

UKRAINE

The government policy towards people with disabilities is aimed to ensure their rights to full participation in the economic and social life of the society, employment and access to the labour market, guaranteed income which ensures decent life for people with disabilities.

Since 2006, Ukraine has been actively participating in implementation of provisions of the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 for supporting the rights of disabled people and their full participation in the society.

The implementation of the Action Plan at the national level enabled to prepare and implement in 2009 Ukraine's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

The Government has adopted the State Programme "National Action Plan for Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" for a period till 2020. The process of the national legislation harmonization to European human right standards is proceeding.

But today, I would like to tell you about a great step Ukraine took in prosthetics and rehabilitation under the conditions in my country.

I will focus your attention on a governmental institution managed by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine that was established to fulfil research and engineering policy in prosthetic care, prosthetic engineering and facing medical and technical challenges of rehabilitation and social adaptation of the disabled, developing and improving auxiliary rehabilitation aids, prosthetic and orthopaedic appliances and production technologies; developing ways and methods of medical and social rehabilitation of the disabled, suffering from locomotor disorders.

General lines of activity of this institution:

- developing and manufacturing prosthetic and orthopaedic structures;
- installations for biomechanic functional testing of prosthetic appliances and rehabilitation quality assurance: walking analysis, posture control, basometric complex.

- higher activity structures of prosthetic and orthopaedic appliances are produced with the help of cutting-edge technologies using state-of-the-art components of domestic and foreign origin.

In 2015, effective rehabilitation techniques to recover motor activity and socially integrate patients, including children with cerebral palsy and such difficult patients as suffering from effects of spinal and brain injuries and strokes, were introduced successfully at a clinic of the Ukrainian Prosthetic R&D Institute.

Rehabilitation treatments have been provided to 2,256 patients, including 1,208 disabled children, for this period. Rehabilitation was administered, using cutting-edge technologies and robotic orthotic systems (Locomat, G-ee, Hand of hope). 19 new rehabilitation techniques that were developed by the Institute were integrated into clinical practice.

Since the beginning of 2016, prosthetic and orthopaedic care according to modern technologies has been provided at the Institute's Clinic to 600 disabled adults and 698 disabled children, including rehabilitation treatments with the help of robotic systems to 45 disabled adults and 330 disabled children.

This Institute's has been cooperating with Clinic, rehabilitation centres controlled by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

Since 2014 in Ukraine we have a new category (status) – Veteran of anti-terrorist operation. Today, about 264000 have this status, 4000 of them are Veterans of ATO with disability.

The Government, practitioners and engineers united within the framework of anti-terrorist operation to help young men that were injured in the course of such operation. And adopted new legislation in this context.

Prosthetic and orthopaedic care to ATO veterans in Ukraine

- *Prosthetic and orthopaedic care, using higher activity appliances and production technologies that are not practised in Ukraine, to certain categories of the public that participated in and/or provided for the anti-terrorist operation and lost function of their extremity (ies) **governmental program***

Total number of ATO veterans covered by the monitoring program	655
Prosthetic (orthotic) care provided	282
Prosthetic (orthotic) care required	132
Prosthetic care commenced	55
Ongoing treatment	77

The Government adopted changes to the Ukrainian Legislation, following which cutting-edge production technologies for technical means of rehabilitation and higher activity prosthetic and orthopaedic appliances, including prosthetic appliances developed with the help of Touch Bionics, C-Leg technologies, for ATO veterans will be introduced at national production facilities starting from 2016 (as long as ATO veterans are young men in need of total social integration).

Number of prosthetic devices produced for ATO veterans using cutting-edge technologies

As at September 2, 2016, **267** prosthetic devices were produced for ATO veterans in Ukraine, among which:

artificial lower extremities - 178,

artificial upper extremities - 79.

Prosthetic care provided to 15 people abroad.

We have training engineers in cutting-edge prosthetic and orthopaedic production technologies:

- Advanced Prosthetics Seminar by Canadian experts, May 2015
- Advanced Prosthetics Seminar by Canadian experts, April 2016

- Training in operation of higher activity VGK knee unit, Great Britain, 2015

Ukrainian prosthetic engineers undergo ongoing training and rehabilitation equipment is procured under the umbrella of the NATO trust fund.