

Kupriianova Larysa, Kupriianova Daryna. Ecocide as a precursor of a particularly acute and postponed genocide of Ukrainian and European population in 2023. Journal of Education, Health and Sport. 2023;37(1):174-189. eISSN 2391-8306. DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.12775/JEHS.2023.37.01.014> <https://apcz.umk.pl/JEHS/article/view/46090> <https://zenodo.org/record/8312597>

The journal has had 40 points in Ministry of Education and Science of Poland parametric evaluation. Annex to the announcement of the Minister of Education and Science of December 1, 2021. No. 32343. Has a Journal's Unique Identifier: 201159. Scientific disciplines assigned: Physical Culture Sciences (Field of Medical sciences and health sciences); Health Sciences (Field of Medical Sciences and Health Sciences).

Punkty Ministerialne z 2019 - aktualny rok 40 punktów. Załącznik do komunikatu Ministra Edukacji i Nauki z dnia 1 grudnia 2021 r. L.p. 32343. Posiada Unikatowy Identyfikator Czasopisma: 201159. Przynależność dyscypliny naukowej: Nauki o kulturze fizycznej (Dziedzina nauk medycznych i nauk o zdrowiu); Nauki o zdrowiu (Dziedzina nauk medycznych i nauk o zdrowiu).

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The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

Received: 19.05.2023. Revised: 12.06.2023. Accepted: 30.06.2023.

ECOCIDE AS A PRECURSOR OF A PARTICULARLY ACUTE AND POSTPONED GENOCIDE OF UKRAINIAN AND EUROPEAN POPULATION IN 2023

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Abstract

In the morning of June 6, 2023, occurred a catastrophe that shook the whole population of Europe as well as one of the whole World. Russian troops blew up the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam, causing the biggest environmental crisis since the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Thousands of victims, and this number is actual exceptionally nowadays without future predictions; hundreds of hectares of land, which were once a fertile base for the world-famous Kherson tomatoes and watermelons, fell victim to the brutality of Russian aggression. Countless species of animals and plants, aquatic and terrestrial, that will never have their natural habitat or merely the second chance in their life again. After surviving the First and the Second World Wars, our historians never get tired of repeating that such disasters are one of the typical tactics of conducting “a brutal war”. After all, no one has yet rejected “the scorched-earth policy” and neither an attack nor a retreat has ever been without such brutality. Why are we raising the issue of the disaster at the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam today? And, even knowing that it is not the first time that such a strategic object becomes a pawn in the brutal plans of Russia? Because this time we are talking about

the global ecological and demographic crisis, which, as a middle result, is following the explosion. There are not only thousands of destinies and lives that were mutilated, but also the ecosystem which was destroyed, as well as there are definitely even much bigger consequences that Russia seeks with its attacks, and we are actually going to talk about them in our article.

Key words: Kakhovka hydroelectric dam; destroyed ecosystem; russian aggression; full- scale war; demographic crisis; the scorched-earth policy; ecocide; genocide; illegal abortion operations; abortion legislation.

Анотація. 6 червня 2023 року зранку відбулась катастрофа, яка сколихнула населення Європи і світу. Російські війська підірвали дамбу Каховської ГЕС, спричинивши тим самим найбільшу екологічну кризу з часів вибуху на Чорнобильській АЕС. Тисячі постраждалих, і це тільки на сьогодні, сотні гектарів ґрунту, які колись були плодородною базою для всесвітньо відомих херсонських томатів та кавунів, пали жертвою жорстокості російської агресії. Незлічена кількість видів тварин та рослин, водних та наземних, які вже більше ніколи не матимуть ані природного середовища існування, ані другого шансу на життя. Після пережитих Першої та Другої Світових воєн, наші історики не стомлюються повторювати, що подібні катастрофи - це одна з типових тактик ведення “брутальної війни”. Адже “тактику випаленої землі” ще ніхто не відміняв, і ані атака, ані відступ ніколи не обходились без такої жорстокості. Чому ж сьогодні ми порушуємо питання катастрофи саме на Каховській ГЕС? І навіть знаючи, що вона не вперше стає об’єктом, і навіть пішаком, у брутальних планах росії?! Бо цього разу йдеться про глобальну екологічну і демографічну кризу, яка, як посередій результат стоїть за цим вибухом. Не тільки тисячі скалічених доль та життів, не тільки знищена екосистема, але ще є набагато більші наслідки, яких прагне росія своїми атаками і власне про них йтиметься в нашій статті.

Ключові слова: Каховська ГЕС; зруйнована екосистема; російська агресія; повномасштабна війна; демографічна криза; тактика випаленої землі; екоцид; геноцид; нелегальне переривання вагітності; законодавство у сфері переривання вагітності.

Relevance of the topic. We are used to hear: “the scorched-earth policy”, “everything will be blamed on the war and everything will be forgiven” and hundreds of similar postulates

in our heads, as a result of well-studied history lessons at school. As if the war will pass and everything will pass, the consequences will pass and everything will fall into a place. As if no one remembers the hundreds of thousands of hectares of the ecosystem destroyed all over the World: forests that have been cut down, disappearing species of fish and plants, mutilated fates of animals on almost all continents of the Earth. Has our Earth recovered at least from the last two World Wars? - No. Did everyone forget? - Most probably so. But, going back to the history, we also know that every victory or defeat leads to a demographic surge among the population of all countries that participated in the bloodshed, because people, obeying the animal instinct, convulsively try to restore number of human being representatives. In order to save the human species from extinction, our ancestors did everything to give birth and raise twice or three times more children than before the war, despite all the obstacles, despite difficulties, hunger, lack of resources; they did everything to provide us with life. Will this trend continue to be relevant in the XXI century? And this question itself will entail a negative answer. So, what will the disaster at the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam ultimately lead to? Is it only for local consequences on the territory of Ukraine, or can it cause a global ecological and demographic crisis throughout the continent, which is unlikely to be brought under control? There is no doubt that modern resources, at least on our continent, are limited. We should protect water and soil and keep them as an apple of our eye. However, our economical activities in recent decades have mercilessly destroyed all that, what our ancestors built over millennia. What consequences does Russia expect as a part of such a step?

Is it just the destruction of the lands and ecosystem that it could not conquer, or will it be another quasi-knockout for the EU, which is so desperately hated by all Russians? The undermining of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam has already led to the irreversible destruction of the ecosystem of forests, reservoirs, rivers, seas and soils, but these are only the immediate consequences of the disaster. Increasingly worse consequences will be those that we may yet have to observe. A wave of uncontrolled salmonella, botulism and Escherichia coli diseases that will affect the population of Ukraine and Europe as a result of the consumption of fish products from black markets despite the ban, thousands and hundreds of thousands of deaths from diseases that people on our continent have not encountered on a large scale for many decades, and, in the end, all the same mass mortality as a result of the pollution of the waters of the World Ocean and the products of these waters, will be superimposed in the current intercontinental fertility crisis, which is now only progressing. And so, the fertility crisis, protests against unequal and unfair anti-abortion laws that force more and more women to choose to give up motherhood, and ultimately an uncontrolled

outbreak of deaths from botulism, Escherichia coli and salmonella are the final results and, what is more, desired results of Russia, they are achievements of the Russian “scorched-earth policy”. Now, is the time to, if not completely stop the crisis looming over the continent, at least to bring it partially under control. Right now, the clock is ticking for the activation of the policy of preventing the spread of infectious diseases, as well as the policy of “making bloody money from the future mass deaths of Europeans”, which may come into play due to the desire of “traders” to profit easily from the fish that died as a result of the explosion of the hydroelectric power plant, and to release this product to trade on black markets and, what is also quite possible, to give it for mass scale, it was this clock that began to run inexorably to our detriment. There is no time for “we will analyze the situation and then make a decision”, the decision has already been made for us, “the stalemate” had been set for the people of the entire Eurasian continent and its well-being, and whether this “stalemate” will turn into “checkmate” will have to be decided quite soon.

Research methods: analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction.

Results of analytical and synthetic research. On June 6, 2023, Russia once again caused the ecocide on Ukrainian territory, causing thousands and hundreds of thousands of civilian deaths, millions of potentially changed and mutilated destinies, destroyed ecosystems that no force will ever restore. First of all, let us make clear what ecocide is according to the international law as well as Ukrainian criminal legislation. According to the postulates of the international law, therefore, [1] **ecocide** is broadly defined as any unlawful act that causes widespread, long-term and severe destruction of the environment. The extreme and most destructive form of this crime is, in fact, **military ecocide**, when damage to nature is done for military or political purposes. Reluctance to retreat and give “good” land that does not belong to them anyway, the desire to cause as much damage as possible before capitulation - these are rather typical tendencies of Russia, which is afraid, like a rat, but does disgusting things where else only such a possibility remained. However, unlike the wars that were fought in ancient times with the use of elements of the ecocide (poisoning of rivers, wells, food products, crop fields), in the situation with the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam, it is neither an element of strategy nor a military move, in order to obtain a certain military advantage or to achieve a clearly defined tactical goal, in this case, it is a response to one’s own fear of an imminent surrender and the impossibility of giving a decent rebuff to the Ukrainian defenders. The worst thing in this case is that the consequences can be

not only local, but also global in nature, but the scale of these consequences is something that even the leadership of the Russian Federation will never be able to predict. The wishes of the Russians are cruel and heartless, their desire to debase our native land is not a subject of any doubt, but this time, it is an issue not only of Ukraine, but also of the entire European and even the world's community, how and in what time frame it is possible to limit, at least partially, the harmful influence of the Russian cruelty.

Before we proceed to the analysis of the specific impact of the explosion at the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam on the future ecological and demographic well-being of Europe, it is still worth returning to the concept of the "ecocide" once again and analyzing the meaning of this postulate, this time under the prism of Ukrainian criminal law, because it is Ukrainian law, which should give us a starting point for our discussion, as regardless of the tragic consequences for the entire continent, unfortunately, the current realities of our lives indicate that, in any case, before we finally draw the attention of the European and world's community to disaster at the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam, it is worth starting the liquidation of the visible and potential consequences, starting from the theory "no one will take care of us and our land as we will do it ourselves". Therefore, regardless of the full-scale ongoing war, regardless of the millions of victims and more thousands of thousands, which potentially appear due to the current counteroffensive, which, in fact, can be easily predicted, in the future Ukraine should become a precursor to the protection and renovation of the ecosystem on our continent and also become the country that should potentially prevent a global ecological and demographic crisis in the world, thus drawing attention to what happened recently in Kakhovka.

And therefore, according to Ukrainian criminal legislation, **ecocide** *is the mass destruction of flora and fauna, poisoning of the atmosphere or water resources, as well as commission of other actions that can cause an ecological disaster. According to Art. 441 of the Criminal Code [8, 9, 12] - ecocide is a particularly serious crime punishable by imprisonment for eight to fifteen years.* From a practical point of view, tens of years sometimes separate us from the possibility of proving intent in this criminal offense, tens of thousands of hours of work by the General Prosecutor's Office, efforts of tens of thousands of professionals to prove what is already visible to an eye of every ordinary person. At the meanwhile, according to the calculations of the State Inspectorate, during the 11 months of the war, Russian aggression caused damage to the environment in the amount of more than 1 trillion 743 billion hryvnias. Damages from land pollution and soil pollution amount to more than 688 billion hryvnias, from atmospheric pollution - 988 billion hryvnias,

and from pollution of water resources - more than 56 million hryvnias. Additionally, more than 6,000,000 farm animals and about 50,000 dolphins died because of the war. This is a modern collision of a tragic reality with an inflexible legal field, which cannot officially confirm or challenge what does not fully fit the generally recognized legal postulates. However, will this be the final point of the devastating consequences of undermining the hydroelectric dam, or will it only be the beginning? Unfortunately, it is necessary to decide on the liquidation of the real consequences now, we will not have 5-10 years for official legal confirmation by the Ukrainian prosecutor's office of the fact of causing ecocide to our land, nor there will be even more time to convince the European community and European legal bodies of this international prosecutor's office, therefore, we are obliged, within the framework of the current article, to highlight the problem of the growing destructive impact of the ecocide, which in the near future may become a precursor to the development of an acute, deep, long-lasting and, quite possibly, irreversible demographic crisis on the continent.

Therefore, among the potential consequences we will highlight the following ones:

infectious diseases that consistently follow interruptions in the supply of clean drinking water and water for the economic needs of people in the affected areas: here we are underlining the wave of uncontrolled cases of thousands of people with botulism, *Escherichia coli*, salmonella and others. We will especially separate and highlight the problem of concealment of botulism in Ukraine under the prism of the experience of the last decades comparing to the current times. But, first of all, according to the definition, **botulism** [13] (*from Latin - botulus - sausage*) is an acute toxic-infectious disease caused by *Clostridium botulinum* toxin. The disease is characterized by myoplegia and ophthalmoplegia, paresis of the intestine, disorders of autonomic innervation, with a severe course - bulbar syndrome and acute respiratory failure. The cause of botulism, which is interesting to consider in the framework of our present, is home-canned products that were poorly washed, improperly/insufficiently heat treated, were subject to improper transportation. The disease is mostly caused by the consumption of smoked or dried fish, meat, sausage, ham etc, that were made in "home conditions". At the same time, it is worth noting that botulism cannot be determined by color or smell, the microorganism that causes the disease does not spoil products. The potential of this disease is becoming increasingly high now due to the possibility of "entering the business turnover" of fish that died as a result of the drying on the territory of the former Kakhovka reservoir. Despite the prohibition of trade and consumption of this fish, it should not be forgotten that the black market of fish products did not stop working for a moment and even gained momentum after the exacerbation of the

environmental crisis. In addition to the official “white statistics” of trade and export of fish products to European countries, there are, without a doubt, “black statistics” the numbers of which cannot fail to impress.

Millions of tons of “free” fish product that suddenly appeared in the reach of “black traders” and sellers of “natural markets” without any doubt will lead to the fact that, despite a strong state ban on the use of these products, these people or even companies will decide to release the product at least on black market. What does it mean for the population of Ukraine and Europe? In this situation, it is not worth saying that the product will “settle down” in Ukraine, because taking into account the fact that the ecological crisis is growing in the mentality of our population more and more, the demand for fish products is currently falling, on the other hand, in the EU countries, where either the population can weakly imagine the real consequences of a disaster in Ukraine for themselves, or where everyone believes that the goods from the “black market” cannot get on store shelves, the demand for fish products will only increase, and, taking into account the current crisis in Europe, the price escalation of goods of all categories, cheap raw materials and products arouse considerable interest of the owners of trade networks and the ordinary consumer. When we have already made sure that the possibility of an illegal and de facto poisoned product entering in the weight of tons is high, let us clarify consequences of this action. The first one is, definitely, botulism, a disease the symptoms of which are not acute and bright enough that they would make a person pay attention to him-/herself when it will be necessary. Namely, among the symptoms of botulism we distinguish: impaired near vision - a person cannot read the text, but, at the same time, can calmly distinguish objects in the distance, (by the way, this is a typical situation for a person suffering from farsightedness, and the temporary inability to read the text even with special glasses can always be attributed to fatigue), severe dry mouth, increased level of fatigue, heaviness in the muscles, dizziness (what, during the typical summer days and by taking into account an ordinary climate in Europe, cannot be considered as a “unique symptom for an individual”), short-term signs of damage to the digestive system (nausea, flatulence, constipation, that, by the way, in the frame of holidays and vacations that are ongoing, mass departures of the EU population abroad, can be considered as a sign of a typical acclimatization), and more obvious symptoms: damage to the neck and limbs muscles, it becomes difficult for a person to speak, the voice becomes hoarse or disappears at all, dizziness (in this case, a person can pay attention to these symptoms, but in most cases, each of us, according to our own tendency and habit, will wait until “it gets bad enough that I will definitely go to the doctor”), and, eventually, maybe 10-15% of potentially

botulism patients will seek diagnosis timely.

Patients also often complain of a severe headache, a feeling of lack of air, a heaviness in the chest, insomnia (which can mostly also be attributed to the summer heat conditions in many countries). Taking into account, on the one hand, the popularity of fish products among the EU population, the lack of expectation of danger on the territory of their own countries, the reluctance to seek medical diagnosis of “non-serious symptoms”, as well as the long queues for a routine medical examination, which exists in any situation in the medical field of the EU countries, the ability to prevent successfully an immediate and uncontrolled outbreak of botulism may very quickly approach zero. Are these the only reasons? No, but before illuminating the following ones, it is worth considering the potential danger of the same products for the population of Ukraine as well. Although we have noted that people will continue keeping their finger on the pulse and refrain from buying fish products at spontaneous markets or even at all, is there a possibility of outbreak of botulism in our country? - Yes, and this possibility is very high. Why? How to ensure the maximum profit from tons of “illegally imported and cheap fish product” in Europe? Not only to sell it fresh or frozen, but also to make canned food. Considering the fact that the “sellers” will try to sell the illegal product as soon as possible, they will try to do it by avoiding the long and professional heat treatment necessary for the correct preservation of the product, which will simplify and speed up process of production and also make it much cheaper, which will help selling this product as soon as possible on the market. As a result, these canned products will end up on the shelves of European stores with the inscription “discount, last offer”, etc., people will buy these products for holidays, New Year, Christmas, or save it for later consumption, which will plant a time bomb in the homes of millions of Europeans, but also, out of a good heart, in order to feed as many needy as possible, cheap cans will be massively purchased by humanitarian organizations for the benefit of Ukrainians (and not only) who suffer from the war, who live in social shelter conditions in the EU countries and Ukraine. Thus, a dangerous product, after crossing the Ukrainian border twice, will again end up on the tables of Ukrainians, who will now not realize that the product they are using is dangerous for their lives. And now let us move on to the incidence statistics and to the analysis of the current outbreaks of this disease in Ukraine for the period of 2017-2020. As it was reported by the Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, the incidence curve looked during this period of time as follows: [13]

СЕЗОННІСТЬ ЗАХВОРЮВАННЯ НА БОТУЛІЗМ В УКРАЇНІ У 2017-2020-Х РОКАХ



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Table 1: Seasonality of botulism in Ukraine in 2017-2020

In other words, the largest outbreak of botulism was observed in 2018, when about 50 people were hospitalized with botulism manifestation, several cases were fatal, but more than 90% of people were successfully treated and recovered due to timely diagnosis. The statistics in the EU countries look roughly the same, according to the European Center for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control [15], for the period of March 2023, 63 cases of botulism were recorded in the territory of all EU countries, as well as Turkey as a whole, i.e. within these cases may not have been observed in individual countries, or there may have been 2-3 cases per a state. Controlling the disease on such a scale is, of course, not a huge problem, but, in situation where there would be a sudden uncontrolled outbreak of this diseases it would lead to an epidemic and even to an aggravation of the demographic crisis, if not disaster. The reason for this may be primarily the specifics of the supply and distribution of anti-botulinum serum among people who can potentially become victims of the disease. Namely, in Ukraine, as well as in the EU countries, the supply and distribution of this serum takes place within the framework of the humanitarian mission of the United Nations

Development Program, though the Ministry of Health of the respective country and later local bodies and structures subordinate to this Ministry. There are no doubts, that access to the serum should be provided to a person who is suspected of having botulism, instantly, regardless of the day of the week or the hour, but the provision of each country in the number of doses of the necessary serum, especially, in conditions where the disease situation has been for decades not only controlled, but also relatively low, will not be large, because, it makes no sense to store a great amount of medication (which, moreover, has an expiration date), if there no great need for this medication. That is, despite the seemingly simple procedure for obtaining anti-botulinum serum in case of need, a potential patient may face a much more acute problem than untimely diagnosis, namely, the lack of a dose of the necessary medication, which will sentence the patient to an almost one hundred percent probability of a fatal outcome. When the question of the possibility of selling millions of tons of illegal and potentially infected fish products within the framework of the EU countries, to a lesser extent, the question of the direct and objective unpreparedness of the health care systems of Ukraine and the EU countries for a possible outbreak of botulism becomes especially acute. The consequences of the outbreak of botulism among the population of Europe should be considered from the point of view of a long-term perspectives and possible plans for the "scorched-earth policy" which is consciously or unconsciously used by the Russian army on the entire continent and not only ours one.

1) The migration crisis that exists currently, caused by the processes of the population' movement within and out the borders of the EU countries, the crisis of refugees from Muslim countries, who have also been arriving to the EU for almost a decade in search of a temporary home, and finally, the refugees' crisis related to people fleeing from Ukraine from the unjust Russian aggression since February 24, 2022, all these phenomena led to a growing economic crisis on the territory of the EU. And it does not depend only on the availability of financial resources, that refugees had brought with themselves while arriving from their homelands. There are no doubts, that refugees basically are divided into three different categories: the rich ones: those ones, who can afford to live on the territory of every country in the EU or even the World, regardless of whether there is a war going on in their country or not, and they can also afford to travel freely and continue buying local luxury goods and attend expensive events, i.e. to constitute the budget-forming part of the EU population and lead to the "inflow of financial resources into the territory of the EU" and, what is more, do not require the support of the state that temporarily accepts them; the second group of refugees: people, who may not have million of fortunes,

but are able to integrate, occupy available gaps in the labour market of an appropriate EU country, earn money for themselves and their family, and therefore become an integral part of the working population of the country that temporarily accepts them and those people, consequently, also lead to the “constant inflow of financial resources” into this country, due to the fact that they have a stable income and, in one way or another, most of the funds that are being gained in a such way are being spent on the territory of these very countries; and the third group of refugees: people who make choice in favor of not being integrated into the EU society, they do not learn the local language, they exist only at the expense of funding from the states that provides them with a temporary shelter. By all means, the division of refugees into such quintiles is very similar to that dedicated to the whole population of every country. Thus, the presence of all quintiles of the population to a greater or a lesser degree on average since 2008 (therefore, since the Global Financial Crisis), the economic crisis is worsening, prices are rising, and the average worker’s hourly wages are not keeping up with these trends. As apart of such a situation, more and more representatives of the EU population decide to abstain from the decision to have children before the age of 30-35, and sometimes this figure increases even to the mark of 40-45 years old. Along with this trend, the incidence rate of newborn children with various diseases is objective; y increasing, because older parents have a high degree of risk of transmitting such diseases to their children, along with the increase in the age rate of potential parents, which increases by almost 20 years, and therefore, it made such a “step though generations”, which gradually leads to the fact that one generation of children is born not every 20 years, but every 40 years on average, which means that “children are born every 2 generations”, and the demographic situation is worsening, because older parents are either do not dare to have a second, third or the following child, or later they just cannot have more children already according to medical indicators. At the same time, on average, from 40 to 60% of households, for various reasons and depending on the country, increasingly decide not to have children at all, due to the impossibility of providing for them or due to the growing percentage of potential single mothers, according to the fact that the institution of marriage is experiencing a period of stagnation, and, therefore, young people dare not to “register” their relationships and are not taking responsibility for a potential child, and, eventually, all these factors lead to a postponing the decision to have children. In addition, the abortion crisis is intensifying year after year, within the framework of which women will be increasingly limited in their rights to abortion. Basically, this crisis is being supported by the political views of the EU countries, because the number of children born “unwanted” will in one way or another support and make the dynamics of the country’s birth

rate more positive. Unfortunately, it is rarely taken into account that among truly “unwanted” children the percentage is much lower than that of sick children, potentially stillborn, or those ones, whose birth will lead to the potential death of the mother (and thus the death of a woman of reproductive age). In 2023, the world witnessed four high-profile cases of death of a mother and a child, when mothers were firstly refused an abortion on the basis of possibility of giving birth to a disabled child and later they were also refused a caesarean section, because of lack of will to intervene in pregnancy and childbirth, because it is literally “contradicted by the postulates of the Catholic faith”; and, in this way, the number of refusals in the abortion procedure is increasing on the territory of the EU. Moreover, every year the domestic law increasingly restricts the rights of women in the aforementioned area. When, until the year of 2022, it was possible to potentially talk about “abortion tourism” and “black abortions” even though those ones are illegal, with health risks, but they were still managed by women coming from the territory of the EU countries, where abortions were and are prohibited. Now, due to the fact that most of the countries where the aforementioned illegal service was available are closed because of natural disasters or military conflicts, in this case, the female population of the EU countries will still definitely find the way out of this situation. Either due to the development of the “black market of abortion operations” on the territory of the EU, which poses a threat to life and health of woman of a reproductive age, or to more drastic consequences, when a woman, not wanting to have children in the coming years, may decide not to have children at all. In order not to face the issue of abortion in her own country, she will resolve this issue in favor of sterilization, which is not and will never be a prohibited surgical intervention at the request of the patient in any country of the World.

2) When we combine the first and second point of our research points, we are coming to the following solutions: the first one: the gradually growing economic crisis, the crisis of confrontation between states and population of these states relatively to issues of legal abortion operations, leads to the fact that the population of Europe increasingly decides not to have more than one or two children, or not to have ones at all; the second one: having children after the age of 35-45, “shifts” the stability of population growth by at least one generation, as well as leads to the fact that the population of the EU countries as well as Ukrainian one (during a peacetime), decreases by itself, which catastrophically reduces the possibility of naturally restoring the number of viable population on our continent once the Russian war in Ukraine ends, for example. In addition, at the same time, the recently officially stopped Corona crisis in Europe and the possible uncontrolled outbreak of botulism disease

of nowadays in Europe, which may lead to thousands and millions of victims among the young population of reproductive and potentially reproductive age, will lead not only to the exacerbation of the demographic crisis on our continent and, of course, in the World, but, in the long perspective, it may even lead to the almost complete extinction of the population on our whole continent, when the rate of aging of the population instead of current 40-60% will reach the index of 70-80% and, finally, will pull the scales of the curve of demographic indicators on itself. Thus, the undermining of Kakhovka hydroelectric dam could actually become a potential challenge for the population of Ukraine and EU countries, which is already reeling from the existing crises, instead, a time bomb (and a real manifestation of the scorched-earth policy, based on the motives of the Russian war) could actually become an uncontrolled surge of morbidity in the population of Ukraine and Europe, in particular, on botulism, which will trigger a health care crisis in Ukraine and in the EU countries due to the lack of an adequate amount of appropriate medications and, ultimately, irreversible consequences in the indicators of the demographic situation of population on the whole continent. To add, it will be more than a scorched-earth policy, it will be a tactic of a war “without even using weapons”, which this time may not only drag on for tens of years due to the aforementioned reasons, but also involve all countries of our continent and, moreover, become such a war, which even with the greatest common will of all countries in the World, it will naturally and objectively be impossible to stop.

To sum up, we have to emphasize that the as a primary perspective of the joint activities of the Ministries of Health of Ukraine and the EU countries should be the prevention of a possible outbreak of botulism in the population, the Ministries of Internal Affairs in the field of combating the activities of the black market of fish products spreading it on the territory of Ukraine and EU, as well as countering the growing crisis in the sphere of confrontation between the countries and their population regarding the issue of legalizing the possibility of abortion operation at least in certain cases in Europe, and actually making this legal way possible, that is developing a specific mechanism for its definite functioning. Only leading this way we will be able to prevent successfully an acute demographic crisis or even extinction of the population of our continent in a longer perspective.

Conclusions.

1. The tragedy at the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam is not only the destruction of a strategic object, it is a blow to the local critical ecosystem, the destruction of tens and thousands of unique species of animals and plants, as well as a precursor to the aggravation of

the demographic crisis in Europe and in the whole World.

2. Flooding of massive territories, devastation of water reservoirs, a long-term crisis in the supply of water and food products to flood-affected areas, an “uncontrolled” wave of supplies of dangerous fish products to the markets of Ukraine and Europe, which is connected with the desire “to make money on the disaster” by selling this product on black markets can lead to the uncontrolled outbreak of salmonella and botulism diseases, on a scale that neither Ukrainians nor Europeans could expect in the XXI century.

3. An uncontrolled outbreak of diseases, in particular, botulism, could lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths across Europe, because neither a similar outbreak of botulism has been seen on our continent, nor was expected, not to mention the limited number of doses of the vaccine that would prevent the development of the disease or due to the complex bureaucratic system of distributing vaccine doses.

4. A steadily growing indicator of the economic crisis, a crisis in the field of medical life support in the form of unregulated and at the same time strict legislation in the field of banning the termination of the unwanted pregnancy by abortion, a lame system of the health care system itself, the reassessment of the postulates “the family” and “the child” reluctance to officially registered relationship, all of these factors lead to the postponement of the desire to “think about children”, giving instead a rise to the desire to “love for yourself” or “live in stability”. This trend is absolutely negative from the point of view of the possible worsening of the epidemiological situation on the continent and the deterioration of the climate, which will lead to an outbreak of uncontrolled mortality and to the gradual aging and extinction of the population of the countries of the continent.

5. The solution to the problem of overcoming the epidemiological crisis is supposed to be complex: starting from the softening of the anti-abortion legislation, ending with a more active fight against the economic crisis, primarily in the EU countries, building an active and clear position to fight against the black markets of fish products in Ukraine and the EU, at least because of the disaster that we have mentioned above, as well as the restoration of the respectability of the postulates of “the family” and “the child” in modern European and Ukrainian families, in order to ensure a stable increase in the young and healthy population on the continent.

Prospects for further research. To develop an analysis of prospective directions of combating the black market of river and sea products, which can sell potentially dangerous goods on the territory of the EU countries and throughout Ukraine; to develop proposals for

harmonizing the anti-abortion legislation in Europe, as well as maintaining the postulates of “the family” and “the child” in average families of nowadays, in order to ensure a stable demographic growth and overcome the demographic crisis, even in case of a critical aggravation of the situation with the incidence of botulism, Escherichia coli etc., that are tightly connected with the uncontrolled sale of fish products after the accident at the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam.

Author Contributions

The authors agree on equal distribution of partial participation.

Funding

This research received no external funding.

Informed Consent Statement

Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study.

Data Availability Statement

All information is publicly available and data regarding this particular patient can be obtained upon request from corresponding senior author.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgments

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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