

# Migration Problems on the European Continent Related to the War in Ukraine

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**Abstract:** The war in Ukraine has triggered the need for immigration to neighboring European countries and further displacement of citizens in search of better living conditions. In the context of war, the risks associated with violence, protection of women's and children's rights, human trafficking, etc. are increasing. The article aims to highlight the migration problems in European countries related to the war in Ukraine and the new wave of refugees. The research methodology includes the study of migration issues through the prism of demographic, economic, social, political, institutional, and legal dimensions of migration theory. To assess the dimensions of migration from Ukraine, secondary data from general regional studies and materials from The UN Refugee Agency (2023), including structured interviews with refugees from Ukraine, were used. The results show that migration from Ukraine has spread to the entire European continent. Refugees from Ukraine who crossed the borders of Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, or others emigrated to other countries. Among the main problems of refugees from Ukraine, there is low employment due to the demographic structure and a high need for temporary protection. Moreover, other problematic aspects are a high proportion of children unregistered for education in the host country and difficult access to childcare services in the host country for children aged 0-4 years. Furthermore, people face difficulties in obtaining healthcare services. Migrants are gradually solving problems related to accommodation on their own. The primary needs of migrants from Ukraine are cash, employment, accommodation, medical and material assistance. The war in Ukraine has led to the need to change the legal mechanisms for providing protection and asylum to refugees due to their massive movement to safe regions of the EU. The legal change has eased the strict reception policy, however, it does not solve the long-term potential problems of migrants related to employment or integration.

**Keywords:** Migration Problems of the EU; Refugees from Ukraine; Refugee Problems; Protection of Migrants.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Migration issues are among the most controversial on the European continent, especially in the context of the war in Ukraine and the influx of refugees and migrants. In the EU, migration issues are traditionally associated with labor and illegal migrants, in particular, due to social unrest, military conflicts on other continents (e.g., the Arab Spring), terrorism, and crime. Therefore, the issues of social protection and

asylum have historically been topical issues of security policy in European countries. It is called "securitization of migration", i.e. "extreme politicization of migration and its presentation as a security threat" (Léonard, 2010). Some researchers believe that migration in the EU is politicized, which harms migrants and their rights.

The war in Ukraine has resulted in the largest crisis of forced displacement, which is characterized by specific risk factors. These include the high frequency of family separations, special needs of refugees and children, the elderly, and social minorities (education, healthcare, psychosocial support, etc.). The migration structure from Ukraine to EU countries is dominated by women and children who need social assistance, which causes new challenges for EU countries: fiscal,

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social, demographic, political, institutional, etc. In particular, there is an increase in social tension due to the need for financial support for migrants from Ukraine in countries that accept refugees or provide temporary protection. The problem of employment of migrant women is also one of the leading ones, regardless of their gradual integration into society. Among the institutional problems that require research is the creation of institutions to manage, coordinate and provide various forms of support to migrants. Another problem is the low level of management skills of the response actors, such as informal humanitarian organizations. The wide range of actors responding to the refugee crisis from Ukraine also increases the risk of violence and exploitation of the most vulnerable groups of the population (women, and children) (The UN Refugee Agency, 2023d). The mentioned risk factors may be exacerbated by problems with housing, the socioeconomic vulnerability of the states hosting refugees, etc.

The above requires a more detailed study of migration problems in European countries related to the war in Ukraine and response measures to address them both at the regional and national levels.

The article aims to highlight the migration problems in European countries related to the war in Ukraine and the new wave of refugees.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The theory of migration considers such aspects as time and temporal frameworks, demographic analysis of migration, economic aspects of migration, sociology of international migration, politics of international migration, theories of migration anthropology (cultural, social, and phenomenological dimensions of movement), migration theory in geography and law, etc. (Brettell & Hollifield, 2014). Most publications in Europe focus on postwar migration to the western part of the continent. The new wave of emigration to European countries, especially southern ones in the 1990s, has actualized the study of migration issues (Anthias, 2020). As a result, new concepts have emerged to explain the complex structure of migration flows ('mixed flows', 'mixed motivations', and 'transit migration'). The new scientific categories include refugees in need of protection and various categories of migrants: 'people in distress', 'distress migrants', and 'survival migrants' (Betts, 2013). It is necessary to take into account international experience in the field of security (Akimov, O., Troschinsky, V., Karpa, M., Ventsel, V., & Akimova, L., 2020), and use the help of Ukrainian universities during the COVID-19 pandemic (Bakhov, I., Opolska, N., Bogus, M., Anishchenko, V., & Biryukova, Y., 2021), and the application of geographic information systems (Iatsyshyn, A., Iatsyshyn, A., Kovach, V., Zinovieva, I., Artemchuk, V., Popov, O., ... Turevych, A., 2020). A human-centric approach remains important in the development of oriented public administration (Semenets-Orlova, I., Shevchuk, R., Plish, B., Moshnin, A., Chmyr, Y., & Poliuliakh, R., 2022), in the management activities of managers education (Semenets-Orlova, I., Klochko, A., Tereshchuk, O., Denisova, L., Nestor, V., & Sadovyi, S., 2022), as well as e-commerce and professional qualities of managers (Akimov, O., Karpa, M., Parkhomenko-Kutsevil, O., Kupriichuk, V., & Omarov, A., 2021), and medical-

psychological and psychiatric care of telemedicine (Koliadenko, N. V., Zhyvago, K. S., & Bursa, A. I., 2022).

Migration regimes create hierarchical systems of rights, just like other systems of order. Until 1951, "refugees" were considered persons of certain nationalities who were not politically protected and physically present in their country of origin (Long, 2013). The Refugee Convention clearly distinguishes between "refugee" and "migrant" in the legal context to protect persons who fear persecution (Long, 2013; Crawley & Skleparis, 2018). Barman defines «a refugee as a displaced person who has been forced to cross national borders and who cannot return home safely» (Barman, 2020).

The reception of refugees in neighboring countries creates political, economic, social, and environmental consequences for the host countries. Among the main problems of countries hosting refugees are competition with locals for scarce resources (food, water, housing, medical services), increased demand for education, infrastructure, medical services, transportation, natural resources, etc. (Barman, 2020).

The economic impact of refugees on host countries is controversial and poorly understood, as data has been unavailable and the issue of refugee impacts does not lend itself to conventional impact assessment methods. Cash assistance to refugees creates significant positive income spillovers for host country businesses and households. Using the example of Rwandan refugees, the authors also show that an additional adult refugee receiving cash assistance increases the annual real income of the local economy by \$205-253. This is significantly more than the \$120-126 of assistance each refugee receives (Taylor et al., 2016). Alix-Garcia & Saah (2010) also examine the economic impact of refugees on host communities based on the 1993 and 1994 refugee flows from Burundi and Rwanda to western Tanzania. The authors identified a significant increase in non-humanitarian food prices and a smaller impact on aid-related food prices. Food aid somewhat mitigates these effects. The study also shows a positive impact of refugee camps on the assets of neighboring rural households. However, there is also a negative impact on household wealth in urban areas (Alix-Garcia & Saah, 2010).

Tumen (2016) examines the main impacts of refugee migration from Syria to Turkey. The main impacts are on labor markets, consumer prices, and housing rents. Tumen (2016) documents a moderate loss of employment among local informal workers, indicating that they have been partially replaced by refugees. Tumen (2016) also concludes that prices for goods produced in labor-intensive informal sectors have declined due to labor cost advantages that have been reduced by refugee flows. Refugee inflows have led to an increase in rents for higher-quality housing, while it has not affected lower-quality housing (Tumen, 2016).

Wahba (2021) identifies the potential benefits of return migration. Through employment, migrants can increase their income, accumulate savings, and gain new skills and knowledge. The return of migrants ensures the transfer of human and financial capital accumulated abroad. Meanwhile, the country of origin should develop policies to encourage repatriate investment and utilize their skills. Policy areas include reducing bureaucracy, providing information

on investment opportunities, and creating a favorable macro-economic environment for investment (Wahba, 2021).

Hatton (2016), based on an analysis of asylum applications by source and destination in OECD countries, shows that these refugee flows are mainly caused by political terror and human rights violations. Among the reasons for refugees to seek better living conditions is the strict asylum policies in destination countries. That is why Hatton, T. J. (2016) suggests ensuring effective coordination between OECD countries to improve the conditions of displaced persons. Avato, Koettl & Sabates-Wheeler (2010), based on the study of social protection regimes, show that migrants from developing countries are in a much less favorable position. This is explained by the fact that they are heavily dependent on informal networks and self-insurance as a way to minimize risk.

Esses, Hamilton & Gaucher (2017) explore long-term solutions to the refugee problem with political implications. One of the main solutions to the refugee crisis should be the resettlement of refugees to other host countries. Ensuring the success of such a solution, requires the relatively favorable attitude of members of the host society, protection of refugees' welfare, and effective integration of refugees in host countries to promote their acculturation and mental health.

Thus, the literature highlights the economic impacts of migrants and refugees in the context of consumer prices, labor markets, household assets, housing rents, local income and employment, competition for resources, etc. The political implications of refugees include the need to develop policies for reception, integration into host countries, and coordination to improve the conditions of displacement.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

Migration problems on the European continent in the context of the war in Ukraine should be viewed through the prism of demographic, economic, social, political, institutional, and legal dimensions. The social dimension and the issue of social protection are of the greatest importance, as it is a consequence not only of purely social problems but also of political, cultural, legal, and economic features of regulation and causes of migration. To assess the economic, political, institutional, and legal dimensions and problems of migrants and the EU, the materials and data from The UN Refugee Agency (2023a - 2023m) were used. These materials provided information on changes in the legal framework, protection policy, establishment of institutions to coordinate and control refugee flows, and funding needs.

To assess the demographic and social dimension (intentions, needs, movement) of migration from Ukraine, secondary data from the UN Refugee Agency's regional surveys (2023) based on the method of interviewing refugees from Ukraine for the period August - November 2022 were used. Interview sites: individual voivodeships in Poland, including their border areas, transit and reception centers, information gathering points and assistance centers, NGO information offices, and railway and bus stations.

To assess the social problems and protection of migrants from Ukraine, the study by The UN Refugee Agency (2023a) on the profiles, needs, intentions, and protection risks of migrants from Ukraine from October 2022 - March

2023 was used. Poland has been used as an example as the country that hosted the largest number of refugees. Additionally, the Refugee Protection Monitoring in Poland was used, which reflects the results of 2632 interviews conducted in Warsaw, Krakow, and Wroclaw from June 22, 2022, to August 22, 2022 (The UN Refugee Agency, 2023).

The key limitation of the study is the impossibility of extrapolating the data to the entire population of refugees from Ukraine residing in Poland.

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1. Migration problems in Europe due to the war in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine has caused the destruction of civilian homes and the need for citizens to seek safety, protection, and support. Since the beginning of February 24, 2022, 19.505 million people have crossed the border of Ukraine. As of March 14, 2023, 8.113 million refugees from Ukraine have been registered within Europe. Moreover, 4.901 million people have been granted temporary protection status or similar national migrant protection schemes in Europe. According to the UN Refugee Agency (2023a) study on the profiles and protection risks of migrants from Ukraine from October 2022 - March 2023, certain problems of Ukrainian citizens were identified. Thus, the share of employed persons in the host country among migrants is 36% (remotely or self-employed). At the same time, 87% of respondents have applied for temporary protection. Another 45% of respondents said that at least 1 migrant child is not registered to study in the host country. Moreover, 51% of respondents said that they cannot access childcare services in the host country for children aged 0-4 years. Another 24% of respondents faced difficulties in obtaining healthcare services.

As of March 14, 2023, 8,113,170 refugees from Ukraine were registered across Europe, of whom 4,901,577 were registered under temporary protection schemes. The data in Table 1 indicate that refugees from Ukraine who crossed the borders of Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, or others emigrated to other countries. Poland has the largest share of registered refugees from Ukraine (59%) among the European countries mentioned, followed by the Czech Republic (19%) and Bulgaria (6%). Among all registered refugees, only 6783 people are not registered under temporary protection schemes. Out of 10.168 million people who crossed the border of Ukraine with Poland, 1.564 million people were registered as refugees, including those who were granted temporary protection (15.39%). Of the 2.350 million people who crossed the border of Ukraine with Hungary, 34,248 were registered as refugees, including those who received temporary protection status (1.46%). Out of 787,594 people who crossed the border between Ukraine and Moldova, 107,277 people were registered as refugees (13.62%). Out of 2.091 million people who crossed the border between Ukraine and Romania, 110.106 thousand people were registered as refugees (5.27%). Thus, migration from Ukraine has spread to the entire European continent.

The data in Table 2 show that in some European countries, the number of newly arrived refugees exceeds the number of refugees granted temporary protection, while in others the

number of those granted temporary protection exceeds the number of new arrivals (Cyprus, Finland, Liechtenstein). In the third group of European countries, the ratio of refugees registered for temporary protection to those who arrived in

the country is 100% (Austria, Croatia, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom).

**Table 1. Refugees from Ukraine Registered for Temporary Protection or Similar National Protection Schemes and Refugees from Ukraine Recorded in the Country in the Neighboring Countries to Ukraine, 14.03.2023.**

Country	Date	Refugees from Ukraine Registered for Temporary Protection or Similar National Protection Schemes	Refugees from Ukraine Recorded in the Country	Border Crossings from Ukraine
Bulgaria	03/14/2023	154.590	49.610	Not applicable
Czech Republic	03/06/2023	495.569	497.217	Not applicable
Estonia	02/27/2023	43.485	67.601	Data not available
Hungary	03/14/2023	34.248	34.248	2.350.357
Latvia	02/27/2023	46.048	35.243	Data not available
Lithuania	02/27/2023	75.197	75.197	Not applicable
Poland	03/14/2023	1.564.711	1.564.711	10.168.089
Republic of Moldova	03/12/2023	Not applicable	107.277	787.594
Romania	03/12/2023	120.787	110.106	2.091.044
Slovakia	03/13/2023	111.548	111.756	1.239.412
Total	-	2.646.183	2.652.966	16.636.496

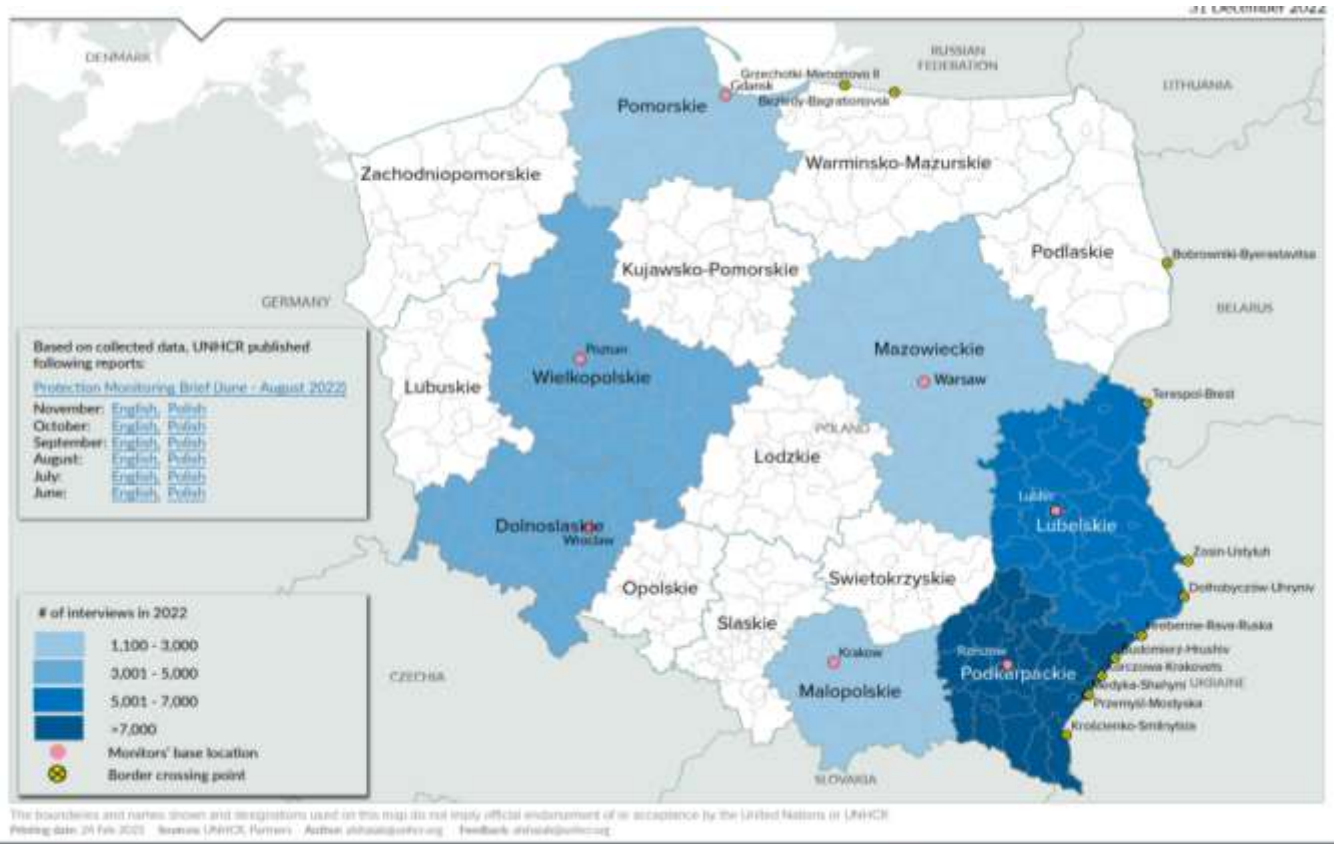
Source: The UN Refugee Agency (2023b).

**Table 2. Refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes and refugees from Ukraine recorded in the country on the European continent, 14.03.2023**

Country	Refugees from Ukraine Registered for Temporary Protection or Similar National Protection Schemes	Refugees from Ukraine Recorded in the Country	The Ratio of Refugees Registered for Temporary Protection to those who Arrived in the Country
Albania	Not applicable	2686	0,00 %
Armenia	Not applicable	541	0 %
Austria	94511	94551	100 %
Azerbaijan	Not applicable	5031	0 %
Belgium	68129	68869	99 %
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Not applicable	164	0 %
Croatia	21232	21232	100 %
Cyprus	21842	16281	134 %
Denmark	38538	40613	95 %
Finland	50692	47067	108 %
France	118994	118994	100 %
Georgia	Not applicable	25701	0 %
Germany	881399	1055323	84 %
Greece	20955	20955	100 %
Iceland	2239	2239	100 %
Ireland	77300	77721	99 %

Italy	171739	171739	100 %
Liechtenstein	536	410	131 %
Luxembourg	6756	6756	100 %
Malta	1744	1744	100 %
Montenegro	8157	34631	24 %
The Netherlands	89730	89730	100 %
North Macedonia	Not applicable	6505	0 %
Norway	41519	41519	100 %
Portugal	58242	58242	100 %
Serbia and Kosovo	1255	3035	41 %
Slovenia	8847	9075	97 %
Spain	170345	170345	100 %
Sweden	52325	52325	100 %
Switzerland	82628	82628	100 %
Turkey	Not applicable	95874	0 %
The UK	165700	165700	100 %
	2255354	2588226	87 %

Source: The UN Refugee Agency (2023b).



**Fig. (1).** Poland Protection Monitoring and Profiling Coverage in 2022.

Source: The UN Refugee Agency (2023c).

**Table 3. Refugees from Ukraine in Poland – Profiling, August – November 2022.**

	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022
<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>2531</b>	<b>3596</b>	<b>4410</b>	<b>3829</b>
<b>Demographics</b>	95% are women 52% with higher education, 25% with technical education, 19% with secondary education; 15% were retired, 12% were employed in other sectors, 11% in education, 11% in wholesale and retail trade, and 9% in house-keeping.	85% are women 46% with higher education, 33% with technical education, 19% with secondary education; 16% were retired, 10% were employed in other sectors, 7% in education, 7% in wholesale and retail trade, and 8% in other types.	83% are women 47% with higher education, 32% with technical education, 18% with secondary education; 15% were retired, 17% were employed in other sectors, 11% in education, 13% in wholesale and retail trade, and 18% in other types.	86% are women 51% with higher education, 32% with technical education, 16% with secondary education; 17% were retired, 16% were employed in other sectors, 8% in education, 8% in wholesale and retail trade, and 11% in other types.
<b>Intentions: Stay in Poland</b>	61% plan to stay in Poland 55% safety, 15% family ties, and 8% temporary protection.	64% plan to stay in Poland 29% safety, 20% family ties, and 10% proximity to Ukraine.	62% plan to stay in Poland 30% safety, 17% family ties, and 9% employment.	68% plan to stay in Poland 39% safety, 16% family ties, and 6% community ties.
<b>Intentions: Return to Ukraine</b>	16% plan to return and 61% are considering it.	15% plan to return.	15% plan to return.	13% plan to return.
<b>Accommodation</b>	Rented accommodation is 32%, with hosts at 28%, and 18% collective sites.	Rented accommodation is 44%, with hosts at 20%, 13% collective sites, and reception centers at 8%.	Rented accommodation is 45%, with hosts at 17%, 14% collective sites, and reception centers at 5%.	Rented accommodation is 50%, with hosts at 19%, 14% collective sites, and reception centers at 4%.
<b>Basic needs</b>	Cash 47%, employment 37%, accommodation 30%, financial assistance 27%, and medical assistance 23%.	Cash 49%, employment 35%, accommodation 32%, financial assistance 32%, and medical assistance 21%.	Cash 41%, employment 33%, accommodation 28%, financial assistance 21%, and medical assistance 28%.	Cash 51%, employment 35%, accommodation 25%, financial assistance 27%, and medical assistance 37%.

Source: systematized by the author based on The UN Refugee Agency (2023d – 2023g).

One of the main objectives of protection monitoring in Poland is to strengthen the active identification of persons with special needs who are at increased risk, to facilitate the timely provision of information and referrals to assistance and services, and to promote a better understanding of the protection risks faced by refugees.

Table 3 indicates the following about the main problems of refugees from Ukraine in Poland:

1. Although the majority of refugees are women with higher or technical education, employment remains a key issue (35 – 37%).
2. The problem of refugee employment is related to their demographic structure, in particular employment and employment potential: 15 - 17% of refugees are retired, 10 - 16% are formally employed, 7 - 11% are studying, and 7 - 13% of refugees are employed in wholesale and retail trade.
3. Between August and November, the share of refugees planning to stay in Poland increased from 61% to 68%, in particular, due to security problems in Ukraine, family ties, temporary protection, and employment in the country.
4. The share of those who plan to return to Ukraine is decreasing. In August 2022: 16% of respondents plan to return

to Ukraine, including 78% to the region of origin, and 66% are thinking about returning. In September, 15% of respondents plan to return to Ukraine, while in November only 13%.

5. Another problem is the issue of further migration to Europe due to the need for employment. In August 2022, 15% plan to migrate to other countries, including 53% to Germany, 7% to the Netherlands, and 4% to the Czech Republic. In September, 6% plan to migrate to other countries, including 19% to Germany, 12% to Canada, and 11% to Norway. In October, also in 2022, 15% plan to migrate to other countries, including 16% to Germany, 10% to Canada, and 7% to Norway. In November, 7% plan to migrate to other countries, including 24% to Germany, 11% to Canada, and 10% to Norway.

Among the main reasons for further movement in August, respondents mentioned: 33% family ties, 29% security, and 10% employment. The main reasons for further movement in September were family ties for 30%, asylum procedure for 17%, and community ties for 15%. Among the main reasons for further movement in October, respondents mentioned: family ties for 36%, asylum procedure for 16%, and employment opportunities for 12%. Among the main reasons for further movement in November, respondents mentioned:

family ties for 33%, asylum procedure for 18%, and community ties for 13%.

During the survey period from August to November 2022, an increasing proportion of migrants from Ukraine rented housing (from 32% to 50%). Meanwhile, the share of those who live with their hosts or in places of joint residence is decreasing. Thus, migrants are gradually solving their accommodation problems.

The primary needs of migrants from Ukraine are cash, employment, accommodation, medical and material assistance. Moreover, between August and November, the proportion of those who have problems with medical care increased from 23% to 37%. Among the most important information needs are obtaining information about financial assistance, medical services, and employment opportunities.

In August, the largest share of migrants surveyed came from Kharkiv, Kyiv, and Dnipro oblasts, with the majority (57%) leaving their place of residence between the end of February and March. 100% of people had a national passport or national identity card (79% biometric, 21% non-biometric or did not mention). 11% were internally displaced within Ukraine before leaving the country. In September 2022, the largest share of respondents came from regions where active hostilities are taking place: Kherson, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, and Donetsk oblasts. In October 2022, the largest share of migrants came from Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, the city of Kyiv, Dnipro, and Kherson oblasts.

### **The EU's Response to the Migration Crisis and the Problems of Refugees from Ukraine**

After Russia's military invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the EU took measures to respond to the protection needs of refugees. EU assistance included direct humanitarian aid, emergency civil protection assistance, support at the border, and protection for those fleeing war and entering the EU. For the first time in history, the European Union has activated the Temporary Protection Directive, which establishes legal rules to help manage the massive influx of migrants. Alongside this, the European Commission immediately ensured coordination with EU countries to gather information on the situation of migrants on the ground and prevent human trafficking (European Commission, 2023).

The EU's experience in managing migration has shown a lack of capacity of member states to process asylum applications submitted by migrants in large numbers. Therefore, on March 2, 2022, the Commission proposed to activate the Temporary Protection Directive, which was adopted by the European Council on March 4, 2022, with the Decision on Assistance to Persons Fleeing War in Ukraine on Temporary Protection.

Persons granted temporary protection for one year and the possibility of its extension in the event of a continuation of the war have the right to residency and access to housing and education for children and adolescents. In addition, they can receive social and medical assistance, legal guardianship, and safe accommodation for unaccompanied children and adolescents. These persons have access to the labor market (depending on the labor market policies of the EU countries), and access to banking services (e.g. opening a main bank

account). Persons who have been granted temporary protection are allowed to move to another EU country, obtain a residence permit, and move freely within the EU (except for the Member State of residence). The UNHCR's financial goals include \$602.5 million outside of Ukraine to support the victims and \$517 million in countries hosting refugees from Ukraine (the requirements for states are distributed as follows: Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) \$11 million, Bulgaria \$19.4 million, Czech Republic \$15 million, Hungary \$17.5 million, Republic of Moldova \$115.5 million, Poland \$103 million, Romania \$57 million, Slovakia \$21.5 million, regional assistance \$49 million). Thus, the following financial requirements to meet the needs of refugees from Ukraine cause an additional burden on the budgets of the countries hosting migrants (The UN Refugee Agency, 2023i).

The EU's response includes the establishment of a solidarity platform to ensure the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive in close cooperation with stakeholders. The platform allows for the monitoring of needs and coordination of the operational response to refugee needs. The Solidarity Platform contains a common forum for discussing the support and implementation of the European Commission's Response Plan. The Solidarity Platform brings together EU countries, associated Schengen countries, EU agencies (including the EU Asylum Agency, Frontex, and Europol), IOM, UNHCR, and other partners, and Ukrainian authorities. Representatives of the platform hold regular meetings together with the Council's Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR), and the EU Network on Migration Preparedness and Crisis Management.

In Europe, the Refugee Coordination Forum has been established (Fig. 2). It combines state coordination plans at the national level with regional coordination plans for Ukrainian refugees, which are structured as follows:

1. Sectoral regional working groups: working group on child protection, gender-based violence, anti-trafficking task force; working group on refugee inclusion.
2. Working groups in cross-cutting areas: PSEA network, gender Task Force (UN Women Care).

The Regional PSEA and Safeguarding Network was established to address the challenges and risks in protecting victims from the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), which are key aspects of the regional refugee response (The UN Refugee Agency, 2023k). The Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) agreed on the need to establish a regional PSEA network to protect refugees from Ukraine. It is crucial to increase attention to the issue of violence through the establishment of PSEA networks/operational groups at the national level in Ukraine's neighboring countries that host refugees. A coordinated victim-centered approach is used to ensure exchange and learning within national refugee protection networks.

The Regional Working Group on Child Protection was established to respond to issues such as children fleeing war in Ukraine and their protection needs, humanitarian assistance, risks of violence and abuse, exploitation, trafficking, etc. The group addresses issues such as child reception and safety, education and healthcare, housing, mental health, and psy-

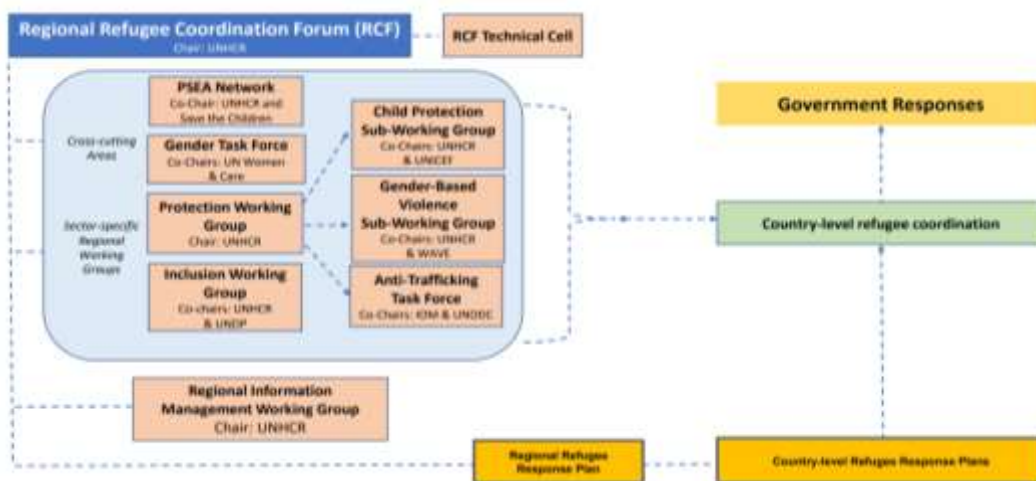


Fig. (2). Ukraine Refugee situation – Regional Refugee Coordination as of 31.01.2023. Source: The UN Refugee Agency (2023j).

chosocial support. To this end, in March 2022, the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) was launched to facilitate and implement comprehensive measures in five EU countries neighboring Ukraine: Poland, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia. UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the RRP under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) in cooperation with stakeholders, including governmental and inter-agency partners. Due to a large number of war-affected children and cross-sectoral child protection risks, a Regional Sub-Working Group on Child Protection (SWG CP) was established under the leadership of UNICEF and UNHCR. The SWG CP aims to provide political and technical guidance to the child protection sub-working groups in the given neighboring countries (The UN Refugee Agency, 2023l).

The Working Group on Trafficking in Persons Protection manages situational awareness of possible risks in this area, in particular through established thematic groups/task forces to address critical issues (e.g. gender-based violence, child protection, protection from sexual abuse and exploitation by humanitarian workers, etc.) This group addresses possible risks related to the protection of victims in Ukraine who may face these issues, as well as assesses the needs of victims, provides advocacy, and technical assistance, and raises awareness among refugees about possible risks (The UN Refugee Agency, 2023m).

### 5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Migration from Ukraine has spread to the entire European continent. Refugees from Ukraine who crossed the borders of Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, or other countries have emigrated to other countries. Since the beginning of February 24, 2022, 19.505 million people have crossed the border of Ukraine. As of March 14, 2023, 8.113 million refugees from Ukraine were registered within Europe, including 4.901 million people who were granted temporary protection status or similar national migrant protection schemes in Europe. The main problems of refugees from Ukraine were identified. These include low employment due to the demographic structure and the high need for temporary protection.

Moreover, many complain about the high proportion of un-registered children in the host country and difficult access to childcare services in the host country for children aged 0-4 years. Furthermore, many experienced difficulties in obtaining healthcare services. Between August and November, the share of refugees planning to stay in Poland increased, in particular, due to security issues in Ukraine, family ties, temporary protection, and employment in the country. The problem of further migration to Europe due to the need for employment was also highlighted as a problem. Migrants are gradually solving problems related to accommodation on their own. The primary needs of migrants from Ukraine are cash, employment, accommodation, medical and material assistance.

The war in Ukraine has triggered the need to change the legal mechanisms for providing protection and asylum to refugees due to their massive migration to safe regions of the EU. In particular, the EU has activated the Directive on Temporary Protection and Assistance to Persons Fleeing War in Ukraine on temporary protection for one year and the possibility of its extension. This legal change has eased the strict policy of accepting migrants, but at the same time does not solve the long-term potential problems of migrants related to employment or integration. Migrants from Ukraine received some rights, which partially solved problems related to accommodation, access to housing and education, social and medical care, access to the labor market and banking services, relocation to another EU country, and free movement within the EU. However, data from a study of registered refugees in Poland indicate that displaced persons have needs for housing, employment, financial assistance, medical services, etc.

In the context of the war, the EU has developed a refugee crisis response plan and established a mechanism to ensure the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive in close cooperation with stakeholders. The established Solidarity Platform allows for the monitoring of the needs and coordination of the rapid response to the needs of refugees. To coordinate refugees in Europe, the Refugee Coordination Forum was established. Its task is to combine state plans at



the national and regional levels and determine the way sectoral regional working groups and working groups in related areas of refugee needs are organized. In times of war, the risks associated with violence, protection of women's and children's rights, human trafficking, etc. increase. Therefore, the EU constantly monitors these risks and informs citizens about potential dangers.

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