



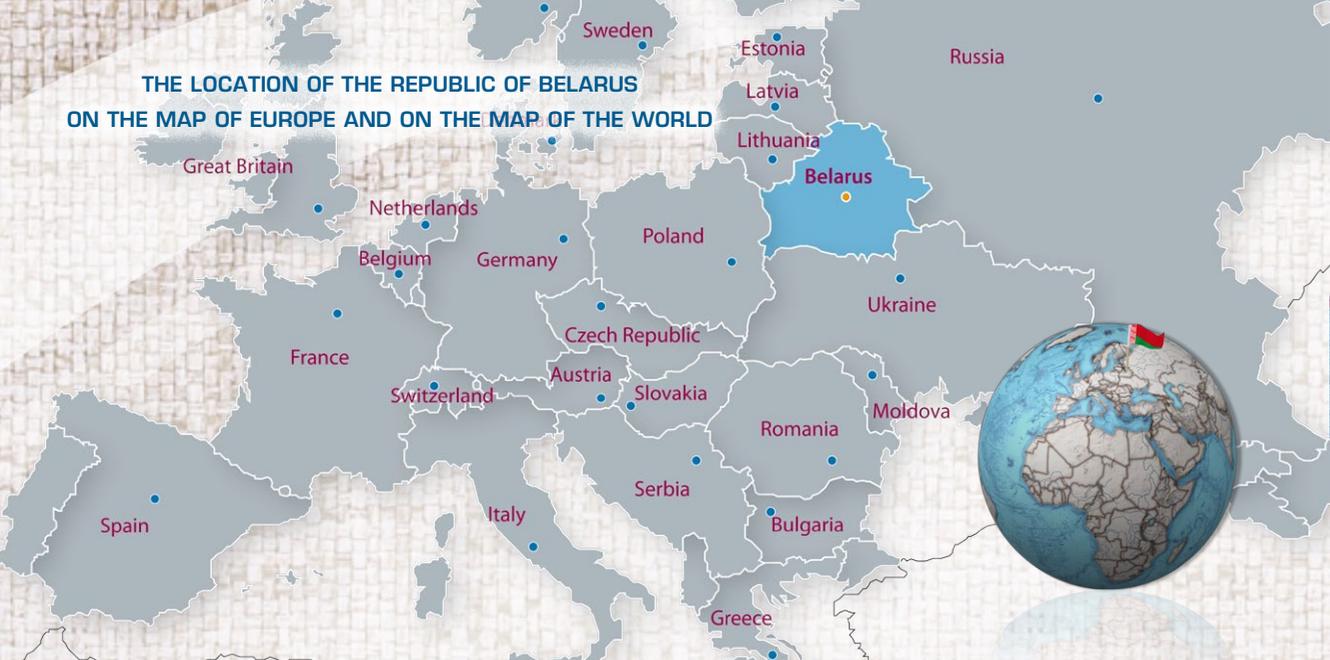
*Special edition*  
*for the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary*  
*of the Chernobyl catastrophe*

**YEARS LATER**

# REVIVING OUR HOMELAND



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



ADDRESS TO READERS

BELARUSIAN POST-CHERNOBYL EXPERIENCE  
IS WORTH WORLD RECOGNITION

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. The territory of the coun-

Many centuries had passed before independent Belarus was born. The Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Russia and Zemoits (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 was one of the founders 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.

try 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, and, according to the UN human development report of 2009, Belarus is 68th out of 188 countries in the annual top list by IHRD.

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

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 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 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).

In April 2010, 24 years will have passed after the Chernobyl catastrophe, and in 2011 we will be commemorating a quarter-of-a-century anniversary of the event. The Republic of Belarus, which is situated between the Russian Federation and the EU countries, took upon itself Chernobyl's main blow. It affected nearly 20% of the territory bearing more than 25% of the population of the country. Unfortunately, it is this terrible accident that Belarus to some extent owes its world recognition to. The consequences of the catastrophe can be compared to those of World War II. Half of the country's 118 districts are touched upon as a result of the catastrophe, 21 out of them are related to the most affected today.

Since April 1986 Belarus has passed a quarter-of-a-century way: from the first days' disarray, when the mind refused to believe the occurred, realization of the fact and extent of the event, the authority's recognizing the country to be the disaster area, the first UN Chernobyl resolution of December 21, 1990 (UN General Assembly has adopted a number of Chernobyl resolutions), to arrangements on population and environment defense, and to the rehabilitation stage. As of now, Belarus has proceeded to the stage of the revival of the affected area.

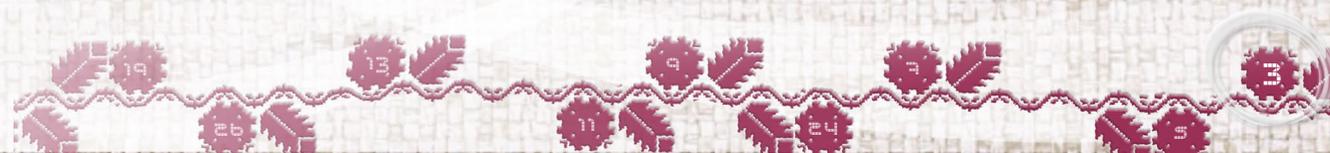
The country had to gain hands-on experience on the mitigation of the consequences of a world-scale nuclear accident, management of the post-accidental situation in the conditions of the long-term contamination of a vast territory.

During the 24 years after the Chernobyl catastrophe the Republic of Belarus has changed from the country most affected by the accident to the country which has accumulated priceless administrative, scientific and professional experience of post-accident management in various fields, such as: radioecology, medicine, agriculture, forestry, radiometric instruments manufacturing and lawmaking. Respectful references to this unique experience are being made at international assemblies more frequently. World community shows keen interest in this experience and its possible use for the elaboration of doctrines and conceptions of the possible post-accidental measures in other countries. The current revival stage presents numerous prospects for integrated assessment of the work carried out by post-Chernobyl Belarus and for cooperation of the affected districts, regions, national and international organizations and states in the new format.

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

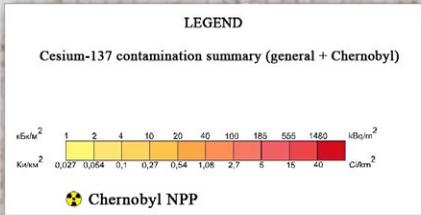
\*IHRD considers three parameters:

- 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.



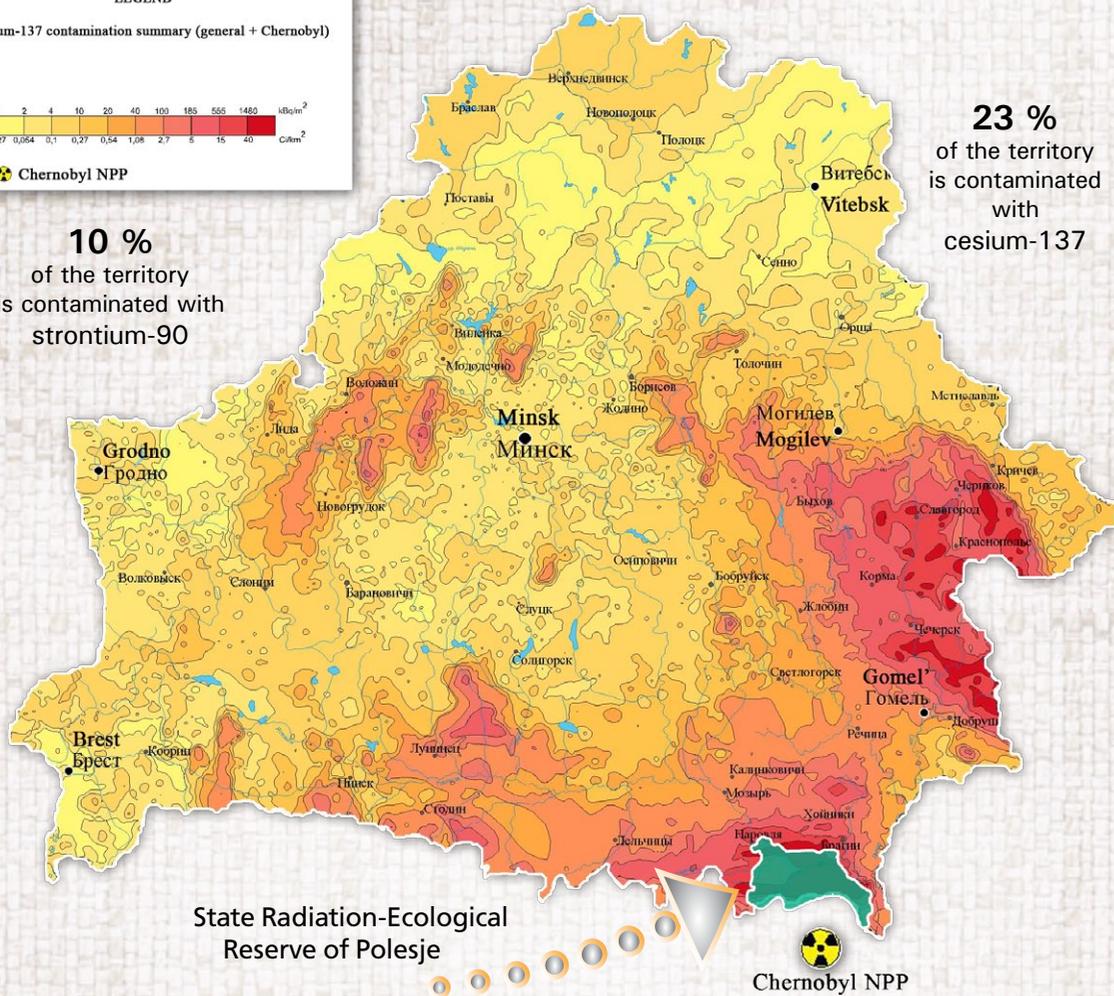
# THE CONSEQUENCES AND

# THEIR OVERCOMING



**10 %**  
of the territory  
is contaminated  
with  
strontium-90

**23 %**  
of the territory  
is contaminated  
with  
cesium-137



State Radiation-Ecological Reserve of Polesje

Chernobyl NPP

The density of Cs-137 contamination of **20%** of agricultural lands exceeds 1 Ci /km<sup>2</sup>

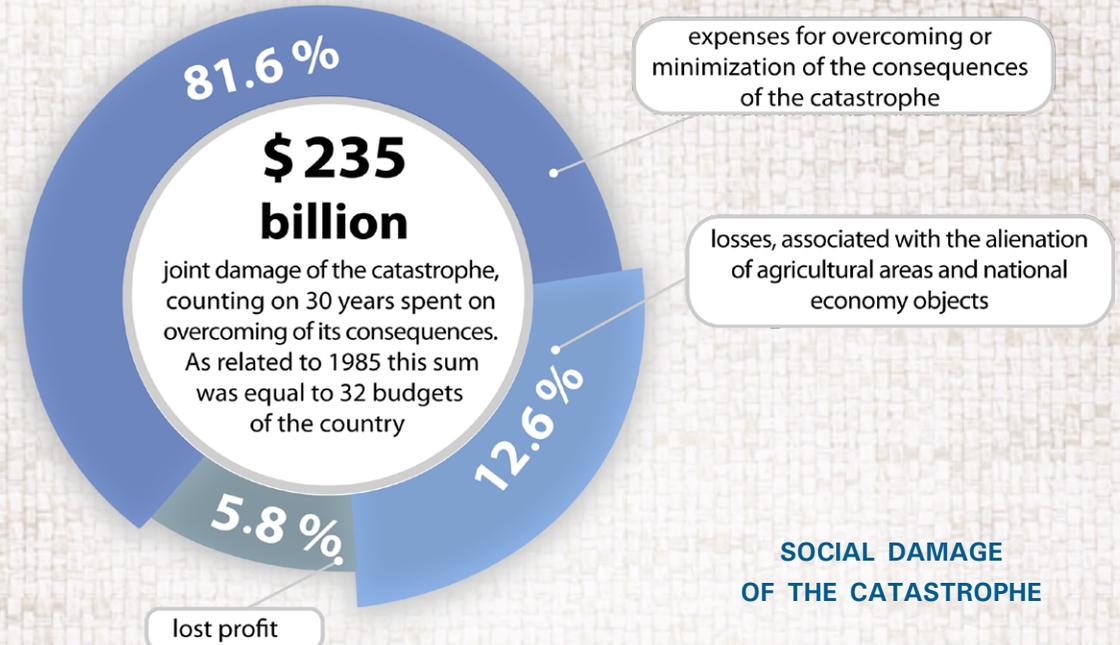
**24 years** after the catastrophe the alienated area is approx. 6,000 km<sup>2</sup>, commensurable with the area of Cyprus

*The map of Cs-137 contamination of Belarus after the Chernobyl catastrophe*

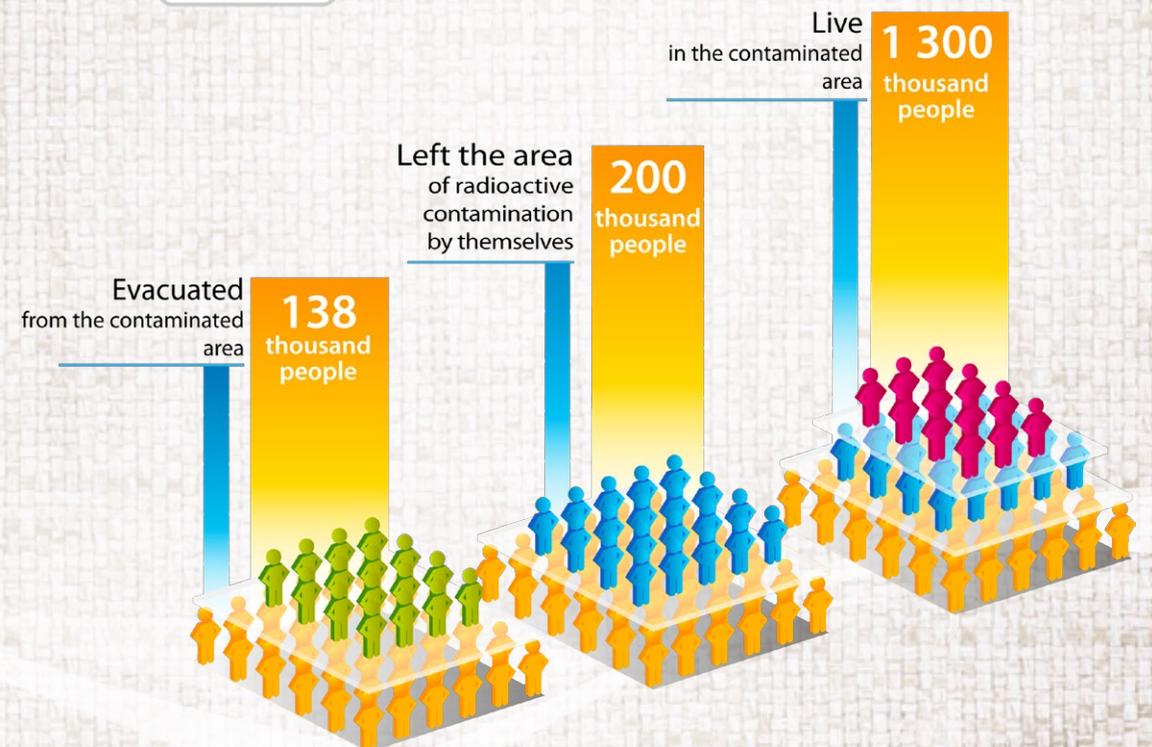
More than 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the territory of the country make up unique State Radiation-Ecological Reserve of Polesje, the size of which can be compared with the European state Luxembourg.

On the territory of the reserve approx. 33% of the burst Chernobyl NPP's cesium-137, more than 70% of its strontium and almost 97% of its plutonium isotopes are concentrated.

## ECONOMIC DAMAGE OF THE CATASTROPHE



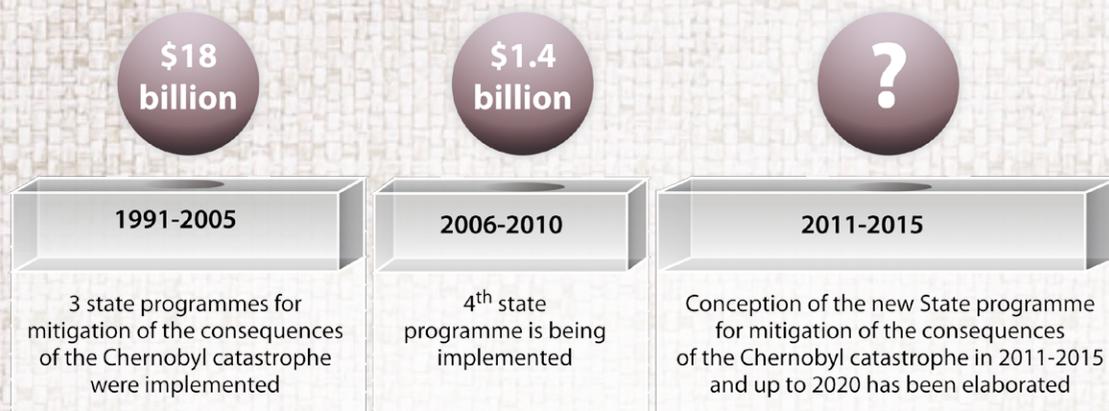
## SOCIAL DAMAGE OF THE CATASTROPHE



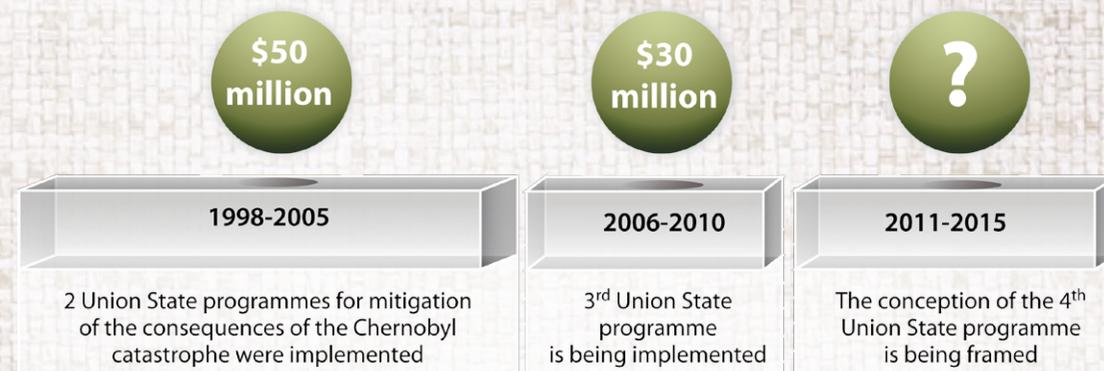
## THE CONSEQUENCES AND

## THEIR OVERCOMING

### NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR MITIGATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE



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



### OVERCOMING OF THE CATASTROPHE CONSEQUENCES. STAGES AND PRIORITIES

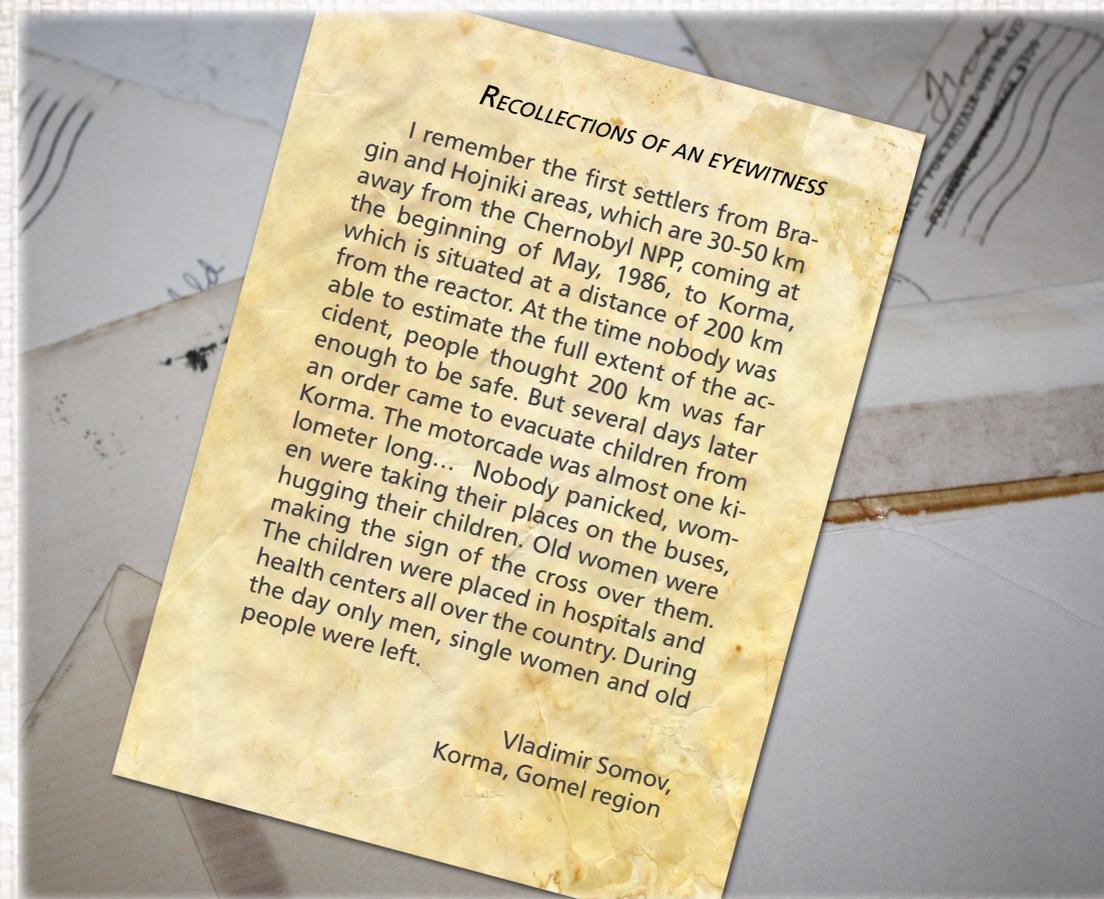
The process of the overcoming of the Chernobyl catastrophe damage can be divided into several stages. The first years are characterized by emergency measures, such as: evacuation of the population from the most contaminated areas; introduction of the limitations for the manufacturing of radionuclide-contaminated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

Today the country has set course for reviving the affected areas.

The division of the rehabilitation process is conventional. Some elements of the early stages are still of importance today (for example, the process of obligatory resettlement is still unfinished).

In spite of the fact the State programme for mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe in 2006-2010 being aimed at safety measures, the process of rehabilitation, development of the affected areas is being kept high as well.

1986-1987	1988-2000	2001- present day
EMERGENCY MEASURES	SAFETY MEASURES	LONG-TERM REHABILITATION
Evacuation Relocation Scaled decontamination of the settlements, radioactive waste disposal	Mass resettlement System of social management of all the groups of the affected population Medical provision Implementation of the counter-measures in agriculture and forestry	Special projects aimed at manufacturing of safe competitive products, their radiological quality provision Changes of the farm industry activity lines Complex projects for rehabilitation of the affected settlements Engaging the population in the rehabilitation process Formation of radiological culture of the population



## ACTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS, AIMED AT MITIGATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE

ACTION	RESULT
<b>RADIATION PROTECTION</b>	
Evacuation of 138.000 people from the most dangerous areas	Prevention of harmful exposure to radiation 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 substances 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 substances in accordance with the permissible content of radionuclides
Changes of the farm industry lines of activity	The lines of activity of the farm industry are changed 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 safe 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
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES AND MEDICAL PROVISION</b>	
April 1986-1987: more than 90 unique statutory acts were passed	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)

ACTION	RESULT
February 22, 1991: the first "Chernobyl" law is passed "On social benefits for the population, affected by the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe"	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 and guaranteed
November 12, 1991: the law "On legal regime of the territories affected by the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe" is passed	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 territory are established
January 5, 1998: the law "On radiation safety of the population" is passed	The conditions for life and health protection from the impact of ionizing radiation are established
July 16, 2009: the law "On social benefits for the population, affected by the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe and radiation accidents" comes into effect	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
The state system of social protection of all the groups of the affected population is created	Social rights of the people, suffering from the Chernobyl NPP catastrophe (approx. 1.5 mln people), are guaranteed
The state system of medical provision is formed, special clinical examinations are put into practice	Approx. 2 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
A network of children's healthcare centers for rehabilitation and health improvement is created	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



## THE CONSEQUENCES AND THEIR OVERCOMING

### 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 world-levelled "Chernobyl" scientific school is formed. A system of scientific institutions: Institute of Radiological Agriculture, Institute of Radio-biology, 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 (high 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 government

The efficiency of the measures for mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe is increased 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 20 years of the mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe is started

The necessary prerequisites and conditions are set up for:

- involvement of the population living in the contaminated districts, into the process of rehabilitation, revival and development of the affected area
- 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

## FROM REHABILITATION TO REVIVAL

### FEATURES OF THE CURRENT STAGE

REGULAR HEALTH SURVEILLANCE OF THE AFFECTED POPULATION

RAISING CITIZENS' RADIOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRACTICAL RADIOLOGICAL CULTURE SKILLS

MAINTENANCE OF SAFETY MEASURES (IN SOCIAL SPHERE, MEDICAL CARE, AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, ETC.) TO PROVIDE SAFETY FOR THE POPULATION

TOP-PRIORITY GOVERNMENTAL FINANCING OF THE AFFECTED TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE POPULATION OF THE AFFECTED AREAS IN THE REHABILITATION OF LIVING CONDITIONS AFTER THE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE

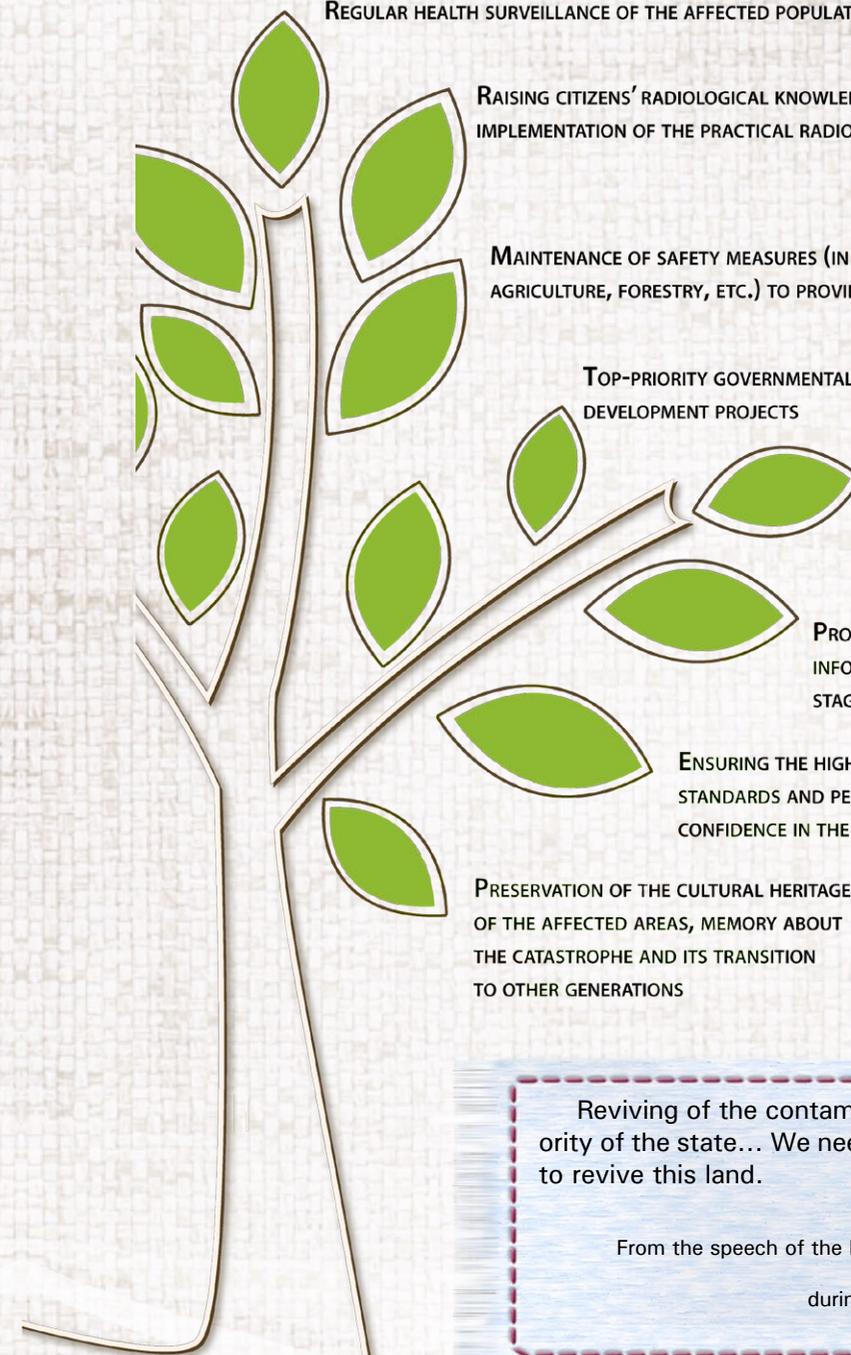
PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION FOR EACH REVIVAL STAGE OF THE AFFECTED REGIONS

ENSURING THE HIGH LEVEL OF SOCIAL STANDARDS AND PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE

PRESERVATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE AFFECTED AREAS, MEMORY ABOUT THE CATASTROPHE AND ITS TRANSITION TO OTHER GENERATIONS

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



SHOULD NOT FORGET. LET'S ALWAYS REMEMBER.

ALMOST A QUARTER OF A CENTURY HAS PASSED SINCE THE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE. BUT THE MEMORY OF THIS TRAGEDY IS CARVED OUT OF STONE AND WILL REMAIN IN OUR HEARTS.



Belarus is divided into 118 districts<sup>1</sup>; 59 of them were touched upon by the consequences of Chernobyl. In many of them obelisks and memorials were erected, reminding people of the liquidators' heroic deed, of the abandoned villages, of the population feeling dismay and pain.

Many monuments are dedicated to the firemen, as they were first to face the blazing inferno. The rescuers were working around the clock, because they understood the extent of the immediate danger for people. Vasilij Ignatenko was one of such heroes. He was just 25 at that time. He saved thousands of people, and died because of the high dose of radiation. Memorials to Vasilij Ignatenko can be found today in several towns of Belarus. Many districts have memorials dedicated to the villages which were abandoned after the catastrophe and gradually disap-

*On february 2, 2006 61<sup>st</sup> UN General Assembly suggested commemorating April 26<sup>th</sup> as International Day of the victims of nuclear accidents and catastrophes.*

peared. In the capital of Belarus, Minsk, a church memorial was built, dedicated to the victims of the Chernobyl catastrophe. Every year thousands of people come to pay tribute to the dead and to pray for the happy future of Belarus reviving after the Chernobyl catastrophe.

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An old lady with the Bible is sitting by the window. She is praying...

<sup>1</sup>District is an administrative unit of Belarus

An empty room, the floor is littered with toys. A dusty stuffed rabbit is sadly looking through the broken window...

Black wings of a fantastical bird shade the earth...

The animals are leaving their home forest. In the background the exploded reactor of the Chernobyl NPP is firing...

These are the drawings of the children who depicted the Chernobyl catastrophe

*«Every one of us would like to forget the word "Chernobyl". But more than 7 mln people can't afford such a luxury. Every day reminds them of the consequences of the tragedy».*

**Kofi Annan,  
UN 7th Secretary-General**

as they see it. But even the saddest of them showed the signs of hope. The sun is rising over the deserted village. Happy birds are singing on the barbed wire hedge. The golden domes of the churches shine over a gloomy forest. The clouds are in the sky, the rye grows in the field. The children believe that after today's pain the joy of a new day will come.

In the context of the action "Chernobyl: the past, the present, the future" Belarusian children have painted more than a thousand pictures. Their works reflect the beauty of their homeland, the ache of Chernobyl, the courage of the Belarusian people and hope for revival after the tragedy.



## EVERLASTING MEMORY



Many of the children live in the areas, which were affected by the catastrophe, and that is why their paintings are very realistic. Chernobyl is not just statistics for them; it is their every day life.

The best pictures will become a part of the 2011 exhibition, dedicated to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, and will be displayed in several EU countries. Also this exhibition will present photographs, paintings of the professional artists and computer presentations. The visitors will be able to see the tragedy with the eyes of Belarusian children. The work of the little artists is a message to the world. The children's pictures tell us that Chernobyl hasn't gone away and we can't forget about it.

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The catastrophe taught us a very tough, but a real-life lesson. In spite of all the pain we feel, life goes on. And the children are a part of it. A festival of film and fairy tales "Tell me, Mr. Cloud..." took place in 2007 and united the children from Belarus, Russia, the Ukraine, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Cameroon, Lebanon and Philippines. Children from every country found the problems, which can be compared to the Chernobyl catastrophe: the war in Lebanon, AIDS in Africa and global ecological problems of the present-day society. In the light of these national and international problems the children from different countries could understand and feel the pain of Chernobyl. During the year the children worked with creative workers from their countries and invented fairy tales. The main character of the tales was the cloud, which escaped from the 4<sup>th</sup> reactor of the Chernobyl NPP in April of 1986. Present-day school-children never saw that cloud, because they were born after 1986. Maybe that is why their view of the tragedy is so bright and expressive.

## EVERLASTING MEMORY

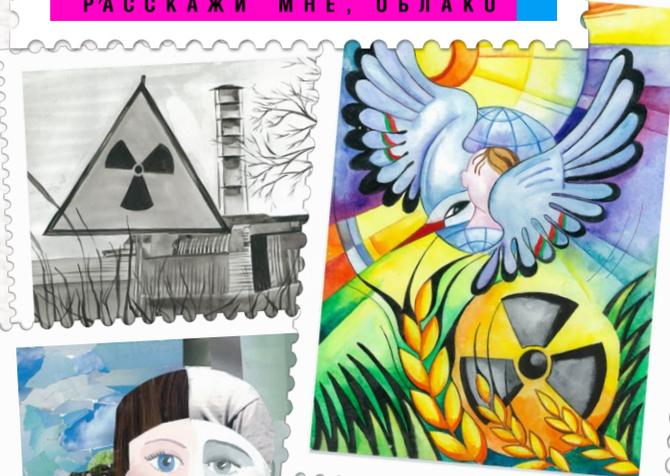
Children composed 52 fairy tales. They became the background for 10-minute films. Every team had its own view of the catastrophe and the consequences, but all the films had very optimistic endings. They look into the future smiling. In one of the films painters and young cinema directors "washed away"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

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The children are too young to participate in the rehabilitation of the affected territories. But they have pure loving souls, kind open hearts, bright view of the world and active imagination. They contribute to the reviving process with the paintings, articles, songs, poems, fairy tales... It is not accidental that the children's projects dedicated to the Chernobyl catastrophe run on an international scale. Every tragic event unites people without any regard to their age, sex, race, re-

*The children's pictures, dedicated to Chernobyl, are gathered at <http://rbic.by>, and the films can be seen at the CORE Programme site: <http://www.core-chernobyl.org>.*

ligion, income and lifestyle. 24 years after the Chernobyl catastrophe it has become an inalienable part of the historical heritage of the country. The topic of passing on the memory of Chernobyl goes beyond the limits of the affected districts and becomes part of the world cultural space. This process can unite the people all over the world against the common misfortune and can become a new rise of solidarity, mutual perception of the Chernobyl catastrophe and its consequences.



# FROM OVERCOMING

## DECADE OF REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT

UNO PROCLAIMED 2006-2016 TO BE A DECADE OF REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFFECTED REGIONS. WHAT WERE PREREQUISITES, AIMS AND RESULTS OF THIS DECISION?

*Two decades after the tragedy return to normal life is a real prospect for the most of the people who live on the territory, affected by the Chernobyl accident.*

**Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General**

(The report of the UN 62<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, 2007)

Just after the explosion of the Chernobyl NPP reactor UNO started searching for the ways to help the most affected countries, such as Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine. In 1989 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<sup>1</sup> also contributed to this decision. The evaluations were held almost at the same

### 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 up to this day UNO has passed 12 "Chernobyl" resolutions.*

time by different organizations and participants and came to the similar conclusion: a new approach to rehabilitation and reviving of the affected areas is necessary. In order to satisfy the requirements of the affected population it must 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 the programme should coordinate their work in such a way that their support would be directly addressed to the most affected people and communities and meet the expected results.

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The Republic of Belarus was the first to initiate and test together with the international partners a new approach by the implementation of the international programme "Cooperation for rehabilitation of living conditions in Chernobyl affected areas in Belarus" (CORE, 2003-2008).

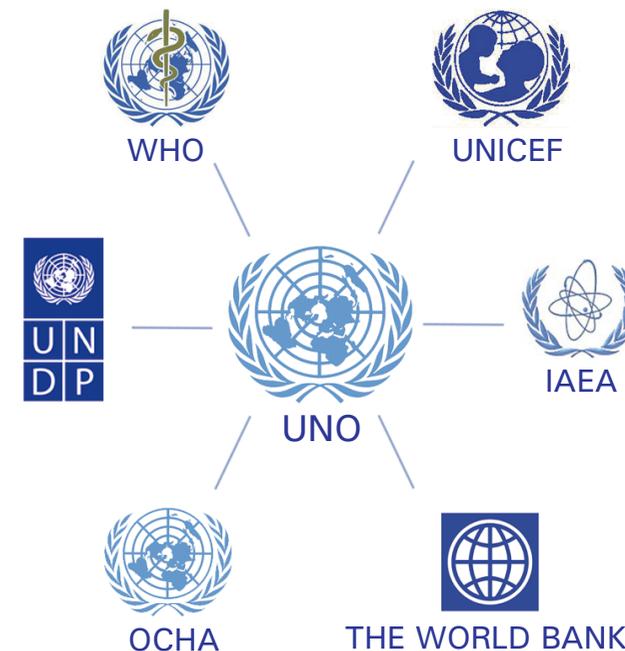
<sup>1</sup> The UNDP and UNICEF Report "Humanitarian Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Catastrophe – Rehabilitation Strategies" (January 25 2002): see [www.un.minsk.by](http://www.un.minsk.by); World Bank Report "Belarus: Review of the Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident and Rehabilitation Programmes" (July 15, 2002 r.): see [www.worldbank.org.by](http://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](http://www.cepn.asso.fr/fr/ethos/seminaire.html)

# TO REVIVAL

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 (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 hos-

### UN agencies involved in the Chernobyl initiatives



The countries and the international organizations provided financial contribution to the CORE Programme implementation



## FROM OVERCOMING TO REVIVAL

pitals 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. This initiative was supported by Russia and the Ukraine. In 2007 the 62<sup>nd</sup> UN General Assembly approved this idea in concrete decisions.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) coordinates the activity in the context of the UN Decade. Since 2008 three large-scaled projects<sup>1</sup> of international technical assistance are being carried out in Belarus at the total cost of approx. €4 mln. A new, \$2.5 mln-budget, regional programme (ICRIN) aimed at meeting the informational needs of the population of the affected areas of Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine was started. The four

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

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, since 2006 the World Bank together with the Belarusian government is implementing

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 \$50mln.

In 2007 the UN General Assembly defined the main goal of the course of action: to create by 2016 the conditions for active participation of the population of Belarus 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 reviving of the country after the Chernobyl catastrophe.

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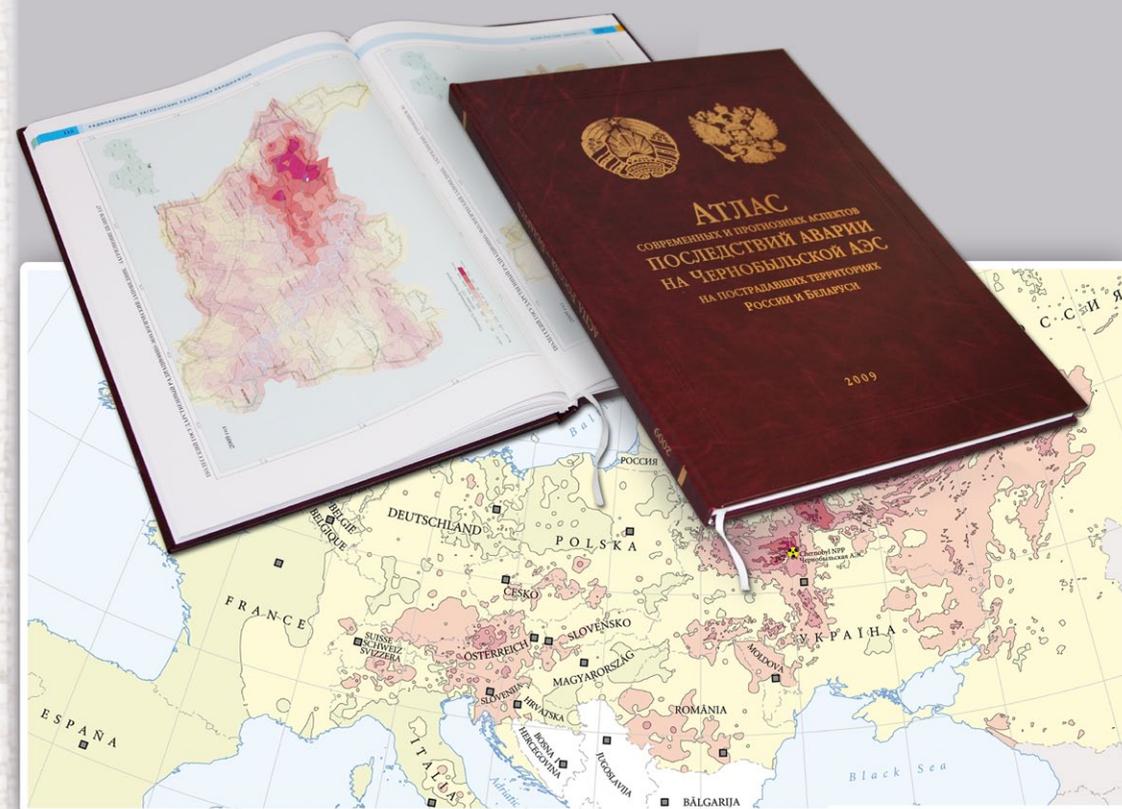
The information which is briefly provided here shows that the consequences of Chernobyl are not a local and national problem, but also an international problem of the world community. This is proved by international evaluation missions, visits, their conclusions and practical actions:

- CORE Programme 2004-2008<sup>2</sup>;
- The projects of humanitarian and technical assistance of:
  - UNDP,
  - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC),
  - International Educational Centre (Dortmund, Germany),
  - UNICEF,
  - IAEA,
  - the governments of Japan and People's Republic of China;
- The World Bank loan project.

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.

<sup>1</sup> • «Establishment of International Scientific and Practical Centre of Thyroid Disease»  
• «Based Development of the Chernobyl-Affected Areas of Belarus»  
• «Safeguarding of life on territories of Belarus affected by the Chernobyl NPP accident»

<sup>2</sup> See List of participants in CORE Declaration at [www.core-chernobyl.org](http://www.core-chernobyl.org)



The atlas of the present-day and prospective aspects of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe for Russia and Belarus is a unique information basis for the prospects evaluation and planning of the actions for social-economic development of the affected territories. It is published in the context of the Common activity programme on overcoming of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe in the frames of the Union State for 2006-2010. The atlas is pub-

lished in Russian. It contains cartographic, analytical and reference materials, concerning the present-day and prospective characteristics of the contaminated territories (as regards administrative and territorial division) of Belarus and Russia up to 2056.

The atlas is a source of information about a relatively new ecological threat. It contributes to the passing of the information about the nuclear contamination after the Chernobyl catastrophe on to the next generations.

### REVIVING OUR HOMELAND

Special edition for the anniversary  
of the Chernobyl catastrophe

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