

Conclusion. Research and analysis of the novels of national and foreign legislation allows us to draw conclusions that constitutional and legal conditions have been created in the Republic of Belarus and democratic states for the full realization of freedom of conscience and religion, as well as the functioning of religious organizations. Respect for religion, awareness of the positive role of traditional views, their support and encouragement of the spiritual and educational work of the church are consolidated.

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**LEGAL REGULATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE
TO POPULATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

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The modern world is characterized by increasing stress on the human psyche. The decrease in the level of social support and other features of modern life lead to emotional stress, which becomes one of the factors of neuropsychiatric diseases. According to the WHO, over the 20th century, the average index of mental indications per 1000 people has grown by more than

4 times[1]. Thus, in modern society, psychological assistance and support of the population, as well as the legal regulation of such assistance are relevant state functions and tasks.

The purpose of this research is to study the legal regulation of psychological assistance to the population in the Republic of Belarus and foreign countries.

Material and methods. As a material for the study, the works of domestic and foreign experts in the field of legal regulation of psychological assistance to the population, legislation of the Republic of Belarus and foreign countries in this area were used. The following methods were used: the formal legal method, the comparative legal method.

Findings and their discussion. In the Republic of Belarus legislation in the field of psychological assistance is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and consists of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On provision of psychological assistance", the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the provision of mental health care", acts of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Belarus "About compliance of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus with the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On provision of psychological assistance", Resolutions of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus "On the approval of the Instruction on the procedure and conditions for the application of methods and techniques for the provision of psychological assistance and other legislative acts [2, Art. 45; 3].

The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the provision of psychological assistance" defines the goals and basic concepts, requirements for a psychologist, types, principles, forms, methods, procedures and conditions for the provision of psychological assistance, features of state regulation of psychological assistance, as well as the rights and duties of psychologists, rights and duties of citizens in the provision of psychological assistance [3].

The qualification requirements, which are the basis of professional activity, are of great importance for the profession of psychologist. The law defines the range of persons who can provide psychological assistance to the population. A psychologist can be a person who has a higher psychological education, or a higher medical education, or a higher pedagogical education, has a doctoral degree or a candidate of psychological sciences, has been retrained at the higher education level in the specialty of practical psychology, medical psychology, psychology. No less important for this profession are ethical requirements. Thus, it is not allowed to directly provide psychological assistance to persons who previously performed educational functions and were dismissed for committing immoral misconduct, which is incompatible with the continuation of such work.[3, Part 4 of article 4].

The basic principles of the psychologist's work include: the principle of legality, respect and observance of the rights and legitimate interests of citizens,

voluntary psychological assistance, access to this assistance, confidentiality, scientific validity and professionalism[3, Art. 14].

The basis of any psychological assistance should be the confidentiality of the psychologist's activities which are established and guaranteed by law. Thus, the law establishes that one of the principles of psychological assistance is the principle of confidentiality. Confidentiality, enshrined in the law, allows for a number of guarantees of the rights of the person who is receiving psychological assistance, and the legal immunity of the psychologist to protect information about his patient[3, Art. 15].

Today the role of consulting psychologists is increasing. In Belarus, its founder can be called L. S. Vygotsky. He was ahead of time by opening a psychological office in Gomel. The ideas of the scientist became the basis for the development of the system of psychological assistance to the population in the post-Soviet space [1]. The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the provision of psychological assistance" defines psychological counseling as a set of measures that are aimed at assisting the citizen (group of citizens) in the resolution of psychological problems, in particular, in making decisions regarding professional activities, interpersonal relations, personal development, self-improvement and self-realization, to overcome the consequences of crisis situations. The law also defines other types of psychological assistance: psychological correction, psychological prevention, psychological education [3].

Innovations in the legislation of the Republic of Belarus in the field of psychological assistance to the population are: 1. Amendments to the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Mass Media". Thus, the list of types of information, the dissemination of which is prohibited, has been expanded. According to the changes, the dissemination of information that promotes or encourages suicide is prohibited in the media [4]; 2. The concept of the bill "On counteracting domestic violence". The main purpose of the bill is to protect the rights of citizens who are subjected to domestic violence.

Analyzing the legislation of the Russian Federation, it should be noted that at the moment at the federal level there is no law regulating relations in the provision of psychological assistance to the population. However, the legal regulation of psychological assistance exists at the level of sectoral laws. Also at the regional level in 2010 the Moscow city Duma adopted the law "On psychological assistance to the population in Moscow". However, isolated legal acts, sometimes conflicting, do not provide the necessary legal regulation of psychological assistance [5].

Interesting is the experience of France. Volunteers from rescue teams who have undergone compulsory psychological training are attracted to provide first aid to emergency participants. In cities with a population of more than 20 thousand people, on a permanent basis there are medico-psychological centers (Centres Medico-Psychologiques) [6].

In the United States, there is a law according to which the state Department of education must operate the service of practical psychology. Similar legal acts are in force in a number of European countries [5].

In the United States and several other countries, the types of remote psychological assistance via the Internet are rapidly developing. The American Association of Remote Counseling, defines distance counseling as a practice of searching and receiving assistance via the Internet. The American Counseling Association, the International Society for Mental Health Online, the American Psychological Association and other organizations have developed ethical rules for the practice of distance counseling [7]. Also one of the types of distant counseling is a telephone emergency psychological assistance to the population. In Belarus, this service is known as the “helpline”.

Conclusion. The innovations described above in the legislation positively affect the regulation of social relations in the field of mental health of the population. The introduction of examples of effective organization and functioning of the studied areas of foreign countries opens up opportunities for strategic development and improvement of the regulation of psychological assistance to the population in Belarus. Thus, for the Republic of Belarus, the priority direction in the provision of psychological assistance to the population may be the development of distant counseling, in particular, the provision of psychological assistance through the Internet. Summarizing the overall analysis of the legal regulation of psychological assistance in Belarus and other countries, we can consider the experience of the Republic of Belarus to be quite useful and promising for some states.

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INNOVATION SYSTEM AND ITS ROLE IN STIMULATING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Innovations and innovational activities are among the key factors of social and economic development. Implementation of innovations at various economic space levels, the effective use of various innovations financing instruments, the rational structure of innovations management mechanisms at the government and enterprise levels altogether determine the prospects for the development of enterprises of various form of ownership. But they also serve as a factor of the competitiveness of entire industries, regions, as well as the success of structural reforms in the economy as a whole. The above defines the choice of the topic of this study and its relevance.

The purpose of the study to characterize the concept, the structure and the role of the innovation system in the processes of stimulating the innovation driven development of macroeconomic systems.

Material and methods. The research is based on the official statistics of Republic of Belarus, theoretical and methodological framework of economics and regional studies in the field of innovation-driven development. The methodical apparatus of the research constitutes of general scientific cognition methods, analysis and synthesis, comparative analysis.

Findings and their discussion. In the theory of innovation driven development, there are at least two main approaches to innovations. According to the first, all components of innovation driven development represent a set of elements united in one socio-economic plane, called innovative field. According to the second, systemic approach, innovations arise within the framework of the innovation system of a certain territorial-spatial unit (locality, district, region), as well as the entire national economy, where each regional innovation system is a subsystem of the national and has its own unique characteristics.

Innovative activity is a complex process of transformation of the received ideas and knowledge into the object of economic relations. This process is a holistic multilevel system of economic relations of "materialization" of knowledge, which is characterized by specific relationships and patterns [1, c. 118]. Given the crucial role that innovation processes play in the modern