

Секція 4

МІЖНАРОДНИЙ ДОСВІД ТА СТРАТЕГІЧНІ ОРІЄНТИРИ ІМПЛЕМЕНТАЦІЇ ЦІЛЕЙ СТАЛОГО РОЗВИТКУ



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INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION PROCESSES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION CHALLENGES

Nowadays it is an undoubted fact that migration processes in the world are characterized by high dynamics, which is natural in the conditions of globalization of the world economy. Yet, at the same time, the form of government involvement in migration may differ: some countries are only suppliers and others are pure consumers. The problem of external migration is very relevant to modern Ukraine. On the one hand, there exists a positive fact as an external labor migration is one of the ways of employing unemployed people and thus it can reduce social tensions in society. Besides, external labor migration contributes to the flow of significant funds that are earned abroad and the volume of which suggests the formation of a specific type of investment in the country's economy (according to various estimates it differs within the diapason from 1 to 5 billion dollars annually). And this is without any doubt a significant addition to the country's budget.

Traditionally, the European Union is considered to be one of the main centers of attraction for the workforce. Thus, priority destinations for our citizens abroad are such countries as Poland, the Czech Republic, Italy, the USA, Germany, Great Britain, and Italy. At the same time, the Russian Federation, Israel, Spain, Portugal, and Canada also should be regarded as countries with significant Ukrainian migrant centers, which makes them attractive as there is a facilitative adaptation process of migrants in the destination country based on the Ukrainian national community formed there.

However, usually, most countries focus on the negative trends in international migration for their economies. Thus, in the study "Emigration and its Economic Impact on Eastern Europe", conducted by IMF, analysts indicated the negative impact of labor emigration on countries-suppliers and it was defined that emigration, in relative values (as a fraction of emigrants from the total population) is, in reality, the largest form of the labor movement in the modern world.

Furthermore, it is important to emphasize that the processes of globalization affect migration in such a way: from lower-income EU countries (for example, from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, and others) workers move to higher-income countries. The downside here is that the departure of young and skilled workers abroad leads to a decrease in labor productivity in the emigration countries (because mainly it is active workers with practical skills who leave) and a worsening demographic situation (as due to the departure of the predominantly young population, the average age of the population increases). And all of this has the corresponding fiscal consequences, such as the rise in social spending as a part of GDP. The migration processes also have an impact on wage growth, which in turn reduces the country's competitiveness. In other words, the shortage of labor, especially the skilled one, causes wages to increase, which affects the competitiveness of products on the market. With the depletion of labor reserves and the continued rise in labor costs, countries will likely have to look for other drivers of economic growth.

However, the greatest threat to migration at the present stage lies in the spread of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). Almost all migration processes have stopped and countries have closed their borders because of the threat of a pandemic. Thus, today it is too early to talk about the further development of international migration. The impact of the coronavirus forced governments to close borders, implement quarantine and limit citizens' mobility. All of that caused a domino effect: airlines cut or closed their flights, supermarkets ran out of inventory and a general slowdown of life appeared and this affects everyone.

It is already a well-known fact that the global economy is declining today, and analysts claim that it is a recession. Oxford Economics experts estimate that, as a result of the COVID-19 spread, global GDP growth will slow to 1.9% in the first quarter of 2020, compared to the first quarter of 2019. This requires a revision of the global growth forecast for 2020 from 2.5% to 2.3%. For a better understanding of this problem, in 2019 the global economy has grown by 2.6% compared to 2018. Thus, in total, according to Oxford Economics, pandemic losses of the global economy can range from 0.4 to 1.1 trillion USA dollars, depending on the future scenario of the COVID-19 spreading.

The massive reduction and closure of firms, enterprises, and entire industries (already several of them were affected: tourism, hotel and restaurant business, retail trade, transportation and entertainment industry) also leads to a decrease in labor demand. Moreover, it is difficult to talk about international migration and its prospects today, until the key problem that has caused such a large imbalance in the world economy is resolved – the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yet, some migration processes still take place today. The shortage of doctors and medical staff in most countries has led to the formation of a specific form of migration – medical migration. Doctors and nurses are actively invited by Italy, Spain, Finland, and other countries. The issue of work in the agro-sphere is also being actively discussed as, before the pandemic, most European countries could not close the labor shortage in this sector without the participation of migrants. So, the migration process will continue here, but with some restrictive measures. Thus, Germany has already declared that, despite the pandemic, it will allow for about 80,000 migrant workers to enter the country for seasonal work in agriculture.

Taking everything into account, we can conclude that such phenomena as international migration processes, which are an essential part of international economic relations, will nevertheless continue, but obviously with some significant changes and innovations in its flows, peculiarities, and forms.