*Unofficial translation from Ukrainian*

**Answers to the questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

***To what extent and how persons with disabilities and their organizations are involved in your country's decision making regarding international assistance and how they can access to the funds and grants of international cooperation (including legal requirements, procedures and problematic issues).***

The Ministry of Social Policy informs the public about its activities, involves the citizens in the decision-making process on issues of major public importance.
Non-governmental organizations (hereinafter – NGOs) of persons with disabilities are involved in public discussion of the draft acts of the Government that are of great public importance and relate to their rights and responsibilities, as well as projects foreseeing benefits, advantages to individual entities, delegation of functions, authorities of executive bodies or local governments, in particular NGOs.

The possibility of access of persons with disabilities to funds and grants of international cooperation is provided for in the Procedure of attraction, utilisation and monitoring of international technical assistance, approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 15.02.2002 № 153, which envisages that individuals and legal entities can be the recipients of international technical assistance.

In cases where the Ministry of Social Policy is the recipient of international technical assistance, NGOs of persons with disabilities are involved in the drafting and implementation of the relevant regulations, as well as in the discussion and submission of proposals at all stages of the respective projects of international technical assistance.

In addition, in 2019 the Ministry of Social Policy has developed a mechanism for providing financial support, based on the results of the competition, to NGOs of persons with disabilities for projects, programs and events on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

***Provide any available information and statistics on international cooperation in Ukraine, which takes into account the rights of persons with disabilities, including information on problems and limitations of the international assistance system aimed at promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.***

The Ministry of Social Policy is the beneficiary of a number of international technical assistance projects regarding the protection of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities. The Ministry actively cooperates with international organizations and foundations, as well as actively involves public associations of persons with disabilities in project activities within the framework of international assistance projects.

1. During 2016-2017 the Early Intervention Charitable Foundation (the city of Kharkiv) was involved in the training of early intervention specialists, including in Zaporizhia, Donetsk, and Luhansk regions, within the framework of the Twinning project on the introduction of the system of early intervention and rehabilitation of children with disabilities and the UNICEF projects “Training of early intervention teams and community professionals” and “Creation of a new model of family-oriented community services for children with special needs”.

Along with this , in 2019 a public institution “Odesa Regional Organization of Medical, Psychological and Pedagogical Assistance “Healthy Society” participated in the workshop “Fundamentals of early intervention technology” aimed at training and professional development of specialists of health care and social protection institutions for early intervention in Odesa and Odesa region, funded by SOFT Tulip Foundation (the Kingdom of the Netherlands).

2) The project of the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Social Policy "Development of social human rights as a key factor of sustainable democracy in Ukraine" targeted at: the rights of people with disabilities, rights of children and the elderly was launched on October 24, 2019.

The active phase of the project began on November 1, 2019 and will last for two years. Among other things, during this period it is planned to improve the human rights normative framework in accordance with the European standards stipulated by the European Social Charter. Ministries, other executive authorities, within their competence, and public associations of persons with disabilities are involved in the cooperation within the project.

One of the important components of the project is ensuring of the implementation of Article 15 of the European Social Charter, according to which persons with disabilities have the right to vocational training, retraining and social re-adaptation, irrespective of the nature and origin of their disabilities.

Within the implementation of the component on ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, “Open Space” Forum was organized on December 3, 2019 on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, with the participation of the Council of Europe. The forum brought together more than 200 participants, including persons with disabilities, visual and hearing impairments, as well as two dozens of speakers, including international experts of the Council of Europe, representatives of the relevant ministries, NGOs and scientific institutions.

3) In 2019, in compliance with paragraph j), Article 420, Chapter 21, Title V “Economic and Sector Cooperation” of the “Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part” (enhance the level of social protection and modernise social protection systems, in terms of quality, accessibility, and financial sustainability), the Ministry of Social Policy initiated a Twinning project “Improvement and bringing of the legislation in the field of protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the international standards in order to create legislative conditions for the integration of persons with disabilities into public life and for the development of inclusive society in Ukraine”, aimed at developing an inclusive society in Ukraine and ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities.

Within the project’s framework it is foreseen to systematically analyse and improve the legislation and the state policy in the field of protection of the rights of persons with disabilities; to develop and implement awareness-raising campaigns in pursuance of Article 8 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (awareness-raising) for the purpose of integration of persons with disabilities into public life and eliminating discrimination against persons with disabilities in the society; to develop and improve the legislation in force (revision of legal acts and drafting of proposals for amending the Ukrainian legislation in accordance with the European standards).

In addition, the Ministry of Social Policy has developed a draft Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On approving of the Plan of measures for the implementation of the second stage of the National strategy for reforming of the system of the institutional care and upbringing of children for the period 2017-2026”.

The draft Action Plan provides for, in particular:

* creation and maintenance of inclusive resource centres according to the number of the child population within territorial accessibility;
* creation of a safe and comfortable inclusive educational environment in the territorial communities;
* drafting and approval of a strategy for the development of inclusive education with the identification of the areas of gradual transformation of the specialized education institutions;
* development and approval of the procedure for monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the introduction of inclusive education on the reduction of the number of children brought up in the facilities of institutional care and upbringing against the number of new/re-enrolments of children into those institutions for the
round-the-clock care;
* development of the recommendations on the use of the International Classification of functioning, disability and health of children and adolescents for the needs of inclusive and specialized education;
* ensuring of providing the service “Support during inclusive learning” in accordance with the individual needs of the child;
* creation of preparatory classes or preparatory courses, electives for children with special educational needs who require inclusive education;
* creation of resource rooms in the institutions, where inclusive education was introduced, for individual work with children, counselling for parents.

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