PROBLEMS OF OVERCOMING POVERTY IN THE WORLD AND IN UKRAINE
(ON THE EXAMPLE OF VOLUNTEERING AND VOLUNTOURISM)

Problem statement. Today, the problem of poverty is global in nature, it is one of the key problems of society, the prerogative of the activities of many international institutions, the main social strategy of the 21st century, on the one hand, and one of the most painful problems of our time, on the other. A significant part of the world's population suffers from it, it limits the possibilities of human development, generates large-scale social and political conflicts, and poses a threat to the unity of societies and the security of countries.

The processes of globalization are substantively and structurally complex. They affect the economies of states in different ways, increase competition between business entities, and form a new environment for both national development in general and for the functioning of the world market [1].

The economic crises of our time affect the standard of living of the population, the rise in prices, the discrepancy between the incomes of different strata of the population, do not allow ensuring the minimum subsistence level and determine the prevention and overcoming of poverty to one of the most pressing global problems of our time. This problem is recognized by the world community as complex, requiring a gradual solution, positioning the prospects for the future.

The relevance of the topic is understood by the authors in the global socio-economic and political context in the context of permanent changes and transformations of the world. Poverty is a universal human phenomenon. It has spread to all continents, has become one of the key formations of society and the prerogative of the activities of many international institutions. International documents record the existence of the problem of poverty and determine the main directions of the 21st century to overcome it. The most authoritative of them is the UN Millennium Declaration, which defines the global Millennium Development Goals. The declaration became the basis for the social development strategy of the world community. It defines the goal of minimizing trends in the spread of poverty, preventing it in the future in various models and concepts.

Analysis of recent publications on the problem.
The current economic state of the countries of the world, the aggravation of the problem of poverty have led to an active study of this issue by sociologists, economists, psychologists, and politicians.

D. Göldi, N. Birdsol, A. Bulatov, V. Pankov, Y. Stolyarchuk investigate the problem of poverty and ways to overcome it in the context of globalization. Poverty in the socio-economic aspect is studied by leading scientists: Y. Arkhangelsky, A. Borodin, I. Gnibidenko, R. Darendorf, E. Libanova, V. Kravchenko, N. Kovalenko, A. Novikova, I. Prikhodko, L. Cherenko. But the issues of uneven distribution, redistribution of income and stratification of the population, the emergence and spread of poverty in conditions of uncertainty, and the main ways and forms of overcoming poverty in Ukraine are still poorly defined.

Selection of previously unsolved parts of the overall problem. The problem of overcoming poverty requires further theoretical and methodological substantiation. It is important that it takes into account the peculiarities, interconnections and experience of economic, social and political solution of the problem at the international and national levels. Particular attention should be paid to the study of the forms of overcoming poverty and the negative consequences of the population's obstruction and the impact of these processes on the development of the economy and social life.

The aim of the article is to study the problems of poverty and determine the priority directions and forms of overcoming it in Ukraine based on the study of world experience.

Setting objectives. Poverty as a phenomenon is defined in society by insufficient resources to meet the physiological and social needs of a person, limited access to decent living conditions, reduced self-esteem and social responsibility, and so on. Poverty also de-
Pends on traditions, norms of behavior, values of different peoples and states.

Poverty is the financial, socio-economic, moral and psychological state of a person (family, population), in which it is impossible to ensure the satisfaction of all the primary needs of the population, consumer spending of people exceeds income, there is a mass reluctance and impossibility of the population to realize its capabilities.

The UN documents highlight four main manifestations of poverty: low life expectancy; low professional and educational training; lack of basic components of a normal life (clean drinking water, medical services, quality food); removal from public life [2].

Often the individual citizen does not depend on his finding him below the poverty line. The main groups of reasons provoking poverty in the country are political (martial law), medical, social (disability, old age), financial (devaluation, crisis, low wages), geographic (uncomfortable and undeveloped territories), demographic (high percentage of incomplete families), personal (alcoholism, drug addiction, gambling), qualification (insufficient level of education).

To fight poverty, the European Union officially launched the European Year against Poverty and Social Inclusion on 21 January 2010. The aim of this initiative was to draw the attention of citizens, government bodies and social partners to the problems of overcoming poverty in Europe, as well as to mobilize the European community to strengthen social integration and social dialogue in the fight against poverty [1].

In world scientific practice, scientists use various concepts, approaches and methods to study human poverty. The most common is the absolute concept, based on comparing the income required to satisfy a certain list of the minimum needs of a person with the income that he receives. The relative concept considers a person or a family poor if their incomes are below the standard of living that is accepted in their society. The subjective concept involves identifying poor people on the basis of their self-esteem [3].

In the study of poverty, it is very important to obtain quantitative estimates of it. For this, various techniques are used. For a comprehensive assessment of the poverty of the population, statisticians use the definitions of «extreme form of poverty», «poverty level», «depth of poverty», «average and total income deficit of the poor» [4].

Quantitative research has shown that there is an overall decline in poverty in the world, but despite this 3.4 billion people on the planet do not meet their basic needs. The poverty line for people living in lower-middle-income countries is up to $ 3.20 a day. In upper-middle-income countries, the figure is $ 5.50. The world's extreme poverty is measured by a person's life on less than $ 1.90 a day.

According to Eurostat information on the poverty level in the EU countries, in 2019, 22.5% (112.9 million people) of the population of the European Union was on the verge of poverty or social exclusion. Every fourth resident of the European Union was undernourished or in need of social support. The poorest are the population of Bulgaria, Greece and Romania. In these countries, more than a third of residents need additional income. Least of all the poor are in the Czech Republic, Finland and Slovakia [5].

In 2016, 23.4% of residents of the European Union countries were at risk of poverty or social disadvantage. Consequently, over 3 years, the poverty rate in Europe fell by 0.9%. Over the period 2008-2019, this indicator decreased by 1.2%. The share of low-income EU residents in 2017 was 16.9%, compared to 17.3% in 2016 (-0.4%) and 16.6% in 2008 (+0.3%).

According to a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Ukraine is the poorest country in Europe. In terms of GDP per capita, it is better to only reduce the situation in Moldova. Ukraine ranks 134th in the world with $ 2,656.01 of GDP per capita, and Moldova – 133rd in the world with $ 2,694.469 GDP per capita.

In 1991-2000, Ukraine's population sharply and significantly stratified in terms of income. But since 2001, absolute poverty in the country has been gradually decreasing. This continued until the economic crisis in the world and the systemic crisis in the country in 2008-2009 [6].

The political crisis, the annexation of Crimea, and the armed conflict in Donbass have significantly complicated the economic situation in Ukraine. Due to the reduction in production and the loss of part of the country's industrial and export potential, GDP fell by 28.1% in 2014, and by 31.3% in 2015. 1654 thousand people were left without work in 2015. The living standards of most Ukrainians have plummeted. This led to the emergence of new types of poor (refugees, internally displaced persons). Today there is a threat of stagnant poverty, when poor families have no hope of raising their own standard of living.

In 2016 alone, the number of people living below the poverty line in Ukraine doubled – from 28% to 58% with an almost unchanged relative indicator. Today, about 23% of families with pensioners and about 38% of families with two children live below the poverty line. According to the UN. below the poverty line in Ukraine today is 78% of the population.

2017 was a watershed in the poverty situation in Ukraine. For the first time since 2013, government agencies have succeeded in reducing poverty. But the rise in relative poverty shows that the poor have benefited less from the results of economic growth than the rest of the population.

Therefore, the study of poverty problems in Ukraine is becoming increasingly important for identifying socially vulnerable segments of the population, determining its underlying causes and creating an effective social policy to reduce its scale. The main problem is that Ukraine does not have a comprehensive system
that effectively tackled poverty problems. Public administration is not engaged in a policy of preventing poverty, but only struggling with its consequences [2].

The most pressing issues are poverty among the working population and the poverty of families with children. Every fourth family with children, in which all adults work, are classified as poor. The employed have a stable source of income, but do not have the opportunity to lead a full life. The most objective signs of poverty in Ukraine are: lack of work as a source of subsistence for an employee's family, lack of normal living conditions, low quality of food and significant expenditures of families on food in the structure of their income, inability to use paid medical and educational services, low professional and educational training, and also short life span.

The problem of social support for the population has not yet been resolved - only 57% of people from the category of the poor receive at least one type of social assistance. The level of poverty in rural areas remains high (32.3%), which significantly exceeds the level of poverty in cities (20.2%) [2].

Poverty in Ukraine is characterized by a number of national characteristics. This is a significant social and property stratification, the impoverishment of a significant part of the population in the presence of a relatively high social status (level of education, qualifications, social ties), the spread of poverty to the working population; low standard of living of the population in general and the development of social infrastructure in particular.

Addressing these problems requires urgent and effective economic steps. Therefore, the study of optimal strategies for the development of foreign countries can become the basis for overcoming poverty.

The implementation of reforms in Ukraine is aimed at introducing European living standards. Restoring and stimulating economic growth is a top priority. The main tasks in this direction are the introduction of new economic mechanisms for the restoration of production, stimulation of economic growth and social progress, as well as the creation of conditions for ensuring the stable development of industries. These aspects are of particular relevance for addressing poverty issues. Without economic growth, it is impossible to influence poverty. But economic growth and living standards are closely and indirectly linked. Therefore, an effective social policy is needed, which is aimed at reducing income differentiation and the formation of a middle class as the driving force of society.

The UN notes that absolute poverty in Ukraine has been overcome. But the relative poverty is 78%. Consequently, in this part, the Ukrainian consumer basket is less than the world-defined poverty line - $ 17 per day [7]. At the national level, relative poverty is measured by the median expenditure. If a family spends less than 75% of the median per month, then it is poor. With this approach, almost every fourth person in Ukraine is considered poor [6].

Thus, at present, insufficiently effective mechanisms for overcoming poverty are used in Ukraine. This is evidenced by its high level. Therefore, solving this problem requires the development of a system of comprehensive scientifically grounded and effective measures that should take into account the profile, specifics and features of the formation and spread of poverty, the reasons for its occurrence and ways to overcome it, as well as a more effective strategy for overcoming poverty and the economic mechanisms for its implementation. It is necessary to move from the tactics of survival to the strategy of development, from the fight against poverty to the growth of the middle class.

The middle class has not yet been formed in Ukraine, but there are groups in the social structure of the population that have some of the following characteristics: an appropriate level of income, a high level of education and qualifications, moderate political conservatism, an interest in maintaining social and political stability, and rejection of the ideology of marginalization.

A powerful middle class is the dominance of an active life position in society (the desire to independently ensure the well-being of their families); the presence of internal sources of investment (the population invests a significant part of the earnings in business, education, life, etc.); high paying capacity of the population and a large-scale domestic market (demand creates supply, which leads to economic growth, increased employment, incomes, etc.); domination of democratic principles of public administration, in particular, the adoption of state administrative decisions with the participation of the population and accountability of state bodies.

Poverty needs to be viewed through the lens of integrated factors. The reasons for the formation and escalation of poverty in the social space include a set of unified prerequisites:

1) natural and geographical factors (climate, intensive use of lands and a decrease in their fertility, incomplete use of national resources or their lack, energy imbalance);

2) economic factors (macroeconomic instability, inflationary trends, lack of elasticity of supply and demand and inappropriate pricing, which are little correlated with real indicators of buyers' ability to pay, lack of jobs and high unemployment, excessive tax burden, the impossibility of the existence of free private initiative due to legal or economic collisions, excessive administrative pressure, etc.);

3) medical support (poor availability of high-quality medical care, impaired mental activity due to the presence of chemical and physical components that disrupt the activity of thinking and corresponding physical functioning and the inability to ensure their own autonomy and independence, social diseases – AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, the subjective disasters of alcoholism, drug abuse, etc., directly act in the cycle of biophysical problems of poverty).
4) problems of public administration (the lack of democratic transformations that affect the level of spread of social policy and integral bases of the social sphere according to the "residual mechanism", weak legal regulation of the problem of prevention and obtaining education and relevant professional competencies for an autonomous existence, a high level of political corruption, which make it impossible for the stable and permanent development of social doctrine, the spread of the ideals of social equality and social justice in the macro- and microspace) [5];

5) social and demographic factors (overpopulation and lack of birth control, demographic transitivity, the spread of crime, historical factors of colonialism or imperialis, bipolarity of society and the possibility of the middle class to be the main engine of social progress, war, genocide or ethnicocide, cultural transformations of age, gender, racial, caste discrimination or stereotyping, personal beliefs and one's own choice of a religious concept with a specific basis of doctrine).

The issue of overcoming poverty in the world today, it is regulated by the European Social Charter, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals for the period from 2015 to 2030, approved at the UN summit. Accordingly, this issue is topical in Ukraine as well. In 2015, the leaders of 193 countries at the UN Sustainable Development Summit adopted 17 global goals that will achieve three important results over the next 15 years: ending extreme poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and tackling the challenges of climate change. The Sustainable Development Goals are the first to define the elimination of poverty in all forms and everywhere.

In order to overcome poverty, the EU has developed the following priority areas of activity:

- increasing the link between social protection, education and training through an active employment policy;
- modernization of the social protection system, ensuring its stability, adequacy and accessibility for all;
- elimination of barriers to access to education and retraining of personnel at all age stages of human life, with special attention to the most disadvantaged groups;
- helping families to fight child poverty;
- provision of decent housing for vulnerable groups, development of comprehensive approaches to combating homelessness;
- improving access to quality services in such areas: healthcare, social services, transport, new information and communication technologies;
- elimination of gender discrimination, ensuring the social integration of persons with special needs (disabled people), as well as ethnic minorities and immigrants;
- prevention of over-indebtedness of citizens [2].

The strategy for the implementation of these tasks provides for cooperation between the member states of the European Union and Ukraine, government bodies of various levels and non-governmental organizations. In most countries, it was possible to reduce the level of poverty due to the extensive development of the sphere of production and services and the maximum involvement of the working-age population in the labor process. As one of the ways of such cooperation is cross-border and cross-border cooperation, in the context of the national priorities of Ukraine; integration aspirations with the EU. These areas are a powerful catalyst for transformational shifts that can partially solve the problems of employment of the population of border areas [8].

However, despite certain positive shifts, the problem of poverty remained extremely urgent and is acquiring new features. Forecast expectations provided for further international division of labor and deepening and expansion of globalization processes. However, the modern world is faced with the problem of uncertainty, which has brought the problem of human survival to the fore. Therefore, it became important not only the national level of development of the health care system, but also the steps that are being taken by states to stabilize economic systems. These conditions require extraordinary measures on the part of states, the basis of which can be a self-sufficient national economic system. A more stable and developed economy has every chance to overcome the negative consequences of destabilization in a shorter time frame.

As a result of the drop in business activity, the most vulnerable strata of the population are the unemployed, who do not have a permanent income and work on piecework wages. In addition, this group of people should include pensioners, disabled people, single-parent families [9].

Vulnerable and capable of replenishing the number of the poor is a group of the population that has returned from European countries, where they earned a living for themselves and their families, and which, for objective reasons, are unable to return to their jobs. This situation leads to an increase in the supply of labor in Ukraine and an increase in the number of unemployed.

The negative trends that characterize the present can be overcome by a well-founded and purposeful policy of stabilizing the economy. It should optimally combine the possible achievements of macroeconomic development and short-term economic scenarios as a means of overcoming uncertainty.

In these conditions, the main directions of poverty reduction that Ukraine should implement are economic growth, equating the minimum living wage, minimum wage, and pensions to real values; GDP growth and human development index; reduction of inflation, taxes, unemployment.

Thus, overcoming unemployment presupposes the introduction of a new quality of life, social, economic and democratic European standards. This is impossible without solving the problems associated with macroeconomic stabilization in the country, the implementation of effective policies at all levels of government.

Volunteering and voluntourism are some of the ways to solve these problems. World experience considers these areas as forms of social work, which are able
to overcome the effect of abstraction of people from social problems and poverty, to form a model of collective participation in the elimination of the latter, to restore human values [10]. Volunteering and voluntourism developed especially in the USA, where these movements originated in the 19th century. It was then, at the initiative of F. Roosevelt, within the framework of the New Deal policy, with the aim of reducing the unemployment rate (and, accordingly, poverty), the Civilian Conservation Corps was created. The program gained extraordinary popularity among the population, becoming the prototype for a large number of mass actions [11]. It is also worth noting the support of volunteering and voluntourism by public authorities in the USA, Canada, Australia, England, Italy, Japan and other developed countries. They view volunteering and voluntourism as movements that contribute to the maintenance and strengthening of the basic principles of democracy, primarily by involving a large number of citizens in the decision-making process in society. The public administration of these countries provides significant support to volunteering and voluntourism, including through the adoption of legislative acts that stimulate their development, the creation of a system of state volunteer centers and special volunteer and voluntourism programs. [12].

In Ukraine, the development of volunteering and voluntourism dates back to the early 90s of the XX century. In 1992, a network of social services for young people began to actively develop. Now volunteering and voluntourism in our country are especially relevant and important. The reason for this is as follows: such activities are a way in which every member of society can participate in improving the quality of life (in particular, eliminating poverty). According to the research «Volunteer Movement in Ukraine», commissioned by the UN in Ukraine in 2014, Ukrainians attach great importance to volunteering and voluntourism in the development of social processes: 62% recognize their role in the current changes in society; 85% believe they are helping to build peace; 81% are inclined to believe that they are a mandatory component of civil society. A similar process is observed in the regions of Ukraine [13].

Conclusions and suggestions. Poverty is a multi-faceted socio-economic phenomenon that is inherent in any country in the world, regardless of the level of its economic well-being. Politicians, economists, sociologists should work together with the analysis of the current state and dynamics of social development. On the basis of the analysis, it is necessary to develop precisely such paths that will be effective in the realities of the functioning of the state. It is impossible to overcome poverty without government. And the problem of poverty requires close attention from government agencies. Otherwise, it can develop into a major social problem for the country.

Poverty cannot be avoided. But this phenomenon needs to be controlled and regulated. Poverty becomes a social problem when it gets out of state control and becomes stagnant and chronic. Overcoming poverty in all forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humankind.

The fight against poverty and inequality in Ukrainian society should be a priority of state policy. The European experience shows that it is necessary to act more actively at the local level, given the large role of local factors in the implementation of national policies. First of all, for this, the declared course towards budgetary decentralization must be implemented in practice. In addition, third sector organizations should become full partners of government agencies in the development and implementation of policies to overcome poverty.

A feature of the period that Ukraine is going through is the intersection of the economic and political aspects of reform. If the economic problem is to develop effective measures to combat poverty, then the political task is reduced to achieving the legitimacy of power. And this is possible only if the standard of living of the population rises.

To determine further ways to overcome poverty in Ukraine, it is necessary to provide the working-age population with jobs and decent wages. This will make it possible to eradicate poverty among working citizens and significantly reduce the level of poverty among low-income, socially vulnerable segments of the population.

The current state of the standard of living of the population of Ukraine requires an improvement in the quality of life of the most numerous (and not only the poor) strata of the population. This will become the basis for the formation of a middle class – the foundation of social stability.

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Проблема преодоления бедности в мире и в Украине (на примере волонтерства и волонтуризма)

В статье рассматриваются глобальные проблемы современности. Одна из них – бедность.

Целью статьи является изучение проблемы бедности и определение приоритетных направлений и форм её преодоления в Украине на основе изучения мирового опыта.

Бедность – многогранное социально-экономическое явление, присущее любой стране мира, независимо от уровня ее экономического развития. Механизм обязательного социального страхования, который предусматривает высокие пенсии, пособия по безработице, уходу за детьми и качественную медицинскую помощь (в том числе волонтерскую), широко используется в мире для борьбы со бедностью.

Проблема преодоления бедности требует дальнейшего теоретического и методологического обоснования. Важно учитывать особенности, взаимосвязь и
опыт экономического, социального и политического решения проблемы на международном и национальном уровнях. Особого внимания требует изучение форм преодоления бедности и негативных последствий обнищания населения и влияния этих процессов на развитие экономики и общественной жизни.

В процессе исследования рассмотрены сущность категории бедности, ее причины, понятия и индикаторы для изучения бедности, которые используются в мировой практике.

Показано, что позитивная роль социальной интеграции в преодолении бедности определяется на основе выявления и анализа возможностей внедрения в Украине эффективных механизмов государственного управления для предотвращения негативных последствий бедности на основе зарубежного опыта.

Рассмотрен уровень бедности и обоснованы пути решения проблемы бедности в современных условиях. Оцениваются показатели бедности в ЕС и Украине.

Рассматриваются направления сокращения бедности, которые должна достичь Украина, а именно: экономический рост; обновление минимального размера оплаты труда и минимальной заработной платы, пенсий до реалистичных значений; рост ВВП и повышение индекса человеческого развития; снижение инфляции, налогов, безработицы.

Показано, что с введением безвизового режима у граждан Украины появилась возможность трудоустройства в европейских странах. Это увеличивает доходность украинских семей и снижает уровень бедности в стране. Еще одно направление преодоления бедности – нетрадиционные формы занятости, в том числе онлайн-рабо, исполнители которой, как правило, меньше времени тратят на выполнение порученных заданий и зарабатывают больше минимального дохода.

Показано, что мировой опыт демонстрирует возможность преодоления бедности общества в целом и его слоев благодаря развитию волонтерства и волонтуризма.

Ключевые слова: бедность, доход, экономический рост, пути преодоления бедности, политическая нестабильность, государственное управление.

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