

## EXPERIENCE OF SOCIAL ADAPTATION OF FORMER PRISONERS IN SOCIAL ENTERPRISES' CONDITIONS OF ACTIVITY

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**Abstract:** The article aims to investigate the impact of the entrepreneurial approach on the social and professional rehabilitation of former prisoners in the context of social enterprises. At the present stage of the socio-economic development of the Ukrainian state, social entrepreneurship has emerged as a result of an innovative approach to solving complex social problems and is often discussed at various events, attracting the attention of many representatives of the social sphere, public organizations, initiative groups of activists. The use of entrepreneurial approaches to solving social problems provides in a certain way sustainable development for vulnerable groups in society, brings social entrepreneurship to a new level of development in Ukraine. The All-Ukrainian Resource Center for the Development of Social Entrepreneurship "Social Initiatives" has been researching this phenomenon in Ukrainian reality since 2012.

**Keywords:** Activities of social enterprises, Charitable organization, Development for vulnerable groups, Former prisoners, Social adaptation.

### 1 Introduction

The social enterprise is a relatively new specific type of enterprise. The creation of the first social enterprises in the world dates back to the 80s of the last century. They managed to prove a beneficial and successful mechanism for solving social problems in general due to their social and economic effects. Their operation is often based on self-financing. Thus, a social enterprise is an organization that has a dual purpose – to make a profit and solve social problems, which is a priority of their activities, the primary purpose of which is long-term social support to assist the target group through self-help.

The socio-economic realities of Ukraine are about supporting people in difficult life situations, protecting their rights and interests, and the development of Ukrainian civil society, as well as the development of social structures through social entrepreneurship, which is an integral part of social development [30].

The main activities of Ukrainian social enterprises are:

- Social enterprises that promote socio-economic integration of vulnerable groups;
- Social enterprises that provide general-purpose social services (for example, long-term care for the elderly and people with disabilities; educational and child care services; job search and retraining services; provision of social housing; medical care); other public services (public transport, maintenance of public places, etc.);
- Social enterprises aimed at strengthening democracy and civil rights;
- Social enterprises, whose activities are focused on the environmental sphere (reduction of emissions and waste, the introduction of renewable energy sources);
- Practical solidarity with developing countries (for example, the promotion of fair trade) [18].

The organization of social enterprises has objective socio-economic consequences, namely the creation and development of social enterprises in different regions of Ukraine contributes to:

- Growth of gross domestic product;
- Increase in national income, local budget revenues;

- Development and dissemination of social entrepreneurship contribute to the reform and improvement of the regulatory framework in the social sphere in general;
- A social enterprise may partially or completely take over social services provision to privileged categories of the population. It reduces the need to increase the number of social officials and budget expenditures;
- The activity of a social enterprise is focused on a specific group of consumers of social goods/works/services and involves their representatives in the management of social enterprises, thus ensuring their transparency in assessing the results of its activities;
- Financial losses in the social sphere are compensated because the activity of social enterprises is carried out on the principle of self-sufficiency;
- The creation of social enterprises provides labor integration of people with disabilities, people in difficult life circumstances, which contributes to their socialization, development, learning, etc.;
- Investors invest in a social enterprise and contribute to the development of the country's socio-economic sphere [7].

One of the company's difficulties is the lack of favorable conditions in Ukraine for the development of social enterprises: the lack of soft loans, rent benefits premises, income tax systems, which are planned to be transferred to the social programs of the public organization.

### 2 Literature Review

Modern researchers of the implementation of the entrepreneurial approach in the social sphere Androschuk B.L., Kornetsky A.O., Goncharova M.A., Gusak N.E., Nazaruk V.Y., Smal V.V., Tumanova A.A. consider the essence of the concept of "social entrepreneurship", its forms and types, conditions of efficiency and resources in support of vulnerable populations, historical milestones in the development of this activity in the world and Ukraine; the place of innovation in social entrepreneurship; characteristics of social enterprises in Europe, Great Britain; prospects for the development of social entrepreneurship in Ukraine [18, 22, 23, 27, 28].

Social entrepreneurship as one of the innovative technologies of social services for vulnerable groups, is a very effective and successful mechanism for solving social problems [1, 3].

Despite the fact that the terms "social entrepreneurship", "social entrepreneur" in active use appeared only a few decades ago (since 2004, the phrase "social entrepreneurship" entered the Ukrainian lexicon of scientists and practitioners), the phenomenon itself has a much longer history. Social entrepreneurs have always been, although no one called them that. In the past, such people were called patrons, dreamers, philanthropists, reformers, saints, great leaders [31].

A social enterprise is a new type of enterprise in the economic sphere of our state's development [33]. In addition to the social effect, their functioning has a positive economic effect because their activities, in many cases, are based on the principle of self-financing [4, 6, 11, 16]. A social enterprise is an organization that has a dual purpose, namely, to make a profit and solve social problems, which is a priority of their activities.

In general, social entrepreneurship is applying traditional entrepreneurship's best practices to solve social problems and achieve sustainable social change [8].

Today, social entrepreneurship is a globally recognized specific type of entrepreneurship aimed at creating social and economic benefits [2, 5] Since the end of the last century, social enterprises have become widespread in the world in its various forms: non-governmental organizations, associations; foundations (Poland); social cooperatives (Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Italy);

vocational and technical enterprises for the disabled (Germany) [4]. With the help of social enterprises, they try to solve problems in those sectors of society and economy that are not covered by state or other enterprises and to which insufficient attention is paid due to lack of funds, knowledge, skills, or lack of prospects for significant economic benefits.

Given the current situation in Ukraine and its consequences, social entrepreneurship is becoming even more important for us and occupies a free niche in the economy and society, at least partially solving small groups' problems. In particular, it helps to overcome social isolation by employing people with disabilities, the unemployed, and other people at risk. There are also new types of service left out of the ordinary business due to low profitability and lack of proper training. Of course, the organization of a social enterprise's work in a certain territorial community reduces the burden on local budgets in solving social problems. Therefore, the creation of a social enterprise is a community reaction to a social problem that is becoming relevant and a priority at the moment [19, 21, 25]. Social entrepreneurship finds ways to reform public social services, works on innovations designed to improve the overall standard of living, and emerges from organizations that initiate, implement and promote positive change not only in the lives of individuals but in society as a whole [7, 26, 27].

The current challenges of Ukrainian society, in addition to the existing ones, namely military action and the problems of internally displaced persons, create additional reasons for intensifying social initiatives to help vulnerable groups. Social entrepreneurship can be an effective form of such assistance. Unlike ordinary charity, social enterprises are sustainable economic mechanisms that have a much greater impact on existing social problems and allow for a more efficient allocation of financial resources. Simultaneously, in Ukraine, there are already conditions to carry out practical social entrepreneurship, funding programs for such projects are being introduced.

### 3 Materials and Methods

Studying the experience of social enterprises as part of the Regional Center for Social Rehabilitation in the Lviv Region, we aimed to investigate the impact of the entrepreneurial approach on former prisoners' social and professional rehabilitation in the post-penitentiary period.

Statistics confirm the urgency of solving the problem of organizing the social adaptation of former prisoners in the Lviv region. Up to 1,300 people are released from prisons each year, and a significant number of people have been sentenced to imprisonment, annually released on parole. For certain categories of people released from prisons (single, orphaned, etc.), life situations are difficult and impossible to solve without outside help and support. A significant number of people do not have a livelihood after their release from prison. These people are often homeless, have personal documents, relatives who could take care of them. At the same time, most people who have been imprisoned for some time have poor physical health and suffer from certain, sometimes incurable, diseases. To some extent, the psyche of such people is broken. It is difficult for them to live by the standards of "normal" society.

For many reasons, people released from prisons find themselves in a situation of social exclusion and personal maladaptation. People who have legally paid their debt to society continue to suffer because of society's persistent negative attitudes toward them. The state does not feel any obligations to former prisoners. It is not uncommon for local authorities to further complicate their lives at large. A state post-penitentiary service is only being set up in Ukraine. Many former prisoners do not have any release documents other than a certificate of release from prison, they do not have housing, and their professional skills are minimal. It is almost impossible to find a job for such people. Health problems and the need for medical care significantly increase the difficulties in building their future life at large. All this is becoming a factor in the growth of recidivism.

### 4 Results

The Charitable Organization "Regional Center for Social Adaptation" (CO "RCSA") took upon itself the solution of some of the problems of persons released from places of detention in the Lviv region. The structural unit of the Charitable Organization "Regional Center for Social Adaptation" is the created Shelter of social adaptation for orphans and lonely, who were released from prison, which occupies 15 hectares of the total area. The Shelter is located in the Lviv region at the address Lviv region, Brody, Object 58 (Figure 1).



Figure 1 – The hostel where former prisoners live

On the Shelter's territory for Social Adaptation, there is a hostel, which is designed for the simultaneous stay of 50 people. Residents of the hostel are accommodated in 2-, 3-bed rooms equipped with the necessary furniture. The hostel is provided with water, heating, and electricity. There is a laundry plant). The Shelter has created all the conditions for the residence of citizens who have returned from places of imprisonment. They need help in adapting to the conditions and norms of society. The Shelter has a canteen. There is a medical center on the territory of the Shelter, where residents can receive primary medical care. The Shelter clients are men and women aged 18 to 70 who have been released from prison and have no close relatives, place of residence, or work. Over the twenty-four years of the Vault's operation, there were 2,767 people. Among the clients of the Shelter were the overwhelming number of men (2015) and 752 women. Now, in the Shelter, there are 27 persons (among them - 24 men and 3 women) after they were released from the places of punishment (Figure 2).



Figure 2 – The household room

Most of the former prisoners, who find help in the Shelter, received information about its existence while still in prison. Some of the information about the Shelter comes to people deprived of their liberty from official sources. For example, information about the Shelter's existence and the services it contains are disseminated by social services operating in prisons. Information about the Shelter is transmitted among persons

deprived of their liberty, also through unofficial channels. Citizens often ask for help from the shelter staff while still in prison. Many apply to the BO "RCSA" in letters with a request to grant them asylum after their release. During the existence of the Vault, 2505 such request letters were received.

For the needs of the Shelter, the Brody City Council allocated 8.5 hectares of land where a livestock farm (horses, cows, bulls, goats, pigs, geese, turkeys, chickens), a greenhouse (with conditions of use throughout the year), an orchard, plots for garden products and the like. The Shelter for social adaptation as part of the CO "RCSA" is the basic organization for research and practical training for students of Ukrainian higher educational institutions, as well as students from the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Germany, Belgium. Employees of the Center for Social Adaptation and the Shelter constantly travel to work with prisoners in detention places. Informing the public is an important element of the work of the CO "RCSA" on the implementation of the program of social adaptation of former prisoners through regional and all-Ukrainian media, the organization's website on Facebook, videos on YouTube, participation in scientific and practical conferences, in meetings of local and regional self-government bodies, meetings at international levels, reports on the implementation of international projects and through other forms.

The Social Rehabilitation Shelter is a structural subdivision of the CO "RCSA" and aims to help citizens who have returned from prison and have lost socially useful ties to adapt to life in freedom with the help of a system of economic, social, psychological, legal, organizational and other measures (Figure 3).



Figure 3 – Former prisoners at CO "RCSA"

The main purpose of the Shelter's activities is to provide temporary living conditions for orphans and single citizens, who have lost socially useful ties resulting from their stay in places of imprisonment, to provide them with social services and support. The specific tasks of the Shelter are:

- To provide the persons mentioned above with a place to live, work, and rest, three meals a day, and medical care;
- To provide qualified counseling on issues of psychology, law, medicine, etc.;
- To ensure the restoration of personal documents (passport, workbook, military ID, and others) and registration of the place of residence;
- To provide vocational training for persons who have returned from places of detention and do not have a profession;
- To help make a decision to change or create new living conditions in the future.

In the general provisions of the Charter on the Shelter for the social adaptation of orphans and lonely who have returned from places of detention, the content of the following terms is indicated:

- *Social work* as an activity aimed at creating social conditions for life, harmonious and versatile development of citizens,

protection of their constitutional rights, freedoms and legal interests, the satisfaction of cultural and spiritual needs;

- *Social services* as work aimed at meeting the needs that arise in the process of life ensure the harmonious and comprehensive development of citizens by providing social assistance and various social services;
- *Social support* as work aimed at the implementation of social care, assistance and patronage of socially unprotected categories of citizens to overcome their life difficulties, preserve and improve their social status;
- *Social rehabilitation* as work aimed at restoring citizens' moral, mental, and physical state, their social functions, bringing individual or collective behavior in line with generally recognized social rules and norms.

The shelter operates on voluntary settlement principles, non-violent maintenance, and adherence to universal human norms of behavior.

## 5 Discussion

Studying the provisions of the Charter, according to which the Shelter operates as a component of the CO "RCSA", we analyzed the content and conditions for the provision of social services to persons in difficult life circumstances (DLC), which they cannot overcome/fix on their own. The content aspect of the results of such analysis includes the list of social services provided by the CO "RCSA," namely:

- 1) The service of social adaptation, which has such tasks as:
  - Assistance in analyzing the life situation, identifying the main problems and ways to solve them, drawing up a plan for getting out of DLC;
  - Involvement of the purchaser of the service in solving DLC;
  - Providing information on issues of social protection of the population [24];
  - Training, formation, and development of social skills, abilities, social competence;
  - Correction of the psychological state and behavior in everyday life;
  - Providing psychological support;
  - Assistance in paperwork.

Responsible for implementing this service is a social worker at the specified place of rendering such services – Lviv city department of social adaptation and the Shelter of Social Adaptation in Brody.

- 2) The service of social integration and reintegration, the provision of advisory services includes:
  - Correction of the psychological state and behavior in everyday life;
  - Providing psychological support;
  - Assistance in paperwork;
  - Assistance in obtaining free legal aid;
  - Assistance in obtaining registration of residence/stay;
  - Assistance in finding a job;
  - Assistance in restoring family and socially useful ties.
- 3) The asylum service and the crisis and emergency intervention service include:
  - Provision of a bed with public utilities;
  - Provision of hard, soft inventory, clothing, footwear, food;
  - Creating conditions for the implementation of sanitary and hygienic measures; personal hygiene;
  - Organization of storage of personal belongings;
  - Organization of receiving medical services, medical examination;
  - Organization of emergency medical care.

The executors of this service are a social worker, nurses, cooks, a housekeeper, an instructor in the production process's protection and organization.

- 4) The service of social support/patronage provides for the implementation of:
  - Survey, needs assessment, determination of ways to solve major problems;
  - Drawing up an individual plan of social support;
  - Involvement of the purchaser of services in the implementation of an individual plan of social support;
  - Evaluation of the results of the implementation of the individual plan of social support;
  - Assistance in obtaining other services;
  - Organization of interaction with other subjects of social support.
- 5) Representation of interests as a social service includes:
  - Negotiating on behalf of the purchaser of services;
  - Assistance in providing access to resources and services at the residence/stay place, establishing links with other specialists, services, organizations, enterprises, institutions, bodies, and institutions.
- 6) Mediation/mediation:
  - Mutual assistance in conflict management;
  - Negotiation;
  - Processing ways and conditions for resolving the conflict.

Social services are provided to representatives of the target group, regardless of their financial situation, religious preferences, gender. In general, the provision of social services is carried out based on:

- An individual approach;
- The right to choose the form of providing social services;
- Providing complete and truthful information about the services and the conditions for their provision; maintaining the confidentiality of personal information;
- Respectful and humane treatment by service providers;
- Mutual responsibility of customers and suppliers; orientation to support, promote and stimulate the use of the recipients' potential;
- Qualified support.

The Shelter period is not limited and depends on the specific life situation of the person and his individual characteristics. Although it is possible to deprive of the right to live in the Shelter for violation of the rules of residence, stay in the Shelter in a state of alcohol and drug addiction. The head of the Shelter is a manager appointed by the director of CO "RCSA" and organizes and controls the activities of the institution. The personnel of the Shelter is as follows:

- 1) A social worker (4 people including a passport officer and a medical representative);
- 2) A labor organization instructor (2 people);
- 3) An instructor for organizing everyday life and leisure (2 people);
- 4) A cook (2 people and a canteen manager);
- 5) A household manager.

If necessary, specialists from the Regional Center for Social Adaptation are involved in the work in the Shelter.

For 24 years and today, Ihor Gnat has been the director of the RCSA. In terms of financing the Asylum, its funds consist of targeted financial assistance from the regional, city, district administrations, extra-budgetary funds, receipts from foreign funds, donations from legal entities and individuals, funds received from the labor activity of clients of the Asylum, other sources, are not prohibited by the legislation of Ukraine. Professional adaptation of the Vault's inhabitants to life and the organization of the internal economy of the Vault takes place in the form of social enterprises.

The Shelter for Social Adaptation has a well-organized internal economy. Working in the Shelter's internal economy provides its

residents with the opportunity to provide their own living in the Shelter with the things necessary for life. In particular, on the territory of the Shelter there are agricultural lands on which persons undergoing social adaptation in the Shelter produce most of the necessary food on their own and, in general, 20% -35% of their needs are earned by the residents of the Shelter on their own. So, for the Shelter's needs, the city authorities of Brody have allocated 8.5 hectares of arable land.

On the territory of the Shelter there is a livestock farm (horses, cows, bulls, goats, pigs, goose, turkey, chicken), a greenhouse (with year-round use), an orchard, vegetable gardens, 8.5 hectares of field. To work at the farm of the Shelter, there is an MTZ tractor, and equipment is required. To ensure the lives of the Shelter residents, their social and professional adaptation, production units with social enterprises' status have been created, headed by members of the CO "RCSA" (former prisoners), registered as private entrepreneurs. One such social enterprise is a car repair shop located outside the Shelter's territory, within the city of Brody, although the manager and workers of the workshop are residents of the Shelter, who leave the Shelter for the night and return to the hostel for the night. To work at such an enterprise, you need to obtain high professional qualifications and be sufficiently psychologically and socially adapted and responsible for your behavior and the image of the Vault as a whole.

High wages and significant opportunities for social adaptation open up for yesterday's convicts for working in such a social enterprise, contribute to the fact that over time they find/buy their housing and successfully arrange their lives. Social enterprises "Pilorama" and "Joiner Shop" are located on the territory of the Shelter and provide jobs for its residents. Orders come from various institutions, meeting the needs of Brody residents and the surrounding settlements of the Lviv and Rivne regions. The social enterprise "Shop for the Production of Fuel Briquettes" uses wood waste (Figure 4, 5).



Figure 4 – Sawmill work



Figure 5 – Shop for the production of fuel briquettes

At the above production sites, work is being carried out on the need for the Shelter. Work is also being carried out at the request of the local population. The heads of the production units are residents of the Shelter who have registered with the regional authorities as private entrepreneurs. Working on the internal economy of the Vault and engaging in work outside the Vault allows its inhabitants to master new professions and occupations. This is an important element of the professional adaptation of former prisoners. It develops the skills of labor behavior and discipline. It also works at social enterprises that become a factor in the successful social adaptation of this category of persons. CO "RCSA" has introduced a new form of professional training for clients: courses for electric and gas welders have been opened based on the Shelter for Social Adaptation. The courses' curriculum is designed for three months; at the same time, ten people can be trained. CO "RCSA" received a license from the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine to conduct course training with the right to provide state-recognized documents/certificates to persons who have completed course training.

Employees of the social adaptation shelter create conditions for clients to manage their affairs, to perform everyday functions independently. Social services provide support and assistance in the client's independent implementation of individualized activities (contacting agencies, submitting and collecting documents, looking for work, etc.). Employees of the Shelter for Social Adaptation organize special classes with its inhabitants aimed at developing the skills of a proper life in society and the formation of life competence in general. For example, training is conducted on the topics: "Housing and Housekeeping", "My Willingness to Work", "Positive Stereotypes of Behavior", "Supporting Health and Forming a Healthy Lifestyle", "Protecting Rights and Representing Your Interests", "Skillful Communication Skills".

Together with the professional adaptation of the clients of the Shelter by means of attracting them to work in the above social enterprises, the employees of the institution contribute to the restoration of social ties of clients with the family (family search), relatives, friends, neighbors to include them in society. Together with the client, the social worker plans activities to restore communication skills with family members, establish contacts, prevent and resolve conflicts. The social worker facilitates the maintenance of the client's correspondence with the family, close relatives, or others. Answering the question of an interview with Ihor Gnat about the plans for the further work of the Vault, the manager of the BO "RCSA" said that an urgent need is to create jobs for the clients of the Shelter.

The search for various employment options will provide former prisoners with start-up capital for their further life outside the Shelter of social adaptation. The Shelter's stable operation also convincingly confirms the high qualifications of its personnel, the interest and goodwill of the volunteers in the activities and development of the Shelter. In order to fulfill the tasks set in this study, we decided to analyze the effectiveness of social influence and the results of the activities of social enterprises (SP). Such an analysis of the results of the joint venture's activities and their contribution to solving a particular social problem is necessary not only for their recognition by society but also for increasing the efficiency of the joint venture's activities and further development. At the same time, there is a problem of criteria for such an assessment of the activities of social enterprises through the features determined by the specifics of the commercial organizations themselves. After all, a social enterprise is simultaneously two closely interconnected systems of goals: the first (priority) is to solve a separate social problem that is significant for society or for an individual or family. The second (subordinated) - to achieve profitability (payback or partial self-sufficiency). Besides, the achievement of a subordinate goal forms the basis for the implementation of the priority.

In the process of assessing the activities of social enterprises, it is necessary to distinguish between the social and economic results of their functioning clearly. The very essence of the

concept of "results of the activities of a social enterprise" has not been sufficiently studied to date. Traditionally, the result of activity as the end result of the functioning of the enterprise is understood as the products of labor: the goods produced, the services rendered, the work performed. But there are also other outcomes such as workers' wages, taxes, working conditions, and the like. That is, an enterprise cannot be considered only as a business entity. Indicators of its functioning provide a certain level of satisfaction and social needs.

Consequently, any enterprise's activity is characterized by both economic and social results, and the assessment of the economic result of the enterprise does not cause problems. The issue of measuring and evaluating the joint venture's social results remains more difficult and debatable. By the social results of the enterprise, researchers understand all the consequences of its functioning associated with the diverse social needs of not only the employees of the enterprise itself, but also the consumers of its products, other social groups and the impact on the environment, namely: the subjective component of the social results of the enterprise's activities concerns its practices in relation to own personnel: creation of proper working conditions; stable payment of wages and ensuring its socially justified level; additional medical and social insurance; implementation of social programs [2]; implementation of retraining programs, advanced training of personnel; implementation of various activities in the field of culture, sports, recreation of employees of the enterprise; improving communication skills; expanding social networks and participating in community life; increasing self-confidence and self-esteem; personal growth; reducing the degree of isolation/alienation and the like.

Some scholars replace the term "influence" with "social value creation" or "social returns". This is because it can be very difficult to assess a social enterprise's impact because social performance is difficult to measure and quantify. In addition, in recent years, there has been a tendency towards a shift in emphasis on determining results towards determining the social value or social impact in the direction of measuring the social performance of enterprises. On the other hand, the assessment of social performance is fundamentally important for the social enterprise itself from the point of view of attracting potential investors; that is, its results should be comparable to the performance of other social enterprises, non-profit organizations, and government programs. For the social entrepreneurs themselves, the assessment of the company's activities is the basis for optimizing further activities and helps to demonstrate their advantages in attracting investors.

Under the above external and internal criteria and indicators of the effectiveness of the impact of social enterprises' activities on their support/assistance to vulnerable categories of the population, we will consider social enterprises' activities as part of the CO "RCSA" in the Lviv region.

Firstly, social enterprises on the territory of the Shelter for former prisoners (and at present – for internally displaced persons, orphans, and lonely people) belong to specific groups of social enterprises because the purpose of their activities is:

- Employment of socially vulnerable persons, if necessary;
- Support of other institutions, since without the activities of these joint ventures, the Shelter and the Charitable Organization "Regional Center for Social Adaptation" as a whole could not exist;
- The joint venture provides high-quality services for wood processing and furniture manufacturing, the production of briquettes for heating, vehicle repairs, food, clothing, hygiene products.

Therefore, analyzing the results of the work of social enterprises on the territory of the Shelter near the city of Brody, the head of the CO "RCSA", Ihor Gnat, determines a certain influence of the activities of his organization as a whole on the situation in the region and society in general. The results of social enterprises'

functioning as part of the Shelter of Social Adaptation show that the program of social and professional adaptation of persons who have returned from places of imprisonment is involved, is quite effective. Citizens who return to normal life in society, thanks to the social services they receive at the Center, and in particular employment with high wages, have the opportunity to adapt to their future life gradually.

All Shelter dwellers are responsible for the responsibilities assigned to them by the Vault staff. All citizens in the Shelter do this or that kind of work useful for the Shelter; through the labor adaptation system (work of the joint venture), they get used to the need for work. The Shelter residents successfully undergo vocational training, receive new specialties, improve their health, and psychologically adapt to society's requirements and norms, and restore lost social functions. Only 15% of former prisoners who have undergone social and professional adaptation at the CO "RCSA" have returned to places of detention. The average Ukrainian corresponding figure is 80%. Some manage to create their own family. Twelve families again purchased houses in the Center, which they renovated together. Nine families still live in the premises acquired by Ihor Gnat. Studying the activities of social enterprises as part of the Regional Center for Social Adaptation in the Lviv region, we determined that they meet the main assessment criteria and their indicators of the success of social enterprises as a mechanism to support vulnerable categories of the population, namely:

- Social enterprises must have a clearly formulated social mission (to help lonely former prisoners, displaced persons, orphans socially adapted in difficult life circumstances for them) – is the availability of profit and its distribution (which allows the inhabitants of the Vault to survive for more than 20 years);
- Timely carry out public reporting on activities (as evidenced by the orderliness of financial reporting documents and a large number of publications in the media, videos on the Internet, participation in conferences and projects, etc.);
- Proper remuneration of staff (that provides an opportunity for those who work with time to find a room outside the territory of the Shelter, independently organize their life as a whole);
- Positive atmosphere in the team;
- Organized favorable conditions for work and rest, life;
- High quality of the offered goods and services (the results of studying the opinions of Brody region residents by the method of interviews).

The main ways to measure the social impact of social enterprise activities are as follows: the number of employed [7, 12, 32], the demand [13, 15], and the number of people who received assistance [14, 29]. At social enterprises of the Regional Center for Social Adaptation, the demand for employment prevails over the actual number of jobs.

## 6 Conclusion

The modern socio-economic development of states actualizes the problem of the spread of social entrepreneurship in Ukraine and Europe, which at present, complex economic growth is necessary for progress and important for finding effective alternative solutions. The idea of solving social problems by entrepreneurial methods is gaining popularity throughout Europe and gaining the attention of societies and governments.

Socio-entrepreneurial initiatives also often outstrip the state's response to challenges, create thousands of jobs, generate significant financial resources, and thereby prove their competitiveness compared to current models of economic development and play a significant role in the continuous positive development of society. The main characteristics of social entrepreneurship scientists, representatives of business structures, and practitioners call the following:

- The presence of a social and environmental problem that needs to be solved;
- Finding innovative ways to solve problems through the adaptation of the optimal business model;
- Legal registration of enterprises as separate structures or as components of a business or public organizations.

Considering the Ukraine situation and its consequences, social entrepreneurship is becoming even more relevant. It occupies a free niche in the economy and society, partially solving small groups' problems. In particular, it helps overcome social isolation, employing people with physical and mental disabilities, the unemployed, and other representatives of the risk group. There are also new types of services left without ordinary business's attention through small income, lack of proper professional training. Of course, the organization of a social enterprise's work in a particular territorial community reduces the burden on local budgets in solving social problems. Although there is still no single definition of social entrepreneurship, most researchers talk about entrepreneurial mechanisms to solve social issues, build communities, and mutual assistance.

Social entrepreneurship is also a multidisciplinary research topic since its concept includes economic elements and the issue of morality and ethics, social justice, psychology, and social work. Scientists and practitioners determine the generally positive effects of the activities of social enterprises, namely:

- Assistance in overcoming social isolation, in particular, employment of people with disabilities, the unemployed, representatives of all risk groups;
- Finding new ways to reform public social services;
- Attracting citizens to participate in social initiatives on a volunteer basis, uniting communities around social problems;
- The emergence of new types of social services are left without attention of ordinary business due to low-loyalty, unpopularity, lack of proper professional training;
- More efficient use of the available resources of the region in solving social problems;
- Reducing the burden on local budgets in solving social problems (relevant in the context of a chronic budget deficit).

The wide range of successful social enterprises only demonstrates the preference for this opportunity. Studying the activities of social enterprises as part of the Regional Center for Social Adaptation in the Lviv region, we determined that they meet the main criteria for assessing the success of social enterprises in Ukraine and have a positive impact on solving social problems of vulnerable groups of the population (in particular, lonely former prisoners, displaced persons, orphans, and others), namely:

- Social enterprises have a clearly formulated social mission;
- Social enterprises have the availability of profit and its distribution;
- The public reporting on activities are carried out on time;
- Proper remuneration of staff;
- There is a team's positive atmosphere;
- Favorable conditions for work, rest, and living are organized;
- The high quality of the offered goods and services is carried out.

Therefore, the effective passage by citizens in the Shelter, the social and professional adaptation program through social entrepreneurship participation, quickly returns them to everyday life outside the organization. In addition to the positive personal results of social enterprises' influence, the social and professional adaptation of former prisoners to life in freedom causes positive changes for the whole society. The implementation of the program of social and professional adaptation of former prisoners is a factor in reducing recidivism, which, in turn, affects the level of public safety in general.

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**Primary Paper Section: A****Secondary Paper Section: AM, AO**