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ANALYSIS SPECIFICATIONS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AMONG UKRAINIAN MIGRANTS AMID WARTIME CONDITIONS

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Introduction. In the conditions of a prolonged war in Ukraine, particularly in its eastern regions, the economic activity of Ukrainian migrants has become crucial both for the economic stability of their native country and for the economies of the countries providing asylum. However, the measurement of this economic activity is accompanied by significant methodological difficulties due to the special circumstances of the military conflict and the complexity of migration processes. Under the influence of the rapid migration crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, there is a noticeable reformatting of a number of indicators, proportions and dynamics of the labor market both in Ukraine and in the countries receiving Ukrainian forced migrants.

From the point of view of the Ukrainian economy, the outflow of qualified workers deepens the economic recession and increases the demand for certain specialties, especially in industries that support the needs of the front. For the economies of the host countries, although new challenges arise, it is important to note a significant decrease in the level of unemployment in these countries and an increase in demand for goods and services, which leads to an increase in revenues for state budgets. However, significant methodological obstacles arise in the study of employment and economic activity of migrants, which is due to differences in the methods of collecting data on employed persons in different countries and specific patterns of employment of the population experiencing a protracted military conflict.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the difficulties in measuring the economic activity of migrants both in different regions of Ukraine and abroad. The working hypothesis assumes the need to use a combination of direct and indirect assessment methods to analyze indicators of economic activity. Evaluating these activities during wartime requires a variety of methodological approaches that consider both direct and indirect indicators. The study examines methods for assessing the labor force of Ukrainian migrants, covering direct indicators such as employment data and tax registers, as well as indirect methods based on surveys and international databases.

Literature review. Numerous scientific works concerning labor migration emphasize its economic basis (Klaus, 2003; Duszczak, 2019; Dobroczyk et al., 2017).

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People always strive for higher earnings and better living conditions, which is a natural tendency in society. It should be noted that since the beginning of the 21st century, Ukrainian migration has been constantly increasing, especially against the background of economic crises and the beginning of military operations in the east of the country in 2014 (Logvynova, 2019; Fialkowska, 2019; Libanova, 2018, 2019; Chugaievskaya, Rusak, 2022).

The full-scale military invasion of Ukraine has led to mass migration driven by the urgent need for security, especially for the protection of children and families. Accordingly, women and children became the main demographic group of migrants against the background of general mobilization (Ravet et al., 2022; Chugaievskaya, Wisla, 2023). Over time, some of these migrants found work in new places, adapted to the language and new living conditions, which was a consequence of changes in the policies of the host countries to support Ukrainian migrants (Gurny, Kaczmarczyk, 2023; Fink, Kader, 2023).

Peculiarities of assessing the economic activity of Ukrainian migrants. Since 2014, large-scale migration processes have been taking place in Ukraine, which are closely related to political events and military aggression of the Russian Federation. Migration flows from Ukraine to neighboring countries, such as Poland, Slovakia, Germany, became significant against the background of open military aggression after February 24, 2022. Military actions by the Russian Federation led to panic and the need to evacuate the population from many regions of Ukraine. According to the international migration service UNHCR (as of March 2024), 6.5 million Ukrainian refugees are currently temporarily living abroad.

Methods of direct assessment of the economic activity of Ukrainian migrants include the use of available statistical data, such as employment information from labor services and data from tax registers. For example, in Poland, data on contributions from the wages of Ukrainian workers to the social insurance fund and disability insurance became such sources of data. Tax registers allow you to get information about migrants' incomes and the amount of taxes paid.

However, in the conditions of war, there are difficulties in using these methods, since some migrants may work in the shadow sector of the economy or go abroad in search of work without registering in official sources. Indirect methods of assessing the structural indicators of Ukrainian migrants and their employment conditions in wartime become an important source of information for solving such issues. Indirect methods of assessing labor activity of Ukrainian migrants include the use of surveys and analysis of international databases.

For example, within the framework of the research project "New wave of migration against the background of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, socio-economic consequences for Ukraine and for Poland 2022: statistical analysis and prospects" (Jagiellonian University in Krakow, University of Bremen, 2022-2023) studied macroeconomic indicators against the background of Russia's military aggression in Ukraine based on data from the World Bank and the International Labor Organization.

The survey of the second round was conducted on the basis of the Krakow

University named after Andrzej Frych Modzewski in Krakow, Poland, and aimed to investigate the employment characteristics of Ukrainian migrants in the Polish labor market. In the period from April to October 2024, 305 respondents took part in the anonymous survey. The questionnaire was placed in a Google form and distributed through social networks, Integration Centers for refugees, Red Cross branches, as well as among enterprises where Ukrainian migrants work. Questionnaire questions included information about employment, demographic data (age, education, gender), length of stay in Poland, economic sector of employment, living conditions, as well as respondents' well-being, comparison of their income and expenses in Poland and Ukraine. Special attention was paid to the psychological state of migrants and their plans for the future².

The survey results reflected the structure of employment among Ukrainian migrants in Poland. In particular, 33.6% of respondents found a job in a new place, 30% work remotely in Ukraine, 0.5% work in international companies, 1% are actively looking for work, and 4.4% receive a pension. In addition, 29.5% receive social assistance, and 16.8% receive financial assistance from organizations that support refugees.

Within the study of regional changes in labor markets due to migration, the quality and completeness of data played a key role. In conditions of limited access to official statistics of Ukraine, the formation of a representative sample was important. The main question in the questionnaire was whether the migrants kept their previous position at the new place of work. The first round of the survey found that 80.5% of respondents were working in junior positions, 15.5% had retained similar positions, and 4% had achieved a promotion. Based on this, the Migrant Labor Adaptability Index was developed: 0 points for a lower position, 1 point for a similar position, and 2 points for a higher position. The index for the first year of the war was -0.2350, which indicates that employment is predominantly in lower positions.

In the second round, this indicator increased, which indicates the tendency of migrants to adapt to the labor market. After the first year of the war, part of the refugees returned home to their previous places of work. Those who remained found a job corresponding to their previous position in 56.9% of cases, 23.5% took lower positions, and 19.6% were promoted. This increased the Adaptability Index to 0.961, indicating better integration. For those who did not work in Ukraine, but found a job in Poland, the score was also 2 points. An important aspect was determining the minimum sample size for data reliability. The minimum number of respondents for the first and second rounds was 61 and 96, respectively, but the actual participation exceeded these limits (102 and 305, respectively), which ensures sufficiently high statistical reliability. The proposed Labor Adaptability Index allows for a detailed assessment of the impact of the migration crisis on regional labor markets. This index will be detailed in later sections of the study.

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Conclusions. Assessing the economic activity of Ukrainian migrants during the war is a complex task that requires a complex approach. Direct methods based on existing statistics provide valuable information on labor market participation and earnings, while indirect methods, such as surveys and analysis of international sources, broaden the picture of the economic situation of migrants. However, methodological limitations and complexities require constant improvement of research techniques. The joint efforts of researchers, policymakers and stakeholders will contribute to increasing the accuracy and reliability of the results. A deeper understanding of the economic activity of migrants in times of conflict will contribute to informed policy and resource decisions. By improving approaches and overcoming limitations, we will be able to better support the economic well-being of Ukrainian migrants and contribute to the recovery of affected regions.

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