

УДК 364.013 (477)
No. DOI 10.14746/pped.2014.2.3

Svitlana Lizakowska,
Ph.D. in Public Administration,
Associate Professor of the Social Work, Management and Pedagogy Department,
Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University

THE OPTIMIZATION OF STATE SOCIAL STANDARDS IN CURRENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN UKRAINE: TO THE QUESTION OF THE PROBLEM

The article characterizes and analyzes the basic state social standards, approaches in establishing and developing of basic social guarantees and social standards are revealed, the impact of transformational changes on the changes of people social status. Social sphere main task is the reproduction of the human capital in the state. During the process of Ukraine's European integration the implementation and adherence to European social standards gain great importance as they provide an opportunity to implement the main purpose of the modern welfare state which is a high standard of living provision. Serious steps were taken at the legislative level in the social sphere in Ukraine, namely the Law of Ukraine "About the State Social Standards and State Social Guarantees" that has been approved in 2000, defines the priorities of the state social policy to meet people needs in material goods and services and financial resources for their implementation. In the period of social and economic transformations the existence of basic standards in the state, imposed on the development of social services and quality of life, is a necessary condition and feature of the social and welfare state. In Ukraine the process of social sphere functioning, aiming for a decent human life support, education, recreation, health, needs improvement and development, as in our state effective social policies that could provide a high standard of living and equal access to public goods and services is in the process of formation.

Keywords: social state, guarantees, pauperism, transformational changes, social standards.

Лізаковська С.В. Оптимізація державних соціальних стандартів в сучасних соціально-економічних умовах в Україні: до проблеми питання

В статті характеризуються та аналізуються основні державні соціальні стандарти, розкриваються підходи у встановленні та розробленні основних соціальних гарантій та соціальних стандартів; визначається вплив трансформаційних перетворень на зміну соціального становища громадян. Завданням соціальної сфери є відтворення людського капіталу держави. У процесі європейської інтеграції України, впровадження та дотримання європейських соціальних стандартів має велике значення, оскільки вони дають змогу реалізувати основну мету сучасної соціальної держави – забезпечити високий рівень життя населення.

Ключові слова: соціальна держава, гарантії, пауперизм, трансформаційні перетворення, соціальні стандарти.

Лизакowska С.В. Оптимизация государственных социальных стандартов в современных социально-экономических условиях в Украине: к проблеме вопроса

В статье характеризуются и анализируются основные государственные социальные стандарты, раскрываются подходы в установлении и разработке основных социальных гарантий и социальных стандартов; определяется влияние трансформационных преобразований на изменение социального положения граждан. Задачей социальной сферы является воспроизводство человеческого капитала государства. В процессе европейской интеграции Украины внедрение и соблюдение европейских социальных стандартов имеет большое значение, поскольку они позволяют реализовать основную цель современного социального государства - обеспечить высокий уровень жизни населения.

Ключевые слова: социальное государство, гарантии, пауперизм, трансформационные преобразования, социальные стандарты.

Introduction

In conditions of transitional society, determination and observance of social standards transformational changes and transformations, is one of the social state basic elements and the

leading factor in the field of social security. Article 1 of the Law of Ukraine “On state social standards and state social guarantees” determines that the state social standards – are established by laws and other normative legal acts social norms and regulations or its complex, on which the levels of basic social guarantees are determined: minimal rate of wage and age pension, other kinds of social payments and assistance. State social standards are obligatory taken into account in the cultivation of programs of economic and social development [6].

Social standard is the norms, rules, descriptions based on the coordination of significant issues of social policy between the majority of stakeholders, adopted and approved by the appropriate authority, and which are guaranteed by the state to its citizens. Social standards describe the consumption level of certain social benefits recognized by the majority of population or a group of people acceptable for themselves.

It is necessary to note that the role and significance of social standards in the system of social and legal relations are important and necessary for public authorities as a management instrument, for providers of certain services and suppliers – to increase competitiveness, for consumers – to determine the quality of services, which are provided.

Analysis of recent research

The study of problems of establishment, implementation and compliance of social standards, its analysis and functioning peculiarities of social system in Ukraine, and also compliance of standards in social field on the paternal level through European social standards are researched by such scientists as N. Baranov, I. Zverev, A. Kapska, A. Klimenko, V. Latik, O. Makarov, V. Muschynina, I. Novoselska, A. Pishchulina, N. Poliak, J. Rudkevych and other theorists and practitioners.

Statement of research objectives

Analysis of state social standards in the current social and economic conditions in Ukraine will follow the efficiency of realization of social policy in the country, determine the quality and level of various social services according to established standards.

Results

According to the State Classifier of social standards and norms approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine on June 17, 2002 № 293, the implementation of state social

standards and norms in the following areas is prescribed:

- Household income;
- Social services;
- Housing and communal services;
- Transport services and communications;
- Health care;
- Providing schools;
- Maintenance by cultural institutions;
- Maintenance by physical culture and sports institutions;
- Household services;
- Trade and catering;
- Social work with children, youth and different categories of families [3].

The establishment of prescribed social standards involves tasks such as:

- 1) determination of the mechanism of realization of social rights and state social guarantees of citizens prescribed by the Constitution of Ukraine ;
- 2) determination of priorities of state social policy as to the ensuring of people needs in material goods and services and financial resources for its realization;
- 3) determination and substantiation of sizes of budget costs and social funds costs for social safety, providing the population and maintenance of social services.

The basic state social standard in the sphere of population incomes is a living wage. The minimal wage rate and minimal age pension, untaxed minimum of citizens` incomes, the size of state social assistance, the size of payments for compulsory state social insurance, the size of other social payments. A living wage is also applied for the general estimation of life in Ukraine , which is the basis for realization of social policy and the development of state social programs.

A living wage is determined by normative method in calculation per month per person, as well as for those who belong to the main social and demographic groups of people: children under 6 years, children aged 6 to 18 years old, able-bodied persons, persons who have lost efficiency.

It is necessary to note that the state social standards are obligatory taken into account in the cultivation of programs of economic and social development.

Scientifically substantiated social norms should be taken as a basis for the social standards. As to the Russian scientist N. Volgina, social standard is a scientifically substantiated quantitative and

qualitative characteristics of optimal status of social process, derived on the basis of the objective regularities of social development and state abilities and aimed at maximum satisfaction of material and mental needs, the comprehensive development of the individual [8]. Analysis and characteristics of social norms lie in that they reflect the capabilities and needs of social development at this stage and therefore can be changed in the future. Basically they have a clear quantitative and qualitative determination, which represents a value that describes the ideal (desired) goal of a certain process development. Unlike the social standards, social norms can be minimal.

Development and establishment of social standards and minimal social norms are an important question in European countries. Such statutory and regulatory documents as the European Social Charter (1961), European Code of Social Security (1964) can be distinguished.

In 2006, Ukraine ratified the European Social Charter, adopted on 18 October 1961, which came into effect in 1965. According to this document, the Member States of the Council of Europe arranged to secure the determined social rights for its population in order to improve quality of life and social well-being of its people. The Charter specifies that everyone has the right to use any measures enabling him to reach the best state of health which is possible; every low-income person has the right for social and medical assistance, every person has the right to use the social services, disabled people have the right for independence, social integration and participation in society life, family as a fundamental unit of society has the right for appropriate social, legal and economic protection to ensure its comprehensive development. [4]

Classification of social norms is implemented by character and level of social needs satisfaction. There are: 1) the norms of consumption – sizes of consumption in volume terms for a certain period (year, month, day) of food products, non-food products of the current consumption and certain types of services; 2) ensuring norms – a certain number available in the personal consumption of durable goods as well as providing a certain area with network of health care, education institutions, enterprises, offices, organizations of social and cultural, domestic, transport and housing services;

3) income norms – the size of personal citizen's or family's income which ensures them a sufficient level of needs satisfaction, which

is calculated by determining the cost of a set of consumption values and implementation norms.

State social standards and norms are usually formed, established and approved in accordance with the procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with the participation and agreement of other parties of social partnership.

Depending on the standardization objects, social standards can be divided into: 1) standards in the field of citizens' incomes; 2) standards in the field of receiving of state social publications on an insurance or free basis; 3) standards in the field of governmental or non-governmental organizations on fee basis of additional services and benefits. Depending on funding: 1) social security norms (total expenditures on certain statutory and regulatory acts, social standards); 2) cost norms (actually financed social standards).

In developing of social standards two aspects should be taken into account: standardization of social rights and development of social standards of living. Standards from standardization characterize minimal social norms which guarantee a decent standard of living.

The social standards of life include:

- Lifetime – 25 (minimum) and 85 (maximum) years;
- Literacy – 100%;
- The average years of schooling – 15 years;
- Real GDP per capita (in purchasing ability to dollar) from 200 (minimum) to 40 thousands (maximum) ;
- The total fertility rate (average number of children born by women in fertile age from 20 to 45 years) 2,14-2,15 ;
- Aging coefficient of population (the part of the population over 65 years in general population) – 7 %;
- The correlation of the richest 10% to poorest 10% – 10:1;
- The part of people living below the poverty line – 10%;
- The correlation of minimum and average wage – 1:3;
- Minimum hourly wage – 3\$. ;
- Unemployment rate (including hidden one) – 8-10 %;
- The number of offenses per 100 thousand of population – to 5 thousand;
- The level of depopulation (the number of births to the number of deaths) – 50:50
- The number of mental abnormalities per 100 thousand people – 284 [2 , p. 273].

At the beginning of the XXI century, in particular, during 2007 in Ukraine some positive developments in the implementation of social standards and state social guarantees happened. So, The Law of Ukraine “On State Budget of Ukraine for 2007” provided the increasing of minimum wage to 81 % from the minimal living wage, while, as in 2006 this index was only 73 %. Adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine regarding the minimal wage at the subsistence level for able-bodied persons” prescribes the introduction since 1 January 2009 of the minimal wage at the subsistence level for workers [5].

According to the Law of Ukraine “On Amending the Law of Ukraine “On State Budget of Ukraine for 2007 “from April 2007 for determining the minimal pension, a living wage for those who are unable to work is used for the first time, increased by 1%. The minimum age pension reached a subsistence level determined for persons unable to work , and since 1 April of current year was 410 UAH. In 2007, owing to the growth of the average wage rate, the coefficient of pension increasing

significantly raised (for pensions assigned in 2005-2006, the indicated coefficient is 68 % of growth rate of the average wage). However, such pension increasing did not solve the problem of the sizes backlog which have been earlier assigned from newly pensions. In similar terms of service and pension income, assigned by 2004, almost twice fall behind pension scales, appointed in 2007. [5]

Simultaneously, despite the measures taken in the field of social security, aimed at strengthening social protection of people, the size of individual payments are below the subsistence minimum, however – assistance for low-income families and assistance provided under the Law of Ukraine “On State Social Support to individuals who are not eligible for a pension, and disabled one. “Thus, for calculating the index “level of living wage providing” is used, which is not prescribed by the Law of Ukraine and underestimates this fundamentally important social standard. As to the social standards for 2014, according to the Law of Ukraine “On State Budget of Ukraine for 2014” from 01.16.2014 № 719 - VII, it is determined:

1. Living wage [6]:

Living wage, UAH	Sizes		
	since 1 January	since 1 July	since 1 October
per person per month	1176	1207	1256
children under 6 years	1032	1059	1102
children aged 6 to 18 years	1286	1320	1373
for able-bodied persons	1218	1250	1301
for incapacitated persons	949	974	1014

2. Minimum wage [6]:

Minimum wage, UAH	Sizes		
	since 1 January	since 1 July	since 1 October
monthly size	1218	1250	1301
hourly size	7,30	7,49	7,80

Level of providing of living wage (guaranteed minimum) for the assignment of assistance in accordance to the Law of Ukraine “On State Social Support for Low-Income Families” in percentage to the living wage for basic social and demographic groups of people is: for workers – 21%, for children – 85%, for incapacitated and disabled persons – 100% of the appropriate living wage [6].

The size of state social assistance for needy families cannot be more than 75 % from the level of providing of living wage for a family [6]. In the discussion of the considered problem, we should pay attention to the problem of population poverty.

The problem of poverty overcome in our country should be solved by implementing of the following strategic areas: growth of population employment and development of the labor-market, an increase of income level from employment , the implementation of appropriate insurance principles of social protection of workers, improving the living conditions of socially vulnerable groups of people, improving the system of social legislation, the effective use of budget money and special off-budget funds, the realization of programs of attracting the international investments and grants for social prospects and arrangements, to monitor

the implementation of strategic directions of poverty overcoming.

Poverty as a phenomenon of social and economic nature has a negative effect both in the short and in the long perspective on a areas of public life. Herewith a few basic consequences of increasing of scales and poverty depth which directly influence the dynamics of economic development of Ukraine, the level of its competitiveness in the global economic environment. Therefore, complex approaches are needed to solve this problem, which should be aimed at reducing the poverty depth among all social groups. In addition, the phenomenon of pauperism was inherent for the post-socialist countries, that is mass impoverishment of population, which was a result of transformational changes in the economic and social sphere, the unavailability of citizens for subsidiary approach in social policy of the country.

The domestic legislative basis in the establishment of certain social guarantees is based on the number of documents, including the laws "On state social standards and state social guarantees", "On The Living Wage", "On State Support for Families with Children," "On State Social Assistance to low-income families", "On state social assistance to persons who are not eligible for a pension, and disabled persons "and other legal acts.

Taking in consideration the above, it is advisable to draw the attention of non-compliance of established social values and of current conditions in different spheres of life. The rapid development of the economic potential and of the range of social services is not compared with established social state equivalents: Living wage does not include a number of essential costs: for the construction or purchase of housing or receiving it in the lease, for rent, education, health, maintenance of children in pre-schools, paid medical services, etc. Determining wages, pensions, social benefits, it is necessary to start from calculations aimed at establishing the real trash. Such calculations must become the basis in determining the social benefits which ensure a decent standard of life of the population and its individual groups. The existence of social standards which reflect the life quality allows to enforce an effective social policy, laying necessary conditions for the implementation to the budget. Social policy is effective only when it is based on an effective system of standards and accountability for their fulfillment, analyzing the causes of phenomena.

We should focus on the quality of social services provided to the specific objects of social infrastructure, as there is no clear mechanism for checking the actual quality of providing certain services in the social sphere. In particular, the state social norms in the field of social services are set for defining the range of social services which can be provided to the aged people, disabled people, disabled children, orphans and children deprived of parental care, homeless people, lonely and other socially defenseless citizens who are in difficult circumstances. For qualitative maintenance of lonely aged people and disabled in nursing homes, children's boarding schools, psycho neurological establishments, territorial centers of social maintenance for pensioners and lonely disabled citizens and other institutions which operate within the departments of labor and social protection of people, the set standards of nutrition and of providing medical supplies, the norms of the term of wearing clothes and shoes, use of a solid inventory and standards of cleaning and processing facilities. For social security and qualitative maintenance of homeless children in orphanages for minors, in juvenile services the norms of food, clothing, underwear, shoes and personal hygiene, use of soft tools, and equipment, cleaning and processing facilities are set. For users of social services the state standards of quality of social services should be the guarantee document which provide the equally high-quality, accessible and professional services from government, public and private providers with the maintenance of necessary norms, principles and values, taking into account all stated requirements.

Conclusions

Summarizing all of the aforesaid, it may be concluded that the post-industrial era which is characterized by the rapid development of the service sphere, particularly, in the social and humanitarian fields, requires the implementation of effective market mechanisms of socially oriented economy, which involves the introduction of qualitatively new approaches to the setting of social standards.

The main provisions, which should be the basis for the formation of the modern system of state social standards are:

- Targeted establishment of social transfers and control over its use;
- Providing of differentiated by social demographic factors approach to the definition of standards;

- Providing of transparency and public control in determining and applying of social norms;
- Taking into account the requirements of international legal acts in the social sphere.
- Mandatory compliance of the social standards in the development of social economic development programs.

In the process of establishing the conformity of social standards with realities of modern social and economic conditions to take into account international norms, and it is also advisable to bring into line with international norms and standards of national social standards, particularly, those concerning issues of wages, increasing of pensions, compulsory state social insurance, providing of social assistance to families with children and low-income families.

It is important to note, that as distinct from the social minimum, a standard – is a guarantee of high level of life of a certain quality, which the state undertakes to provide to the citizens. State social standards make it possible to determine reasonably the sizes of spending all budgets and social funds for social protection and social security of the population and maintenance of social sphere, social standards provide the establishment of the main criteria for the quality of services, the existence of specific service standards allows to estimate the financing of various fields more reasonable. Effective implementation of appropriate social standards makes it possible to determine the level of quality of social services provided by the state, outlines the conditions and guarantees of providing of social transfers to certain population categories and also ensures a worthy level of life in the country.

References

1. Bagmet M. O., Mihel D. O. Derzhavni socialni standarti v Ukraini – jak garantija formuvannja jevropejskogo rivnja i jakosti zhittja (State social standards in Ukraine - as a guarantee of the formation of the European level and quality of life) In Gileja : zbirnik naukovih prac (Gilea: Collected Works). – K., 2011 // [the Electronic resource]. – the Mode of access: www.nbu.gov.ua/portal/.http://www.niss.gov.ua/P5_doc.pdf
2. Bazilinska O. Makroekonomika (Macroeconomy) / O. Bazilinska. – 2nd edition, corrected. - Kyiv: Centre of textbooks, 2009. - 442 p.
3. Derzhavnij klasifikator socialnih standartiv i normativiv: Zatverdzheno Nakazom Ministerstva praci ta socialnoï politiki Ukraini vid 17 chervnja 2002 r. № 293 (State qualifier of social standards and norms: approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine on June 17, 2002 № 293) // [the Electronic resource]. – the Mode of access: mlsp.kmu.gov.ua/labour/.../Klasifikator.doc
4. Jevropejska socialna hartija (Peregljanuta) (European Social Charter (revised): Hartija, Mizhnarodnij dokument (Charter International Document) vid 03.05.1996 № ETS N 163 In Vidomosti Verhovnoi Radi Ukraini (Supreme Council of Ukraine). – 2007. – N 51 // [the Electronic resource]. – the Mode of access: http://zakon2.rada.gov.ua/lashhs/shoshh/994_062/page2
5. Pishulina O. Shodo zmini pidhodiv do formuvannja socialnih standartiv v Ukraini (On changing approaches to the formation of social standards in Ukraine) / O. Pishulina // [the Electronic resource]. – the Mode of access: <http://old.niss.gov.ua/MONITOR/Desember/13.htm>
6. Pro Derzhavnij bjudzhet Ukraini na 2014 rik (On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2014 Law) Zakon (Law) vid 16.01.2014 № 719-VII // [the Electronic resource]. – the Mode of access: <http://zakon2.rada.gov.ua/lashhs/shoshh/719-18>
7. Pro derzhavni socialni standarti ta derzhavni socialni garantii : Zakon Ukraini vid 05.10.2000 № 2017-III (On state social standards and state social guarantees: The law of Ukraine from 05.10.2000 № 2017-III) // [the Electronic resource]. – the Mode of access: <http://zakon2.rada.gov.ua/lashhs/shoshh/2017-14>
8. Pro socialni posluzhi: Zakon Ukraini vid 19.06.2003 № 966-IV (On Social Services: Law of Ukraine from 19.06.2003 № 966-IV) // [the Electronic resource]. – the Mode of access: <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/lashhs/shoshh/966-15>
9. Socialnaja politika: jenciklopedicheskij slovar (Social Politics: Encyclopedic Dictionary) / Pod red. N. A. Volgina. – M. : Akadem. Proekt, 2005. – 686 s.
10. Esping-Andersen G. The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism / G. Esping-Andersen. – Cambridge: Polity Press, 1990. – 35 r. // [the Electronic resource]. – the Mode of access: [dostupu:http://sites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic1134169.files/Readings%20on%20Social%20DemocracyEsping%20Anderson%20The%20Three%20SHHorlds%20of%20SHHelfare%20Capitalism.pdf](http://sites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic1134169.files/Readings%20on%20Social%20DemocracyEsping%20Anderson%20The%20Three%20SHHorlds%20of%20SHHelfare%20Capitalism.pdf)