



European
Social
Charter

Charte
sociale
européenne



CLOSING EVENT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT “ENHANCED SOCIAL PROTECTION IN UKRAINE”

27 November 2024

BACKGROUND

■ Social rights are core European values enshrined in a number of formal commitments undertaken by the Council of Europe member states, including Ukraine. These commitments include the European Social Charter (revised). Respect for and the promotion of social rights is essential in attaining sustainable democracy in Ukraine. Ukraine ratified the European Social Charter (revised) (ESC/Charter) on 21 December 2006, accepting 76 of its 98 paragraphs. It has yet to ratify the Additional Protocol providing for a system of collective complaints.

■ During 2019-2024, the Council of Europe implemented several co-operation projects aimed at promoting social human rights in Ukraine, which contributed to the development and implementation of new policy documents in line with the ESC standards and requirements, and initiation of important reforms in the areas of social services, labour rights, rights of people with disabilities.

ABOUT PROJECT

■ The Council of Europe project “Enhanced social protection in Ukraine” (hereinafter – the project) launched in 2023, covers the period of 01 January 2023 – 31 December 2024 within the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resiliency, Recovery and Reconstruction” for 2023-2026¹. Its aim was to attain that people from vulnerable groups, including war-affected population in Ukraine, enjoy improved level of social rights and social protection. To achieve this, a combination of targeted activities was envisaged in two directions. First, the policy and legislative framework on social rights were aligned with the European standards, more particularly the ESC and case law of the European Committee of Social Rights. Second, national and regional authorities were encouraged and capacitated to promote the social rights of persons from vulnerable groups and the general public, in particular addressing the issue of non-take up of social rights.

■ The need to protect social human rights has become even more pressing since the beginning of the Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine. It has resulted in forced displacement of millions of people (both internally and abroad), the loss of homes, property, employment, and means of livelihood by hundreds of thousands of people, damage to physical and psychological health, and many other adverse effects. The project aimed at further supporting the Ukrainian authorities in addressing the current challenges posed by the war in the area of social rights, implementing the reforms already embarked on in the above-mentioned areas, in line with the requirements of the ESC and relevant European standards. The latter process has become even more important given the opening of EU accession negotiations with Ukraine in 2023.

OBJECTIVE OF THE CLOSING EVENT

■ The closing event of the Council of Europe project “Enhanced social protection in Ukraine” aims at presenting the results achieved over the past two years of the project’s implementation. It will also reaffirm the partners’ commitment to continuing the co-operation with the Council of Europe in the area of social rights protection, as part of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, recovery, reconstruction” for 2023-2026.

¹ Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14 December 2022

AGENDA

Venue: conference hall “Ballroom”
of the Hyatt Regency Kyiv Hotel (5 Alla Tarasova street)

Join the event online:

Zoom Meeting

<https://kls-agency-ua.zoom.us/j/81018958434?pwd=hZar7J7wNYQFy2PJxmmxgXtWHtYT2C.1>

Meeting ID: 810 1895 8434

Passcode: 508951

The agenda is scheduled according to Strasbourg time

08:00 – 09:00 **Registration of the participants. Welcome coffee**

09:00 – 09:40 **OPENING REMARKS**

Moderator - Mr Maciej Janczak, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine

- **Mr Maciej Janczak**, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine
- **Ms Oksana Zholnovych**, Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine
- **Ms Halyna Tretiakova**, Head of the Parliament Committee of Social Policy and Protection of Veterans’ Rights
- **Mr Dmytro Lubinets**, Ombudsperson of Ukraine (online)
- **Mr Mykhailo Smokovych**, Chair of the Administrative Court of Cassation of the Supreme Court
- **Mr Henrik Kristensen**, Head of the Social Rights Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe (online)

09:40 – 11:00 **PLENARY SESSION I: SUPPORTING REFORMS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL RIGHTS IN UKRAINE DURING 2023-2024: PROGRESS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND CHALLENGES**

Moderator – Ms Iryna Ostapa, Senior Project Officer of the Council of Europe project “Enhanced social protection in Ukraine”

Enabling a new model of social policy in Ukraine

- **Ms Daryna Marchak**, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine
- **Ms Marharyta Sokorenko**, Commissioner for the European Court of Human Rights (online)
- **Ms Alla Fedorova**, Member of the European Committee of Social Rights, National Consultant of the Council of Europe (online)

Advancing social services and reforming social benefits in Ukraine: challenges and opportunities

- **Ms Uliana Tokarieva**, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine
- **Ms Yuliia Sokolovska**, Adviser to the Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine

Monitoring the observance of social and economic rights in Ukraine, including the implementation of the Barrier-Free Strategy

- **Ms Olena Kolobrodova**, Representative of the Ombudsperson on Social and Economic Rights
- **Ms Tetiana Lomakina**, Advisor-Commissioner of the President of Ukraine on Barrier-Free Issues (online)
- **Mr Volodymyr Zakharenko**, Deputy Head of the Department - Head of the Division of Human Rights Compliance of the Department of the Main Inspection and Human Rights Compliance of the National Police of Ukraine

Discussion

11:00 – 11:40 *Lunch break*

11:40 – 12:30 **PLENARY SESSION II: SUPPORTING LABOUR REFORMS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN UKRAINE: PROGRESS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND CHALLENGES**

Moderator – Ms Iryna Ostapa, Senior Project Officer of the Council of Europe project “Enhanced social protection in Ukraine”

- **Ms Tetiana Berezhna**, Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine (online)
- **Mr Dmytro Kukhniuk**, Head of the National Mediation and Conciliation Service
- **Mr Denys Poltavets**, Programme Director of Aspen Institute Kyiv
- **Ms Yana Simutina**, National Consultant of the Council of Europe (online)

Discussion

12:30 – 13:00 **PLENARY SESSION III: PROMOTING SOCIAL RIGHTS UNDER THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER**

Moderator – Ms Iryna Ostapa, Senior Project Officer of the Council of Europe project “Enhanced social protection in Ukraine”

Strengthening social rights policies and practices: a film presentation on grant-supported initiatives

Research on the level of awareness of social and economic rights under the European Social Charter: preliminary results

- **Mr Serhii Kucheruk**, National Consultant of the Council of Europe

Promoting European Social Charter standards via educational courses

- **Ms Tetiana Fuley**, Head of the Unit of Scientific Studies of the National School of Judges
- **Mr Vadym Roshkaniuk**, Head of Economic Law Department at Uzhhorod National University

Discussion

13:00 – 13:20 **CLOSING REMARKS**

Moderator – Ms Iryna Ostapa, Senior Project Officer of the Council of Europe project “Enhanced social protection in Ukraine”

- **Ms Iryna Postolovska**, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine on European Integration
- **Mr Borys Tarasyuk**, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Council of Europe (online)
- **Ms Margarita Galstyan**, Head of Co-operation Unit, Department of Social Rights, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe (online)

13:20 *Networking coffee*

FOR NOTES

FOR NOTES

