

## **TRANSFORMATION OF STATE GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES DURING THE WAR**

The large-scale migration of Ukrainian citizens caused by the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation in February 2022 led to a profound destabilization of the economic, social, and political situation in the country and resulted in a sharp disruption of the demographic balance. Among the most significant consequences of the war are the occupation and depopulation of certain territories, the displacement of the population to safer regions, the mobilization of a significant part of the male population, and the mass departure of women and children abroad. These factors together have led to a shift in the age structure of the population towards ageing, a weakening of the institution of the family, and an exacerbation of imbalances in the labour market, manifested in a simultaneous increase in unemployment and a shortage of working-age population, as well as an increase in the proportion of socially vulnerable groups.

These processes are creating destructive trends in the country's socio-economic development and pose a significant threat to its long-term stability, as human capital is a key condition for sustainable development. The current migration situation poses a significant challenge not only to the demographic and economic security of Ukraine, but also to the European region as a whole, which necessitates a profound rethinking of public administration mechanisms in the context of the socio-demographic challenges of wartime.

The escalation of the military conflict in Ukraine has led to large-scale waves of forced migration, the first comprehensive assessments of which were carried out by a number of domestic scientists. In particular, the works of I. Baranyak [1], V. Potapenko, A. Golovka, and O. Valevsky [2; 3], A. Simakhova [4], B. Chuprynsky, V. Grachuk, and N. Karpinska [6] analyze the scale, dynamics, and initial consequences of migration flows caused by military actions. At the same time, the issue of migration in Ukraine remained one of the priority areas of domestic scientific research even

before the full-scale invasion. This scientific work forms an important basis for further understanding of current migration trends, in-depth analysis of demographic changes, and the development of effective management decisions in the context of military and post-war challenges.

Contemporary migration processes caused by military actions are characterized by unprecedented scale and numbers. Millions of citizens have been forced to leave areas of active combat and move to safer regions or outside the country, causing sharp territorial imbalances in population distribution and exacerbating the outflow of skilled labor abroad. Significant destruction of social infrastructure – primarily health care, education, and other social institutions – has significantly limited the population's access to basic services necessary to maintain an adequate quality of life.

The decline in medical care inevitably leads to an increase in morbidity and mortality, and the deterioration of social conditions is accompanied by a decline in the birth rate. As a result, the risks of a demographic crisis are deepening, which negatively affects the economic and social potential of the state. These factors together pose a complex threat to the long-term sustainability of Ukraine's development and require a rethinking of state policy strategies for managing migration and demographic processes in wartime. Starting in 2022, Ukraine will face complex demographic challenges that are accumulating and require a systematic and multi-level response. Effectively overcoming the socio-demographic consequences of the war and threats to demographic security requires coordination of state policy and active support from international partners aimed at stabilizing the demographic situation, restoring vital infrastructure, and strengthening human potential. As of August 29, 2023, according to the UN [5], since the start of the full-scale war, about 11.3 million Ukrainian citizens have left their permanent places of residence, which is about 25% of the country's total population.

The full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation in February 2022 caused a deep demographic crisis in Ukraine, manifested in mass forced migration, significant human losses, destruction of critical infrastructure, and exacerbation of socio-economic imbalances. As a result, there have been significant changes in the age, gender, and

territorial structure of the population, posing serious threats to the demographic security and sustainable development of the state as a whole.

An analysis of migration flows has shown a high proportion of women and children among displaced persons, a predominance of European migration, and an uneven burden on the social systems of both Ukraine and the recipient countries. Given these threats, a systematic response at the level of state policy is necessary, in particular the introduction of effective mechanisms for managing demographic security. These include institutional and programmatic, socio-economic, migration and reintegration, infrastructure, and information and communication mechanisms. The institutional and programmatic mechanism ensures the creation and functioning of state institutions and programs in the field of demographic security, including the development of strategic documents, coordination between central and local authorities, and monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of measures.

The socio-economic mechanism aims to stabilize living conditions and stimulate demographic processes by supporting families, creating jobs, developing social services, healthcare, education, and housing, as well as creating economic incentives to increase the birth rate and reduce migration pressure. The migration and reintegration mechanism regulates internal and external migration, protects the rights of displaced persons, and creates conditions for their return and integration through support programs, adaptation, and reintegration initiatives. The infrastructure mechanism provides for the restoration and modernization of housing, transport and energy networks, medical and educational institutions, ensuring stable living conditions and development of the population. The information and communication mechanism establishes effective communication between the state and the population, disseminates information on demographic policy, promotes family support programs, and ensures the monitoring and analysis of demographic processes to increase transparency and management efficiency.

The comprehensive implementation of the proposed measures will not only help mitigate the effects of demographic losses, but also create conditions for the return of migrants, increase the birth rate, ensure social stability, and restore Ukraine's human and labor potential in the post-war period.

## References:

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