



Report on the monitoring visit of the Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pension Provision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the Donetsk region

On 9-10 October 2017 the monitoring travel of the Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pension Provision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the city of Bakhmut of the Donetsk region took place. The event was implemented together with the NGO *Stabilization Support Services*.

The delegation included members of the Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pension Provision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, employees of the Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pensions of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, representatives of ministries and departments, as well as public activists. In total 46 people participated in the trip. Representatives of local authorities, public and journalists joined the delegation in Bakhmut.

The list of the participants of the travel:

- **Lyudmyla Denysova** - the Chairman of the Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pension Provision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
- **Natalia Veselova** - the Secretary of the Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pension Provision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
- **Lyudmyla Levshun** - the Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pension Provision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
- **Serhiy Drayuk** - the Head of the Subcommittee on State Social Insurance
- **Natalia Korolevska** - the member of the Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pension Provision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
- **Mykola Shambir** - Deputy Minister of the Social Policy of Ukraine
- **Dermot Hamilton** - the Programme Director of NGO *Stabilization Support Services* in Ukraine
- **Olga Ivanova** - the Operations Director of NGO *Stabilization Support Services* in Ukraine
- **Iryna Loyuk** - the expert on social and pension payments of the Liaison Officer (Radnyk) Programme
- **Larysa Khodakovska** - the expert on advocacy of the Liaison Officer (Radnyk) Programme
- **Olga Gvosdyova** - the advocacy coordinator of the public organization *Donbas-SOS* etc.



The aim of the trip was to get acquainted with the work of local institutions and departments, which provide the services to retirees and IDPs in Bakhmut, and also to check the situation at the checkpoint entry-exit «Majorsk» and in the «grey zone» near the contact line (village Novoluhanska).

On the first day of the travel the participants visited the local department on social protection, the department of the Pension Fund of Ukraine and the Oschadbank department. They had a talk with the employees, who reported about a large workload of social services in the cities close to the contact line. It is necessary to mention that it is where the most IDPs live. The delegation had the opportunity to talk with them. The participants of the travel were told that the most problems of the IDPs and retirees of this category of citizens arise due to the registration of the place of residence, which the pension payments and social assistance are tied to. Then a working meeting of the Committee members with the representatives of the public and local authorities on social protection of IDP took place. The mechanisms for receiving the social assistance and pensions, which are regulated by the current laws and regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine were discussed, as well as the mechanisms for the access to the assistance.

On the second day of the travel the delegation visited «Majorsk» and got acquainted with the work of the checkpoint. The participants watched people passing checkpoint, applied to the Oschadbank mobile department, where they had to wait in the long queues to receive pensions. After this the MPs visited the «grey zone» in the village Novoluhansk and talked with the local citizens.



On the results of the travel the Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pension Provision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine agreed on the following recommendations:

1. On the realization of the right to the pension provision:

• **The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine** should make amendments to the CMU resolutions: dated 8.06.2017 No. 365 «On social payments of IDP» on the facilitation of the procedure to assign (restore) pensions for IDPs (particularly: to exclude pensions from the list of social benefits that are subjected to control over IDP realization at the place of their actual residence / stay; cancellation of the obligation to notify about changes in the actual place of residence / stay in the ten-day term) dated 22.09.2016 No. 662 «Some issues of pensions, financial assistance and salaries provision to the employees of budget institution» on the giving the right to IDPs to proceed the identification and to receive any services of the JSC Oschadbank in different bank departments, regardless in which department the bank card was received or the services were provided, and regardless the place of registration. In two month prepare and submit to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine the draft law on the procedure for obtaining by the power of attorney payments of the amount of pensions of disabled persons Group I and the persons who, according to the conclusions of the medical advisory committee, are not capable of self-service and need third-party assistance which these persons have the right on, but do not receive due to the staying on the NGCA of Ukraine.

• **The MOSP** should develop and submit for the CMU approval the procedure for seniority (work experience) and wages confirmation for the period of work till 2000 and periods of work in harmful and difficult working conditions for persons who move from temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine and areas of ATO and who acquire for the first time the right for the pensions appointment.

• **Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine together with JSC «Oschadbank» and PJSC «Ukrposhta»** should develop and introduce from 1.11.2017 the mechanism for implementation of the CMU resolution «On the implementation of social benefits of IDP» dated November 5, 2014, No. 637 aimed to: pay (to go on paying) IDP pensions (monthly lifetime maintenance), life-time state scholarships, all types of social assistance and compensation, material security (hereinafter - social payments) through accounts and the institutions and devices network of PJSC «Oschadbank» with the possibility of receiving cash and conducting spare cashless transactions through a network of facilities and devices of any bank in the area where the public authorities exercise their powers; the implementation of pension and social benefits for disabled persons Group I and those who, according to the conclusion of the medical advisory commission are not capable of self-service and need constant third-party assistance, by their written statements from PJSC «Ukrposhta» with delivery home at the actual place of residence / stay of such persons.

• **JSC «Oschadbank»** should immediately increase the number of Oshchadbank mobile units for daily residents servicing of the settlements on the territories of the checkpoints in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

2. On the realization of the rights to safe living conditions or to receive housing for a new place of residence, education, health care, social protection, etc.:

• During the preparation to consider the draft Law of Ukraine on the State Budget of Ukraine for 2018 (Reg. No. 7000) in the second session in Annex 3 **the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine** should foresee funds for the implementation of the new state budget program CPCE 2751190 «Granting the state support for construction (purchase) of available housing» in the amount of 1 billion UAH.

• **The Ministry for Temporary Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons of Ukraine** together with Donetsk and Luhansk regional Military and Civil Administrations should carry out an inventory of partially or completely destroyed buildings as a result of the ATO in the NGCA, should develop and submit a state program for their restoration to the Cabinet of Ministers.

• **The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine together with the Donetsk Regional State Administration** should take measures to carry out repairs and equip the medical facility in the village Novoluhansk of the Bakhmut district of Donetsk region till 1.12.2017.

• **Donetsk Regional State Administration together with the Bakhmut District Council** should make a decision on taking on the balance the checkpoint «Majorsk», should restore the roofing of these houses, electric, heat and water supply funded by the regional and district budgets and other sources involved in.

• **The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine** should consider the issue of the mobile heating point (mobile boiler house) acceptance purchased at the expense of the Charitable Fund «Caritas Kramatorsk», humanitarian aid and, in a simplified manner, transfer it to the Bakhmut city council for temporary heating in the winter period on the checkpoint «Majorsk». To establish a simplified procedure for the distribution of humanitarian assistance provided to support the life of the IDPs and other Ukrainian citizens who suffered due to the ATO. To envisage the 2018 funds for the construction of the Transparent Office in Bakhmut of Donetsk region by the budget programme «Subvention from state budget to local budgets for carrying out works related to the creation and maintenance of functioning of the centres of administrative services provision in the format «Transparent office» 2511170 (0180).

• **The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine together with the Security Service of Ukraine** should ensure the requirements compliance of the second CMU resolution dated 7.11.2014, No. 1085-r, and should include proposals on amending the lists in accordance with the established procedure for consideration by the CMU with the subsequent submission to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine: settlements located on the contact line, including the villages Shirokine, Zaytsevo, Majorskoye, Zhovanka, Bakhmutka, etc., indicating the level of destruction of settlements and the need to provide assistance to Ukrainian citizens; settlements where the state authorities temporarily do not exercise their powers.

• **The Security Service of Ukraine** should amend the Provisional procedure of the control of persons' displacement through the contact line within the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

• **Donetsk and Lugansk regional civilian-military administrations** should take on the balance the checkpoint infrastructure.