STANDARDIZATION AS A FACTOR OF SOCIAL PROGRESS IN UKRAINE

STANDARDIZAREA CA FACTOR AL PROGRESULUI SOCIAL ÎN UKRAINA

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Nataliia RIABININA
ORCID: 0000-0001-8378-4485
E-mail: library321a@gmail.com
Institute of Food Resources of NAAS, Kyiv, Ukraine

Sergii VERBYTSKYI
ORCID: 0000-0002-4211-3789
E-mail: tk140@hotmail.com
Institute of Food Resources of NAAS, Kyiv, Ukraine

Nataliia PATSERA
ORCID: 0000-0001-8737-9997
E-mail: info@ipr.net.ua
Institute of Food Resources of NAAS, Kyiv, Ukraine

Summary. *Social standardization is the establishment of uniform norms, standards, rules and requirements in the social sphere (social protection, education and health issues, labor protection, etc.) in order to ensure unity, fairness, improvement of the quality and safety of life with equal opportunities for all citizens. Despite the difficulties of the war time the Ukrainian authorities do everything to keep the proper state of the compliance of the principal social standards with the rules prescribed by the National Constitution and a number of the Laws in force. The data analyzed confirms the said compliance numerically. Prospects for the further development of social standardization in Ukraine can be identified as reforming the subsistence minimum, adapting social standards to the war and post-war period and strengthening partnerships with international organizations.*

Keywords: *standardization, standards, social standards, war time, Laws of Ukraine.*

INTRODUCTION

Standardization is an activity consisting in establishing provisions for common and repeated use in relation to existing or potential tasks and aimed at achieving an optimal degree of orderliness in a certain area [1, 2]. Social standardization is the establishment of uniform norms, standards, rules and requirements in the social sphere (social protection, education and health issues, labor protection, etc.) in order to ensure unity, fairness, improvement of the quality and safety of life with equal opportunities for all citizens. That is, the main goal of social standardization is to ensure a decent standard of living for

every person, regardless of their social status, place of residence or income [3]. Social standardization concerns all spheres of society, has clear objectives, namely: establishing social norms and standards (minimum wage, subsistence minimum); ensuring equal access to basic services; improving the quality of life; formation of social standards in legislation. The functions of social standardization are aimed at fulfilling tasks, in particular: regulatory (ensures order in social relations); protective (guarantees minimum social rights (wages, pensions, medical services); controlling (allows to assess the quality of social services); integrative (promotes social unity and stability). Figure 1 shows the basic types of social standardization.

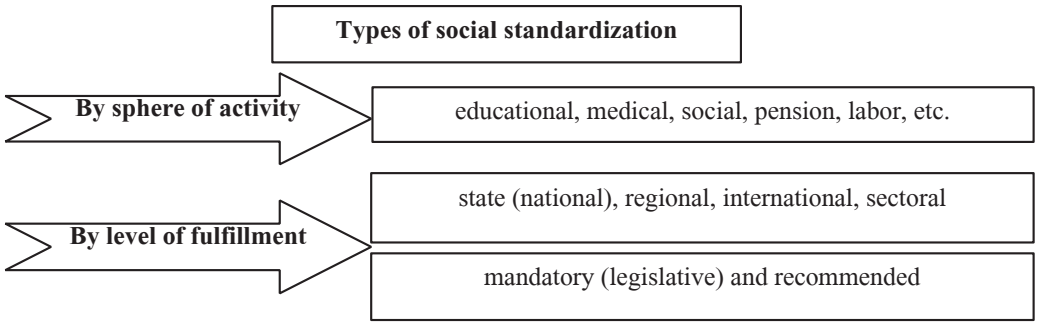


Figure 1. Types of social standardization
Source developed by the authors

MATERIAL AND METHOD

To analyze the basics of the social standardization in Ukraine the relevant sources of the state statistic information were sought and used. In general, to evaluate the results and fulfill the set tasks and achieve the goal of the study, a set of approaches and principles of general theoretical and specialized methods of scientific research were used. For the theoretical part, the methods of systematization and generalization, comparative methods were applied. A figure and tables were used to visualize the research methods and results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The state assumes responsibility for the fulfillment of social guarantees on the basis of approved social standards. State social standards are social norms and standards or a set of them, established by laws, other normative and legal acts, on the basis of which the levels of basic state social guarantees are determined, namely: subsistence minimum; minimum wage; minimum pension; duration of vacation; standards of health care, education, etc. Social norms – qualitative or quantitative indicators that determine the minimum level of provision of citizens with basic necessities of life (standard of living space per person, standard of caloric value of food, volume of free

medical services, number of pupils in a class). Social norms are quantitative indicators used to assess the needs of the population and calculate social assistance (subsistence minimum, minimum wage, minimum old-age pension, tariffs for public utilities taking into account social consumption norms (e.g. 100 kWh per person). Social norms are specific figures that are used to calculate the amount of aid, budget expenditures and social payments, which are based on norms and enshrined in legislation. Social norms and standards are the foundation of the state's social policy, because they determine who is entitled to assistance, in what amount and under what conditions, and ensure equal access to basic benefits.

State social guarantees – the minimum amount of wages, income of citizens, pension provision, social assistance, amounts of other types of social payments established by laws and other regulatory legal acts, which ensure a standard of living not lower than the subsistence minimum [4].

Interaction and guarantees between state institutions, authorities, business and society are based on normative legal acts: the Constitution of Ukraine (Article 46 guarantees the right of citizens to social protection, including pensions, unemployment benefits, social payments; defines the obligation of the state to establish minimum social; Laws of Ukraine "On state social standards and state social guarantees" (defines: the concept of social standards and regulations; the mechanism for their establishment; directions of standardization (income, health care, education, etc.), "On the subsistence minimum" (defines the procedure for calculating the subsistence minimum, which is the basis for social payments, salaries, scholarships), «On Compulsory State Social Insurance», «On State Aid to Families with Children», «On State Social Aid to Low-Income Families» (rules of application in calculating social payments); Budget Code of Ukraine (provides for financing social standards from the state and local budgets); Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «Assistance for Accommodation of Internally Displaced Persons», «On State Social Aid to Persons with Disabilities from Childhood and Children with Disabilities», «On State Social Aid to Persons Not Entitled to a Pension and to Persons with Disabilities» (determining the amount of assistance to low-income families, forming tariffs for utility payments); labor and pension legislation (social guarantees regarding working conditions, payment, working hours, pension and benefit amounts are prescribed); international legal acts (European Social Charter, conventions of the International Labor Organization, UN and EU documents, etc.). The regulatory framework of social standardization ensures social protection and regulates the mechanisms for implementing state guarantees.

National social standardization e the establishment by the state of social norms and standards that determine the minimum acceptable level of quality of life of citizens, guarantee access to basic social benefits and regulate social policy in Ukraine. [4]. Although there is an opinion that the social standard of quality of life should be defined not as a minimum, but as an average level, which is determined based on the generally accepted norms of individual behavior in the socio-economic environment developed in

the process of evolution, taking into account a wider range of needs, taking into account, among other things, accumulated assets, participation in social activities and reflection of the cultural characteristics of the society, that is, the expansion of opportunities to lead a decent, creative and healthy life. [5].

The purpose of the national social standardization of Ukraine is to ensure guaranteed social rights (to education, healthcare, and labor); to form a fair system of social resource distribution; to reduce social inequality; and to create a unified basis for calculating social benefits and programs – see Table 1.

Table 1. Main directions of national social standardization in Ukraine

№	*Areas*	*Implementation*
1	Income of the population	Setting the subsistence minimum Determination of the minimum wage Calculation of social benefits and pensions
2	Social security and assistance	Standards for granting subsidies, assistance to low-income, large families, and persons with disabilities Procedure for providing state social support
3	Healthcare	The scope of free medical care Standards of provision of medicines and medical services Indicators of the number of doctors and medical staff per 1,000 people
4	Education and culture, physical culture and sports	Guaranteed amount of free education (pre-school, general, vocational, higher education) Standards of teacher workload, number of students per class Provision of textbooks, equipment Support for government programs aimed at developing physical culture and sports. Preservation of the cultural heritage of the Ukrainian ethnic group.
5	Housing and utilities	Social standards for water, gas, and electricity consumption Determination of living space to be taken into account when calculating subsidies Quality standards for housing conditions
6	Transportation and communications	Social benefits for transportation for certain categories of citizens Accessibility standards for transportation services
7	Employment and working conditions	Standards for safe and healthy working conditions Standards for working hours and rest periods Minimum social guarantees for employees

8	Consumer services, trade and catering	Support for government programs to provide free meals to low-income groups. Organization of fairs and seasonal markets Support for private entrepreneurs with disabilities
9	Social work with children, youth and different categories of families.	Organization of mass events among children and youth to raise awareness and disseminate the historical heritage of Ukrainian history Instilling national pride in young people Supporting the state program for the population from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine

Source developed by the authors according to [6]

The development of social standardization in Ukraine does not stand still. The state is trying to implement social projects and meet the social norms and standards of a developing country, in particular:

- Official definition of minimum social guarantees and establishment of basic standards (subsistence minimum, minimum wage, pension, volume of medical and educational services, which creates a basis for social protection);
- Formation of a legal framework, adoption and improvement of laws regulating the application of norms and standards in social policy ("On State Social Standards and State Social Guarantees");
- Improving the calculation of social payments based on clearly defined norms (social benefits, subsidies, privileges, consumption of public utilities, income per family, etc.);
- increasing the transparency and controllability of social payments thanks to a tool for sound budget planning and checking the effectiveness of social assistance (setting up the work of social workers, use of innovative technologies);
- gradual integration and adaptation in the system of social standards to EU norms and those of such international organizations as UN and International Labor Organization (ILO), which contributes to improving the quality of social services.

The dynamics of the numerical values of the principal social standards in Ukraine are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Key state social standards and guarantees for 2023-2025 (UAH)

State standards	*2023* *In force from January 1*	*2024* *In force from January 1*	*2025* *In force from January 1*
Subsistence minimum (SM) per month per person	*2589*	*2920*	*2920*
- for children under 6 years of age	*2272*	*2563*	*2563*

- for children aged 6 to 18 years	*2833*	*3196*	*3196*
- for able-bodied persons	*2684*	*3028*	*3028*
- for persons who have lost their ability to work	*2093*	*2361*	*2361*
Minimum wage	*6700*	*7100*	*8000*
Minimum pension	*2093*	*2093*	*2361*
Minimum pension for persons with full insurance record aged 65 and older	*2680*	*3120*	*3370*
Funeral allowance for employees and their family members	*4100*	*4100*	*4100*
Assistance for persons with disabilities and children	*3000*	*3000*	*3000*
Childbirth allowance	*41280*	*41280*	*41280*
- One-time payment for the first child	*10320*	*10320*	*10320*
- Monthly payment for the first child	*860*	*860*	*860*
Child benefit for single mothers up to 6 years of age (maximum)	*2272*	*2563*	*2563*
Allowance for children raised in large families	*2100*	*2100*	*2100*

Source developed by the authors according to [7]

The State Budget 2025 provides support for socially vulnerable citizens: UAH 419.2 billion, of which UAH 237.9 billion is allocated to the Pension Fund to pay pensions, UAH 127.9 billion to help low-income families and people in difficult life circumstances, and UAH 42.3 billion to pay benefits and subsidies. Funds are also provided for programs to support persons with disabilities and families with children [8].

CONCLUSION

The full-scale war that in Ukraine since February 2022 has significantly affected all spheres of life, including social policy and the system of social standardization. The changes affected not only approaches to resource distribution, but also the goals and opportunities for implementing social standards. In emergency conditions, the task was to ensure not just formal compliance with norms, but real assistance and protection for the most vulnerable segments of the population. Prospects for the further development of social standardization in Ukraine can be identified, in particular; reforming the subsistence minimum (the need to transition from a formal indicator to a realistic indicator of the standard of living); adapting social standards to the war and post-war period (taking into account inflation, the number of victims and reconstruction needs); strengthening partnerships with international organizations (continuing coordination on the distribution of aid, updating approaches to assessing the needs of the population); returning to regional equality (after de-occupation, it is important to restore infrastructure to guarantee equal access to standards throughout the country).

In the future, it is important not only to restore pre-war standards, but also to create a more flexible, fair, and realistic system that can effectively respond to the challenges of today.

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