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ANALYSIS OF CURRENT MIGRATION PROCESSES IN EU COUNTRIES

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Relevance of the study: the study of migration processes in the EU countries is relevant, since these processes significantly affect economic development, social integration and cultural diversity of the region. Growing population mobility requires states to adapt policies related to labor migration, refugees and immigrant integration. The analysis of migration trends also allows us to better understand the challenges faced by EU countries and develop effective strategies to overcome them. **The subject of the study** is migration processes in EU countries in the modern period. **Purpose of the study:** to study modern migration processes in EU countries, to identify the main trends of modern migration processes in the region, to group EU countries according to the similarity of migration processes in them. **Research methodology:** a comprehensive scientific approach that combines quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis, statistical analysis methods are applied.

The results of the study: the volume and structure of migration in the countries of the European Union in the modern period were analyzed, the gender and age characteristics of modern immigrants and emigrants were indicated and the possible impact of these characteristics on the labor market of the region were analyzed. The latest trends and trends of modern migration processes in the countries of the region were analyzed. The EU countries were classified by the volume of immigration, in particular, 4 groups of countries were identified, namely: countries with the largest number of immigrants; countries with high immigration rates; countries with average immigration rates and countries with the lowest immigration rates. The volume and geography of forced migration of Ukrainians related to military operations since 2022 were characterized. **Practical significance:** the results of the study reflect the current features of migration processes in the EU region, they can be used for further research and forecasting certain socio-economic parameters, such as: changes in the demographic situation of the EU as a whole and its individual countries, calculations of the demographic burden on the working-age population in the coming years, the study of individual migration trends (educational migration, digitalization, globalization of the labor market, etc.).

Conclusions: modern migration processes in the EU countries were studied, changes in immigration, emigration and balance of migration indicators in the countries of the region were established. Countries were grouped according to the similarity of immigration indicators. The volume and geography of Ukrainian migrants in connection with military operations were characterized, and the impact of this type of migration on overall migration indicators in the EU was reflected. **Prospects for further research** are related to a detailed study of megatrends that influence modern migration processes in the world, including in the countries of the European Union, such as: globalization

processes, the impact of wars and military conflicts, environmental factors, educational prospects, etc. An important place in modern research remains for the study of forced migrations of Ukrainians associated with military operations, in particular the volume of refugee flows to various EU countries, the features of social adaptation of Ukrainian citizens in these countries, their impact on the economy and the labor market, etc.

Keywords: *geography of migrations, migration processes, emigration, immigration, EU.*

АНАЛІЗ СУЧАСНИХ МІГРАЦІЙНИХ ПРОЦЕСІВ У КРАЇНАХ ЄС

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Актуальність дослідження: вивчення міграційних процесів у країнах ЄС є актуальним, оскільки ці процеси суттєво впливають на економічний розвиток, соціальну інтеграцію та культурну різноманітність регіону. Щораз більша мобільність населення вимагає від держав адаптації політики, що стосується трудової міграції, біженців та інтеграції іммігрантів. Аналіз міграційних тенденцій також дозволяє краще зрозуміти виклики, з якими стикаються країни ЄС, і розробити ефективні стратегії для їх подолання. **Предметом дослідження** є міграційні процеси в країнах ЄС у сучасний період. **Мета дослідження:** вивчити сучасні міграційні процеси в країнах ЄС, виявити основні тренди сучасних міграційних процесів в регіоні, здійснити групування країн ЄС за подібністю міграційних процесів у них. **Методологія дослідження:** комплексний науковий підхід, що поєднує кількісні та якісні методи аналізу, застосовано методи статистичного аналізу. **Результати дослідження:** проаналізовано обсяги та структуру міграцій у країнах Європейського союзу в сучасний період, вказано гендерні та вікові особливості сучасних іммігрантів та емігрантів та можливий вплив цих особливостей на ринок праці регіону. Проаналізовано новітні тенденції та тренди сучасних міграційних процесів у країнах регіону. Здійснено класифікацію країн ЄС за обсягами імміграції, зокрема виділено 4 групи країн, а саме: країни з найбільшою кількістю іммігрантів; країни з високими показниками імміграції; країни із середніми показниками імміграції та країни з найменшими показниками імміграції. Схарактеризовано обсяги та географію вимушених міграцій українців, що пов'язані з військовими діями від 2022 року.

Практичне значення: результати дослідження відображають сучасні особливості міграційних процесів у регіоні ЄС, вони можуть бути використані для подальших досліджень та прогнозування певних соціально-економічних параметрів, як-от: зміни в демографічній ситуації ЄС загалом та окремих його країн, розрахунків демографічного навантаження на працездатне населення в наступні роки, вивчення окремих міграційних трендів (освітні міграції, діджиталізація, глобалізація ринку праці тощо).

Висновки: досліджено сучасні міграційні процеси в країнах ЄС, встановлено зміни в показниках імміграції, еміграції та сальдо міграції у країнах регіону. Здійснено групування країн за подібністю показників імміграції. Схарактеризовано обсяги та географію українських мігрантів у зв'язку з військовими діями, відображено вплив цього виду міграцій на загальні міграційні показники в ЄС.

Ключові слова: географія міграцій, міграційні процеси, еміграція, імміграція, ЄС.

Problem statement. The study of migration processes in the countries of the European Union is extremely relevant in the modern world, as these processes have a significant impact on the socio-economic development, political stability and cultural dynamics of the region. Firstly, migration affects the labor market, as labor from different countries can fill the shortage of personnel in certain sectors of the economy, contributing to the growth of productivity and innovation. Secondly, migration flows can affect the demographic situation, in particular, the aging of the population in many European countries, which pushes for the need to attract young migrants.

In addition, the study of migration processes helps to understand the social and cultural changes taking place in societies that are becoming increasingly diverse. This, in turn, requires the development of new integration policies that would promote social cohesion and prevent conflicts based on cultural differences.

Analysis of recent research and publications. Theoretical aspects of migration do not lose their relevance for researchers in the modern period. An important place is occupied by research that focuses on a clear definition of categories and concepts in the field of migration and the prevention of pseudoscientific speculation, as well as modern interpretations of the concept of “migrant” [1; 2].

The study of modern migration processes in EU countries in recent years has received a clear focus on identifying megatrends, such as educational migration [3]. In this context, it is interesting to study the migrations of Ukrainian students who, after the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine, were forced to leave their country and continue their studies at European universities [4].

Domestic research on migration processes in EU countries in recent times has been related to the study of problems of illegal migration [5], problems and prospects of migration policy in the EU [6], and issues of reforming migration legislation [7].

A number of works by Ukrainian researchers focus on the study of Ukrainian migrations related to military operations in Ukraine in the modern period [9].

The aim of the work is to study modern migration processes in the EU countries, identify the main trends of modern migration processes in the region, and group EU countries according to the similarity of migration processes in them.

Presentation of the main material of the study. An analysis of the features of migration processes in the EU during 2018–2023 confirms the increase in the number of immigrants to the countries of the region during the study period by almost 2 million people (Table 1).

In 2021, the number of immigrants who arrived in the European Union from countries that are not members of this association amounted to a significant figure of 2.3 million people. This figure is 18% higher than the number in 2020, when 1.9 million arrivals were registered. However, it still remains lower than the pre-crisis level of 2019, when 2.7 million people arrived in the EU. In 21 of the 27 member states of the European Union, 50% or more of the population immigrated from outside their borders in 2021 [10].

In 2022, EU Member States issued approximately 3.7 million new residence permits, excluding flows from Ukraine. This is a significant increase compared to 2.9 million permits in 2021 and 3 million in 2019. At the same time, 875 thousand new asylum applications were filed, not including

Ukrainian citizens. According to Eurostat statistics, the number of these applications increased by a significant 52% compared to 2021 and by 38% compared to 2019 [10].

As of the beginning of January 2022, the number of non-EU citizens residing in the territory of this union was 23.8 million, or about 5.3% of the total EU population of 447 million people from 27 countries. Three quarters of these people lived in countries such as Germany, Spain, France and Italy. If we include EU citizens born outside the EU, this figure reaches 38 million or 8.5% of the total population. When we include EU citizens who move between different member states, the share of all foreign citizens rises to 12.5% [10].

In 2022, the average immigration rate was 11 immigrants from third countries per thousand EU residents. In Malta, this rate was particularly high, at 66 immigrants per thousand inhabitants, followed by Luxembourg with 48 and Estonia with 37 immigrants. Immigration levels were significantly lower in countries such as Romania, Slovakia and Hungary. In Romania, emigration outweighed immigration during this period. Slovakia, a country with homogeneous demography and a fairly closed immigration system, also has a low share of immigrants [10].

In addition, there has been an increase in illegal immigration. As of the end of November 2023, the International Organization for Migration had registered approximately 264,000 irregular entries into the EU, up from 190,000 entries in 2022 and 150,000 the previous year, – about 6.6% of the total migration flow to Europe.

According to the European Commission, 2021 saw a significant population movement, with 2.26 million people leaving their home continents to settle in the European Union. During the same period, around 2.9 million residence permits were issued, reflecting the complexity of administrative procedures and reflecting not only current migration but also previous arrivals. In comparison, 2.5 million people left the EU in search of a life

elsewhere in the world – of which 1.12 million moved to countries outside Europe, while 1.4 million moved to other member states within the EU. In addition, there are around 13.7 million people living within the bloc who, while being EU citizens, have chosen to live in another EU member state. Notably, Luxembourg leads the way among countries with the highest percentage of non-citizens, accounting for 47.1% of its population. At the same time, Luxembourg also leads in terms of the share of migrants from other European countries, which accounted for 91% of the total number of new arrivals in 2021 [10].

An analysis of Eurostat data on migration processes within the European Union for the period from 2018 to 2022 shows a significant increase in the number of external migrants arriving in EU countries. The largest increases were recorded in the Czech Republic, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Spain (Table 1). Of all countries, Spain and Germany received the largest number of migrants.

In 2023, 4.3 million immigrants from non-EU countries arrived in the EU (18% less than in 2022), while 1.5 million people who had previously resided in one EU country migrated to another EU country. This figure does not include asylum seekers and refugees from Ukraine who are under temporary protection in some countries. Given that 73.4 thousand people with an unknown country of previous residence also migrated to EU countries, this amounts to a total of 5.9 million arrivals as a result of international immigration in 2023. On the other hand, around 3.0 million people emigrated to another EU country or to a country outside the EU. Of these, around 1.5 million people left an EU country to migrate to a country outside the EU, which is 25% more than in 2022.

In comparison, in 2022, 5.3 million immigrants from non-EU countries arrived in the EU, while 1.5 million people who previously lived in one EU country migrated to another EU country. Around 1.2 million people emigrated from the EU to a non-EU country in 2022.

Table 1
Migration mobility of the population in EU countries by year; thousand people (calculated by the authors based on data [10])

Country	Migration indicators by year																	
	2018			2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
	I ¹	E ²	B ³	I	E	B	I	E	B	I	E	B	I	E	B	I	E	B
EU-27	3906,0	2395,4	1510,7	3905,1	2557,3	1347,8	3255,2	2118,8	1136,4	4055,3	2674,9	1379,8	6905,1	2679,0	4226,3	5954,5	2998,2	2936,5
Austria	105,6	67,2	38,4	109,2	68,3	40,9	103,6	62,6	41,0	118,5	67,3	51,2	201,6	74,3	127,4	147,6	74,0	73,6
Belgium	137,9	88,9	49,0	150,0	102,9	47,1	118,7	76,6	42,1	139,7	87,3	52,5	208,4	84,6	123,7	169,6	96,1	73,5
Bulgaria	29,6	33,2	-3,7	37,9	39,9	-2,0	37,4	6,6	30,7	39,5	26,8	12,7	40,6	13,2	27,4	56,8	15,2	41,6
Greece	119,5	103,0	16,4	129,5	95,0	34,4	84,2	77,8	6,4	57,1	79,6	-22,5	96,6	80,3	16,4	118,8	76,2	42,7
Denmark	64,7	60,4	4,3	61,4	66,5	-5,1	57,2	53,8	3,4	63,5	44,0	19,5	121,2	62,9	58,3	98,3	68,2	30,1
Estonia	17,5	10,5	7,1	18,3	12,8	5,5	16,2	12,4	3,8	19,5	12,5	7,0	49,4	9,7	39,8	26,4	12,5	13,9
Ireland	105,7	50,3	55,4	96,3	51,4	44,9	81,9	51,3	30,6	83,8	53,7	30,1	157,5	61,1	96,4	135,6	75,0	60,6
Spain	643,7	309,5	334,2	750,5	296,2	454,2	467,9	248,6	219,3	887,6	696,9	190,7	1258,9	531,9	727,0	1251,0	608,7	642,3
Italy	332,3	156,9	175,4	332,8	179,5	153,3	247,5	159,8	87,6	318,4	158,3	160,1	410,9	150,2	260,8	439,7	158,4	281,2
Cyprus	25,7	17,6	8,1	27,6	18,6	9,0	22,9	14,2	8,7	25,5	13,2	12,3	37,6	21,1	16,5	40,8	26,9	13,9
Latvia	10,9	15,8	-4,9	11,2	14,6	-3,4	8,8	11,9	-3,2	12,7	12,9	-0,3	38,7	16,7	22,0	18,7	16,3	2,4
Lithuania	37,4	38,6	-1,2	46,5	35,4	11,1	46,0	25,2	20,8	44,9	25,2	19,7	87,4	15,3	72,1	66,7	21,7	45,0
Luxembourg	24,6	13,9	10,7	26,7	15,6	11,1	22,5	14,9	7,6	25,3	16,0	9,3	31,4	17,2	14,2	26,9	16,6	10,5
Malta	27,4	10,0	17,4	29,3	8,1	21,2	14,8	13,8	1,0	16,9	13,1	3,8	34,9	13,2	21,7	42,2	21,3	20,9
Netherlands	194,3	109,6	84,7	215,8	107,9	107,9	182,3	102,5	79,8	214,1	110,3	103,7	326,8	109,6	217,2	274,6	123,6	151,0
Germany	825,7	470,5	355,2	804,8	491,5	313,3	642,4	398,9	243,5	775,9	453,8	322,1	1943,1	448,5	1494,9	1271,2	574,2	697,1
Poland	214,1	189,8	24,3	226,6	180,6	46,0	210,6	161,7	48,9	241,1	201,6	39,5	275,5	228,0	47,5	303,3	194,0	109,3
Portugal	55,4	31,6	23,8	95,4	28,2	67,2	83,7	25,9	57,8	97,1	25,1	72,0	167,1	30,9	136,1	189,4	33,7	155,7
Romania	172,6	231,7	-59,1	202,4	233,7	-31,3	145,5	186,8	-41,3	194,6	216,9	-22,2	293,0	202,3	90,7	342,1	239,2	84,9
Slovakia	28,5	3,3	25,2	7,0	3,4	3,6	6,8	2,4	4,4	5,7	3,4	2,3	5,4	4,5	0,9	5,9	4,5	1,4
Slovenia	172,6	13,5	14,9	31,3	15,1	16,2	36,1	17,7	18,4	23,6	21,1	2,5	35,6	21,0	14,6	33,9	22,4	11,5
Hungary	82,9	48,2	34,7	88,6	49,8	38,8	75,5	67,4	8,1	80,5	15,9	64,6	94,0	17,3	76,7	96,2	16,6	79,6
Finland	31,1	19,1	12,0	32,8	17,3	15,5	32,8	15,1	17,7	36,3	13,4	22,9	49,9	15,6	34,3	73,2	15,3	57,9
France	387,2	188,7	198,5	385,6	259,1	126,5	331,1	191,9	139,2	336,4	147,1	189,3	431,1	279,8	151,2	417,6	266,4	151,2
Croatia	26,0	39,5	-13,5	37,7	40,1	-2,4	33,4	34,0	-0,6	35,9	40,4	-4,5	57,9	46,3	11,7	69,4	39,2	30,2
Czech Republic	65,9	26,7	39,2	105,9	77,8	28,1	63,1	35,9	27,2	69,4	18,6	50,8	347,4	31,8	315,6	142,1	53,6	88,5
Sweden	132,6	46,9	85,7	115,8	47,7	68,1	82,5	48,9	33,6	90,6	48,3	42,3	102,4	50,6	51,8	94,5	73,4	21,1

Note: I^1 – immigration; E^2 – emigration; B^3 – balance.

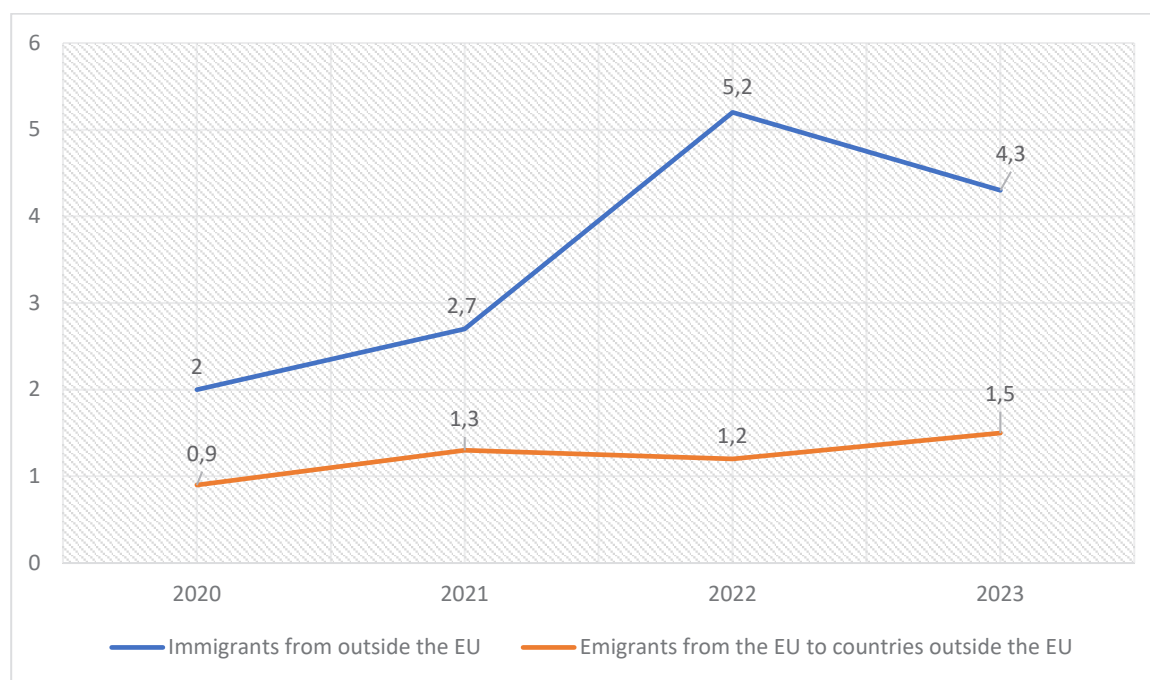


Fig. 1. Volume of immigration and emigration in EU countries, 2020-2023

Source: constructed by the authors based on Eurostat data

In summary, between 2022 and 2023, there was a decrease in the total number of immigrants to the EU from non-EU countries of around 18%, while emigration from the EU to non-EU countries increased by around 25%. Meanwhile, the total number of immigrants who previously lived in one EU country and migrated to another EU country remained stable.

Among EU countries, Germany registered the largest total number of immigrants (1,271.2 thousand people) in 2023, followed by Spain (1,251.0 thousand people), Italy (439.7 thousand people) and France (417.6 thousand people). Spain and Germany also recorded the largest number of emigrants in 2023 (608.7 thousand people and 574.2 thousand people, respectively), followed by France (266.4), Romania (239.2 thousand people) and Poland (194.1 thousand people). In 2023, as in 2022, in all 27 EU countries, immigration exceeded emigration, i.e. the migration balance was positive (Table 1, Figure 1.).

Furthermore, compared to 2022, 15 EU countries recorded a decrease in the total number of immigrants in 2023, while 12 EU countries recorded an increase.

The largest decreases in relative terms between 2022 and 2023 were observed in the Czech Republic (59.1%), Latvia (51.7%) and Estonia (46.6%), while the largest increases were observed in Finland (46.5%), Bulgaria (39.9%) and Cyprus (31.3%).

In terms of resident population, the highest immigration rate in 2023 was recorded in Malta (76 immigrants per 1,000 people), followed by Cyprus (43 immigrants per 1,000 people) and Luxembourg (40 immigrants per 1,000 people), Figure 2.

Regarding emigration, the highest rates in 2023 were recorded in Malta (38 emigrants per 1,000 people), Cyprus (28 emigrants per 1,000 people) and Luxembourg (25 emigrants per 1,000 people).

In 2023, more men than women immigrated to the EU (54.8% compared to 45.2%). For comparison, in 2022, approximately the same proportion of men and women immigrated to the EU (50.3% compared to 49.7%), Fig. 3.

In 2023, in 23 out of 27 EU countries, the majority of immigrants were men. The EU country that recorded the highest share of male immigrants was Lithuania (74.9%), followed by Croatia (68.5%) and Romania (65.9%);

conversely, the highest share of female immigrants was recorded in Ireland (53.5%), followed by the Czech Republic (52.0%), France (51.6%) and Cyprus (51.2%), Figure 4.

The gender ratio of emigrants from EU countries remained stable during 2018–2023.

The majority of emigrants were men – 55%, while the number of women was around 44% of the total (Figure 5).

In 2023, in 24 out of 27 EU countries, the majority of immigrants came from outside the EU (Figure 6).

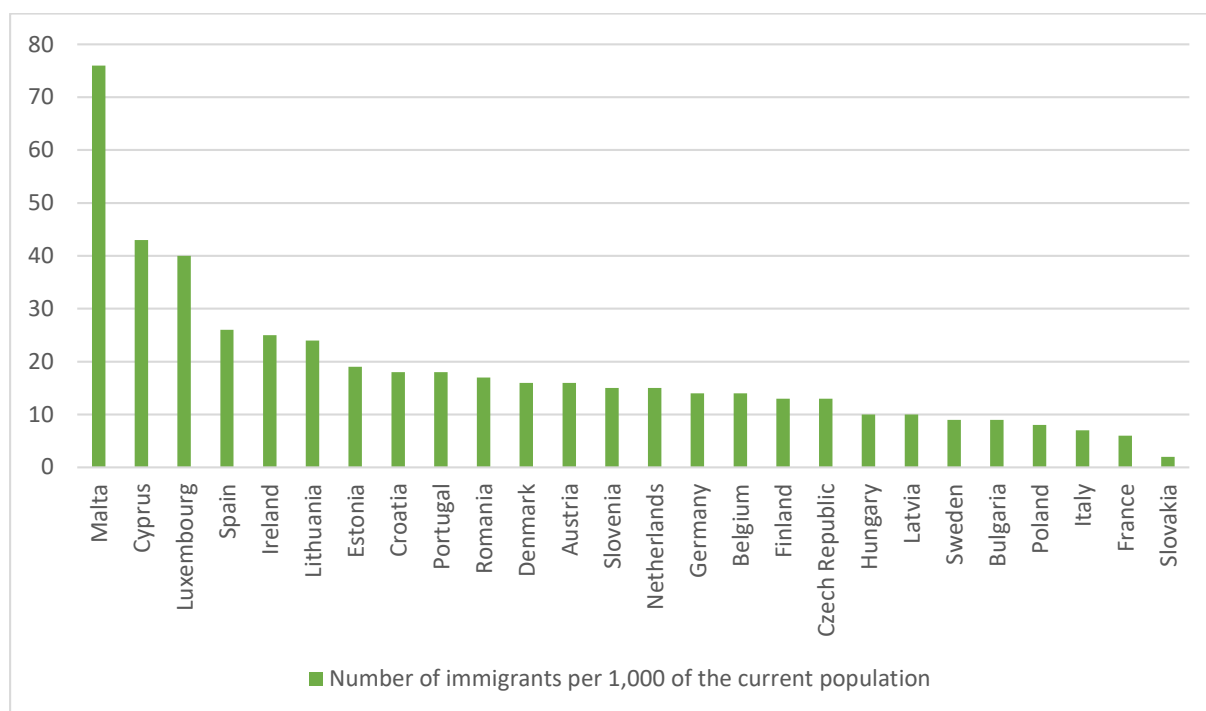


Fig. 2. Number of immigrants per 1000 population in EU countries, 2023

Source: constructed by the authors based on Eurostat data

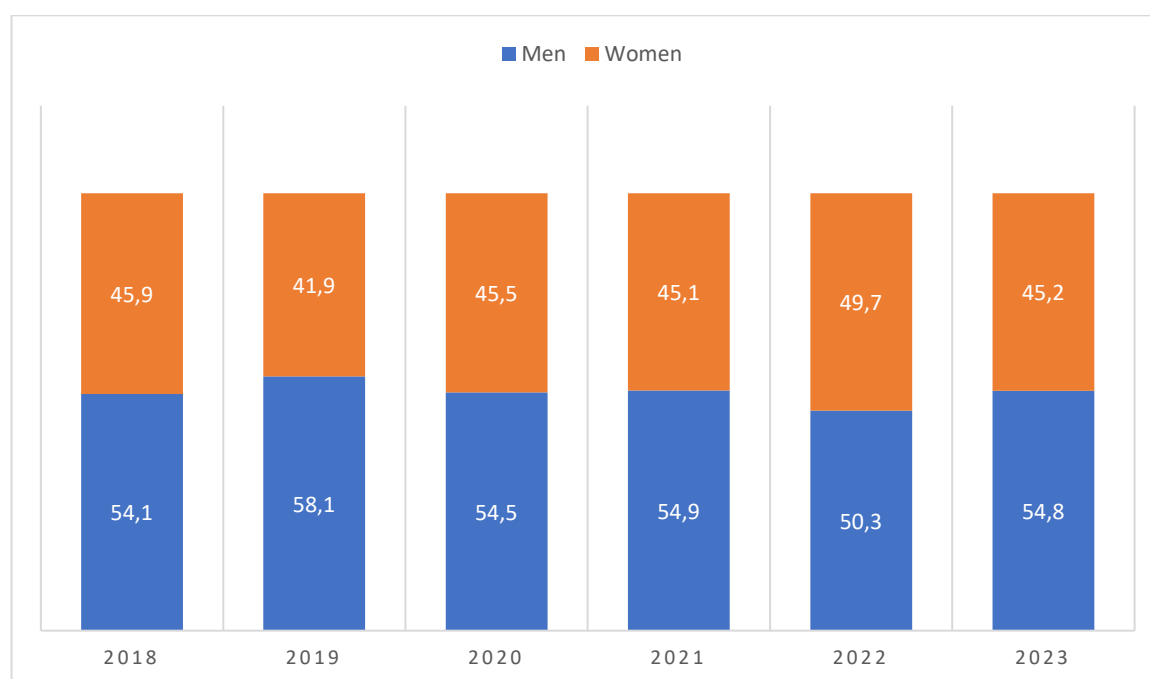


Fig. 3. Gender ratio of immigrants in the EU, %

Source: constructed by the authors based on Eurostat data

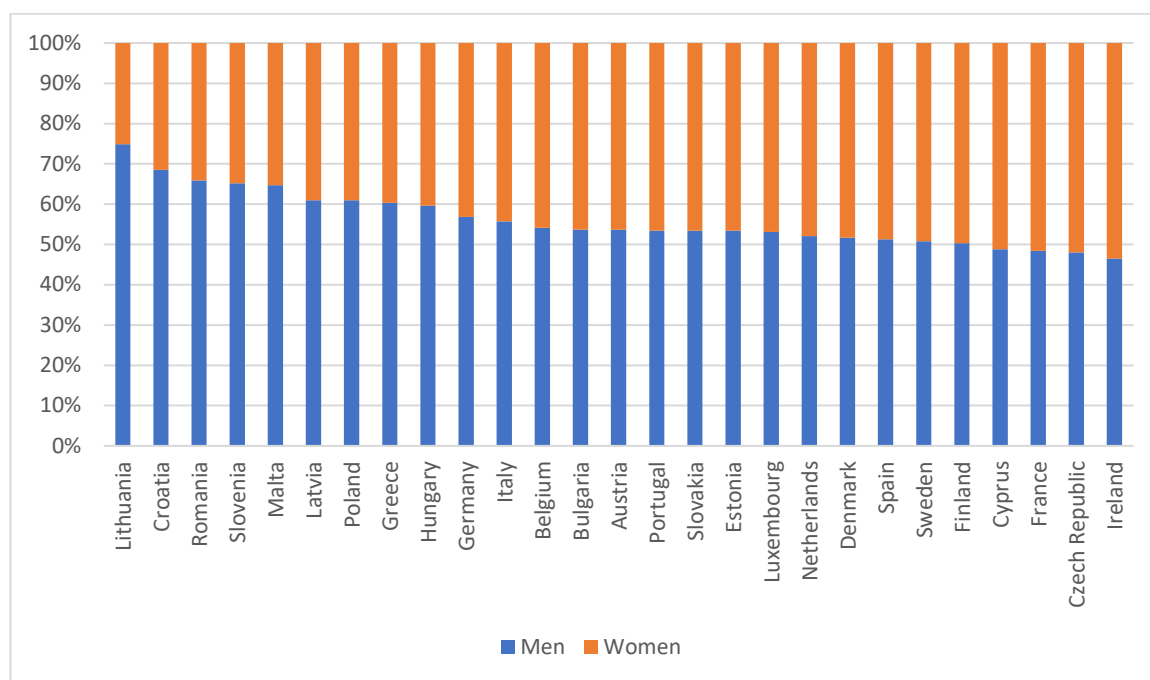


Fig. 4. Gender ratio of immigrants by EU countries, 2023, %

Source: constructed by the authors based on Eurostat data

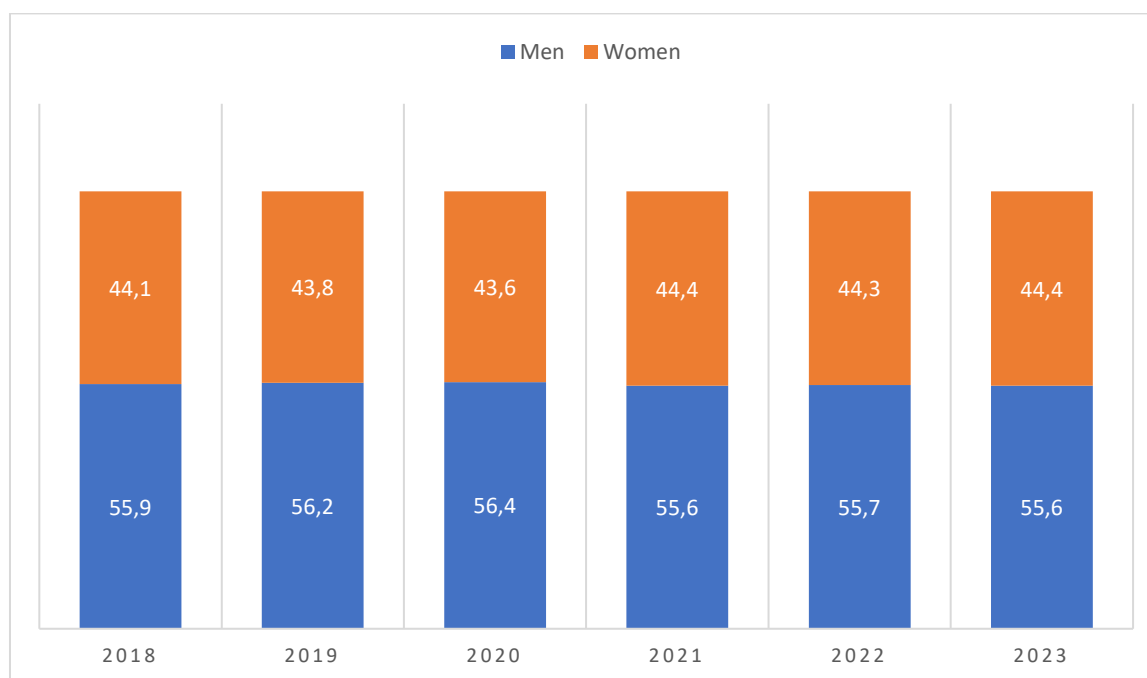


Fig. 5. Gender ratio of emigrants from EU countries, 2023, %

Source: constructed by the authors based on Eurostat data

The Czech Republic recorded the highest share of immigrants from outside the EU (89.2% of the total number of immigrants in 2023), followed by Lithuania (88.9%) and Ireland (87.2%). On the other hand, Luxembourg reported the highest share of immigrants from another EU country (85.7%

of the total number of immigrants in 2023), followed by Slovakia (57.5%) and Austria (48.4%).

In 2023, national immigrants (immigrants with citizenship of the EU country to which they migrated) accounted for more than half of the total number of immigrants only in

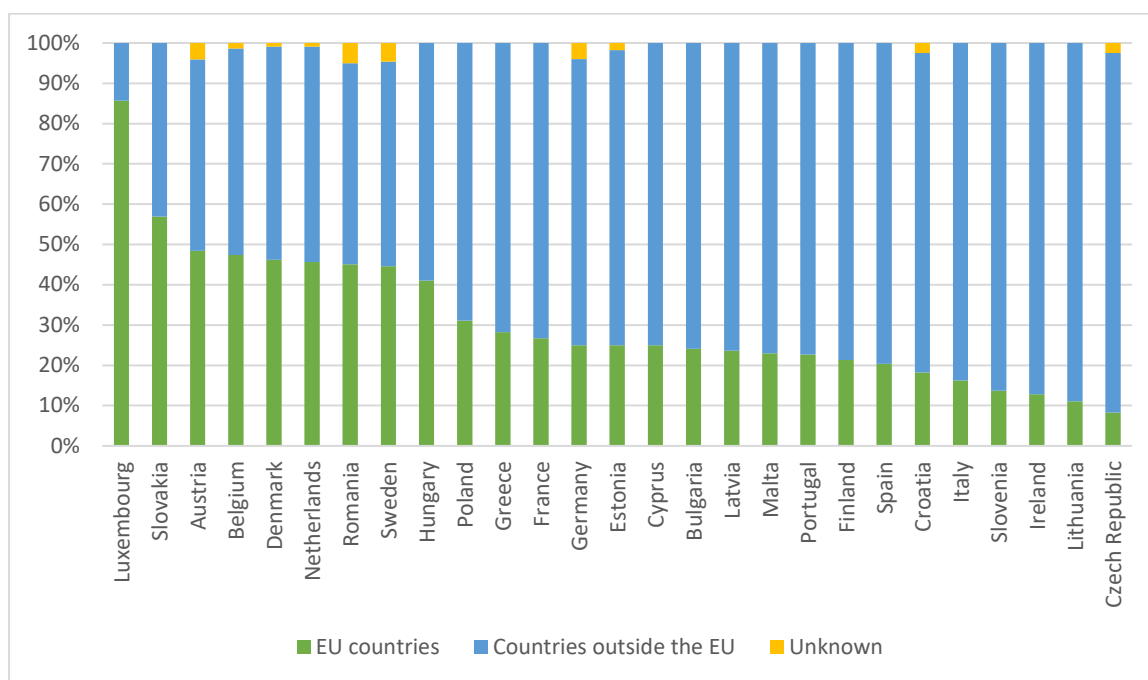


Fig. 6. Immigrants in EU countries by country of arrival, 2023, %

Source: constructed by the authors based on Eurostat data

Romania and Slovakia. Among stateless immigrants who were citizens of non-EU countries, the number of citizens of EU countries other than the one to which they migrated exceeded the number of citizens of EU countries other than the one to which they migrated in all EU countries except Luxembourg.

In 2023, the relative share of national immigrants in the total number of immigrants was highest in Romania (67.1% of all immigrants) and Slovakia (63.9%). In contrast, in the Czech Republic, national immigration accounted for 1.7% of the total number of immigrants [10].

Immigrants were on average younger than the EU population already residing in them. As of 1 January 2024, the average age of the total EU population was 44.7 years, while in 2023 it was 30.5 years for immigrants. Overall, foreign immigrants were younger than national immigrants in the EU. The age distribution of foreign immigrants shows a higher proportion of relatively young people of working age compared to national immigrants. The average age of national immigrants was 33.1 years, while that of foreign immigrants was 30.1 years.

Statistical studies show that at the beginning of 2023, there were over 8.7 million foreigners and stateless persons aged 15 to 29 living in the European Union. Of this number, 45.4% were young people aged 24–29, representing the most promising group in terms of impact on labor and intellectual capital.

The relative share of native-born immigrants among the total number of immigrants was highest in Romania (57.8% of all immigrants), followed by Latvia (35.5%) and Greece (33.9%). On the other hand, the Czech Republic (2.5% of all immigrants), Germany (3.9%) and Austria (4.4%) recorded the lowest share of native-born immigrants.

Overall, freedom of movement and employment within the EU remains an important factor stimulating both external and internal migration. A special place in this aspect belongs to Romanians, who form the largest national group of citizens living outside their country: in 2022, more than 3 million Romanians went abroad, which is approximately a quarter of the population of Romania. Similarly, Poles demonstrate significant mobility: according to data from the same year, about 1.5 million Polish citizens

(which is 11% of their total number) lived in other EU countries [10].

External migration plays a significant role in stabilizing the negative demographic trends of the EU countries. In particular, according to UN calculations, in the absence of migration flows, the population of the European Union would decrease by half a million people annually. Despite the fact that international migration is often interpreted in a negative context in public discussions, it is obvious that it acts as an important mechanism for the redistribution of human resources. Migration contributes to the concentration of knowledge, experience and qualifications precisely where they can be effectively implemented. Studies by the International Organization for Migration confirm the positive impact of migrants in various sectors of the economy – from high-tech industries to creative areas such as art or the creation of start-ups. The tendency to exaggerate the negative effects of migration often prevails, but the real losses for the sending countries can be partially compensated. This is confirmed by the experience of states that have successfully implemented programs to return their citizens from abroad. Such initiatives allow to benefit from the capital of knowledge, entrepreneurial spirit and formed professional skills.

External and internal migration of citizens of the European Union are effective mechanisms for solving key problems related to employment of the population and reducing the tax pressure on the economy of the member states. It is worth noting that migration processes provide a kind of “skills increase” for the host countries, covering different segments of the labor market – both in the field of low-skilled jobs and in industries requiring high professional training.

Internal movement of citizens from less economically developed regions to more economically prosperous territories of the EU allows to mitigate social tension in the former and at the same time contributes to providing the labor market with qualified specialists in the latter. On the one hand, this helps to balance economic activity between different regions.

On the other hand, external migration is focused mainly on filling low-skilled vacancies, further satisfying the demand for workers in monotonous manual labor with relatively low wages. This is most often the case in the agricultural production, light industry, and service sectors.

Demonstrating specific examples, it is worth paying attention to the employment of migrants in EU countries as of 2023. The highest share of migrants was recorded in the hotel and restaurant sector, where they accounted for 12.4% of all employees (compared to an average of 4.4% in this sector as a whole in the EU). Their contribution to construction was similarly significant – 9.8% of the total number of employees there (with an average of 6.9%), as well as in administrative and service services, call centers and logistics (7.6% versus 3.9%). In the areas of domestic work, migrants accounted for 5.9% of employees (an average of 0.7%) [10].

It is worth paying attention to the impact of outbound migration on the socio-economic development and development of intellectual capital of EU countries. However, the scale of outbound migration is much smaller compared to inbound migration. In 2022, about 2.7 million Europeans left their country, of which about 1.5 million left the EU, while the rest moved to other EU countries [10]. The main emigrants were citizens of Germany, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania. Almost every second migrant, except for those from Spain, simply changed their place of residence to another EU country. Thus, external migration as a whole does not have a negative impact on the demographic situation in the EU. However, internal migration exacerbates the imbalance in the distribution of labor within the Union and causes a shortage of qualified specialists in less developed EU countries.

The large-scale migration wave caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 had an important impact on public life in EU countries. It was caused by the desire of Ukrainian citizens to protect themselves and their loved ones from military

threats and to save their lives. Many displaced persons (refugees) left the zone where hostilities were taking place or which were occupied, residents of almost all regions faced the daily threat of rocket and bomb strikes. According to the UN, since February 24, 2022, more than 5 million people have left Ukraine [11]. Most Ukrainians left abroad through the states bordering Ukraine: Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, and later went to other EU countries, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. As of June 6, 2022, more than 5.6 million Ukrainian refugees were registered in Europe, the largest number in Poland (1,207.7 thousand people), Germany (867.0 thousand people), the Czech Republic (388.1 thousand people) and Italy (141.6 thousand people).

The demographic composition of the external migration of Ukrainians during the war period was fundamentally different from the pre-war period: according to UNICEF, about 90% of refugees are women and children. According to a survey conducted by UNHCR among adult migrants from Ukraine, women made up 87%, two-thirds (65%) of whom were of working age (18–59 years), almost 70% had higher education [11].

Pre-war migration was dominated by men (70% of the total number of migrants), mainly in working professions.

Most Ukrainians seeking asylum abroad found help in Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic. These states not only provided humanitarian support, but also introduced special temporary protection programs that provide refugees with access to housing, medical services, and employment opportunities.

Among the EU countries, the largest number of Ukrainians settled in Germany, which provided shelter to 1,117,100 people, which is 28% of all Ukrainian asylum seekers (Fig. 7). Poland ranks second with 983,200 refugees (24% of the total). The Czech Republic is in third place, where 388,600 Ukrainians found shelter, or 9% (Fig. 7).

As of the end of 2024, among those who received temporary protection in the EU countries, the share of women was 46.6%, children – 34.4%, and men – 19% [11].

Refugees forced to leave Ukraine due to war often face serious social difficulties. In the new conditions, they need to solve the problems of housing, clothing, food and medical supplies. The bulk of these costs are covered by the budgets of European countries.

Among the features of this wave of forced migration, a notable one is the high proportion of minors among the displaced. According to UN calculations [11] and economists,

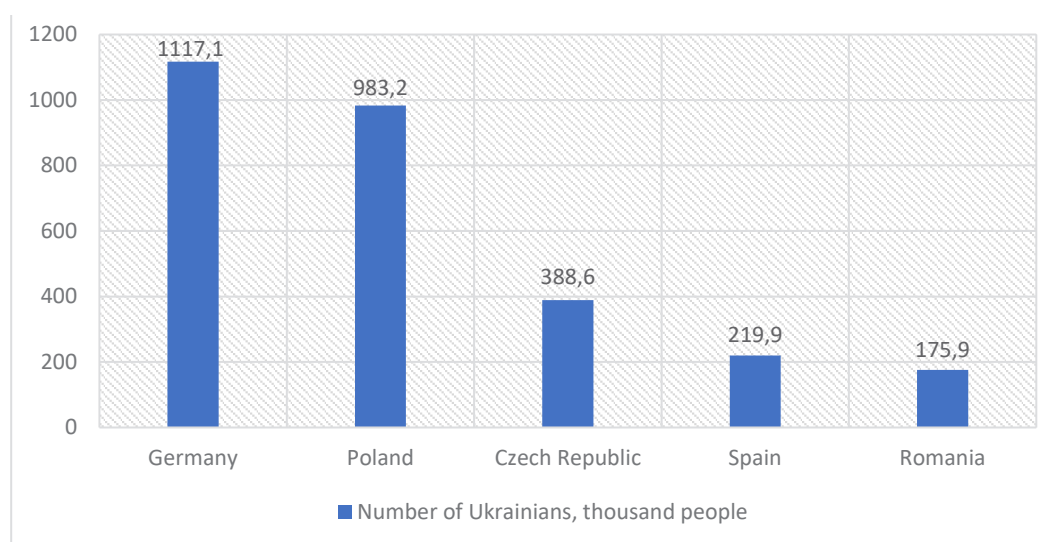


Fig. 7. EU countries that have accepted the largest number of Ukrainian refugees since 2022, thousand people (data as of 01/31/2025) [11]

the proportion of minors among forced Ukrainian migrants ranges from 28% to 44%. This creates significant financial pressure on the budgets of host countries, as their governments have to spend additional resources on the education and integration of Ukrainians.

Conclusions. The study allows us to highlight the following features of modern migration processes in the EU countries:

1. In 2023, migrants made up approximately 12.5% of the total population of the European Union. Of these, only 5.3% were not EU citizens, while the rest received EU citizenship or are internal migrants.

2. The majority of migrants, namely 75%, live in countries such as Germany, Spain, France and Italy.

3. The level of illegal migration is insignificant – about 6.6% of the total number of migrants. This figure decreased significantly in 2023 compared to 2015, when Europe faced a migration crisis, receiving over 1.8 million people, while in 2023 this figure was 385 thousand people.

4. The EU as a whole has a positive migration balance, with the number of emigrants exceeding the number of immigrants in the period 2018–2022 only in Croatia, Greece, Lithuania and Romania. And since 2023, all EU countries have had a positive migration balance.

5. Internal migration also plays an important role – as of 2023, 13.7 million EU citizens lived outside their country of citizenship.

6. The structure of residence permits granted was distributed as follows:

employment (36%) came first, followed by family circumstances (26%) and education (13%).

The conducted scientific research allows us to carry out a certain grouping of EU countries by the volume of immigrants. Thus, we have identified 4 groups of countries:

1) countries with the largest number of immigrants (over 1 million people) – Spain, Germany;

2) countries with high immigration (from 401 thousand people to 1 million people) – Italy, France;

3) countries with average immigration (from 101 thousand people to 400 thousand people) – Austria, Belgium, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Czech Republic;

4) countries with the lowest immigration (up to 100 thousand people) – all other EU countries.

Prospects for further research are related to a detailed study of megatrends that influence modern migration processes in the world, including in the countries of the European Union, such as: globalization processes, the impact of wars and military conflicts, environmental factors, educational prospects, etc. An important place in modern research remains for the study of forced migrations of Ukrainians associated with military operations, in particular, the volume of refugee flows to various EU countries, the features of social adaptation of our citizens in these countries, their impact on the economy and the labor market, etc.

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