

INTRODUCTION TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IN UKRAINE

1. The creation of the system of national social protection system in Ukraine was initiated immediately after the declaration of independence.

Implementation of article 46 of the Constitution of Ukraine secured the right to social protection by means of social security schemes and social assistance schemes, and more particularly through Financial support of the economically active population (by Social Security) the introduction of pensions and other income replacement schemes, social assistance schemes providing benefits to the most vulnerable and financial compensation to families with children , and through the indexation of public benefits, social services and so on.

The basic legal framework and the mechanisms to ensure compliance with social safeguards have been incorporated in the general resolution on social security of the population (Resolution of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine from 21.12.1993, the No3758-XII). The primary function of social security is to provide welfare and care support to those categories of the population, when complying with the legal conditions become eligible for long-term or permanent care (in case of old age, disability, or other lack of financial resources) Furthermore social protection is provided in cases of temporary disability, pregnancy and childbirth, childcare, disability, illness, retirement , unemployment, death of a breadwinner, accidents at work and occupational diseases. Social assistance is provided through social programs to improve the social status of certain segments of the population (e.g. public housing subsidy program) and quality of the network relevant social institutions (eg, ter centers, nursing and boarding homes). Contrary to social security, social assistance is provided on the basis of an individual assessment of the person whose standard of living are below the minimum subsistence level.. When deciding on social assistance mainly the the financial position of the person is taken into account.

2. The legal structure of the social security system is based mainly on the public administration and other government agencies, for the further implementation and operation of the social security schemes such as local governments, NGOs and foundations, trade unions, unions and business associations, .

The organizational structure of the social security system in Ukraine can be described as a four-tier system:

1) the level of national governance, where on the basis national measures and actions the general policy for the managing social protection is being determined;

2) the level of sectoral management, including social protection measures for occupational, departmental network of social institutions;

3) the level of regional governance where measures in line with the central government policy are developed on the basis of regional social protection schemes, taking into account the regional specificities, the natural conditions, the socio-economic distribution of productive forces, and ethnic and national factors;

4) the level of local (municipal) administration, including local measures for implementing social protection at the level of cities and regions.

The main legislative actors are the President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine Parliamentary Committees for Social Policy and Labour, of pensioners, veterans and disabled.

Direct management of the social protection of the population of Ukraine is carried out by executive organs of the government: Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Ministry of Social Policy, Councils for disabled people at Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Department of Social Policy at Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and others. Sector management of the social protection system is carried out by the ministries and the departments of Ukraine. Trade unions are represented in social welfare agencies, whose jurisdiction extends to the industry. Measures of social protection within the competence of companies and are regulated by collective labor agreements. Regional management of the social security system is to implement social policies in selected administrative-territorial units of Ukraine. For this structure of local government established control social protection.

The local level is the latest in a vertical system of social protection and fulfills a specific role of a bridge between the object of social protection – population - and the entire system of social protection.

3. The legal framework of social protection

This section provides a basic legislative acts:

The Constitution of Ukraine.

- Labour Code of Ukraine (No322 – 08).
- Law "On Principles of Social Protection of Disabled Persons" (from 21.03.1991 No875 -XII).
- Law "On Indexation of cash income"(From 03yu07.1991 No1282-XII).
- Law "On Labour Protection" (from 14.10.1992 No2694-XII).
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