



State Employment Service of  
Ukraine



International Labour Organization



United Nations  
Development Programme

**Project "Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to Employment"**

## **PRESS-RELEASE**

### **International Day of People with Disabilities: Observance of Rights of Ukrainian Citizens with Disability**

**2nd December 2010. Kyiv. Ukraine.** *On the occasion of the International Day of People with Disabilities (3d December) and 1-year anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol ratification by the Ukrainian Parliament (16th December), in the framework of joint UNDP, ILO and State Employment Service (SES) of Ukraine Project "Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to Employment" a press-conference took place. A state of observance of the rights of Ukrainian citizens with disability, and their right for access to employment and for decent work, in particular, has been a leitmotif of the information event.*

**Elena Panova**, UNDP Ukraine Deputy Country Director opened the event saying: «Last year, the Parliament of Ukraine ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, thus having proven its solid commitment to the principles of equality for all the people and true respect of their essential rights and freedoms».

Ms. Panova also told, that in order to facilitate a proactive inclusion of people with disabilities into the open labour market and safeguard their equal rights and opportunities UNDP, ILO and SES have, back in 2008, initiated and launched in Ukraine a joint Project "Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to Employment".

During more, than two years of the Project implementation, the Model of Job Placement and Employment of People with Disabilities (the Model), including the Methodology for Provision of Social Services to People with Disabilities by Employment Centres (the Methodology) have been elaborated and tested. A cornerstone of the suggested Model and Methodology is an individual approach towards every person with disability. Such approach can be reached through close cooperation and information exchange between all the participants of employment and job placement process.

In relation to such cooperation, the Director of SES, National Director of joint UNDP, ILO and SES Project "Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to

Employment” Volodymyr Galytskyy said: «In my opinion, the biggest achievement of the Project is that it combined the efforts of the employment centers, medical and social expert commissions, departments of labour and social security and divisions of the Fund for Social Protection of Disabled Persons. According to the evaluation made by an independent expert and the organizations implementing the Project: SES, UNDP and ILO – the testing of the Model and the Methodology which took place during March-October, 2010 in 7 pilot employment centers of three Ukrainian regions had positive results.

National Coordinator of International Labour Organization (ILO) in Ukraine Vasyl Kostrytsya said that he considers, it is time to talk about decent employment of people with disabilities. In the speech during the press-conference he said: «A bridge between leading a person with disability out of poverty and his/her return to the situation of a poor person is very fragile. Therefore, there is a need of reforming not only the approaches and awarenesses, but also the perception and real estimations of the possibilities of people with disability in the workplace».

Mr. Kostrytsya, referring to a research “The price of exclusion: The economic consequences of excluding people with disabilities from the world of work”, conducted by ILO, has also marked that, if measures as regards social integration and inclusion into the labour market are not taken, the economic losses make, according to the estimations of ILO experts, from 3 to 7 percents of national gross product. Mr. Kostrytsya concluded: “The problem of social integration and inclusion into the labour market is no longer a social problem, only. Rather, it is becoming an economic one. For Ukraine, it is very important that the calculations as regards economic losses, which are suffered by society, state budget, all the employers and each of them in particular, as well as every family, are made”.

Valeriy Sushkevich, Chairman of the Committee on pensioners, veterans and disabled of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Head of National Assembly of Persons with Disabilities of Ukraine has also participated in the press-conference. He emphasized that Ukraine, having ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, has taken responsibility as regards the complete provision of all rights and freedoms of people with disabilities and the prevention of all forms of discrimination of persons with disabilities.

Announcement of the results of journalists contest for the best published article “Decent work for special employees”, organized by the Project, has been a solemn moment of the press-conference.

Olena Ivanova, Project National Manager has announced the winner: Lenina Bychkovska, staff reporter of All-Ukrainian newspaper “FACTS and comments”, whose journalistic article “A man without hands from Rivne region can cut, saw, chop and works as a joiner at the plant” has turned to be the best one. Mrs. Ivanova has presented the winner with a certificate of victory and has officially greeted Lenina Bychkovska.

Denis Brodsky, HR Director and Board Member of Platinum Bank ,which is a Project Partner, has presented a winner with a prize – laptop.

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The press-conference has been organized within the framework of joint UNDP, ILO and PES Project "Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to Employment". The overall objective of the Project is to facilitate a proactive inclusion of people with disabilities into the open labor market in order to safeguard their equal rights and opportunities.

The testing of the Model and the Methodology, elaborated by Project experts in close cooperation with all key partners, has been conducted in the following employment centers: Obolon, Svyatoshino and Darnitsa employment centers in Kyiv, Kyivo-Svyatoshino and Boryspil employment centers in Kyiv oblast, Chernigiv municipal and Nizhin municipal and regional employment centers.

The joint UNDP, ILO and PEC Project "Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to Employment" is targeted also to changing public perception of people with disabilities with regard to the open labour market.

The experts, invited to cooperation with the Project have suggested changes to the acting Ukrainian legislation, according to the international norms, particularly those provided by the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and ILO recommendations.