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THE EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL STANDARDS AND GUARANTEES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RULE OF LAW: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE

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Nalyvaiko I.O. The evolution of social standards and guarantees in the context of the rule of law: international experience and prospects for development in Ukraine.

The article is dedicated to the study of social standards and social guarantees in Ukraine, their evolution, current state, and prospects for development in the context of European integration processes. Social standards play an important role in ensuring social justice, equal opportunities, and a decent standard of living for citizens. They regulate basic social rights, including access to healthcare, education, pension provision, and social insurance. At the same time, social guarantees serve as mechanisms for the practical implementation of these standards, providing citizens with access to essential social goods and services. The article examines the evolution of social standards in an international context, starting from the mid-20th century when international organizations such as the UN and the ILO began actively implementing social norms that became the foundation for modern social protection standards. Special attention is given to the influence of European social standards, particularly the European Social Charter, on Ukraine's national legislation, and key aspects of the implementation of these standards in the national social protection system are analyzed. A particularly important topic is the issue of financing social standards and the effectiveness of their implementation in Ukraine. The problems of insufficient funding for social programs, the uneven distribution of social services between regions, corruption, and inefficient management of state resources are highlighted. Based on the analysis of the experience of European Union countries, solutions to these problems are proposed, including the introduction of digital technologies for monitoring and controlling the provision of social assistance, which can improve the targeting of social payments and reduce corruption risks. Pension system reform is another important component of the development of social standards in Ukraine. The

article provides a detailed analysis of the prospects for the implementation of a funded pension system, which will reduce the burden on the state budget and ensure a more efficient distribution of pension resources among citizens. The introduction of individual pension accounts and additional pension savings will help ensure the stability of the pension system in the long term. The article also highlights the role of international organizations and their influence on the development of social standards in Ukraine. The activities of organizations such as the European Union, the International Labour Organization, and others are analyzed, which, through their programs, contribute to the development of national social policies and the improvement of the level of social guarantees for the citizens of Ukraine. Special attention is paid to the harmonization of Ukrainian legislation with European social standards. The authors of the article emphasize that the implementation of European norms and standards in the field of social protection will promote Ukraine's further integration into the European community. This, in turn, will improve the standard of living for citizens, ensure the fair distribution of social benefits, and create a sustainable social protection system that meets the best European practices. The article concludes with recommendations for comprehensive reforms to Ukraine's social system aimed at improving social standards and guarantees, taking into account international experience and the realities of the Ukrainian economy. The recommendations focus on the further development of the pension system, improvement of targeted social assistance, and modernization of healthcare. The authors stress the importance of coordinated actions between state institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to ensure a high level of social protection and a decent quality of life for all Ukrainian citizens.

Key words: social standards, social guarantees, pension reform, European Social Charter, social protection, European integration, targeted social

assistance, healthcare, social program funding, international experience.

Наливайко І.О. Еволюція соціальних стандартів і гарантій у контексті верховенства права: міжнародний досвід та перспективи розвитку в Україні.

Стаття присвячена дослідженню соціальних стандартів і соціальних гарантій в Україні, їх еволюції, сучасного стану та перспектив розвитку в контексті євроінтеграційних процесів. Важливу роль у забезпеченні соціальної справедливості, рівних можливостей, гідного рівня життя громадян відіграють соціальні стандарти. Вони регулюють основні соціальні права, включаючи доступ до охорони здоров'я, освіти, пенсійного забезпечення та соціального страхування. Водночас соціальні гарантії виступають механізмами практичної реалізації цих стандартів, забезпечуючи громадянам доступ до життєво необхідних соціальних благ і послуг. У статті розглядається еволюція соціальних стандартів у міжнародному контексті, починаючи з середини 20 століття, коли міжнародні організації, такі як ООН та МОП, почали активно впроваджувати соціальні норми, які стали основою сучасних стандартів соціального захисту. Особливу увагу приділено впливу європейських соціальних стандартів, зокрема Європейської соціальної хартії, на національне законодавство України та проаналізовано ключові аспекти впровадження цих стандартів у національну систему соціального захисту. Особливо важливою темою є питання фінансування соціальних стандартів та ефективності їх впровадження в Україні. Висвітлюються проблеми недостатнього фінансування соціальних програм, нерівномірного розподілу соціальних послуг між регіонами, корупції, неефективного управління державними ресурсами. На основі аналізу досвіду країн Європейського Союзу запропоновано шляхи вирішення цих проблем, зокрема впровадження цифрових технологій моніторингу та контролю надання соціальної допомоги, що може покращити адресність соціальних виплат та зменшити корупційні ризики. Ще однією важливою складовою розвитку соціальних стандартів в Україні є реформа пенсійної системи. У статті детально проаналізовано перспективи запровадження накопичувальної системи пенсійного забезпечення, яка зменшить навантаження на державний бюджет та забезпечить більш ефективний розподіл пенсійних ресурсів між громадянами. Запровадження індивідуальних пенсійних рахунків та додаткових пенсійних накопичень сприятиме забезпеченню стабільності пенсійної системи в довгостроковій перспективі. У статті також висвітлюється роль міжнародних організацій та їх вплив на розвиток соціальних стандартів в

Україні. Проаналізовано діяльність таких організацій, як Європейський Союз, Міжнародна організація праці та ін., які своїми програмами сприяють розвитку національної соціальної політики та підвищенню рівня соціальних гарантій громадян України. Особлива увага приділяється гармонізації українського законодавства з європейськими соціальними стандартами. Автори статті наголошують, що імплементація європейських норм і стандартів у сфері соціального захисту сприятиме подальшій інтеграції України до європейської спільноти. Це, у свою чергу, сприятиме підвищенню рівня життя громадян, забезпеченню справедливого розподілу соціальних виплат, створенню сталої системи соціального захисту, що відповідає кращим європейським практикам. На завершення статті подано рекомендації щодо комплексних реформ соціальної системи України, спрямованих на підвищення соціальних стандартів і гарантій з урахуванням світового досвіду та реалій української економіки. Рекомендації зосереджені на подальшому розвитку пенсійної системи, вдосконаленні адресної соціальної допомоги та модернізації охорони здоров'я. Автори наголошують на важливості скоординованих дій державних інституцій, урядових організацій та приватного сектору для забезпечення високого рівня соціального захисту та гідної якості життя всіх громадян України.

Ключові слова: соціальні стандарти, соціальні гарантії, пенсійна реформа, Європейська соціальна хартія, соціальний захист, євроінтеграція, адресна соціальна допомога, охорона здоров'я, фінансування соціальних програм, міжнародний досвід.

Problem statement. Social standards and social guarantees are fundamental elements of the legal system in any state that seeks to ensure a decent standard of living for its citizens. They serve as instruments of social protection and mechanisms for ensuring equal opportunities for all members of society. In the modern context of the development of the rule of law, the issue of effectively implementing social standards and guarantees becomes particularly significant, as they influence the stability of the socio-economic development of a country. Social standards define the minimum living conditions guaranteed by the state, while social guarantees act as mechanisms for ensuring the practical implementation of these standards.

The aim of this article is to explore the evolution of social standards and social guarantees within the framework of the rule of law, analyze international experience, and examine the prospects for their development in Ukraine. The article is aimed at reviewing key legal acts that regulate social standards in Ukraine and assessing

their compliance with European standards. The author will also examine the problems of implementing social guarantees at the national level and propose possible ways to improve them in the context of international practice.

Many scholars, both in Ukraine and abroad, have contributed to the study of social standards and social guarantees.

Among the researchers who have made significant contributions to the development of this topic are: L. Alekseev, V. Boiko, H. Honcharenko, A. Doronin, S. Yegorov, M. Kovalchuk, O. Petrov, I. Smirnov, P. Tarasov, N. Fedorenko. Their works cover a wide range of issues related to social standards, guarantees, and the legal framework of social protection on both international and national levels.

This article will analyze the legal and institutional mechanisms regulating social standards and guarantees in Ukraine, considering current challenges and international experience.

An overview of the main material. Social standards and social guarantees are fundamental components of the social protection system in the state. They provide minimum living conditions for citizens, regardless of their social or economic status. Social standards define the minimum levels of income, social services, and other aspects that the state guarantees to its citizens to ensure a decent standard of living. These include minimum wages, pension provisions, minimum levels of healthcare and educational services, and other social payments necessary to maintain social stability.

Social standards are based on internationally recognized norms enshrined in documents from organizations such as the United Nations and the International Labour Organization. For example, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 defines every person's right to social security and a standard of living adequate for health, education, and housing [1]. The International Labour Organization, through its conventions and recommendations, establishes minimum standards for working conditions, minimum wages, and social security [2].

At the same time, social guarantees are legal instruments that ensure the real possibility of implementing social standards in practice. Social guarantees are enshrined in legal acts of the state and provide specific obligations of the state to its citizens. For example, the Constitution of Ukraine guarantees the right to social protection, including pension provisions, unemployment insurance, and protection in the event of illness or disability [3].

Social guarantees aim to reduce social inequality and ensure access to essential social benefits for all population groups. At the legislative level, social standards and guarantees in Ukraine are

regulated by the Law of Ukraine "On State Social Standards and State Social Guarantees" [4], which defines the legal framework for the creation and implementation of social standards aimed at supporting a decent standard of living for citizens.

Therefore, social standards establish minimum requirements for ensuring social security, while social guarantees serve as mechanisms that allow these standards to be implemented.

Social standards, which serve as the foundation for the social protection of citizens, have deep roots in international law and policy. Their evolution began in the mid-20th century, when, under the influence of World War II and major social upheavals, many states concluded that social protection was an integral part of a rule-of-law state. This was reflected in key international documents, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which enshrined the right of everyone to social security [1].

Following the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the development of social standards gained additional momentum through the activities of international organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO). The ILO adopted a number of conventions establishing minimum standards in the fields of labor and social security. One such important convention is Convention No. 102 "On Minimum Standards of Social Security," which defines social security standards in areas such as pensions, unemployment insurance, medical insurance, and other aspects of social support [2].

Another significant milestone in the evolution of social standards was the work of the Council of Europe, particularly the adoption of the European Social Charter in 1961. This document became a critical legal foundation for the development of social standards in Europe, establishing minimum requirements for the provision of citizens' social rights, including the right to health care, social security, social services, and other aspects of social protection [5].

In the context of European integration, Ukraine is also implementing social standards established by the European Union. In particular, the EU's Social Rights Strategy aims to ensure equal access to social services, protection from social risks such as poverty, illness, and unemployment, as well as the implementation of labor and social security standards [6].

International experience shows that the implementation of social standards heavily depends on political stability and a country's economic development. Countries like Sweden and Germany have successfully integrated social standards into their legal systems and economic models, ensuring a high quality of life for their citizens through well-developed social protection

systems. These models have become benchmarks for other countries seeking to improve their level of social security.

The evolution of social standards in the international context highlights the importance of global cooperation and the exchange of experiences to ensure social stability and justice. International organizations continue to actively work on improving social standards, enhancing their universality and accessibility for all citizens, regardless of nationality or economic conditions.

In turn, the international experience of forming and implementing social standards is crucial for the further development of social protection in Ukraine and the integration of its legal system into the European space.

Ukraine's national legislation in the field of social standards is based on the principles of a welfare state enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine, and it regulates the legal mechanisms for ensuring citizens have access to minimum social standards and guarantees. This legislation provides the legal foundation for establishing and implementing the minimum social norms necessary for the dignified life of citizens, covering social protection, healthcare, education, pensions, employment, and other areas of social policy.

The Constitution of Ukraine is the primary legal document that establishes social standards. Article 46 of the Constitution guarantees citizens the right to social protection, including provision in cases of total, partial, or temporary disability, loss of a breadwinner, unemployment, old age, and other instances as prescribed by law [3]. The Constitution also guarantees the right to an adequate standard of living for every citizen, which includes the right to social security, healthcare, and education.

The Law of Ukraine "On State Social Standards and State Social Guarantees" is a key regulatory act that defines the legal framework for the creation and implementation of state social standards and guarantees. According to this law, social standards are defined as norms of consumption or provision, which form the basis for determining the volume and conditions of providing social services and guarantees. This law also regulates state policy in the field of social protection, including the establishment of minimum wages, pensions, child benefits, unemployment benefits, and other social payments [4].

Particularly important is the legal framework concerning the minimum wage. It is one of the key social standards and is guaranteed by the state for all working citizens. According to the Law of Ukraine "On Wages," the minimum wage is defined as the legally established minimum amount of pay for simple, unskilled labor, below which no payment can be made for the work performed by

an employee for a monthly or hourly norm of labor [7].

Another important aspect of social standards is pension provision. According to the Law of Ukraine "On Mandatory State Pension Insurance", the right to pension provision is guaranteed by the state to individuals who have reached retirement age or lost the ability to work for other reasons. Ukraine's pension system is based on solidarity principles and includes mandatory contributions to the Pension Fund of Ukraine [8].

Ukraine's legislation also provides for other social guarantees, such as assistance to low-income families, protection of persons with disabilities, child welfare benefits, and unemployment compensation. The Law of Ukraine "On State Assistance to Families with Children" ensures state support for families with children, including payments for childbirth, assistance to single mothers, and other forms of state support [9, p. 45].

As a result, Ukraine's national legislation in the field of social standards covers a wide range of regulatory acts governing the social protection of citizens, ensuring minimum conditions for a dignified life. Despite certain challenges in implementing these standards, Ukraine's legal framework provides the necessary conditions for their introduction and development.

The implementation of social standards in Ukraine faces several serious challenges related to economic, social, and institutional factors. Despite the relatively well-developed legislative framework for social standards, their practical implementation remains problematic due to limited financial resources, corruption, and ineffective management.

One of the key problems in implementing social standards is insufficient funding. The economic crises that have accompanied Ukraine in recent decades have significantly limited the state's ability to fully meet its social obligations. For example, funding for social programs and payments is often insufficient due to budget deficits and the need to optimize state expenditures. As noted in an analytical report by the Center for Economic Strategy, the lack of budget funds leads to social standards not meeting the real needs of the population, which in turn undermines trust in the state social protection system [10, p. 67].

Another significant issue is corruption and inefficient management of social programs. In Ukraine, a significant portion of social payments does not reach the final recipient due to corrupt schemes and misuse of funds. As noted in the Transparency International report, corruption in the social sector is one of the most widespread phenomena, significantly complicating the implementation of social standards. The lack of proper control over expenditures and the

distribution of social resources also leads to significant losses of state funds.

There is also the problem of uneven distribution of social services across different regions of Ukraine. This issue is particularly acute in remote rural areas, where access to social services such as healthcare, education, and social payments is limited. According to a study by the Institute of Demography and Social Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, regional disparities in access to social services remain one of the main problems of the state's social policy [11, p. 112].

Additionally, inflation and rising prices for essential goods negatively affect the implementation of social standards. The minimum wage, social payments, and pensions often do not meet the real needs of citizens due to the rapid increase in the cost of living. According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, inflation for essential goods significantly exceeds the growth rate of social payments, making them insufficient to ensure a decent standard of living [12, p. 150].

Another challenge for the implementation of social standards is the low level of citizen involvement in the process of forming social policy. In many cases, citizens lack the opportunity or resources to defend their social rights, especially when it comes to low-income groups. The absence of public oversight and participation in decision-making regarding social standards leads to citizens becoming alienated from state institutions and distrusting social policies [13, p. 75].

Thus, the main problems in the implementation of social standards in Ukraine are related to insufficient funding, corruption, regional disparities, inflationary processes, and the lack of public oversight. To effectively implement social standards, a comprehensive approach to solving these problems is necessary through increasing transparency, the effective use of state resources, and strengthening public oversight of social programs.

International experience in the field of social guarantees demonstrates the importance of a comprehensive approach to social protection, combining state, private, and public institutions. In many countries, such as Sweden, Germany, France, and other European Union states, social protection systems are based on the principles of justice, equality, and accessibility. These countries provide a high level of social guarantees, covering various aspects of citizens' lives, including healthcare, pension provision, social insurance, and unemployment support.

One of the most successful social protection models is the Swedish model. The Swedish social system is based on the principle of the "welfare state" and includes mandatory social insurance

that covers all citizens, providing support in cases of unemployment, disability, old age, or illness. The Swedish system is also characterized by a high level of income redistribution, which helps maintain social equality and minimize poverty levels [14, p. 248].

The German social protection model, known as the "social market economy", is an example of combining effective economic policy with high social standards. Germany operates a system of mandatory social insurance that covers health insurance, pension provision, unemployment insurance, and accident insurance. Social guarantees are funded by both employee and employer contributions, as well as state subsidies. This ensures a stable and high level of social protection for all segments of the population [15, p. 358–375].

France also has a well-developed system of social guarantees, providing citizens with wide access to social services, including healthcare, unemployment support, and a pension insurance system. The French model is based on the principles of universality and solidarity, where all citizens, regardless of their economic status, are entitled to social protection. This is achieved through a high level of taxation and government spending on social programs [16, p. 379].

The experience of the Nordic countries, where social protection systems combine high efficiency with broad population coverage, is also particularly noteworthy. In Denmark, for example, social guarantees are provided through a nationwide social insurance system that covers all key areas of social life: healthcare, education, pensions, and unemployment benefits. The system is based on the principles of social solidarity and state support, allowing for the minimization of social risks and ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens [17, p. 52–67].

In the United States, social protection is based on a public-private partnership. While key social programs such as Social Security, Medicare for the elderly, and Medicaid for low-income individuals are funded by the government, private companies and organizations play a significant role in the social protection system. This makes the system less universal compared to European countries, but it provides significant flexibility in choosing social services [18, p. 50].

The European Union also plays an important role in implementing pan-European social protection standards. In particular, the European Social Charter, signed by most EU member states, sets minimum standards for social security and workers' rights. Key elements include ensuring equal access to social services for all EU citizens and protecting against social risks such as unemployment, old age, and disability [5].

Accordingly, international experience highlights the importance of effective regulation of social protection systems based on the principles of fairness, solidarity, and accessibility. For Ukraine, this experience serves as a valuable guide in the process of reforming the national system of social guarantees and integrating into the European social space.

European standards in the field of social guarantees are based on the principles of social justice, equality, and human rights protection. They establish minimum requirements for social protection of citizens and ensure a high quality of life through access to essential social services, such as healthcare, education, pension provision, and social insurance. For Ukraine, the implementation of European social standards is one of the priority tasks on the path toward integration with the European Union and improving social protection for citizens.

The main document defining European social standards is the European Social Charter. It was signed in 1961 and has become an important tool for protecting the social rights of citizens in Council of Europe member states. The Charter sets minimum social standards in areas such as labor, healthcare, social security, and other social rights. Important principles enshrined in this document include the right to work, the right to social protection, the right to fair working conditions, and the right to protection from poverty and social exclusion [5].

Ukraine has made significant steps toward implementing European social standards into its national legislation. The ratification of the European Social Charter was an important step toward integration into the European legal field. The Charter obliges Ukraine to comply with established standards in the field of social protection, including ensuring equal access to social services for all citizens, regardless of their economic status. In practice, this means the implementation of state programs that guarantee minimum social payments and access to essential social services.

Another important document is the European Union's Social Rights Strategy, which aims to ensure equal access to social benefits and services for all EU citizens, as well as protection from social risks such as unemployment, old age, illness, and disability. The implementation of this strategy in Ukraine is an important step in harmonizing Ukrainian legislation with European standards. The strategy involves expanding social programs, increasing social payments, and ensuring social justice for all population groups [6].

Ukraine's legislative acts already contain significant provisions that correspond to European standards. In particular, the Law of Ukraine "On State Social Standards and State Social

Guarantees" defines the basic principles of citizens' social protection, establishes minimum social standards in the areas of wages, pensions, healthcare, and education. This law provides the legal framework for the introduction of social standards in Ukraine that comply with European requirements [4].

In the field of healthcare, a significant step toward implementing European standards was the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On State Financial Guarantees of Medical Care for the Population". This law ensures citizens' access to free medical care, which is an important component of social guarantees in accordance with European norms. The law also provides for the funding of medical services from the state budget and ensures equal access to healthcare services for all citizens of Ukraine [19].

Regarding pension provision, in line with European standards, Ukraine operates a system of solidarity and funded pension provision. The Law of Ukraine "On Mandatory State Pension Insurance" regulates issues of citizens' pension provision, establishes mechanisms for pension accrual, and provides social guarantees for individuals of retirement age. The introduction of a funded pension insurance system aligns with European standards aimed at ensuring the financial stability of pension funds and protecting citizens' interests [8].

Thus, the implementation of European social standards into Ukrainian legislation is an important step toward integration with the European Union. Ukraine has already made significant progress in the field of social protection by implementing several legislative acts that comply with European standards. However, further improvement of the social guarantee system is necessary to ensure a high level of social protection and social justice for all Ukrainian citizens.

The prospects for the development of social standards in Ukraine are an important aspect in the context of European integration processes and the construction of a welfare state. To improve social standards and guarantees, reforms are needed that aim to update them in line with modern requirements and European standards. At the same time, it is important to take into account the economic capabilities of the state, the effectiveness of social program management, and the need to ensure equal access to social services for all segments of the population.

One of the main prospects for the development of social standards is the introduction of new approaches to social insurance and pension provision. Currently, the pension system in Ukraine is mixed and includes both solidarity and funded components. However, the implementation of the funded system remains at an early stage and requires further development to ensure the

financial stability of the pension system. The introduction of mechanisms such as individual pension accounts and additional pension savings will help reduce the burden on the state budget and increase the level of social protection for citizens in old age [8].

In addition, improving the social protection system for low-income segments of the population is a crucial direction for development. Currently, there are serious challenges related to the inefficiency of targeted assistance and insufficient support for vulnerable categories of citizens. Reforming this system should include not only increasing the amount of social payments but also enhancing the efficiency of their provision. For example, the introduction of digital technologies for monitoring and controlling the provision of social assistance could significantly improve its targeting and reduce corruption risks. The experience of EU countries shows that automation of processes in the field of social protection can reduce costs and improve the transparency of resource management [20, p. 98].

Special attention should be paid to healthcare, as access to medical services is one of the key social guarantees. The adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On State Financial Guarantees of Medical Care for the Population" was a significant step in reforming the healthcare system. The introduction of a new financing model for medical services based on the principle of "money follows the patient" ensures equal access to quality medical services for all citizens, regardless of their economic status. The further development of this system requires strengthening control over the quality of services provided, as well as expanding the list of free medical services that meet European standards [19].

An important step for the development of social standards is the harmonization of Ukrainian legislation with European norms, especially in the framework of the implementation of the European Social Charter. This will allow Ukraine to gradually align its social standards with European ones, ensuring better protection of citizens' rights and access to social benefits. In particular, there is a need to strengthen workers' rights, ensure equal opportunities for men and women in the workplace, and develop new mechanisms of social support for people with disabilities and other vulnerable categories of the population [5].

Another prospect is the expansion of social services for the population through active cooperation between the state, private enterprises, and non-governmental organizations. This will not only improve access to social services but also reduce the burden on state institutions. This approach is already successfully applied in EU countries, where non-governmental organizations and private companies are actively involved in

providing social services such as elderly care, rehabilitation, social insurance, and more [21, p. 476].

Conclusions. The development of social standards in Ukraine depends on the effectiveness of reforms aimed at increasing social justice and protecting citizens' rights. Key areas include pension reform, improving the targeted social assistance system, modernizing healthcare, and harmonizing Ukrainian legislation with European standards. Successful implementation of these measures will allow Ukraine to achieve a high level of social protection and ensure a decent standard of living for all citizens.

Ensuring social standards and guarantees is an important component of the functioning of a modern rule-of-law state and one of the key tasks of social policy. Ukraine, on its path toward European integration, is making significant efforts to improve the social system, but several problems remain relevant. Among them, it is worth highlighting the insufficient funding of social programs, unequal access to social services in different regions of the country, as well as issues with the efficiency of resource management and the fight against corruption.

To ensure the sustainable development of social standards and guarantees, comprehensive reforms are needed that should cover all major areas of social security. One of the main areas of reform is the introduction of a funded pension system, which will reduce the burden on the solidarity system and ensure a fairer distribution of financial resources. At the same time, modernizing healthcare and social assistance by increasing targeting and automating processes could significantly improve the efficiency of the social protection system.

European experience, in particular the implementation of the European Social Charter, is an important benchmark for the development of Ukraine's social standards system. The implementation of European standards will help improve social justice, ensure equal opportunities for all citizens, and strengthen the protection of the most vulnerable segments of the population. The principles of solidarity, equality, and accessibility, which form the foundation of the European social protection model, should become the cornerstone for the development of Ukraine's national social policy.

Another important direction is strengthening cooperation between the state, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations in providing social services. In the European Union countries, this approach has long proven to be an effective way to ensure access to social services at a high level while reducing the burden on the state budget. For Ukraine, this experience is valuable, as it will not only expand the range of services but

also improve their quality and accessibility for the population.

It is also important to continue reforming the social payment system, particularly through the introduction of new technologies for monitoring and controlling the distribution of social assistance. This will reduce corruption risks and improve the targeting of social payments, which is a key factor in ensuring social justice and equality. The experience of European Union countries shows that the automation of social processes promotes greater transparency and efficiency in the social protection system.

As a result, the development of social standards and guarantees in Ukraine requires coordinated actions at all levels – governmental, private, and public. The integration of European standards, the introduction of modern technologies for managing social processes, and strengthening the financial and administrative capacity of state institutions are key conditions for achieving a high level of social protection for Ukraine's citizens.

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