision of Derzhhirpromnahlyad's system concerning computer-aided registration of traumatism and supervisory functions.

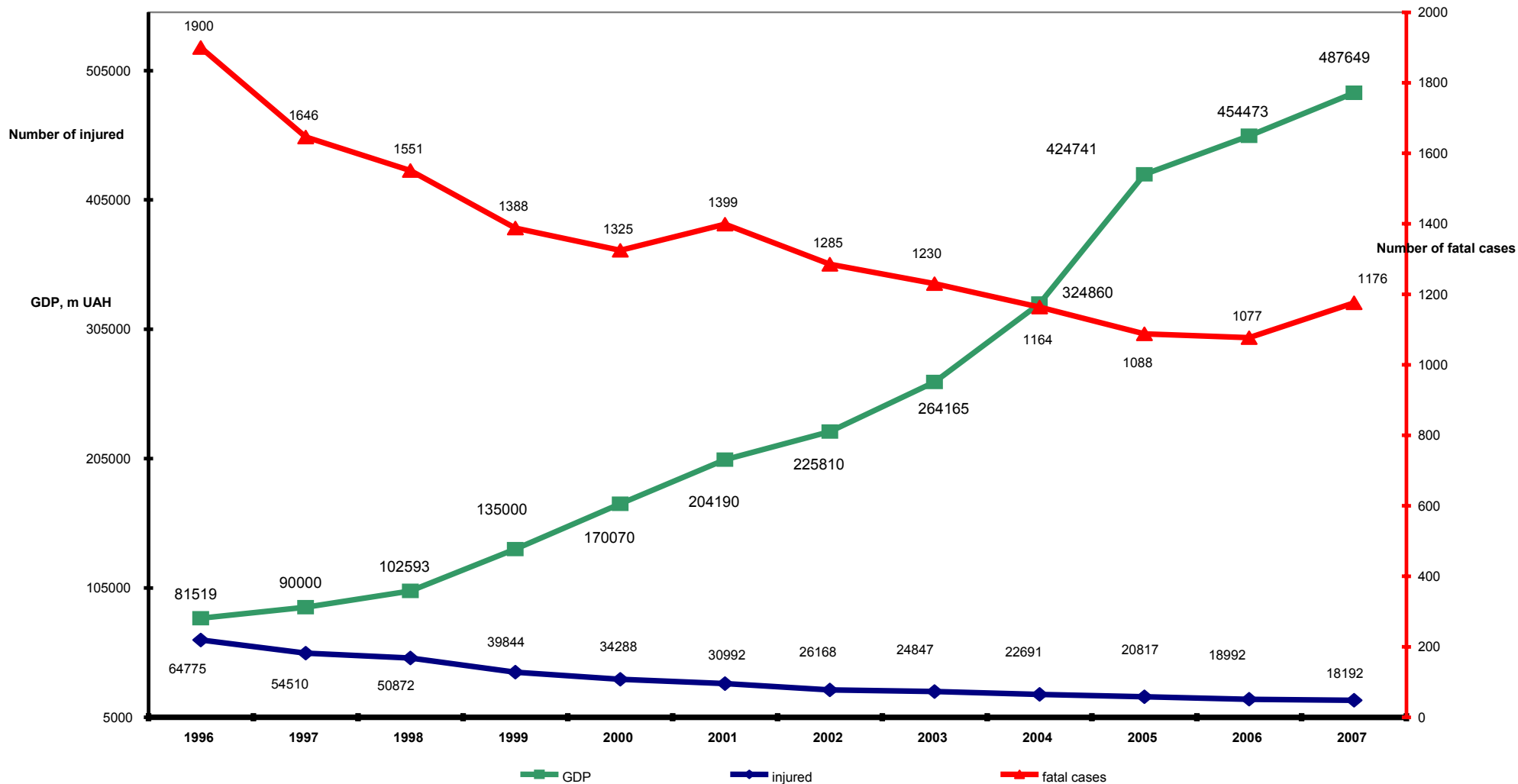
During the reporting period, based on examination, analysis and summarization of findings of the inspections conducted, supervisory activities of sectoral inspectorates of territorial units, accident rates and occupational traumatism at supervised enterprises, Derzhhirpromnahlyad provided continuous methodological and practical assistance to its territorial directorates to increase efficiency of state supervision, improve existing and introduce new forms and methods of state supervision over industrial and occupational safety.

In 2007, Derzhhirpromnahlyad implemented measures to realise tasks in the framework of the Year of Fight against Hiding of Accidents at Work declared by the Presidium of the Trade Unions Federation of Ukraine. Derzhhirpromnahlyad has revealed 155 such cases during the year. Territorial units, under Derzhhirpromnahlyad's permanent control, carried out checks on this matter during enterprise inspections. If any hidden accident at work was found, appropriate measures were taken to investigate the case and hold liable the officials who violated requirements of the *Procedure for investigation and registration of accidents at work, occupational diseases, and breakdowns in production* approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 1112 dated 25.08.2004.

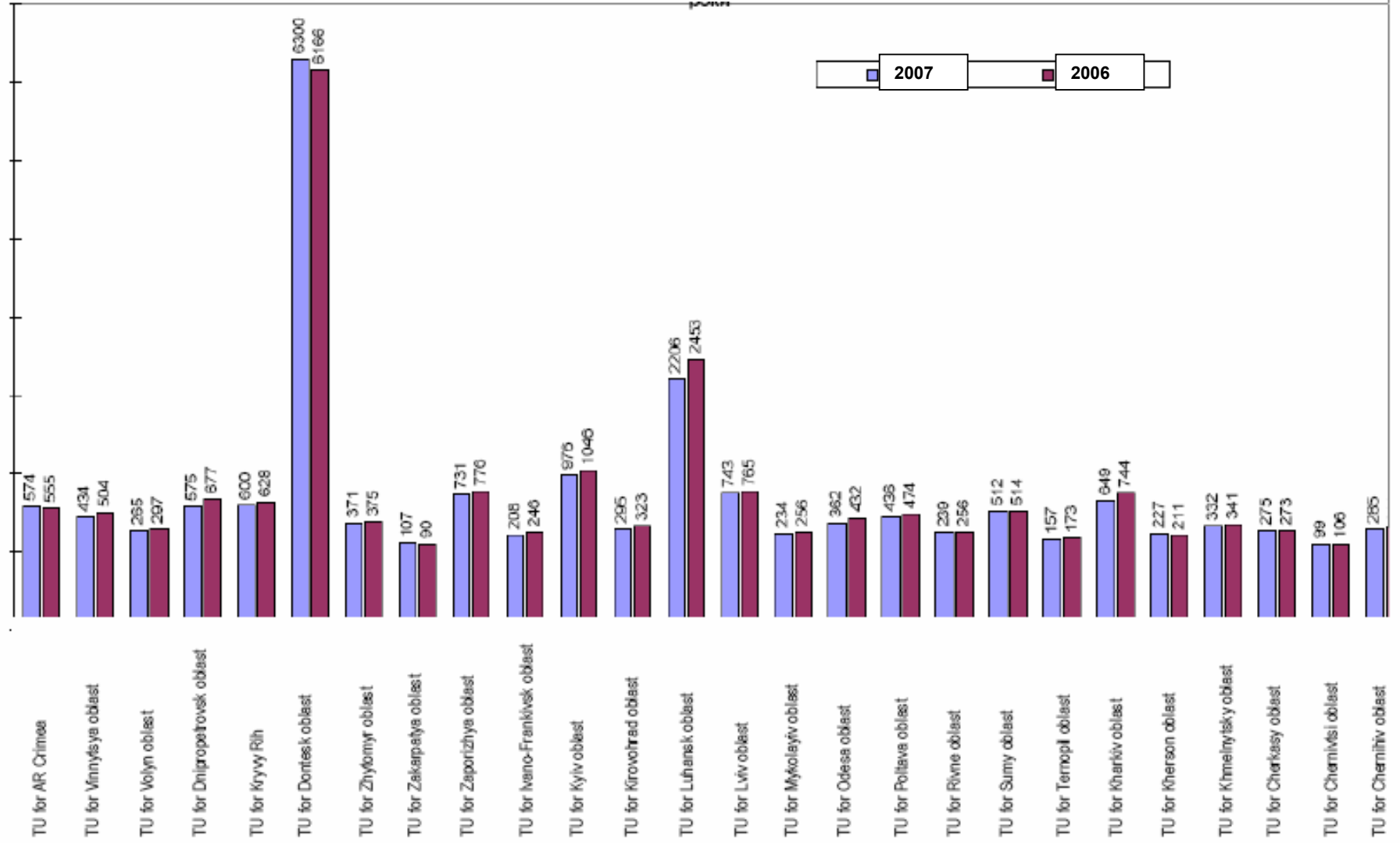
Strengthening state supervision over industrial and occupational safety, improving the regulatory legal framework, implementing preventive measures aimed to eliminate harmful production factors, improving working conditions, strengthening employers' liability for shortcomings in organization of occupational safety management should secure preconditions for the realization of the workers' constitutional right to proper, safe and healthy working conditions, and for prevention of accidents at work and occupational diseases.

According to data collected by Derzhhirpromnahlyad, 18192 persons were injured at work during 2007 including 1176 with fatal end. In 2007, 11 emergencies happened in production, that being 57.1% more than in 2006. Almost 74% of all fatal accidents happened in such economic activities as coal industry (22.8%), agro-industrial complex (16.3%), social and cultural sphere (12.4%), construction (13.2%), and transport (9.)%

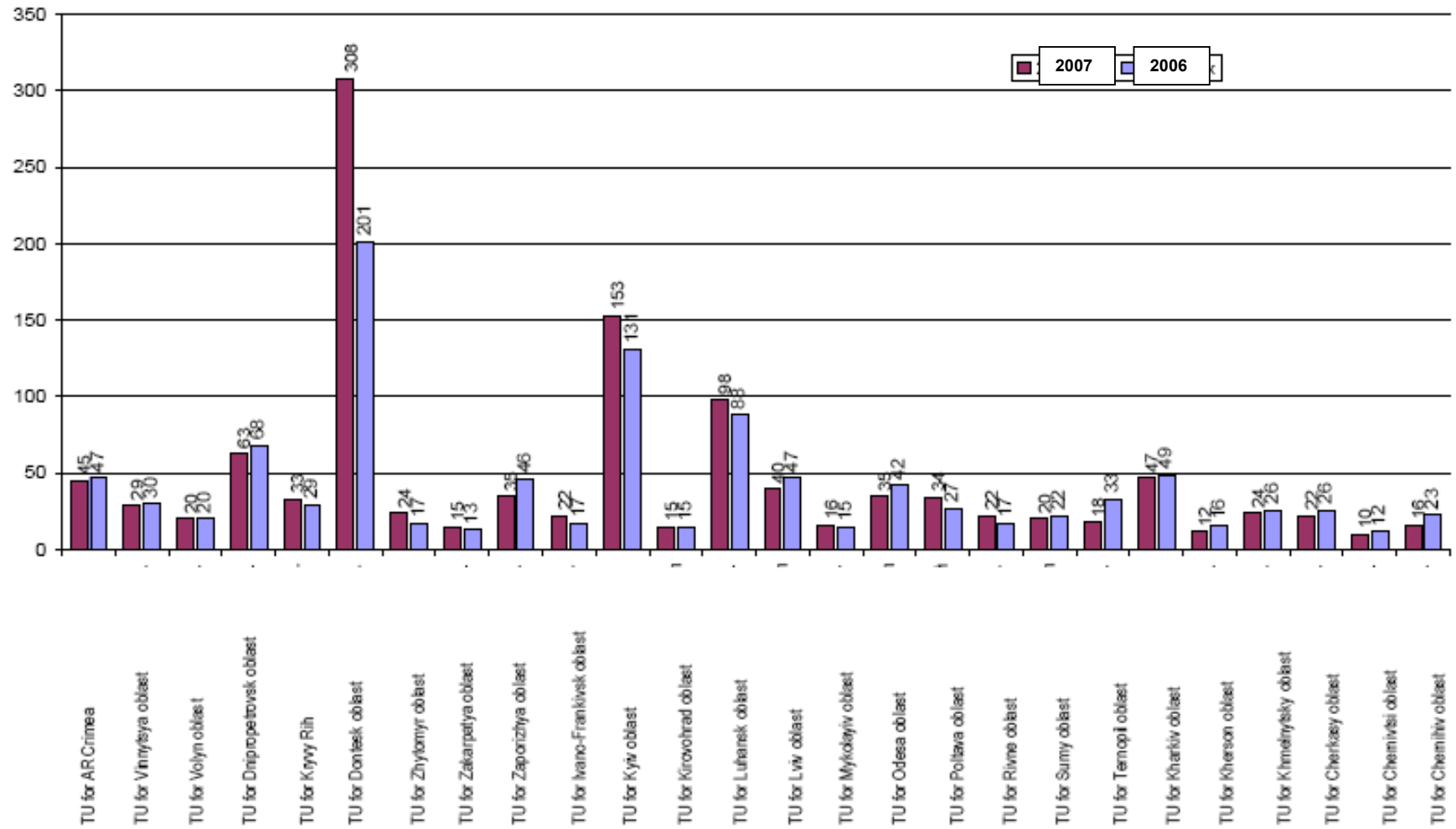
Dynamics of gross domestic product and occupational traumatism



Occupational traumatism in oblasts of Ukraine during 2006-2007



Fatal occupational traumatism in oblasts of Ukraine during 2006-2007



INFORMATION
on number of accidents at work including fatal cases, and accident rates per 1000 employed, from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007

Economic activity	2007	Total number of persons injured at work				2006	Total number of persons injured at work				2005	Total number of persons injured at work			
	no. of employed, thousand	Total	R	Incl. fatal	R	thousand persons	Total	R	Incl. fatal	R	thousand persons	Total	R	Incl. fatal	R
Coal industry	396.63	6569	16.56	268	0.68	413.961	6749	16.30	168	0.41	341.41	7778	22.78	156	0.46
Metal and non-metal mining industry	225.114	538	2.39	37	0.16	239.83	556	2.32	26	0.11	247.295	567	2.29	39	0.16
Metallurgy	529.339	966	1.82	48	0.09	521.953	1098	2.10	42	0.08	551.431	1028	1.86	45	0.08
Machine-building	1146.619	2053	1.79	48	0.04	1318.555	2026	1.54	61	0.05	1360.384	2353	1.73	67	0.05
Construction	934.259	1260	1.35	155	0.17	984.807	1176	1.19	152	0.15	904.543	1214	1.34	130	0.14
Wood processing industry	181.82	221	1.22	10	0.05	150.572	206	1.37	6	0.04	128.562	119	0.93	2	0.02
Chemical industry	377.296	351	0.93	28	0.07	381.462	459	1.20	20	0.05	376.914	448	1.19	28	0.07
Transport	717.291	622	0.87	83	0.12	750.931	691	0.92	78	0.10	697.453	820	1.18	91	0.13
Power engineering	420.799	336	0.80	36	0.09	415.061	353	0.85	38	0.09	370.865	376	1.01	32	0.09
Boiler supervision, lifting structures	97.846	73	0.746	28	0.2862	106.652	111	1.041	31	0.2907	95.477	88	0.922	35	0.3666
Agro-industrial complex	3285.248	2165	0.66	192	0.06	3818.979	2479	0.65	197	0.05	4064.907	2908	0.72	237	0.06
Housing and communal and domestic services	647.683	375	0.58	38	0.06	468.057	402	0.86	36	0.08	499.47	456	0.91	35	0.07
Communications	285.067	164	0.58	18	0.06	313.114	161	0.51	19	0.06	276.146	164	0.59	20	0.07
Rail transport	409.078	221	0.54	23	0.06	438.879	210	0.48	21	0.05	445.941	134	0.30	10	0.02
Oil and gas production and geology	100.71	41	0.41	9	0.09	130.355	53	0.41	5	0.04	121.945	74	0.61	15	0.12
Light and textile industries	244.122	94	0.39	5	0.02	231.155	102	0.44	9	0.04	197.072	459	2.33	2	0.01
Social and cultural activities	6373.081	2036	0.32	146	0.02	6501.296	2045	0.31	154	0.02	5829.125	1736	0.30	138	0.02
Gas industry	418.619	107	0.26	4	0.01	394.884	115	0.29	14	0.04	322.376	95	0.29	6	0.02
T o t a l	16790.621	18192	1.08	1176	0.07	17580.503	18992	1.08	1077	0.06	16831.316	20817	1.24	1088	0.06

R here is the rate of frequency of accidents that is equal to the ratio between the number of accidents divided by the number of employed

In the overall structure of reasons of both group and individual fatal accidents at work, 66% consists of reasons of organisational nature, dominating among which are breaches of labour and production discipline (38.1% of the total number of accidents for organisational reasons), violations of traffic rules (11.0%), breaches of manufacturing processes (8.8%), unsatisfactory functioning, imperfection or lack of an occupational safety management system (6.9%). It should be noted that some positive dynamics of reduction in the occupational traumatism rate has been observed in Ukraine in recent years. On the whole, the general traumatism rate decreased by 800 cases, or by 4.2%, in 2007 as compared to 2006.

For the time being in Ukraine, there is one fatal case per almost 14000 employed. General traumatism has decreased almost twice in recent six years.

Based on results of occupational traumatism analysis in various economic sectors, in order to decrease the occupational traumatism rate, Derzhhirpromnahlyad periodically introduces a local special regime of state supervision that assumes daily and hourly supervision; in particular, it applies in coal mining, construction, or in some regions.

Most enterprises in coal mining, power engineering, transport, and construction are still working under an unacceptable risk.

Driving these sectors, especially coal industry, out of the unacceptable traumatism category to an at least satisfactory level is the main priority of state supervision.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved, with executive order No. 858-r of 11.06.2008, *the Plan of immediate measures to increase the level of occupational safety and labour protection at coal-mining and mine-building enterprises* that suggests, inter alia:

- improving production efficiency and providing favourable conditions for safe work of miners and their social protection;
- intensifying interaction with trade union through joint activities to address problematic issue related to improvement of the occupational safety and labour protection level, etc.

Social significance of the creation of safe and accident-free working conditions in coal industry and prevention of accidents and injuries to workers has long since ceased to be an internal sectoral problem and has achieved the nationwide scope.

Implementation of the national policy concerning priority importance of workers' life and health in production activities of coal mining enterprises.

Implementation of the national policy in the field of industrial and occupational safety at Ukrainian coal mining enterprises is effected by three mining districts, 24 state and 6 specialized inspectorates in six oblasts: Volyn, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk, Lviv, and Kirovohrad.

State supervision in coal industry is exercised by 331 state inspectors at the industry's 1100 enterprises, institutions and organizations of various ownership forms where total of 392.4 thousand people are working.

The Committee radically revised its approaches to organization of supervisory activities. New forms and methods of state supervision have been introduced. Each mine is assigned a state inspector, and most hazardous mines are assigned 2-3 inspectors each, which allowed strengthening supervision over the operation of high-loaded walls with high gas content having coal production limitations in terms of the gas factor, as well as enabled daily monitoring of the above-said coal walls.

Work is going on to introduce new forms and methods of organization of state supervision at non-state-owned enterprises by means of group surveys and crosschecks. Materials concerning organization of state supervision at supervised coal-mining enterprises are considered by meetings of Derzhhirpromnahlyad's board, and the work conducted is assessed.

Permanent control covers matters of industrial safety at coal mines including securing occupational safety during processing of coal beds at 1000 m and deeper.

To provide safe and healthy working conditions and prevent breakdowns, accidents and occupational diseases, a system of occupational safety management operates in coal industry that consists of a set of measures aimed to preserve workers' life and health. The system's main objective is to organize safe and harmless production processes by means of systematic implementation of regulatory legal acts, scientific, technological, organizational and preventive measures on occupational safety at every enterprise and at each workplace.

Mining district officials checked in 2006-2007 performance of measures for implementation of *the Programme of increasing occupational safety at coal mining and mine building enterprises approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 374 of 29.03.96 including for implementation of a comprehensive programme of coal bed degasification and introduction of an efficient system of methane explosion prevention*, strengthening prevention of accidents at work, reducing the risk of breakdowns at coal mining enterprises, and providing enterprises with breakdown prevention means.

Operational and comprehensive surveys of supervised coal mining enterprises included, in particular, supervision over timely annually medical examinations of workers, availability and staffing of surface and underground medical posts, as well as over mine managers' compliance with relevant recommendations stated in inspection reports.

Mine ventilation and powder-gas regimes as well as operation of high-loaded walls where high-gas-content coal beds are processed is monitored on the online, daily, monthly and quarterly basis.

To improve the safety level at coal mines, a new joint \$1.4 m Ukraine-U.S. project is being implemented within the framework of *Safety at Ukrainian Mines* programme. The project, designed for two years, will be developed and promote reduction of occupational traumatism levels at coal mines.

The framework of the above-mentioned programme assumes cooperation in the scientific sphere: commence training in the U.S. for specialists on industrial safety at coal mines, create a training centre for enterprises' engineering staff and Derzhhirpromnahlyad's inspectors based on one of Ukraine's educational institutions.

Derzhhirpromnahlyad continues its cooperation with the People's Republic of China aimed to improve occupational safety and labor protection at coal mines.

Article 3§4

- 1) Please describe the occupational health services. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.
- 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.
- 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Article 15, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, regulates establishment of an occupational safety service at an enterprise.

At an enterprise with 50 or more working staff, the employer establishes an occupational safety service pursuant to the model regulations that are approved by a specially empowered central executive authority for occupational safety supervision.

At an enterprise with less than 50 working staff, functions of an occupational safety service may be performed, on the second-job basis, by appropriately trained persons.

An enterprise with less than 20 working staff may involve duly trained outside specialists to perform functions of an occupational safety service on the contractual basis.

The occupational safety service is established by the employer to organise implementation of legal, organisational and technical, sanitary and hygienic, socio-economic, and treatment and preventive measures aimed to prevent accidents, occupational diseases and injuries in the labour process.

The occupational safety service may only be liquidated if the given enterprise is liquidated or if the given natural person stops using hired labour.

To implement requirements of Article 15, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, Derzhhirpromnahlyad's Order No. 255 of 15.11.2004 approved Model Regulations of the Occupational Safety Service.

Based on the Model Regulations of the Occupational Safety Service, subject to specificity of production and activity types, staff number, working conditions and other factors, the employer develops and approves the Regulations of the Occupational Safety Service, its staff number, main tasks, functions and rights of its workers according to laws.

Main tasks of the occupational safety service are as follows:

- if there is no implemented quality system as per ISO 9001, elaborating an efficient occupational safety management system at the enterprise and promoting better activities in this direction of each structural unit and each worker; securing expert support to the employer's decisions on these matters;
- organising implementation of preventive activities aimed to remove harmful and hazardous production factors, prevention of accidents at work, occupational diseases and other threats to workers' life or health;
- learning, and promoting introduction into production of, achievements of science and technology, progressive and safe technologies, modern means of collective and individual protection of workers;
- supervising the workers' compliance with laws and other regulatory legal acts on occupational safety, with provisions (if available) of a sectoral agreement, Occupational Safety section of the collective agreement and acts on occupational safety valid within the enterprise;
- informing and providing explanations to enterprise workers on occupational safety matters.

Functions of the occupational safety service are as follows:

- developing, in cooperation with other enterprise units, comprehensive measures to achieve established rates and increase the existing occupational safety level, developing plans and programmes for improvement of working conditions, preventing occupational traumatism and occupational diseases, providing organisational and methodological assistance in the implementation of planned activities;
- drafting orders on occupational safety matters and submitting them to the employer for consideration;
- conducting, in cooperation with representatives of other structural units and with involvement of representatives of the enterprise trade union or, if not available, persons authorised by wage workers on occupational safety, inspections of workers' compliance with requirements of regulatory legal acts on occupational safety;
- preparing reports on occupational safety according to established forms;
- providing introductory guidance to workers on occupational safety, and participating in organisation of training on occupational safety matters;
- keeping record of and analysing reasons of occupational traumatism, occupational diseases, accidents and damage caused thereby;
- compiling lists of professions and positions according to which workers must undergo mandatory preliminary and periodic medical examinations;
- compiling, with participation of enterprise unit managers, lists of professions, positions and jobs for which occupational safety (protection) instructions, valid within the enterprise, must be developed; providing methodological assistance in their development;
- informing workers on basic requirements of laws, other regulatory legal acts, and acts on occupational safety valid within the enterprise;

- addressing issues on confirmation of the presence of an unsafe production situation that became the reason for the worker's refusal to perform an assigned work, according to legislation (if necessary); considering letters, applications and complaints of enterprise workers relating to compliance with occupational safety laws;

- organizing:

- provision of enterprise units with regulatory legal acts and acts on occupational safety valid within the enterprise, manuals, and training materials on these matters;

- work of the occupational safety office, preparation of information stands or occupational safety corners, etc.;

- meetings, seminars, competitions, etc., on occupational safety matters; advocacy on occupational safety matters using information means, etc.

To provide all workers in any economic sector and at any enterprise with access to occupational safety services, Derzhhirpromnahlyad introduced recommendations concerning organization of the work of an industrial and occupational safety office (hereinafter referred to as the Recommendations), which may be used by employers as a tool to ensure functioning of the occupational safety management system provided for by Article 13, Law of Ukraine on the Occupational Safety, namely for training on occupational safety and advocacy of safe working methods.

The industrial and occupational safety office is an organisational and training-methodological cell for propagation of knowledge on industrial and occupational safety among workers, and for dissemination of positive experience on prevention of occupational traumatism, occupational diseases, accidents, etc.

The industrial and occupational safety office is organised in separate premises that include one or more rooms equipped with technical means, training aids and models, visual and information materials on occupational and industrial safety.

An industrial and occupational safety corner may take the form of a stand, screen, computer with special software, etc.

The industrial and occupational safety corner may be situated either in a separate room or in a specifically equipped part of a general-purpose room.

Content of work and equipment of the industrial and occupational safety office are determined subject to specificity of the enterprise's activities.

The Recommendations are also used during the creation of regional and sectoral industrial and occupational safety offices.

A sectoral industrial and occupational safety office is created to provide organisational and methodological assistance to enterprises in a sector by the decision of the ministry, other central executive authority, or association of enterprises in the premises of a certain sectoral scientific research institute, enterprise of the sector, or an educational institution of the system of retraining and advanced training of the sector's executives and specialists.

A regional industrial and occupational safety office may be a specialised one according to a certain sectoral direction of productions prevailing in the given

region or an intersectoral one, functional tasks and content of which cover all or priority productions of the region regardless of their sectoral direction.

The regional industrial and occupational safety office is established in the premises of a certain enterprise or a vocational training institution, an enterprise's training complex, etc.

Main tasks of the enterprise-level industrial and occupational safety offices are to promote safe working conditions, inform workers on their rights and obligations in the field of occupational safety, disseminate best practices of creation of safe and healthy working conditions, prevent accidents, injuries at work and occupational diseases, and provide methodological support during training and testing of workers' knowledge on occupational safety.

The industrial and occupational safety office is used for:

- creating a system to inform the workers on: their rights and responsibilities in the field of occupational safety and labour protection; the status of working conditions and occupational safety at the enterprise and individual workplaces; collective and individual protection means; occupational injuries and diseases and measures taken to prevent them; adopted regulatory legal acts on occupational safety, etc.;
- conducting lectures, discussions, consultations, review contests; watching thematic motion pictures and video films; disseminating printed and other visual agitation means; placing information stands advocating positive working experience of the creation of healthy and safe working conditions and the prevention of accidents, injuries at work, and occupational diseases;
- providing introductory and off-schedule guidance to workers on occupational safety matters;
- conducting thematic trainings, lectures, seminars and consultations for workers prior to testing of their knowledge on occupational safety;
- teaching and testing of workers' knowledge on occupational safety, rules of conduct during accidents, and provision of first medical aid to victims of emergencies;
- forming and maintaining an enterprise's library stock on occupational safety (legislative and regulatory legal acts, enterprise acts on occupational safety, manuals, methodological and reference literature on occupational safety, etc.);
- exhibiting individual and collective protection means.

Article 11 – The right to protection of health

With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to protection of health, the Parties undertake, either directly or in co-operation with public or private organisations, to take appropriate measures designed *inter alia*:

- 1 to remove as far as possible the causes of ill-health;
- 2 to provide advisory and educational facilities for the promotion of health and the encouragement of individual responsibility in matters of health;
- 3 to prevent as far as possible epidemic, endemic and other diseases, as well as accidents.

Information to be submitted

Article 11§1

- 1) Please describe the general public health policy and legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.
- 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the public health policy and the legal framework.
- 3) Please supply any relevant statistics or other information on the main health indicators and on health services and professions (for example WHO and/or Eurostat data).

The Constitution of Ukraine defines the human being, his/her life, health and security as the highest social value. Article 49 of the Constitution of Ukraine states that each Ukrainian citizen has the right to protection of health, medical care and medical insurance.

The President of Ukraine, acting as the guarantor of these incontestable rights, pays attention in his activities to development of health care, medical care, ensuring people's rights and national security of the State.

Basics of Ukraine's public health policy are set forth in a number of regulatory legal acts and programme documents, of which the following are determinative:

- Constitution of Ukraine;
- Law of Ukraine on the Basics of Ukrainian Legislation on Health Care, 19.11.1992, № 2801-XII;
- Law of Ukraine on Securing the Population's Sanitary and Epidemic Welfare, 24.02.1994, №4004-XII;
- Concept of the Development of Ukrainian People's Health Care (approved by the President's Decree № 1313 of 7.12.2000);

- Law of Ukraine on Protection of the Population from Contagious Diseases, 06.04.2000, №1645-III;
- Law of Ukraine on Prevention of AIDS and Social Protection of the Population, 12.12.1991, №1972-12;
- Law of Ukraine on Medicines, 04.04.1996, № 123/96;
- Law of Ukraine on Psychiatric Service, 22.02.2000, № 1489-III;
- Decrees by the President of Ukraine:
 - *On urgent measures to reform the public health care system*, 6.12.2005, №1694/2005;
 - *On improvement of public administration in the field of combating HIV/AIDS and TB in Ukraine*, 30.11.2005, № 1674/2005 (as amended by the President's Decree № 46/2007 of 26.01.07);
 - *On additional urgent measures to counteract HIV/AIDS in Ukraine*, 12.12.2007, № 1208/2007;
 - *On the decision of the Council for National Security and Defence of Ukraine dated 18 January 2006 "On measures to increase efficiency of combating dangerous contagious diseases"*, 14.02.2006, № 132/2006);
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine *On the approval of the Programme of providing state-guaranteed free medical aid to citizens*, 11.07.2002, № 955;
- Health of the Nation Intersectoral Comprehensive Programme for 2002-2011 (approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution № 14 of 14.01.2002);
- National Plan of the Health Care System Development for the Period until 2010 (approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution № 815 of 13.06.2007).

General legal framework

The Law of Ukraine on the Basics of Ukrainian Legislation on Health Care is a fundamental legislative act that defines main principles of the public health policy in Ukraine.

Article 2 of this Law envisages: if an international treaty to which Ukraine is a party establishes rules other than provided for in Ukrainian health care legislation then the rules of the international treaty shall apply.

Health protection in Ukraine is provided with state financing of relevant socio-economic, medico-sanitary, health-improving and prophylactic programmes.

The State creates conditions for effective medical service accessible to all citizens. State and communal health protection institutions provide medical care free of charge; the existing network of such institutions may not be reduced. The State promotes development of medical treatment facilities of all forms of ownership.

The State takes care of development of physical training and sports and secures sanitary and epidemiological welfare.

The Programme of providing state-guaranteed free medical aid (hereinafter referred to as the Programme), approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 955 of 11 July 2002, states that medical aid is an activity including a package of measures aimed to provide health improvement and medical treatment to patients in a condition that, at the moment of provision, threatens life, health and working capacity, and provided by professionally trained staff entitled thereto according to laws.

State and communal health care institutions provide free medical aid of the following types:

- first and emergency aid – in a pre-hospital stage, by first-aid stations (departments) and emergency aid posts in a condition threatening human life;
- outpatient polyclinic aid;
- inpatient aid – in case of an acute disease and in emergency cases needing intense treatment, 24-hour medical care and hospitalization, including through epidemic indications, to children, pregnant women and women recently confined, sick persons by referral from medico-social expert commissions or counselling physician commissions;
- emergency dental aid (in full scope – to children, disabled persons, pensioners, pregnant women, and women having under-3 children);
- pre-treatment medical aid to rural residents;
- sanatorium and health resort aid to disabled and sick persons in specialised and children's sanatoria;
- children maintenance in children's homes;
- medico-social expert examination of the loss of working capacity.

Volume of medical aid provided to people free of charge is calculated on the basis of the rates of provision of outpatient polyclinic aid, inpatient aid and first aid per 1,000 people during one year by one health care institution.

The rates of per capita health care financing are the indicators that determine the amount of funds for providing a person with free medical aid according to budget appropriations for health care, which are approved by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the annual basis.

The rates of per capita financing are formed by executive authorities based on the indicators of medical aid provision costs by type, determined by them, according to methodological recommendations.

The calculations of medical aid provision cost indicators are conducted according to methodological recommendations.

Activities aimed to reform the health care system

The main objective of reform is to secure accessibility and quality of medical aid to people through implementing stage-wise but in-depth structural changes in the health care system and bringing it closer to international standards.

The Decree by the President of Ukraine No. 1694/2004 of 6.12.2005 *On urgent measures to reform the public health care system* defines the main priorities of further development of medicine:

- developing the area of disease prevention in the health care system;

- improving quality and accessibility of medical aid, first of all in rural areas;
- providing conditions to secure child and maternal health care;
- combating diseases accounting for highest mortality such as cardiovascular and brain-vascular diseases, cancer, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS/

In pursuance of this Presidential Decree, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine issued the Resolution No. 815 of 13.06.2007 whereby it approved the National Plan of the Health Care System Development for the Period until 2010 that defines strategic directions for development of the sector, specific tasks and deadlines for their implementation. Comprehensive measures are to be implemented that would, as soon as in the next few years, essentially increase quality and accessibility of medical service for the population with the help of more streamlined resource usage, an efficient and transport sector financing model, a better sector management system, an optimised network of state, communal and departmental health care institutions, development and introduction of medical care standards in the work of health care institutions, better training of medical staff and their labour remuneration conditions, a simplified permissive system in the sector, renovation of the material and technical basis of health care institutions, introduction of state guarantees for free provision of medical care targeted on patients' real needs.

The reform process of the health care system in Ukraine assumes first of all regulatory legal changes. During 2005-2007, a regulatory legal framework of the medical sector was being formed to adapt national legislation to international standards; implement state social medical insurance, changes in sector financing, state social standards and rate in health care, new technologies and forms of medical provision, diagnostics and treatment, etc.

A priority area in 2007 consisted of drafting of legislative and regulatory legal documents aimed to ensure general accessibility, citizens' equality in obtaining medical care, and reformation of the sector financing and management mechanisms.

On the whole, regulatory legal changes in Ukrainian public health care provide for improvement of the sector management system; strengthening of prevention, introduction of healthy lifestyles; increase of wages in the sector and introduction of a unified tariff schedule of labour remuneration classes and coefficients; state control over quality of medicines; possible improvement of the personnel component in treatment and prevention activities in rural areas, provision of necessary equipment and facilities to them.

All tiers of public authority are activated to handle health care problems.

During 2005-2007, amount of state budget expenditure for health care has been increased: UAH 5.4 billion in 2001, 12.4 billion in 2005, 16.9 billion in 2006, and 23.1 billion in 2007.

Preconditions have been created for multi-channel financing of the sector and for gradual introduction of state medical insurance.

In 2007, the Government and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine concentrated their efforts on reducing prevalence of serious and hard-to-cure systemic illnesses: cardiovascular and brain-vascular diseases, counteraction to HIV/AIDS and TB, combating oncopathologies. To overcome them, the ministry works on creating

specialised coordinating centres that will be provided with a duty and relevant authority for development, prevalence control, and implementation of state programmes by activity area.

The Law of Ukraine on the Approval of the State Programme of Counteraction to Tuberculosis in 2007-2011 No. 648-V of 8.02.07 approves a corresponding programme that aims to improve the epidemic situation by reducing tuberculosis prevalence and tuberculosis-caused mortality, preventing development of chemioresistent tuberculosis, increasing efficiency of treatment, improving the system of medical staff training and retraining, and improving laboratory diagnostics of tuberculosis.

Implementation of this programme will ensure timely detection of TB patients, annual decrease of the tuberculosis prevalence and tuberculosis-caused mortality rates by no less than 1%, reduction of the treatment interruption rate to 10%, involvement of more than 80% medical staff in training according to international standards, creation of a system of laboratory control of anti-TB medicine quality, development of a material and technical basis of anti-TB institutions.

The Law of Ukraine on the Basic Principles of Development of an Information Society in Ukraine for 2007-2015 No. 537-V of 9.01.07 has been passed, which defines tasks, goals and directions of the development of an information society in Ukraine. One of the top priorities among them consists of using information and communication technologies to improve the demographic situation, maintain and strengthen people's health, improve quality and efficiency of medical and sanitary care, ensure social justice and people's rights to protection of health.

Adoption of the Law of Ukraine on Amending and Invalidating Some Legislative Acts of Ukraine Due to Adoption of the Civil Code of Ukraine, No. 997-V of 27.04.07, ensured bringing the Basics of Ukrainian Legislation on Health Care into conformity with provisions of the Civil Code of Ukraine, particularly concerning recognition of a patient's right to choice of treatment methods according to the doctor's advice, to reliable and complete information on the state of his/her health, to confidentiality concerning the state of his/her health, and to admission of family members, guardian, caregiver, notary and lawyer as well as a priest (for divine service and religious rite) to the patient under inpatient treatment.

The Law of Ukraine on Amending Some Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning Improvement of Usage of the Methods of Prevention, Diagnostics, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Medicines and Folk Medical Practices (Healing) No. 1033-V of 17.07.07 supplemented the Basics of Ukrainian Legislation on Health Care with Article 74-1 that determines conditions for obtaining the right to engage in folk medical practices (healing). Besides, the Law regulates matters relating to advertising of folk medical (healing) services and persons providing them, and specifies liability for failure to meet the requirements set by the Law for folk medical practices (healing).

The Law of Ukraine on the State System of Biological Safety in the Creation, Testing, Transportation and Usage of Genetically Modified Organisms

No. 1103-V of 31.05.07 puts into place a state system of biological safety in the creation, testing and usage of genetically modified organisms. The Law regulates relations concerning handling of GMOs and carrying out of genetic engineering activities, and determines powers of central executive authorities in provision of biological safety.

The Decree by the President of Ukraine No. 105/2007 of 12.02.07 approved the Strategy of National Security of Ukraine that underlines as a top priority of the national security policy the need to achieve high social standards and settlement of urgent demographic problems on that basis, which in turn assumes implementation of comprehensive measures to provide conditions for strengthening of the nation's health and reduction of mortality rates, securing affordability of high-quality medical services to all population groups. A priority area of financing for the national security policy is the reformation and development of the health care system bringing it into conformity with European standards.

In order to improve the country's demographic situation, advocate healthy lifestyles, and secure public participation in the determination of ways of improving the health care system, the *Healthy Nation* All-Ukrainian Forum was held upon the President's initiative on 13 September 2007 in Kyiv.

Considering the need to take urgent and efficient measures for solving the problem of providing health care facilities with modern domestic-made medical equipment and medical supplies, the Cabinet of Ministers' Executive Order No. 120-r of 21.03.2007 approved the Concept of the State Programme for the Development of Medical Equipment Production for 2008-2012. Implementation of the programme will secure expanding the range of Ukrainian-made medical products and medical equipment, improving their performance and competitiveness, increasing output and the rate of provision with domestic-made medical equipment up to 45-50% of demand, and improving quality and level of medical services to people due to provision of modern means of diagnostics and treatment to health care institutions.

Problematic issues of the medical sphere found their reflection in resolutions and executive orders of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine that approved concepts of the National Action Plan for the interests of children, combating oncological diseases including among children, cardiovascular and brain-vascular diseases, and tuberculosis. Concepts of the following programmes have been approved: the State Programme for creation of a uniform system of provision of emergency medical care for the period until 2010, "Transplantation" State Programme for 2006-2010, "Reproductive health of the nation for 2006-2010" State Programme, the General State Programme of immunoprophylaxis and protection of the population from contagious diseases for 2007-2015.

In 2007, the Government and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine concentrated their efforts on reducing prevalence of serious and hard-to-cure systemic illnesses: cardiovascular and brain-vascular diseases, counteraction to HIV/AIDS and TB, combating oncopathologies. To overcome them, the ministry works on creating specialised coordinating centres that will be provided with a duty and relevant

authority for development, prevalence control, and implementation of state programmes by activity area.

Management structure of the state sanitary and epidemiological service of Ukraine has been improved. The Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 759 of 31.05.2006 established the Committee for counteraction to HIV/AIDS and other social diseases.

Topical medico-social problems of the health care sector are addressed in state and regional programmes and measures. For example, Diabetes Mellitus Comprehensive Programme aims to reduce the diabetes morbidity rate, decrease the number of complications due to this disease, and extend patients' life duration and quality.

Implementation of the Programme for prevention and treatment of arterial hypertension in Ukraine through 2010 will promote reducing prevalence of arterial hypertension, ischemic heart disease, vascular brain affections, disability and mortality caused by these pathologic conditions.

Oncology State Programme for 2002-2006 allows increasing efficiency of state-wide activities for prevention, early detection and treatment of oncological disease, reducing mortality, decreasing the number of cancer-caused primary disability registrations, and providing conditions to extend life of cancer patients and improve its quality.

Besides, programmes and comprehensive measures to introduce family medicine, combat tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, develop transplantation, enhance the State Service of Disaster Medicine, children's cardiac surgery service, and some others are under implementation in Ukraine.

To eliminate negative trends caused by a complex of socioeconomic, environmental, behavioural and medical factors, the Health of the Nation Intersectoral Comprehensive Programme for 2002-2011 has been drafted based on a comprehensive intersectoral approach.

In pursuance of the Decree by the President of Ukraine *On urgent measures to reform the public health care system* and the Order by the Ministry of Health *On conducting the Day of the Rural Population's Health*, medical preventive examinations and health-improvement measures for rural residents are carried out annually.

During that period, prevention examinations covered 7.6 million people, or 51.5% of the total rural population. Based on results of the examinations, 650 thousand persons were registered for dispensary observation, including 134 thousand children; 210 thousand persons were hospitalised (46 thousand of them were subject to surgical interventions); 1700 persons were referred to research institutes and highly specialised clinics.

In order to reinforce control measures concerning legal circulation of narcotic substances, psychotropic agents and precursors, a specially empowered executive authority – the Drug Control Committee – is working in Ukraine as a governmental body of public administration within the Ministry of Health.

During 2006-2007, the Committee prepared and gave effect to a new wording of the Law of Ukraine on Narcotic Substances, Psychotropic Agents and

Precursors. Twelve resolutions by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and other agency-level orders were issued pursuant to that Law, which harmonised national regulatory acts with international law requirements during Ukraine’s accession to WTO and allowed establishing exhaustive control over circulation of the above-mentioned substances.

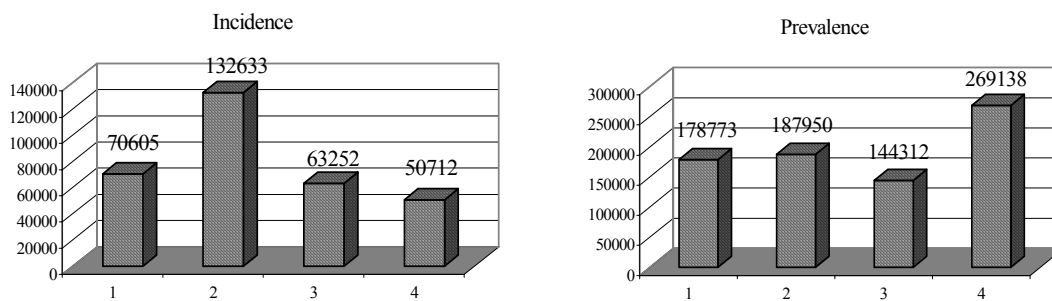
Amendments were made in the Criminal Code of Ukraine to establish criminal liability for illegal acts concerning poisonous or drastic medicines (by the Law of Ukraine on Amending the Criminal Code of Ukraine to Establish Criminal Liability for Illegal Acts Concerning Poisonous or Drastic Medicines, No. 875-V of 5.04.07).

In order to comply with the Government’s tasks for improving medical provision to Ukrainian people, a series of programme documents have been developed, now being under further elaboration and approval.

Patterns of the Ukrainian population’s state of health

In 2007, Ukrainian people paid 32.8 million visits with newly diagnosed diseases to health care institutions. The total number of disease cases registered in 2007 was 83.1 million. Respective figures per 100 thousand population are 70605.4 and 178773.4.

In 2007, incidence of all diseases was highest among the population aged 0-17 whereas prevalence was highest in older age groups and among children (see Fig. 1).



1 – all population; 2 – children; 3 – persons of working age; 4 – persons older than working age
 Fig. 1. Disease incidence and prevalence rates among Ukraine’s population in 2007 (per 100,000 of respective population)

The highest rates of disease incidence and prevalence growth in 2005-2007 were seen among persons older than the working age.

Structure of disease incidence and prevalence among Ukraine’s population is provided on Fig. 2 and 3.

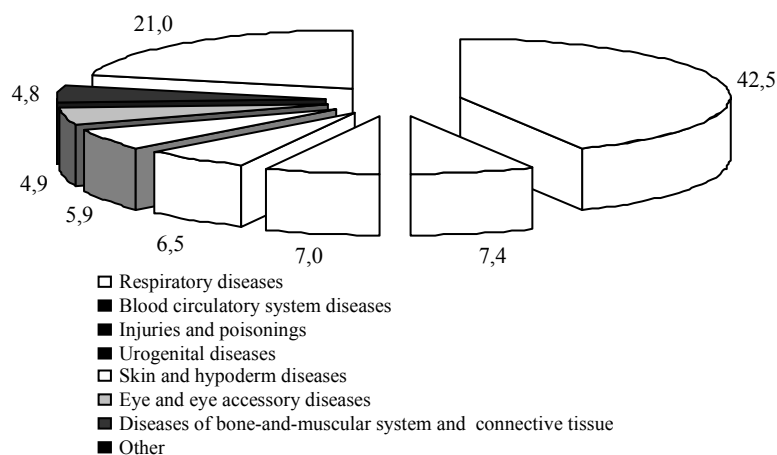


Fig. 2. Structure of disease incidence among Ukraine's total population in 2007 (%)

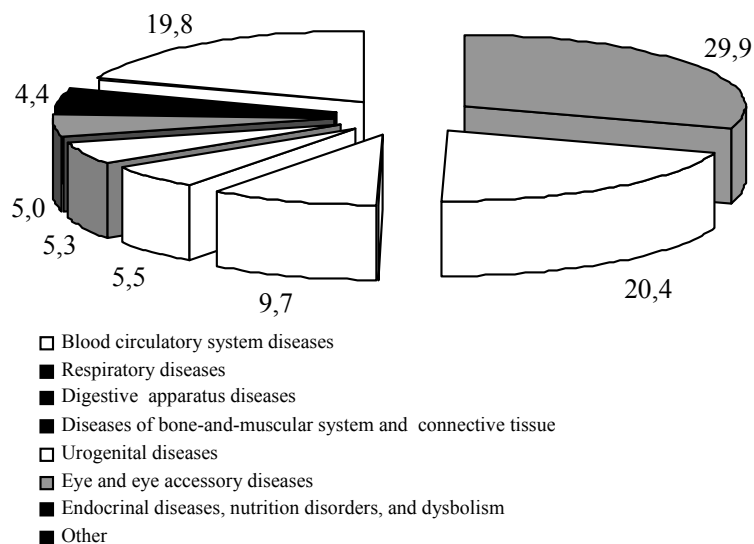


Fig. 3. Structure of disease prevalence among Ukraine's total population in 2007 (%)

Among diseases characterising the condition of contemporary non-epidemic pathology, a leading part is played by blood circulatory system diseases. These sicknesses, especially ischemic heart disease, are quite widespread today being the main cause of death. Their prevalence (including vascular brain affections) has reached the level of 53412.4 per 100 thousand in 2007; they are a cause of about 64% of all deaths and of one-third of disability cases.

In 2007, 24.8 million visits with blood circulatory system diseases were registered, i.e. 29.1% or nearly every third case referred to treatment and prevention facilities was related to blood circulatory system diseases. As to newly diagnosed blood circulatory system diseases, their number was 2.4 million in 2007 (5244.3 per 100 thousand). Incidence rate of these diseases has grown by 1.6% in 2005-2007 whereas their prevalence rate has increased by 6.2% (Fig. 4).

As to patients with blood circulatory system pathology who needed medical treatment, the number of inpatient clinic leavers in 2005 was 3462.3 per 100 thousand in Ukraine, 2637.4 in the European region, and 2442.6 in the EU member states.

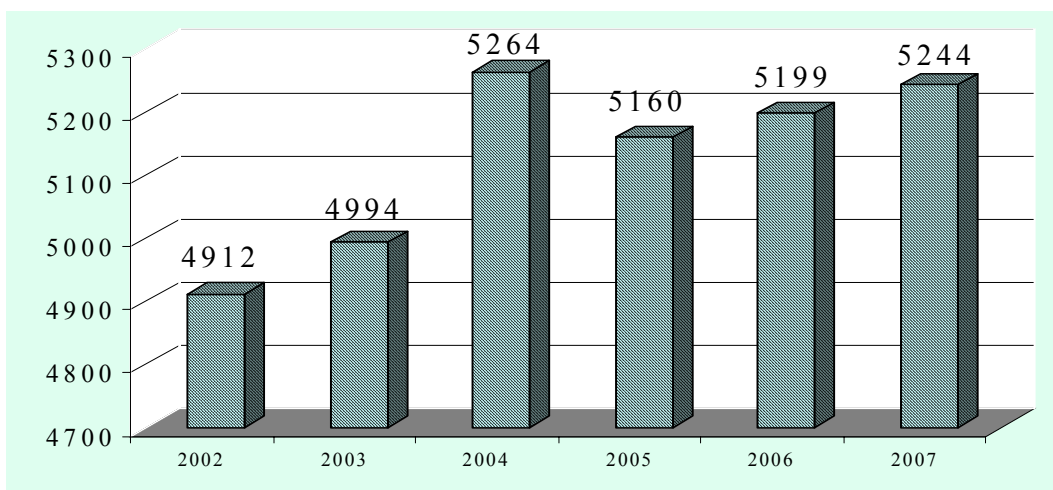


Fig. 4. Incidence rates of blood circulatory system diseases in Ukraine (total population, per 100 thousand)

Among blood circulatory system diseases, a stable tendency towards a lower incidence rate is shown by acute rheumatic fever, chronic rheumatic heart diseases, and rheumatism (all forms) (see Table 1).

Table 1

Dynamics of incidence rates of some blood circulatory system diseases
(per 100 thousand total population)

Nosological entity	Year					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Acute rheumatic fever	8.9	7.6	6.3	5.7	4.2	3.2
Chronic rheumatic heart diseases	12.1	11.6	11.4	10.0	9.0	8.1
Rheumatism (all forms)	20.9	19.2	17.6	14.9	13.1	11.3
Hypertensive disease (all forms)	2314.3	2354.7	2513.7	2451.0	2451.7	2468.8
* Ischemic heart disease	1595.4	1704.0	1766.2	1697.5	1701.9	1712.3
* Cerebrovascular diseases	939.8	993.0	1009.6	991.2	1000.1	984.8
* Acute myocardial infarction	113.6	123.2	128.0	130.8	131.3	129.6

* indicators for the population aged 18 and older

Malignant neoplasms in the new millennium remain an important medico-biological and socioeconomic problem for the world and for Ukraine. In our country, the number of new cancer cases exceeds 150 thousand annually. Patients with malignant neoplasms lose on average about 18 years of life including 40% in the working age.

In 2007, 154.1 thousand cases of malignant neoplasms were newly

diagnosed (331.1 per 100 thousand) including 345.3 per 100 thousand urban residents and 302.9 per 100 thousand rural residents. For comparison: incidence rate of malignant neoplasms in 2004 was 327.9 per 100 thousand in Ukraine, 3861.6 in the European region, and 460.1 in the EU member states.

Cancer prevalence as percentage of all population in 2004 was 1.78% in Ukraine and 1.73% in the European region.

The highest incidence rates of malignant neoplasms are registered for digestive apparatus (83.9 per 100 thousand population), female genitals (64.9), and breast (61.2). A positive moment has been reduction of incidence of all cancer localisations in 2007 by 0.8% as compared to 2005 (Fig. 5).

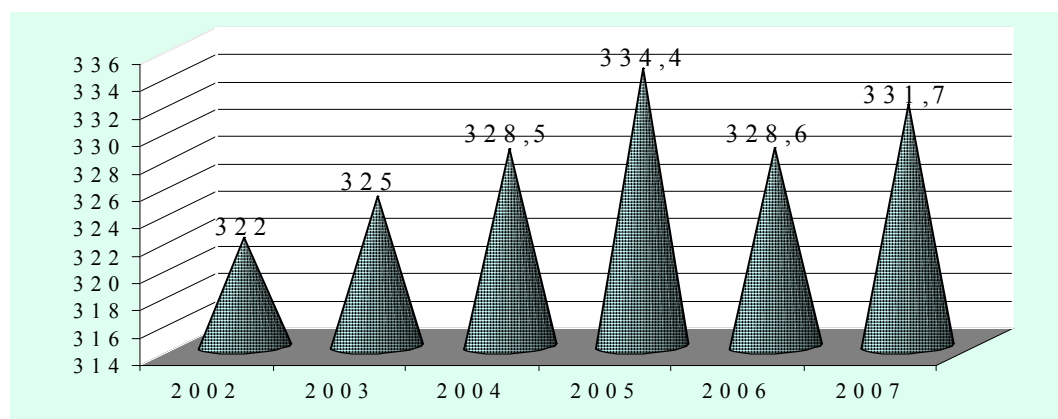


Fig. 5. Incidence rates of malignant neoplasms in Ukraine (per 100 thousand, total population)

Incidence rate dynamics of malignant neoplasms of some localisations are provided in Table 2.

Table 2

Incidence rate dynamics of some malignant neoplasms in 2002, 2005 and 2007
(per 100 thousand population)

Localisation	Incidence rate			Change dynamics (%) 2007/2002	Change dynamics (%) 2007/2005
	2002	2005	2007		
Breast	56.2	61.4	61.2	+8.9	-0.3
Stomach	28.1	27.1	25.3	-10.0	-6.6
Rectum	17.3	18.4	18.8	+8.7	+2.2
Cervix uteri	18.6	18.4	19.6	+5.4	+6.5
Trachea, bronchi, lungs	41.5	40.0	38.0	-8.4	-5.0
Prostate gland	23.7	25.8	28.1	+18.6	+8.9
Leucosis	7.7	7.7	7.6	-1.3	-1.3

An important part in health shaping is played by injuries, poisonings, and some other consequences of external factors that not only cause considerable social and economic losses but also result in a great number of human deaths.

A growing problem both for the world and Ukraine is posed by traffic traumatism. More than a half of the people who died in road accidents were aged between 15 and 44.

During a number of previous years, the quantity of injuries and poisonings among the Ukrainian population showed a decreasing trend. However, the injury and poisoning rates increased in 2003 and 2005. Changes in prevalence of this pathology were corresponding. The rate of injuries and poisonings among men is traditionally higher than among women; this excess has reached 1.8 times.

In 2007, 2,284 thousand primary visits to medical establishments with injuries and poisonings were registered among the total population (4915.8 per 100 thousand). The rate of injuries and poisonings has grown by 2.3% against 2005 and by 5.8% against 2002 (Fig. 6).

As to patients with injuries and poisonings that required treatment, the number of inpatient clinic leavers in 2005 was 1664.5 per 100 thousand in Ukraine, 1532.7 in the European region, and 1518.0 in the EU member states.

Concerning injuries as such, the highest injury rates are registered among adolescents whereas the lowest figures can be seen among persons older than the working age. The injury incidence rate goes up depending on the child's age. For example, this figure is 1.6 times higher for children aged 7-14 than for 6-year-old ones. In the adolescent injury structure, the largest proportion belongs to home and street injuries (about 90%), with sport and road traffic injuries having a much less share (Table 3). The growth rate over the 4-year period is the highest for street injuries (+55.4%) and road traffic injuries (+44.3%).

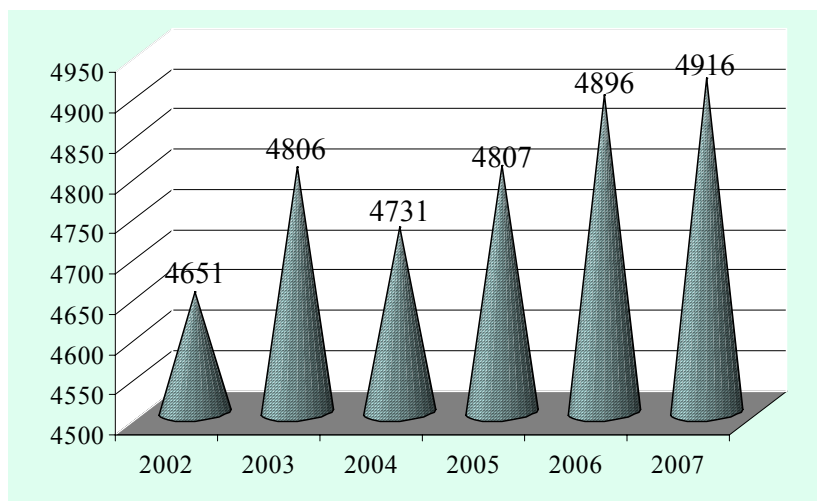


Fig. 6. Incidence rates of injuries and poisonings in Ukraine (per 100 thousand, total population)

Among injuries registered in Ukraine, orthopedic injuries account for 90%. More than 240 thousand surgical interventions with new technologies are effected

for such conditions annually. A specific problem consists of treatment of multiple fractures of extremities and pelvis in patients having poly-injuries with bone and soft tissue bridgework.

Table 3

Injury rates (various injury types) per 10 thousand of respective population, 2002-2007

Injury types		Year					
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Home	all population	359.7	367.9	368.7	375.7	383.0	386.9
	children	278.3	273.4	282.0	219.0	294.4	302.5
	adolescents	411.7*	382.8	378.6	365.5	373.6	394.7
Road traffic	all population	6.9	6.8	7.1	7.1	7.7	8.8
	children	3.9	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.4
	adolescents	8.2*	8.8	9.5	9.2	9.9	12.7
Street	all population	62.8	73.6	68.1	70.7	73.6	70.7
	children	118.7	129.3	119.6	126.0	130.0	133.6
	adolescents	66.8*	93.3	107.2	121.6	141.0	145.0
Sport	all population	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.0
	children	10.8	15.3	15.3	16.5	18.5	20.8
	adolescents	23.5*	23.0	24.5	25.0	27.5	28.5
All types	all population	465.1	480.6	473.1	480.7	489.6	491.6
	children	450.2	454.4	451.7	468.2	478.4	493.3
	adolescents	533.5*	528.0	542.7	544.8	578.2	609.8

- 2001 data

Article 11§2

- 1) For States that have not accepted paragraph 1, please describe the general public health policy and legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.
- 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the public health policy and the legal framework.
- 3) Please supply any relevant statistics or other information, including on consultation and screening services in schools and for the rest of the population

Health of the child is an incomparable value. This is why the matters of child and maternal health care are a top priority for the President and Government of Ukraine.

To support children, protect their rights, preserve and improve their state of health, and create a modern network of child health protection institutions, measures of organizational, medical, social, logistical and financial character are being taken in the State.

In 2007, one-time payments to mothers for childbirth were increased, modern technologies of diagnostics and treatment of childhood diseases are being consistently put into place, and equipment levels of children's health care institutions and university clinics are being increased.

The Ukrainian Breakthrough Activity Programme of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine lists, among priorities of maternity and childhood protection, such measures as development and approval of Healthy Child State Programme for 2008-2012; reduction of infant and maternal mortality; establishment of an All-Ukrainian Centre for Maternal and Child Health Protection.

The Law of Ukraine on Baby Food No. 142-IV of 14.09.2006 was passed that defines strategic national priorities in provision of infants and early-age children with high-quality and safe baby food as well as prescribes organisational, social and economic basics of the state policy in this field.

The Cabinet of Ministers issued the Resolution No. 244 of 19.11.07 to approve the State Programme of Family Support. The main objective of the document consists of consolidation of the family institution's fundamental value in public conscience. The programme's tasks include all-round reinforcement of legal, moral and material foundations of family life, creation of a legal, psychological-and-pedagogical and organisational-and-methodological system. It will allow securing optimal conditions for consolidation and development of full-fledged children upbringing in family. Priorities include higher economic activity and independence of a Ukrainian family as well as optimisation of social protection of families, first of all those with children. The programme's goals include creation of a system for preparing future parents to perform social roles of a husband and a wife, a father and a mother, as well as enhancement of the system of support and social follow-through for families in complicated life circumstances. The programme offers improvement of a system of measures to prevent domestic violence, and perfection of the regulatory legal framework for efficient development of the family and its performance of social functions. The main directions of the programme are implemented in three stages (2006-2010).

Measures to protect maternity and childhood include disbursement of funds to overcome child neglect and homelessness, support for family-type placement of orphan children and children deprived of parental care as well as to prevent social orphanage.

A subvention from the State Budget to local budgets for payment of the state social benefit to orphan children and children deprived of parental care as well as cash allowance to educator and foster parents for the provision of social services in family-type children's homes and foster families according to the "money follows the child" principle was UAH 50 million in 2006 and 61.7 million in 2007, which allowed increasing payments for orphan children and children deprived of parental care 7-10 times since 2005, payments to educator parents 3-5 times, and introducing payments to foster parents.

As of 31.12.2007 in Ukraine, 300 family-type children's homes have been established, and there are 1,617 foster families bringing up 4,521 orphan children and children deprived of parental care.

Creation of the All-Ukrainian Centre for Maternal and Child Health

Protection has begun in Kyiv. Ukraine-3000 foundation has collected first funds for its construction. This modern medical establishment will provide high-quality medical care to children from all regions of Ukraine. The centre will do bone marrow transplantation, complicated oncological and neurosurgical operations, etc. In the territory of Okhmatdyt children's specialised hospital, a 100-bed All-Ukrainian Centre of Children's Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine has been opened. There are about 4500 children with congenital heart diseases in Ukraine, 40% of them needing operative treatment. Opening of the centre is expected to reduce infant mortality considerably.

The Children's Oncology State Programme for 2006-2010 has been approved. The programme aims to secure implementation of the state policy on child health protection by providing high-quality medico-social assistance to children with malignant neoplasms, increasing the number of convalescent patients, reducing disability and mortality rates of cancer children.

The Reproductive Health of the Nation State Programme for the period until 2015 has been adopted. The document aims to improve the population's reproductive health as an important component of general public health that greatly impacts the country's demographic situation and socio-economic development.

In 2007, priority of financing for children's obstetric institutions was maintained in most oblasts. Control was exercised over provision of seriously sick children with medicines and medical supplies as well as over provision of preferential children categories with medicines in outpatient treatment and for emergency care in inpatient clinics. Children suffering from diabetes and oncohaematology were fully provided with insulin and means for self-control of blood glucose level. Early identification of children with hypotheriosis and phenylketonuria and provision of special high-cost catering to them was ensured in full scale.

At the same time, there are a number of problematic issues in the child and maternal protection, which require solution on the state level. To improve the situation, a child hospital of the future is being built, regional medical centres for maternal and child health care are being established, and medical equipment and sanitary transport are being provided to health care facilities rendering medical aid to children and mothers, etc.

Great attention was paid to improvement of the logistical base of children's medical and preventive treatment facilities as well as to renovation of some oblast specialised tuberculosis departments for children.

To secure modern approaches to the provision of medical aid to adolescents, "youth-friendly clinics" are being created, and "schools of responsible paternity" are being established for future fathers.

In Ukrainian maternity hospitals, counselling posts have been established and operating aimed to strengthen the institute of family by forming the basics of responsible and conscious paternity. Specialists of social welfare service centres for family, children and youth and health care institution staff carry out explanatory work with mothers intending to abandon their newborns in a maternity hospital, the work being aimed to prevent the abandonment.

In May 2007, the Centre called "Clinic for treatment of HIV/AIDS children"

started working within the Okhmatdyt Ukrainian children's specialised hospital.

The centre provides specialised highly qualified outpatient polyclinic and inpatient care to children having heavy HIV/AIDS resistant to standard treatment, using modern treatment methods, as well as renders advisory assistance to specialists of health care institutions on development and implementation of modern methods of diagnostics and treatment of HIV/AIDS children.

Operating within the centre structure are ten beds of a daycare facility in the outpatient polyclinic department and twenty beds of an inpatient facility with 5 beds of intense therapy, which currently meets the need for treatment of children having heavy HIV/AIDS resistant to standard treatment.

However, to meet medical care needs of severe HIV/AIDS child cases from all regions of Ukraine, the centre should be urgently expanded. Creation of a modern specialised establishment for child health protection would allow considerably increasing accessibility and quality of medical care for children with a severe HIV/AIDS form resistant to inpatient treatment, reducing mother-to-child HIV transmission from a pregnant HIV/AIDS mother, ensuring early diagnostics of HIV infection, opportunistic infections and HIV associated conditions in children, as well as consulting on catering, prevention of contagious diseases, and improvement of patients' life quality.

A weighty achievement of Ukrainian medical workers in the fight against HIV/AIDS should be noted: since 2000, during the period of implementing the programme to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission, the vertical transmission rate, i.e. the mother-to-child HIV transmission rate during delivery has gone down substantially – from 40% in 2000 down to 7.1% in 2006.

Along with medical staff, education specialists work to create a health protection space within the school education system.

A special subject called "Basics of Health" has been introduced in schools – a principally new course on approaches and subjects aimed to secure safe behaviour in the contemporary world. It assumes education based on life skills that pupils will perfect in each subsequent year of study. It optimally combines methods and means subject to age specificities, a thoroughly compiled lesson schedule considering a regime of motor activity and change of activity types, preservation of a balance between the amount of homework, provision of safe learning conditions (prevention of injuries, adherence to sanitary and hygienic standards of lighting, humidity, airing of study rooms, etc.).

Maintenance of children's motor activity is promoted by physical training lessons, for which additional hours have been introduced because of total hypodynamia, therefore the number of lessons has been increased.

Projects called "Peer to Peer", "Youth for Health", "School against AIDS" are being implemented.

A network of health-promoting schools have been introduced (with support from WHO, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine) due to which an integral system for health culture shaping has been created in Dnipropetrovsk oblast, Odesa oblast, Kharkiv oblast, Cherkasy oblast, city of Kyiv, and other regions. In 2006-2007 study year, more than 60

thousand pupils were trained in the Overcoming HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Ukraine programme (International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine ICF supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria).

Appropriate mass actions were implemented on Kyiv city level, e.g. anti-smoking campaigns, competitions aimed to consolidate a healthy lifestyle, etc. This is an example for other regions to follow. Mass media is widely involved in all such actions. Press, television, radio, and the public may provide substantial assistance in addressing the problems related to our people's mentality. Therefore, one of the central tasks of doctors, educators, teachers, trainers and parents for the future is to teach children healthy lifestyle skills and give them knowledge on how they themselves should care for their health.

Child health status

In the course of analysis of disease incidence and prevalence among the child population (0-17 years), current characteristics of their rates, structure and dynamics have been revealed.

In 2007, the disease incidence and prevalence rates were 1326.3 and 1879.5 per 1000 children, and they were higher respectively by 6.0% and 4.5% compared with 2005 (Table 1).

Table 1

Disease incidence and prevalence rates among Ukraine's population, 2005-2007 (per 100 thousand respective population)

Population group		Year			Growth rate (%)	
		2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2005
All population	p	172633,0	174577,5	178773,4	+2,4	+3,6
	i	69876,1	68962,8	70605,4	+2,4	+1,0
Children aged 0-17	p	179786,0	181370,0	187950,0	+3,6	+4,5
	i	125179,0	126118,0	132633,0	+5,2	+6,0

p – prevalence, i - incidence

Prevailing in the children's disease incidence structure are the following: respiratory diseases (63.9%), skin and hypoderm diseases (5.6%), some contagious and parasitic diseases (4.2%), injuries and poisonings (3.9%), eye and eye accessory diseases (3.4%), ear and mammiform appendix diseases (3.1%), diseases of the bone-and-muscular system and connecting tissue (2.3%), urogenital diseases (2.3%).

It should be noted that the incidence rate of some disease classes has decreased in 2005-2007, mostly for bone-and-muscular system and connecting tissue diseases (-8.0%), some contagious and parasitic diseases (-4.6%), urogenital diseases (-4.2%), eye and eye accessory diseases (-2.9%), skin and hypoderm diseases (-1.8%).

As to disease prevalence, changes in this indicator were differently directed. In seven disease classes, the prevalence rate has decreased, mostly for endocrinal

diseases (-8.6%), digestive apparatus diseases (-3.7%), some contagious and parasitic diseases (-2.8%), nervous system diseases (-2.1%), bone-and-muscular system and connecting tissue diseases (-2.1%). Incidence of diseases related to neoplasms, diseases of blood and blood-making organs, skin and hypoderm diseases, and congenital developmental effects has stabilised.

Tobacco smoking and growing consumption of alcohol among children causes anxiety. About 70% of Ukrainian children and youth aged 12-20 use alcohol. According to a sample household survey conducted by the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine in October 2007, about 1% of children aged 12-14 and every second adolescent aged 15-17 were smoking. Almost every fifth adolescent began to use alcohol and had first smoking attempts.

Alcohol overuse is a cause of development of psychic and behavioural disorders in children. Prevalence of acute alcohol intoxication and psychic disorders with harmful consequences (preventive supervision group) was 70.2 per 100 thousand children aged 0-17 in 2005, 60.7 in 2006, and 61.2 in 2007. Although this indicator has decreased in Ukraine as a whole, it has gone up in 15 administrative territories. The number of alcoholism-sick children was 1.0 per 100 thousand children aged 0-17 in 2005, 0.9 in 2006, and 0.6 in 2007.

Aggravation of the drug addiction situation should also be pointed out. According to statistics, the number of narcotic substance users is growing, and the age of drug-dependent youth tends to decrease. Of nearly 90 thousand registered drug users, more than a half are below 30 years of age, and over 6 thousand are minors. At the same time experts estimate the total number of drug-dependent persons and episodic drug users as 5-10 times greater than the official registered figure.

The Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports accumulated positive experience of the implementation and coordination of a state policy of prevention of negative phenomena among children and youth.

The sectoral programme “Forming a healthy lifestyle among children and youth” was developed (Order by the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports No. 947 of 30.03.2007) and implemented to cultivate children and youth’s responsible attitude to maintenance and reinforcement of their own health, and to provide conditions for promoting a health lifestyle in the children and youth environment.

The Ministry conducts various information and educational actions involving public youth organisations. Such cooperation allows providing highly professional advocacy of a healthy lifestyle among the population. During the actions, which are held in places of big gatherings of youth – educational institutions, club facilities, child and youth creative centres – traditional forms of information work are used: videos and documentaries on these subjects are shown such as *Truth about Drugs*, *Truth about Smoking*, *Truth about HIV/AIDS*; prevention-aimed printed products are disseminated such as *Don’t be afraid to say NO*, *If you want to live stop smoking*; thematic evenings are carried out such as *Life without Drugs*, *Harm of Alcohol and Smoking and Their Impact on Young Organism*, *What We Know of HIV*; thematic lectures are delivered such as *Life at*

Crossroads, Cool to be Healthy!; “frank talks” with former young drug addicts are organised.

All-Ukrainian large-scale actions to prevent negative phenomena are a component of a scheduled, purposeful and systematic work on forming a healthy lifestyle among children and youth. Various information and educational activities carried out during the actions aimed to reduce the spread of HIV-risky behaviour. Putting into place new models of healthy lifestyles for youth by involving the young people themselves in preparation and holding of the events has a considerable effect. More than 1 million young people aged 14-30 took part in the actions in 2007.

The following forms of work were used during the actions: press conferences, round tables, meetings, presentations of public organisations’ work to provide services to the HIV infected and AIDS patients, poster exhibitions and contests, concerts, thematic discotheques, lectures, video lectures, training workshops for pupils and students, distribution of advertising information products on prevention of drug addiction, TB, HIV/AIDS, smoking and alcoholism.

Article 11§3

- 1) For States that have accepted neither paragraph 1 or paragraph 2, please describe the general public health policy and legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.
- 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the public health policy and the legal framework.
- 3) Please supply any relevant statistics or other information on the percentage of smokers in the general population, trends in alcohol consumption and the rates of vaccination cover for infectious and epidemic diseases.

Tobacco, alcohol, and drugs

Tobacco smoking is one of the main negative factors affecting Ukrainian population’s health.

A strategy of tobacco control policy is determined by the Concept of the State Policy in the Field of Tobacco Control that was approved by a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in order to protect the population’s health against harmful impacts of tobacco smoking and to decrease consumption of tobacco products. In 2005, the Law of Ukraine on Measures to Prevent and Reduce Consumption of Tobacco Products and Their Harmful Impacts on People’s Health was approved (No. 2899-IV, 22.09.2005), one of the main tasks of which is “to determine legal and organizational basics of the state policy for prevention of tobacco product smoking by children and youth and for reduction of tobacco product consumption by citizens in order to reduce the risk of disease development, working capacity loss and early mortality due to tobacco product

smoking or other ways of their consumption”. On 15 March 2006, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Advertising of tobacco products in Ukraine still remains one of the main means to stimulate consumption of tobacco products, first of all among youth and women. According to the Law on Advertising No. 270/96-VR dated 3.07.1996 such advertising is currently prohibited on radio and television, in transport as well as is somewhat restricted in printed editions (prohibited on first and last pages of newspapers, magazine covers, etc.). According to Article 13 FCTC, Ukraine must take appropriate legislative, executive, administrative and other measures for full prohibition of tobacco advertising and of stimulation and sponsorship of tobacco products, in particular:

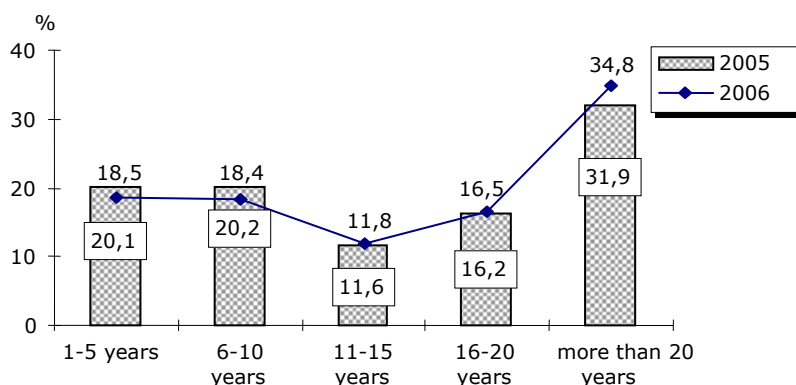
Since 1 January 2007, medical warnings for tobacco product consumers occupy 30% of the surface area of a larger side of each tobacco product pack. Since early 2007, cigarette packs in Ukraine bear no such misleading terms as “light”. To better inform tobacco product consumers, it is suggested to increase the size and number of medical warnings supplementing them with graphics.

Pursuant to the Law of Ukraine on Amending Some Laws of Ukraine on State Regulation of Production and Circulation of Tobacco Products No. 3425-IV of 9.02.2006, the MoH of Ukraine must compile and annually publish lists of harmful tobacco product substances and ingredients contained in cigarettes and discharged with tobacco smoke.

According to the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, a quarter of the population aged 12 and above had the harmful habit of smoking in 2006, like in 2005. Each of the persons having such a habit smokes for more than 20 years.

The proportion of persons smoking for less than 11 years decreased against 2005 whereas the share of persons with a longer smoking record increased.

Breakdown of persons who reported themselves as smokers, by smoking record



Initial contribution to preventive work concerning tobacco consumption is made by such school subjects as “Basics of Health” and “Protection and Safety of Vital Activities”. However, these courses consider the negative impacts of tobacco

smoking, alcohol, narcotic and toxic substances upon health together. There are no separate topics dealing exactly with the harm of tobacco smoking.

Ukrainian public organizations conduct a variety of events for tobacco control. Operations of some of them are coordinated by the Coalition for Tobacco-Smoke-Free Ukraine. Public organizations have lately started actively influencing the tobacco control policy on the local level by encouraging local governments to take a more active stand on these matters.

Ukraine is now at a critical point in development of the tobacco control policy. On the one hand, the smoking prevalence rate has grown and reached a very high level in recent years. On the other hand, ratification of the WHO FCTC, adoption of the law on tobacco control, and the President's and Government's initiatives create favourable conditions for decisive steps to be taken for tobacco control, which would allow reducing the burden of tobacco-caused diseases and deaths. Adoption of the State Targeted Programme for Reduction of Tobacco's Harmful Impact upon the Ukrainian Population's Health for 2008-2012 and providing it with proper resources should become an organizational framework for these decisive steps.

Alcohol

In 2005-2007, decrease of alcohol-caused mortality was seen in 2006 with subsequent rise in 2007: 55, 49 and 52 per 100 thousand population, respectively. Similar trends were observed for a few external death causes closely related to alcohol use: falling, drowning, accidents caused by smoke, fire and flame. This data suggests that alcohol consumption in Ukraine decreased in 2006 but increased again in 2007.

Remarkably, alcohol-caused mortality in 2006 dropped by 11% compared to the previous year, and increased by 8.4% in 2007. At the same time, total mortality in Ukraine was respectively 1660, 1620 and 1640 per 100 thousand in those years: it decreased by 2.4% in 2006 against 2005, and increased by 1.2% in 2007. This data confirms the trends observed since the middle 1980s: total mortality decreased as alcohol-caused mortality decreased, and vice versa, in the recent 20 years. The percentage of alcohol-caused mortality changes was generally much higher than total mortality changes. Such a trend suggests that impact upon the alcoholic situation toward less consumption is able to influence the total mortality rate in Ukraine in a fast and material way.

Drug addiction

Reasons behind increase in the number of drug users include accessibility of narcotic substances and unsatisfactory preventive work. Therefore, broad public awareness-raising and special attention of bodies of internal affairs' workers, medical staff and education specialists to this problem is a top priority task.

According to sociological surveys, about 4% children tried drugs already in the age of 12-14 years, and the period of 15-17 years is the age of active "tasting" of drugs. It is the age when about 60% respondents tried drugs on themselves.

Typically, alcohol and drug consumption by adolescents is mostly caused by interest.

Psychic and behavioural disorders caused by use of narcotic substances are frequent among adolescents. The prevalence rate of drug-caused acute intoxication and psychic and behavioural disorders with harmful consequences (preventive supervision group) was 21.0 per 100 thousand children aged 0-17 in 2005, 18.8 in 2006, and 15.6 in 2007. Traditionally, this phenomenon is most rarely seen in oblasts of Ukraine's western region.

In 2007, upon the initiative of the President of Ukraine and the National Council for the Population's Health Care under the President of Ukraine, the Healthy Nation All-Ukrainian Forum took place that offered effective mechanisms of state policy to overcome the public health crisis.

Ukraine's sanitary and epidemic situation

One of the main activity areas of the Government of Ukraine consists of targeting the health care system on prevention of diseases, provision of a safe and health-favourable living environment for people (conditions of labour, living, training, rest, and nutrition), people's healthy lifestyle, and improvement of the demographic situation.

Implementation of the state policy on public health care is secured by the State Sanitary and Epidemiologic Service of Ukraine (SESU). Its tasks include the matter of national security of the State: sanitary and epidemic welfare of people, protection of people's health from harmful impacts of environmental factors, prevention of introduction and dissemination of especially dangerous (including those subject to quarantine) infectious diseases, control over elimination of reasons of emergence and spread of infectious and mass noninfectious diseases and poisonings as well as state sanitary and epidemiological supervision over product safety including safety of food, genetically modified products, and drinking water.

In 2005-2007 in Ukraine, sanitary and epidemiological activities concentrated on harmonisation of domestic sanitary laws with the EU legislation and the WTO requirements; prevention of bringing into Ukraine of especially dangerous (including those subject to quarantine) infections; strengthening of measures to secure a reliable level of biological safety; prevention of outbreaks of infectious diseases related to objects of sanitary and epidemiological supervision, and reduction of their number in everyday life.

Due to organisation of precise implementation of scheduled measures to localise bird flu, there was no bird flu cases among humans, outbreaks of acute enteric infections were eliminated quickly, and no manifestation and spread of dangerous infections were allowed.

Special attention was paid to implementation of state programmes, particularly the "Drinking Water of Ukraine" nationwide programme for 2006-2020, the "Health of the Nation" intersectoral comprehensive programme for 2002-2011, the Nationwide Programme of handling of toxic waste, the Programme of development of the water supply and sewage system, the National Programme of improving the state of

occupational safety and health and working environment, and the State Programme of iodine deficiency prevention for 2002-2005.

Pursuant to the Decree by the President of Ukraine *On measures to increase efficiency of combating dangerous contagious diseases* (No. 132/2006 of 14.02.2006), sanitary control was reinforced over observance at enterprises, institutions and organisations of sanitary norms and rules failure to comply with which creates the danger of emergence and spread of contagious diseases among the population. As one of the efficient ways to secure people's sanitary and epidemic welfare, inspections of compliance with sanitary laws at small and medium-sized enterprises were conducted. If any breach of sanitary laws was revealed, adequate proportionate sanctions were applied.

In 2006, more than 234 thousand penalties were imposed on those in breach of sanitary laws. In 2007, the figure was more than 159 thousand, of which 1512 cases were submitted to prosecutor offices for investigation. 201,225 persons were removed from work in 2007 upon the proposal of the state sanitary and epidemiological service because of failure to comply with sanitary norms and rules.

Epidemiology experts and scientists were observing, pursuant to the state policy, radiological and hydrochemical indicators on cross-border water facilities with Belarus and Russia (Order by the President of Ukraine No. 461/15099 of 13.06.1996), carrying out state sanitary and epidemiological supervision in the field of radiation safety of Ukraine, radiation monitoring of environment, and monitoring of atmospheric air. They also secure implementation of the Nationwide Programme of protection and reproduction of environment of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea (Law of Ukraine No. 2333-III of 22.03.01), the National Programme of ecological improvement of Dnipro basin and betterment of drinking water quality (Resolution by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine No. 123/97-VR of 27.02.1997), etc.

SESU exercises continuous laboratory control over drinking water quality at water intakes, water pipeline facilities, and centralised water supply networks, and takes appropriate measures in case of breaches.

Due to the Chornobyl nuclear power plant (1986), dose loads on population are under permanent control in 12 oblasts of Ukraine (dosimetric passportisation of settlements has been carried out since 1991). Hundreds of thousands of X-ray diagnostic studies and preventive fluorography checks as well as radiological studies are performed every year.

Radiological units of SESU of the Ministry of Health carry out about 200,000 gamma and beta spectrometric studies annually, including checks of food and drinking water for content of caesium-137 and strontium-90 radionuclides.

It should be pointed out that examinations of the samples of technical and drinking water supplied to people, foodstuffs, and food raw materials suggest that the radiation status in the territory of Ukraine remained stable during 2005-2007.

One of the most topical tasks for epidemiologists is to combat sub-quality foodstuffs. To that end, SESU works to find and withdraw such products from circulation. First of all, entities in food industry, restaurants and trade outlets are controlled. During the last three years, the control allowed prohibiting and withdrawing

out of sale 10,748 tons of sub-quality and unsafe foodstuffs that could have adversely affected Ukrainian people's health.

Prevention of contagious and epidemiological diseases

One of the main activity areas of the Government of Ukraine consists of targeting the health care system on prevention of diseases, provision of a safe and health-favourable living environment for people (conditions of labour, living, training, rest, and nutrition), people's healthy lifestyle, and improvement of the demographic situation.

In Ukraine, vaccination is the most optimal way to reduce prevalence of infections for which specific prevention means are available. Due to achieving a high level of immunity owing to usage of high-quality vaccines, more than 3 million child lives are rescued every year. Besides, vaccination costs are almost 10 times lower than treatment expenses. The budget funding for the Programme of immunoprophylaxis of the population was UAH 177 million in 2006 and about 207 million in 2007. It allows securing immunoprophylaxis of children according to European standards.

A new schedule of preventive inoculations was approved in Ukraine in 2006, according to which four types of preventive inoculations are provided: age-based, health-based, based on epidemic indications, and recommended.

According to the schedule, vaccination against 10 infections is provided: tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, parotitis, rubella, hepatitis B, and (since 2006) haemophilic infection (Hib infection), introduction of which will allow considerably reducing incidence of purulent meningitis and pneumonia, first of all among under-5 children.

In 2007, 89% was covered with preventive inoculations (against 97% in 2006 and 96% in 2005). The inoculations allowed reducing incidence rates of diphtheria, measles, epidemic parotitis, viral hepatitis A and B, and no acute poliomyelitis cases was registered.

Vaccination coverage of children under 1 is as follows: against diphtheria – 98.3%, whooping cough – 98.0%, poliomyelitis – 98.3%, tuberculosis – 97.1%, hepatitis B – 94.2%. For children under 2 (vaccination against measles, rubella, and parotitis) the figure is 98.6%. Coverage of decreed population groups with preventive inoculations in 2006-2007 is shown in the table below.

Coverage of decreed population groups with preventive inoculations, 2006-2007 (%)

Population coverage with preventive inoculations		Year	
		2006	2007
Tuberculosis	vaccination	98.5	98.5
	revaccination	91.6	96.3
Diphtheria	vaccination	98.2	97.5
	revaccination	96.5	96.8

Whooping cough	vaccination	98.7	98.0
	revaccination	98.2	96.8
Poliomyelitis	vaccination	98.9	98.4
	revaccination	98.6	99.0
Measles	vaccination	98.8	95.9
	revaccination	98.5	96.5
Rubella	vaccination	98.8	95.9
	revaccination	98.8	97.1
Epidemic parotitis	vaccination	98.8	95.9
	revaccination	99.0	97.0
Hepatitis B	vaccination	95.6	71.4

In 2007, reduction of incidence rates was registered in Ukraine as compared to the same period of 2006: measles – by 97.7%, rubella – 61.5%, viral hepatitis – 27.9% (A – 32.3%, B – 19.5%, C – 11.7%), epidemic parotitis – 21.6%, meningococcus infection – 16.1%, whooping cough – 10.6%, respiratory system tuberculosis – 2.9%, etc. Incidence rates of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and HIV/AIDS have grown (respectively by 19.2%, 31%, and 12.7/6.2%).

During recent 3 years, 247 diphtheria cases were registered in the country including 13 lethal outcomes.

Intensive incidence rates were 0.21 per 100 thousand in 2005, 0.14 in 2006, and 0.17 in 2007. These figures are higher than the epidemic welfare indicator defined by WHO (0.1 per 100 thousand population).

Although no tetanus case has been registered among children in the country during some recent years and neonatal tetanus has been actually eliminated, annual tetanus growth among adults is disturbing: 2005 – 0.03/100 thousand (16 cases), 2006 – 0.05/100 thousand (24 cases), 2007 – 0.06/100 thousand (28 cases).

Measles and rubella incidence rates in 2007 decreased, following another epidemic measles rise in the late 2005 and 2006. Five lethal outcomes caused by measles were registered during the epidemic rise. Epidemic parotitis incidence rate remains stable high during last 3 years: 2005 – 7.96 per 100 thousand, 2006 – 7.91, 2007 – 7.91.

Indicators of immunisation coverage against rubella, epidemic parotitis and viral hepatitis B have improved considerably over recent years due to inclusion of a double vaccination with a complex vaccine (measles, rubella and epidemic parotitis) for decreed age groups, mandatory revaccination of adolescents (boys and girls) under 15 against epidemic parotitis and rubella, inclusion of mandatory vaccination of under-one children against viral hepatitis B, and vaccination of medical staff and other equivalent contingents based on epidemic indicators. Amounts of revaccination against tuberculosis have increased substantially.

During the last three years, according to resolutions by the Chief State Sanitary Physician of Ukraine, pre-seasonal preventive anti-flu vaccination of

relevant population groups (large working collectives, epidemic risk groups) is conducted. In 2004-2006, the flu incidence rate tended to go down (156.24 cases per 100,000 population against 993.5 in 2005, 752.13 in 2004), but in 2007 it again grew up to 1013.96 (by 6.4%).

Inoculations were provided to prevent influenza, viruses of which are circulating among the population, and related medico-social complications as well as to reduce the probability of emergence of a recombinant version of the pandemic bird flu virus (in case of simultaneous infection with a seasonal human flu virus and a new subtype of bird flu virus, their simultaneous replication in the same cell, the threat of the latter will persist until H5N1 circulates among animals).

The world community is facing a threat of a possible new flu pandemic caused by H5N1 bird flu strain. Joint efforts by public authorities and the Government of Ukraine allowed developing and implementing a package of interagency anti-epidemic measures aimed to prevent bird flu from spreading in Ukraine.

Considering Ukraine's proximity to areas at risk, measures are being taken in Ukraine to minimise possible medical and social consequences of the diseases, to prevent any further spread of bird flu in Ukraine, and to avert possible infection of people with the bird flu agent. No case of bird flu among humans has been registered over the entire period since the disease was registered in Ukraine.

Article 14 – The right to benefit from social welfare services

With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to benefit from social welfare services, the Parties undertake:

- 1 to promote or provide services which, by using methods of social work, would contribute to the welfare and development of both individuals and groups in the community, and to their adjustment to the social environment;
- 2 to encourage the participation of individuals and voluntary or other organisations in the establishment and maintenance of such services.

Information to be submitted

Article 14§1

- 1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.
- 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.
- 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information to demonstrate the effective access to social services (beneficiaries in total and per

category of social welfare services, number and geographical distribution of services, staff number and qualifications).

General legal framework

- Constitution of Ukraine
- Law of Ukraine on Social Services of 19.07.2003 № 966-IV
- Law of Ukraine on Social Work with Children and Youth of 21.05.2001 № 2558-III
- Law of Ukraine on State Social Standards and State Social Guarantees of 16.12.1993 № 3721-XI
- Law of Ukraine on Protection of Childhood of 26.04.2001 № 2402-III
- Law of Ukraine on Securing Organizational and Legal Conditions for Social Protection of Orphan Children and Children Deprived of Parental Care of 13.01.2005 № 2342-IV
- Law of Ukraine on Basics of Social Protection of Disabled Persons in Ukraine of 21.03.1991 № 875-XII
- Law of Ukraine on Basics of Social Protection of Homeless Persons and Uncared-For Children of 02.06.2005 № 2623-IV
- Law of Ukraine on Social Adaptation of Persons Who Served Restraint or Custodial Sentences for a Certain Period of 10.07.2003 № 1104-IV
- Law of Ukraine on the Housing Stock of Social Purpose of 12.01.2006 № 3334-IV
- Law of Ukraine on Refugees of 21.06.2001 № 2557-III
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1895 of 10.12.2003 *On the approval of the Regulations on volunteer activities in the field of social services*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 558 of 29.04.2004 *On the approval of the Procedure of assignment and payment of compensation to natural persons providing social services*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 608 of 12.05.2004 *On the approval of the Model Regulations on a centre of socio-psychological assistance*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 27.08.2004 *On the establishment of the State Social Welfare Service for Family, Children and Youth*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1126 of 27.08.20074 *On measures to improve social work with families, children and youth*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 268 of 9.04.2005 *On the approval of the Procedure for regulation of tariffs of paid social services*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 877 of 8.09.2005 *On the approval of the Model Regulations on a centre of socio-psychological rehabilitation of children and youth with functional limitations*

- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 878 of 8.09.2005 *On the approval of the Model Regulations on a social hostel for orphan children and children deprived of parental care*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 879 of 8.09.2005 *on the approval of the Model Regulations on a mother-and-child social centre*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 148 of 15.02.2006 *on the approval of the Model Regulations on a centre for HIV infected children and youth*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 439 of 14.03.2007 *On the approval of the Procedure of using in 2007 subventions from the state budget to local budgets for development of establishments providing social services to children and youth*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1209 of 10.10.2007 *On supplementing the Procedure of using in 2007 subventions from the state budget to local budgets for development of establishments providing social services to children and youth*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 404 of 30.03.2006 *On the approval of the Model Regulations on a centre for recording of homeless persons*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 12 of 14.01.04 *On the procedure of providing paid social services and approving a list thereof*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1652 of 14.01.04 *On the approval of the Procedure to provide some population categories with technical and other means of rehabilitation and to compile a corresponding state order, and on the approval of a list of such means.*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1686 of 8.12.06 *On the approval of the model state programme for rehabilitation of disabled persons.*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 80 of 31.01.07 *On the approval of the Procedure to provide rehabilitation services to disabled persons and disabled children.*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 716 of 12.05.07 *On the approval of the State Programme for the development of a system of rehabilitation and labour employment of persons with disabilities, mental disorders and mental deficiency for the period until 2011.*
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 576-r of 25.07.2007 *On the approval of an action plan aimed to develop a system of people's vocational guidance for the period until 2009.*
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 748-r of 15.10.2004 *On the approval of the concept of the draft Law of Ukraine on Volunteer Movement*
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No.178-r of 13.04.2007 *On the approval of the Concept of reform of the social services system*

- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1030-r of 21.11.07 *On the approval of an action plan to secure social adaptation of the persons who served custodial sentences, for the period until 2009*
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 54-r of 14.02.07 *On the approval of an action plan to secure social protection of homeless persons for 2007*
- Order by the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports (MFYS) No. 1598 of 10.08.05 *On the approval of an action programme for regional mobile counselling posts of social work in rural and mountainous areas and in remote urban districts*
- MFYS Order No. 3545 of 23.10.2006 *On the approval of the Model Regulations on a counselling post of a social welfare service centre for family, children and youth in maternity hospitals, antenatal clinics, and child's homes*
- MFYS Order No. 2670 of 03.08.2006 *On the approval of a Programme of training for social workers of social welfare service centres for family, children and youth on the establishment and operation support of family-type children's homes and foster families, and a Programme of training for candidate adoptive and foster parents*
- MFYS Order No. 3685 of 31.10.2006 *On the approval of the Procedure of social follow-through of foster families and family-type children's homes*
- MFYS Order No. 588 of 28.02.2007 *On the approval of a procedure of interaction between social welfare service centres for family, children and youth, and services for juvenile affairs in the process of establishment and operation support of foster families and family-type children's homes*
- MFYS Order No. 1015 of 04.04.2007 *On the approval of a Programme of advanced training for adoptive and foster parents*
- MFYS Order No. 2668 of 25.07.2007 *On the approval of a Programme of training for candidate adoptive and foster parents to care for HIV-infected children*
- MFYS Order No. 2670 of 25.07.2007 *On the approval of Ukrainian versions of PRIDE programmes "Training of candidate adoptive and foster parents" and "Training of social workers for establishment and social follow-through of family-based forms of care"*
- MFYS Order No. 3880 of 30.10.2007 *On the approval of a Programme of training for specialists of social welfare service centres for family, children and youth to provide social follow-through to families in complicated life circumstances*
- MFYS Order No. 4991 of 21.12.2007 *On the approval of a procedure of compilation, maintenance and usage of the general databank of families in complicated life circumstances*
- Order by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine (MLSP) No. 201 of 3.05.07 *On the approval of the Procedure of interaction among the bodies of labour and social protection, employment centres, branches of the*

Fund for Social Protection of Disabled Persons, centres of vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons, and MLSP educational institutions on job placement of disabled persons

- MLSP Order No. 48 of 13.02.07 *On the approval of the Model Regulations on a centre of social rehabilitation of disabled children.*
- MLSP Order No. 104 of 15.03.07 *On the organisation, accounting and reporting on the provision of rehabilitation services to disabled persons and disabled children*
- MLSP Order No. 31 of 14.02.06 *On the approval of the Model Regulations on social protection facilities for homeless persons and persons released from places of confinement*
- MLSP Order No. 98 of 3.04.06 *On the approval of the Model Regulations on a social hotel*
- MLSP/MoH Order No. 28/26 of 24.01.07 *On the approval of regulatory legal acts for provision of socio-medical services to homeless persons and persons released from places of confinement*
- MLSP/MoH Order No. 610/708 of 13.11.07 *On amending the terms of labour remuneration for staff of health care institutions and social protection establishments*
- MLSP Order No. 264 of 17.07.06 *On the approval of reporting forms No. 1-BG “Report on activities of social protection establishments for homeless persons” and No. 1-ZO “Report on activities of institutions for persons released from places of confinement”, as well as instructions for filling them*
- MLSP Order No. 274 of 27.04.06 *On the approval of a job description for the “social worker” position*
- MLSP Order No. 275 of 27.04.06 *On the approval of job descriptions for the positions “director of a social protection establishment for homeless persons” and “director of an institution for persons released from places of confinement”*

The Law of Ukraine on Social Services states that social services are a complex of legal, economic, psychological, educational, medical, rehabilitation and other measures targeted at certain social groups or individuals being in complicated life circumstances and needing outside help for improving or renewing their vital activities, social adaptation and return to full-fledged life.

Main forms of provision of social services consist of social servicing and material aid.

Ukrainian nationals as well as foreigners and stateless persons, including refugees, legally residing in Ukraine and being in complicated life circumstances are entitled to obtain social services.

To obtain social services provided by state and communal entities, a person in need of them should file a written application to a local executive authority or a local government.

To obtain social services provided by non-state entities, a person in need of them should apply to a relevant entity providing the services.

If a person in need of social services is not able, due to age or health, to make an independent decision on the necessity of their provision, such a decision may be made by a guardian or trustee, or bodies of guardianship and trusteeship according to laws in force.

Social services may be provided both on the paid and free basis.

Free social services are provided by state and communal entities in the amounts defined by state social service standards to:

- persons unable to serve themselves because of old age, disease or disability and having no relative to provide them with care and assistance;
- persons being in a complicated life situation because of unemployment and registered in a state employment service as job seekers, or because of natural disasters or accidents, or being refugees due to armed or interethnic conflicts, if average monthly aggregate income of these persons is lower than the established minimum of subsistence;
- children and youth being in a complicated life situation because of disability, disease, orphanage, homelessness, low income, conflicts, or family abuse.

Social services are financed from the state and local budgets, special funds, funds of enterprises, institutions and organizations, payment for social services, charity aid funds, funds of social service recipients, and other sources provided for in laws.

Funds necessary for financing of social services should be planned in local budgets.

Funds for financing of targeted programmes of social services provision should be envisaged in the state and local budgets.

Territorial programmes of social services development are financed from special-purpose subventions allocated to a local budget or by means of pooling local budget funds for implementation of joint projects.

An exhaustive list of social services, conditions for provision thereof, and a procedure to regulate their payment tariffs are established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

When obtaining social services, citizens are entitled to:

- respectful and humane treatment by entities providing social services;
- choice of an institution and establishment as well as of a form of social servicing;
- information on their rights, obligations and conditions for provision of social services;
- consent to social services;
- refusal from social services;
- confidentiality of private information that came to knowledge of the entity providing social services.

If a person receiving social servicing fails, with no good reason, to meet requirements for their provision, the entity providing social services sends a written notice to such a person on possible refusal from, or restriction in, providing the social services.

If a person receiving social services has been notified in written on possible refusal from, or restriction in, providing them but still fails to meet the requirements for their provision, the entity providing social services may unilaterally restrict or terminate provision of the social services to such a person by notifying the said person and a local executive authority or local government in written to that effect. Any restriction in receiving one type of social services may not constitute a ground to restrict provision of some other type of social services.

A decision on refusal from, restriction in, or termination of, the provision of social services by state and communal entities may be appealed against in the local executive authority or local government that issued the authorisation to provide social services (for non-state entities providing social services – in the authority that issued the authorisation to provide social services) or in a court.

Persons guilty of breaking the laws on social services shall be held civilly, administratively or criminally liable according to Ukrainian laws.

Professional activities in provision of social services are subject to licensing pursuant to the Law of Ukraine on Licensing of Certain Economic Activities. Non-state entities wishing to provide social services on the professional basis at the expense of their own funds, mobilised funds or funds of the state or local budget provide them on the basis of a license.

Social services are provided by social workers and other natural persons having proper education and being inclined, in terms of their personal qualities, to provide social services.

Qualification requirements to social workers and other specialists providing social services as well as a procedure of their assessment are determined by relevant central executive authorities.

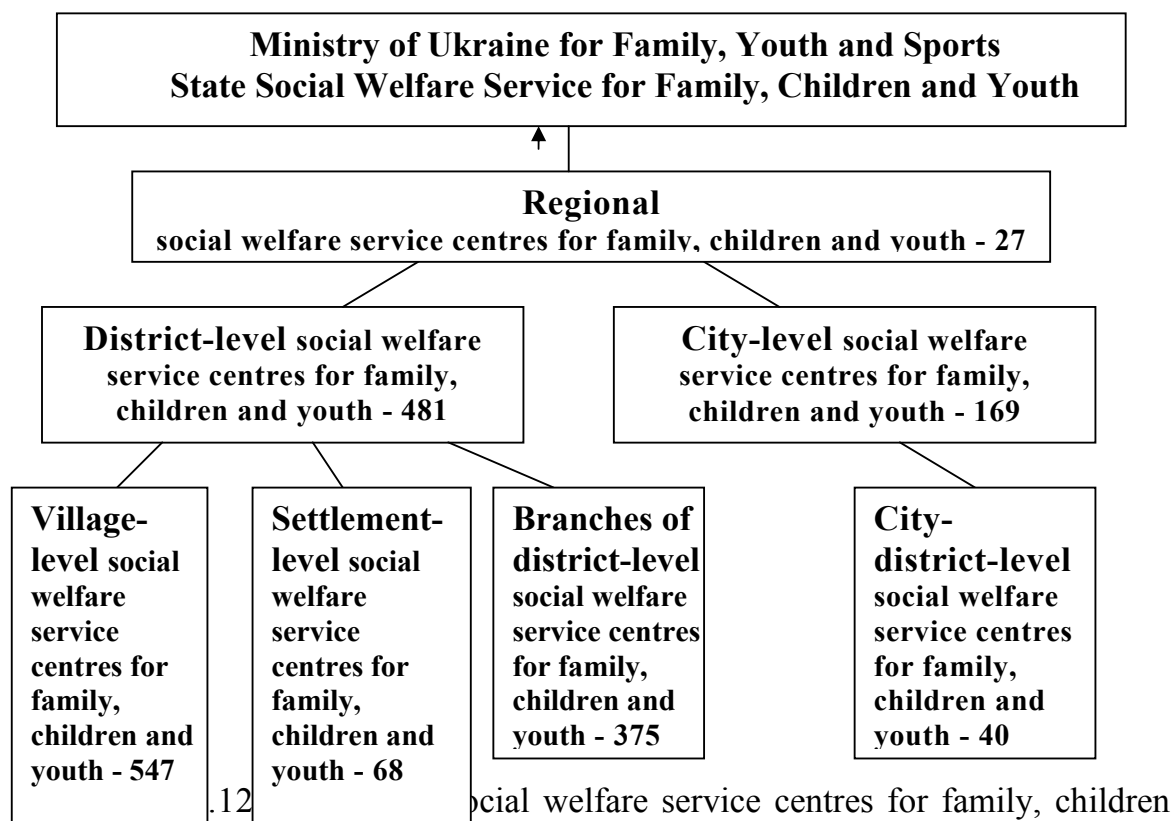
Central and local executive authorities and local government organise, within their competence, work to provide relevant social services, and exercise control over the activities of entities providing social services.

Social welfare service centres for family, children and youth

In order to create conditions for the provision of targeted social service directly on the domiciliary basis, social welfare service centres for family, children and youth are operating in Ukraine on the regional, district, city, village and settlement level as well as regional-level social servicing institutions.

The social welfare service centres for family, children and youth are special institutions providing social services to family, children and youth being in complicated life circumstances and needing outside help.

The main working objective of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth is to provide psychological, socio-pedagogical, socio-medical, socio-economic, legal and information services to family, children and youth (paragraph 4, Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1126 of 27.08.20074 *On measures to improve social work with families, children and youth*).



12 social welfare service centres for family, children and youth have been established in Ukraine, namely: 27 regional, 481 district-level, 169 city-level, 40 city-district-level, 547 village-level, and 68 settlement-level ones. Besides, 375 branches of district-level centres have been established.

During the reporting period, a network of specialised formations of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth was working:

Services of social support for family	741
Helpline service	79
School of volunteers	544
Student social services	157
Mobile counselling posts of social work in rural and mountainous areas	544
Information resource centres	89
Service working with injecting drug users	217
Counselling posts in maternity hospitals and departments	679

The Law of Ukraine on Social Work with Children and Youth of 21.05.2001 № 2558-III (Articles 8, 9, 10, 11) defines the basic functions of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth:

social servicing – securing social servicing of families, children and youth by rendering them socio-pedagogical, psychological, socio-medical, socioeconomic, legal, and information services;

social follow-through - providing social follow-through support to foster families, family-type children's homes, families in complicated life circumstances; providing social patronage to young persons serving or having served restraint or custodian sentences;

social prevention - conducting socio-preventive work to avert offences and other negative phenomena in the child and youth environment, overcoming their consequences, and advocating healthy lifestyles;

social rehabilitation - conducting socio-rehabilitating measures aimed to provide persons in complicated life circumstances (including those having suffered from domestic violence) with assistance to restore broken functions of their organism, compensate life activity restrictions, and maintain an optimal physical, psychological and social level to achieve social adaptation.

The republican (AR of Crimea), oblast-level, Kyiv and Sevastopol city social welfare service centre for family, children and youth:

- exercises control over the activities of district, city, city-district, settlement and village social welfare service centres in the implementation of nationwide and other social programmes concerning family, children and youth;

- ensures introduction of state social standards and rates, new forms, methods and innovative technologies of social work with families, children and youth;

- organises and provides training of potential guardians, tutors, adoptive parents and foster parents;

- holds scientific and practical conferences, seminars, meetings and round-tables on the matters in its competence;

- exercises, in cooperation with relevant local executive authorities and local governments, control over intended and efficient spending of the funds disbursed to the centres from local budgets for the implementation of programmes and activities aimed to conduct social work with families, children and youth;

- takes, in due course, measures to engage international organisations in social work with families, children and youth.

The district, city, city-district, settlement and village centre for family, children and youth:

- secures social servicing of families, children and youth by providing them socio-pedagogical, psychological, socio-medical, socio-economic, legal and information services;

- provides social follow-through support to foster families, family-type children's homes, children being brought up in tutor/guardian families, families in complicated life circumstances, and provides social patronage to young persons serving or having served restraint or custodian sentences;

- conducts work to avert offences and prevent socially dangerous diseases in the child and youth environment, including in groups at risk, overcome their consequences, and advocates healthy lifestyles;

- conducts socio-rehabilitating measures aimed to provide persons in complicated life circumstances (including those having suffered from domestic

violence) with assistance to restore broken functions of their organism, compensate life activity restrictions, and maintain an optimal physical, psychological and social level to achieve social adaptation;

- secures early detection, recording, and social follow-through of families finding themselves in complicated life circumstances, and maintenance of a relevant databank;

- takes measures aimed to secure social and psychological adaptation of orphan children and children deprived of parental care in order to prepare them for independent life;

- provides legal, psychological and social aid to orphan children and children deprived of parental care as well as to their biological parents, guardians, tutors, adoptive parents and foster parents;

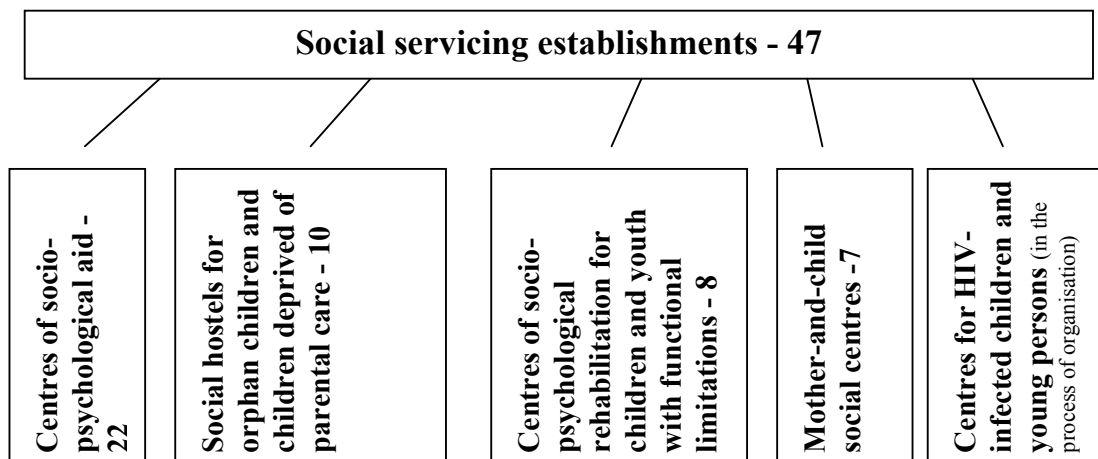
- carries out social work aimed to prevent abandonment of newborns;

- carries out socio-psychological rehabilitation of children and youth with functional limitations.

A contemporary attribute of the development of integrated social work consists of provision of a package of social services in social servicing establishments.

Uniqueness of the creation of these establishments in Ukraine consists of the fact that funds for organization and equipment of these establishments were disbursed from the state budget and transferred to local executive authorities or local governments, and that a regulatory framework for their functioning was approved.

Creation of the above-mentioned establishments allowed securing performance of the state tasks to overcome consequences of family ill-being: homelessness, neglect, beggary, social orphanage, family violence and child abuse, spread of offences and crime among minors and youth, destruction of moral and spiritual values, alcoholic and drug addiction.



As of 31.12.2007, there were 47 social servicing establishments in Ukraine created in 2005-2007 (24-hour and daily inpatient units) that provide free social services and social support to families, children and youth being in complicated life circumstances, including:

- 22 centres of socio-psychological aid – 24-hour inpatient units providing social services to persons being in complicated life circumstances, to promote their soonest possible to normal life activity;
- 10 social hostels where orphan children and children deprived of parental care, from among graduates of boarding schools and inmates of family-type children’s homes and foster families, will be able to stay 24 hours for up to 3 years in order to obtain social housing and prepare for independent life;
- 7 mother-and-child social centres where women with 7-9 months of pregnancy and mothers with children aged 0-18, being in complicated life situations, may stay on the 24-hour basis, learn how to care for a child, and prepare for settlement of their further life;
- 8 centres of socio-psychological rehabilitation for children and youth with functional limitations where such children and young persons aged 7-35 receive support and renew their physical and mental conditions to adapt and integrate in society.

For the purpose of further development of a network of social servicing establishments at the expense of a subvention from the state budget to local budget, work continued in 2007 for creation of 37 social servicing establishments in 20 regions of Ukraine, including:

- 2 centres of socio-psychological aid;
- 14 social hostels for orphan children and children deprived of parental care aged 15-18, and persons aged 18-23 who were orphan children or children deprived of parental care;
- 11 mother-and-child social centres;
- 3 centres of socio-psychological rehabilitation of children and youth with functional limitations;
- 6 centres for HIV-infected children and young persons.

Staff number and qualifications

Normative number of workers in regional, district, city, city district, village and settlement centres was as follows:

	2005	2006	2007
normative number of centre workers	8048	7777	8912
approved staff list number of centre workers	5157	4928	4238
% of staffing	58% of standard	63% of standard	53% of standard

Some increase of staffing can be seen as compared to previous years but it should be noted that the percentage of staffing is lower because the network of social welfare service centres for family, children and youth is growing.

4670 staff specialists worked in the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth during 2007 including:

speciality	2005	2006	2007
pedagogues, social pedagogues, psychologists, social work specialists, sociologists	2274	2418	2610 (56%)
lawyers	219	269	297 (6%)
accountants and economists, systems engineers	813	822	864 (18%)
medical workers	27	38	35 (1%)
other specialities	621	811	864 (18%)

Apart from staff workers, 2246 invited specialists worked in the centres (2006 – 3854, 2005 – 7020), namely:

speciality	2005	2006	2007
pedagogues, social pedagogues, psychologists, social work specialists, sociologists	4346	2031	1230 (55%)
lawyers	580	257	137 (6%)
accountants and economists, systems engineers	63	62	76 (3%)
medical workers	1737	1209	487 (22%)
other specialities	296	296,	316 (14%)

As compared to 2006, the number of invited psychologists decreased by 336 persons, social work specialists by 28, social pedagogues by 94, lawyers by 120, medical workers by 722, and pedagogues by 347, which is explained by insufficient State Budget funding for the programmes and activities of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth.

Total number of clients and services provided thereto

During 2005-2007, social services of the centres covered:

2005	2006	2007
645944 persons	630601 persons	775709 persons

Social services provided:

	2005	2006	2007
Total number	5574303	9956539	6309754
psychological	1006933	913654	1017631
socio-pedagogical	1500806	1549116	1660802
socio-medical	1242241	1191109	1202730
socio-economic	341469	314900	417331
legal	364689	294982	379966
information	1118163	5692778	1631294

Types of social services

The Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports (hereinafter referred to as MFYS) carries out work to develop and approve sectoral standards in the field of social work with families, children and youth. In particular, it approved the Order No. 3611 of 10.10.2007 *On the approval and introduction of a sectoral standard for the provision of social services to psychoactive substance users including injecting drug users, and to their close milieu* (applies to social work entities subordinated to a certain sector or ministry/agency, in this case MFYS).

Social workers of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth secure provision of the following social services for everyone in need of them:

- information services: providing information necessary to settle a difficult life situation (reference services), namely: types of social payments (if a family/person is eligible for them according to laws in force); contacts of services/institutions where one should apply for appropriate assistance; institutions that can provide services; conditions of obtaining social services, etc.;

- psychological services: psychological diagnostics aimed to examine the person's socio-psychological characteristics; counselling services on mental health and on improvement of relations with the surrounding environment; training to overcome difficulties and conflicts with environment; assisting in prevention of misunderstandings and conflicts among family members; organising and coordinating psychotherapeutic groups and mutual aid groups; psychological correction and psychological rehabilitation;

- socio-pedagogical services: planning, together with a family or person, measures and actions to remove the reasons that caused difficult life circumstances, monitoring implementation of the planned actions; revealing and promoting development of multifaceted interests of family members; educational work on the child's all-round and harmonious development and specificities of development of family and family relations; teaching parents efficient methods of punishment-free upbringing and of mobilisation of the family's own resources to

solve further problems; assisting parents in settlement of conflict situations in family upbringing; monitoring the child's protection against abuse and violence; pedagogical counselling on solving pedagogical problems of a family and its members; placing a child in a club, sports class, circle, etc.;

- socio-medical services: mediation in preventive, treatment and health-improving activities; counselling on health maintenance and reinforcement; shaping an ideology of healthy lifestyle and combating pernicious habits; shaping a sexual culture and skills of protected sexual relations; prevention of tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS; promoting health support and protection, etc.;

- legal services: providing counselling services on laws in force, guarantees and privileges; protecting the rights and interests of the family or individual; protecting the rights of the child, namely: promoting enforcement of state compulsion for holding liable and applying legal liability to persons acting unlawfully against the children/child, drawing up legal documents, representing the child's interests, etc.;

- socio-economic services: assisting in engagement of additional resources to meet material interests and demands of families or persons in complicated life circumstances, which are realised in the form of promotion in provision of in-kind aid (clothes, footwear, etc.); assisting in health improvement and in receipt of state social benefits, cash benefits, and monetary compensation benefits; informing on matters of job placement and training and promotion in these issues; mediating in provision of humanitarian aid from other sources, etc.

Services provided by the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth are state services and are provided on the free basis.

Financing for the implementation of programmes and activities of the State Social Welfare Service for Family, Children and Youth and regional social welfare service centres for family, children and youth:

Actual spending structure:	2005	2006	2007
From the State Budget (programmes and activities)	12812.5 UAH	5542.6 UAH	2999.2 UAH
From local budgets	50681.6 UAH	85356.8 UAH	121846.8 UAH
From other sources of own receipts	1600.5 UAH	5557.4 UAH	4800.5 UAH
Total	65094.6 UAH	96456.8 UAH	129646.5 UAH

Besides, in 2006 the Law of Ukraine on the State Budget of Ukraine for 2006 provided for a subvention from the State Budget to local budgets for the provision of social services to injecting drug users and their family members amounting to UAH 9000 thousand.

Analysis of the ratio between expenditures from the State Budget and those from local budgets shows that local executive authorities and local governments

realise the need to provide conditions for carrying out social work directly in the clients' place of residence.

Social services to children and young persons in conflict with law

To secure social work with children and young persons in conflict with law, the following entities worked under the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth:

- 185 services of social follow-through for minors and young persons serving in and coming back from places of confinement:
- 12 advisory posts in pre-trial prisons;
- 3 advisory posts in correctional colonies;
- 25 advisory posts in penal colonies;
- 13 advisory posts in criminal executive inspectorates.

The social welfare service centres for family, children and youth provide social support to minors and young persons serving in and coming from correctional and penal colonies or pre-trial prisons or convicted for punishment without imprisonment or serving alternative sentences and having applied for provision of social services.

Services of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth are mainly aimed at adaptation to conditions of isolation from society, preparation for release or re-socialisation afterwards; handling of personal and interpersonal psychological problems, problems of health, addictions, HIV/AIDS, employment (job placement, training), various social and economic problems including housing and living problems; establishment of lost socially useful ties, for example with the family.

The social welfare service centres for family, children and youth perform functions for the organisation of social work with minors and young persons serving in penal institutions, which includes: provision of socio-pedagogical, socio-medical, psychological, legal and information services to minors and young persons serving in penal institutions given their personal application or an application from the management of those institutions to social welfare services; taking part in the implementation of special programmes of preparation of prisoners for release through restoration and strengthening of their socially useful ties; promotion of preliminary settlement of the issues related to registration and residence in a selected settlement, job placement or training after the release; dissemination of information reference materials and social advertising products; counselling of penal institution staff on social work with minors and youth; involvement in the organisation and provision of practical training seminars for socio-psychological service staff of penal institutions on social work with minors and young persons serving in those institutions.

This work is carried out directly by the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth that are territorially situated in the same area with the penal institution and organise advisory posts in pre-trial prisons, correctional and penal colonies, and criminal executive inspectorates. Besides, specialists of the

social welfare service centres for family, children and youth visit such institutions that are territorially located in other regions.

During the visits to correctional colonies, specialists of the centres provided 1645 individual services to 832 minors, and the on-the-spot individual work covered 301 persons serving in penal colonies. During the work in correctional colonies, 7105 copies of information educational materials (posters, booklets, leaflets, etc.) were disseminated.

626 minors and 5513 young persons applied to the centres for assistance after release in 2007.

Social services to children and young persons affected by the HIV problem

HIV prevention among injecting drug users was carried out by the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth through a network of special formations – services for work with injecting drug users (hereinafter referred to as the Services). Developing the network and securing operation of the Services remains extremely important for the implementation of the State policy to overcome the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As of 1 January 2008, 217 such Services have been established and operating under the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth (2006 – 215; 2005 – 6), most of which being located in hospitals, polyclinics, and drug abuse clinics.

According to data provided by the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth, 40703 injecting drug users applied to the Services in 2007 (2006 – 7773, 2005 – 20748), which is 90% of the total number of the registered IDUs in the cities and districts where the Services operate (45009), and 13889 persons of their immediate environment, which is 16% greater compared to the previous year (2006 – 120). It was found out during monitoring visits that the Services' help is mainly used by young people aged 25-29.

During 2007, injecting drug users and their immediate environment were provided 41359 psychological, 43713 socio-economic, 24525 socio-pedagogical, 3923 legal and 86823 information educational services, 38175 physical health services, and 4670 services on pre-test counselling. It should be noted that socio-economic, psychological, socio-pedagogical, information educational, and physical health services are in the highest demand among clients of the Services. It was found out during monitoring that greater attention should be paid to provision of high-quality legal assistance.

Exchange of sterile instruments is one of the most important areas in the Services' activity for prevention of the HIV infection spread. During 2007, 606709 syringes were distributed, and 639200 syringes were accepted for disposal (2006 – respectively 692611/749426, 2005 – respectively 165648/174984).

The Services' cooperation with state and nongovernmental organisations is a factor of efficient and successful socio-preventive work. According to the Services, 18248 clients were referred to state institutions and nongovernmental

organisations, namely: substitution therapy programmes – 209; employment centres – 866; AIDS centres – 4683; drug abuse clinics – 4103; dermatovenerologic dispensaries – 1593; TB dispensaries – 725; hospitals or polyclinics – 2281; re-socialisation centres – 2594; PLWH organisations/units – 2050; public organisations – 1925. 586 clients started undergoing re-socialisation programmes, that being 23% of the total number of clients referred to re-socialisation centres.

As to results of work with HIV infected children, young persons and their family members, the following number of persons became recipients of services from the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth during 2007:

	2005	2006	2007
HIV infected child	464	940	961
HIV infected young person	898	2033	3531
HIV/AIDS affected family	353	476	891

Of them, the following were under social follow-through by specialists of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth: children – 164, that being 4 times greater than the number of clients in this age group under follow-through in the previous year; young persons – 183 (2.5 times more than in 2006); families – 246 (almost 1.5 times greater than in the previous year).

Overall specialists of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth provided 12175 individual services to this client category (2006 – 35015, 2005 – 14641), including on interpersonal problems (997), family problems (941), internal personal problems (877), addiction problems (1330), health (1544), HIV/AIDS (4206), employment (520), socio-economic problems (956), and others (771).

Statistical data by the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth for the recent three years proves dynamical development of this activity area. In particular, the number of clients has increased:

	2007	2006	2005
children and young persons	4492	2973	1362

Social services to functionally handicapped children and young persons

Socio-psychological rehabilitation of functionally handicapped children and young persons aims to provide individual social services and to secure rehabilitation services in the centres of socio-psychological rehabilitation for functionally handicapped children and young persons and the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth.

For example, the following persons became clients of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth:

	2005	2006	2007
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Functionally handicapped children	28467	32432	40556
Functionally handicapped young persons	11994	14447	15834

The number of children clients of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth increased by 25% whereas the number of young person clients increased by 9.6%.

Total percentage of the children covered by individual services of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth slightly decreased (24% in 2007 compared to 26% in 2006). This trend can be explained by a considerable increase of the number of functionally handicapped children over the year. As of 1 January 2007, their number was 168128 whereas the figure for 2006 was 122640, that is, the number of disabled children in Ukraine grew by 37% in a year. During 2007, functionally handicapped children and young persons were provided 262322 individual services, that being 74.8% more than in 2006. The greatest number of the services was aimed to solve socio-economic problems of health (75370, or 46% more than in 2006) and interpersonal problems (41390 services, or 27% more than in 2006).

Services of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth were provided to 32145 families bringing up functionally handicapped children. 8201 families and 10282 children being brought up in the families were taken under the centres' patronage.

To organise social rehabilitation work with functionally handicapped children and young persons, 7 centres of socio-psychological rehabilitation for functionally handicapped children and young persons are operating.

During 2007, activities of the centres of socio-psychological rehabilitation covered 587 functionally handicapped children and young persons (27% more than 2006 – 464), including 404 children and 183 young persons. One-time services were provided to 289 persons (49%) including 206 children and 83 young persons. 298 persons attended day patient facilities (51%) including 169 children and 129 young persons.

It should be noted that percentage of the number of rehabilitation services provided by day patient facilities and one-time services is approximately equal. This trend is the same in 2006 and 2007. 132 persons (23%) approached the centres of socio-psychological rehabilitation for functionally handicapped children and young persons by referral whereas 455 persons (78%) did so themselves.

Clients of the centres of socio-psychological rehabilitation for functionally handicapped children and young persons

Category	Number of persons	including	
		children	young persons
damages of locomotor apparatus	217 (37%)	132	85

damages of central and peripheral nervous system	149 (25%)	102	47
damages of internals	49 (8%)	42	7
damages of visual organs	43 (7%)	26	7
cardiovascular damages	32 (6%)	24	8
damages of auditory organs	18 (3%)	12	6
damages of respiratory organs	6 (1%)	6	–
other disease types	73 (12%)	60	13

Since 2000, the State Social Welfare Service for Family, Children and Youth has organised a special shift in Artek International Children’s Centre for functionally handicapped children *“Believe in yourself, and others will believe in you”*, which is to promote the functionally handicapped children’s self-realisation, adaptation, psychological rehabilitation and integration in society.

Informing the population on efficient access to social services

The State Social Welfare Service for Family, Children and Youth of the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports actively introduces the idea of production and distribution of quality social advertising. To date, social advertising has become an integral component in realisation of Ukraine’s state social and youth policy, and it finds reflection in programmes and action plans for creation, production and distribution of social advertising.

In 2007, the goal of social advertising distribution consisted of bringing social work closer to the population. The main component in achieving that goal was carrying of the core of social work to the client.

Overall, the State Social Welfare Service for Family, Children and Youth made 16 new video product types:

- 5 video reels on provision of social services by centres: “Wheelchair”, “Sounds”, “Native home”, “There are no alien children”;
- 11 TV programmes: 4 broadcasts from the “Overcoming” cycle;
- 7 TV novels on the work of the centres and their specialised formations, services, and establishments.

The year featured stronger social partnership for placement of both video and audio products made by the State Social Welfare Service for Family, Children and Youth on the national TV and radio: Seven socially-oriented audio reels were broadcasted for more than 691 times on three radio channels free of charge. In total, more than 1351 broadcasts of 10 audio reels took place on three commercial popular channels.

Due to creation and maintenance of specialised headings, programmes covering the work of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth in social journalistic and other programmes on the radio, in TV programmes on nationwide channels, or on the Internet, the level of people's awareness on activities and social work of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth as well as on types of social services was raised.

Results of usage of audio and video products have greatly improved:

- *audio reels* - by 7721 broadcasts (2006 - 1086; 2007 – 8807);
- *video reels* - by 57559 broadcasts (2006 - 2918; 2007 – 60477);
- *documentary novels* - by 223 broadcasts (2006 - 182; 2007 – 405).

Derzhsozsluzhba's website was visited by 29,361 persons during 2007 to view 184,401 pages. Geography of site visits is expanding: apart from Ukraine, the site was visited by users from Germany, Kazakhstan, Russia, Canada, Italy, Austria, Moldova, the U.S., Norway, Estonia, Turkey, Kenya, Belarus, etc.

Seven types of posters were printed, their total circulation being 178,200.

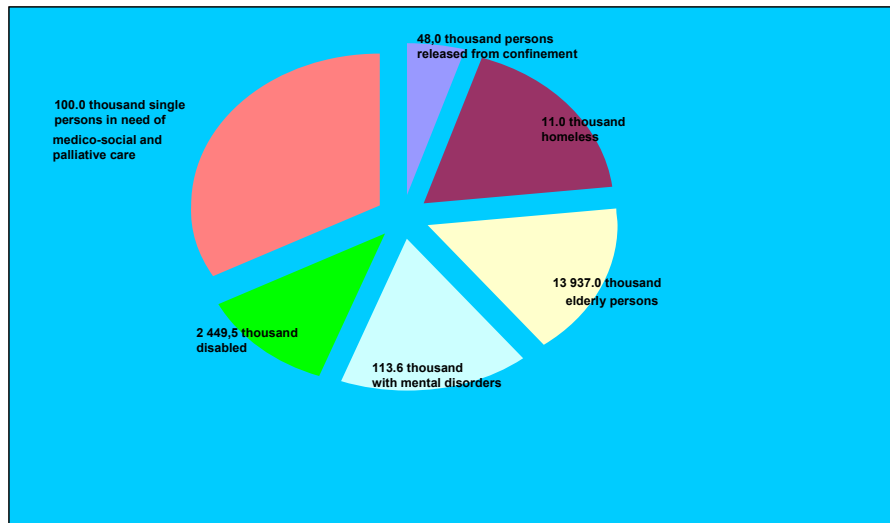
Due to more active work in regions, citizens and certain organizations now have a higher interest to involvement in creation of social advertising or activities in this field. Among achievements, we may point out spreading of the centres' social advertising on local TV, out-of-home media, and plasma screens situated on open surfaces in the places of big gatherings.

Section: Handicapped persons

Developing social services is one of the important tasks determined by the Government for the future. That is why the problem of improving the provision of social services to vulnerable populations is becoming especially significant today.

On the state level, it means professional planning and management of services. Making decisions on direction of social assistance, one should consider the greatest impact of social services upon improvement of an individual's situation. Given their targeted provision and individual approach, it is social services that are one of the efficient types of social assistance.

Target populations in need of social services because of complicated life circumstances (as of 1.01.2008)



The disabled persons' right to social servicing is determined by Article 36, Law of Ukraine on Basics of Social Protection of Disabled Persons in Ukraine

To provide social services to persons in complicated life circumstances including disabled persons, a network of inpatient (nursing) institutions and establishments has been created in Ukraine, which secure domiciliary social servicing of pensioners and single incapacitated persons.

It includes 321 nursing homes, among which there are 83 nursing homes for elderly and disabled persons, 150 psychoneurological nursing homes, and 5 special nursing homes.

Activities of the inpatient institutions aims to provide disabled persons with comprehensive social servicing, improve living conditions, and secure better utility, domestic and medical services guaranteed by legislation in force.

Great attention is paid in the inpatient institutions to organization of leisure of and cultural services to disabled persons.

Disabled persons living in nursing homes have the right, if they wish, to be placed in a job feasible to their health, on the labour contract basis.

Activities of the inpatient institutions where disabled persons are living are getting improved continuously; modern technologies of social servicing and social work techniques are being introduced; individual assessment of the need for assistance and social services has been commenced.

Simultaneously with strengthening of existing inpatient institutions, creation of a new type of inpatient institutions is a main tendency in development of a modern system of social servicing for disabled persons. A network of nursing homes and inpatient departments with small number of residents is being established in Ukraine. Creation of such social establishments in a community allows bringing inpatient social services closer to the people's usual place of residence avoiding disruption of their family and social ties that have consolidated during their life.

At the same time, a more progressive form of social servicing consists of the provision of social services to disabled persons through territorial centres of domiciliary social servicing for pensioners and single incapacitated persons.

To this end, a network of territorial centres of social servicing for pensioners and single incapacitated persons has been developed within the system of labour and social protection.

A territorial centre of social servicing for pensioners and single incapacitated persons is a special state or municipal institution that secures domiciliary provision of social services to pensioners, disabled persons, single incapacitated persons, other persons in complicated life circumstances on the basis of inpatient, temporary and daily stay. The social services are aimed to maintain vital functions and social activity of persons with disabilities.

As of 31.12.2007, total number of territorial centres of social servicing for pensioners and single incapacitated persons in Ukraine was 744 units that provided social services to about 2 million people including 400 thousand disabled persons.

	2006	2007	2008 (forecast)
Territorial centres of social servicing for pensioners and single incapacitated persons	743	744	745
Territorial centres of social servicing for pensioners and single incapacitated persons (total number of persons provided with services, thousand), including:	993.5	1484.3	1500
- departments of social domestic rehabilitation, thousand persons	325.0	349.2	375.0
- departments of medico-social rehabilitation, thousand persons	158.5	146.0	170.0
- inpatient departments for permanent or temporary residence, thousand persons	14.8	15.3	15.5
Number of disabled persons registered and receiving services in the territorial centres of social servicing for pensioners and single incapacitated persons (thousand persons) including:	*	363.4	450.0
- departments of social domestic rehabilitation, thousand persons	*	88.5	95.0
- departments of medico-social rehabilitation, thousand persons	*	40.3	47.0
- inpatient departments for permanent or temporary residence, thousand persons	*	3.2	4.5

A ground for organisation of social servicing and provision of social services to disabled persons consists of a medical and preventive treatment facility's

conclusion on the degree of the person's loss of self-servicing ability and recommendations provided in an individual rehabilitation plan. Social workers and social specialists of the territorial centres provide social services to disabled persons living at home according to an agreement concluded between such a person and a territorial centre or an at-home social assistance department. Persons with disabilities have the opportunity of visiting sections of socio-domestic and socio-medical rehabilitation of the territorial centres.

Territorial centres currently provide more than 47 types of social services to disabled persons.

New types of social services to elderly and disabled persons are being introduced subject to demand for such services on their part. For example, pursuant to the Law of Ukraine on Psychiatric Aid, to secure social protection of persons having mental disorders and to provide independent living conditions to them, specialised departments of at-home social assistance to disabled persons with mental diseases have been established in Kyiv and some other Ukrainian cities (Lutsk, Uman), where such persons are rendered various social services including care. Such departments cooperate closely with healthcare institutions.

One of the new organisational forms of the territorial centres' work consists of provision of transport services to disabled persons. The number of persons received transport services in 2007 was about 190 thousand. At the same time, local authorities organise mobile offices at the territorial centres (Donetsk oblast), and mobile teams to provide free services of hairdressing and minor house repairs for disabled persons living in remote villages (Kyiv, Sumy, Odesa, Kharkiv oblast, etc.), introduce a rehabilitation service using ipotherapy, etc.

A new form of provision of social housing services has been creation in regions of Ukraine of specialised residential houses for single war and labour veterans, pensioners and disabled persons, with a complex of socio-domestic and medical services. To date, nine such houses function in Ukraine where about 700 persons are living: 4 in Kyiv, 2 in Odesa oblast, 1 each in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Donetsk oblast, and Lviv oblast.

To improve living conditions, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine issued Resolution No. 76 of 31.01.07 *On the approval of the Procedure of establishment of a specialised home for war and labour veterans, elderly and disabled persons and provision of living premises in such a home, and on the approval of the Model Regulations of a specialised home for war and labour veterans, elderly and disabled persons*, which was developed in pursuance of the Law of Ukraine on the Housing Stock of Social Purpose.

Activities to improve the system of social servicing and social services provided to handicapped persons, being continuously carried out by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, secure better life quality for persons with disabilities, which in turn facilitates overcoming poverty and strengthening social protection of persons having special needs.

Section: Refugees

The Law of Ukraine on Refugees guarantees refugees and persons that applied for such status the exercise of rights and freedoms, in particular socio-economic and cultural ones. Ukraine undertook to secure rights and freedoms of refugees and persons who applied for the refugee status in Ukraine in accordance with provisions of international and national legislation.

Having approached the migration service or an organisation providing legal support, asylum seekers obtain information on organisations providing social support to refugees and asylum seekers in Ukraine. There are a number of nongovernmental organisations engaged in provision of social assistance to refugees in Ukraine.

For example, when an asylum seeker approaches a social worker of ROKADA CF, a registration form is filled that includes information on the person's basic data and needs, and necessary documents are collected. This way, a personal file of each person who applied for help is formed.

The social worker provides all necessary information on available institutions that support and assist refugees and asylum seekers (medical, legal, social, and other assistance) as well as on possibility of obtaining some or other type of assistance.

Obtaining monthly financial aid depends on the applicant's social status (estimated by a commission consisting of social workers, medical advisor, and representatives of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees) and approved criteria. Main conditions for obtaining monthly financial aid from the UNHCR include absence of documents for job placement, no command of language, lack of any financial capacity to rent accommodation, health problems, and small quantity of the expatriates' community. Such financial aid is urgent and temporary, and it lasts until the refugee obtains benefits and payments guaranteed by Ukrainian laws.

Section: Homeless persons

A network of social welfare services – night-stay establishments (doshouses), temporary stay establishments, street work services – is operating to provide social services to homeless persons in Ukraine.

These social welfare institutions provide services to homeless Ukrainian nationals and stateless persons who permanently resided, and reside upon the loss of their right to living space, in Ukraine (Article 4, Law of Ukraine on Basics of Social Protection of Homeless Persons and Uncared-For Children).

All social work with homeless persons is based on the principles of legality, democracy, equality of people, respect to personality, recognition of honour and dignity, securing fundamental human rights and freedoms, confidentiality of information, targeting and individual approach, accessibility and openness, comprehensiveness, voluntary choice of receiving or refusing from social services, social justice, humanity (Article 3, Law of Ukraine on Basics of Social Protection

of Homeless Persons and Uncared-For Children; Article 3, Law of Ukraine on Social Services).

Homeless persons have the right to respect of their dignity, health care, social protection, legal aid, turning to public authorities and local governments with applications and complaints according to laws, and receipt of information on their rights and responsibilities. Homeless persons and uncared-for children also enjoy other rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution and laws of Ukraine (Article 3, Law of Ukraine on Basics of Social Protection of Homeless Persons and Uncared-For Children).

All homeless persons have the right to obtain information and counselling services as well as urgent aid without any restriction.

Information and counselling services are provided by any social welfare services for homeless persons at their request.

Urgent aid is provided by night-stay establishments (dosshouses) and street work services. Social workers of a street work service, patrolling city streets, visit places of homeless persons' gathering and provide them with information, counselling, and personal services – dispensing of food, clothes and footwear, as well as medical aid, transport services, etc.

Besides, social welfare services for homeless persons provide various types of social services depending on the persons' problems to be solved and on the service's functional profile: socio-domestic (provision of a cot; temporary stay; catering; shower and laundry; custody of things and documents); psychological (counselling by a psychologist, psychological diagnostics, psychological correction, psychotherapy; examination of personal socio-psychological characteristics if the client wishes so, methodological advice); socio-pedagogical (assistance in acquiring education; development of individual reintegration plans; teaching to solve difficult life problems without outside help; organization of leisure, formation of appropriate skills and competencies; positive treatment to his/her own personality); socio-medical (first aid; primary medical examination; organization of physician counselling; referral to health care institutions at the territorial location; sanitary and hygienic control; preventive measures); socio-economic (delivery of clothes and footwear, etc.); legal (assistance in restoration of passports; explanation of laws in force; consultations on prevention of homelessness, etc.); job placement services (assistance in job placement; social follow-through support for the person placed in a job); information services (dissemination of information about the services provided by the establishment; reference and educational services).

To obtain such services, a homeless person should approach the social welfare service with an application.

Reception to a dosshouse requires no additional documents and is effected immediately upon submission of such an application to the administration or a social worker of such a service. The establishment does not receive persons who are in acute alcoholic and/or narcotic intoxication as well as having signs of an acute disease. To solve such persons' problems, they are referred to social welfare

units providing social services to alcohol and drug addicts or to medical institutions for examination and treatment.

Reception to the service providing temporary shelter requires provision by a homeless person of an extract from his/her medical card. Therefore length of the reception process from the filing of the person's application depends on when he/she presents a medical certificate. It is up to 10 days on average. If the person has any disease he/she is referred to medical treatment. The service does not receive persons who were in alcoholic and/or narcotic intoxication at the time of application.

According to regional bodies of labour and social protection, 51 social welfare services providing social services to homeless persons were operating in Ukraine as of 31.12.2007 (1.01.2007 – 35) including 13 established by nongovernmental organisations. The social welfare services function in all regions of Ukraine except Zakarpattya, Zhytomyr and Chernihiv oblasts.

During 2007, municipal social services as well as 3 nongovernmental organisations provided services to about 11000 persons (in 2006 – more than 24000).

Social services are provided both on the free and paid basis. Payment for social services depends on the homeless persons' financial capacity and equals to 2-20 hryvnias per day.

Social services are provided by about 500 staff among which almost 50 are social workers. Besides, medical workers, psychologists, social pedagogues and other specialists work in the social welfare services.

The establishments are financed by founders' funds – local budgets, charitable donations by legal and natural persons, other receipts not prohibited by Ukrainian laws. The state budget does not allocate funds to solve problematic issues of homeless persons, create and maintain social welfare services for homeless persons.

Section: Former prisoners

Social services to persons released from places of confinement are provided by the following social welfare service units: social adaptation centres, services for minors, social welfare service centres for family, children and youth, supervisory commissions, employment centres, nursing homes, crisis centres, psychological assistance services, night or temporary stay houses for released persons. In case released persons approach the social welfare service units, the latter must urgently start providing social services to them (Article 3, Law of Ukraine on Social Adaptation of Persons Who Served Restraint or Custodial Sentences for a Certain Period).

Social services are provided to Ukrainian nationals, foreigners and stateless persons permanently residing in the Ukrainian territory and having applied to supervisory commissions or social welfare service units within six months from the release from penal institutions (Article 2, Law of Ukraine on Social Adaptation of Persons Who Served Restraint or Custodial Sentences for a Certain Period).

Provision of social services is grounded on the principles of targeting and individual approach, accessibility and openness, voluntary choice of receiving or refusing from social services, humanity, comprehensiveness, legality, social justice, securing confidentiality by service providers, adherence of quality standards by them, responsibility for compliance with ethical and legal norms (Article 3, Law of Ukraine on Social Services).

Former prisoners have the right to be provided with living and domestic conditions, medical aid, and social assistance (Articles 4, 5, 6, Law of Ukraine on Social Adaptation of Persons Who Served Restraint or Custodial Sentences for a Certain Period).

Former prisoners' rights must be realised in full and may not be restricted unless their legal capacity is limited or they are recognised incapable on the grounds specified, and according to the procedure established by legislative acts. Any act taken by a public authority or official infringing former prisoners' rights may be appealed against according to the procedure provided for in legislation (Article 10, Law of Ukraine on Social Adaptation of Persons Who Served Restraint or Custodial Sentences for a Certain Period).

Establishment of a post-penitentiary system – social welfare service units providing services to former prisoners aged 28-55(60) years, i.e. until retirement age – has only begun in Ukraine.

As of 31.12.2007, one social adaptation centre for persons released from places of confinement was working in Zhytomyr oblast, established by local executive authorities and local governments.

Nongovernmental organisations established 23 centres (2006 – 19) operating in Volyn, Zhytomyr, Zaporizhya, Kyiv, Kirovohrad, Luhansk, Lviv, Odesa, Cherkasy, Chernihiv oblasts, and cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol.

Social adaptation centres for persons released from places of confinement carry out individual educational work and provide the following social services: socio-domestic (temporary stay; catering; provision with clothes, footwear, and linen; custody of things and documents); psychological; socio-pedagogical (development of individual plans of re-socialisation, reintegration and adaptation; formation of appropriate skills and competencies; positive treatment to his/her own personality; teaching to solve difficult life problems without outside help; assistance in acquiring education); socio-medical (organisation of primary medical examination and, if necessary, provision of first aid; referral to health care institutions); legal and other social services.

Besides, there are 14 special nursing homes, special departments, and departments under nursing institutions in Ukraine (2006 – 14) for elderly and disabled persons released from places of confinement and having lost socially useful ties, in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Vinnytsya, Donetsk, Zhytomyr, Kirovohrad, Luhansk, Mykolayiv, Odesa, Poltava, Rivne, Kharkiv, Kherson, and Chernivtsi oblasts.

During the last year, municipal institutions and 4 nongovernmental organisations provided services to almost 1 thousand persons (2006 – almost 1 thousand persons).

Social services are provided by almost 1,300 workers including 2 social workers. Besides, medical staff, psychologists and other specialists work in the establishments and institutions.

The establishments are financed by founders' funds – local budgets, charitable donations by legal and natural persons, and other receipts not prohibited by Ukrainian laws.

Article 14§2

- 1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.
- 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.
- 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information to demonstrate the participation of the voluntary sector to the provision of social services, as well as the effective access of individuals to these services.

General legal framework

- Law of Ukraine on Social Services of 19.07.2003 № 966-IV
- Law of Ukraine on Citizens' Associations of 16.06.1992 № 2461-XII
- Law of Ukraine on Youth and Child Public Organizations of 01.12.1998 № 281-XIV
- Law of Ukraine on Basics of Social Protection of Homeless Persons and Uncared-For Children of 02.06.2005 № 2623-IV
- Law of Ukraine on Social Adaptation of Persons Who Served Restraint or Custodial Sentences for a Certain Period of 10.07.2003 № 1104 - IV
- Law of Ukraine on Charity and Charitable Organizations of 16.09.1997 № 531/97
- Law of Ukraine on Licensing of Certain Economic Activities of 01.06.2000 № 1775-IV
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1895 of 10.12.2003 *On the approval of the Regulations on volunteer activities in the field of social services*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 429 of 1.04.04 *On the approval of regulations on supervisory commissions and boards of guardians under special educational institutions*
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 748-r of 15.10.2004 *On the approval of the concept of the draft Law of Ukraine on Volunteer Movement*
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1030-r of 21.11.07 *On the approval of an action plan to secure social adaptation of the persons who served custodial sentences, for the period until 2009*

- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 54-r of 14.02.07 *On the approval of an action plan to secure social protection of homeless persons for 2007*
- Order by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine (MLSP) No. 31 of 14.02.06 *On the approval of the Model Regulations on social protection facilities for homeless persons and persons released from places of confinement*
- MLSP Order No. 98 of 3.04.06 *On the approval of the Model Regulations on a social hotel*

Securing proper living conditions and standards is one of the functions of the State. Thus, provision of high-quality social services to those needing them is the main indicator of the State's ability of performing this function. When relevant state organisations are not able to fully provide targeted social services because of lack of funds, other resources or skilled staff, the State looks for partners (public organisations) in the provision of social services able to provide high-quality social services in a proper way.

Public organisations are often capable of acting in a flexible and innovative manner, so they have the possibility to provide services more efficiently than state or municipal structures. This is the reason to develop partner relations between the State and local governments.

Involving public organisations in the process of provision of social services brings these services closer to the client's real needs, which is an extremely positive achievement meeting modern European trends of the partnership principle in the provision of social services. Better understanding of client needs means better opportunities for meeting these needs efficiently.

Nongovernmental entities wishing to provide social services on the professional basis at the expense of their own funds, enlisted funds or state or local budgets, provide them on the license basis. Central and local executive authorities and local governments, within their competence, organise work to provide relevant social services and supervise operations of the entities providing social services (Article 8, Law of Ukraine on Social Services No. 966-IV of 19.06.2003).

State control over the activities of citizen associations is exercised by public authorities according to the procedure provided for by Ukrainian laws. The bodies legalising citizen associations exercise control over their compliance with statutes. Representatives of these bodies are entitled to be present at the events held by citizen associations, require necessary documents, and obtain explanations.

Supervision over compliance with laws by citizen associations is exercised by prosecutor's offices. Control over sources and amounts of receipts and over tax payment by citizen associations is exercised by financial bodies and state tax inspectorate bodies, respectively.

The social welfare service centres for family, children and youth cooperate with public organisations in realisation of social programmes. One of the areas of cooperation consists of volunteer activities.

Besides, the centres cooperate with public organisations:

- regional units of the Red Cross Society;
- Children's Christian Fund;
- Fund for Prevention of Chemical Dependencies and AIDS;
- European Children's Charitable Organization;
- regional branches of the Children's Fund of Ukraine;
- Fund for Social Protection of Disabled Persons of Ukraine;
- Ukrainian Family Planning Association;
- Plast All-Ukrainian Scout Organization;
- Oberih Charity Fund of Mercy and Orphan Protection;
- La Strada-Ukraine International Woman's Rights Centre, and others

The top-priority areas of volunteers' activity today include social work with families including young woman, children with special needs and orphan children; prevention of negative phenomena in the youth environment; and popularisation of healthy lifestyles.

In particular, 57% volunteers are involved in social work with families, 30% - in prevention of offences and negative phenomena, 6% in promotion of job placement and secondary employment, and 7% in social support for youth liable for military service.

In the early stage of development of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth, volunteer groups mainly included minors and youth (senior pupils and students) but now 10 volunteer categories are involved in social work.

The following volunteer categories work almost in every centre:

- pupils, students, unemployed and working young persons;
- specialists (psychologists, lawyers, doctors, employment centre specialists, criminal militia workers, social pedagogues, journalists, military prosecutor's office specialists, valeologists, cultural workers, civil servants);
- clients (orphan children, children with special needs, persons released from places of confinement, narcotic substance users, HIV infected persons), clients' parents and family members;
- leaders of woman's public organizations;
- pensioners.

The centres have acquired certain experience of work with each volunteer category and specific features of their training.

To extend the volunteer movement, the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth continuously inform society on capabilities, value and potential of volunteer activities, carry out volunteer festivals, and the Volunteer of the Year all-Ukrainian contest (November 2007). The contest involved 88 best volunteers and volunteer school heads of the centres.

Total number of organisations, their staff and services provided

According to operational data of the social welfare service centres for family, children and youth, 607 public and charitable organisations cooperated with them during 2007, including 3 international, 3 all-Ukrainian, 164 regional,

221 city-level, and 216 district-level organisations. During the above-mentioned period, these public organisations provided 2152243 services:

- psychological - 50892;
- socio-pedagogical - 34830;
- socio-medical - 472918;
- socio-economic - 208000;
- legal - 11296;
- information - 1374307.

Staff of these public organisations includes 2044 persons; besides, 1262 specialists and 9070 volunteers were involved on the basis of labour agreements or individual contracts.

2159 specialists worked in the above-mentioned organisations: pedagogues – 301, social pedagogues – 100, psychologists – 171, social work specialists – 204, sociologists – 31, lawyers – 82, as well as accountants and economists, systems engineers – 27, medical workers – 552, and other specialists – 518.

In all regions of Ukraine, 36 establishments created by nongovernmental organisations or religious confessions are working to provide various types of social services to homeless persons and persons released from places of confinement; these establishments cooperate with bodies of labour and social protection.

Active cooperation in this area develops between the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, bodies of labour and social protection and the Red Cross Society and its units. In particular, a joint action plan is developed that includes activities to provide assistance to homeless persons and persons released from places of confinement. Units of the Red Cross Society, using portable fluorography sets, conduct examination of homeless persons for tuberculosis, provide them with information and counseling services, food, clothes, footwear, etc.

In Kovel, Volyn oblast, Reabilitatsiya (Rehabilitation) charitable foundation closely cooperates with social protection institutions to provide assistance to persons with no fixed abode and persons released from places of confinement.

In Donetsk oblast, work with former prisoners is carried out by Pikluvannya (Guardianship) public organization, Novy Den (New Day) religious organization, Dobrota (Kindness) Donetsk city charitable foundation, activities of which are promoted by local governments and the oblast state administration.

Working in Zaporizhyya oblast are Maran-afa Christian rehabilitation centre (charitable foundation) and Khvala i Pokolinnya (Praise and Generation) religious organisation to which the oblast state administration provides financial support amounting to 60 thousand hryvnias.

In Odesa, Doroga Dodomu (Way Home) fund for rehabilitation and social adaptation of homeless persons has been working for almost 10 years. Within the scope of its activities, a centre of rehabilitation for homeless persons is operating, and Doroga Dodomu street newspaper is published and distributed by homeless persons. With support from local executive authorities, Podolannya (Surmounting) association of former prisoners started working and continues to develop.

In Chernivtsi, Narodna Domopoha (People's Help) public association

actively works in close cooperation with local executive authorities on the contractual basis. The organization has opened a set of establishments including a record centre, a night stay house, and a re-socialization centre in Chernivtsi. A cooperation agreement has been signed between the organization and local authorities, according to which this nongovernmental organization receives financial support from the local budget to maintain its operations.

To ensure community control over observance of the prisoners' rights during the period of criminal punishment execution and to promote social adaptation of persons released from places of confinement, supervisory commissions are established acting on the basis of the Code of Criminal Proceedings of Ukraine and the relevant regulations approved by the Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 429 of 1.04.04 *On the approval of regulations on supervisory commissions and boards of guardians under special educational institutions.*

According to regional departments of labour and social protection, 657 supervisory commissions were working in Ukraine as of 31.12.2007. They were approached by more than 10 thousand released persons whom the following assistance was provided:

- renewal of documents – 3646 persons;
- job placement – 2694 persons;
- provision with housing – 797 persons;
- referral to training – 411 persons;
- referral to medical treatment – 1461 persons;
- referral to boarding houses – 152 persons.

Concerning persons with special needs, it should be noted that public organisations of disabled persons are the first to test new models of service provision because it is they that know problems of such persons from inside and see ways to solve them as no-one else does.

Article 14, Law of Ukraine on Basics of Social Protection of Disabled Persons in Ukraine entitles public organisations of disabled persons to provide social services, exercise public control over compliance with disabled persons' rights, represent disabled persons' interests and protect their rights, etc.

According to the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, 54 all-Ukrainian public organisations of disabled persons were registered and working as of 31.12.2007.

To achieve and implement goals and objectives prescribed by statutes of public organisations of disabled persons, the organisations take appropriate measures for social protection, rehabilitation of disabled persons, engaging disabled persons in social and cultural activities, physical training and sports.

Public organisations of disabled persons having many years of experience, namely the Ukrainian Society of the Blind, the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf, the All-Ukrainian Organisation of Disabled Persons "Union of Organisations of Disabled Persons of Ukraine", and the organisations created during last 10 years – the All-Ukrainian Union of Public Organisations "Confederation of Public Organisations of Disabled Persons of Ukraine", the All-Ukrainian Public Socio-Political Association "National Assembly of Disabled Persons of Ukraine", and

others – provide, to some or other extent, a range of services to meet the needs of disabled persons being in complicated life circumstances and needing outside help.

Actively working in many regions of Ukraine are 86 rehabilitation institutions created by public organisations of disabled persons, activities of which aim at social adaptation of disabled persons of various nosologies.

Such institutions work pursuant to Order by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine No. 392 of 23.07.07 *On the approval of the Model Regulations of a combined-type rehabilitation institution for mentally retarded disabled persons and disabled children, and of an institution for permanent and temporary stay of mentally retarded disabled persons*. Main activity areas of the said institutions include:

- 1) teaching a disabled person or disabled child everyday operations to meet the person's own physiological needs;
- 2) mastering skills of protecting the person's own rights and interests;
- 3) securing independent residence in society with necessary support, etc.

Great working experience in creation of new-type institutions has been accumulated in Kyiv. *Dzherela* charitable society for assistance to disabled persons and intellectually retarded persons initiated establishment of a centre for labour rehabilitation of mentally retarded persons including a social adaptation department.

There are first community-based institutions in Ukraine providing daily employment of mentally retarded disabled persons. These are workshops in Kyiv, Sumy, Odesa, Lviv, etc., created upon the initiative of public organisations of disabled persons with support from international donors and local authorities.

Article 23 – The right of elderly persons to social protection

With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right of elderly persons to social protection, the Parties undertake to adopt or encourage, either directly or in co-operation with public or private organisations, appropriate measures designed in particular:

- to enable elderly persons to remain full members of society for as long as possible, by means of:
 - a. adequate resources enabling them to lead a decent life and play an active part in public, social and cultural life;
 - b. provision of information about services and facilities available for elderly persons and their opportunities to make use of them;
- to enable elderly persons to choose their life-style freely and to lead independent lives in their familiar surroundings for as long as they wish and are able, by means of:
 - a. provision of housing suited to their needs and their state of health or of adequate support for adapting their housing;
 - b. the health care and the services necessitated by their state;
- to guarantee elderly persons living in institutions appropriate support, while respecting their privacy, and participation in decisions concerning living conditions in the institution.

Information to be submitted

- 1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.
- 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.
- 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information on measures taken to ensure that elderly persons have access to adequate benefits in cash or in kind; on the level of public expenditure for social protection and services for the elderly; on the accessibility of measures and the number of elderly people benefiting from them; on the number of places available in institutions for elderly persons; on the number of elderly living in such institutions, and on whether a shortage of places is reported.

General legal framework

- Law of Ukraine on Social Services, № 966-IV dated 19.07.2003;
- Law of Ukraine on the State Social Standards and the State Social Guarantees, № 3721-XI dated 16.12.1993;

- Law of Ukraine on the Basic Principles of Social Protection of Labour Veterans and Other Elderly Persons in Ukraine, 2017-III dated 05.10.2000;
- Law of Ukraine on the General Mandatory State Pension Insurance, № 1058-IV dated 09.07.2003;
- Law of Ukraine on the Pension Provision, № 1788-X dated 05.11.1991;
- Law of Ukraine on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Ukraine, № 2961-IV dated 06.10.2005;
- Law of Ukraine on the Social Protection of War Children, № 2195-IV dated 18.11.2004;
- Law of Ukraine on the Status of War Veterans and Guarantees of Their Social Protection, № 3552-XII dated 22.10.1993;
- Law of Ukraine on the Victims of Nazi Persecutions, № 1584-III dated 23.03.2000;
- Law of Ukraine on the Pension Provision for Military Servicemen, Commanders and the Rank and File of the Bodies of Internal Affairs, № 2262-XII dated 09.04.1992;
- Law of Ukraine on the Status and Social Protection of Persons Victims of the Chornobyl Accident, № 796-XII dated 18.02.1991;
- Law of Ukraine on Pensions for Special Services to Ukraine, № 1767-III dated 01.06.2000;
- Law of Ukraine on the Housing Stock of Social Purpose, № 3334-IV dated 12.01.2006;
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1895 dated 10.12.03 *On the Approval of the Regulations on Volunteer Activities in the Provision of Social Services;*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 76 dated 31.01.2007 *On the Approval of the Procedure of Establishment of a Specialized Home for War and Labour Veterans, Elderly Persons, and the Disabled, and Provision of Living Space in Such a Home, and of the Model Regulations of a Specialized Home for War and Labour Veterans, Elderly Persons, and the Disabled;*
- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 558 dated 29.04.2004 *On the Approval of the Procedure of Assignment and Payment of Compensations to Natural Persons Providing Social Services;*
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 178-r dated 13.04.2007 *On the Approval of the Concept of Reform of the Social Services System;*
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 731-r dated 11.09.2007 *On the Approval of the Action Plan for Improvement of Life Support for War Veterans for 2007-2010.*

According to Article 10, Law of Ukraine on the Basic Principles of Social Protection of Labour Veterans and Other Elderly Persons in Ukraine, the following persons are recognized as elderly: men aged 60 and above and women aged 55 and

above as well as persons who have no more than one and a half year to reach a general retirement age.

The State's social policy now focuses on the exercise of constitutional rights concerning social protection of elderly persons. One of the strategic goals of social policy for the near-term outlook consists of not only achieving notable improvement of elderly persons' material circumstances and living conditions but also providing them with a possibility of living a full-fledged life as long as possible for the society's benefit.

There are 13.3 million persons of retirement age living in Ukraine, nearly 5 million aged 70 and above. As of early 2007, 2.9 million war veterans were recorded.

Material provision to elderly persons is effected by means of assigning them pensions and cash allowances according to:

- Law of Ukraine on the General Mandatory State Pension Insurance;
- Law of Ukraine on the Pension Provision for Military Servicemen, Commanders and the Rank and File of the Bodies of Internal Affairs;
- Law of Ukraine on the Status and Social Protection of Persons Victims of the Chernobyl Accident.

The Law of Ukraine on the General Mandatory State Pension Insurance, which provides for establishment of a new three-tier pension system in Ukraine, came into force 1 January 2004.

The new pension system consists of three tiers: a solidary system (tier 1), a mandatory contributory system (tier 2), and a nongovernmental voluntary pension provision (tier 3).

The law introduces pension insurance. Insurance record is now used instead of seniority for calculation of pension benefits.

For one working month after 1.01.04 to be fully included in the insurance record, the amount of contributions must be no less than those calculated on the minimal wage. For example, the minimum insurance contribution is UAH 181.28 as of January 2008 (minimum wage - UAH 515.00 x 35.2% - minimum insurance contribution rate). If the sum of insurance contributions paid is less than the minimum insurance contribution, the insurance record is taken into account with a proportionately shorter duration.

Preferential calculation of insurance record according to the previous legislation is maintained for work periods before 1 January 2004. Beginning from 1 January 2004, all insurance record periods are taken into account on the one-to-one basis (1 year of work for 1 year of insurance record).

Pension is calculated on the basis of earnings for any successive 5 years, of the person's choice, before 1.07.2000 and for all the insurance record periods beginning from 1.07.2000 according to personalised record data.

Wages for the work period before 1.07.2000 are confirmed by certificates issued by enterprises, institutions or organizations, and wages for the period since 1.07.2000 are taken from the personalised record system.

The new pension system offers pension increase in two directions:

1) pension adjustment in case when the consumer price index is higher than the adjustment threshold set at 101 percent;

2) since 1 March every year – no less than by 20% of the country's average wage growth rate for the previous year.

A specific amount of pension increase, taking account for the average wage growth rate in Ukraine, is determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine within the limits of the Pension Fund's budget.

In 2007 for the first time a pension increase coefficient is used that is higher than the minimal figure, namely: in the current year, the pensions assigned before 2005 (i.e. calculated with account for the average wage in economic sectors for 2002-2003) are increased by 28.03%, which corresponds to 96% of the wage growth rate in economic sectors in 2006 against 2005, and the pensions assigned in 2005 and 2006 (i.e. calculated with account for the average wage for 2004-2005), are increased by 20%, which corresponds to 68% of the wage growth rate.

Pension increase in 2007 applied to all labour pensions including those assigned in minimum amounts, that is for almost 13 million (i.e. almost 100%) pensioners (as is known, such increase in previous years was effected with a minimally possible coefficient equal to 20% of the average wage growth rate, and applied only to about 1 million (or 7.7%) pensioners).

The minimum amount of old-age pension, given 25 years of insurance record for men and 20 years for women, is set equal to the minimum of subsistence for persons who lost working capacity. For each complete year of insurance record above 25 years for men and 20 years for women, old-age pension is increased by 1% of the pension amount calculated as per Article 27, Law of Ukraine on the General Mandatory State Pension Insurance, but at most by 1% of the minimum old-age pension amount.

Average amount of pension payments was UAH 749.39 as of 31.12.2007, or 1.6 times higher than as of January 2007 (UAH 478.38) and 1.8 times higher than as of January 2006 (UAH 406.82).

The ratio between the average pension rate and the average wage was 49% as of 31.12.2007, 43% as of January 2007, 44% as of January 2006, and 39% as of January 2005.

The average pension rate was higher than the minimum pension by 42% as of December 2007 (UAH 590 against 415.11), by 23% as of January 2007 (UAH 478.38 against 380), and by 16% as of January 2006 (UAH 406.82 against 350).

Pensions to Ukrainian nationals living abroad and to other countries' nationals who moved to Ukraine for permanent residence are assigned and paid in accordance with the pension legislation of Ukraine that consists of the Law of Ukraine on the General Mandatory State Pension Insurance, other regulatory legal acts and international treaties (agreements) regulating relations in the field of pension provision.

In accordance with Article 51, Law of Ukraine on the General Mandatory State Pension Insurance, if a pensioner leaves abroad for permanent residence, the pension assigned in Ukraine may be paid to him, upon his application, for six months in advance prior to departure counting from the month following the month

in which the pensioner was deregistered from the place of permanent residence. During the stay abroad, pension is paid if it is provided for in the international treaty of Ukraine to which the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine gave its consent as to binding.

For the time being, issues of pension provision in Ukraine are regulated by international treaties (agreements) signed with 21 countries.

The above-mentioned treaties (agreements) are divided into two categories:

- those based on the **territorial principle**, according to which expenses on payment of pensions are incurred by the state in the territory of which the recipient resides (signed with the CIS countries, Hungary, Romania);

- those based on the **proportional principle**, according to which each contracting party assigns and pays pension for a corresponding insurance (service) period completed in the territory of that party state. According to the proportionality principle, Ukraine signed agreements on social security with the Republic of Bulgaria, the Kingdom of Spain, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, and other states.

The Government of Ukraine pays great attention to stronger social protection of elderly persons being war veterans or war children whose life support is backed up with a system of preferences and compensations.

Pursuant to the Law of Ukraine on the Status of War Veterans and Guarantees of Their Social Protection, war veterans are provided with preferences in usage of housing and utility services, payment of communications services, sanatorium and health resort treatment, housing repairs, urban and suburban transport fare; besides, they receive some increments to pensions.

Addressing the problems of concern to war veterans is covered by the Action Plan for Improvement of Life Support for War Veterans for 2007-2010 approved by the Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 731-r of 11.09.07.

This governmental document prescribes a set of measures to improve medical, social and living services to war veterans and the fallen's family members, promote development of a system of preferential transport services to war veterans for the purpose of delivering them to healthcare institutions, local authorities, or social protection institutions, enhance working practices of field medical teams (family doctors, district therapists, specialized diagnostic, advisory, and dentist teams), medico-social expert commissions in rural areas as well as field daycare sections of oblast hospitals.

A special lump-sum cash benefit is paid to war veterans every year for the Victory Day. Its amount has substantially increased during recent years. This benefit is paid to disabled war veterans, combat action participants, and persons covered by the Law of Ukraine on the Status of War Veterans and Guarantees of Their Social Protection.

Pursuant to the Law of Ukraine on the Status of War Veterans and Guarantees of Their Social Protection, war veterans are entitled to free sanatorium and spa treatment at the state budget expense.

**Financing of sanatoria in the system of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine
(million hryvnias)**

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The Law of Ukraine on the Social Protection of War Children determines additional social guarantees to war children (a war child is a person being a Ukrainian national who was under 18 years of age at the end of the World War II (2 September 1945), i.e. who is now between 63 and 80). In particular, war children are entitled to a 25% discount in payment for utility services within the average consumption rates, to free fare in all modes of urban transport and road transport of general use in rural areas, and to an increase of pensions the amount of which in 2008 is 10% of the minimum of subsistence for persons who lost working capacity.

Social protection of victims of Nazi persecutions is effected pursuant to the Law of Ukraine on the Victims of Nazi Persecutions, according to which such persons are entitled to a discount in payment for housing and utility services, purchase of fuel and liquefied cylinder-packed gas within average consumption rates, payment of communications services, telephone installation, sanatorium and health resort treatment, housing overhaul and repairs, fare in road, rail, water and air transport, and compensation for petrol, car repair and maintenance, and transport provision.

A new form of providing housing social services consists of establishment in regions of Ukraine of specialised residential homes for single war and labour veterans, pensioners and disabled persons, with a package of social and consumer facilities and medical services.

Nine such establishments operate in Ukraine now, with about 700 persons living there:

- 4 homes in Kyiv;
- 2 homes in Odesa oblast;
- 1 home in each of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Donetsk and Lviv oblasts.

The process of creation of such institutions for independent living is expanding.

To bring social assistance and services closer to war veterans living in rural areas, centres of domiciliary social protection have been organised under village and settlement councils. The centres are structural units of the bodies of labour and social protection, and their employees closely cooperate with primary cells of war veterans' organisations concerning provision of consumer assistance.

To strengthen social protection of persons who are in difficult life circumstances and are entitled by law to social servicing, the Government approved the Procedure of assignment and payment of compensations to natural persons providing social services. Introduction of this Procedure allowed not restricting an elderly person's right to obtain social services in an inpatient institution or through a territorial centre. Besides, social services have been brought directly to the place of residence of the elderly person requiring permanent outside care.

The Government pays great attention to medical maintenance of war veterans. For example, all the war veterans are entitled to observation in specialised medical clinics and to annual comprehensive medical examination.

If necessary, war veterans are provided with outpatient and inpatient medical aid. Inpatient medical aid is provided to war veterans in special hospitals.

Functioning in Ukraine are:

- 31 special hospitals with a stock of 7257 beds;
- 28 special hospital sections with 1585 beds.

Besides, war veterans are provided with medical assistance in outpatient healthcare institutions of the general network at their place of residence.

War veterans are entitled to purchase medicaments and medical supplies on the preferential basis in special “veterans” and “social” pharmacies. The network of such institutions is continuously growing, and today there are 1220 such units in Ukraine.

One of the top priorities for the state in the current stage of Ukraine’s development consists of aspiration for building an information society oriented on people’s interests and open for everyone.

One of the priority working areas of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine and its regional units consists of developing and implementing programmes of targeted support for socially unprotected population groups.

No doubt, this work will not achieve any substantial result unless the public realizes the need for changes and has an all-round idea about the start of reforms and their eventual goal. Therefore in the process of changing, the task of informing the public as completely as possible arises as one of extreme importance.

The matter of informing the population in the process of making changes in the social services system also deals with development of state minimum quality standards. A customer will not be able to obtain a quality service unless he/she is timely informed on how and where the service must be provided, and on the rights and duties of recipients and providers of social services.

As a result of reform in the system of social services, the services are of higher quality and provided to a greater number of people.

- Preparation of materials for printed editions. Advisory articles, interviews, information messages, press releases, stories of personal success are systematically prepared by specialists of the social sphere system, and journalists are involved in the process. Quite useful is opening of separate thematic columns in central and local periodicals where useful information for readers is placed on the regular basis. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy coordinates this process and provides methodological recommendations to its lower regional institutions and establishments.
- Internet resources. Institutions and establishments of the system of social protection regularly place information on their activities on the websites of oblast and district state administrations using interesting life stories. A thematic page *Social Services* has been opened on the Ministry’s website.
- Cooperation with oblast press clubs for journalists. Such press clubs exist in each oblast. Cooperating with them helps distribute information in a community in a quick and interesting way.
- Cooperation with Social Policy and Social Work magazine.
- Cooperation with Social Protection magazine.

- Cooperation with Ukrinform news agency.
- Five social reels to inform the public have been prepared.

The system of social protection of the population, activities of which are coordinated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is focused on the overwhelming majority of the country's population being recipients of social payments, transfers, services and other types of social support on the part of the state, including on securing sustainable operation of the state system of social servicing of elderly persons.

The state guarantees to elderly persons the right of receiving social services.

Amount of social services provided by the MLSP institutions and their social importance are extremely important because, for example, about 2 million elderly persons receive services in the system of social servicing alone.

The legislative act determining main organizational and legal principles of provision of social services to persons in complicated life circumstances and in need of outside help is the Law of Ukraine on the Social Services.

The law entitles elderly persons to obtain social services for improving or restoring their vital activity, social adaptation and return to full-fledged life, and allows institutions and organizations of any form of ownership to take part in implementation of social programmes to the extent of providing social services to the needy population groups.

Adoption of the above law set new tasks for state social policy, among which implementation of clearly and efficiently operating mechanisms for the functioning of the social services system is one of the central.

In 2007, the Concept of Reform of the Social Services System, which was approved by the Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 178-r dated 13.04.2007, and the draft Action Plan for its implementation before 2012 were developed, which will allow laying the foundations for formation in Ukraine of a contemporary system of social services, including for elderly persons, focused on European-level social work standards.

A central mechanism securing social protection of the population, first of all elderly persons, is the Housing Subsidy Programme that guarantees low-income persons stability of expenses on payment of housing and utility services regardless of any change in the cost of the services.

One of the measures aimed to enable elderly persons to lead independent lives in their familiar surroundings consists of granting them state aid for payment of housing and utility services (housing subsidies).

The Housing Subsidies Programme operating in Ukraine since 1995 guarantees low-income families stability of expenses on payment of housing and utility services regardless of any change in the cost of the services.

Valid as of today are the Regulations on the Procedure of Assignment and Provision of Subsidies to Refund Expenses for Payment of Housing and Utility Services and Purchase of Liquefied Gas, Solid and Liquid Stove Fuel, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 848 dated 21.10.95 (in the wording of the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 1050 dated 22.09.97).

The amount of citizens' expenses on payment for housing and utility services, purchase of stove domestic fuel and liquefied gas given a housing subsidy is defined by the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 1156 of 27 July 1998.

The families to whom a housing subsidy is assigned pay 20% of the average monthly aggregate income for housing and utility services within the rate of ownership or usage of gross housing area and within the rates of usage of utility services.

On 10 January 2007, the Government of Ukraine made a decision (Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 3 of 10.01.07 *On Amending Paragraph 1 of the CMU's Resolution No. 1156 of 27 July 1998*) that became another important step toward stronger social protection of disabled persons. According to that decision, beginning from 1 January 2007 families consisting of elderly persons, pensioners, disabled persons pay 15% of their average monthly aggregate income for housing and utility services within the rate of ownership or usage of gross housing area and within the rates of usage of these services, and 15% of their annual aggregate income for purchase of liquefied gas, solid and liquid stove domestic fuel.

Owing to introduction of the above-mentioned preferential conditions for provision of housing subsidies to incapacitated persons, the number of pensioner families that became entitled to that state benefit greatly increased. Whereas in December 2006 the number of such families was 56% of the total count of families receiving housing subsidies, the figure in 2007 was already 64.5%.

To provide elderly people with proper conditions for independent, autonomous life in Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine on the Housing Stock of Social Purpose has been passed. In pursuance of the law, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Resolution No. 76 dated 31.01.2007 *On the Approval of the Procedure of Establishment of a Specialized Home for War and Labour Veterans, Elderly Persons, and the Disabled, and Provision of Living Space in Such a Home, and of the Model Regulations of a Specialized Home for War and Labour Veterans, Elderly Persons, and the Disabled*. This governmental act obliges local administrations to establish homes for veterans and disabled persons equipped with a set of domestic and socio-medical services.

The Ukrainian legislation defines social servicing of elderly persons and provision of social services to them as one of the categories of social protection.

A network of inpatient institutions consists of:

- 321 nursing homes (86 for elderly and disabled persons, 149 psychoneurological nursing homes, 25 boarding houses for war and labour veterans, and 7 special nursing homes).

Network of nursing home institutions in the system of labour and social protection of the population as of 1 January 2008

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Almost 55 thousand persons live in the inpatient institutions, of them about 20 thousand being elderly and disabled people, 7 thousand war veterans, and 5 thousand labour veterans.

According to the Ukrainian legislation, war veterans who find themselves in difficult life circumstances are entitled to out-of-turn placement to an inpatient institution.

The number of elderly and disabled persons living in nursing homes in the system of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine has increased in 2007 by more than 1000 persons as compared to 2006.

Great attention in the inpatient institutions is paid to organisation of recreation and cultural servicing of elderly and disabled persons.

Elderly and disabled persons living in such institutions have the right, if they wish, to get a job they are able to perform given their state of health, on the labour contract basis.

Charitable foundations, community organisations, and faith-based associations take active part in providing life support to institutions of social services for elderly persons.

At the same time, the nursing homes are not a universal form of providing social and consumer services and socio-medical assistance to incapacitated persons because conditions of living there, with a regulated regime and a prescribed list of socio-medical services, often do not coincide with a person's individual needs.

In the system of labour and social protection of the population, there is a well-developed network of territorial centres of social services to pensioners and single incapacitated persons.

A territorial centre of social services to pensioners and single incapacitated persons is a special state or municipal institution that provides services to pensioners, disabled persons, single incapacitated persons, and other socially unprotected individuals at home, in inpatient, temporary and day care settings that are aimed to maintain their vital functions and social activity.

Such institutions operate in each district, city, and city district. The network of the MLSP system territorial centres includes 744 institutions serving about 2 million persons, including more than 0.5 million war veterans.

Territorial centres of social services to pensioners and single incapacitated persons as of 1 July 2006

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Main tasks of a territorial centre of social services to pensioners and single incapacitated persons include:

- revealing single incapacitated persons in need of social-domestic, medico-social and other categories of social services;
- inspecting, together with representatives of healthcare institutions, housing maintenance bodies and public organisations, material and living conditions of the single persons;
- determining territorial centres' needs for various social services;

- establishing ties with enterprises, institutions, organisations, regardless of their ownership, on the matters of social services and material and in-kind aid to incapacitated persons;

- securing, via their units, high-quality provision of various social services to the persons.

To maintain vital and social activity of war and labour veterans, pensioners and disabled persons, operating within the territorial centres are:

- 904 sections of home social assistance that provide care and social and consumer services to 495.2 thousand persons including 269.2 thousand war veterans;

- 537 sections of social and living rehabilitation that service about 320 thousand persons including 113.7 thousand war veterans;

- 278 sections of medico-social rehabilitation that service more than 154 thousand persons including 59.1 thousand war veterans;

- 314 inpatient sections for temporary or permanent residence (15 thousand persons including 5.6 thousand war veterans).

Within the structure of the territorial centres, work of 626 sections providing cash and in-kind assistance to low-income incapacitated persons has been organised.

A ground for organisation of social servicing and provision of social services to persons consists of a conclusion of a healthcare institution concerning the degree of loss of the ability to serve oneself.

Social workers and social employees provide social services to single incapacitated persons according to an agreement. Such an agreement is concluded between a single incapacitated person and a territorial centre or a section of home social assistance.

The territorial centres provide more than 47 categories of social services to elderly persons; they are entitled to the following services:

- purchase of foodstuffs, soft and hard stock, medicines;

- cooking, delivery of hot lunches, feeding;

- house cleaning, laundering, fuel purchase and delivery;

- assistance in processing of smallholdings;

- making payments, drawing up documents for subsidies on payment for housing and utility services;

- sending for a doctor, delivery of medicines, implementation of treatment, health-improving and preventive measures, socio-psychological rehabilitation;

- provision of conditions for feasible labour;

- drawing up documents for sanatorium and spa treatment and social services for other institutions and establishments for war and labour veterans, elderly and disabled persons;

- organising provision of necessary prosthetics and orthopaedic assistance, provision with crutches, walking sticks, and spectacles;

- organisation of recreation (attending lectures, participating in excursions, amateur art groups, circles), provision of specialist consultations on various matters, etc.

Almost 50 thousand social workers are engaged in the provision of social services.

The territorial centres of social services introduce new categories of social services to elderly persons, considering demand for such services on the part of the community members. For example, in pursuance of the Law of Ukraine on the Psychiatric Service, to secure social protection of persons with mental disorders and to provide independent living conditions for them, specialised sections of home social assistance to disabled persons with mental disorders have been established in Kyiv and some other Ukrainian cities, where the above-mentioned category of persons is provided various social services including care. The sections closely cooperate with healthcare institutions.

Single elderly persons who, according to medical conclusions, require permanent outside care are provided social and consumer services at home by state institutions.

Social assistance to the elderly persons who partially or completely lost their ability to serve themselves may be provided, according to their wishes, directly at home or at an appropriate facility (nursing home, territorial centre of social services, veterans' home, homes for elderly persons, etc.) where they reside on the temporary or permanent basis.

The territorial centres include sections of home social assistance.

In accordance with their tasks, section workers, in cooperation with representatives of healthcare institutions, housing and communal offices, and community organizations, identify single incapacitated individuals and disabled persons, examine material and domestic conditions of their living, and determine their needs for social and domestic assistance. Based on the doctors' conclusions concerning the degree of loss of the ability to serve oneself stated in a medical card, such a section provides single incapacitated individuals and disabled persons with services specified in an agreement entered into between a single incapacitated individual and the section.

Activities of the territorial centres are improved all the time.

For example, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine, which secures operating coordination of the bodies of labour and social protection on social servicing and social services, has issued more than 15 regulatory legal and methodological acts during 2005-2007 aimed to improve the system of domiciliary social services.

According to legislation, elderly persons are entitled, equally with other citizens, to assistance:

- in connection with temporary disability during the working period and with the need for sanatorium and health resort treatment;
 - in the period of vocational retraining and skills improvement;
- as well as for other types of assistance provided for in legislation.

If necessary, elderly persons are provided with prostheses, hearing aids, and dental prosthetics services.

The said types of prosthetics assistance are granted free of charge or on preferential conditions (except for dental prostheses made of precious metals) according to the procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

In parallel with strengthening of existing outpatient institutions, creation of a new-type outpatient establishments is a main trend in the development of the system of social services to elderly persons. Now in Ukraine a network of nursing homes and outpatient sections with a small number of residents is being formed. Creation of such social facilities in a community allows bringing outpatient social services closer to elderly persons' usual place of residence and avoiding rupture of family and social ties that formed during their lifetime.

Elderly and disabled persons living in such institutions have the right, if they wish, to get a job they are able to perform given their state of health, on the labour contract basis, and are entitled to free communication with relatives and friends.

Operation of the outpatient institutions where the elderly are living is being improved all the time, advanced technologies of social servicing and social work methods are being introduced, and individual assessment of the need for assistance and social services has been commenced. To maintain the independent assistance guarantee, a model of independent advocacy for individuals has been designed. Experts find out interests and settle problematic issues of the persons who live in the outpatient settings and are served by outpatient services. Such a model has been implemented in Volyn and Rivne oblasts.

In the institutions designed for residence of elderly persons, they are guaranteed decent living conditions, are provided with equipped premises meeting sanitary and hygienic standards, sufficient food, necessary clothes and footwear according to seasonal and climatic conditions, are granted geriatric medical aid and cultural services, and take feasible part in labour processes.

Conditions of living as close as possible to domestic conditions are created for elderly persons in the institutions.

Today, Ukrainian state social services cooperate with volunteers – people intrinsically induced to be socially active, deeply realising their necessity for the society in the provision of feasible assistance and transfer of their knowledge and skills to those in need of them. Public associations are involved in volunteer activities. For example, a Pensioner volunteer centre has been established in the Organisation of Veterans of Ukraine that is a nongovernmental organisation. The centre is the main organiser of work of volunteer cells of primary veteran organisations operating at housing maintenance bodies and enterprises. There are more than 20 thousand such cells throughout Ukraine, with over 4000 pensioners and veterans engaged in volunteer activities there. Pensioner volunteers work in such programmes as Pensioner to Pensioner, Pensioner to Children and Youth, etc.

The volunteer movement among pensioners is not only designed to help the needy but also expands for pensioner volunteers the possibility of maintaining their social activity as long as possible because having a goal and caring for a specific person actively is a mighty factor of vital activity.

At the same time, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine and the local bodies of labour and social protection have great positive experience of cooperation with services of the Red Cross Society.

Joint work on social service matters, provision of social services to pensioners and other vulnerable populations has already become a tradition for the bodies of labour and social protection.

To deepen and develop this cooperation further on, the MLSP and the Red Cross Society signed on 6 April 2006 an agreement on cooperation and approved an action plan on cooperation in the organisation of medical and social and consumer servicing to elderly and disabled persons through 2010.

Pursuant to implementation of this plan, there are already certain results in further improvement of the organisation of provision of social and consumer and medical assistance to elderly persons, war and labour veterans, and other socially vulnerable populations.

Veterans' public associations take active part in the shaping of national policy concerning veterans and in state decision-making. There are 28 all-Ukrainian public organisations of veterans in Ukraine. Working coordination between the state authorities and veterans' organisations in handling problems related to their vital activities is secured by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine. A Public Council on the shaping and implementing the national policy on social protection of war and labour veterans, military service veterans, and victims of Nazi persecutions has been established under the ministry.

However, a typical feature of the existing system of social services consists of its extreme centralisation, being bent for institutionalisation and concentration of services in inpatient institutions, which complicates integration of persons needing the services in society. All this prompted to realisation of the need to reform the system of social servicing and social services.

To determine main strategic directions towards reform of the system of social services, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy developed a Concept of Reform of the Social Services System.

The document outlines principal approaches and defines basic principles and foundations according to which the national system of social services will be working. It systematises views on main directions of the national policy in this field.

The Concept offers reform of the system through a stronger individual approach to organisation and provision of social services, deeper targeting, higher quality of services, more perfect inter-budget relations, better coordination among public authorities.

Main strategic directions of the reform include creating a broad network of services and institutions providing high-quality services; bringing them closer to recipients; decentralising processes of management, financing and deployment of services; implementing market mechanisms of provision of social services; reorganising the existing institutional establishments and creating alternative services and financing mechanisms; expanding recipients' opportunities for selection of services and participation in this process; increasing effectiveness of

the provision of social services through introduction of quality-increasing technologies. The need for managers and specialists of all levels to master quality management methods is one of the important activities in dealing with this task.

Article 30 – Everyone has the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion

With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion, the Parties undertake:

- a to take measures within the framework of an overall and co-ordinated approach to promote the effective access of persons who live or risk living in a situation of social exclusion or poverty, as well as their families, to, in particular, employment, housing, training, education, culture and social and medical assistance;
- b to review these measures with a view to their adaptation if necessary

Information to be submitted

- 1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.
- 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.
- 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information: on the nature and extent of poverty and social exclusion, including the number of persons or households who are socially excluded or live in poverty; and on the methodology followed or criteria used to measure poverty and social exclusion, bearing in mind that the Eurostat at-risk-of-poverty rate before and after social transfers is used as a comparative value to assess national situations.

General legal framework

- Decree by the President of Ukraine *On the Poverty Overcoming Strategy* No. 636 dated 15 August 2001;

- Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine *On the Approval of the Comprehensive Programme to Secure Implementation of the Poverty Overcoming Strategy* No. 1712 dated 21 December 2001;
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine *On the Approval of Measures for Implementation of the 2nd Stage of the Poverty Overcoming Strategy in 2003* No. 41-r dated 29 January 2003;
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine *On the Approval of Measures for Implementation of the 2nd Stage of the Poverty Overcoming Strategy in 2004* No. 810-r dated 29 December 2003;
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine *On the Measures for Implementation of the Poverty Overcoming Strategy in 2005* No. 957-r dated 23 December 2004;
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine *On the Measures for Implementation of the Poverty Overcoming Strategy in 2006* No. 74-r dated 8 February 2006;
- Executive Order by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine *On the Measures for Implementation of the Poverty Overcoming Strategy in 2007* No. 25-r dated 31 January 2007;
- Order by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, State Statistics Committee, and National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine *On the Approval of the Methodology for Integrated Assessment of Poverty* No. 171/238/100/149/2ND dated 5 April 2002.

Decree by the President of Ukraine *On the Poverty Overcoming Strategy* No. 637 dated 15 August 2001 has, for the first time in Ukraine, provided a comprehensive assessment as a public phenomenon, defined the depth and acuteness of the problem, and indicated main directions of its solution.

The document sets a single criterion for including various population groups in the poor category, and defines three stages of implementation of the Strategy as well as main directions of poverty eradication for the period until 2010, namely:

- providing economic and legal conditions for greater income and higher economic activity of able-bodied persons, first of all due to development of employment and labour market and through increase of income earned by labour activities;

- developing social insurance as preventive protection of an individual and his/her family from loss of income;

- social support for the most vulnerable population groups through implementation of a consolidated system of targeted social assistance and social services;

- social support for persons who lost working capacity and for disabled persons;

- social support for families with children and for children deprived of parental care.

Resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1712 dated 21 December 2001 approved *the Comprehensive Programme to Secure*

Implementation of the Poverty Overcoming Strategy where specific measures were defined to stabilise living standards and overcome acutest poverty displays in the first stage (2001-2002).

In the second stage (2003-2004), objective prerequisites were created to secure stable growth of people's real monetary income and to ensure an optimal employment rate.

Currently, the third stage of the Poverty Overcoming Strategy (2005-2009) is underway that assumes a stronger focus of economic processes upon more efficient satisfaction of human needs, better material circumstances of most population, and the entire package of social indicators depicting people's living standards and quality.

Proceeding from financial capacity of the state and local budgets, it is stipulated to approve annual Action Plans to implement the Poverty Overcoming Strategy aimed to raise employment rates, increase labour income, enhance social insurance, improve the system of targeted social assistance and social services, secure social support for families with children and children deprived of parental care as well as provide specific measures for efficient access to housing, education, culture and medical care.

The action plans developed are subject to endorsement by social partners – trade unions and employers – on the mandatory basis. Consultations and working meetings with the social partners is a standard both on the national and regional levels.

Poverty overcoming in Ukraine is a priority area for the Cabinet of Ministers implementation of which provides a foundation to achieve all strategic objectives.

Ukraine has made a significant step towards poverty overcoming in recent years. In order to shape an efficient system of social protection and decrease the poverty rate, a considerable number of documents has been issued and systemic measures are being implemented to solve the poverty problem and to prevent it in the future.

Efficiency of measures implementing the Poverty Overcoming Strategy is illustrated by positive dynamics of people's living standard indicators:

Dynamic growth of people's real income has been ensured:

- 2005 – by 23.9%;
- 2006 – by 11.8%;
- 2007 – by 12,6%.

Real wages have grown by 20.3%, 18.3%, and 12.5% respectively.

Taking measures to promote full, productive and freely chosen employment is one of the ways to overcome poverty.

In this field, regulatory legal framework is continuously being improved, work to increase quality and efficiency of labour usage is being carried out, and measures are being taken to preserve and create jobs, promote employment and prevent mass unemployment, and secure social protection of the registered unemployed, etc.

Due to taking measures for promotion of people's employment, a stable tendency towards a better labour market situation has been achieved.

It features growing employment rates and an adequate decrease of unemployment.

According to the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, the number of employed population aged 15-70 has increased by 224,7 thousand persons in 2007 on average as compared to 2005 and made 20.9 million persons, the employment rate having grown from 57.7% in 2005 to 58.7% in 2007. Employment increase took place both among rural and urban population.

The number of unemployed population aged 15-70 has decreased by 183,2 thousand persons in 2007 on average as compared to 2005 and made 1.4 million persons. The unemployment rate as per the ILO methodology has dropped from 7.2% to 6.4% of the economically active population of the above-mentioned age group.

Every year, the Government's task concerning expansion of the labour usage scope by means of job creation is successfully fulfilled. Jobs for almost 3.4 million persons have been created during 2005-2007.

Under structural reorganisation of the country's economy, the national policy on employment aims to shape a civilised labour market and to create a reliable system of people's social protection against unemployment. A comprehensive approach towards this problem provides for balanced regulation of all labour market elements – not only stimulating labour demand (job creation) but also having an impact upon the labour price, job quality, labour motivation, etc.

Consistent steps are being taken to increase the minimum wage and bring it up to the state social standard in the field of people's income – the minimum of subsistence set for able-bodied persons. While the minimum wage was UAH 332, or 73% of the minimum of subsistence in 2005, it became UAH 460, or 81% of the minimum of subsistence, in late 2007.

The Government pays considerable attention to increasing the wages for workers in such sectors as education, healthcare, culture, science, and other budget-funded branches.

Measures are being taken to intensify the system of on-the-job vocational training, and to help enterprises in the organisation and provision of staff training. Within the framework of implementation of *the Concept of development of the advanced staff training system through 2010*, work is being carried out to improve the regulatory legal framework in the field of professional development, strengthen employers' interest in the increase of professional level of their staff, and stimulate workers to improve their skills.

As a result, a positive tendency towards growing volumes of advanced training has been appeared. According to statistics, almost 1.4 million workers was covered by various types of training in 2007, that being 89 thousand more than in 2005. Of them, almost 1,017 thousand persons, or 9.2% of their registered number, have improved their skills.

The system of social insurance existing in Ukraine has played a positive part in enhancement of people's social protection and in poverty reduction. Growth of

payouts in the system of mandatory state social insurance allowed strengthening of social protection in case of unemployment, temporary disability, maternity, childbirth, care for a child until 3 years old, and accidents at work or occupational diseases, at the expense of insurance contributions.

Current insurance payouts, which are gradually approaching the minimum of subsistence, are secured on the timely and full basis.

Material support for the unemployed is improved by increasing the minimum size of unemployment benefit. The latter has been increased 1.5 times since 2005, from UAH 108 in 2005 to UAH 160 in 2007.

Monthly insurance payouts to persons injured at work are increased on the annually basis as of 1 March according to growth of real wages in national economic sectors.

The state secures decent old-age life to its citizens through pension system reform.

In Ukraine, a reformed solidary pension system and a voluntary contributory system through nongovernmental pension provision have been introduced.

Unlike other countries where pension reform was realised, Ukraine recalculated previously assigned pensions according to new pension law provisions. The procedure guaranteed maintenance of the amount of previously assigned pensions and application of all the preferences in seniority calculation provided for in the previous legislation.

A new formula for calculation of pensions has been introduced, which assumes an extended period of earnings taken into account for assignment of the pension amount and prescribes including in the insurance record only those periods for which insurance contributions to the Pension Fund have been paid.

Payment of a minimum old-age pension has been provided since 2005, for which a man should have 25 years of insurance contributions, and a woman should have 20 years; the pension is equal to the statutory minimum of subsistence for persons who lost capacity to work.

The Government takes measures to develop nongovernmental pension provision, which is an important driver for better pension support for citizens and for faster socioeconomic development of the nation.

Reformation of the system of social protection continued. It concentrated on handling the tasks aimed to secure efficient administration of the system of social assistance, creating uniform software based on modern computer systems, and evaluating implementation of poverty overcoming programmes.

Ukraine has a working system of social assistance that consists of benefits to families with children, state social benefits to low-income families, orphan children and children deprived of parental care, cash allowances to caregiver parents and foster parents for provision of social services in family-type children's home and foster families, to children in ward or under guardianship, benefits to persons with childhood disability and disabled children, and housing subsidy programmes.

Such support is provided on the monthly basis to more than three million families and individuals needing it.

Childbirth benefit has been increased considerably, from UAH 8497.6 to UAH 12,240. Special attention is paid to addressing problems of handicapped persons.

In addition to information provided herein, more details concerning the measures taken in Ukraine to ensure the effective exercise of the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion, use of social services by various population groups, and social protection of elderly persons are provided concerning Articles 11, 14, and 23.

Calculation of a system of indicators directly depicting the poor population's situation is determined in the Methodology for Integrated Assessment of Poverty.

Poverty line and poverty rate are main poverty indicators. Poverty line is determined on the basis of a relative criterion of including various population groups in the poor category, which is calculated as a fixed proportion of per capita spending – 75% of the median cumulative income (spending) per typical adult. Poverty rate is a proportion of families (households) whose consumption (income) per person is lower than the established poverty line.

An information base for monitoring of poverty indicators consists of a sample survey of households' living standards in Ukraine conducted by the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine on the quarterly basis.

Indicator dynamics over 2005-2007 shows stable tendencies and general improvement of the poverty situation in the last period. The poverty rate decreased in 2007 by 0.8 percentage points as compared to the previous year to make 27.3%. The poverty line reached the average monthly per capita level of UAH 526, that being 22.3% more than in 2006. About 12.3 million persons have been included in the poor category by the national criterion.

There have been positive changes in the situation of all household types having children, especially during the last year. The poverty rate in such households has declined by 1.4 percentage points, and in large families – by 3.8 percentage points. In households having children where all adults are working, the poverty rate decreased by 1.5 percentage points.

A decrease in poverty among households by locality of residence can also be seen. The poverty rate in cities decreased by 0.9 percentage points over the last year while rural areas showed a 0.5 percentage points drop.

Monitoring of poverty indicators is used to follow the country's poverty situation and to make appropriate decisions on further actions for solving the problem. Conferences, including international, and round tables are continually held to discuss topical issues on poverty reduction, which involve trade unions, employers, scientists, and representatives of public organizations.

Since poverty is a complex social phenomenon having economic, cultural and psychological roots, the main task in combating it consists of efficient management of social processes in order to target efforts and policies at eradication of poverty roots, satisfaction of basic human needs, alleviation of hereditary poverty risks, and creation of conditions to develop confidence in the future for oneself and one's children.