# YOUTH MIGRATION FROM UKRAINE. CAUSES, FACTORS AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES МОЛОДІЖНА МІГРАЦІЯ З УКРАЇНИ. ПРИЧИНИ, ФАКТОРИ ТА МОЖЛИВІ НАСЛІДКИ

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This article discusses the main causes of labour and educational migration among young people and determines the factors influencing the migration movement of the population. The positive and negative consequences of labour and educational migration for Ukraine and young people. who leave the territory of Ukraine and are an important resource in the labour market, are determined. This leads to the loss of the ablebodied part of the population and skilled workers. First of all, financial reasons influence the formation of migratory units of Ukrainian youth: they believe that they can earn more money abroad. It can be said that the majority of Ukrainian students studying abroad have migrated, namely, to study abroad, with the intention of staying there for permanent residence, although there are also opportunities for studying at home, and it is at a fairly high level, but many people simply do not see further perspectives Therefore, it is the migration factor that has a large and negative impact on the formation of the labour market, which leads to a deterioration of the economic situation in the country.

**Key words:** labour youth migration, educational migration, average wage, population, migration movement of population, natural population movement.

В данной статье рассмотрены основные причины трудовой и образовательной миграции среди молодежи, установлен-

ные факторы, влияющие на миграционное движение населения. Определены положительные и отрицательные последствия, трудовой и образовательной миграции для Украины и молодежи, которая покидает территорию Украины и является важным ресурсом на рынке труда. Это приводит к потере трудоспособной части населения и квалифицированных работников. На формирование миграционных установок украинской молодежи влияют прежде всего финансовые причины: они считают, что за границей они смогут зарабатывать больше. Можно сказать, что большинство украинских студентов, обучающихся за рубежом, мигрировали, именно чтобы получать образование за рубежом с намерениями там остаться на постоянное жительство, хотя возможности для обучения дома также есть и она стоит на достаточно высоком уровне, но многие люди просто не видят дальнейшей перспективы. Поэтому именно миграционный фактор имеет большой и негативное влияние на формирование рынка труда, что приводит к ухудшению экономического положения в стране.

**Ключевые слова:** трудовая молодежная миграция, образовательная миграция, средняя заработная плата, численность населения, миграционное движение населения, естественное движение населения.

У даній статті розглянуто основні причини трудової та освітньої міграції серед молоді, встановлені фактори, що впливають на міграційний рух населення. Міграція молоді з України на сьогоднішній день є проблемною та болісною темою для країни. Міграція населення пов'язана з економічною, соціальною, політичною, релігійною, екологічною та іншими сторонами життя суспільства і є одним з найбільш адекватних індикаторів його розвитку. Можна сказати, що більшість виїжджає через важку ситуацію в країні, маленькі заробітні плати. Також у даній статті визначені позитивні та негативні наслідки, трудової та освітньої міграції для України та молоді, що покидає територію України та є важливим ресурсом на ринку праці. По-перше, виїжджає більша частина трудового потенціалу, в тому числі досвідчені висококваліфіковані працівники, які погоджуються на просту роботу і втрачають свій професіоналізм. По-друге, набувають масштабного характеру соціальні наслідки, зокрема: розпадаються молоді сім'ї, де діти залишаються без одного із батьків; мігранти, працюючи нелегально, не отримують належної медичної допомоги; через тяжкі фізичні навантаження і некомфортні побутові умови втрачають власне здоров'я, що призводить до зниження рівня народжуваності, а це призводить до руйнування трудового потенціалу в Україну. Україна сьогодні критично потребує кваліфікованих кадрів: інженерів, будівельників, архітекторів. В агропромисловому секторі ситуація просто кричуща: не вистачає агрономів, технологів, ветлікарів. Дослідження показують, що за останні роки стрімко зростає чисельність українських громадян в іноземних університетах. Найчастіше молоді люди називають три основних причини, що впливають на їх міграційний вибір: економічні, фінансові, соціальнокультурні. Набагато рідше вони вказують на політичні і національні причини. На формування міграційних настанов української молоді впливають передусім фінансові причини: вони вважають, що за кордоном вони зможуть заробляти більше. Велика кількість українських студентів мігрували з метою отримання освіти за кордоном, із подальшим наміром залишитися на постійне проживання. Тому саме міграційний чинник має великий та негативний вплив на формування ринку праці, що призводить до погіршення економічного стану в країні.

**Ключові слова:** трудова молодіжна міграція, освітня міграція, середня заробітна плата, чисельність населення, міграційний рух населення, природний рух населення.

**Formulation of the problem.** For today, the migration of people abroad is a painful topic for Ukraine. Migration of the population is connected with the economic, social, political, religious, environmental and other aspects of society's life, and is one of the most adequate indicators of its development. It can be said that the majority goes due to the difficult situation in the country, small wages.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The issues of labour migration are dealt with in the writings of such national scholars as O. V. Astakhov,

M. M. Vivcharik, T. O. Hnatyuk, Yu. P. Gumenyuk, V. Kapitan, I. P. Maydanik, O. A. Malinovska, M. Yu Pryz, I. V. Khovrah.

**The purpose** of the paper is to carry out a statistical analysis of youth migration from Ukraine, studying the factors contributing to it.

**Setting objectives.** The purpose of this study is to determine the factors affecting the processes of youth migration from Ukraine.

Presentation of the main research material. Young people are an important resource both for the

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labour market and for the country as a whole since they will become the basis of the national labour market in the future and, through their own ability to work, will shape the economic system and contribute to its further growth. At the moment, Ukraine is among the top ten countries with the highest levels of migration, although it lags behind Tajikistan, where every third family has a migrant, or Moldova, where more than a quarter of the population is a migrant worker. However, the situation that has developed in Ukraine is on the verge of non-return.

The fact is that the new wave of migration is dangerous not only by the number of people but also by the quality of those leaving. Ukraine trains skilled personnel: programmers, doctors, pharmacists, scientists.

According to the International Organization for Migration, a third of long-term migrant workers from Ukraine have higher education and qualifications. In general, those who would have become the middle class, the basis for the construction of the state leave. The outflow of this workforce already affects the economy of the country by about 40 billion hryvnias a year.

The results of the Ernst & Young Ukraine survey indicate that more than half of Ukrainian companies are facing difficulties in recruiting staff because of the critically high level of labour migration.

The first and most important reason for the departure of people is a significant difference in wages. Today, the average salary in Ukraine is about 8,5 thousand hryvnias. Instead, employers abroad offer about four times more to Ukrainians – an average of 33 thousand hryvnias a month.

With the deterioration of the economic situation, the issue of economic/labour emigration of the able-bodied active population is becoming more acute in our country. For the period of 2012-2017, the state-guaranteed debt has increased almost 4 times, which increases the burden on taxpayers (Ministry of Finance of Ukraine 2013, State and State-guaranteed Ukraine debt). The aggregate state (direct) and state-guaranteed debt of Ukraine in November 2018 grew by 0.6%, or by 0,44 billion USD - to 74,76 billion USD, according to the website of the Ministry of Finance. In national currency, the national debt increased by 1.4%, or by 29,4 billion UAH – up to 2,122 trillion UAH. The combined state and state-guaranteed debt of Ukraine in January this year decreased by 0.09%, or by 70 million USD, compared with December-2018, to 78,25 billion USD. The press service of the Ministry of Finance reported this. In Ukraine, the state debt of Ukraine has increased by 0.15% or 3,29 billion UAH – to 2,172 trillion. The Ministry of Finance clarified that direct government debt grew by 0.33% in January to 1,866 trillion UAH (in dollars – by 0.08%, to 67,25 billion USD), including external ones - by 0.23%, to 1,102 trillion UAH (in dollars decreased by 0.02% – to 39,7 billion USD).

As a result, the average wage in Ukraine for the period of January-September 2017 amounted to approximately 259 USD (6847 UAH), and in December 2012 – 422 USD (3377 UAH) at the then rate (State Statistics Service of Ukraine 2017: 21, 7). At the moment, the average monthly salary in the regions of Ukraine for the period January-February 2019 is approximately 346 USD (9223 UAH) at the current rate.

That is why people began to look for better living conditions, such as high wages and even good education. Education issues in other countries are very important. Students are more likely to choose to study in the EU. There are several reasons for this:

1) an outdated system of Ukrainian education that does not meet contemporary challenges. Today, the diploma of higher education has turned into a status indicator, the need for not so much for children, so much for their parents. In plain language, a piece of paper that the graduate most likely will not use.

If we add to this the total corruption in higher education institutions and the mediocre policy of distributing state orders, we will receive a catastrophic result.

2) lack of state support for young families. Such that they cannot afford to buy their own homes today, even though there is a significant decline in property prices.

What then should the state do? Stimulate young people with affordable loans. However, the state program of lending youth housing in the budget for this year laid only 30 million hryvnias. This is 30 apartments at Kyiv prices for all the youth of the country.

Consequently, most often young people call three main reasons influencing their migration choice: economic, financial, socio-cultural. Much less often they point to political and national reasons. First of all, financial reasons are influenced by the formation of migration guidelines of Ukrainian youth: they believe that abroad they will be able to earn more. This opinion is shared by 51.5% of the youth contingents. The influence of economic reasons (the lack of funding for the industry in which young Ukrainians work, the hopelessness of the economy as a whole) is evidenced by 48.5% of Ukrainian youth. Less commonly, they call socio-cultural reasons (better living conditions, higher levels of culture, etc.). Another 39.7% of young compatriots speak about their influence on the formation of migration guidelines and plans. Another 23.5% of this contingent is mentioned about career opportunities. Another 17.6% of young Ukrainians indicate the influence of family reasons (their relatives living abroad) on their migration choices.

Ukraine today needs critical skilled personnel: engineers, builders, architects. In the agro-industrial sector, the situation is simply shaky: there are not enough agronomists, technologists, veterinarians.

However, the increase in government procurement in the natural sciences occurred only last year. Although representatives of the agrarian market have repeatedly addressed the Ministry of Education a proposal to assume the training of this personnel with further employment.

Instead, our youth continue to receive education in such specialties as law, economics, management, which are not in such a volume of real demand from employers, but which are actively offered by higher education institutions.

On this issue, the research shows that in recent years, the number of Ukrainian citizens in foreign universities is growing rapidly: the dynamics from 2009 to 2015 amounted to 129%. Comparing two 2016–2017 years, the growth is almost 29% or 13 266 people. Moreover, 2/3 of this increase was made by Ukrainians studying at Polish universities. In 2017–2018, Ukrainian students in full-time programs form approximately 83000 Ukrainians and Ukrainians.

Most of the Ukrainian students studying abroad were migrating to study abroad, with the intention of staying there permanently, although there is also room for study at home and it is at a rather high level, many people simply do not see any further prospect.

At the moment, we are aware that according to statistics from 2000 to 2012, according to UNESCO, the number of Ukrainian students abroad has increased more than four times and reached 37 thousand. Especially fast it grew in countries where labour migration flows are directed. During the last two years, the growth of the number of Ukrainians who went to study abroad was accelerating.

According to the annual monitoring of the number of Ukrainian citizens studying at foreign universities on a day-to-day form of study conducted by the SEDOS think-tank (an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tanks research in the spheres of education, migration, and urban development) covering 34 countries of the world), in the 2013/2014 academic year, 47724 Ukrainian citizens were studying abroad. The largest number is in Poland (15 thousand), Germany (9 thousand), Russia (6 thousand), Canada (2 thousand), Czech Republic (2 thousand), Italy (1,9 thousand), USA (1,5 thousand), Spain (1,4 thousand), France (1,3 thousand), Great Britain (1 thousand).

Looking at 2016 statistics, the population of Ukraine declined due to natural and migration movements of the population (that is, without emigration, forced or voluntary change of residence of certain groups of people (emigrants, settlers), relocation from their homeland, countries where they were born and raised, to other countries of the global society for economic, political, or religious reasons) 176 thousand people, in particular, urban – 102,7 thousand, rural – 73,3 thousand. These are data published by the State

Statistics Service 2016. And according to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine during January-May 2017 year, Ukraine-Russia border crossed 1,997 million people to enter Ukraine – 2,165 million people to leave Ukraine. Since March 20, 2018, more than 726 thousand people left the country. Interestingly, in October, it was about 619 thousand.

Meanwhile, according to the State Statistics Service, the population of Ukraine continues to decline sharply – starting in January 2018, the number of citizens living in our country has decreased by 165,6 thousand people. As of October 2018, the country's population was 42,22 million people (in January 2018, it was 42,39 million people). In addition, in the period from January to September this year, the mortality rate was almost 2 times higher than fertility. For 100 deceased Ukrainians, there are 59 newborns.

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the number of permanent residents (estimated) by March 1, 2018, and March 1, 2019, decreased by almost 239 thousand people. The natural population movement in January-February is: the number of deaths – 110,87 thousand people, and live births – 51,496 thousand people. Also, according to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the territory of Ukraine in January-February 2019 will leave about 83 thousand people.

"According to the UN, by 2050 the population of Ukraine can be reduced by 18%, to 36 million people, the country risks ending up in the edge of the old and the children. One of the main factors of departure is labour migration," – says ukrainianpeopleleaks.com.

That is, it is expected that by 2050 the population will be reduced by 10 million people, the share of Ukrainians of retirement age (65 years and older) will increase from 14% to 20.5%. Under these conditions, the able-bodied population will be forced to provide them with support.

Experts call different numbers of Ukrainians who left abroad for employment purposes, but almost every fourth plans a trip with the intention of employing for the first time or returning to work. Among such students – about 70%.

Ukrainian youth want to go abroad mainly for the purpose of earning money – unlike Russians and Azerbaijanis who consider traveling abroad as an opportunity to get cultural experience or to get an education. These are the results of a comparative analysis of the youth of the three countries, conducted in Ukraine by sociologists from the Democratic Initiatives Foundation. They note that Ukrainian youth are more dissatisfied with their financial situation and labour market situation than in Russia or Azerbaijan. According to this study, among young Ukrainians, 65% expressed a desire to go abroad for employment, and another 14% did not rule out that they could leave their homeland forever.

Deputy Executive Director of the Centre for Economic Strategy, Dmitry Yablonsky, summarized: "The boomerang of the labour force" occurs only when there are economic reasons. This is the growth of the economy and, as a consequence, the growth of wages. So far, for Ukraine, the difference in salaries is high and, according to some experts, the trend for the departure of Ukrainians abroad will continue for at least several years.

Conclusions from the conducted research. Looking at these statistics, one can conclude that the migration factor has a large and negative impact on the formation of the labour market.

Also, it can be said that the formation of migration behaviour of people, its direction and duration are influenced by geographical location, demographic situation, and features of the economic system of the country in which it migrates.

But the main especially dangerous drawback of labour youth migration is the loss of a highly skilled working population, which invested significant funds in education, increasing the demographic burden of workers in the elderly, drawing up a negative marriage situation, reducing the birth rate of the population, reducing innovation activity within the country and slowing down the development of scientific and technological progress (scientific and technological progress), the reduction of patriotism in the country, etc. All these disadvantages lead to an imbalance between the supply and demand of labour, between the issuance of skilled staff and their subsequent employment, which in turn creates a variety of problems in the field of education, economics, demography, and social policy.

Consequently, since the majority of young people leave abroad, this cannot but negatively affect the labour potential of the population. It is possible to identify the main negative consequences of labour migration: firstly, leaving most of the labour potential, including highly skilled workers who agree on a simple job and lose their professionalism; and secondly, the social consequences are large-scale, in particular: young families fall apart, where children are left without one of their parents; migrants, working illegally, do not receive proper medical care; because of heavy physical activity and uncomfortable living conditions lose their own health, which leads to a decrease in the birth rate, which leads to the destruction of labour potential in Ukraine.

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## YOUTH MIGRATION FROM UKRAINE. CAUSES, FACTORS AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

The purpose of the article. The migration of young people from Ukraine to date is a problem and a painful topic for the country. At the moment, Ukraine is among the top ten countries with the highest levels of migration. Migration of the population is connected with the economic, social, political, religious, environmental, and other aspects of society's life, and is one of the most adequate indicators of its development. It can be said that the majority goes due to the difficult situation in the country and small wages. Therefore, in this article, the main issues of labour and educational migration of young people are considered, the reasons and factors influencing the migration movement of the population have a negative impact on the formation of the labour market, which leads to deterioration of the economic situation in the country.

**Methodology.** The variety of factors and conditions studied in the work led to the application of general scientific and special methods, in particular: system approach, monographic, comparative (research of migration processes in comparison with others), abstract-logical (characteristic of the obtained results and their generalization), synthesis, and analysis. Migration of young people is a multifaceted and diverse concept that includes both positive and negative aspects. The main aspects, causes, and consequences of migration processes of young people from Ukraine are investigated in this work.

**Results.** Looking at the statistics reviewed, one can conclude that the migration factor has a large and negative impact on the formation of the labour market. Also, it can be said that the formation of migration behaviour of people, to determine its direction and duration influenced by geographical location, demographic situation and features of the economic system of the country in which it migrates.

A particularly dangerous disadvantage of labour youth migration is the loss of a highly skilled, part-time population, which has invested significant funds in education, increasing the demographic burden of employees of the elderly, drawing up a negative marital situation, reducing the birth rate of the population, reducing innovation activity within the country and slowing down the development of STP (scientific and technological progress), lowering the level of patriotism in the country, etc. All these disadvantages lead to an imbalance between the supply and demand of labour, between the issuance of skilled staff and their subsequent employment, which in turn creates a variety of problems in the field of education, economics, demography, and social policy.

**Practical implications.** Since the majority of young people leave abroad, this cannot but negatively affect the labour potential of the population. It is possible to identify the main negative consequences of labour migration: firstly, leaving most of the labour potential, including skilled highly skilled workers who agree on a simple job and lose their professionalism; and secondly, the social consequences are large-scale, in particular: young families fall apart, where children are left without one of their parents; migrants, working illegally, do not receive proper medical care; because of heavy physical activity and uncomfortable living conditions lose their own health, which causes a decrease in the birth rate, which leads to the destruction of labour potential in Ukraine.

**Value/originality.** In this paper, the issue of migration of young people from Ukraine was considered. This issue raises many negative factors for the economic situation in Ukraine. Due to the large-scale migration of young people traveling abroad to study or work, the country loses skilled personnel. In addition, it is expected that by 2050 the population will be reduced by 10 million people, and the proportion of Ukrainians in retirement age (65 years and older) will increase from 14% to 20.5%. Under these conditions, the able-bodied population will be forced to provide them with support.