



25

SPECIAL EDITION FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE



REVIVING
OUR HOMELAND

**THE LOCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
ON THE MAP OF EUROPE
AND ON THE MAP OF THE WORLD**



THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS is a young, rapidly developing state, which is situated in the centre of Europe. It borders on the Russian Federation in the east, on the Ukraine in the south and on the EU countries, such as Poland, Latvia and Lithuania, in the north-west.

Many centuries had passed before independent Belarus was born. The Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Russia and Zhemoits (GDL, 13-16 cent.) was the first sovereign nation on the territory of the present-day state. In 1569-1795 Belarus was a part of Rech Pospolitaya, in 1772-1917 it was a part of the Russian Empire, and in 1917-1991 Belarus was a member of the USSR.

Belarus suffered a tremendous loss during World War II, so in 1945 the country became a foundation member of the UNO. In 1991 Belarus declared its independence.

In 1997 a treaty of alliance was signed between the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation, and in 1999 Union State of these two sovereignties was created.

The territory of the country is commensurate with that of Great Britain. The population of Belarus is approximately 9.6 mln.

The country is characterized by the highest index of human resources development (IHRD*) among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union republics), and, according to the UN human development report of 2010, Belarus is 61st out of 169 countries in the annual top list by IHRD.

THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS is famous for its tractors, rock handlers, lorries, instrument mechanics and machine-tool construction, oil-refining industry, potash fertilizers, food stuff, linen and textiles, folk arts.

**THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
IS RECOGNIZED
ALL OVER THE WORLD**

THE SUMMER OLYMPICS OF 2004
Julia Nesterenko, Olympic champion in sprint, athletics;
CHILDREN'S EUROVISION OF 2005, 2007
Kseniya Sitnik, winner,
Alexej Zhigalkovich, winner;
MISS PHOTO AT THE TOP MODEL
OF THE WORLD BEAUTY CONTEST OF 2009
Julia Sindeeva, winner;
WINTER OLYMPICS OF 2010
Alexej Grishin, Olympic champion in freestyle.

BELARUS WAS MADE FAMOUS BY

Francis Skorina, 15 century Belarusian printing pioneer of Eastern Europe;
St. Efrosinija, princess of Polotsk. She lived in the 12th century. Efrosinija helped the poor, built churches and monasteries all over Belarus. She was canonized, and is nowadays considered the saint patron of Belarus;
Mark Shagal, an avant-garde painter of the 20th century;
Alexander Medved, a repeated world champion, repeated Olympic champion;
Olga Korbut, a fourfold Olympic champion, the best athlete of the world of 1972;
Vitalij Scherbo, an Olympic champion of XXV Olympics (1992), the world's best athlete for the decade (1991-2000).

*IHRD considers three parameters:

1) the living standard, defined as GDP per head (USD) under purchasing-power parity;
2) mean life expectancy;
3) the segment of literate population and quota of students.



A QUARTER-OF-A-CENTURY “CHERNOBYL” WAY OF BELARUS

Since April 1986, when the Republic of Belarus took upon itself the main blow of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, a quarter of a century has passed. For all this period the country has been facing the most disastrous anthropogenic catastrophe of the 20th century. Although the strife is still going on, the winner is known.

How did a small country manage to cope with the devastating consequences after such a blow? It was a long and hard way, a quarter-of-a century way. From the first days' disarray, when the mind refused to believe the occurred; realization of the fact of the tragedy and its extent; recognizing the country to be the disaster area; the first UNO Chernobyl resolution of December 21, 1990 adoption (in 2010 the UN General Assembly adopted the 13th resolution) to dealing the issues of the population environmental protection, and, finally, to the rehabilitation and revival stage.

It's quite the thing that in the present-day Belarusian society the consequences of the nuclear catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP are compared to those of World War II. Why? It goes without saying, that the losses seem to be incommensurable. However, the Chernobyl catastrophe affected millions of people, whose destinies were hurt by the tragedy. The economic damage of the country is estimated as much as 235 billion USD. The catastrophe affected nearly 25% of the territory bearing almost a quarter of the population of Belarus. Half of the country's 118 districts are touched upon as a result of the “Chernobyl” problem, 21 out of them are related to the most affected even today.

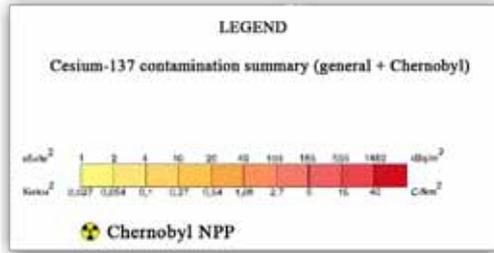
A quarter of a century ago Belarus came across a situation which modern anti-crises management defines as “unknown/unknown”, i.e. complete obscurity. Belarus had to start from the ground up lots of its activities, as far as there were needed not only narrowly focused specialists (for example, dosimetrists, specialists in decontamination), but all-round ones specialized in radiology. They were required in the field of medicine, ecology, agriculture and forestry, education, psychology, jurisdiction. All the best specialists from the former USSR were mobilized (Belarus made part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics up to its disintegration in 1991). They laid the basis

of the post-Chernobyl management. The basis, a construction to which has been built up for a quarter of a century.

Belarus had to gain hands-on experience. The experience of every passing day after the catastrophe. The experience in conditions of long-term radioactive contamination of a vast territory, part of which is forever lost for economy, with considerable budget being allocated for “Chernobyl”. Nevertheless, due to the gained experience we have a scientific school, one of the best-renowned in the world; top-level production of radiometric equipment; progressive systems in legislation, medicine, social protection, radiation control; agriculture and forestry management on radioactively contaminated territories. This experience made way to taking strategic decisions, aimed at the safe living, reorganization of economy (for example, for getting clean agricultural products farm industry priority lines have been retargeted), reviving and supporting of the cultural tradition of the affected districts. Recently the Republic of Belarus has confidently proceeded to the stage of the revival of the affected area.

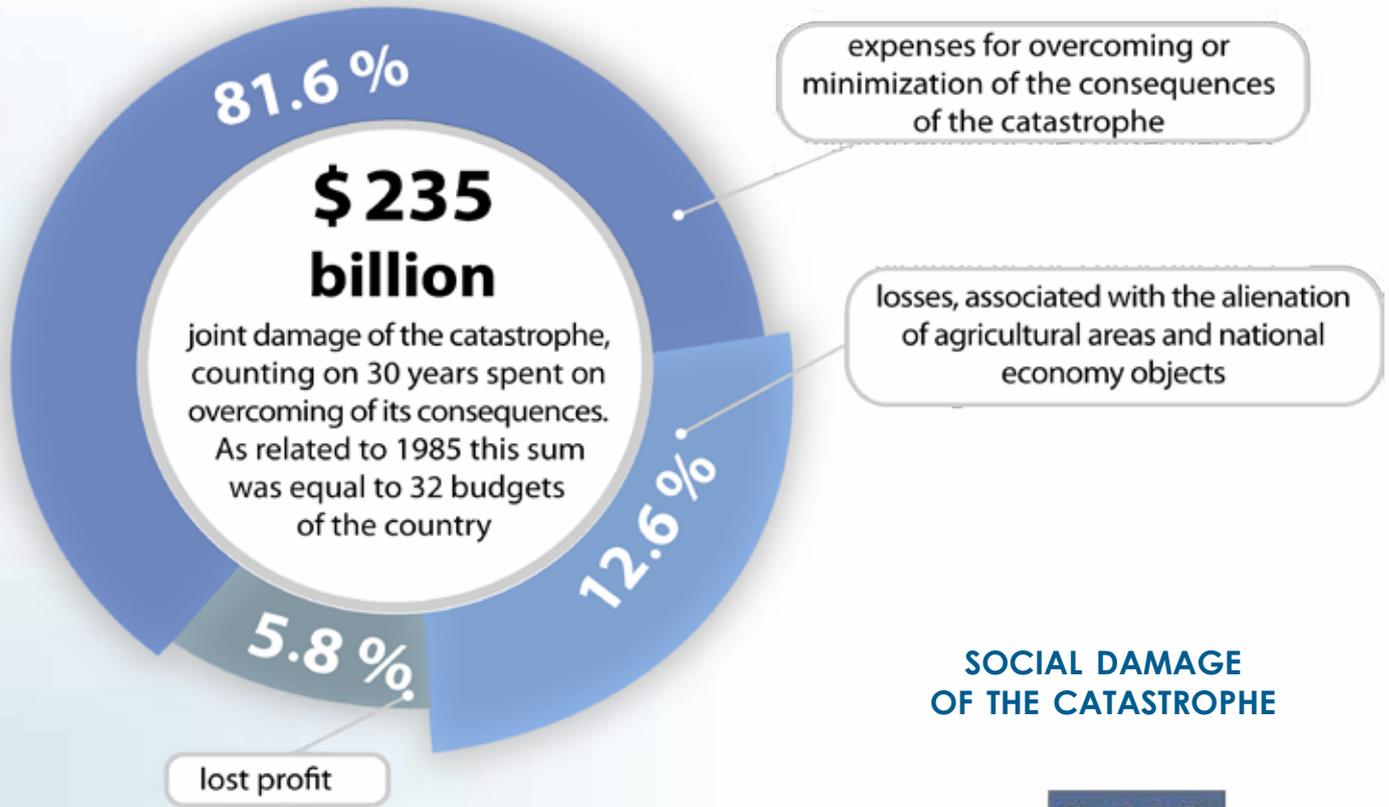
At present time we attempt to say, that a quarter of a century after the catastrophe, Belarus is noted for a qualitative change from the country most affected as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe, to the country, that gained priceless scientific and practical, managerial and professional experience, to the status of an expert-country. The acquired knowledge is used for the development of the “Chernobyl” territories, for young specialists' training, who feel enthusiastic about making their own contribution to the future of their native land. Belarus, taking practical actions on the way to revival, set about preservation of all the post-Chernobyl experience by creation of a common information materials fund. This painstaking work will take lots of efforts and financial contribution. The summarized experience of Belarus in mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe can serve all the humankind.

Department for Mitigation of the Consequences of the Catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus

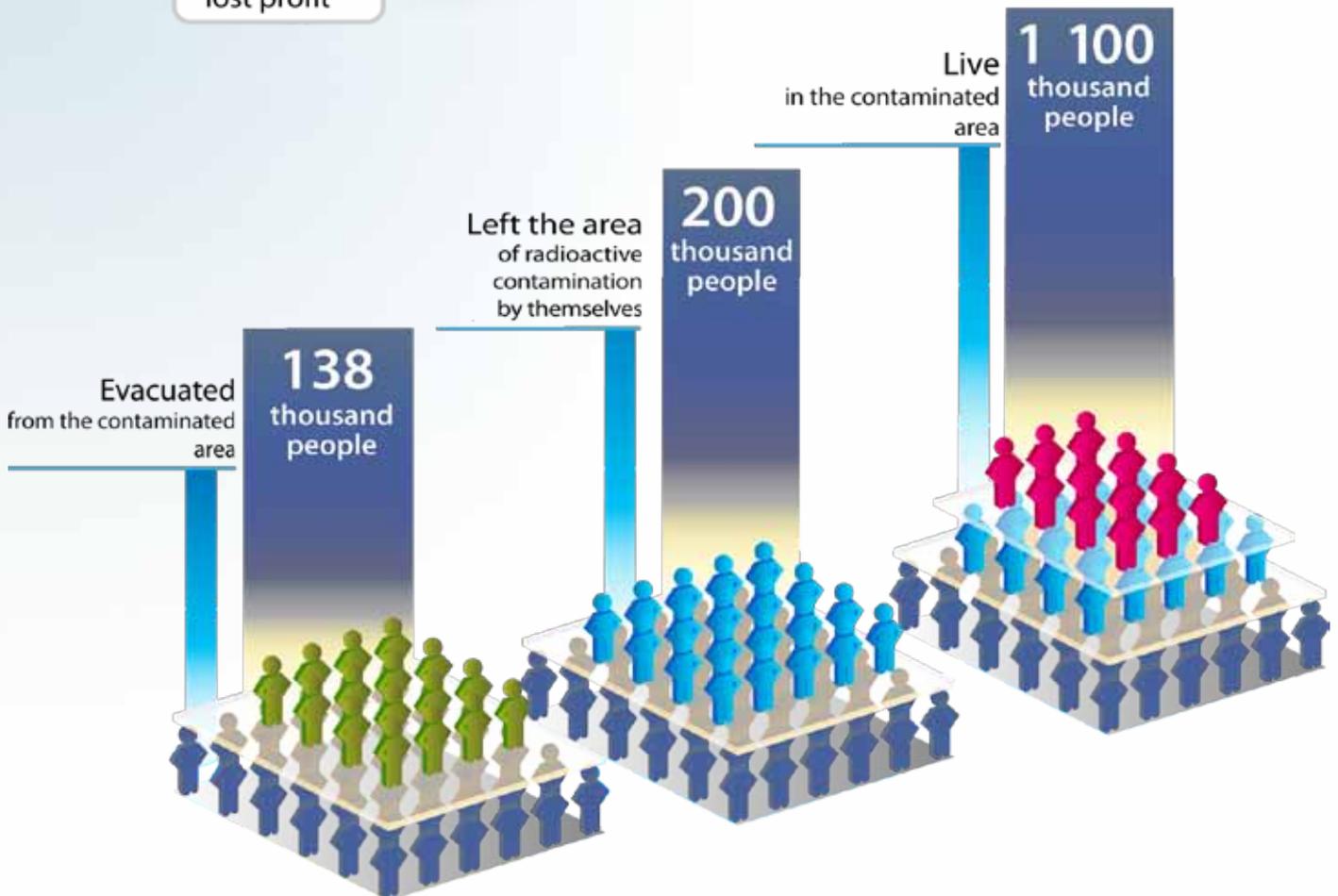




ECONOMIC DAMAGE OF THE CATASTROPHE



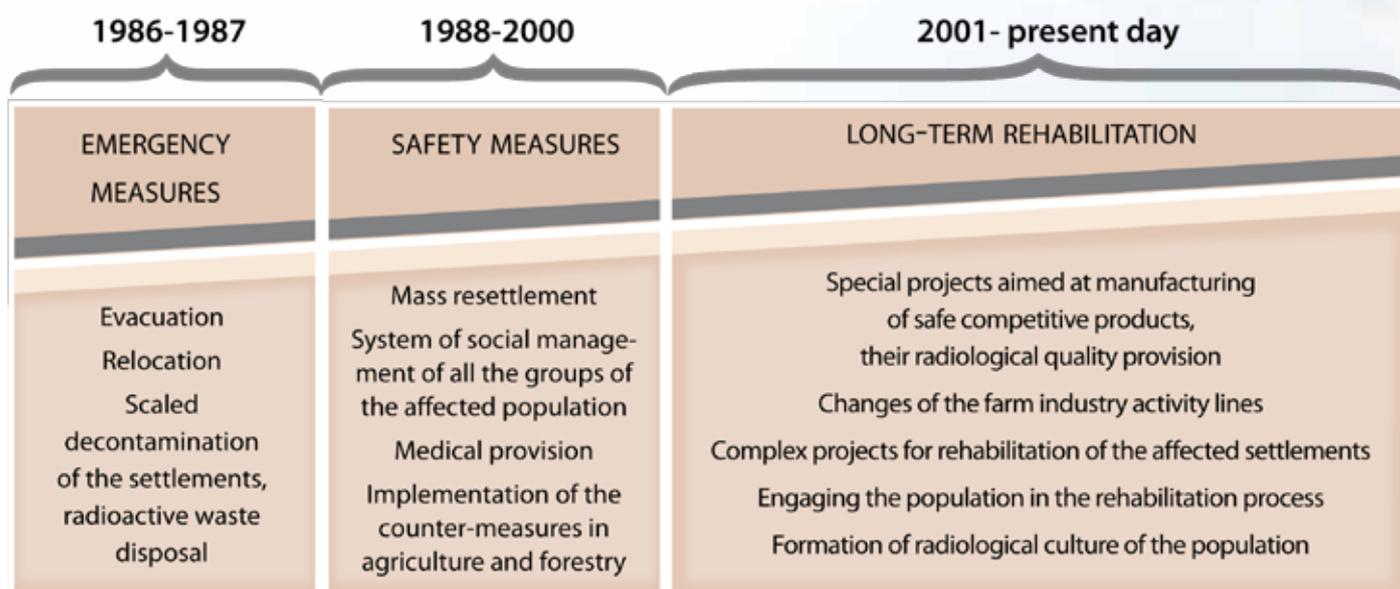
SOCIAL DAMAGE OF THE CATASTROPHE



OVERCOMING OF THE CATASTROPHE CONSEQUENCES. STAGES AND PRIORITIES

The process of the overcoming of the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences can be divided into several stages. The first years are characterized by emergency measures, such as: evacuation of the population from the most contaminated areas; introduction of the limitations for the manufacturing of radionuclide-contaminated products, scaled decontamination. At the same time, the introduction of “Chernobyl” scientific research, lawmaking, counter measures in agriculture and medical provision improvement were being implemented.

Today the country has set course for reviving the affected areas. Such a vision of the stages of the catastrophe consequences overcoming is conventional. Some elements of the early stages are still of importance today (for example, the process of obligatory resettlement is being finalized). In spite of the fact the implemented and the current State programmes for mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe are aimed at safety measures, the process of rehabilitation, development of the affected areas, creation of efficient productions is being kept high as well.



NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR MITIGATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE



4 programmes were implemented.
Amount of financing – around 19,4 billion USD.

Distinctive features:

- main priority – protective measures;
- considerable capital investments in relocating people to “clean” territories in the initial 3 programmes, significant investments into the infrastructures of the affected districts;
- flexibility of activities and amount of their funding according to the changing situa-



Implementation of the State programme for mitigation of the consequences of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP for 2011-2015 and for the period up to 2020 (adopted by the regulation of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of December 31, 2010, №1922) has been started.
Amount of financing for 2011 – 2015 – around 2,3 billion USD.

Distinctive features:

- main priority – turn from rehabilitation of the



**\$19,4
billion**

1991-2010

- reorganization of “Chernobyl” science in 2002 – 2003, finishing mass resettlement, launching programmes of the farm industry activity lines retargeting in 2003);
- complex interdisciplinary approach to formation and implementation of the programme activities.

**\$2,3
billion**

2011-2015

- affected territories to their sustainable development;
- targeted protective measures are continued;
- implementation of special development projects of the affected districts is envisaged;
- information support of the revival process of the Chernobyl areas is reinforced.

THE UNION STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS AND RUSSIAN FEDERATION PROGRAMMES FOR MITIGATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE

**\$80
million**

1998-2010

**3 programmes were implemented.
Amount of financing – around 80 million USD.**

Distinctive features:

- addition to the state programmes for mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe;
- considerable capital investments into building and equipping of medical facilities (Republican Research Center for Radiation Medicine and Human Ecology and Grodno Plant of Medical Substances of the Republic of Belarus);
- opportunity of testing and approbation of new approaches to rehabilitation (pilot projects of targeted rehabilitation of agricultural units on the contaminated territories);
- formation, development and practical implementation of new approaches to Chernobyl-related information work, creation of Russian-Belarusian Information Center (RBIC) with the branches in Moscow and Minsk.

**\$60
million**

2011-2015

Common activity programme for mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe in the frames of the Union State for 2011 – 2015 is being worked out.

Expected amount of financing – more than 60 million USD.

Distinctive features:

- making effective use of the Union State potential, created in the frames of the previous programmes to provide safe living in contaminated areas and quality of life upgrading of the citizens of Belarus and Russia;
- practicing of the principles and mechanisms of the complex rehabilitation project implementation;
- development of components and mechanisms of the response system to radiation provoked emergency situations taking into account the experience of the Chernobyl catastrophe.



ACTION		RESULT
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RADIATION PROTECTION

Evacuation of nearly 138.000 people from the most dangerous areas		Prevention of harmful radiation exposure in the early period. New settlements are built in the uncontaminated areas, necessary infrastructure provided
Creation and operation of a 3-level system of radiation control and monitoring		Legislation act on permissible content of radionuclides in agricultural products, food and water has been worked out The training of radiologists is organized Contaminated products are prevented from getting into the trading network
Counter-measures in agriculture		Producing food in accordance with the permissible content of radionuclides
Retargeting of the farm industry lines of activity		The lines of activity of the farm industry are retargeted in the territories where traditional ways of manufacturing were unsuccessful in providing uncontaminated products Manufacturing of products exceeding permissible content of radionuclides is discontinued
Special measures regarding contaminated forests		Special system of forestry management has been designed in order to provide radiological safety and safe logging
Free uncontaminated food for the school-children living in contaminated areas		Children's radionuclides inflow from personal land plots products has decreased
Modernization of existing water-supply systems, new water-supply systems for most affected areas		Centralized uncontaminated water supply is provided for the population of the affected areas
Gasification of the most affected areas		The population's use of contaminated fuel and radioactive nuclides transfer via combustion materials is prevented

SOCIAL SERVICES AND MEDICAL PROVISION

April 1986-1987: more than 90 unique legal acts were passed in a very short time		During the emergency measures stage social protection is guaranteed to the people evacuated from the 30-km NPP zone (especially to pregnant women and children)
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OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE

ACTION	RESULT
<p>February 22, 1991: the first "Chernobyl" law "On social benefits for the population, affected by the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe" is passed</p>	<p>For the first time social benefits for the people who live in the contaminated area and who took part in the mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe are established</p>
<p>November 12, 1991: the law "On legal regime of the territories affected by the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe" is passed</p>	<p>The principles of zoning of the affected area of the country according to the extent of nuclear contamination are established The conditions of living, scientific and other activity in the contaminated territories are established</p>
<p>January 5, 1998: the law "On radiation safety of the population" is passed</p>	<p>The conditions for life and health protection from the impact of ionizing radiation are established</p>
<p>July 16, 2009: the law "On social benefits for the population, affected by the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe and radiation accidents" comes into effect</p>	<p>The benefits are granted according to the generally world accepted system The state policy of providing the least protected groups of people (children, the handicapped) with the benefits is implemented, the social protection is granted to the people affected by other nuclear catastrophes</p>
<p>The state system of social protection of all the groups of the affected population is created</p>	<p>Social rights of the people, suffering from the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe (approx. 1.1 mln people), are guaranteed</p>
<p>The state system of medical provision is formed, special clinical examinations are put into practice</p>	<p>Approx. 1,4 mln people, affected by the catastrophe, are provided with regular medical examinations One of the biggest centers in Europe (Republican Research Centre for Radiation Medicine and Human Ecology in Gomel) is created Regional hospitals are provided with modern medical equipment New methods of diagnostics and treatment are introduced in the hospitals which provide health care to the affected population such as telemedicine, MNR-tomography and others</p>
<p>A network of children's healthcare centers for rehabilitation and health improvement is created</p>	<p>14 state healthcare centers are opened Almost half of 300.000 children from the affected areas receive annual sanatorium treatment Profound clinical examinations are conducted Healthy life-style is being popularized</p>

ACTION



RESULT

SCIENTIFIC EFFORTS, RAISING THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND RADIOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE POPULATION

The problems of Chernobyl are approached on a scientific basis

The "Chernobyl" scientific school is formed. A system of scientific institutions: Institute of Radiological Agriculture, Institute of Radiobiology, Clinical Scientific and Research Institute of Radiation Medicine and Endocrinology, is created

All forms of activity and housekeeping on the contaminated territories are being scientifically supported. Methods and devices of radiological control are designed by Scientific and Research Institute of Nuclear Problems and manufactured in Belarus by "Atomtech", "Polimaster"

A system of continuous radiological-ecological education is implemented

Sakharov International Radio-Ecological College is created (today – International State Ecological University)

Radiological safety courses are introduced on all stages of education (secondary school, specialized secondary education, higher education)

The training of radio-ecologists, radiation safety specialists, radiation medicine specialists, etc. is established

An awareness-raising system on Chernobyl problems is established for the population, specialists and the governmental structures involved in solving Chernobyl problems

The system ensuring the activities in mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe is formed by better interaction of the public authorities, specialists and the mass media. The population of the affected area is actively participating in the process of finding solutions to post-Chernobyl problems

Belarusian Branch of Russian-Belarusian Information Center on the Problems of the Consequences of the Catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP is created (2007), new information structures and resources are introduced in the most affected as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe districts

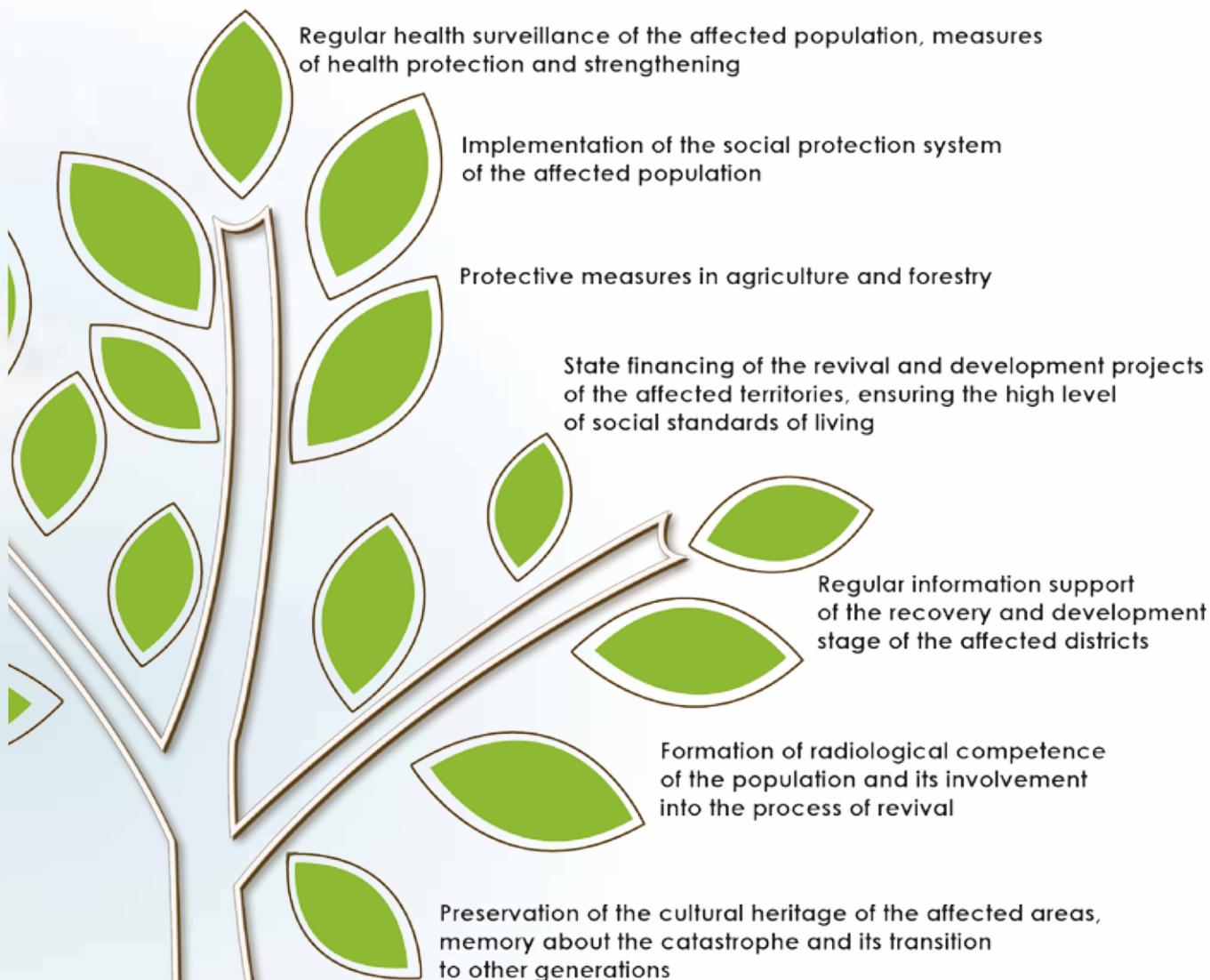
The analysis and systematization of the experience of 25 years of the mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe is started

The necessary conditions are set up for:

- increasing radiological awareness of the population living on the contaminated territories (priority target groups – children and youth)
- acquisition of practical skills in the evaluation of possible radiological risks and their management in local conditions
- involvement of the population living in the contaminated districts, into the process of rehabilitation, revival and development of the affected area



**FROM REHABILITATION OF THE AFFECTED TERRITORIES
TO THEIR REVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT. FEATURES OF THE CURRENT STAGE**



Reviving of the contaminated territories is a top priority of the state... We need to apply our hardest effort to revive this land.

From the speech of the President of the Republic of Belarus
Alexander G. Lukashenko
during the visit to Bragin, Gomel region,
April 2009

RADIATION MONITORING AND CONTROL

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Republican Center for Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring:

- ▶ monitoring of radionuclides content in environmental compartments (soil, air, water), provision of the data for relation of the settlements and objects to the zones of radioactive contamination

Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus, radiation control departments of the centers of hygiene, epidemiology and public health:

- ▶ control of radionuclides content in home-made products

Republican Research Center for Radiation Medicine and Human Ecology, health care institutions:

- ▶ monitoring of radionuclides content in human body
- ▶ dose monitoring of the population (including preparation of the Catalogues of exposure doses)

Ministry of Agriculture and Food, radiation control departments of agricultural and processing organizations, Belarusian Republican Union of Consumer Societies, radiation control departments:

- ▶ monitoring of farmland soil
- ▶ control of radionuclides content in food products and raw materials

Ministry of Forestry, State Institution of Radiation Control and Radiation Safety "Bellesrad", other subordinate organizations:

- ▶ radiation monitoring of forests
- ▶ control of radionuclides content in forest products
- ▶ control of exposure doses of the forest field workers

PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN AGRICULTURE

Ministry of Agriculture and Food, departments of the regional executive committees:

- ▶ supply of phosphoric and potash fertilizers
- ▶ lime application for acid soils
- ▶ supply of crop protection chemicals
- ▶ setting up of fodder producing areas, personal subsidiary plots
- ▶ supply of the formulated cesium countermeasures
- ▶ repair and exploitation works at reclamation sites

Ministry of Forestry, "Bellesrad", forest enterprises:

- ▶ holding of events on the forest resource protection, forest restoration and planting, reduction of the forest workers exposure

DEPARTMENT FOR MITIGATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CATASTROPHE AT CHERNOBYL NPP OF SITUATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

- ▶ realization of special (executive, management) measures for mitigation of the consequences of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP
- ▶ realization of state supervision in the management of the actively contaminated territories
- ▶ control over the execution of legal acts aimed at mitigation of the consequences of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP
- ▶ realization of the budgetary funds aimed at these purposes

MANAGEMENT OF THE EXCLUSION ZONE TERRITORIES

Polesje State Radiation-Ecological Reserve:

- ▶ prevention of radionuclides transfer to the residential area
- ▶ protection of the reservation territory, fireproofing
- ▶ scientific research

Administration of the exclusion zone:

- ▶ ensuring of the exclusion zone legal regulation, prevention of trespassing and materials removing

State specialized enterprises "Polesje" and "Radon":

- ▶ burial of buildings and constructions, demolition of backyards in the resettled localities and localities under rehabilitation
- ▶ support of the system of decontamination waste disposal

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXCLUSION ZONE TERRITORIES

Republican Scientific and Research Unitary Enterprise (RSRUE) "Institute of Radiology", its Brest and Mogilev branches:

- ▶ research and developments in the field of radiation protection, application of protective measures in agriculture, contaminated territories rehabilitation

Republican Research Center for Radiation Medicine and Human Ecology:

- ▶ research related to the medical consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe

State Scientific Institution "Institute of Radiobiology of the National Academy of Sciences":

- ▶ studying of the long-term radio-ecological and radiobiological consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe

Republican governing institutions, executive bodies, organizations of all ownership forms:

- ▶ creation of the necessary infrastructure in the resettled areas, qualified specialists training, development of water supply networks, support of the groups of the population entitled to special measures (working, settlements improvement)
- ▶ special development projects of the territories, introduction of modern technologies for the mitigation of radioactive contamination, retooling of the available enterprises, creation of attractive living conditions

CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Departments of agriculture and food
fertilizers
pesticides
in agricultural organizations and for
capturing feed
protective nets
household farms:
resources use on the contaminated territo-
ry, forest conservation, minimization of

CONSEQUENCES OF THE CATASTROPHE AT CHERNOBYL NPP FOR THE MINISTRY FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:

(regulatory) functions in the field of
the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP
in the field of protection and use of radi-
ation
legislation on the issues of the conse-
quences of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP, targeted use of the
territory for various purposes

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE AFFECTED TERRITORIES

local executive and regulatory
bodies, personal subsidiary plots:
structure for safe living on the contami-
nated territories, public involvement (gas service, develop-
ment of personal subsidiary housing construction for the
benefits and specialists coming for
work)
the affected districts, aimed at intro-
duction of modern production and processing in condi-
tion, modernization and technical
reconstruction and starting new ones, creation of

HEALTH SURVEILLANCE OF THE AFFECTED POPULATION, MEASURES OF HEALTH PRESERVATION

Ministry of Health, Republican Research Center for Radiation Medicine
and Human Ecology, health establishments:

- ▶ compiling of the State register of the people exposed to radiation as a result of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP, other radiation accidents
- ▶ provision of work of interdisciplinary expert councils on relating illnesses to being caused by the Chernobyl catastrophe, other radiation accidents
- ▶ regular medical examination of about 1,4 million affected people (special clinical examination)
- ▶ provision of timely diagnostics and efficient treatment of the affected population

Republican Center for Health Improvement and Sanatorium Treat-
ment:

- ▶ health improvement and sanatorium treatment of the affected popula-
tion, first of all children

SOCIAL PROTECTION OF THE AFFECTED POPULATION

Republican governing institutions, local executive and regulatory
bodies, organizations:

- ▶ ensuring the implementation of the system of social benefits and guar-
antees according to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus

RADIO-ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ministry of Education, educational establishments:

- ▶ studying radioecological issues at all stages of the educational process
(secondary schools, colleges, universities)
- ▶ organization of specialists' training in radioecology, radiation safety,
radiation medicine

International State Ecological University named after A.D. Sakharov,
Belarusian State Agrarian and Technical University, Gomel State Uni-
versity named after F. Skorina:

- ▶ personnel qualification upgrading and retraining for radiation monitor-
ing system

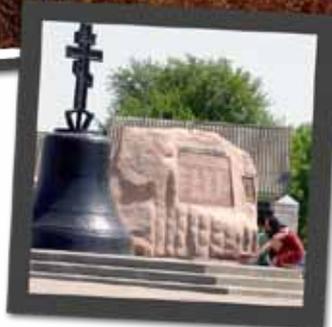
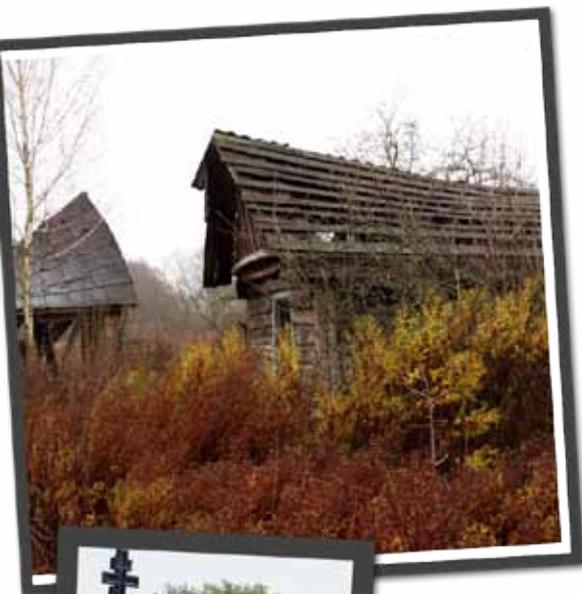
SYSTEM INFORMATION WORK ON CHERNOBYL-RELATED ISSUES

Republican governing institutions, filial "Belarusian Branch of Russian-
Belarusian Information Center on the Problems of the Consequences
of the Catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP" RSRUE "Institute of Radiology",
information structures of the local executive and regulatory bodies of
the affected districts, mass media:

- ▶ formation of an adequate view of the affected districts, role of the state
in their rehabilitation and revival, positioning of Belarus as an expert
country, having experience in long-term management of the post
accident situation
- ▶ development of radiological culture of the population (first of all the
youth)
- ▶ facilitation of the population involvement (first of all the youth) into the
process of revival and development of the affected areas
- ▶ preservation and transmission of the memory about the Chernobyl
catastrophe and its consequences, also considered in the context of
the common European culture

APRIL 26, 1986 IS THE DAY OF MOURNING AND GRATITUDE

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY HAS PASSED SINCE THE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE AGITATED THE WHOLE WORLD. THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY SO DISTINCTLY DIVIDED THE DESTINIES OF THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN “BEFORE” AND “AFTER”, THAT IT WILL BE REMEMBERED BY LOTS OF GENERATIONS. RED CARNATIONS AND WREATHS READING “WE REMEMBER CHERNOBYL” SETTLED FOREVER AT THE MONUMENTS TO THE RELOCATED VILLAGES. AND THE HEARTS OF THE BELARUSIANS ARE OVERWHELMED WITH EVERLASTING MEMORY ABOUT THE TRAGEDY



It’s been a quarter of a century since the day of the explosion at Chernobyl NPP. Radioactive fallouts of April 1986 touched upon all the European countries. It was for the first time that the threat of an anthropogenic catastrophe knowing no boundaries became real.

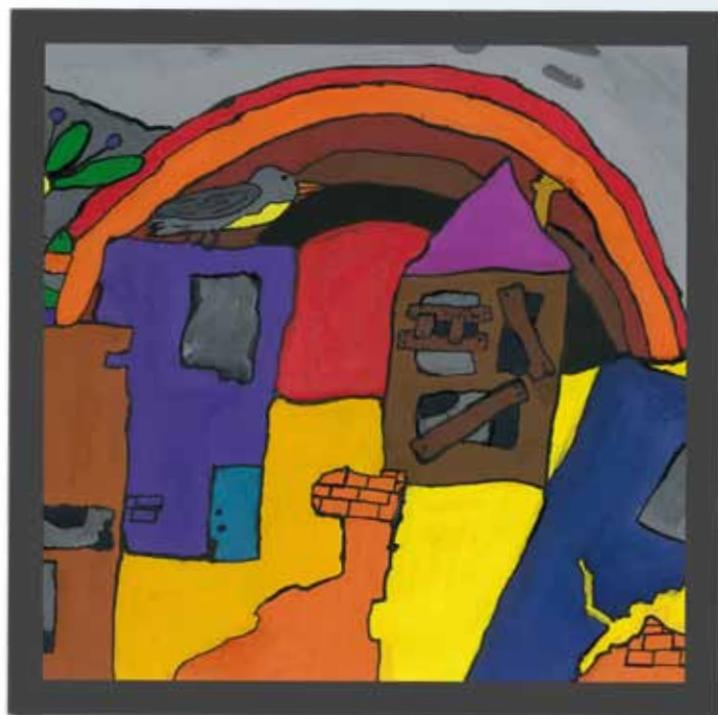
Social, medical and economic aftermath of the accident occurred to be enormous. In the most affected countries, i.e. in Belarus, the Ukraine and Russia, the territory of the long-term contamination was more than 150 000 km²! As of the time of the catastrophe the population of the affected regions was about 7 million people. 600 000 liquidators* were involved to combat the consequences of the catastrophe. All those people were risking their health because of the radiation exposure.

25 years passed. Does this quite a long time span mean that the issue of Chernobyl loses its topicality? A rhetorical question. It’s important that the Chernobyl tragedy will be remembered not only by the citizens of the countries, which took upon themselves the Chernobyl catastrophe’s main blow, but will be retained in the international public conscience, in the hearts and minds of the wise humankind.

How should the accident at Chernobyl NPP be considered in the context of the energy resources provision? What is the young people’s view of the Chernobyl catastrophe? How do the people affected as a

result of the Chernobyl catastrophe live in Belarus, the Ukraine and Russia?

After the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP Belarus appeared to be the most affected. The population of more than 430 radioactively contaminated villages was evacuated and resettled**. And today, having come to their native land, hundreds of people won’t be able to find even the shades of their houses, as far as numerous villages were buried***. They can only pass on their remini-



* Liquidators – people who took part in liquidation of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP and its consequences

**Resettled – a person who had to abandon his/her permanent place of residence because of the Chernobyl catastrophe

***Burial of villages – knocking down of houses and constructions, demolition of the backyards for the resettled territory sanitation, preventing people from living in the dangerous areas and removal of radioactively contaminated materials



scences to their children and grandchildren about the places where their ancestors lived. And that is why up to the present day the inhabitants of the 21 contaminated districts**** of Belarus collect any information, which can help them keep the memory about the resettled and buried villages. They look for the witnesses and note down their stories, make photos of the abandoned houses, collect houseware. The materials became part of the museum exhibitions.

In commemoration of the resettled after the Chernobyl catastrophe villages many Belarusian localities have monuments. Red carnations and wreaths with ribbons reading memory words about Chernobyl settled forever at the feet of the monuments.

The black wing of the Chernobyl catastrophe covered the destinies of the Belarusians, who fought the fire on April 26, 1986 and then timed the devastating reactor. Annually on the day of the accident the central square of a small Belarusian town of Bragin, situated at the distance of 45 km. from the Chernobyl reactor, becomes the place for a requiem-meeting. It is held near the monument to

Vasiliy Ignatenko, who at the expense of his life together with a group of fellows stemmed the tide of the fire and won the unequal fight. Full of gratitude, people from different parts of Belarus as well as foreign guests come to pay tribute to the memory of the hero.

In Minsk the events are held at the memorial plate, set at the front of the house where another hero of Chernobyl lived – Vasiliy Vodolazhskiy, a helicopter pilot. He dropped neutralizing mixtures into the reactor and taught young pilots how to minimize the exposure in the course of such works.

Unfortunately, there is not so much known about the destinies of hundreds of people, who hold first coming actions for evacuation, fought the fire and later built a protective cover over the destroyed reactor, called “sarcophagus”.

Belarus creates a book about liquidators dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the accident at Chernobyl NPP. It will help to restore memory pages about their heroic deed. Not all the liquidators can tell about the events of those days, many of them died. However, their names and their feats will be commemorated.

With every year passing memory about the Chernobyl catastrophe is reflected in the works of art and culture. In the frames of the international television festival of ecological cinema “To Save and to Preserve”, which is annually held in Russia, the film of Belarusian journalists “Pripiat’ Disco” won the prize in nomination “The Best Feature Film” in 2007. As far as the film goes, on April 26, 1986 in the town of nuclear specialists Pripiat’ there is a youth’s disco party. But that evening became a point of no return, of the life “before” and “after”.

In 2010 in Bragin there was held a festival of children’s documentary films “Crystal Stork”. The children from the affected as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe districts of Belarus took part in it. The plots of the films are about the sorrowful topic of Chernobyl. The winner-film is “My Generation and Chernobyl”: “... on the screen one can see a newly built town of Pripiat’. Mothers and their baby children are having a walk in the park, the passers-by are turning around a wedding procession. And then darkness. April 26, 1986. Rows of buses with the rescuing from radiation people, heli-



**** District – an administrative-territorial unit of the Republic of Belarus with the population 15-100 thousand people.



copters above the blazing reactor, alarm howling, frozen up at 1.23 clock hands, liquidators' portraits..." But the most penetrating is the children speaking off-screen: "Chernobyl is when houses are empty", "Chernobyl is a village where people don't live". And pronounced with a sigh: "Chernobyl... Well, it's such a disaster!"

Bragin became the place where the book of memory "To Challenge. To Enjoy. To Remember" was presented. The edition includes poems written by the children and youth about the Chernobyl catastrophe and life of the people after it.

Memory of the Chernobyl catastrophe goes beyond the affected districts and becomes part of the world cultural space.

In 2007 a festival "Tell me, Mr. Cloud..." was held within the international programme "Cooperation for Rehabilitation" (CORE). During the year children from Belarus, Russia, the Ukraine, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Cameroon, Lebanon, the Philippines together with famous men of art of their countries composed fairy-tales, the main hero of which became a cloud. The cloud burst out of the fourth reactor of the Chernobyl NPP in April 1986. Present-day schoolchildren never saw that cloud. Maybe that is the reason why their view of Chernobyl is particularly expressive.

The children composed 52 unique fairy-tales. They became the background for 10-minute films. Every team had its own view of the catastrophe and its consequences, but all the films had very optimistic endings. The children look into the future smiling. In one of the films young artists and cinema directors even "washed away" the unfortunate cloud as a sign of the radiation being defeated; in the second, they "tickled" the cloud with kites and made it disappear. In the third, they defeated the cloud with happy memories of the most pleasant moments of their lives: attentive mother, birthday, flowers, pets...

The children from every country found the problems, which can be compared to the Chernobyl catastrophe: war in Lebanon, AIDS in Africa, ecological problems of the present-day society. In the light of these national and international problems the children from different countries could feel and understand the pain of Chernobyl.

In 2010 the international educational seminar "Chernobyl is European Memory" united thirty students from European countries in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. All of them are the winners of the national contests in local history. The young people are brainpower of Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, the Netherlands, Finland, Denmark, Latvia, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, and the Ukraine.

The students realize that Chernobyl taught the humankind a bitter lesson and that keeping memory about this anthropogenic catastrophe is necessary in order not to repeat the mistakes.

The youth met the resettled people and liquidators, got acquainted with the European aid projects aimed at the victims



of Chernobyl. The seminar is a part of the project “25 Years after Chernobyl”. It’s organized and held by the International Educational Center of Dortmund, foundation Mercator in cooperation with European association EUSTORY and Johannes Rau International Centre for Education and Exchange in Minsk.

In the frames of this project 50 witnesses of the Chernobyl tragedy from Belarus and the Ukraine (firemen, soldiers, doctors, engineers and others) will tell the inhabitants of the 25 German towns and villages about their life and experience. The meetings and interviews will be held from January till April 2011. The journeys also include a photo exhibition of Rüdiger Lubriht “Liquidators are the Forgotten Rescuers of Europe”. Due to the project “25 Years after Chernobyl” personal meetings and contact-making between different Chernobyl initiative groups will become possible at the European level for the first time. In conclusion of the project Berlin will host its central event “Chernobyl as a Whole-Europe Challenge”. It is scheduled for the 26th of April on the day of mourning and gratitude to those who did a lot for the liquidation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

From its part, the Republic of Belarus initiates the international exhibition “Chernobyl and Belarus: Past, Present, Future”, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe. The exposition starts being demonstrated from February 2011 in Czech Republic and then will go to other countries of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and also Switzerland.

In the frames of the exhibition the catalogue of the Belarusian artists’ paintings “Brush Painted Pain” will be presented. The pictures reflect the beauty of the picturesque places affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe, heroism of the liquidators, hard destinies of the people, who experienced the tragedy.

Chernobyl is also drawn by children. More than a thousand of works took part in the action “Chernobyl: Past, Present, Future”. Many of the young artists live in the districts affected by the catastrophe, and that is why their drawings are notable for a special realism. For these children Chernobyl is not just figures of statistics, but everyday life. In every drawing, even in the most sorrowful, there are signs of joy and hope. The bright sun rises over a desolate village. Behind the dark wood there are golden domes of the churches. The clouds are sailing in the sky; the rye is growing in the fields. The children are sure: following to the pain of the past there will be the joy of the future.

The consequences of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP, liquidators’ feat should always be remembered by the people as a priceless lesson and a warning for the future generations.





DECADE OF REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT

THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION (UNO) PROCLAIMED 2006-2016 TO BE A DECADE OF REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFFECTED REGIONS. PREREQUISITES, AIMS AND RESULTS

Just after the explosion of the Chernobyl NPP reactor the UNO started searching for the ways to help the most affected countries Belarus, the Ukraine and Russia. In 1989 the UNO began coordinating the international cooperation aimed at the mitigation of the consequences of the catastrophe. Several agencies were involved in the Chernobyl initiatives. These agencies were: United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO). After the Chernobyl NPP was closed in 2000, a wave of reports and publications saying "Chernobyl is in the past", "the issue is not relevant any more" hit mass media all over the world. At the same time the affected countries were continuing their scaled activity on overcoming of the consequences of the catastrophe. A series of international meetings was initiated, allowing keeping the Chernobyl question on the agenda. Several international evaluations of the post-Chernobyl situation in the Republic of Belarus at the beginning of the 2000s* also contributed to this decision. The evaluations were held almost at the same time by different organizations and participants and came to the similar conclusion: a new sustainable and complex approach to rehabilitation and reviving of the affected areas is necessary. In order to satisfy the requirements of the affected population it should be a complex approach and include healthcare, social and economic development, reasonable use of the environment, food stuff manufacturing, education and culture. The participants of such activities should coordinate their work in a way that their support would be directly addressed

to the most affected people and communities and meet the expected results.

UN Chernobyl resolutions

1990 – the first "Chernobyl" resolution is passed by the UN General Assembly. The document urges to design a coordination programme for the activity aimed at the liquidation of the consequences of the catastrophe. Since 1990 the UNO has passed 13 "Chernobyl" resolutions.

The Republic of Belarus was the first to initiate and test together with the international partners a new approach by the implementa-



* The UNDP and UNICEF Report "Humanitarian Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Catastrophe – Rehabilitation Strategies" (January 25, 2002): see. www.un.minsk.by; World Bank Report "Belarus: Review of the Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident and Rehabilitation Programmes" (July 15, 2002): see www.worldbank.org.by; reviews by Heads of diplomatic missions/EU Delegation of their visits (April 2001 and May 2003) to the contaminated territories sent to the EU and EC Chairman; Rehabilitation of living conditions on the territories contaminated as the result of Chernobyl NPP accident – ETHOS project. Materials of the International Seminar, held in the town of Stolin, Brest region, Belarus (November 15-16, 2001): see www.cepn.asso.fr/fr/ethos/seminaire.html

tion of the international programme “Cooperation for rehabilitation of living conditions in Chernobyl affected areas in Belarus” (CORE, 2003-2008).

Its approach made the local initiative in project elaboration and implementation a priority. It allowed including into the Programme 146 projects, initiated by the local population (more than 80 of them being implemented at the cost of €4.3 mln. with the extended participation of the partners from different countries and organizations).

Creation of the material and technical basis, especially in medicine and education, is considered an important feature of the improvement of the life conditions of the population. According to the programme of the Japanese government since 2004 the district hospitals of Belarus are being supplied with high-tech equipment, and medical specialists are being trained. Since 2006 the government of the People’s Republic of China has supported the similar activity. The hospitals and schools located on the contaminated territories are provided with modern equipment.



In 2006 Belarus initiated the idea of the third decade after the Chernobyl catastrophe

being proclaimed the UN Decade for rehabilitation and sustainable developing of the affected areas. In 2007 this initiative was approved by the decision of the 62nd UN General Assembly and supported by Russia and the Ukraine.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) coordinates the activity. Since 2008 three large-scaled projects** of international technical assistance have been carried out in Belarus at the total cost of approx. €4 mln., two of them have been already completed. A new, \$2.5 mln-budget, regional programme (ICRIN) aimed at meeting the informational needs of the

The experience of UNDP integral approach to the development of the territories is an example of the activity, when we show the local population the rehabilitation of their territory depends on them and can serve a model on the community level. We pursue the twofold goal: we contribute to building the people’s self-confidence and self-sufficiency, help them to hold an active position and stop acting like victims.

**Antonius Broek,
The UN/UNDP Representative
in the Republic of Belarus**

population of the affected areas of Belarus, the Ukraine and Russia was started. The four UN agencies: UNDP, WHO, UNICEF and IAEA, together with the governments of these countries are involved into the implementation of ICRIN.

Exercising the new approach and relying upon its reports, in 2006 the World Bank together with the Belarusian government initiated the project for rehabilitation of the districts, affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe (under the agreement between the Republic of Belarus and the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development), total sum of the loan being \$50 mln.

In 2007 the UN General Assembly defined the main goal of the course of action: to create by 2016 the conditions for active participa-

** • «Establishment of International Scientific and Practical Centre of Thyroid Disease» (completed)
• «Based Development of the Chernobyl-Affected Areas of Belarus» (completed)
• «Enhancing Human Security in the Chernobyl Affected Areas of Belarus»

UN agencies involved
in the Chernobyl initiatives



tion of the population in the process of reviving of the affected territories. The government of the country, from its part, is searching for new approaches for the national policy of rehabilitation and reviving of the country after the Chernobyl catastrophe. Some of them have been implemented in the frames of the State programme for mitigation of the consequences of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP for 2011-2015 and for the period up to 2010, adopted by the regulation of the Council of Ministers of December 31, 2010, №1922.

In the following two five-year periods the government efforts in mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe will be aimed at changeover from rehabilitation of the affected territories to their active revival and development

with the necessary radiation protection measures being retained. The State programme gave birth to two principally new directions: formation and implementation of the special development projects of the affected territories and mastering of the information policy on the problems of the catastrophe consequences mitigation.

The information which is briefly provided here shows that the consequences of Chernobyl are not a local and national problem, but also a global issue to be commonly considered by the whole world community. This is proved by international evaluation missions, visits, their conclusions and practical actions of the current decade.

Belarus thanks all the participants of the revival stage of the affected areas, the countries and organizations who continue recovery programmes for the Belarusian children, provide humanitarian assistance in different forms and invites to perspective cooperation.

The results of the 25-year period of overcoming of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, the lessons learned and long-term revival strategy will become the main topic of the International Scientific and Practical Conference "Twenty Five Years after the Catastrophe. The Safety of the Future". The conference will be held on April 20-22, 2011 in the Ukraine (Kiev) with the delegations of the three most affected countries – Belarus, the Ukraine, Russia as well as international organizations and foreign countries participating in it.



The new information and IT-products on Chernobyl-related issues

The below listed information and IT-products is the result of the regular information work that has been done in the Republic of Belarus for the recent five years. Complex information work aimed at the population is carried out in the frames of the State and Union State programmes for mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. The presented created products are available at www.rbic.by

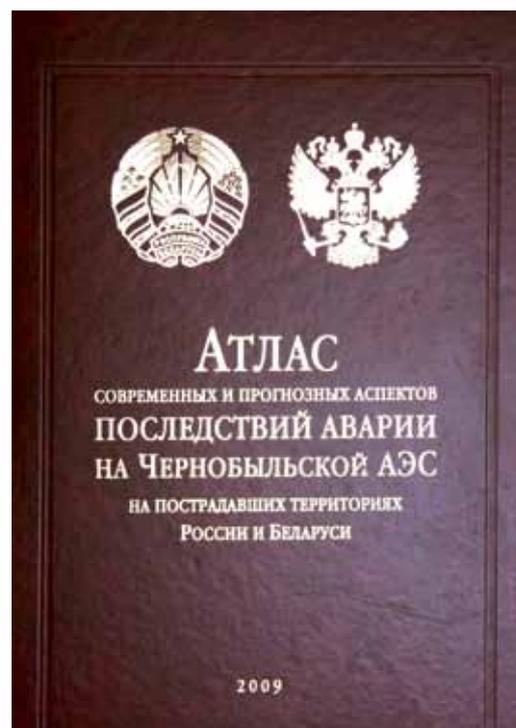
1. Monthly electronic magazine “Reviving Our Homeland”



Features the efforts of the country in reviving of the affected districts at local, republican and international levels. The publication reflects social and economic development of the districts, dwells on the latest scientific and medical achievements. On its pages one can find serious analytical materials, in column “Interview of the Day” the interlocutors are chairmen of the contaminated districts executive committees, scientists and specialists involved in the work for mitigation of the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences. Herewith, the magazine reflects the issue of memory about the Chernobyl catastrophe and its consequences. The materials on the cultural heritage, tour itineraries add to the adequate perception of the affected territories

as regards the population of uncontaminated districts.

2. Atlas of the present-day and prospective aspects of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe on the affected areas of Russia and Belarus



Created by Belarusian and Russian scientists while implementing Common activity programme for mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe in the frames of the Union State for 2006-2010. The Atlas presents maps of contamination of Europe, several regions of Belarus and Russia, Polesje State Radiation-Ecological Reserve as of 1986, 1996 and 2006, as well as the maps of expected Cesium-137 contamination for the period of 2016-2056 with the 10-year interval. Meticulous work on data collection and systematization

took three years. On hand are the electronic and printed versions of the Atlas. It's neither a commercial project, nor it's in the market: it's available in libraries, government offices, educational establishments, scientific organizations and mass media.

3. Information bulletin “Integrated Russian-Belarusian database of the main aspects of the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences” (IDB)



Gives access to and popularizes “Integrated Russian-Belarusian database of the main aspects of the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences” (IDB) among wide range of specialists and some of its sections – among population of Belarus

and Russia. Its pages present visual interface and toolkit of IDB, history of its creation, development and provision with information on the main aspects of the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences: ecological, demographic, medical, socioeconomic and regulatory. For the sake of convenience part of the information is structured in charts, diagrams, tables. Such bulletin was created for the first time; it is supplemented with an interactive CD on IDB.

4. Series of brochures on the results of implementation of the Common activity programme for mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe in the frames of the Union State for 2006-2010

The Union State of Belarus and Russia made it possible to solve Chernobyl problems in cooperation applying programme-targeted method. The major stages and activities of the Chernobyl programmes and their results for the Republic of Belarus are featured in 6 brochures. They dwell on implementation of common information policy, upgrading of radiation monitoring and control system in agricultural production. There are materials about the results of





pilot projects aimed at targeted rehabilitation of the contaminated by radionuclides agricultural territories in Belarus. Elaboration, mastering, practical implementation of advanced technologies in Belarusian medical centers for diagnostics and treatment of citizens affected as a result of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP; experience of safe use of forest resources contaminated by radionuclides; brief review of Chernobyl programmes of the Union State from 1998 till 2010 – these are the topics of the information materials.

5. Book of methodical developments on social-psychological rehabilitation and adaptation of the population living on contaminated by radionuclides territories of Russia and Belarus (2 parts)

Unique experience of social-psychological rehabilitation and adaptation of the population, gained in services and centers of social-psychological rehabilitation of the population located on the territory of Chernobyl trace made the background of the book. All the developments are based on scientific data, got approval and are successfully used by the specialists for recovering normal psychological status and life-sustaining activity of the people. The materials dwell on the relevant problems of informing and awareness-raising of the youth on the main

principles of radiation hygiene, health saving technologies for elderly people, pregnant women, and children. There is a detailed narration about psychological rehabilitation of the people with thyroid cancer, upgrading skills of interaction of social service providers with population. The opportunity of implementing local initiatives in health care, socio-economic and ecological field is described. The developments are aimed at social services providers, educational and health establishments as well as specialists in the issues of the consequences of radiation disasters.

6. Reminders on the rules of wood exploitation in contaminated forests for population and specialists

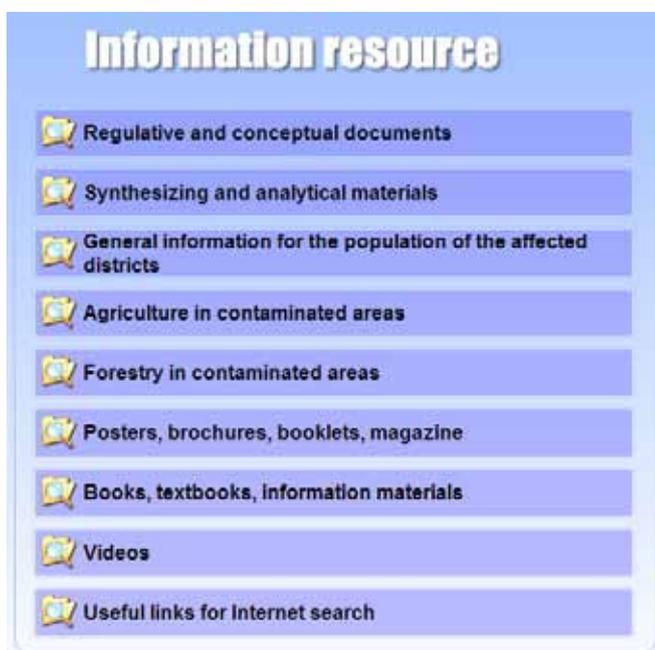
Represent practical prompts for the population of the affected as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe districts in the form of cartographic and information materials about contamination of the forest territory. It is about possible ways of wood exploitation in radioactively contaminated forests: where, in what forest



areas it's possible to pick up mushrooms, gather birch juice and vulnerary plants; about cooking methods that help reduce radionuclides content in mushrooms and wild meat; about growing mushrooms on the personal household plots.

7. Electronic information resource

Contains nine chapters: regulative and conceptual documents; synthesizing and analytical materials; general information for the population of the affected districts; agriculture and forestry in contaminated areas; posters, brochures, booklets; books, information and methodical materials; videos; useful links for Internet search; other relevant information. In



2009-2010 the electronic resource was provided to 21 executive committees of the most contaminated districts of Belarus and to 3 regional executive committees in Mogilev, Gomel, Brest. Having been adopted the IT-product became available in the Administration of the exclusion zone and in 19 school information rooms "Radiation safety and basics of safe living". National governmental structures as well as scientific and practical organizations working in the field of overcoming of the Chernobyl catastrophe consequences are planned to be covered with a common information net.

8. Brochure "Going to CRHC for Health"

The edition is aimed at parents whose children are going to children's rehabilitation and health-

improvement center (CRHC). CRHC is a specialized children's sanatorium-resort organization created in Belarus for children and teenagers living on contaminated as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe territories. All the CRHCs are situated

in environmentally benign districts of Belarus, being remote from large-scale industrial enterprises and having modern medical equipment, which enables treatment, diagnostics, and complex

reducing of radionuclides in children's bodies. Regular course of treatment or health improvement is free of charge and takes 24 days. The brochure describes terms and conditions of medical treatment and health improvement, educational process, social and psychological rehabilitation, accommodation and leisure activities of children. Contact information of the children's rehabilitation and health-improvement centers of the Republic of Belarus can also be of interest for foreign guests.



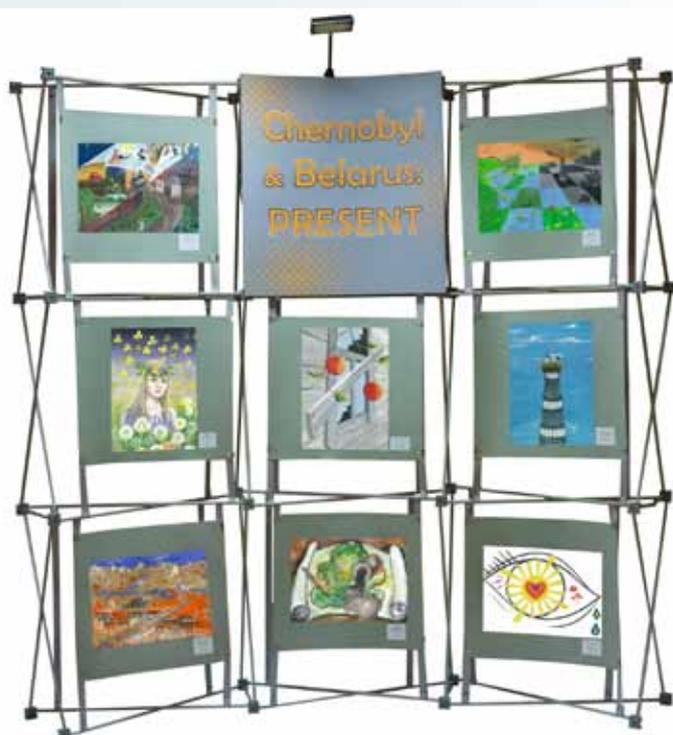
9. Mobile exhibition "Reviving Our Homeland"

Exhibition is a mobile construction: on its easy-to-fit-up information stands it places reference materials on the structure and work of the Department for Mitigation of the Consequences of the Catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus. Considerable part of the exhibition is dedicated to the State and Union State programme for mitigation of the consequences of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP for 2006-2010. President initiated programme "Children of Belarus", projects of international CORE Programme "Cooperation for Rehabilitation", materials on preservation of memory

about the victims of Chernobyl are also paid attention to. The exhibition is full of photos illustrating the time of the accident at Chernobyl NPP, consequences of the catastrophe and results of the native land revival.



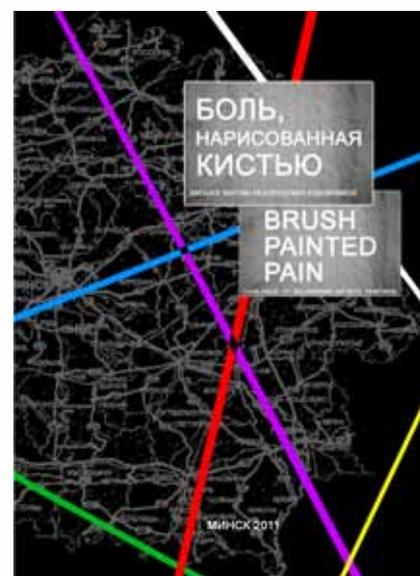
10. Mobile exposition for the European Union countries “Chernobyl and Belarus: Past, Present, Future”



The exposition was created especially for the international exhibition, which is being demonstrated in the countries of the European Union for the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe. It consists of several components, which are children’s winner-drawings from the contest “Chernobyl: Past, Present, Future” held in 2009; the catalogue of children’s drawings “We Feel It” and the catalogue of Belarusian artists’ paintings “Brush Painted Pain”; Power Point presentation of the consequences of the catastrophe in Belarus and their overcoming. The exhibition offers to the visitors’ attention a special edition for the anniversary of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP “25 Years after. Reviving Our Homeland”, a leaflet on the efforts of the Republic of Belarus in post-Chernobyl situation management “25 Years of Overcoming. The Republic of Belarus”, cards that are copies of the winner-drawings in the frames of the children’s contest “Chernobyl: Past, Present, Future”. You can even leave your feelings of the exposition in the special “Book of Impressions”.

11. Catalogue of Belarusian artists’ paintings “Brush Painted Pain”

Belarusian artists again and again remind everyone of us and the world about the tragedy, sufferings, pain, grief and lessons of Chernobyl. The catalogue “Brush Painted Pain” included works of such famous artists of the Republic of Belarus, as Viktor Barabantsev, Vladimir Gordeenko, Vladimir Kozhuh, Mikhail Savitskiy, Sviatoslav Fedorenko, Valery Shkarubo, Viktor Shmatov. The paintings are documentary; most of them were created right in the catastrophe area. The authors depicted beauty of the nature of the affected as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe land, heroism and courage of the people who struggled with the “black” enemy right in the



fire. The catalogue was created for the international exhibition “Chernobyl and Belarus: Past, Present, Future”, which is being demonstrated in the countries of the European Union for the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe. People far outside of Belarus will be able to feel the tragedy of the resettled Belarusian villages, see the beauty of Belarusian land and spirituality of the Belarusian people.

12. Catalogue of children’s drawings “We Feel It”



The catalogue was created for the international exhibition “Chernobyl and Belarus: Past, Present, Future”, which is being demonstrated in the countries of the European Union for the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe. The edition included winner-drawings of the children’s contest “Chernobyl: Past, Present, Future”. Despite the tragic character of the Chernobyl theme the 41 drawings depict bright future in lively colors, demonstrate active and motivated position of the young generation that not only remembers, learns from the mistakes of others, but revives own land after the catastrophe. In their drawings the children tried to look into the past for a moment and then to tell us about the present and the future. The children drew Chernobyl in the way the adults remember it. Going through pages of the cata-

logue “We Feel It”, it becomes apparent that for the generation of the 21st century Chernobyl is not only pain of Belarus, but a wound in the heart of Europe.

13. “To challenge. To enjoy. To remember... Book of memory about the Chernobyl catastrophe and life of the people after it”



The book was published in the frames of the complex project “Revival” aimed at preservation of cultural heritage, transmission of the memory about the Chernobyl catastrophe and ecological upbringing of the population of Bragin district. The project was implemented with the support of the Department for Mitigation of the Consequences of the Catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus out of the funds of the State programme for mitigation of the consequences of the catastrophe at Chernobyl NPP for 2006-2010. The illustrated edition, consisting of 75 pages, presents literary works related to Chernobyl written by the children and youth. The poems were composed in the frames of a creativity festival “Singing Line”, which has been regularly held in Bragin for the recent 10 years. The book is illustrated with the children’s drawings participating in the contest “Chernobyl: Past, Present, Future” (2009).



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REVIVING OUR HOMELAND

Special edition for the 25th anniversary
of the Chernobyl catastrophe

Design and computer lay-out: *A. Kulbitskiy*
Translated by *N. Danilenko, S. Staniuk*

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