

PRESS-RELEASE: A NEW MODEL OF EMPLOYMENT AND JOB PLACEMENT MAY GUARANTEE DECENT WORK FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Kyiv, 2 December 2009: International Labor Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Public Employment Service of Ukraine jointly presented a Model of Employment and Job Placement for People with Disabilities developed under the Project "Social Integration of People with Disabilities by Providing Access to Employment". The event was timed to precede the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is observed all over the world on December 3.

The aim of the model is to increase the social role of persons with disabilities as participants of social and economic life with full rights and to strengthen the institutional capacity of foundations of the social safety net, parties of social partnership regarding their contribution to the employment of people with disabilities and job placement of such persons.

Vasyl Kostyrytsya, the National Coordinator of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Ukraine opened the meeting with the information that "over 650 million of people, which is approximately 10% of the world's population, live with disabilities. According to the data of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries. One of ILO's long term goals has been to provide professional rehabilitation and employment to people with disabilities. This has resulted in the current ILO Program – Decent Jobs for people with disabilities, which guarantees decent job placement, proper working conditions, and decent social security. Social dialogue is the primary component for reaching this goal. The UN in cooperation with governments and civil society are working together for the realization of these objectives, which includes the decrease of the world wide level of poverty by 2015. Unfortunately, in many cases poverty is directly connected to people having disabilities".

It is recognized internationally, that employment is one of the areas of creating equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. Most of the developed countries having active policies regarding the inclusion of persons with disabilities into the general economic activity have proved that the expenses for increasing the availability of jobs bring significant profits at the national level. "Ukraine is gradually introducing active policies aimed at ensuring employment and job placement opportunities to people with disabilities in compliance with the provisions of the UN Convention" – mentioned Ricarda Rieger, UNDP Country Director in Ukraine.

The enhancement of access to employment for people with disabilities allows for the applying of this human resource to national development and, apart from the social, to achieve economic benefits. In accordance with current Ukrainian legislation State Employment Service promote occupation rehabilitation and placement of disabled people. 30 000 persons with disabilities have used the services of employment centers in January - October 2009"- said Volodymyr Galytsky, the Head of the State Employment Center of Ukraine and National Director of the Project "Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to Employment".

Nevertheless, there are still aspects where the recommendations of the ILO are not adhered to, and there are obstacles to obtaining and maintaining the job by the person with disability, associated with the external environment, that need to be and are possible to be eliminated.

Therefore, right now there is a need to implementation a new model that will provide the inclusion of people with disabilities into various economy sectors, gives an opportunity to work in the open market, social and career self-realization of persons with disabilities, development of effective training and retraining in accordance with current and prospective needs in the labor market, increasing motivation of employers to employ people with disabilities.

A key insight in the organization of all actions and services is the transfer of key points from the question "what can be done and what cannot be done by a person with disabilities" to the question "what should be done to enable people with disabilities work and participate in public life" - convinced Olena Ivanova, the Project Manager.

For more information you can contact: The Project "Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to Employment" - +38 044 35366 92; +38 044 35366 92.