ABSTRACT

Lohvynova M. O. Human-geographical features of forced migrations in the border regions of Eastern Ukraine. – *Qualification scholarly paper: a manuscript.*

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The thesis is devoted to the establishment of the spatio-temporal features of forced migrations in the border regions of Eastern Ukraine (on the territory of Donetsk, Luhansk, and Kharkiv regions), analysis of their structural and demographic characteristics, identification of the problems of internally displaced persons and finding ways to solve them, studying the features of their integration into host communities.

The following tasks were set and solved in the thesis: human-geographical essence of forced migrations as a component of the migration processes of the regional migration system has been revealed; the essence of the concept of "internally displaced person" (IDPs) as a category of forced migrants was disclosed and analyzed; the use of interdisciplinary approaches and a number of philosophical, general scientific, specific scientific and special research methods for the study of forced migrations at the regional level were substantiated; the preconditions and reasons for the occurrence of forced migrations in the East of Ukraine were analyzed; the stages and waves of forced migration, the factors of placement of internally displaced persons in the regions of Ukraine were identified; spatio-temporal and structural-dynamic features of internally displaced persons in the border regions of Eastern Ukraine were analyzed; the problems of IDPs, peculiarities of their integration into host communities and the attitude of the local population towards forced migrants were identified using sociological research methods, in particular the questionnaire method; spatial modeling of the integral influence function of the forced migrations in the studied region was carried out;

the directions of the regional migration policy on the issues of forced migration in the border regions of Eastern Ukraine were proposed and substantiated.

The thesis reveals the theoretical and methodological foundations of the human-geographical research of forced migrations based on the analysis of foreign and domestic research, in particular, the conceptual and terminological apparatus of the study was formed, which characterizes the essence of the concepts of "migration system," "regional migration system", "migration process", "forced migration", "internal forced migration", "internally displaced persons". Migration processes in the border regions of Eastern Ukraine are considered within the framework of the regional migration system, which is a set of subregional (regional) migration systems, characterized by complexity, hierarchy, openness, self-regulation, combine migration flows within several administrative regions, and can function within individual migration regions. According to it, the functioning factors were justified, the structure, properties, method (model) of the functioning of the regional migration system were revealed. The factors of migration, types, and causes of forced migrations were disclosed.

The methodology of human-geographical research of forced migrations has been substantiated using a set of interdisciplinary approaches: geographical, systemic, synergetic, informational, historical, demographic, economic, legal, sociological, psychological, individual, as well as a complex of philosophical, general scientific, specific scientific and special methods. The use of cluster analysis methods, IIF-modeling, original methods of data collection (questionnaires), and their analysis were adapted to the study of forced migrations.

The prerequisites for the emergence of forced migrations in the East of Ukraine have been analyzed. The settlement, political, socio-demographic, economic, ethnolinguistic, cultural, and mental ones were highlighted, preceding the main reason for forced migrations – the military conflict in the Donbas. The stages of settlement of the Eastern Ukraine's border regions and the appropriate types of migration were highlighted; the current state of the demographic situation and its impact on forced migrations were analyzed; the economic situation in the

border regions of Eastern Ukraine in the pre-conflict (in 2013) and post-conflict (at the end of 2018) period was compared, its impact on forced migrations was revealed; the current migration situation, in particular, all migration flows, intraregional, interregional and interstate migrations were analyzed.

Based on the analysis of the dynamics of the number of internally displaced persons, three stages and two waves of forced migration in Ukraine were identified: the stage of sudden temporary forced migration of the population (February – July 2014); the first wave of mass forced migration of the population (August – November 2014); the stage of deliberate forced migration of the population (December 2014 – December 2015); the second wave of mass forced migration of the population (January – December 2016); the stage of the pendulum movements of the IDPs (from 2017 to the present day).

The factors influencing the placement of forced migrants on Ukraine's territory have been grouped: security issues and political, territorial, natural-geographical, economic, socio-demographic, ethnolinguistic, religious and electoral, socio-cultural factors. It was revealed that the majority of forced migrants, focusing on the factor of territorial proximity to the temporarily occupied territories, settle in the regions closest to the conflict zone, almost completely ignoring the Western Ukrainian regions.

Spatio-temporal analysis of internally displaced persons in the border regions of Eastern Ukraine has been carried out. The study region accounts for 64.85 % of the total number of forced migrants in Ukraine, and their greatest concentration in the region is observed along the demarcation line, which was influenced by territorial factors, as well as in large cities and regional centers – Kharkiv, Mariupol, Kramatorsk, Sievierodonetsk, Bakhmut, Sloviansk, etc. The age and gender structure of IDPs, the specifics of their employment have been analyzed. Women predominate in the sex structure, pensioners predominate in the age structure of IDPs of all administrative-territorial units of the border regions of Eastern Ukraine, except for the Barvinkove district of Kharkiv region. The share of pensioners in IDPs' age structure is more than 80 % in the Luhansk region's

northern districts – Bilovodsky, Kreminsky, Markivky, Milovsky ones. The share of the working-age population among the studied regions is the largest in Kharkiv region (43.5 %), the working-age population is the predominant age group of forced migrants in the city of Kharkiv and Yasynuvatsky district of Donetsk region.

Based on the sociological methods, in particular, a survey conducted among 207 internally displaced persons in Donetsk, Luhansk, and Kharkiv regions, the problems of IDPs, the peculiarities of their integration into host communities were identified, which made it possible to propose concrete ways to improve the situation of forced migrants. According to the survey results, the problems faced by forced migrants are divided into socioeconomic, socio-psychological, institutional, and legal ones. A survey was carried out among the local population of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv regions (384 people in total) to identify the population's attitude towards internally displaced persons, and its results were summarized. A SWOT-analysis of the impact of internally displaced persons on host communities has been developed.

Spatial modeling of the integral influence function on the number of IDPs in cities of regional significance and areas of border regions of Eastern Ukraine has been carried out; models with base radiuses of 10, 15, 20, 25 km were constructed, anomalous values were analyzed, settlements to be the cores of excessive concentration of IDPs were identified. The ranking, grouping, cluster analysis of cities of regional significance and districts of the border regions of Eastern Ukraine have been carried out according to the structural and demographic indicators of IDPs (25 indicators in total). As a result of the cluster analysis carried out among the cities of the studied region, five clusters (groups of cities) have been identified with similar features of forced migration, making it possible to predict the further scale of forced internal displacement of the population. Four clusters have been identified among the districts of the border regions of Eastern Ukraine.

The regional migration policy measures on forced migration in the border regions of Eastern Ukraine have been developed in four directions: social, medical,

and psychological, informational and legal, integration of IDPs into host communities. Each direction is aimed at solving a specific problem of IDPs. The proposed regional migration policy directions can be adapted for any region of Ukraine where IDPs' problems remain unresolved.