



Environmental Migration in Belarus

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Content

- Chernobyl disaster and its relation to environmental migration in Belarus
- The results of the field research in Belarus



Environmental migration - general overview

- Definition: people who fled their traditional habitat due to destruction of its environment
- Type of forced migration!
- **In Belarus:**
 - Radioactive contamination of the environment due to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster
 - Internal migrants as well the international migrants

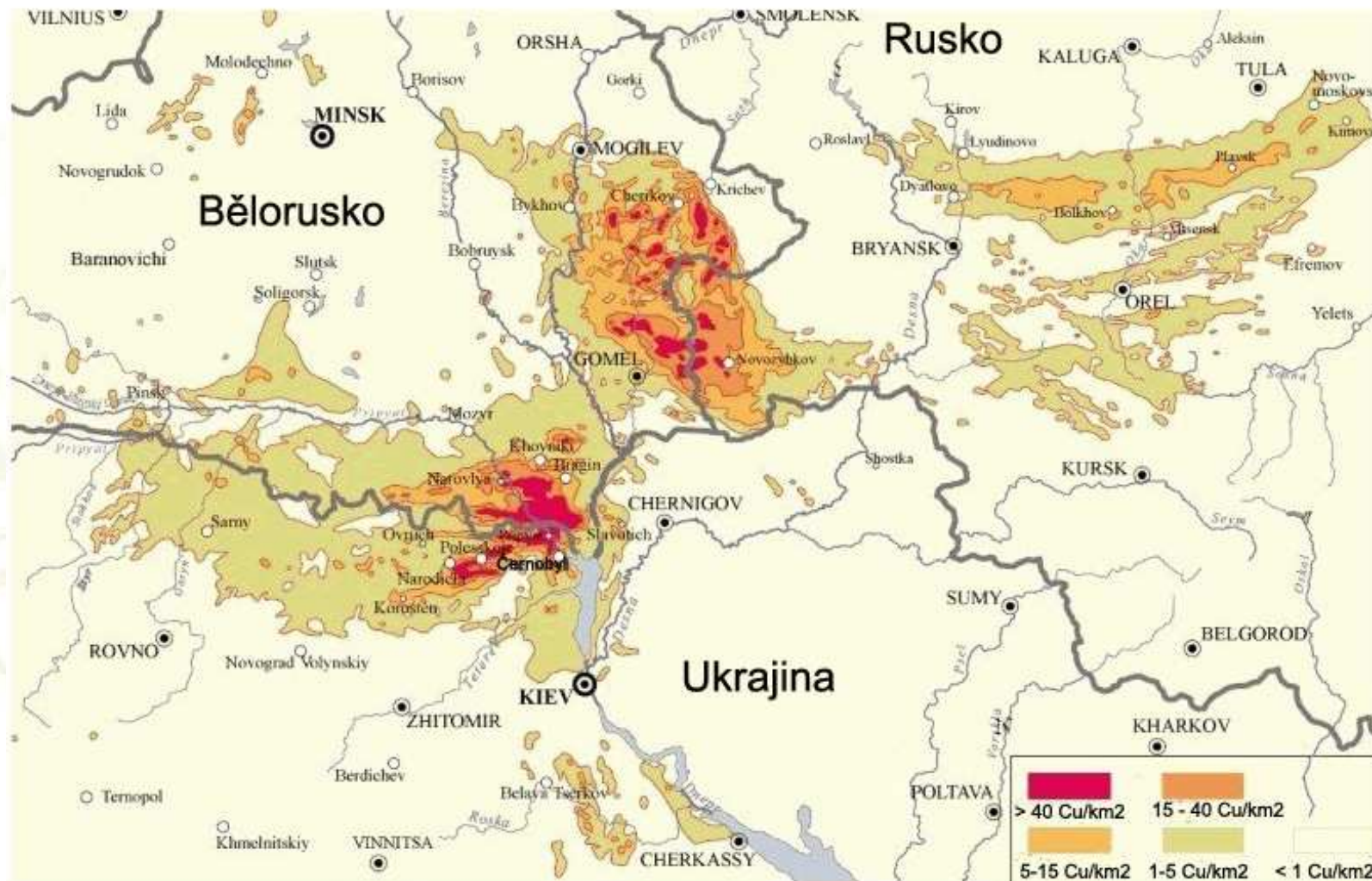


The Chernobyl disaster and its impact

- Accident occurred on Saturday April 26th, 1986
- Surface contamination by radioactive pollutants was about 80 000 km² and about 4 mil people were affected
- Economic, health, environmental and social impact of the disaster



Map of the contaminated area (Russia, Belarus and Ukraine)





Environmental migration due to the Chernobyl disaster

- 350 400 people were resettled in total
- 130 307 new flats and houses were built
- Characteristics of the environmental migration:
 - internal
 - organized by government
 - more time from the disaster, the less migration from contaminated area
 - not all people was able to resettle



Environmental migration in Belarus

- 135 000 people resettled due to the disaster
- about 1,5 people still live in the contaminated areas
- most of the people did not resettle until 5 years after disaster



Field Research - objectives

Research concerned the environmental migrants in Belarus

1. to identify present quality of life of the environmental migrants in comparison with the quality of life before disaster
2. to compare the quality of life of environmental migrants with quality of life of people who did not migrate from the contaminated area

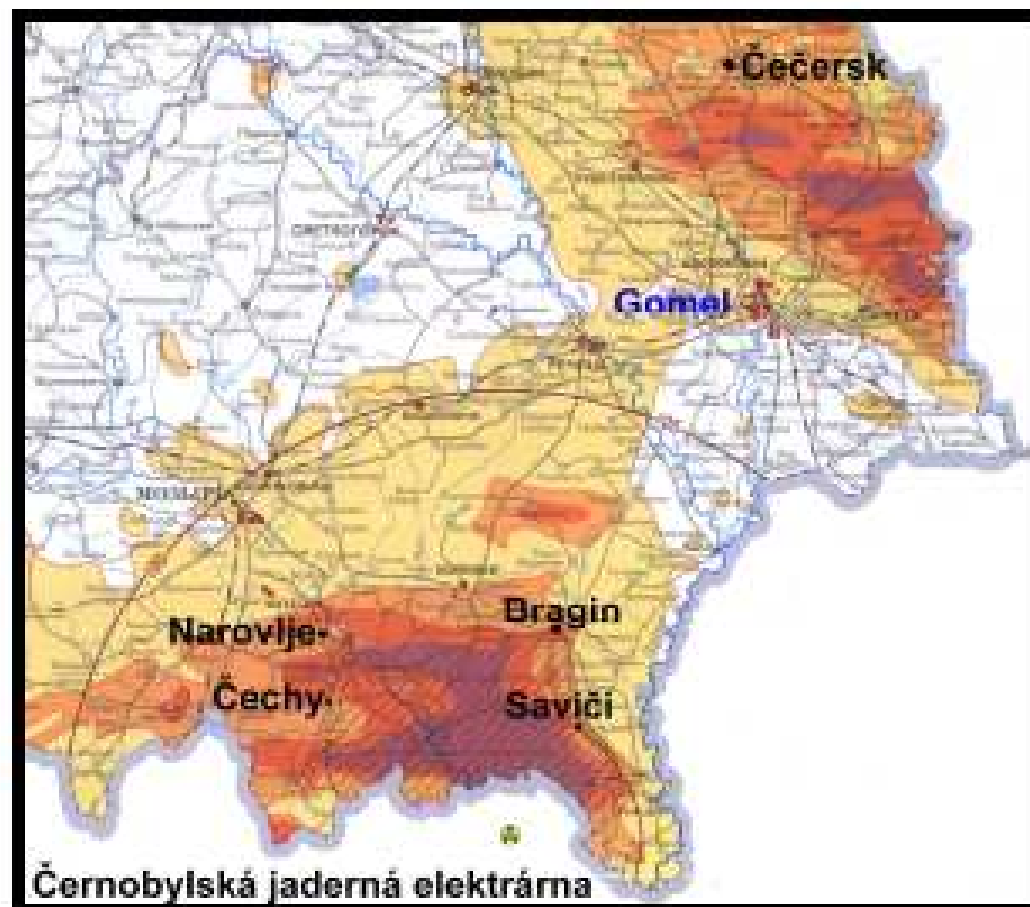
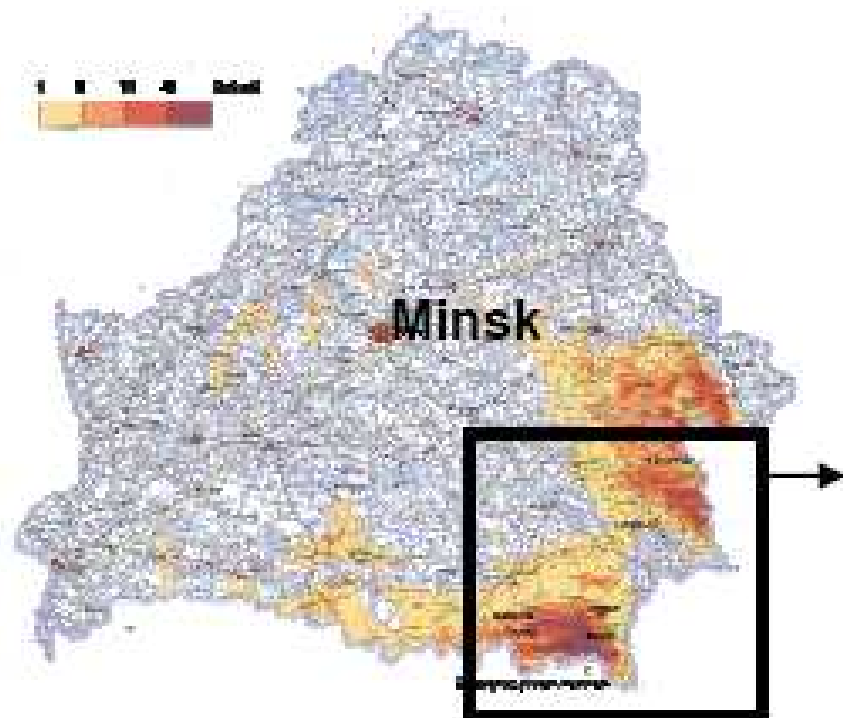


Field Research - method

- Method: the qualitative approach using the interview method (semi-structured with open questions)
- 9 sets of questions
- 28 interviews were carried out in 6 localities



Field Research Localities





Field research - results

- Present quality of life of the environmental migrants is better than before the disaster
- Compare the quality of life in the contaminated areas, the quality of life is also better
- Reasons to resettle X to remain



Conclusions I.

- The situation of environmental migrants was mainly influenced by the fall of Soviet Union and present bad economic situation of Belarus
- Recommendations:
- To improve the information campaign about the radioactive danger



Conclusions II.

- The field research proved the importance to study the migration due to the changes in environment



Thank you for attention!
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