

PSYCHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND SELF-IDENTIFICATION OF FORCED UKRAINIAN MIGRANTS

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INTRODUCTION

We are on the road and observe events and phenomena that either did not take place in the recent past or with a change in the context, the usual practices have undergone internal changes that are not always noticeable. There is a danger of trying to describe them from the standpoint of a former life – linearly in the categories of "worse" – "better" and slipping into a banal catastrophic description of the present. We are faced with new phenomena, for the description of which there is still no universally recognized dictionary. A completely new phenomenon is forced Ukrainian migrants abroad who are trying to avoid the risks associated with hostilities.

More relevant than ever are the words of U. Beck that in recent decades, "danger goes beyond the borders of a single country, and we become members of a "global danger team"¹. Z. Bauman records the transition to "a state of individual security," implying an increase in individual risks from terrorist activities, from natural and technical disasters². In other words, «actors must choose and face the consequences of their choices on their own and without any institutional support»³.

For Ukraine not only the security of the national sovereignty has acquired particular importance, but also the preservation of the identity and ability of people to preserve their culture and way of life.

In a broad sense, security is the absence of threats to the existence of the individual and community or the realization of their interests, as well as the presence of protection from them. Consequently, the changing nature of threats requires an emphasis on the social and psychological foundations of security.

More than 6.2 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded worldwide (as of July 2023). Latvia provided active assistance to forced migrants from Ukraine and accepted more than 43 thousand forced Ukrainian migrants (as of May 16, 2023).

¹ Beck, U., Bonss, W., Lau, C. The theory of reflexive modernization. *Theory, Culture and Society*. 2003. 20 (2). P. 1–33. DOI: [10.1177/0263276403020002001](https://doi.org/10.1177/0263276403020002001).

² Bauman Z. *Liquid Modernity*. Polity Press. 2000. 230 p.

³ Jong A. World Risk Society and Constructing Cosmopolitan Realities: A Bourdieusian Critique of Risk Society. *Frontiers in Sociology*. 2022. Vol.7. DOI:10.3389/fsoc.2022.797321.

The problem of forced migrants is a problem of both the country that the migrants represent and the country that receives them. At the same time, the relevance of the topic is dictated by both scientific and pragmatic tasks. Wartime is a time of uncertainty and risk. The process of making a decision to move is a poorly rationalized process since rapidly changing contexts and the weight of the factors being analysed are accompanied by a high emotional overtone of events and do not allow a fully reflexive approach to solving the problem. War with particular acuteness actualizes the meaning of everyday contextual knowledge or implicit competence. Many details of the life context determine survival strategies. The details are different: explosions, the smell of gunpowder, broken tanks and spent cartridges, a fire for cooking once a day, cold basements, overnight stays in the subway, and checkpoints.

Extreme conditions associated with threats to life, for people of non-extreme activities, actualize hidden reserves of knowledge and skills, in other words, implicit competence, which can be understood as a hidden, non-obvious aggregated competence associated with effective problem-solving in conditions of uncertainty and threats to life. In other words, the practices of involuntary resettlement in the face of military threats are largely determined by the ability to quickly, the little-realized process of transdisciplinary learning as the basis for their successful adaptation.

Forced migrants from the country that has been attacked, first of all, are women with children and elderly parents due to restrictions on the departure of men. The gender aspect of this problem gives particular relevance to the study of the practice of temporary resettlement of residents of areas subjected to aggression from other countries. First of all, we are talking about the self-determination of the resettlement practices of young women of working age, saving themselves and their children and loved ones from the threat of destruction. However, migrants to different countries, including European countries, can be considered not only as an object of care but also as a population resource for the host. Hence, the study of the specifics of forced migrant strategies is of particular importance for society as a whole and for the governments of both countries: both the country that has been subjected to aggression and the host country.

Psychologists and sociologists are trying to understand the large-scale phenomenon of Ukrainian refugees. From a scientific point of view, of interest are discursive markers of explicit and implicit competence in search of answers to military challenges and methods of identification, as well as the role of civilian national identity in conditions of temporary resettlement to other countries. The implicit competence of internally displaced persons is determined, in our opinion, firstly, by the variety of rapidly replenished scientific knowledge, the assimilation of which occurs in the course of a person's entire life, with the development of areas of its application, including through new types of life activity. Secondly, a system of human practices (educational or forced displacements) that requires transdisciplinary implicit

competence, which ensures the formation of “personal knowledge” (according to M. Polanyi)⁴, grasping significant connections in new contexts, and allowing finding adequate ways to resolve emerging situations. Such competence can be considered the basis for the self-determination of personality.

In our work, we explore the role of implicit competence in the self-determination of the lives of forced migrants. The need to study explicit and implicit assessment of intercultural competence was successfully substantiated by Bazgan M., Norel M.⁵ In doing so, we strive for a deeper understanding of discursive markers of explicit and implicit competencies of displaced persons.

In addition, we studied the psychological characteristics of the ethnic and civil self-identification of forced migrants. Identification is known to be associated with processes of social categorization and social comparison. Self-identification of forced migrants is complicated by the influence of two systems of identificational objects: in their own country and in the country of temporary residence⁶.

The article is organized as follows: the first part of our article examines the scientific literature related to the concepts of migration, self-determination, and self-identification of internally displaced persons. Then we detail the methodological framework used to conduct this study. We present the results with commentary, a critical discussion of our results, and the strengths and weaknesses of the study. In conclusion, we draw conclusions summarizing the key perspectives and define the prospects for future research.

1. Methodological and methodological foundations for the study of self-determination and self-identification of forced migrants

The term “migration” means relocation, namely the territorial movement of the population associated with a change in place of residence. Many typologies of migration indicate the complexity of the phenomenon itself, the variety of factors influencing the movement of people, as well as the presence of various theories that, within the framework of different sciences, explain it and clarify the conceptual apparatus of its description. Traditionally, we are talking about labour migration. Ukraine has been characterized by forced migration over the past decade due to the temporary occupation of part of its territories by the Russian Federation.

⁴ Polanyi, M. *Personal Knowledge: Towards a Post-Critical Philosophy*. 1958. 494 p. <https://www.livelib.ru/author/302017-majkl-polani>.

⁵ Bazgan, M., Norel, M. *Explicit and Implicit Assessment of Intercultural Competence* *Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences*. 2013. Vol. 76. P. 95 – 99. DOI: 10.1016/j.sbspro.2013.04.08.

⁶ Hack-Polay, D., Mahmoud, A., Kordowicz, M., Madziva, R., & Kivunja, C. (2021) “Let us define ourselves”: forced migrants’ use of multiple identities as a tactic for social navigation. *BMC Psychology*. 2021. Vol. 9. P. 2-13 DOI: 10.1186/s40359-021-00630-6.

In the official documents of Ukraine and Latvia, two official types of migration are distinguished: "forced migrants" and "refugees" in terms of state assistance and legal status. Common in these statuses is the very moment of coercion. According to M. Slyusarevsky and O. Blinova⁷, the differences from a psychological point of view lie in the fact that a person with refugee status is dominated by remoteness from a dangerous place, while a forced migrant has the moment of assessing the place of resettlement, that is, he chooses a place for resettlement in that or some other degree. In our opinion, this statement does not fully reflect reality, since a migrant has the opportunity to choose one of these statuses with different possibilities and consequences, which means making a vital decision with varying degrees of possible reflection.

We are impressed by two ideas. One of the ideas is that forced migrants are "ordinary people and "purposeful actors" immersed in certain life circumstances, belongs to D. Turton⁸. G. Uehling, in turn, insists that "moving to another country is, to a certain extent, their attempt to build their world in new circumstances"⁹.

We agree with D. Massey¹⁰, the author of the synthetic theory of migration, that all approaches to understanding migration can be conditionally divided into two large groups: those that focus on the factors and causes of migration, and those that rely on analysis mechanisms of self-development and self-support of migration. We can also accept the clarifications of N. Sakız¹¹, who clarifies that migration studies focus either on the motivational component of migration (forced or voluntary) or on the adaptation component – on the consequences of migration and ways to correct the behavior of a migrant. Our work can be attributed to the second approach.

Under all-encompassing penetration risks, a person is forced to take numerous and make quick decisions without following pre-existing instructions. Society and personality are constructed and reconstructed in tandem through self-selection, self-determination, and self-organization. As a result, the hallmarks of reflexive modernity are ambivalence, contradiction, and the internalization of uncertainty.

⁷ Слюсаревський М., Блінова О. Міграція як соціально-психологічне явище: види, функції, чинники та закономірності. *Світосгляд*. 2015, № 5 (55). С. 41-54.

⁸ Turton, D. Refugees, Forced Resettlers and 'Other Forced Migrants': Towards a Unitary Study of Forced Migration (Geneva, UNHCR). 2003. <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/3f818a4d4.pdf>.

⁹ Turton, D. Refugees, Forced Resettlers and 'Other Forced Migrants': Towards a Unitary Study of Forced Migration (Geneva, UNHCR). 2003. <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/3f818a4d4.pdf>.

¹⁰ Massey, D. S. Social structure, household strategies, and the cumulative causation of migration. *Population Index*. 1990. Vol. 56 (1). P. 3–26. DOI: 10.2307/3644186.

¹¹ Sakız, H. Establishing an Inclusive Psychology of Migration: An Alternative Model. *GÖÇ ARAŞTIRMALARI DERGİSİ. The Journal of Migration Studies*. 2015. Vol. 1. P. 150-175.

Our research is based on the concept of self-determination. In its most general form, self-determination refers to a person's ability to determine his own behavior. In other words, self-determination is a person's ability to make decisions about how to behave and to use these decisions as causal antecedents. According to the ideas of E. Deci and R. Ryan, the willingness to manage or self-determination provides competence, autonomy, and social connections¹². Competence is one of the key elements of the theory of determination. With all the diversity, to understand competence in its most general form, competence is the availability of knowledge, experience, and skills necessary for effective activity in a given subject area. Competence – potential readiness to solve problems with knowledge of the matter; includes content (knowledge) and procedural (skill) components and implies knowledge of the essence of the problem and the ability to solve it; constant updating of knowledge, possession of new information for the successful application of this knowledge in specific conditions, i.e., possession of operational and mobile knowledge. Competence is the possession of a certain competence, i.e. knowledge and experience of their activities, allowing them to make judgments and make decisions.

Many researchers note the ambivalence of the concepts of competence. Since the end of the 20th century, the question "...is competence a personal attribute, an action or the result of an action..." has been debatable¹³. We are interested in the opinion of Weinert, who notes that "many implicit (in word usage) and explicit (in the theoretical frame of reference) definitions of competence are so heterogeneous that only a small, vague conceptual core remains"¹⁴.

We agree with the opinion that the theory of self-determination is more about explicit competence¹⁵. In our pilot study, we tried to show that implicit competence is most pronounced in terms of life risks and is largely associated with the need for autonomy. Implicit competence is understood by us as a latent aggregated competence in effective problem-solving under conditions of uncertainty.

One of the key problems for forced migrants is the problem of identity. As is known, the theoretical understanding of social identity is associated with the development of key concepts of social categorization and social

¹² Deci, E., Ryan, R. The "What" and "Why" of Goal Pursuits: Human Needs and the Self-Determination of Behavior. *Psychological Inquiry*. 2000. Vol. 11. No. 4. P. 227–268. DOI: 0.1207/S15327965PLI1104_01.

¹³ Ashworth, P., Judy Saxton, J. On 'Competence'. *Journal of Further and Higher Education*. 1990. Vol. 14. Issue-2. P. 3-25 DOI: 10.1080/0309877900140201.

¹⁴ Weinert, F. E. Concepts of Competence Contribution within the OECD Project Definition and Selection of Competencies: Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations (DeSeCo). Neuchatel: Bundesamt für Statistik. 1999. P. 26.

¹⁵ Van der Kaap-Deeder, J., De Houwer, J., Sean Hughes, S., Spruyt A., Vansteenkiste, M. The development and validation of an implicit measure of competence need satisfaction. *Motivation and Emotion*. 2018. 42(5). DOI:10.1007/s11031-018-9685-3.

comparison. Identity at its core is a personal construct that reflects a person's internal solidarity with social

group ideals and norms and thereby helps the process of self-categorization, in other words, the process of dividing people into those similar and dissimilar to themselves¹⁶. Moreover, identity can be seen as a trade-off between assimilation with others and differentiation from others¹⁷. It is these two closely related processes that, in our opinion, determine the essence of forecasts about the number of Ukrainian refugees who may return to Ukraine after the war.

In the first section, we will present an analysis of the experience of internally displaced persons from the eastern, south-eastern, and central regions of Ukraine who found themselves in Latvia due to threats of shelling and occupation. At the same time, we strive to show how our informants tried, with varying degrees of reflexivity, to make a decision about choosing a country of temporary residence, both with the help of social connections and intuitively, taking responsibility for the choice made. This indicates that the contingencies of a given time and space may lead a forced migrant to use both explicit and implicit competencies that help him at different stages of the decision to move to another country.

In the second section, we describe the role of social and autobiographical contexts of self-categorization in refugees' narratives, as well as the features of their transitive self-categorization and narrative identity in the social stratification system of the host country.

The choice of methods was determined by the goals and objectives of the study. The purpose of the research project is to study the role of implicit competence in the self-determination of the life path of internally displaced persons.

The following tasks were set

1. Identify discursive markers of explicit and implicit competencies of forced migrants.

3. Identify the features of the social and autobiographical contexts of the stay of Ukrainian refugees in Latvia.

1. Identify narrative markers of self-identification of forced migrants.

2. Describe the features of transitive self-categorization in the social stratification system of the host country¹⁸.

¹⁶ Reimer, N. K., Schmid, K., Hewstone, M., & Al Ramiah, A. Self-categorization and social identification: Making sense of us and them. In D. Chadee (Ed.), *Theories in social psychology* (2nd ed.). 2020. Wiley-Blackwell. <https://psyarxiv.com/gub8a/>

¹⁷ Neville FG, Drury J, Reicher SD, Choudhury S, Stott C, Ball R, et al. Self-categorization as a basis of behavioural mimicry: Experiments in The Hive. *PLoS ONE*. 2020. 15(10): e0241227. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0241227.

¹⁸ Біженці та внутрішньо переміщені особи України на шляхах війни: кроки незламності : монографія / В.І. Подшивалкіна, Н. В. Коваліско та ін.; за ред. М. В. Бірюкової. Харків. 2023. 440 с.

The idea of the study was based on the fact that, on the one hand, the uniqueness of the experience of migrants is difficult to formalize but is transmitted through the personal testimonies of the migrants themselves, and on the other hand, narratives and discourses become an important element of migrants' self-reflection, allowing them to develop their strategy and establish itself in its correctness. engaging in communication with different people and telling them about the experience and the difficulties of deciding to resettle.

The methodology of so-called qualitative research was chosen, which seems to be the most appropriate for the purposes and objectives of the study. Modern psychology, they are increasingly turning to the study of hidden, non-public, intimate, subjective spheres of human life in rapidly changing conditions, including those associated with risk.

The purpose of qualitative research is to identify existing relevant opinions, including unexpected ones. according to R. Merton. Their quantitative shares at the stage of qualitative research are not important and can be determined later.

It should be noted that, in general, interest in qualitative methods occurs against the background of a theoretical understanding of the constructivist activity of people and the formation of a constructivist approach in the humanities. Appeal to qualitative methods in this case, in our opinion, is appropriate because our study is addressed to the analysis of people's activities, which implies a plurality of outcomes of their own decisions. Any decision-making process is presented as a series of successive choices made by the subject from the set of all possible ones, of which only one is real, and the rest are conceivable as logically possible, i.e., representing possible facts or connections of things consistently. In addition, from our point of view, the use of qualitative methods in our case is justified, since new, only emerging phenomena and processes, including rapidly disappearing, transitional ones, are characterized by unformed internal and external relations, their stochastic and random character. The life cycle of such newly growing phenomena can be historically short, while their influence on subsequent events and people's lives can be great. We also add that qualitative methods, in our opinion, are effective for the study of statistically insignificant events, which, despite this, can have a decisive influence on the course of social processes. It is important to emphasize that the use of qualitative methods is advisable in the study of the subjective, personal component of migration processes, which is characterized by incomplete identity of externally observed behavior and internal meanings and motives. In such situations, the typicality of manifestations can mask real meanings and meanings, both following malicious intent, and because inner experiences are always unique, and forms of expression are objective and typical. Let us also add that qualitative methods are effective for studying the hidden, intimate, non-public side of a person's life, which, under cultural and social norms, is not shown in

principle, may contradict them, and develop not to be shown for a certain period, but potentially in the future may become dominating in society¹⁹.

At the heart of the research design, therefore, the emphasis of the criteria for choosing research methods has been shifted from procedural features to features of individual and group experience as a whole.

The method of free and focused group interviews with a list of main topics for discussion was chosen.

In other words, the ones we have chosen are aimed at studying the qualitative uniqueness of the experience of people involved in certain relatively well-known situations. This made it possible to maximally reflect the diversity of experiences of forced migrants. It is the qualitative uniqueness of the intersection of trajectories of different experiences that underlies the use of free and focused group interviews in our study. Based on this, the use of qualitative methods involves: – the selection of informants, not so much based on their socio-demographic characteristics, but based on taking into account their experience in solving a particular problem; the orientation of the wording of questions to reflect the life experience of the informant; the use of strategies that allow repeated appeals to the informant related to the clarification of information; taking into account the need not so much to maintain anonymity, which in some situations is impossible, but to preserve the personal motivation of the informant in the study and its continuation.

In the first study, eight women aged 30 to 60 took part in a one-hour interview. Riga, August 2022. In the second study, we conducted four in-depth interviews and three focused group interviews. A total of 16 women aged 27 to 55 were interviewed. Riga, November 2022.

We took into account the activity of military operations in different regions of Ukraine. but at the same time, we believed that “battle intensity, as measured by combat casualties, is not a good general predictor of bias” [33, p. 12]. We focused on the lived experiences of internally displaced people rather than on the intensity of the fighting that forced them to migrate. Thus, among the informants were: from Mariupol and its suburbs, Kharkiv, from the south of Mykolaiv and Odesa, and one woman Kyiv and the Dnieper.

In addition, when selecting informants, marital status, the presence and age of children, and the timing of departure from Ukraine were taken into account. The number of informants was determined according to the criterion of repeatability of key variants of positions. The processing of the results took place in 2 stages – a general analysis of judgments on the research topic and an analysis of a free interview using the principles and techniques of the so-called “grounded theory”²⁰.

¹⁹ Подшивалкіна В.І. З приводу застосування якісних методів у соціології, або Який досвід ми вивчаємо? *Соціологія: теорія, методи, маркетинг*. 2008. № 4. С. 197-206.

²⁰ Strauss, A., Corbin, J. Grounded Theory Methodology: An Overview. In N. Denzin & Y. Lincoln (Eds.) *Handbook of Qualitative Research*. 1994. P. 273–285.

2. Psychological features of self-determination of forced Ukrainian migrants

The analytical process allowed us to capture the main decision-making situations related to the choice of the country of temporary migration and the interpretation of the contexts of these decisions. We present key statements from participants to document the scope of our analysis.

So, in conditions of uncertainty, from our point of view, the role of implicit competence increases²¹. Confirming signs in the case of refugees from zones of military conflict can be an assessment of the very possibility of aggression, the time of making decisions on a detour from the zone itself, and decisions on moving to a country of temporary residence; additional transit movements away from a dangerous place; moving from decision influenced by others to self-decision: indirect measuring scales that appear in narratives.

The subject of wide discussion before the start of the aggression became in the Ukrainian and international media both the unreality of the threats of attack and the rapid occupation of the country if the threats were realized. The "alarm suitcase" became a marker of reflection of possible threats. An emergency suitcase containing documents and a set of necessary simple things like a change of linen, matches, a flashlight, water, and food became the starting point for making subsequent decisions. The approach to limiting things was dictated by different forecasts for the speedy end of the war and for the possible hardships of the proposed movements. It is he who is often mentioned in the stories of informants. His fees, as well as the decision to move, were made at different times.

I 4. "On the fourth day, when the air raid alerts, sirens, and explosions really began, I already had a backpack packed like all people, of course. He was always with me. Documents about education, diploma, passport, housing documents, money, a bottle of water, a change of linen, and warm clothes»

Let's start with an assessment of the probability of an invasion.

I 3. "For me, everything was a complete surprise, but not for a husband who is an analyst by profession. He expected and warned me that I needed to leave. I didn't want to "Come on, nothing like that will happen." Well, I was wrong."

Most of the informants were distrustful of not only the formal information, but also the explosions themselves, air raids, tanks on the streets, and the landing troops. Reality overturned the existing knowledge and experience. And explicit knowledge was stronger than reality.

The difficult decision to leave for a safer place on the day of the beginning of the aggression was made by only two of the 8 informants. Many put off the decision to move and tried to clarify the official information and compare it with their own experience.

²¹ Schneider, K. What Does Competence Mean? *Psychology*. 2019. Vol. 10. P. 1938-1958. DOI: 10.4236/psych.2019.1014125.

I 3. "On the same day (the beginning of the war) we crossed the border with Moldova. On February 24 at noon, I was already sitting with my bags packed and waiting for my husband to arrive from work. We folded separately my and my children's suitcase for my husband, in case he could not leave so that things would not have to be overloaded. That is, there was no separate "alarming" suitcase"

I 2. "I didn't intend to (leave) at all. I said: No, I'm not going anywhere. After 3 weeks, I realized that something had to be done. I was just afraid to let them go alone (two daughters and granddaughter).

But in all cases, the search for a final solution took several weeks and even several months and was accompanied first by internal movements, and then in some cases by movements across several countries.

I 6. "Still, I made up my mind, and first, there was Western Ukraine. I stayed in Western Ukraine for five days. We came to relatives from Kharkiv and we left in early March. Yes, yes, yes, we have considered the options. We tried to figure out whether to leave or not. I did not come to western Ukraine alone; I came with my husband. He is liable for military service because of his age- he is from 18 to 60. He would not have been able to leave with me, so we first arrived in western Ukraine through Lviv. We first came to relatives, but this is not our final stop. No, the decision did not come immediately. It seemed to me that on the Western a little, well, as we say, such a word "we will sit out" because it was quieter there. But here are the conditions that were there, with strangers, we traveled with one bag literally, that is, only the most necessary things: documents and one bag (with things). It's impossible to stay away for so long."

For many, the process of deciding to leave was dragged out for weeks for various reasons, including objective ones: the encirclement of the city, a direct invasion of its borders, as well as the difficulty of determining the immediate threats and hardships of life in military conditions. Difficult decisions to leave were made in the face of uncertainty and risk. First of all, the decision to leave most often arose as a family problem. This is the responsibility for the safety of children and the problems of personal safety. Family members were included in the decision-making process and helped to implement it.

Competence is an integral part of the personality's self-determination, as the basis for its activity and the ability to independently choose ways to ensure its well-being. Explicit competence consists of knowledge and information about complex situations in peacetime and wartime, gleaned from scientific sources, textbooks, and the media throughout their lives and ways of existing in it and overcoming them.

I 4. "A relative gave serious arguments, I conducted my monitoring and made sure that this is true. Of course, I immediately found it on the way to Bulgaria I went to some Latvian sites, found some phones, and already called even on the way from Odessa to Bulgaria. I already called this phone and

found out what I was to do upon arrival, where should I go, and how to make myself known. Somehow, I liked it all. I had no questions about where to go”.

In our study, such **explicit competence** is described in the informants' narratives in such **markers** as reflective, informational progressive, promising, modern, thoughtful, ready-made, reliable, principled, tested, authoritative, orderly, verifiable, planned, prepared, formalized, documentary, persisting, multivariate, filtered, stable, imaginary. The core of such competence is both professional competence and active personal information searches of migrant women using modern sources of information.

At the same time, we note that there were significantly more **markets of implicit competence** in the informants' narratives than indicators of explicit competence, and they were more diverse.

Their diversity, in our opinion, can be reduced to five main groups:

Markers associated with the description of **effectiveness**: unreliable non-authoritative, unverifiable, unformed, undocumented, unretentive, indeterminate, unpredictable, scarce, ambiguous, hidden, uninterrupted, disordered indeterminate, vital, spontaneous, unprepared, stable, changing-unchangeable, inconclusive, possible, unresolved.

Temporal markers such as untimely, real, inevitable, changeable, algorithmic, slow-fast, increasing, impossible, new, inconclusive, and spontaneous.

Multiplicity markers: non-variant or low-variant, detailed, spatial, temporal, material, different, mixed, mass-non-mass, unusual.

Integrity markers: unordered, sufficient, continuous, preliminary, simple, simplified.

Existential markers: vital, emotional, scary, threatening, extreme, tragic, financial, healing, cultural, linguistic, material, vital, problematic, solvable, natural, difficult, hard, experienced, acquired, chosen.

Of particular importance is the correlation between the importance of social ties and the need for autonomy in the process of choosing a country of temporary residence.

Social ties and relationships were at the heart of the decision-making process, primarily in the form of specific assistance in organizing the move.

First of all, we are talking about personal connections and contacts with people who are included in the social life of Latvia from different positions: these are the closest relatives (parents, aunts, uncles, etc.), family members working in Latvian organizations, enterprises or who have transferred their business to Latvia, friends, and acquaintances.

I 5. The decision to move to Latvia was made in Poland after trying to find work in Poland or Germany. “My aunt Zlata from Riga called and asked how things were going. Then she asked me to send her copies of my documents. She went to the clinic and found out that I could be hired. The law just came out that Ukrainian doctors are taken without the knowledge of the Latvian

language, and you can learn the language for free. The aunt's call was the starting point for the decision."

Employees and management of organizations were also included in the decision-making process with varying degrees of support.

I 2. "I really didn't want to leave, but my daughters were working remotely for a Latvian company and the company's management offered to help find housing. The girls considered different options and found an apartment not far from their work. The road ahead for him and his granddaughter was not easy, and I decided to accompany them. It was scary to let my girls go alone."

But no less important are social ties, relationships, and the role repertoire associated with them: relative, spouse, parent, child, friend, student, neighbor, group member, member of the territorial community, volunteer, employee, leader, owner, fellow traveller, tourist, citizen, citizen, owner, outsider, enemy.

Social relations often acted as an attractor for deciding to leave in the form of an offer of concrete help and support. These were family members, relatives and friends, and even strangers.

We found that among migrant women the system of internal assessment of these relationships is expressed in such dimensions as caring – inattentive; sympathetic – unsympathetic; joint-separate; benevolent – unfriendly; emotional-unemotional; beloved-unloved; self-organizing-non-self-organizing; organized-disorganized; supportive-not supportive; social-asocial; local-non-local; governmental-non-governmental; national-international. At the same time, positive modality certainly prevails in the rating scales, which indirectly indicates the importance of social ties and relationships in deciding to move.

The very duration of decision-making was associated with an attempt to focus on objective information, but in the end, the key decision was made spontaneously and, at the same time, at the stage of the immediate decision to move to Latvia, the majority made fundamentally independent. In other words, at a certain stage, there was an acute need for autonomy, the need to show one's will, to take the situation under personal control, relying on one's strengths and weaknesses.

I 6 "Yes, that is, everyone made some decisions for themselves. Nobody quilted anyone. The situation is that everyone is responsible for himself. Everyone made for himself the decision because there were nuances. Everyone has chosen their path."

At the same time, such qualities of informants as pride, sociability, modesty, and strength of mind can be attributed to the positive aspects of manifestations of autonomy, while carelessness, slowness, apathy, emotionality, and anxiety can be attributed to the weak.

From our point of view, in wartime conditions and difficult decisions, the role of implicit competence increases and makes it possible to make non-controversial decisions, the effectiveness of which is extremely difficult to assess due to very rigid contexts. The context is understood by us as a system

of internal (individual psychological characteristics, knowledge, and experience), as well as external (objective, sociocultural, etc.) conditions of life and activity of the individual, which affect the perception, understanding, and transformation of a particular situation, giving meaning and meaning to this situation as a whole and its components. Internal contexts include states of health, anxiety, fears, uncertainty, and others. To external contexts – air raid signals, shelling, direct hostilities, lack of food, encirclement, occupation of settlements, intermediate evacuations.

In war conditions, when the objective criteria for the effectiveness of activities are weakened due to the uniqueness and originality of each specific situation, then implicit competence becomes more productive and attractive from the point of view of resolving a specific situation. In situations of military threats, generalized, typical, and standardized knowledge loses its power, and ingenuity, or, according to Sternberg, "street smart" provides better adaptation to the external environment, changing it or choosing the best behavior strategy.

Coming to Latvia is usually the result of social support and an independent autonomous decision, while such context components as the activity of the host party: the authorities, and citizens, including through the Center for Assistance to Ukrainians, are important.

Significant personal circumstances include the availability of work for yourself or your husband (in some cases), found by relatives, acquaintances, or on your own, or the opportunity to find it. Favourite work, and favourite employment act both as a source of income and as a means of distraction from the experiences associated with the war.

A specific autobiographical context can be a divorce from a husband, reunification with a husband working in a host country, the state of health of one's own, and children, fear of being a burden to loved ones, pregnancy, and accompanying loved ones.

Based on this, four strategies for choosing the place of temporary movement in the system of two vectors can be distinguished: unambiguity – mediation, explicitness – implicitness.

An unambiguous explicit choice of the country of temporary residence with a possible objective assessment of the option due to the experience of working in the chosen country of family members, including remotely, but without personal experience of staying in it or other countries.

An unambiguous explicit-implicit choice of a country for temporary asylum with a possible objective assessment of the option and experience of staying in several countries, allowing you to include both reflection and intuition.

Indirect implicit-explicit choice of a country for temporary asylum with experience of staying in the chosen country and other countries and analysis of direct additional information about Latvia.

Indirect implicit choice of country for temporary asylum based on intuitive decision making, almost blindly.

All of these options need further testing. This typology helps to understand that in extremely risky situations with a rapid change in the situation and contexts of one's own life, complete reflection becomes almost impossible. And risky decisions can be decisions of the least evil, the best of the worst. At the same time, making such decisions only rationally cannot be a guarantee of well-being, since any rational choice is primarily a reflection of typical and generalized properties that do not fully take into account the individual characteristics and feelings of a particular refugee.

The key in our opinion was the concept of security, and most often it was not only about vital security (housing, food) but also spiritual (culture, language, education), psychological (patriotism, dignity, self-realization), financial, and medical. At the same time, explicit competence was provided through social connections and relationships, while implicit competence was associated with autonomy and personal responsibility. The proposed scheme can be used for further research.

3. Peculiarities of national and ethnic identity of forced Ukrainian migrants

The regions of Ukraine inhabited by Ukrainians, Russians, Jews, and other nationalities and with the fairly widespread use of the Russian language were subjected to aggression by Russia. According to the results of the 2001 census of the population of Ukraine, the national composition of the country was presented as follows: 77.8% of Ukrainians, and 17.3% of Russians, a significant part of which lived in the southeastern regions of the country.

Identity issues for forced migrants are among the most frequently discussed issues. First of all, the issues of maintaining or changing identity in the country of forced migration are discussed. In particular, «it is argued that in the modern multicultural society, rigidly determined algorithms for the formation of a national identity, characteristic of previous historical epochs, are being changed for the principle of variability, choice, and construct of identity»²².

Of interest is the idea of a context-dependent identity about the presence of many forces that influence identification processes. These fluctuations can be caused by opportunities, both psychological and material, such as gaining respect and dignity or finding a job or a better home.

In our study, we tried to determine the specifics of the ethnic attitudes of refugees and the role of national (political and ethnic) identity in the context of temporary resettlement in Latvia.

²² Hack-Polay, D., Mahmoud, A., Kordowicz, M., Madziva, R., & Kivunja, C. "Let us define ourselves": forced migrants' use of multiple identities as a tactic for social navigation. *BMC Psychology*. 2021. Vol. 9. P. 2-13 DOI: 10.1186/s40359-021-00630-6.

The following stories from participants illustrate this situation:

I 5. “My father is Russian, my mother is half Ukrainian, and in Russian-speaking Kharkiv, I felt Russian, but not Russian, since February 24 we are all Ukrainians without embroideries, without demonstrations, deep in our souls”

I 7. “I have always felt like a Ukrainian. In Lviv, they somehow talked more about this than in Mariupol. »

I 4. “I speak both Ukrainian and Russian fluently without an accent. But here I realized that I love Ukraine and I like to speak Ukrainian I am proud to say that I am Ukrainian.”

I 3. “Yes, I am half Ukrainian, half Jewish, but at the same time, my mother is half Ukrainian, half Russian. Probably for the most part, I am Ukrainian, but I know for sure that Jewish blood flows somewhere in me Something like this, a Ukrainian with Jewish blood.

First of all, we note that half of the respondents either both or one of the parents were of Russian origin, and before Russia's aggression they were inclined to identify themselves with Russians. At the same time, regardless of ethnicity, after the aggression, all the respondents definitely felt like citizens of Ukraine, in other words, a civic Ukrainian identity was sharply manifested. Personal experience of tragic experiences prompted all informants to use the Ukrainian language more often.

The study showed that although knowledge of the Russian language was considered by some as a factor that would help them adapt to a new country, at the same time, a certain prevalence of pro-Russian ideas in the Russian-speaking environment contributes to an even greater civic Ukrainian identity. Informants had to deal with the fact that not knowing the Latvian language in some cases made it difficult for them to solve some issues, but the remark “Sorry, I’m from Ukraine” in the absolute majority of cases changed the situation to an orientation towards help or vice versa to accept help. Local residents understand the problems of Ukrainians both at the level of ordinary people and at the level of government.

I 5. “I understand that Latvians who come to the dentist are determined to be spoken to in Latvian. I asked my assistant to tell them that I am a Russian-speaking doctor from Ukraine and, unfortunately, I cannot speak Latvian yet. The language barrier does not prevent them from thanking me after the reception.

Along with attempts to preserve their own culture, there is an unequivocal tendency to study the Latvian language and Latvian culture. First of all, we note the interest in the Latvian culture. The country has made it possible to get to know the country through the introduction of free trips around the country. Differences between cultures rather indicate the level of adaptation of migrant women, and the commonality in cultures is perceived through the prism of gratitude for help and support.

I 3. “I think that having moved to another country, it became possible to look, as it were, into someone else's “garden”. And I think about why I am here and what I am doing here for my country, what I will learn.”

Most of the informants intend to return home.

I 3. “Then, when they stop shelling Ukraine at all, then I will return to Ukraine, later, when the risk will be reduced to nothing. Right now, Odessa is quite calm, except for air raid warnings both day and night (for example, from 3:00 to 3:45). I myself was not in Odessa with sirens. I can't imagine how you can sleep under a siren, how you can run to the basement under a siren. I have only one friend who is still running into the vestibule when the siren howls, but she gave birth to a child on February 27».

Most likely, Mariupol residents will remain in Latvia.

I 8. “Definitely not in Mariupol (we are not returning). I don't see the point (to return) to the territory of Ukraine either, because it is not known what will happen next. Avoid one to get into another? Yes, it's scary, scary. This animal fears, when the blood freezes in your veins, that you don't understand how much you have left to live and, if it does, then it's better to let it be right away – so that no one suffers. God forbid you to go through this again. The only thing we want is to change the status from temporary protection to family reunification, and since my husband has been working here for a long time, he has a working residence permit here.”

Thus, gratefully accepting help from Latvia, understanding not simple problems, including those related to ethnic relations within the country, most informants feel like representatives of another country to which they want to return.

Having carried out free, axial, and selective coding, we clarified the structures of concepts that describe the semantic messages of forced Ukrainian migrants.

Migrants are forced to live among three worlds – the social minds of their land, and the social minds of the state of the timely change and furnishings of their lives. This itself creates the basis for a transitive identity, a time-consuming, intermediate identification process. Transitive identity can be seen as a mental security of special security, which will be based on the search for the secret and important in the two countries and the appearance of their advantages in the organization of a powerful life.

In the minds of forced migration, identity appears even more controversial through the presence of direct affiliation with social groups in the new country. Violent migrants defy the bureaucratic system, as this rank means their inferior status. Therefore, they succumb to a complex process of self-identification in order to give evidence on the head of nutrition, how to establish identity: how they signify their place in the world and stand in front of it.

There is an interest in establishing criteria or even a special categorization. We have seen the resource criteria: competent-incompetent (language,

legislation of the country), bounded-unbounded (material resources, emotional state), secured – unsecured (living, connections, resources), as well as special criteria: active – passive; independent – non-independent, busy – unoccupied, emotional – non-emotional.

Otherwise, the transitory identity of the victimized refugees is associated with objective and subjective officials. Ukrainian women grew up in different countries with different minds of life, mine, cultures, traditions, and legal provisions of life. The hour changes people, behavioral patterns, habits, habits and habits, and new contexts make adjustments to the value system and behavioral style. On the other hand, refugees reveal their agency when a decision is made and do not lose their roots. The war further consolidated the nation and marked the national, Ukrainian identity and new developments and patterns of behavior intertwined with the particular structures that had already taken shape.

Thus, transit identity is a chain of cumulative proof of the independence of a person in his or her formation, the rights and availability of benefits before birth, and the insignificance of capacity and future stability. The vision of the concept of transit identity and the transformation of its particularities can become a guarantee of the success of the return of seduced migrants to the Fatherland, the war reform of the Ukrainian marriage, and the further integration of Ukraine into the EU.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the concept of implicit competence, from our point of view, is fruitful for understanding the decision-making process in difficult situations that threaten the lives and well-being of people in war conditions. This concept reflects the internal decision-making mechanism and self-confidence in making complex, ambiguous decisions. On the one hand, external assistance acts as a kind of impetus in decision-making, but in the process of realizing one's own needs, one's own values lead to an understanding of one's autonomy and responsibility. This probably explains the rather high self-organization of internally displaced persons. From a scientific point of view, clarification of the content of competence in the system of concepts proposed by E. Deci and R. Ryan of the components of self-determination will make it possible to clarify their relationship and significance in a very difficult situation with a risk to life.

On the one hand, the dissemination of information, and social and volunteer support for refugees an important condition for their survival, but at the same time, the independence and responsibility of women who decide to go to a safer place at their peril and risk help them find the most appropriate ways to respond to military challenges. and threats.

Our study involved women with different military experiences and with different periods of decision-making about moving to a particular country, to a certain extent corresponding to their needs and capabilities. The results

obtained allow us to explain the rather active position of internally displaced persons from Ukraine. This means that strong-willed, professionally trained, highly organized women are temporarily pouring into the society of the host country, who not only gratefully accept help, support, and sympathy, but actively try to solve their problems on their own in cooperation with other refugees.

The study began with the search for an answer to the question about the discursive markers of implicit competence and how it affects the everyday practices of forced Ukrainian women refugees. The results show that forced migrants are guided in their choice of a place of forced displacement both on the basis of explicit competence, in the formation of which social ties provide a significant role, and on their own poorly reflected experience of experiencing the hardships associated with forced departure from their native places. This conclusion indicates that forced migrants perceive their refugee status as a personal responsibility. This study clarifies the structures of the personality self-determination model proposed by Deci and Rayon by proposing to separate implicit and explicit competence, with the former associated with social relationships, and the latter with manifestations of autonomy.

With a sufficiently high probability of their safe return to their homeland soon, both countries face the problem of humanitarian support, spiritual development, and the national identity of forced Ukrainian migrants, especially their children. In the conditions of the beginning processes of Ukraine's integration into the EU, not only the integration of refugees into the European space as new residents of the EU countries but also the provision of psychologically comfortable return to Ukraine of temporary migrants as people with personal experience of living according to European standards is of particular importance. At the same time, migration processes can become productive for the host country in terms of forming loyalty to their culture in the present and future.

Forced migrants live in three dimensions – the social conditions of their country, the social conditions of the state of temporary stay, and the circumstances of their lives. This is what creates the conditions for transit identity, a temporary, intermediate identification process. Transit identity can be considered as a condition for ensuring personal security, which is based on the search for the common and different in two countries and accounting for their advantages in the organization of one's own life.

In our second study, the key category “Ukrainian civic identity” and the subcategory “gender identity” were identified. The criteria or dimensions of personal categorization are of interest.

We have identified two groups of criteria for personal categorization of forced migrants: resource and personal criteria. Migrants assess, first of all, their resource capabilities on such scales as competent-incompetent (language, country legislation), limited–unlimited (material resources,

emotional state), secured – unsecured (housing, connections, resources), In addition, they evaluate their personal potential according to such criteria as: active- passive; independent – non-independent, busy – not busy, emotional – unemotional.

Thus, the transitivity of the identity of forced refugees is associated with objective and subjective factors. Ukrainian women moved to different countries with different living conditions, languages, cultures, traditions and legal conditions of life. On the one hand, new contexts change people's behavior patterns, habits, skills, and values. On the other hand, refugees show their subjectivity in decision-making and do not lose touch with their homeland. The war further united the nation and strengthened the Ukrainian identity, and new habits were woven into already-formed personal structures.

Consequently, transit identity is a person's experience of uncertainty about his position, rights, means of existence, and the future. The concept of transit identity can contribute to the success of migrant return programs, post-war reform of Ukrainian society, and further integration of Ukraine into the EU.

It seems promising to continue researching the influence of social and autobiographical contexts on the attitude towards temporary resettlement in another country and the direction and intensity of attitudes toward integration into the Latvian society of refugees from Ukraine. Of particular importance is the study of the strategies of refugee mothers in relation to their children, primarily the preservation of their own Ukrainian identity and the assimilation of the culture of the host country, relying on large samples that allow for multi-group analysis and the use of quantitative methods that would offer support for inferential statistics to judge features of their self-determination with the corresponding variables, for example, gender, generational cohort, education, social media, and more.

SUMMARY

The section examines the explicit and implicit competencies of forced migrants describes their markers, presents the types of strategies for refugees staying in the country of temporary resettlement, and also substantiates the phenomenon of transitivity of migrant identities.

The study used individual and group interviews. Twenty-four women aged 30 to 60 years took part in two phases of the study. To analyse the data, we used the principles and methods of the so-called "grounded theory." We have established that migrants chose a place of forced displacement both on the basis of explicit competence, in the formation of which social connections play a significant role, and on their own poorly reflected experience of experiencing problems associated with forced displacement. At the same time, based on this, we identified and described four strategies for choosing a place for temporary relocation: unambiguous explicit; unambiguous implicit; indirect implicit-explicit; and indirect explicit-implicit. At the same time, we noted that there are significantly more indicators of implicit competence in the

informants' narratives than indicators of explicit competence, and they are more diverse. We have identified two main categories of migrants' identities – Ukrainian civic and gender identity. In addition, we identified two groups of criteria for the personal self-categorization of refugees: resource criteria, such as material capabilities, linguistic and legal competence, and personal criteria, such as activity, independence, and emotionality.

Our study contributes to the literature on refugee self-determination by suggesting a distinction between implicit and explicit competence, with the former related to social relationships and the latter to the expression of autonomy. We also found out the resource and personal basis of their transit self-categorization. Future research may provide a larger sample of the influence of social and autobiographical contexts on attitudes toward temporary resettlement to another country, as well as the direction and intensity of attitudes toward integration into Latvian society of refugees from Ukraine.

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