

Kiriak O. V.

PhD (in Law)

Private Law Department Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University

e-mail: o.kiriyak@chnu.edu.ua

UKRAINIAN MIGRATION SURGE: IMPACT ON SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Ukrainian migration surge in the Slovak Republic has emerged as a significant phenomenon in the aftermath of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The influx of Ukrainian migrants into Slovakia has garnered attention from policymakers, researchers, and the public due to its profound impact on various aspects of Slovak society, including demographics, labor market dynamics, and social cohesion. This article aims to provide a light analysis of the Ukrainian migration surge and its implications for the Slovak Republic, shedding light on the drivers of migration, the socio-economic characteristics of Ukrainian migrants, and the challenges and opportunities arising from their presence in Slovakia.

The escalation of aggression in Ukraine since 2024 has led to a wave of displacement, with millions of Ukrainians fleeing their homes in search of safety and stability. While many Ukrainians have sought refuge in neighboring countries such as Poland and Hungary, an increasing number have also made their way to Slovakia, drawn by its relative proximity, economic opportunities, and historical ties with Ukraine. This influx of Ukrainian migrants has reshaped the demographic landscape of Slovakia, contributing to a growing Ukrainian community that has become an integral part of Slovak society.

As it was highlighted by Boris Divinský, in the early 21st century it is possible to consider the migration phenomenon to be one of the most distinctive features of globalization processes in the world [1, p. 3]. Understanding the dynamics of Ukrainian migration and its impact on the Slovak Republic is crucial for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders involved in migration

management and integration efforts. By examining the drivers, patterns, and consequences of Ukrainian migration to Slovakia, this study seeks to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on migration dynamics in Central and Eastern Europe. Furthermore, insights gleaned from this analysis can inform evidence-based policymaking and facilitate the development of strategies to address the needs and challenges of Ukrainian migrants in Slovakia, ultimately fostering greater social cohesion and inclusivity in the host society.

The Conception of the Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic from 2005⁹ or other official documents addressed the integration of immigrants into society either in an insufficient and inconsistent fashion or not at all. Migrants (primarily those coming from third countries) living in Slovakia also after its joining the EU more or less rightfully believed that just a little attention was paid to their integration in the country, the approach by the state was in most cases improvised, financial sources set aside for integration were modest and there were no specialized integration programs [2]. According to the conclusions of B. Divinsky, Slovakia's lagging behind in the process of integration of foreigners into society was also confirmed by a representative international comparison. The level of integration policies in 28 advanced countries was assessed on the basis of 142 miscellaneous indicators in the MIPEX II study and the Slovak Republic took the 4th - 5th place from the end [1, p. 8].

It is in complete alignment with the findings of the integration process observed among Chinese migrants. Following the Peter Ondris' thoughts, given the economic potential and the illegal migration, not enough attention has been paid to the Chinese community in Slovakia by experts, academics or generally. Generally most discussions on foreigners in Slovakia focus on asylum applicants. Foreigners in Slovakia are subjected to the contradictory priorities of Slovak governments in migration policy, as mentioned earlier. This is especially true for the Chinese. The government's primary aim is to fight illegal migration and labor. In addition it has an obligation to fulfill the Schengen acquis. The Chinese who

have already settled in Slovakia complain of complicated administrative procedures which interfere with their everyday lives and work [3, p. 84].

The conclusions drawn from the integration process observed among Chinese migrants in Slovakia bear striking resemblance to those derived from the analysis of Ukrainian migration dynamics. Both instances underscore the multifaceted impact of migration on host societies, emphasizing the need for holistic approaches to integration that address socio-economic, cultural, and institutional dimensions. Additionally, the parallels highlight the importance of fostering dialogue, understanding, and collaboration between migrant communities and host populations to promote social cohesion and inclusivity. As Slovakia navigates the complexities of migration from diverse origins, lessons learned from both the Chinese and Ukrainian experiences can inform evidence-based policymaking and facilitate the development of strategies that uphold human rights, dignity, and respect for diversity while maximizing the benefits of migration for all stakeholders involved.

In conclusion, the Ukrainian migration surge has left an indelible mark on the Slovak Republic, reshaping its social, economic, and demographic landscape in profound ways. The influx of Ukrainian migrants has brought both challenges and opportunities to Slovak society, with implications for labor markets, social cohesion, and cultural diversity. While the surge in Ukrainian migration has posed integration challenges, it has also enriched the fabric of Slovak society, fostering cross-cultural exchange and contributing to economic growth. Moving forward, addressing the needs and aspirations of Ukrainian migrants will require a comprehensive approach that prioritizes integration support, access to education and employment opportunities, and social inclusion initiatives. Furthermore, fostering dialogue and cooperation between host communities and Ukrainian migrants is essential for promoting mutual understanding and social cohesion. As Slovakia continues to navigate the complexities of Ukrainian migration, it must adopt policies and practices that uphold human rights, dignity, and respect for

diversity. Ultimately, embracing the contributions of Ukrainian migrants and recognizing their inherent worth and potential can pave the way for a more inclusive and prosperous future for all residents of the Slovak Republic.

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Коваленко О. О.

доктор юридичних наук, професор
Харківський національний педагогічний університет імені Г. С. Сковороди
e-mail: kovalenko.olena@hnpu.edu.ua

СОЦІАЛЬНИЙ ДІАЛОГ: АКТУАЛЬНІ ПРОБЛЕМИ ГАРМОНІЗАЦІЇ ЗАКОНОДАВСТВА УКРАЇНИ З *ACQUIS* ЄС

Рух України у європейському напрямі, визначений при підписанні Угоди про асоціацію між Україною, з однієї сторони, та Європейським Союзом, Європейським співтовариством з атомної енергії і їхніми державами-членами, з іншої сторони [1] поставив на порядку денному вирішення питань ефективності соціального діалогу із метою приведення останнього у відповідність із європейськими стандартами.

Інститут соціального діалогу, що трансформувалася з інституту соціального партнерства – новели для незалежної України - функціонує у нашій державі вже достатньо довгий період. Але ефективність його діяльності, все ж таки, є недостатньою. Фактично мова йде про формальне виконання вимог Закону України «Про соціальний діалог в Україні» [2] із