

УДК 364.013:316

Oksana Sychenko, PhD in Economics,
Associate Professor Dnepropetrovsk State
Agrarian University

**DIRECTIONS OF STATE SOCIAL POLICY
OF UKRAINE IN MODERN CONDITIONS**

Annotation

Basic directions of a state social policy of Ukraine in modern terms are determined. The problem of forming of a new model of social policy of the state is explored as an optimum correlation between «distributing» responsibility for the fate of every individual between him/herself and the state.

Keywords: mechanism, positive improvement, regulation of employment, social policy, social service.

Анотація

Визначено основні напрямки державної соціальної політики України в сучасних умовах. Досліджено проблему формування нової моделі соціальної політики держави як оптимальне співвідношення між «розподілом» відповідальності за долю кожного індивідуума між державою й ним самим.

Ключові слова: механізм, позитивне вдосконалювання, регулювання зайнятості, соціальна політика, соціальна послуга.

Аннотация

Определены основные направления государственной социальной политики Украины в современных условиях. Исследована проблема формирования новой модели социальной политики государства как оптимальное соотношение между «распределением» ответственности за судьбу каждого индивидуума между государством и им самим.

Ключевые слова: механизм, положительное совершенствование, регулирование занятости, социальная политика, социальная услуга.

Introduction

At the present time there have been serious changes both in the content of social policy and also ways to expand the objects of its influence. Its influence is not limited to certain categories of population (working, disabled). As a direct object the living conditions of almost all demographic and social categories begin to serve. Social policy went beyond the correction of negative consequences of economic development. It focuses on prevention and positive development in the economic system. A significant place takes not only the redistribution of income, but also the implementation of new ways of providing social services to the public, regulation of employment, wages, etc. In other words, through the social policy a state seeks to influence the behavior of households as the sellers of labor, consumers, agents of savings, etc.

Analysis of resent research

In recent years the attention of leading scientists of Ukraine to the question of social protection has greatly increased. To this research are devoted the works of local scholars as D. P. Bogynya, N. B. Bolotina,

I. K. Bondar, I. F. Hnybidenko, O. A. Hrishnova, S. M. Zlupko, S. V. Mochernyy, M. I. Carlin, V. I. Kutsenko, B. D. Lagutin, E. M. Libanova, O. K. Prokopyshak, P. T. Sabluk, U. Y. Sadov, L. K. Semiv, V. A. Skurativsky, L. T. Shevchuk, P. I. Shevchuk, S. I. Juriy, K. I. Yakub and many others who didn't just elucidated the problem, but introduced the directions of how to resolve those problems by implementing some economic and social mechanisms of improving the social welfare.

Statement of research objectives

– to determine the main directions of a state social policy of Ukraine in modern terms;
– to investigate the formation of a new model of social policy as the optimal ratio between the «distribution» of responsibility for the fate of each individual between himself/herself and the state.

Results

An analysis of conceptual approaches towards the formation of a social policy in Ukraine shows that currently the real model is increasingly «migrating» towards the state subsidiary. In this

situation it is necessary to develop new conceptual priority of social policy in regards to both global trends and the features of the transitive stage in the development of a national economy.

In our opinion, the key issue of forming a new model of social policy is to find the optimal balance between «distribution» of responsibility for the fate of each individual between himself/ herself and the state. In the transformation societies a model that foresees «a gradual decline in the paternalistic position of the state and increasing the responsibility of the population and economic entities for their decisions» is generally accepted. In Ukraine a totally unreasonable idea that the market is the perfect regulatory mechanism not only for the state economy, but also to some extent to the social sphere eventually prevailed.

Therefore, we see three mandatory components of social policy in the transition period as the justified ones:

- maintenance and enhancement of the role of institutions of social protection. By this we mean not the traditional understanding of social protection as a tool for distribution of various benefits and compensations, but more deep awareness of its objectives and thus the increase of the role of this social institution;

- concerted efforts in improvement of labor relations and labor market

- creation of social institutions that will participate in the formation of social policy, the implementation of its provisions and the control over its execution,

One of the most sensitive areas of social policy is the organization of the social security system. Very often the functioning of the system is fully identified with social policy.

Unfortunately the current system is extremely inefficient, and the model of social support which is being currently worked on is heated by a debate. However, while trying to work out the most adequate form of social support a number of factors are still not being considered.

First, the weakness of the socio-economic and political organizations that provides social self-protection of the population. Hence we get the dominance of the centralized bureaucratic and / or «charitable» forms of social protection. Only after nearly half a decade since the beginning of the reform an effort is being made with an aim to connect them into a single system that provides real guarantees for disabled, as well as the guarantees of the minimum wage.

Second, most of these forms, with nomenclature origin, in most cases tend to the corporate model of organization, which creates a tendency to form closed and bureaucratically organized forms of social protection. Equity of use, the general rules of functioning, democratic functioning of the system of social security are just an abstract slogan in this case, an unattainable goal, and not the actual mechanism. The system of social protection in this case «works» only for certain categories of workers, individual groups of workers, certain categories of citizens, for those who are close to a particular system.

Such a model of social protection inevitably gives rise to the gap between formal and substantial objectives. If a formal goal appears to support socially vulnerable people, to the number of real, meaningful tasks, accomplishing which a social protection systems is orientated on and which include, for example, a conservation of a power of a particular social layer, prevention of the escalation of tensions in society and the establishment of minimum social protection that guarantees stable economic development.

While analyzing the prospects of the new model of social protection one should, first of all, refuse to consider social welfare as an abstract and charitable activity designed to ensure the implementation of certain moral imperatives. In the economy moral imperatives can play an important role, but never decisive, with the exception of global social problems. Economic approach focuses primarily on considerations of efficiency, the most efficient use of resources (with the human being to become the most important resource in the turn of the XXI century) with the aim to ensure the free development of personality.

In other words, in our opinion, the social security system should be built based on the challenges of the real socio - economic efficiency, rather than narrow considerations of efficiency of the market system. At the same time social protection every time appears to be an industrial relations system objectively deterministic on one hand, and correspondative to the requirements of the current state of world economy and the human community as a whole on the other.

A modern economy needs such a system of social protection that would allow using labor and innovation potential of every person, regardless of socioeconomic status and the socio-economic group belonging. That is exactly how the guarantee for the effective use of human potential and what is

called «confidence in the future» can be achieved. If this guarantee is not provided, it becomes impossible or substantially difficult to use skilled labor that must have the ability for requalification, innovation, creativity. In other words, an efficient social security system is an economic imperative of the economy in the XXI century.

In the Soviet era, despite the inefficient use of vast material and human resources, a «momentum» of social security was created. He assured everyone with a guarantee of employment, obtaining education, normal (exceeding the standards in the developing countries) terms of medical care, recreation and a guarantee of the possibility of some retraining. We should not exaggerate these possibilities, but we can say that the level achieved in the late 1970s – early 1980s can also be regained in the terms of transformation of the economy but only under the circumstance that the management mechanisms of the economic relations will be more, not less effective than the ones that existed in a «socialist» past.

Under an effective social security should be understood a system of economic relations, which is providing each member of society with guarantees for a certain standard of living, required to the minimum for the development and use of his/her abilities (labor, business, personal) and also guarantees secured by the state to him/her in case of the loss (absence) of certain abilities (oldness, sickness, disability, childhood, etc.).

During this approach of defining the essence of social protection such components are guarantees:

1) a work for capable population (protection of employment);

2) a normal standard of living based on income gained from employment or guidance (including consumption of basic utilitarian goods, especially food products);

3) providing aids to disabled and other socially – fragile groups of population

4) the necessary minimum of providing housing, services in the sphere of culture and health, recreation and opportunities to get education required for the formation of the skilled labor.

The main problem, however, is not the transfer of the component of social protection, but the answer to the question on how the tasks of social protection can be decided. Currently social security is primarily a function of state bodies.

We believe that the effective implementation of the functions of social protection is possible only if the following conditions apply:

1. Changing approaches towards the management of social processes. Their basis must be reliable information being dynamically monitored on the topic of the needs of people in social care, services and available resources (financial, logistical, instrumental, institutional, and organizational). Such information at state and local levels should be kept in constantly developing automated data banks that contain comprehensive information about the age, sex, professional, social, domestic, financial and other information about people and about the structure and condition of the social sphere. These options should correspond to the criteria of social protection in accordance with legal documents that will determine the distribution of social problems, identify the most needful categories of the population and determine the need for specific types and forms of assistance to specific groups, set priorities in solving social problems, establish accounting and control resources in order to develop strategic scenarios of a social complex, promptly correct the decisions which are taken; create targeted programs and social order that meet the needs of the population and public expectations.

2. Financing of social protection should enhance greater participation of the private equity funds, charitable foundations and social organizations. We think that the domestic business has fully realized the extent of its social responsibility. Charity in Ukraine has a long and deep tradition. Another thing is that no purposeful work concerning more active involvement of private and corporate funds for the implementation of social programs have been carried out. There is very limited number of state-controlled and public charities, and a number of organizations which seem to support charity are seriously discredited in their activities. As the researchers of the features of social investment in Ukrainian business note, fixed investment is extremely uneven and is based on currency decisions of the management companies. Thus, society loses its vast resources in order to implement targeted financial support of the domestic social programs.

Analyzing the features of the Ukrainian society during the transitive state of the economy another phenomenon should be noted - social marginalization of the vast majority of population. In this case we are not talking only about economic component of the problem, but also about how not to include hundreds of thousands and possibly even millions of our citizens into any social structure.

In other words, one of the worst consequences of the conducted in the 1990's political and economic reform became not just a violation, and often direct destruction of a large number of social networks that combined citizens. But at the same time, a set of social ties and relations, including the accumulated mutual obligations, is the social capital of any society.

It is well known that the most success achieve those communities in which social capital as norms of reciprocity and structures of civil involvement is inherited (R. Burke has argued that the civil society lays the foundation of a civilized trade, not vice versa). Extreme weakness of the solidarity values in Ukraine led to the simultaneous blocking of the civilian trends in society, the authoritarian involution of the state and to a large extent to the expansion of traditional relationships within society.

Modern Ukrainian social environment is vastly marginalized, atomized. Only a minority of the population is joined in the ruling elite layer, the middle class and organized trade unions of workers. In this situation the formation of collective means of survival and social support, which are preventing from social degradation and help to accumulate social capital which then will be used to the form a civil relationship, is required.

These social networks need to be aligned at the bottom and even if they are not very durable still they allow including the vast majority of the population, which is marginalized, into the society. This exact «inclusiveness» characteristic is the most important in terms of formation of

civil relations, because the presence and density of social networks, which prevents the mass descending of mobility or social degradation is more significant than the presence of potential, which provides customized mobility.

Conclusions

Thus, the experience of quite effective NGOs in Ukraine exists. It is important to give it more publicit in order to encourage this process, because the creation of civil society is not possible by simple «instructions from above» or even increased funding.

In our opinion, in this case one should more actively use the experience of the countries which are solving the problems of their employment in the most successful way. In particular, one of the most characteristic features of a social policy since the mid 90-ies in the West was moving accents in the policy of social solidarity from passive to active moments. If before it was limited primarily to the income support of wider groups in society by user through income redistribution, since 1994 a great meaning on the labor market gained the focus on maximalizaion of economic effect from the ensuring the measures of employment. At the forefront came such active programs as grants to entrepreneurs who claimed to be ought to maintain a certain level of employment and financial assistance to the unemployed and those wishing to open their own business and others. In contrast to that, passive programs and the measures that included social protection of unemployed were significantly reduced.

References

1. Бандур С. І. Забезпечення зайнятості населення в контексті сучасної інноваційної політики держави / С. І. Бандур // Продуктивні сили України. – 2009. – № 1. – С.62–71.
2. Біляцький С. В. Інтелектуалізація суспільної праці (досвід індустріальних країн для України) / С. Біляцький, Т. Мірошніченко, А. Хахлюк // Україна: аспекти праці. – 2007. – № 5. – С. 34–39.
3. Богуш Л. Г. Соціально-гуманітарні аспекти конкурентоспроможності економіки і умовах глобалізації / Богуш Л. Г. // Конкурентоспроможність в умовах глобалізації: реалії, проблеми та перспективи : Наук. вид. – Житомир : Вид-во ЖДУ ім. І. Франка, 2008. – С. 43–49.
4. Бондаренко О. О. Проблеми формування соціально-трудових відносин / О. О. Бондаренко // Вісник КНУТД. – 2003. – № 3. – С. 10–13.
5. Дворецька Г. В. Соціологія праці: [навч. посіб.] / Г. В. Дворецька.– К. : КНЕУ, 2001. – 244 с.
6. Кир'ян Т. Насущні проблеми соціальної політики та шляхи їх вирішення / Т. Кир'ян // Україна: аспекти праці. – 2009. – № 6. – С. 3–6.

