PUBLIC EDUCATION ON PRACTICAL RADIOLOGICAL CULTURE AND LOCAL INFORMATION CENTERS AS A BASE FOR IT

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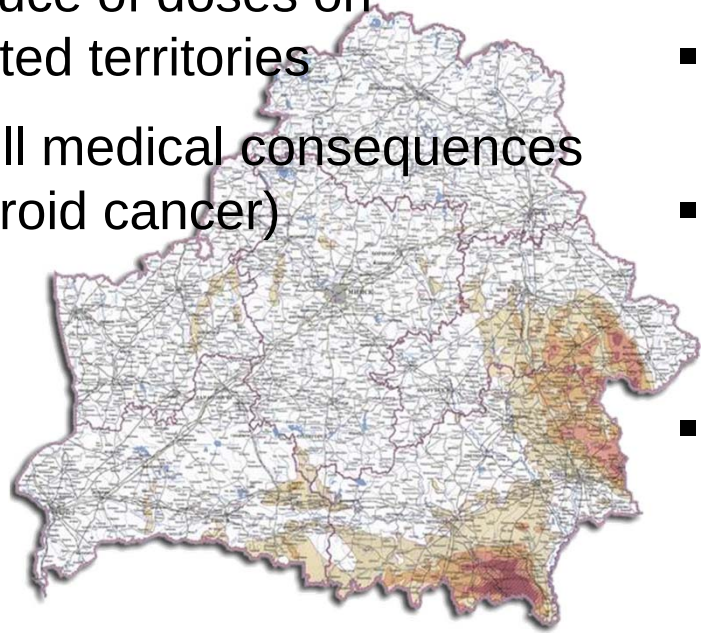
Practical radiological culture as one of information priority WHY?

- 25 years after Chernobyl disaster
- Radiological situation became better
- In whole „clean“ products in agriculture (because of countermeasures)
- Stable reduce of doses on contaminated territories
- No harmfull medical consequences (except thiroid cancer)



BUT

- There are territories with different levels of contamination (including hihg contaminated)
- Forest products (mushrooms and berries) often overcontaminated
- There are long-term radiological risks
- Each person should has the opportunity to manage them (has skills and competences)
- **New generations grew up after Chernobyl**

What do we mean by PRACTICAL RADIOLOGICAL CULTURE?

- **Radiological khowledge** (basics, local spesifity and practices for manage the situation)
- **+ using it in everyday life** in:
  - farming
  - visiting forests
  - cooking
  - personal hygiene, etc.

BENEFITS:

- Multiple reduce of internal incorporation of radionuclides in human body

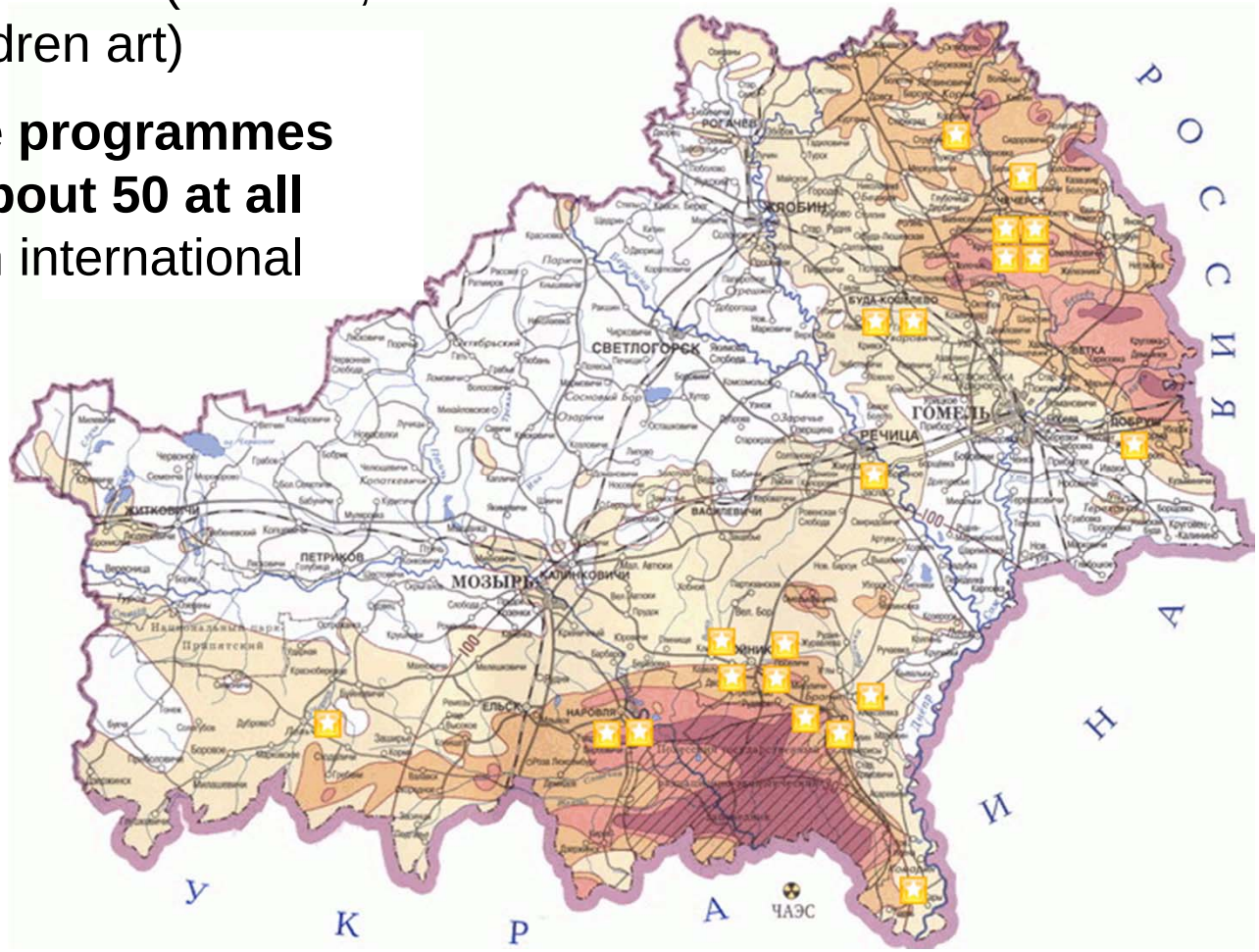
PROBLEMS:

- Radiation is not sensed by human
- Difficult thematic area for population
- Special vocabulary (becquerels, siverts, etc.)
- Lack of competences of local specialists in radiology

LOCAL INFORMATION CENTERS for practical radiological culture WHERE & HOW MANY?

- **In organisations of education and culture** on the contaminated territories (schools, colleges, centers of children art)
- **19 created within state programmes** (since 2007 till 2010), **about 50 at all** (including created within international projects)

Gomel region, Belarus



WHY AT SCHOOLS?

- young people better acquire new knowledge
- they spread it among relatives and friends

What local information center (LIC) LOOKS LIKE?

- **A special room with:**
  - radiological equipment (dosimeters, radiometer)
  - computers, color printer, scanner, projector, screen and other equipment to support information activities
  - printed and electronic information and methodological materials

- **Activities of LIC:**
  - studies
  - consultations
  - information hours
  - measurements

provided by local specialist (usually school teacher) **both for:**

- pupils
- local population

What LOCAL PEOPLE IS ASKING FOR?

- **Issues related to Chernobyl:**
  - Why the reactor blew up?
  - How many people suffered from radiation?
  - When will Chernobyl radiation disappeare?
  - What problems for next generatins could appear?
  - Are our local products clean?
  - Could we eat mushrooms and berries?
  - Does swimming in our rive (lake) leeds to incorporation of radionuclides?
  - How to reduce incorporation of radionuclides?
  - What kind of activities for mitigation of the Chernobyl consequences provided by the Belarusian State?

- **Issues related to nuclear industry:**
  - Is it true that some methods of medical treatment use radiation?
  - What must be done to totally escape disasters like Chernobyl in nuclear industry?

ROLE OF BBRBIC for LIC

- **BBRBIC – national coordinator of chernobyl-related information activities in Belarus**
- **For LIC we provide thematic information and methodological support:**
  - supply of the electronic information resourse on Chernobyl issues and its add-ons, new information and methodological materials
  - experience exchange (via seminars, web-site www.rbic.by)
  - consultations of local specialists
  - development of Methodological recommendations for Chernonyl-related information work
  - monitoring and analisys of LIC activities

- **Our long-term goals:**
  - **networking of local information centers** for development of radiological culture among population in the contaminated areas of the Republic of Belarus
  - **testing and elaborating approaches of information work** with population in conditions of real radioactive contamination

THANK YOU!

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