MODERN MIGRATION POLICY
OF VISEGRAD COUNTRIES: PROBLEMS AND RISKS

Politicians from the Visegrad group countries: Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia exchange experience and set priorities in migration issues. The European migration crisis emerged in early 2015. This migration crisis is the largest, both in social and economic issues, directly arising from the ineffective migration program of solutions proposed by the European Union.

There are a number of main and secondary factors contributing to the intensification of the inflow of migrants to Europe. Among the main reasons for the increase in migration flows, it is customary to name the intensification of military conflicts in the Middle East and in a number
of African countries. At the same time, refugees from Africa and the Middle East are more likely to choose the European Union as their destination due to the large disparity in economic development between these countries. Among the secondary factors that contributed to the emergence of the migration crisis, it is worth highlighting the fact that the policy of accepting new countries into the European Union and their accession to the Schengen Agreement simultaneously contributed to the elimination of border controls between the new EU members, as well as to weakening it at the external borders of the European Union [1].

In general, illegal migration goes along five main directions: through the western, central or eastern Mediterranean, as well as on the way from Albania to Greece.

The International Organization for Migration says that for a million people who safely crossed the Mediterranean Sea and reached European shores in 2016, more than 3,700 people died, or 0.37% [2].

In 2019, about 10 percent fewer refugees crossed the external borders of the EU than in 2018, according to the border service Frontex. This is about 10 percent less than in 2018, Ledgerie said. The record number of illegal crossings of external European borders was recorded in 2015, when about 1.2 million migrants entered the EU. However, border guards note an increase in the number of illegal immigrants entering the territory of Greece and the Canary Islands. In 2019, there were 50% more illegal migrants in the Canary Islands than in the previous year [3].

Most EU countries fear that the current “emergency” quotas in the future may be consolidated in a new permanent distribution mechanism. Another consequence is that the situation inside a number of European countries is aggravated.

Another problem is “blackmail” by Turkey, which demands more and more funds to contain the incessant flow of refugees. The European Commission approved the creation in Turkey of a special fund for refugees in the amount of 3 billion euros, of which the European Commission itself will allocate 500 million euros, and the remaining 2.5 billion are to be collected by the EU countries. The most difficult problem is that the migration crisis threatens the Schengen area. “The European Union must better implement the principles of its migration policy, restore control of external borders, otherwise the fate
of the Schengen Agreement is in jeopardy,” said President of the European Council Donald Tusk [4].

In August 2016, the European Parliament adopted a regulation on the creation of the European Border and Coast Guard. But the Dublin Convention – the basis for determining which country is responsible for receiving refugees – hinders solidarity between EU member states by shifting the main burden of responsibility to the country of first entry. The Convention needs to be amended.

There must be a single European asylum procedure, which will make it impossible to seek political asylum in different countries and will restore trust between the participating States. The migration crisis is not the only one, but the most severe crisis facing Europe.

The strategy of the migration policy of the European Union, which should reduce the risks of the migration crisis, should take into account the following main approaches in order to regulate the migration processes in the euro area:

– security. For example, if the EU committed itself to admitting only 300 thousand refugees annually, which would allow them to obtain refugee status, most would understand that they have a fairly high chance of reaching their destination legally and the wave of illegal migrants would be significantly reduced;

– border protection mechanism. A single European asylum procedure will make it impossible to seek political, economic asylum in different countries and will revive trust between the participating States;

– a mechanism for the movement of refugees within the Visegrad countries and Europe;

– financial instruments capable of providing sufficient funds for solving long-term problems and creating conditions for effective assistance in bordering countries, which will reduce the risks of a migration crisis;

– sustainable development, taking into account the expectations of stakeholders;

– partnership. Social collective responsibility is a form of responsibility when the whole group is responsible for acts committed by one state or several. Responsibility arises as a result of the country’s neglect or insufficient attention to the requirements and demands of
society and manifests itself in a slowdown in the reproduction of labor resources in these territories.

Many EU countries have clearly realized that it is impossible to successfully pursue a migration policy, functioning in an isolated space. Therefore, the integration of the principle of social collective responsibility into the development strategy of a group of countries has become a characteristic feature of modern migration policy. A strategy is considered sufficiently balanced and successful if the interests and expectations of all countries are met.

In 2019, approximately 10 percent fewer refugees will cross the external borders of the EU than in 2018, according to the border service Frontex [3].

In the context of the current shifts, international migration is increasingly becoming a weapon used as a political tool that undermines democracy and civic participation.

When analyzing the causes of the European migration crisis, its consequences were highlighted, as well as ways of overcoming this phenomenon were proposed. The most serious reasons include the intensification of military conflicts in the Middle East and a number of African countries, as well as ineffective border control in the European Union. Among the most dangerous consequences: the threat to the existence of the Schengen zone and the aggravation of internal conflicts within a number of countries. This crisis can be overcome, but it is a rather complex and multifactor task. Its implementation will require the mobilization of all funds available in the EU and the unity of the countries that are members of the European Union.

The Visegrad vision of migration issues is based on both socio-economic and political factors. But the low level of socio-economic development of the Visegrad countries in comparison with other EU members turns the “four” into a transit territory. The role of the political forces, which currently lead the countries of the Visegrad group and are opponents of mass immigration, is also important [5].

The European Union is trying to revise its migration policy. The migration processes taking place in the Visegrad countries in recent years have undergone significant changes and continue to change under the influence of political and socio-economic transformations. In turn, migration processes have an impact on the social and economic
situation in countries, the level and quality of life of the population, on the entire conjuncture of the labor market, the level of employment and unemployment. Changes also apply to the demographic development of countries – qualitative and quantitative characteristics, population structure and other aspects. Modern social processes in these countries are quite complex, contradictory, and have long-standing historical and geographical roots. All countries are involved in the migration process in different ways. Therefore, the analysis of the territorial differentiation of external migration in the Visegrad countries is very relevant.

Migration policy includes: a concept that represents the foundation of migration policy, a system of views that determine the boundaries of the legal, ethical and ideological space, within which program documents on population migration and other areas of state regulation of demographic processes can be formed. The concept of migration policy, if it acts as a legal document, should include the principles according to which the regulation of migration processes in all EU countries is carried out.

References:


