



MIGRATION AND SECURITY

Tsvetelina Metodieva

UNIVERSITY OF SHUMEN "BISHOP KONSTANTIN PRES LAVSKI"

Email: tsvetelina.metodieva@abv.bg

Abstract: *The history of mankind is inextricably linked to the migration of huge masses of people from their native places to other territories. Migration is a set of different in nature territorial displacements of the population, which lead to a change of residence. Despite the constraints posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, migrants continue to make secret journeys, fleeing war, violence and poverty.*

Keywords: *migration, adaptation, integration, migration security, integration policies*

Introduction

The history of mankind is inextricably linked with the migration of huge masses of people from their native places to other territories. Migration is a set of different in nature territorial displacements of the population, which lead to a change of residence [1]. The common motive of all migration processes is the desire of people primarily to meet physiological needs and their need for security.

Despite the constraints posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, migrants continue to make secret journeys, fleeing war, violence and poverty. An example of this is the crisis in Afghanistan, which is a serious threat to a wave of migrants to Bulgaria and the EU.

According to data from the Ministry of Interior, in the period January-June 2021 the number of detainees in Bulgaria was a total of 2278 third-country nationals. Compared to the total number of detainees in the same period in 2020 (429), an increase of 5.3 times is reported. Experts expected a sharp increase in migration flows after overcoming the pandemic in the future, but the forecast

was ahead of schedule as Afghanistan was already taken over by the Taliban and locals fled their country, heading for Iran and Turkey.

If Turkey releases thousands of migrants to neighboring countries, including Bulgaria, it will become very clear that our capacity to take them is, to put it mildly, modest. The centers of the Ministry of Interior and the Migration Directorate, which temporarily accommodate those who entered Bulgaria, are full. 1,060 places, 1,080 accommodated. There are vacancies in the centers of the State Agency for Refugees. [2]

For now, however, the migration situation in our country allows to assess from the point of view of security, efficiency of existing regulations and to take proactive measures and tools to improve it in adapting third-country nationals who have legally chosen to reside permanently in our country. The data of the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) show the tendency for a significant decrease in the number of asylum seekers in our country in recent years. For the period 01.01.21-31.07.21 there is a slight increase in the number of persons seeking protection, compared to other years, namely 3135 foreigners, 56 of whom were granted refugee status, 901 humanitarian, and 901 943 were refused, and 1183 persons were terminated. For the period 01.01.20-31.12.2020 the persons seeking protection are 3525, as 105 of them have been granted refugee status, 716 humanitarian, and 1374 persons have been refused. In 2019, a total of 2152 persons sought protection in the Republic of Bulgaria, as 181 foreigners were granted refugee status, 300 humanitarian status, and 1134 persons were refused. Most of those seeking protection are Syrians, followed by citizens of Afghanistan and Iraq. Of those who received the status, on average up to 5% remain in the Republic of Bulgaria, as 90% of them are employed. In 2016, 19,418 applications for protection were registered, and in 2015 the largest number of applications was registered, namely 20,391. [3] In 2019, the number of persons seeking international protection in the territorial divisions of SAR at the Council of Ministers is on average about 8% of the total accommodation capacity - throughout the year the number of accommodated third-country nationals varies between 329 and 490. [4]

With regard to the persons who have received international protection, an integration program is applied, which provides equal access to rights, opportunities for development of personal potential, for active and equal participation in the building and development of the Bulgarian society and state.

There is no data on the exact number of those who received protection, who then chose to stay in Bulgaria for a long time. About 90% of those who received the status and remained in the country settled in Sofia.

Based on the analysis of published in our country models of migration processes, a generalized model of the migration process is proposed, which includes three main stages: initial-formation of migration attitude and decision on immigration, basic-relocation and final-establishment of a new place. The

last stage is the longest, it includes adaptation, integration and recently added activities in European plans and programs, such as inclusion and inclusion. From a security point of view, a major mistake in managing the last stage in the host environment is to treat it with the general term "integration". To this end, I propose that the stage of identification of migrants be considered in two phases - adaptation and integration. Adaptation is the adaptation of man to the new living conditions. Integration is its full infusion into the new ethnocultural and religious environment, through active participation in public life and realization of its own contribution to the social systems it uses. [5]

Migration must be controlled, otherwise it could become a threat to national security. The consequences it would bring with it are: spread of infectious diseases, uncontrolled acts of violence, terrorist acts, transfer of a foreign socio-cultural model and difficulties in the social systems of the EU countries, participation of immigrants in the gray economy, displacement from the labor market of local residents, the growth of domestic crime and others. The problem of migration - security has two aspects - the security of the communities affected by migration processes and the personal security of migrants.

Given the growing impact of migration processes on the socio-economic development and security of regions and business organizations, it is appropriate to add a new component "migration security" to the components of national and corporate security. [6] The migration security of the municipality and the business organization can be defined as a dynamic state of their protection from threats and processes unfavorable for their development, which arose in the process of adaptation and integration of the citizens from third countries. "Migrant security" is a state of protection of the refugee / migrant from various threats and dangers through the migration policy of the state. Its main components are physical and social security. The model of integration forms four main results of the last phase of the migration process. From the point of view of the security of the regions and of the migrants themselves, full integration is most favorable. Practice in European countries shows that the prospect of assimilation is in most cases unfeasible, as integration is unlikely - the complete elimination of cultural differences between indigenous peoples and the new population. The concept of "conflict potential" characterizes the maladaptation of the migrant in the host environment and his dissatisfaction with his position in it. The marginalization of migrants is the most unfavorable for security and has great potential for conflict. The potential for conflict is higher when most migrants belong to the poorer sections of the population. Threats to security lie not only in the ethnocultural differences between newcomers and the local population, but also in the superimposition of these differences on the social inequality that actually exists in the country, ie. coincidence of the social-class division of society with the ethnic division. [7]

The main shortcoming in the implementation of the integration policy of the Republic of Bulgaria is the practical implementation of the set policies, measures and legal norms at the level of municipalities and business organizations, as well as the lack of coordination between the institutions. To overcome it, it is advisable to use a proactive approach in several areas:

- development of specific programs in priority areas for real adaptation and integration as a tool for improving migration security, and more efficient use of available resources at two levels - for the country as a whole and at the municipal level. At the state level, the strategy, labor legislation and measures for attracting highly qualified and motivated citizens of Bulgarian origin from third countries and for economic measures for re-emigration of young qualified Bulgarians from developed countries must be specified;

- In order to implement the proactive approach at the municipal level, a project of an extensive and specific program for migration security of the municipality of Shoumen is proposed. Based on an expert assessment, the program envisages the preparation of an expert report on the benefits and the possibility of receiving persons granted international protection, and specifically outlined adaptation measures in seven main sectors. Particular attention should be paid to issues concerning the housing of foreigners. In the municipality of Shoumen it turns out that according to art.4. (1) item 6. of the Ordinance on the terms and conditions for establishing housing needs, it is impossible to accommodate third-country nationals in municipal housing. The financing of the proposed program with funds from the municipal budget is currently problematic. It is to be discussed by the Municipal Council;

- coordination of institutions at the local level dealing with the problems of migrants;

- monitoring of migration security by the Ministry of Interior and other governmental and regional institutions;

- development of regulations and requirements for admission of migrants, as well as criteria for selection of social mediators from their environment, rules for their functions and measures for financing their activities. These mediators must be selected from among foreigners with a residence permit in the country. Currently, the integration regulation does not provide funds for the remuneration of mediators, social mediation activities are funded only by projects for certain periods of time;

- conflict situations related to the settlement of foreigners in some places show the need for measures to ensure mutual awareness of migrant and local communities in order to improve trust and solidarity in the two-way process of adaptation and integration.;

Conclusion

The key to a perfect migration policy is the combination of effective control over migration processes and ensuring the rights and freedoms of both migrants and the local population, which in turn will reduce the risks and threats to national security.

Migration security must be ensured by forecasting migration processes in the country or region and maintained at the expense of the realization of the rights of people and groups of migrants and members of the host community, as well as by institutionalized state migration policy.

In order to improve the adaptation of migrants in the municipality of Shoumen, it is necessary to proactively propose a draft program for migration security of the municipality, as well as to implement coordination between the institutions.

Taking measures to attract highly qualified and motivated citizens of Bulgarian origin from third countries will mitigate the consequences of the demographic crisis in our country.

References and sources:

- [1]. Marinov, V., Migration crisis management, Abstract of the dissertation, Sofia, 2014.
- [2]. <https://offnews.bg/>, 13.08.2021 y.
- [3]. <https://www.aref.government.bg/>
- [4]. Report State Refugee Agency - Council of Ministers 2019.pdf. <http://www.aref.government.bg/>
- [5]. Marinov, V., Migration crisis management, Abstract of the dissertation, Sofia, 2014 y.
- [6]. Stanev, S., Metodieva, Ts. and Dimanova, D, Migrants and migration security. SocioBrains, ISSUE65, January, 2020. ISSN: 2367-5721. pp.151-164. <http://sociobrain.com>.
- [7]. Ledeneva, V, Municipal model for assessing the degree of social adaptation of migrants, Available at: <http://rfc.ranepa.ru/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/%D.pdf>. [June 2020].