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THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE STUDY OF FORCED MIGRATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Abstract

The article examines the phenomenon of forced internal migration in the context of full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The relevance of the topic is due to the unprecedented scale of the migration crisis and the need to adapt state policy to new socio-economic and legal challenges. The purpose of the study is a comprehensive theoretical and legal analysis of the concept of "internally displaced person" (IDP), the determinants of forced migration and mechanisms of social and legal protection in Ukraine in order to substantiate strategic directions for improving public administration in this area.

The methodological basis of the work is theoretical and conceptual, formal and legal, comparative and legal and systemic and structural methods.

As a result of the study, the essence of forced displacement was conceptualized, it was distinguished from voluntary migration and the key triggers of spatial mobility of the population were identified (military actions, destruction of infrastructure, existential threats). A thorough analysis of national legislation was carried out in comparison with international standards (UN Guiding Principles, Council of Europe Recommendations, IOM approaches). It was established that the current regulatory and legal framework of Ukraine, formed mainly in 2014, provides for institutional registration of IDPs, but conceptually it is too narrow for the scale of the modern war. Institutional dysfunctions were identified, under which the status of IDPs in practice is often reduced to formal registration for the sake of access to basic payments, which contradicts the comprehensive approach of international humanitarian law.

The conclusion is made about the urgent need to transform the state migration policy - to move from a strategy of short-term humanitarian response to multi-level models of long-term socio-economic reintegration of IDPs as full-fledged legal subjects with appropriate prolonged guarantees.

Keywords: internally displaced persons (IDPs), forced migration, migration crisis, social and legal protection, international

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humanitarian law, integration policy.

JEL Classification: R23, I38, J68

ТЕОРЕТИКО-МЕТОДИЧНІ ЗАСАДИ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ ВИМУШЕНОЇ МІГРАЦІЇ ТА ІДЕНТИФІКАЦІЇ ВНУТРІШНЬО ПЕРЕМІЩЕНОЇ ОСОБИ

Анотація

У статті досліджено феномен вимушеної внутрішньої міграції в умовах повномасштабної збройної агресії Російської Федерації проти України. Актуальність теми зумовлена безпрецедентними масштабами міграційної кризи та необхідністю адаптації державної політики до нових соціально-економічних і правових викликів. Метою розвідки є комплексний теоретико-правовий аналіз концепту «внутрішньо переміщена особа» (ВПО), детермінант вимушеної міграції та механізмів соціально-правового захисту в Україні задля обґрунтування стратегічних напрямів вдосконалення державного управління у цій сфері.

Методологічну основу роботи становлять теоретико-концептуальний, формально-юридичний, порівняльно-правовий та системно-структурний методи.

У результаті дослідження концептуалізовано сутність вимушеного переміщення, розмежовано його з добровільною міграцією та визначено ключові тригери просторової мобільності населення (військові дії, руйнування інфраструктури, екзистенційні загрози). Здійснено ґрунтовний аналіз національного законодавства у зіставленні з міжнародними стандартами (Керівними принципами ООН, Рекомендаціями Ради Європи, підходами МОМ). Встановлено, що чинна нормативно-правова база України, сформована переважно у 2014 році, забезпечує інституційний облік ВПО, проте концептуально виявляється завузькою для масштабів сучасної війни. Виявлено інституційні дисфункції, за яких статус ВПО на практиці часто зводиться до формальної реєстрації заради доступу до базових виплат, що суперечить комплексному підходу міжнародного гуманітарного права.

Зроблено висновок про нагальну необхідність трансформації державної міграційної політики – переходу від стратегії короткострокового гуманітарного реагування до багаторівневих моделей довгострокової соціально-економічної реінтеграції

ВПО як повноправних суб'єктів права з відповідними пролонгованими гарантіями.

Ключові слова: внутрішньо переміщені особи (ВПО), вимушена міграція, міграційна криза, соціально-правовий захист, міжнародне гуманітарне право, інтеграційна політика.

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Introduction

The full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has provoked an unprecedented migration crisis, resulting in massive forced displacement of the population both domestically and internationally. The current crisis of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine is characterized by its unique scale, geographical extent, intense dynamics of development and duration, which generates profound structural consequences for the entire society. Under the influence of a complex of destructive security factors, IDPs are forced to radically transform their established patterns of life and undergo a complex process of integration into a new socio-cultural environment. This phenomenon determines systemic changes in the social structure, directly affecting the economic stability of displaced persons and host communities, and also increases the risks of social exclusion (isolation), which requires comprehensive support from state institutions and civil society.

The outlined trends, against the background of the need to strengthen the resilience of territorial communities, sharply update the issue of institutional provision of rights and social guarantees for IDPs. In conditions of escalation and prolongation of hostilities, the state's priority task is to unconditionally fulfill its social obligations. A set of challenges arises regarding the optimization of mechanisms for the provision of administrative services, unhindered access to social payments, institutionalization of special legal status, protection of the rights of vulnerable categories (in particular children), as well as solving the housing and educational problems of migrants. In view of this, there is an urgent need to develop and implement an effective state crisis response policy. Given the multidimensionality of the problem, the phenomenon of forced displacement is in the focus of interdisciplinary scientific discourse, which includes research in the fields of sociology, economics, political science, psychology, pedagogy and public administration. It is worth noting that scientific interest in the socio-psychological aspects of adaptation and reintegration of IDPs has become systemic since 2014, as a result of the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the temporary occupation of part of the eastern regions of Ukraine. However, the new realities of a full-scale war have qualitatively changed the scale and specificity of migration processes, which requires updating theoretical and methodological approaches and further empirical research.

Literature review

The theoretical and conceptual aspects of the definition of "internally displaced persons" have been the focus of attention of many scholars. In particular, the phenomenon of internal migration in the post-Soviet period was the object of research by T. Dragunova (2004), S. Zapadnyuk (2008), G. Vechkanov (1981), and others. However, the results of these scientific investigations lose their relevance and heuristic potential in the conditions of a modern full-scale war, and therefore cannot serve as an exhaustive methodological basis for developing strategies for the social protection of IDPs in Ukraine. Based on the achievements of foreign science, in particular the works of D. Winter (1998), K. Lai and B. Toliashvili (2010), and K. Miller (1998), forced displacement should be interpreted as a deep violation of the social ecology of the individual. This situation leads to multiple deprivation, social exclusion, escalation of the risks of victimization (violence), and also forms a psychological "poverty trap". Overcoming these destructive consequences objectively requires systematic professional intervention by social protection institutions.

The issue of multidimensional (social, legal, and economic) adaptation of internally displaced persons from the eastern regions of Ukraine is the focus of empirical research by M. Parkhomenko (Parkhomenko, 2017). Investigating the phenomenon of forced migration, the scientist systematizes the constructive and

destructive factors that determine the process of socio-psychological adaptation of IDPs (using the example of the local case of Pokrovsky district). The work rightly emphasizes the gender and demographic specificity of migration flows: the prevalence of women in the structure of displaced persons objectively complicates the mechanisms of their social security and full integration into the labor market. Summing up the results of the study, M. Parkhomenko proves that effective overcoming of the consequences of forced migration requires institutional synergy – consolidated interaction of state bodies, host territorial communities, as well as a high level of social subjectivity (activity) of the displaced persons themselves.

A significant contribution to the theoretical understanding of the phenomenon of forced internal migration and the formation of a new social stratum – internally displaced persons (IDPs) – was made in the work of O. Protsenko (Protsenko, 2018). The author substantiates the urgent need for a thorough conceptualization of the definition of “internally displaced person” and carries out a retrospective analysis of the genesis of this term, tracing its evolution from a descriptive category to an independent concept of scientific theorizing and social practice. The comparative demarcation (distinction) of the status of IDPs from related categories, in particular “refugee” and “economic migrant”, carried out in the study deserves special attention. In addition, the work identifies the basic invariant criteria for internal displacement and focuses on the issue of “protracted internal displacement”. O. Protsenko emphasizes that the integration of existing author’s theoretical approaches to understanding forced internal migration can form a comprehensive conceptual framework for further interdisciplinary research into the phenomenon of forced displacement and legal identification of IDPs.

The economic and legal aspects of forced migration through the prism of high social vulnerability of the population are thoroughly investigated in the work of M. Bil (Bil, 2022). Carrying out a retrospective analysis of migration processes, the scientist states that the organizational and regulatory mechanisms formed in Ukraine after 2014 require deep and comprehensive modernization in view of the unprecedented scale of displacements, starting in 2022. Special attention deserves the empirical refutation of the hypothesis, which was spread by the author at the beginning of the full-scale invasion, regarding the high potential for rapid re-emigration of the population. In the context of the deepening demographic catastrophe, the researcher emphasizes the urgent need for effective institutional regulation of migration losses. In addition to theoretical generalizations, the author provides a critical assessment of the projects of the Ukraine Recovery Plan in terms of managing forced migration and rightly points out the lack of systematization of the proposed measures and the high risks of formalism in their implementation. Instead, the researcher substantiates the pragmatic vectors of the updated state policy: strengthening comprehensive support for IDPs, creating effective tools to stimulate the return of migrants, as well as capitalizing on the migration resource. These conceptual provisions significantly supplement the methodological basis of this study in the context of forming long-term strategies for overcoming the migration crisis.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the study is a comprehensive theoretical and legal analysis of the phenomenon of internally displaced persons (IDPs), the causes of their forced migration and mechanisms of social and legal protection in Ukraine in order to substantiate ways to improve state policy. In accordance with the set goal, the following tasks are envisaged: delimitation of the concepts of voluntary and forced internal migration, systematization of key determinants of forced displacement of citizens, study of international legal standards for the identification and protection of IDP rights, review of domestic regulatory and legal support for accounting and social guarantees, as well as identification of legislative gaps to justify the need to transition from emergency response to long-term integration policy.

Summarizing the above array of scientific sources, it is worth stating that despite the thorough work of domestic and foreign researchers, the issue of forced internal migration in Ukraine remains extremely dynamic and requires constant theoretical and legal updating.

The methodological gaps identified in the literature review—in particular, the need for a clear demarcation of IDP status, overcoming social exclusion, and moving from ad hoc responses to long-term institutional regulation—form the basis for our further analysis. Starting from the identified need for a comprehensive

conceptualization of the status of an internally displaced person and the modernization of relevant state policy, we proceed to the direct presentation of the results of our study.

Methods

The methodological basis of the study is a complex of general scientific and special scientific methods of cognition, which provided an objective, systematic and comprehensive analysis of the research problem.

Theoretical and conceptual analysis, as well as methods of induction, deduction, analysis and synthesis were used to distinguish the paradigms of voluntary and forced migration, systematize the determinants of spatial population movement and conceptualize the definition of "internally displaced person".

The comparative method was used to compare domestic legislation in the field of IDP protection with international legal standards (in particular, the UN Guiding Principles, the Council of Europe Recommendations and the approaches of the International Organization for Migration), as well as to assess terminological heterogeneity in the legal field of foreign countries.

The formal-legal method allowed for an overview of the current regulatory framework of Ukraine (profile laws and government resolutions), which regulates the procedures for institutional accounting, legalization of the status and provision of social guarantees for displaced persons.

In addition, the system-structural method was used to critically assess the current institutional mechanism of state management of migration processes, identify its dysfunctions (contradictions between declared rights and their practical implementation) and substantiate the strategic vectors of the transition from situational humanitarian response to a policy of long-term socio-economic reintegration.

Results

The modern social protection system should be characterized by a high level of adaptability to respond promptly to the emergence of new vulnerable groups of the population, the transformation of their needs and the escalation of social risks. The toolkit of social interventions is constantly expanding, which determines the need for a thorough analysis of proven practices with proven effectiveness, as well as a critical rethinking of the theoretical and methodological foundations of social security for newly formed vulnerable categories of citizens. In the context of Ukraine, one of the key challenges for the social sphere, provoked by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, was the mass appearance of "internal" or "forced migrants", who in the international scientific and legal paradigm are identified as "internally displaced persons" (hereinafter – IDPs) (De Berry & Petrini, 2011; International Federation of Social Workers, 2002; Ramon & Maglajlić, 2012). The urgent need for a conceptual reassessment of the content of social work with IDPs emphasizes the priority of crisis intervention and preventive psychological counseling. This, in turn, requires solving a set of tasks to minimize the primary social problems of migrants, optimize social work methods, and diversify forms of social assistance to persons displaced from temporarily occupied territories (and war zones) to safer host communities. In modern scientific discourse, spatial mobility of the population is differentiated into two basic types: voluntary and forced migration. The determinants of voluntary migration are significant asymmetries in socio-economic development between recipient territories and human capital donor regions. The goal of such movement is to maximize individual economic well-being, improve qualifications, and accumulate socio-professional experience. This type of migration is characterized by plannedness, long-termity and is implemented mainly by an economically active population with a high level of professional competence. The demographic profile of a voluntary migrant traditionally demonstrates the prevalence of men, whose vector of movement is directed towards highly urbanized centers, which are characterized by a shortage of labor resources and are able to provide higher standards of social protection.

In contrast, the catalysts of forced migration are a critical deterioration of the security environment and direct existential threats to the life and health of a person. The basic intention of forced migration is to satisfy the fundamental need for physical security. Typically, such migration processes are characterized by spontaneity, unpredictability and unfold in extremely short terms. The socio-demographic structure of forced migrants has a pronounced specificity: women and children dominate among them, while the

proportion of men is variable and depends on the nature of the crisis triggers. In the initial stages, the spatial distribution of displaced persons is focused mainly on territorially close safe regions that are able to guarantee an adequate level of social security.

In this context, forced internal migration should be conceptualized as a forcibly conditioned movement of a person within state borders, which is necessarily accompanied by a change in permanent residence and a corresponding transformation of his administrative and legal status.

The etiology of forced internal displacement covers a wide range of factors:

- armed and political conflicts;
- destabilization of state administration;
- persecution on religious, racial or ethnic grounds;
- threat of systemic violence against a person or his family.

In practical terms, the construct of forced migration is multidimensional and integrates such forms of mobility as flight, evacuation, relocation and resettlement. According to the methodological approaches of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a forced migrant is defined as a person who moves in order to escape “persecution, conflict, repression, natural or man-made disasters, environmental degradation or other situations that pose a threat to life, freedom or livelihood” (International Organization for Migration, n.d.). According to the definition of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), forced migration is interpreted as the movement of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as persons whose migration is triggered by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear accidents, famine and the implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects (development projects) [21]. For its part, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) carries out a structural typology of forced migrants, distinguishing the following basic categories: internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and asylum seekers (international migrants or expatriate migrants) (Fig. 1).

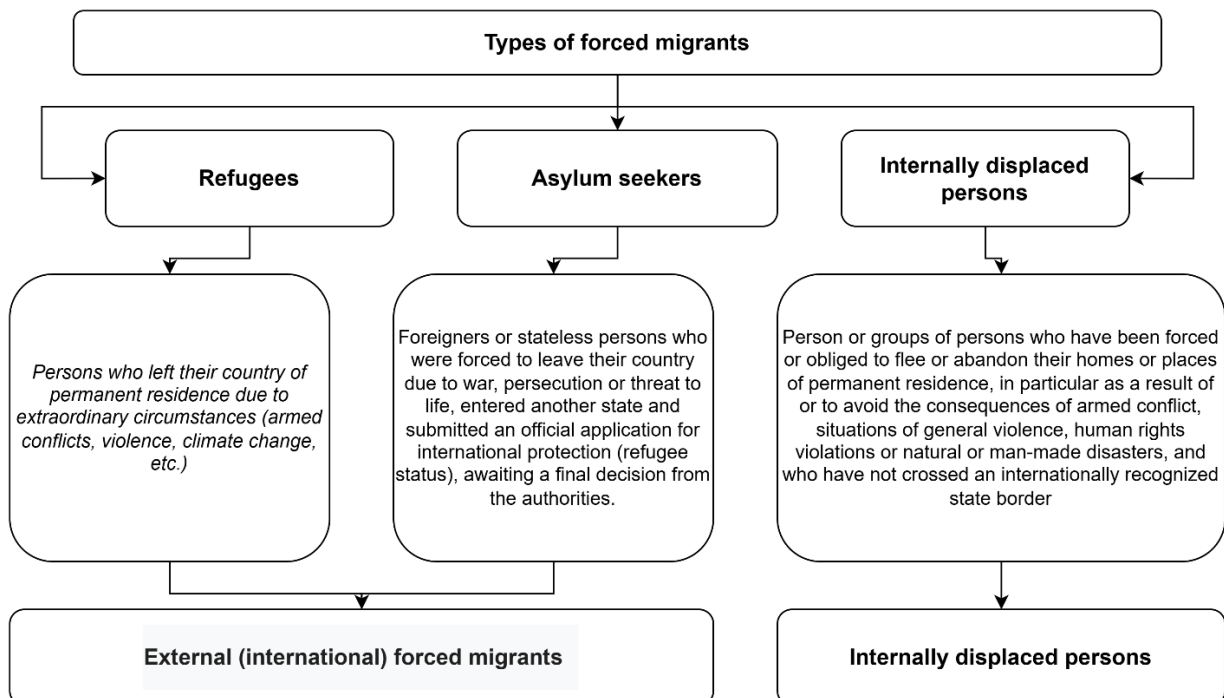


Fig. 1. Types of forced migrants

Source: author's development

In the national legislative field, the basic interpretation of the definition of “internally displaced person” is regulated by the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons” (Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons”, 2014). According

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to the provisions of this regulatory legal act, an internally displaced person is a citizen of Ukraine, a foreigner or a stateless person who is legally present in the territory of Ukraine and has the right to permanent residence in Ukraine, who was forced to leave or abandon their place of residence as a result of or in order to avoid the negative consequences of armed conflict, temporary occupation, widespread manifestations of violence, human rights violations and emergencies of a natural or man-made nature. Each of the above categories of forced migrants is endowed with a specific legal status, which clearly determines the scope of rights, social guarantees, obligations and institutional opportunities of the individual in the host environment.

The systematization of key scientific views on the researched issues is given in Table 1.

Table 1 – Theoretical and methodological approaches to defining the category of “internally displaced persons”

Author	Content, source
M. Nikolaychuk	a specific target group for the implementation of migration policy, which is characterized by heterogeneous features determined by special needs, personal characteristics and environmental influences (Nikolaychuk, 2005)
G. Goodwin-Gill	persons who are forced to suddenly flee their homes in large numbers as a result of armed conflict, internal hostility, systematic violations of human rights or natural disasters and are located on the territory of their own country. Equating the concepts of “internally displaced person” and “migrant”, the author emphasizes that in fact IDPs are persons who fall under the definition of “forced migrants”, but who, having left their place of permanent residence, remain in the country of their citizenship and can enjoy its protection (Goodwin-Gill, 1996).
R. I. Najafguliev	a person who is a citizen of their state, but is forced to leave their place of permanent residence and move to another place as a result of military aggression, natural or man-made disaster (Najafguliev, 2013)
M. M. Sirant	people or groups of people who were forced to leave their homes to escape armed conflicts, manifestations of violence, or mass violations of human rights (Sirant, 2015)
M. I. Malikha	citizens of a state who, due to military actions and their consequences, are forced to leave their permanent place of residence in order to protect their lives, without crossing the state border (Malykha, 2015)
A.V. Putintsev, Y.E. Pashchenko	individuals or a group of individuals who are forced to leave their place of residence as a result of the worsening political, social, economic, and environmental situation in the relevant administrative-territorial unit in order to avoid human rights violations, military conflict, and cruel treatment and need legal and social protection from the state (Putintsev & Pashchenko, 2018)
Y. Rymarenko	an internally displaced person is a person who is forcibly displaced from their place of permanent residence within their country as a result of armed conflict, internal unrest, systematic violation of human rights, and also as a result of natural disasters (Rymarenko, 1998)
F. Meiding	these are people who leave their homes but do not cross the borders, controlled by their governments and a sovereign state Due to sensitivity sovereign, international interventions are allowed only in exceptional or extraordinary circumstances to resolve internal affairs (Deng, 2001)
M. Kobets	persons who have a registered permanent residence, as well as those who worked in the conflict area, have real estate, etc. (Kobets, 2016)

Source: author's development

Based on the analysis of the professional literature, it has been established that the key determinants

(triggers) of forced displacement of IDPs are: military aggression, large-scale manifestations of violence, natural or man-made disasters, as well as systematic violations of fundamental human rights (Goodwin-Gill, 1996). A more detailed systematization of the factors that generate migration processes is given in Table 2.

Table 2 – Classification of the main reasons for migration of citizens

Scientist	Causes of internal forced displacement					
	Military aggression	Manifestations of violence	Natural/man-made disasters	Systematic violation of human rights	Implementation of socio-economic development projects	Environmental changes
M. Nikolaychuk (Nikolaychuk, 2005)						
G. Goodwin-Gill (Goodwin-Gill, 1996)	+		+	+		
R. I. Nadzhafguliev (Nadzhafguliev, 2013)	+		+			
M. M. Sirant (Sirant, 2015)	+	+		+		
M. I. Malykha (Malykha, 2015)						
L. Nalyvayko, A. Oreshkova (Nalivayko & Oreshkova, 2018)	+	+	+	+	+	+
Yu. Rymarenko (Rymarenko, 1998)	+		+		+	
Total	5	2	4	3	2	1

Source: author's development

The generalization of the above theoretical and legal approaches gives grounds to assert that the dominant factors of internal displacement are armed conflicts and military aggression. The next most frequent precedents are natural and man-made disasters, as well as systematic violations of human rights, which create conditions incompatible with further safe stay in a certain territory.

A more detailed classification of the grounds for displacement and acquisition of IDP status is presented by L. Nalyvaiko and A. Oreshkova (2018). Researchers identify the following set of triggers for internal migration:

- well-founded fears of becoming a victim of persecution and the inability to fully benefit from state protection at the place of permanent residence;
- an immediate threat to the life, security or freedom of a person and his family;
- being in the epicenter of an armed conflict or the impact of its destructive consequences;
- external military aggression and foreign occupation;
- civil war;
- escalation of conflicts on ethnic, religious, linguistic or other grounds that destabilize public order;
- emergencies of natural or man-made origin.

In the context of theoretical understanding of the phenomenon under study, it is necessary to focus on the essential characteristics of this category of population. Internally displaced persons are individuals or groups of persons who were forced to leave their settlements due to a critical deterioration of the political, socio-economic or environmental situation in the relevant administrative-territorial units. The main purpose of their relocation is to avoid the consequences of military conflicts, systematic violations of human rights or discrimination, which causes an acute need for legal and social protection from the state. In scientific discourse, such persons are also identified using synonymous constructs: “forced migrants” or “displaced

persons”.

It should be noted that the problem of forced internal displacement is a permanent challenge for the world community, but for independent Ukraine this phenomenon has become actualized on such a scale for the first time. The essential essence of the phenomenon is that these are citizens of the state who, fleeing the destructive consequences of military actions, carry out spatial relocation in order to preserve their lives and livelihoods, without crossing state borders.

Given the relative institutional "novelty" of this socio-political process for Ukraine, the formation of a national policy in the field of internal migration requires a deep reception of international standards. The existing gaps and imperfections of the relevant legislation objectively complicate the mechanisms for implementing guarantees and freedoms of the specified category of citizens.

According to international law, national responsibility in the context of forced displacement is not limited to the protection of the basic rights of the individual, but encompasses a set of strategic obligations (Global Protection Cluster Working Group, 2010):

- prevention of displacement and minimization of its destructive consequences;
- systematic collection and verification of demographic and socio-economic data on the status of IDPs;
- formation of a comprehensive regulatory framework and development of a holistic state policy on internal displacement;
- identification of authorized institutional coordinators for IDP issues and involvement of national human rights institutions;
- ensuring the inclusion of displaced persons in decision-making processes at all levels of government;
- support for long-term integration solutions and targeted allocation of resources;
- intensification of cooperation with the international community in cases of exhaustion of national response capacity.

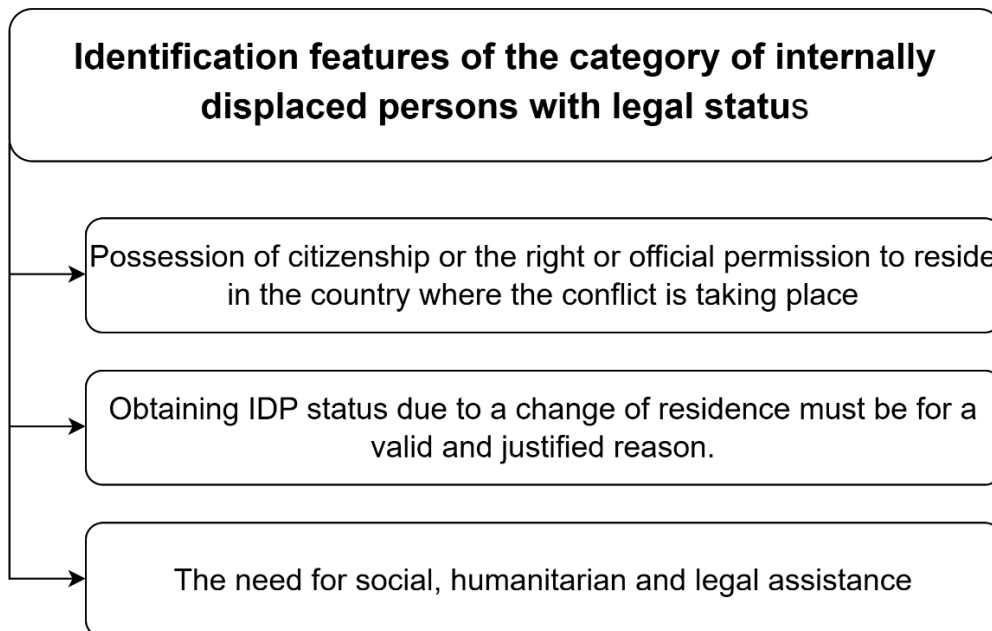


Fig. 2. Identification features of the category of persons with the legal status of IDPs

Source: constructed according to (Lushpienko, 2017), (Popelo & Gyrya, 2023)

The fundamental normative basis for the implementation of these obligations is the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (Brookings Institution, 2008). This document details the system of guarantees in accordance with international humanitarian law, placing the primary responsibility for the well-being of IDPs exclusively on state institutions. The state bears an imperative obligation to meet the basic needs of its citizens, implementing specialized support measures differentiated depending on the level of vulnerability of

the displaced population.

Within the European legal space, the basic requirements for the protection of the rights of IDPs are additionally regulated by the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, 2006). In the context of their implementation, Ukraine must ensure:

- providing IDPs with the necessary documentation for the prompt exercise of their rights without raising additional administrative barriers;
- taking comprehensive measures to guarantee the full exercise of the right to vote for IDPs in national and local elections;
- guaranteeing the right to own and enjoy their property without hindrance, in particular the right to restitution (return) of property left behind as a result of forced displacement.

In the event that property restitution is impossible, internally displaced persons must be provided with mechanisms for adequate compensation for material losses suffered. It is worth emphasizing that despite the progressive development of international humanitarian law, the national legislation of the host state continues to play a key (determining) role in the practical implementation and protection of IDP rights.

In order to stabilize the life and optimize the living conditions of forced migrants, Ukraine has implemented a number of regulatory and legal mechanisms. The basic algorithms of actions in conditions of forced migration are regulated by the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons” and relevant government acts. In particular, this concerns the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on support, social adaptation and reintegration of citizens displaced from temporarily occupied territories and areas of hostilities (Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2015).

The institutionalization of the social protection system for IDPs was accompanied by the adoption of Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 535 (October 2014), which approved the Procedure for the use of funds for providing one-time cash assistance to victims (Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2014). An important stage in the digitalization and accounting of migration processes was the introduction of the Unified Register of IDPs in August 2016. The procedure for creating, maintaining and accessing information in this Unified Information Database is currently regulated by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

In the context of ongoing military operations, state authorities and local governments face a critical need to develop effective tools to address the priority problems of the affected population.

Discussion

The discussion of the research results actualizes a number of conceptual and regulatory contradictions regarding the interpretation of the phenomenon of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the context of an unprecedented migration crisis in Ukraine. According to the results of theoretical and methodological analysis, in modern scientific discourse and international practice there is no absolute terminological unification regarding the definition of this category of citizens. Despite the presence of basic approaches of the International Organization for Migration and the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the implementation of these definitions into the national legislation of different countries is accompanied by significant institutional and legal transformations that depend on the specifics of local crises.

The main subject of scientific discussion is the correlation of international standards and national realities in determining the criteria and catalysts (causes) of forced displacement. Traditional paradigms that consider the causes of migration mainly through the prism of local conflicts, persecution or environmental disasters turn out to be conceptually too narrow to fully cover the scale of migration in Ukraine. The question of how relevant the current Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons”, the conceptual foundations of which were formed back in 2014 in response to the localized conflict and annexation of territories, remains today is debatable. In conditions of full-scale war, the triggers for displacement are not only direct hostilities, but also the systematic destruction of critical infrastructure and total security threats throughout the territory of the state, which blurs the classic boundaries of the concept of a “safe region”. At the same time, the normative interpretation of the IDP status itself and its

duration is subject to discussion. International institutions (in particular, the IASFM and the Council of Europe) emphasize the need to guarantee displaced persons a full range of civil rights, preventing their social or political marginalization. However, in Ukrainian realities, the normative consolidation of the status of IDPs is often reduced to a procedure of formal legalization (registration in the Unified Information Base) mainly for the purpose of gaining access to basic social benefits. A noticeable legal contradiction arises between the declared international humanitarian law, according to which the state bears an imperative obligation for the comprehensive well-being of displaced citizens, and the actual narrowing of this status to a temporary socio-economic instrument. Thus, the scientific controversy surrounding the concept of IDPs should shift from the plane of purely terminological searches towards a critical rethinking of the legal nature of this phenomenon. Recognition of a person as internally displaced should not be limited to stating the fact of their escape from an armed conflict and issuing a corresponding certificate. Modern challenges require a transformation of approaches: from perceiving IDPs as objects of emergency humanitarian response to understanding them as full-fledged subjects of law, whose specific administrative status requires prolonged state guarantees. This necessitates the urgent need for further modernization of domestic legislation aimed at eliminating gaps in determining the criteria for displacement, harmonizing national norms with European law, and forming a stable legal framework for the protection of this vulnerable category of the population.

Conclusions

The conceptualization of the phenomenon of forced internal migration confirms its fundamental difference from voluntary spatial mobility. It is proven that the key determinants of IDP displacement in Ukraine are existential threats provoked by full-scale military aggression, systemic destruction of infrastructure and violation of basic human rights. Therefore, forced displacement is not just a change of residence, but a deep violation of the social ecology of the individual, which requires specific legal protection.

It is established that the basic institutional framework for the protection of IDPs in Ukraine is conceptually based on the standards of the International Organization for Migration, the UN Guiding Principles and the Recommendations of the Council of Europe. According to these norms, the state bears an imperative duty not only to provide basic humanitarian relief, but also to ensure the full range of political, property (restitution) and social rights of displaced citizens.

A review of national legislation (in particular, the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons" and relevant resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers) has revealed significant imbalances. The legislative framework formed in 2014 in response to a localized conflict turns out to be conceptually too narrow for the scale of a full-scale war. In practice, the regulatory consolidation of IDP status is often reduced to formal registration in the Unified Information Base for receiving basic payments, which narrows the internationally recognized legal nature of this status.

Overcoming the outlined challenges requires a conceptual transformation of state management of migration processes. A transition from a policy of short-term humanitarian (emergency) response to the formation of long-term, adaptive models of social and legal protection is necessary. IDPs should be considered not as objects of temporary assistance, but as full-fledged subjects whose specific administrative status requires prolonged state guarantees.

In further scientific research, it is advisable to focus on developing applied mechanisms for the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs into host communities, as well as on ways to harmonize national migration legislation with the current requirements of European law in the context of post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.

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