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UKRAINIAN MIGRANTS IN THE EU: PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL ADAPTATION

Abstract. The article is devoted to the problem of social adaptation of Ukrainian migrants in the EU countries. The purpose of the article: analyze of the current state of social adaptation of Ukrainians in EU countries and the living conditions of migrants in new communities. The emigration of a huge number of Ukrainians due to the full-scale Russian invasion has become an economic and humanitarian challenge not only for Ukraine, but also for partner countries that have received millions of internally displaced persons. Our study collected and processed statistical information on the social adaptation of Ukrainian refugee migrants who came to European countries due to the outbreak of hostilities in Ukraine. The article analyzes the problems of finding a job, health care, finding housing, adaptation in society, language barrier. While many Ukrainian refugees have found jobs, barriers such as language proficiency and the recognition of qualifications can hinder their full integration into the labor market. Unstable housing conditions are a significant issue. Despite these challenges, there are also positive aspects, such as the high motivation among many Ukrainian refugees to learn the local language and integrate into their new communities. The stay of migrants in Poland and in the Republic of Ireland was examined in more detail. It was concluded that the Ukrainian government should develop a state program that will deal with the return and reintegration of long-term migrants. A key element of such programs should be business start-ups as the most promising way to invest money earned by migrants in the Ukrainian economy. The policy of actively facilitating the return of migrants to Ukraine can be fully implemented only after the armed conflict is resolved.

Keywords: social adaptation, refugees, migrants, migrants in Poland, migrants in the Republic of Ireland, new communities.
Introduction. A serious challenge of the modern world are the problems of economic inequality, fierce competition for spheres of influence and resources, which leads to the ignition of new hotbeds of social tension, extremism in the broad sense of the word and gives rise to new social problems: intensive ongoing migration processes from disadvantaged regions to economically and socially more developed regions. Today these are not just mechanical movements of groups of people, but rather complex processes affecting many all aspects of people's lives: social, economic, political, ethnic, moral, psychological, religious. The main vector that has a direct impact on the strengthening of migration flows, which makes migration more large-scale, diverse and permanent, is today the increase in the practice of violence, military conflicts on a global scale.

Russia's full-scale military aggression has created a situation in Ukraine characterized by an extremely high degree of uncertainty about the further course of events. As noted by F.H. Knight (1921) [1], uncertain situations are unique. The absence of frequent repetitions of such situations precludes the possibility of their quantification.

According to the information as of the beginning of 2024, released by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of Ukrainian migrants granted collective temporary protection status in all 27 EU member states in the period from 2022 to the winter of 2023-2024 remained fairly stable with a slight increase. The total number of this category of migrants is about 4.4 million. The UK, Norway and Switzerland, which are not members of the EU, additionally provide protection to another 380,000 migrants from Ukraine. According to the latest available UNHCR statistics, as of February 2024, the number of Ukrainian citizens registered in the Russian Federation was over 1.2 million. As of February 2024, almost 43 thousand more Ukrainian citizens were registered in Belarus. In total, according to UNHCR statistics, as of February 2024, about 6.5 million refugees from Ukraine were officially registered worldwide [2].

For statistical purposes, UNHCR uses the term refugees in a generalized way, referring to all persons who fled Ukraine because of the war. Accordingly, this article uses the terms "refugees" and "migrants" synonymously.

What is behind the statistical indicators of Ukrainian international migration? What difficulties do our refugees face? What is the social portrait of Ukrainian migrants?

It is worth noting that mass migration has created many problems not only for Ukrainian refugees, but also for the countries that host them. First of all, it is the uneven burden of receiving refugees in different territories, and thus the problem of insufficient resources needed for full inclusion in life in the new reality [2].

Literature and methodology. The founders of the concept of socio-economic security of the population, regardless of the category of migrants, are rightly considered to be experts of the International Labor Organization J. Gough, G. Standing,
P. Strynten, N. Hicks [5]. The origins of the theoretical presentation of the concept of human development go back to the scientific developments of human capital theorists T.V. Schultz, G.S. Becker, E. Denison, J. Mincer, L. Hansen, J. Kendrick, and others. However, its innovative ideas and scientific formulation belong to A. Sen. Among Ukrainian scholars who have studied human development issues, the following are particularly noteworthy: D. Bohynia, O. Hryshnova, E. Libanova, V. Mandybara, S. Mochnyi, A. Chukhno, L. Semiv, U. Sadova, and others.

In the Ukrainian scientific literature, the social and protection problems of labor migrants are mostly an organic part of comprehensive studies of demography, labor economics, social economics and politics. Among the well-known scholars, the greatest contribution to the development of this topic was made by V.P. Antoniuk, D.P. Bohynya, I.K. Bondar, N.P. Boretska, N.S. Vlasenko, V.M. Geyets, O.S. Hrynkevych, S.M. Zlupko, V. D. Lagutin, E.M. Libanova, I.I. Lukinov, O.A. Malynovska, V.O. Mandybara, O.F. Novikova, V.V. Onikienko, S.I. Pirozhkov, I.Y. Sakhan, V.K. Cherniak, A.A. Chukhno, Y.O. Shklyarsky and others.

Human development is defined as the process of increasing human capabilities, which is ensured by political freedom, human rights, social respect for the individual, and the provision of opportunities for people to develop their full potential, to live productive and creative lives in harmony with their needs and interests. This fully applies to migrants. The material well-being of the latter is considered only as one of the basic choices, but it is not the highest goal. The humanitarian, philosophical concept of human development is based on socio-economic indicators, and the Human Development Index proposed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is recognized worldwide as an integral indicator of the state of socio-economic development of a country, reflecting the perfection of social and labor relations [6].

The term "adaptation" was first used by American sociologists W. Thomas and F.L. Znanetsky to characterize social processes. They believed that the process of adaptation always has a social character and is revealed by the following meanings: adaptation, interaction, convergence, and use. And according to such figures of Western sociology as E. Durkheim, M. Weber and T. Parsons, human adaptation is the adaptation of a person to social norms and rules.

The purpose of the article: analyze of the current state of social adaptation of Ukrainians in EU countries and the living conditions of migrants in new communities.

Research and discussion. Modern European states are experiencing another wave of migration, which is changing the demographic situation in the EU, as well as the problem of migrants' integration into their respective societies. Today, European countries are facing a huge influx of migrants from conflict-affected countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Even in countries that demonstrated a high level of cultural tolerance and acceptance in the 1990s, conflicts of cultural and national inconsistency emerged in the 2000s. Thus, in order to regulate the
migration flows that took place in the EU in the 1990s, the member states introduced the Dublin Accords. But, as time has shown, they still remain a political compromise of the EU member states, rather than an instrument that allows to balance the distribution of a huge number of migrants [7].

Each environment has its own socio-anthropological structures. They correspond to human structures - nature itself (biosphere), the artificial environment (technosphere), and social relations (sociosphere).

These structures give rise to both commonalities and differences in the formation and development of the social protection system not only for migrants, but also for the population as a whole. It is in the conditions of a specific environment that specific activities on social protection of a person (including migrants) are unfolding. A peculiar field of determinants of this system emerges, among which economic factors occupy key positions.

Turning to the topic of migrants' needs for certain types of socio-economic protection, the following points attract attention. First of all, the nature of these needs. This refers to a set of signs of social well-being of a migrant person depending on the state and form of perception of the external and internal world. The most general list of types of needs for migrants' security can be presented through the phases of human reproduction or types of human activity. For example, in the course of the study, we can talk about:

1. Reproductive security needs (covers the processes of normal reproduction of a person as a biological species and a social being). It is a response to the risks and conditions necessary for raising and educating children; maintaining health; creating and maintaining a family.

2. Needs for the protection of living standards (includes a sufficient level of aggregate income, consumption, and necessary living conditions).

3. Developmental security needs (includes opportunities for people to access basic secondary, vocational and higher education, historical and cultural values, physical education and sports).

4. Needs for job security (should include employment opportunities, opportunities for realization of professional skills and professional growth, reproduction of professional skills, opportunities to earn a living that would be adequate to the work effort and level of qualification, opportunities to ensure safety and health at work, etc.)

Taking into account the structure and range of factors that affect the safety and quality of life of migrants, and thus their social well-being, within the framework of social protection issues, in addition to economic, at least such approaches as legal, demographic, politological medical and biological, philosophical and humanistic (humanistic), cultural, eco-humanistic, and finally social and psychological approaches, which will to some extent compensate for the lack of development of the problem of social protection in a multidisciplinary perspective [6].

In social psychology, social adaptation is seen as "patterns of joint activity determined by the common goal and value orientations of social groups".
Psychological adaptation is "a system of measures aimed at forming a person's ability to adapt to the requirements and criteria existing in society by assigning him or her the norms and values of this society"; psychological adaptation of a person in society occurs through such psychological mechanisms as reflection, identification, empathy (compassion, empathy), acceptance of social feedback, etc.

In cultural studies, cultural adaptation is defined as "the adaptation of human societies, social groups and individuals to natural, geographical and historical conditions that change through changes in stereotypes of consciousness and behavior, forms of social organization and regulation, norms and values, lifestyles and livelihoods...". Most often, cultural adaptation is associated with an individual or group entering a new social, ethnic, cultural environment, as exemplified by international migration [9].

An expected barrier is language difficulties, which slow down employment and thus prevent many Ukrainians from quickly becoming self-sufficient without state support. It is also difficult for refugees to rely on their education and professional qualifications: they are able to take jobs that are not in demand among the local population. These are low-skilled and minimally paid laborers in agriculture, construction and repair, and hotel and restaurant business [2].

Thus, in the second year of the war, Ukrainian refugees in Europe began to move from one EU country to another. Higher earnings and social benefits, free social housing and high standards of healthcare, goodwill of the local population towards Ukrainian migrants, friends and acquaintances - this is a list of the main reasons that prompted Ukrainian refugees to change their place of residence. This form of migration is not without reason called "social tourism" [2].

Another manifestation of "social tourism" is that the program of temporary collective shelter for Ukrainians, intended primarily for the most vulnerable civilians from Ukraine (pensioners, women and children, people with chronic diseases), has also been transformed into an opportunity for fugitives from mobilization, opportunists, scoundrels of all kinds, alcohol and drug addicts, and mentally inadequate people. Accordingly, for other participants of "social tourism" who do not belong to these groups with deviations from normal life and behavior, the initial concerns of everyday life (accommodation, laundry, cooking, etc.) were often replaced by worries about potentially dangerous neighbors with whom you found yourself in the same apartment [2].

Statistics on Ukrainian military migrants in Poland. In just two years, about 1 million 750 thousand PESEL UKR numbers have been issued, while as of February 2024, 952 thousand Ukrainian military migrants were in the country. The almost 800 thousand people who received PESEL UKR but do not currently reside in Poland are people for whom one of the following options is true: 1) returned to Ukraine; 2) returned to Ukraine for more than a month, then came back to Poland but have not yet renewed their temporary asylum status; 3) left for another country;
4) legalized in Poland in another way (marriage, work-related residence permit, etc.); 5) died [3].

The gender and age distribution of Ukrainian military migrants in Poland, according to the PESEL UKR database, is shown in the table below. Among minors, there are approximately equal numbers of boys and girls, while among adults, almost three quarters (72%) are women [3]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>&lt; 18</th>
<th>18 – 59</th>
<th>60+</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MALES</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALES</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>952</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: calculated according to Polish state statistics as of February 2024 [3].

The Republic of Ireland (hereinafter referred to as the Republic of Ireland) has granted the status of a recipient of temporary protection to more than 100 thousand people who fled the war from Ukraine (as of March 2024, 105,032 people had acquired this status). Over the course of two years, this number has changed: some people have returned to Ukraine, while others have moved to other countries (Canada, the United States, and others). Migrants who find themselves for a long time in new social, economic, and cultural conditions have to build their daily lives and solve everyday issues that arise in another country. Some of the challenges are similar, such as getting used to new climatic conditions and local cuisine. A common challenge, although differentiated depending on the level of English proficiency, is the need to maintain communication in a foreign environment [4].

According to the Eurobarometer survey of EU citizens in the winter of 2022-2023 (The EU's response to the war in Ukraine - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu)), Irish citizens positively assess their government's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine (25% are very satisfied, 53% are fairly satisfied); and the European Union's actions (23% are very satisfied, 53% are fairly satisfied). When asked whether the respondent approves of the EU’s actions to provide humanitarian aid to people affected by Russia's war against Ukraine, Irish citizens answered: 59% strongly approve, 31% rather approve; 56% strongly approve of the EU's admission of people fleeing the war, 33% rather approve [4].

There are certain parallels in Irish history with Ukrainian history: the long colonial rule of the British, the Great Famine in the 19th century, significant
emigration flows, the struggle for independence and the civil war in the 1920s, etc. Social problems still exist today, including a lack of social housing, high rents, and waiting lists for medical care due to a shortage of hospital beds and medical staff. At the same time, the average life expectancy in the Republic of Crimea is 81 years (78 years for men and 83 years for women). On January 1, 2024, the national minimum wage increased from €11.30 to €12.70 per hour [4].

The living conditions for refugees from Ukraine in the Republic of Ireland can vary greatly, and getting a place depends only on the information provided by the resettlement center about their availability at the time of arrival of the asylum seeker. Accommodation in state-funded housing can take place in hotels, boarding houses, hostels, individual houses or apartments, former monasteries, sports camps, etc. owned by hoteliers or organizations with which the state contracts for the accommodation of refugees and pays for their accommodation. There is also another program (ARP - Accommodation Rent Payment), which is an offer from the state to private homeowners to provide accommodation for refugees from Ukraine in exchange for a monthly financial support from the state (currently 800 euros). There is a long-term problem of housing shortage in the Republic of Ireland and prices for renting apartments or houses are high. For example, renting an apartment (3 small bedrooms + kitchen-living room) in a city with a population of about 20 thousand people currently costs 1300-1500 euros. In the capital and other large cities, rental prices are higher. Although it is not always cost-effective to accept Ukrainians into their homes under the ARP program, the program is still in place. For refugees from Ukraine living in hotels, boarding houses, and hostels paid for by the state, there are two options for food: the provision of ready-made meals, which must be paid for at a fixed price (10 euros per day for adults), or self-cooking if there is access to kitchen equipment at the place of residence. Special career guidance services at social protection centers help to build a roadmap for job search, taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of a potential employee. Identification of problems (psychological vulnerability, health problems, insufficient English language skills, etc.) provides recommendations on which organizations to contact for help [4].

Conclusions. States are actively developing migration policy instruments that restrict or, on the contrary, attract migrants from different countries. Scientists conduct a lot of research on migration, adaptation, and resettlement of migrants. However, there are very few comparative studies that analyze certain ethnic groups of migrants in different countries and consider different conditions of their settlement in a new land.

The emigration of a huge number of Ukrainians due to the full-scale Russian invasion has become an economic and humanitarian challenge not only for Ukraine, but also for partner countries that have received millions of internally displaced persons. Our study collected and processed statistical information on the social adaptation of Ukrainian refugee migrants who came to European countries due to the outbreak of hostilities in Ukraine.
Given the ban on traveling abroad, which applies to the vast majority of Ukrainian men aged 18-60, and taking into account the results of a UN survey where more than 85% of respondents were women, we can assume that the vast majority of Ukrainians abroad are women and children under 18 [8]. Their integration into the societies of the countries of temporary residence may subsequently lead to a significant outflow of the male population of Ukraine, for example, for "family reunification." At present, it is not known for certain how many men would also want to emigrate if they had the opportunity. Although, according to the governments of European countries, the number of internally displaced persons from Ukraine in their countries is decreasing (in particular, due to Poland), the dynamics of border crossings shows that Ukrainian citizens continue to leave and do not return. Some Ukrainians migrate to non-European countries, such as the United States, Canada, and Israel. It is also possible that counting Ukrainian migrants abroad is becoming more difficult, in part due to the abolition of benefits in host countries.

Demographic forecasts show that a further decline in the number of people of working age is inevitable. The Ukrainian government should develop a state program that will deal with the return and reintegration of long-term migrants. A key element of such programs should be business start-ups as the most promising way to invest money earned by migrants in the Ukrainian economy. These programs should provide migrants with information and advice on starting and maintaining their business or employment, as well as recognize the skills they have acquired abroad and provide psychological assistance to those in need. Tax and customs privileges should be established for labor migrants who have worked outside Ukraine for at least two years and plan to return to Ukraine. However, it seems that the policy of actively facilitating the return of migrants to Ukraine can be fully implemented only after the armed conflict is resolved.

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