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## **MIGRATION CRISIS AND SOCIAL SECURITY: CHALLENGES AND CONSEQUENCES**

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**Abstract.** The article deals with issues related to the intensification of migration processes in the modern world, especially in the context of globalization and international conflicts. The authors analyse the economic, social and legal aspects of migration crisis, focusing especially on its impact on the social security system. The research is based on interdisciplinary approaches, including economic, sociological, legal and civilizational analysis. Particular attention is paid to the migration crisis caused by the Russian aggression in Ukraine after 2014 and the full-scale invasion of 2022, which caused significant demographic changes and the impact

on social services in both Ukraine and EU countries. The article also discusses the challenges associated with the integration of migrants, the preservation of national identity and the solution of socio-economic problems in host countries.

**Keywords.** Migration, migration crisis, social security, migration policy

**Introduction.** Activation of migration processes is one of the main trends in the development of the modern world. The primary reasons can be called – increasing uneven economic growth of different countries, variety of armed, inter-ethnic, social and international conflicts, inefficiency of migration policy of the European Union (hereinafter EU), features of the process of regional population development, etc. The process of globalization, which opened up new problems of modern society, and the scale of migration flows turned migration into one of the most acute problems of humanity and forced the whole world to think about it as a crisis phenomenon. Of course, migration also has positive features, in particular, as an important factor in the growth and reproduction of the population in many countries with a low birth rate, as the basis of the principle of the rule of law in the receiving countries and the establishment of an institution for the protection of human rights, the formation of a bank of labour resources, etc. But the large influx of migrants is accompanied by many negative consequences. Considering abovementioned information, the relevance of scientific research is determined by the need to investigate the economic, social and legal aspects of the migration crisis, as well as their impact on the social security system.

**Literature review.** Migration, in particular, labour migration, has been the most studied phenomenon in the area of population movement in Ukraine since the early 2000s. 2014 was the year of a change in the vector of research on population migration in Ukraine. The work of researchers since 2015 has been devoted to the analysis of the problems of internal interregional movement of the population from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine (Romanyuk, 2015). Separate works of scientists examine the migration crisis through the prism of changes in modern

international relations (Hnatkovich, 2021). After the full-scale invasion of 2022, research shifted towards the transnational movement of large population groups (Lyashko, 2023). Along with the study of migration processes, there is a need to study the social security of migrants (Shpirno, 2004). Analytical notes of the National Institute of Strategic Studies contain the formulation that “in connection with the economic crisis, the imbalance of the budget of social funds, the aging of the population and the increase in the demographic burden on working people, the settlement of the issue of social security for migrants requires increased attention from the state” (Malinovska, 2012).

**Methodology.** The methodological basis of the research was a system of conceptual approaches and methods. First, the research was carried out on the basis of a combination of different conceptual approaches. The main conceptual approach to the analysis of the migration crisis was the civilizational approach. It was through its application to make possible assess to social transformations and determination of the influence factors associated with the processes of migration, in particular, labour migration. An interdisciplinary approach, based on the use of methodological tools of economic, sociological, and legal sciences, helped to understand the value orientation of migration as a process with positive and negative consequences for the recipient countries, considering modern rule of law processes. The application of the hermeneutic approach took place during the interpretation of scientific texts and educational materials on the issues under study and clarification of the essential characteristics of basic concepts.

Secondly, in order to ensure the completeness and validity of the research, the following methods of cognition were used. The basic dialectical method, which is used in all components of the study, is based on the basic cognition laws. The synergistic method was used when studying the impact of globalization factors on migration processes. The method of system analysis made it possible to investigate and analyse the migration profile. The statistical method made it possible to reveal real and accurate facts about the state of the object under study. The prognostic

method made it possible to outline directions for overcoming the migration crisis, to develop practical recommendations and proposals.

The empirical basis of the research is the analysis of the results of statistical data.

**Main part.** International population's migration in the conditions of growing globalization is a significant challenge for all countries, in particular the EU, which is caused by all factors' influence. Applying the systematic method of research, these factors can be grouped in separate directions, which will provide an opportunity to outline the problems in the specified area and the ways of their effective solution. Such factors include:

- *political* – the development of a unified migration policy that would allow not only to successfully solve the everyday problems of migration processes, but also to influence their causes; formation of a system of effective control over the external borders of the EU to prevent illegal migration; prevention of genocide;
- *humanitarian* – protection of the rights of refugees and migrants, providing them with proper living conditions and access to basic services; the need to integrate migrants into society, including education, health care, housing and work;
- *socio-economic* – settlement of social tension and conflicts between the local population and migrants; ensuring the cultural integration of migrants without losing their national identity; settlement of financial expenses for the maintenance of migrants.

Considering all the complexity and integration of the processes described above, there is no doubt that population's migration in the conditions of growing globalization and the expansion of world economic relations occupies a significant part in the development of modern society.

Migration is understood as the process of movement either across international borders or within the same country, which includes any movement of people, regardless of the reasons (Manual on education in the field of human rights with the participation of young people, 2024). The definition of “migration” is generally

understood in narrow and broad meanings. Based on the fact that the term “migration” has Latin roots and is translated as “movement or resettlement”, in the narrow sense, migration is understood as a type of territorial movement of the population with a change of residence. In a broad sense, migration is understood as the territorial movement of the population, but through the prism of socio-economic, demographic and political processes.

At the international level, there is no universally recognized definition of “migrant”, but it is necessary to pay attention to the definition that was developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM): “An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally-defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students” (International organization on migration, 2024).

In scientific literature, a migration crisis is understood as a humanitarian catastrophe caused by a mass influx of migrants with the aim of staying in safe places. In the context of the migration crisis in the EU, it is necessary to consider the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the mass influx of migrants from the countries of the Middle East and Africa, taking into account the unfavorable circumstances that have developed in their homeland and which threaten the safety of persons crossing European borders (Hnatkovich, 2021).

The term “crisis” in connection with “refugees and migrants” was used in April 2015 first time, when a series of maritime disasters occurred in the Mediterranean Sea. In a short period of time (April 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>), at least 5 boats carrying more than 1,200 migrants from Africa crashed and sank on their way to Europe. In 2015, about 2,600 migrants died in the Mediterranean, the number of deaths since

2000 was about 22,000 (EU migration crisis: the inside story, 2024), this period is defined as the first European migration crisis.

According to the data contained on the official website of the IOM: current global estimate is that there were around 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6 per cent of the global population. Overall, the estimated number of international migrants has increased over the past five decades. The total estimated 281 million people living in a country other than their countries of birth in 2020 was 128 million more than in 1990, and over three times the estimated number in 1970 (International organization on migration, 2024).

In 2022, the second largest migration crisis in Europe occurred after the Second World War, which continues to this day and is associated with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The large number of refugees has become a problem for the host countries, because neither the state budgets nor the system of providing social services have provided for the corresponding expenses, at least for 2022. According to the data contained on the Eurostat website, the migration crisis as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian war is characterized by the following figures. Thus, as of January 31, 2024, 4.3 million non-EU citizens who fled Ukraine as a result of the Russian invasion on February 24, 2022, had the status of temporary protection in the EU.

The social security system in the country of immigration will be influenced, on the one hand, by the replenishment of the state's workforce and additional financial income, and on the other hand, in this case, it is possible to predict growing competition for social services and their subsequent deficit. In addition, the need to balance the interests of migrants and the local population will become urgent.

The development and improvement of EU migration policy should be aimed at guaranteeing an adequate level of security for its states, resolving conflicts that inevitably arise as a result of the illegal movement of refugees, ensuring the strategic development of European society, despite significant disturbances in the current realities (Hnatkovich, 2021).

The latest migration profile of the state, publicly presented by the State Migration Service of Ukraine, contains the thesis that “the mass departure of the able-bodied part of the population of Ukraine abroad in search of work” affects the reduction of the population of Ukraine. And even the COVID-19 pandemic was able to stop labour migration only partially. The 2020 data indicated a high level of demand in some EU countries for seasonal workers, particularly in the agricultural sector. In order to guarantee an adequate level of social security for such migrant workers, the Government set requirements for the employer’s provision of contracts with such workers abroad; provision of medical insurance (taking into account the increased risks of disease during the pandemic); transportation and household and housing guarantees (Migration Profile, 2020).

Analysing the migration crisis in Ukraine, we can say that the first large-scale migration processes in Ukraine began back in 2014-2015 (Fig. 1), when the armed conflict began in the Eastern territory of our country and Crimea, as evidenced by the statistical data of the State Migration Service.

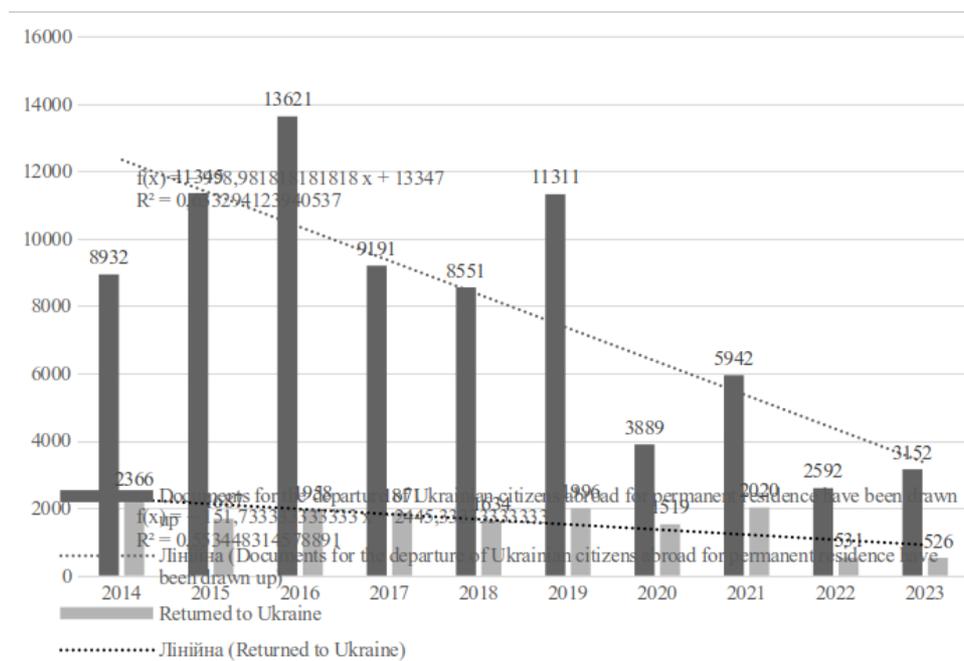


Fig. 1. Comparison of issued documents number for departure abroad and return of citizens to Ukraine in 2014-2023

Source: constructed by authors based on data (State Migration Service of Ukraine. Statistics, 2024)

During that period, there was a constant increase in the number of forced migrants from the Donetsk region and Crimea, and all this was accompanied by an acute political and economic crisis in the country. Labour migration of Ukrainian citizens abroad has begun.

It is predicted that the current security situation in Ukraine may change the situation with the patterns of such migration. If before the full-scale invasion, the bulk of people travelled abroad for a certain period of time and then returned, or generally circulated between Ukraine and the host country in certain seasons, then the current situation indicates the possibility of non-return of a significant number of people who left for the purpose of obtaining asylum. Therefore, the reverse and circular migration models are replaced by permanent ones.

It should be noted that there is a separate category of Ukrainians who take temporary protection in accordance with the provisions of Council Directive 2001/55/EC on minimum standards for providing temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures that contribute to the balance of efforts between member states to receive such persons and responsibility for the consequences of such reception. The implementation of this Directive in relation to Ukraine means the possibility of unimpeded entry into the territory of EU member states for Ukrainians, receiving support and further assistance there when returning home, when it is established that it is safe to do so. The main aspects in the field of social security are obtaining a residence permit during the period of protection, the right to employment (both for hire and self-employment), permission to receive educational services, provision of housing, social services, financial support, and medical care (Council Directive 2001/55/EC, 2001). As of March 2024, 4.21 million people received the status of temporary protection (currently in EU countries). 98%, i.e. 4.13 million people, are Ukrainians. Some forecasts, based on surveys, predict that from 1.4 to 2.3 million people may not return to Ukraine (Kryzhany, 2024). It is obvious that the consequences of such processes will be felt for both sides.

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, according to the latest publicly available information, as of the beginning of February 2022, the population of Ukraine was 41.1 million people (State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2024). Estimated data for 2023 (due to the lack of published official statistical data) were taken from the draft Strategy of Demographic Development of Ukraine for the period until 2040 (Strategy, 2024), proposed by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

The trend clearly visible on the trend line (Fig. 2) indicates a decrease in the number of the population over the years.

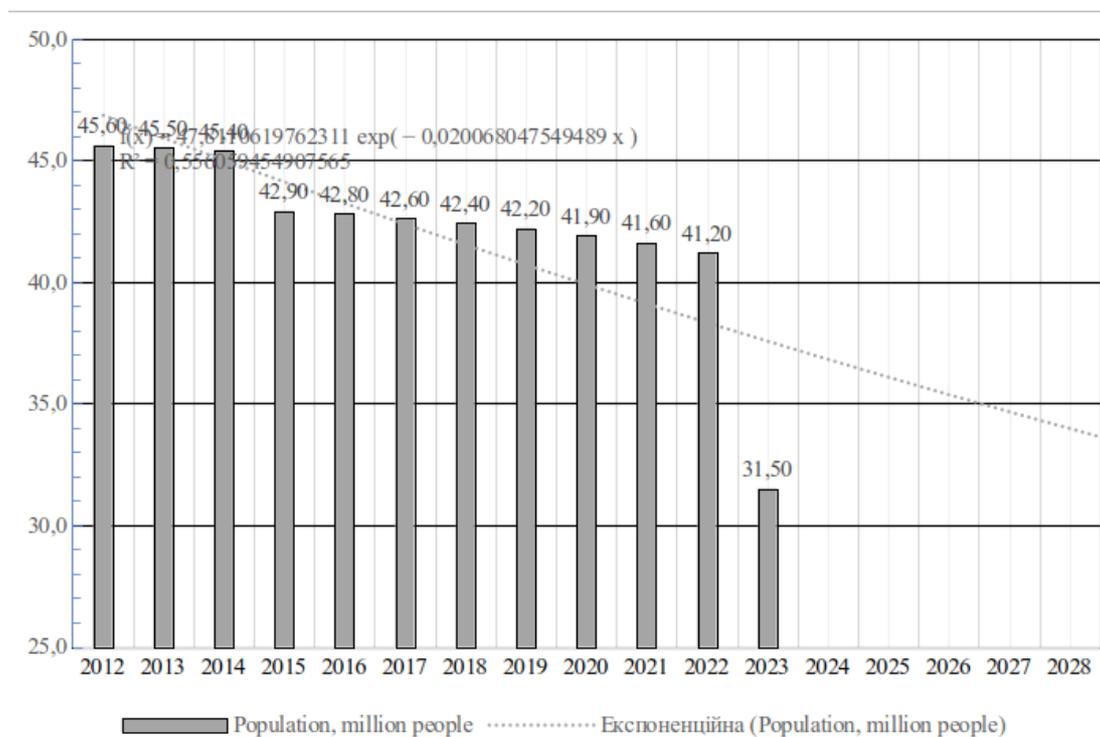


Fig. 2. The population of Ukraine and for the period from 2012 to 2023

Source: built by the authors based on data from (State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2024), (Strategy, 2024)

It is obvious that if it is preserved, in five years we will have a population of approximately 28.5 million people. Two powerful episodes of reduction occurred after the occupation of Crimea, parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in 2014 (a reduction of 7%, or 2.5 million people in absolute terms compared to the previous year) and the beginning of Russia's full-scale aggression in 2022 (the reduction was 23.5%, or 9.7 million people in absolute terms compared to the previous year)

significantly exceeded the average of 2% reduction each year. The balance today has a negative value (-6.3 million people), because from February 2022 to July 2023, 20.64 million departures from Ukraine were recorded against 14.34 million cases of entry (ukrinform.ua., 2024). The obvious negative consequences of this phenomenon will include, among other things, the aging of the nation. After all, mostly women of working age and children leave. In this case, social stability, and therefore further economic development, is at risk.

An increase in the share of people of retirement age in the total population is predicted to create an additional burden on the pension system. The consequence of this will be “unpopular” decisions on raising the retirement age, because the system will simply not have enough funds to finance payments. A similar problem may arise in the medical component of social security. The increase in the proportion of elderly people will lead to an increase in the number of requests for medical services, and therefore to additional budget costs. Social services will face an increase in requests for home care needs, requests for places in specialist residential facilities, social support and more. The impact on the social security system will be direct and will increase social pressure in society.

At the same time, that part of the population that left the country may not return, as we mentioned above, and therefore will not participate in the formation of productive forces. Of course, the absence or shortage of young and qualified personnel can slow down economic development and reduce productivity.

An additional problem is the large number of internally displaced persons. Pressure from these groups will have an additional impact on social security. According to the Report on Internal Displacement of the Population in Ukraine at the end of 2023, there were 3.7 million internally displaced persons. 52% of them were located in five regions of Ukraine, with the largest number registered in Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv regions (approximately 498,000 and 494,000 people, respectively). Almost half of all internally displaced persons come from just two regions: Donetsk (24%) and Kharkiv (22%) (Internal Displacement Report, 2023). A

significant increase in the burden on social services in relation to various services (housing, food, medical services, educational, psychological support, etc.), changes in the labour market (elimination of labour shortages, increased competition for vacancies may lead to a decrease in the level of wages to the minimum possible) complement negative consequences arising from the current reduction of the country's population.

EU states that grant temporary protection status similarly face a significant number of problems. The long-term stay of Ukrainians will require the states to make maximum efforts regarding the so-called social integration, which, according to Stadnyk & Poladyants (2023), is a rather complex and long-term process that has such features as structural obstacles, cultural adaptation, language adaptation, labour integration, social support and exclusivity in society, legalization of status and legal protection, etc. Supporting migrants requires significant spending from the budgets of EU countries for social services, medical care, etc.

In parallel with the social consequences, there are consequences of an economic nature, in particular, the labour shortage is covered. It is significant that migrants often agree to work for a lower wage than nationals. The main EU countries that received beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine were Germany (1,270,150 people; 29.5% of the total number in the EU), Poland (951,560; 22.1%) and the Czech Republic (381,190; 8.9%). Compared to the end of December 2023, the largest absolute increase in the number of beneficiaries was observed in Germany (+18,905; +1.5%), the Czech Republic (+8,155; +2.2%) and Spain (+2,830; +1.5%). In 5 EU countries, the number of beneficiaries decreased, namely in Italy (-18,125 people; -11.2%), Poland (-3,235; -0.3%), Estonia (-225; -0.6%), France (-205; -0.3%) and Luxembourg (-10; -0.2%) (Eurostat, 2024). At the same time, if you refer to the rating of countries with a high level of social security, the list of countries will differ.

Every year, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network compiles an international ranking of the happiest countries in the world – the World Happiness Report (150 countries). The basic indicators for evaluation are social support,

macroeconomic indicators, the level of spread of freedoms, life expectancy, and corruption indicators (The best countries in Europe, 2024). Data show that the most favourable conditions can be expected when staying in Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. For example, the minimum salary level in the first one will be from 1800-2000 euros with the lowest level of competition for a workplace. Employment in Denmark in the absence of a fixed minimum wage can provide up to 5,200 euros of wages per month with free medical services and education for children. According to Sushyk (2024), social protection of migrants in Sweden is considered one of the most powerful tools for reducing poverty and inequality, which promotes social integration and equality. In this way, high labour productivity, economic growth and, as the main goal, sustainable development is achieved.

Summarizing the main consequences of the impact of migration crises on the social security system allows us to identify the following main factors: financial burden on the social security system, demographic changes, changes in the labour market, integration and adaptation problems, nationwide social and economic consequences. The diagram shows the main areas of influence of the migration crisis on the social security system (Fig. 3)

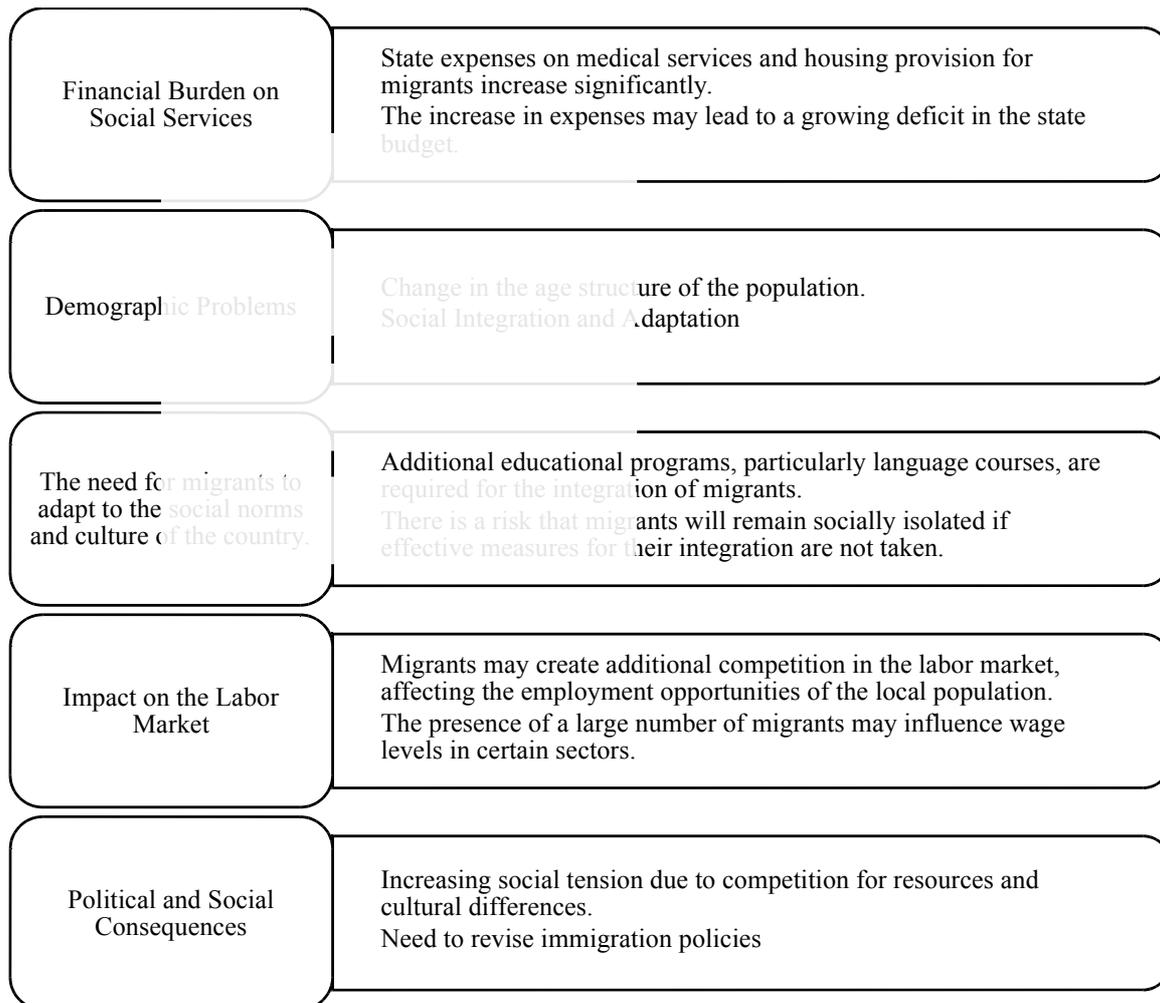


Fig. 3. The multifaceted impact of migration on the state's social security

Source: formulated by the authors

The non-return of persons who received temporary protection in EU countries after the end of the war in Ukraine will create significant challenges for both sides. Ukraine will have to face demographic and economic difficulties, while EU countries have to deal with the integration of these migrants and possible social and political changes. To reduce negative consequences, it is necessary to intensify cooperation between Ukraine and the EU, especially in the development of return and integration strategies. The Center for Economic Strategy (CES) recommends several measures to encourage Ukrainians to return after the war. Among them: close cooperation with the EU on the return of refugees, rapid recovery of the affected regions, assistance to people from the occupied territories during reconstruction, the development of public-private partnerships, increasing resources for communication with Ukrainians abroad through diplomatic missions, facilitating the reintegration of children into

Ukrainian schools and admission of graduates of foreign schools to Ukrainian universities, as well as granting refugees rights to free movement and choice of residence, similar to the rights of EU citizens (Ukrainian refugees. Center for Economic Strategy, 2024).

**Conclusions.** Therefore, the migration crisis remains a complex and multifaceted challenge that requires coordination and cooperation at the level of the entire European Union. The EU needs to define priorities and develop a clear system of norms for cooperation with states in order to stabilize the situation and slow down the migration process. The migration crisis affects the national legislation of refugee-hosting countries, requiring changes in national postulates to protect their own interests. Providing asylum to large numbers of refugees is a challenge for these countries, straining state budgets and social service delivery systems. A protracted migration crisis can lead to social tension and political division in these countries, and it is in this context that ongoing support is needed for both refugees and host countries to avoid overburden.

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