Introductory remarks:

Unemployment is commonly defined as a condition (being without work), a desire (for work), a need (income from work) and an activity (seeking work). Only if someone satisfies all of these criteria he is classified as unemployed in the sense of this questionnaire.

There are different means to improve the economic security of the unemployed like:

- unemployment insurance benefits (where contributions are paid to earn entitlements to compensatory income),
- unemployment assistance (public welfare),
- labour market policy (state-provided combination of training or jobs coupled with income transfers; “public works”, in which the unemployed are obliged to take a training course or a job provided or subsidized by the state, in return for an income transfer),
- employment or wage transfers (a sum or money or tax credit paid either to the worker on being hired or to the firm hiring the unemployed) or
- citizenship income grants (unconditional basic income paid as a citizenship right to all, including the unemployed).

The purpose of this questionnaire is on the one hand to provide an overview on the scope of all means, which are used in the different countries, and on the other hand on the legal systems regarding unemployment insurance as a part of the social security system.

1. What means of improving the economic security of the unemployed are used in your country? Give an overview.
1. According to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «About population employment» from the 23rd of January, 2001 № 149 unemployed are persons of able-bodied age who for the reasons independent of them are not engaged in the labour activity which is bringing in the income, who are searching for work and ready to work.
The state provides carrying out of the policy promoting an achievement of productive and freely selected employment of citizens. The state guarantees to citizens social protection against unemployment, an assistance in selection of work and employment at intermediary of the authorized bodies.

The authorized body is the structural division of the local executive powers providing assistance of employment of the population and social protection from unemployment at the regional level.

The active measures on assistance of employment of jobless citizens, including: rendering of assistance in employment, the vocational training organization on the specialties claimed on a labour market, public works, youth practice, employment on social workplaces, and also additional measures of assistance of employment are realized within the limits of the regional programs of employment the authorized bodies of employment. Expenses for carrying out of the specified actions are made from the means of local budgets.

There is stable situation on a labour market now. The number of economically active population at the age of 15 years also is more senior in I quarter 2011 year is 8,6 million persons, that 0,6 % more than in the corresponding period of 2010 year according to the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the statistican. The 8,1 million persons, or 67,2 % from the population at the age of 15 years and more senior are occupied in the republic’s economy. Their number in comparison with the previous year first quarter has increased by 105,2 thousand persons (on 1,3 %).

The number of the unemployed is 475,9 thousand persons and this number was reduced in comparison with the similar period of 2010 to 50,3 thousand persons or on 9,6 %. The Rate of unemployment has developed in 5,5 % (in the 1st quarter 2010 year - 6,2 %).

The governmental order of the Republic of Kazakhstan from the 31st of March, 2011 № 316 confirms the Program of employment 2020 aimed at increasing of incomes of the population by assistance of steady and productive employment. One of the primary goals of the Program is an involving in the productive employment of independently occupied, jobless and needy population. The realization of this Program will begin since the 1 July, this year.

The realization of this Program is directed on the training, an employment, an assistance in opening and expansion of own business to citizens on a residence, and in case of absence of such possibilities, an assistance to voluntary moving from settlements with low economic potential to settlements with high economic potential and the centers of economic growth for the purpose of expansion of availability of productive employment. The priority right of participation in the Program is given to youth and the women who are living in countryside.

The possibility at the expense of means of the state budget to pass vocational training after which end assistance in employment on constant workplaces will be rendered, and also on the social workplaces is given within the limits of the Program.

There are the following kinds of the state support to the citizens who wish to
organize the own business on village: the granting of micro credits, the development of an engineering-communication infrastructure, the granting of advisory services and the training to business bases.

It is provided that the taken measures the authorized bodies on the providing of an employment of the population will make the positive impact on decrease in a rate of unemployment, and also will lower number of the persons having incomes below a living wage and addressees of the state address social help.

The state address social help (payment in the monetary form, given by the state) is given to the persons (families) with monthly middle income below the poverty line, established in areas (a city of republican value, capital) according to the Law «About the state address social help» from the 17th of July, 2001 № 246.

2. Have You got a social security system regarding unemployment?
2. The system of obligatory social insurance has been entered the Republic of Kazakhstan since the 1st of January, 2005 and directed on the creation of the additional level of the social protection of workers of formal sector at approach of the social risks provided by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan from the 25.04.2003 № 405 «About obligatory social insurance» (further - the Law), including on a case of loss of work.

3. Is this social security system mandatory?
3. Yes, according to subparagraph 9) Law item 1 obligatory social insurance is a set of measures organized, supervised and guaranteed by the State for an indemnification of a part of the income in connection with disability and (or) work losses, and also loss of the supporter, income loss in connection with pregnancy and sorts, adoption, the newborn child (children) and care of the child till the age of one year. Workers, except for the working pensioners, independently occupied persons, including foreigners and persons without the citizenship, constantly living on territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan and carrying out the activity which is bringing in the income in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Law item 8) are the subject to obligatory social insurance.

4. Who pays contributions to this social security system.
4. The social insurance system is financed at the expense of the social deductions paid by employers or independently occupied persons in joint-stock company «State fund of social insurance» (further - Fund).

5. How high are these contributions.
5. The size of the social deductions in system stage by stage increased, from 1, 5 % in 2005 to 5 % current 2011. The expenses of the employer paid in a type of income to workers for performed work, the rendered services are the object of the calculation of the social deductions.
6. What are the conditions for entitlement to unemployment benefits (time of paying contributions; availability to work; leaving the last job only with good cause……)?

6. The social payments from the Fund are appointed from the date of occurrence of the right to social payments from Fund according to the point 6 of the article 20 of the Law.

The right to the social payment to a case of loss of work arises from the date of the reference of the participant of system of obligatory social insurance for which social deductions in Fund were made, behind registration as the unemployed in the authorized body concerning an employment.

In this connection, the calculation of the size of the social payment from this Fund on a case of loss of work is made from the date of the registration of the applicant in the authorized body concerning an employment as the unemployed. Thus social payments from Fund on cases of loss of work are appointed from the date of right occurrence, but no more than twelve months prior to day of the reference behind the appointment.

7. How high are unemployment benefits (percentage of last income)?

7. No more than for 4 months depending on the size of wages and duration of the experience of participation in system of obligatory social insurance is given to the participants of the system of obligatory social insurance social payment from Fund on work loss.

The complex of the actions of anti-recessionary character on additional support of the unemployed has been accepted since the 1st of January, 2009. The change providing increase of the maximum period of the realization of the social payment on a case of loss of work from Fund has been made to the above-stated Law, with 4 about 6 months. This norm operated from the 1st of January till 31st of December, 2010.

The average size of the social payments on work loss for the 1st of January, 2011 is 12 785 tenge that makes an equivalent of 87,8 US dollars.

From the beginning of 2011 the state inspectors of work have revealed the debts on the wages in 534 checked up the organizations, in the sum of 3370,0 million tenge. As a result of accepted by state inspectors of work of measures the debts under the salary are extinguished at 388 enterprises in the sum of 1952,5 million tenge. As of the 27th of May, 2011 according to the regional anti-recessionary staffs created at Akimat areas and Astana city, Almaty city, 169 enterprises have the outstanding debts for the sum of 2351,7 million tenge.

The judicial disputes on the payment of the unemployment benefit had no place according to statistical reports during 2010. Obviously, the problem questions on unemployment benefit payment dare at the level of the local executive powers.