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## **IMPROVEMENT OF EU MIGRATION POLICY IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION CHALLENGES**

Modern cross-border movements are characterized by diversity: there is no typical migrant or typical country of origin or destination. Migrants vary in their reasons for moving, skills and demographics, legal status, prospects and circumstances. There are countries of origin and countries of destination at all income levels. Therefore, in fact, many countries simultaneously act as countries of origin and countries of destination, such as, for example, Great Britain, Nigeria, as well as Mexico.

The share of migrants in the world population has remained relatively stable since 1960. However, such stability is deceptive, as demographic growth has been uneven across the world. Global migration grew more than three times faster than population growth in high-income countries and only twice as fast as population growth in low-income countries.

Let's consider three leading countries. According to forecasts, by 2100 Italy's population of 59 million will decrease by almost half to 32 million, and the number of people over 65 will increase from 24 to 38 percent of the population. In Mexico, traditionally a country of emigration, the birth rate has fallen to a level that barely ensures the reproduction of the population. Nigeria, by contrast, is projected to increase its population from 213 million to 791 million by the end of the century, becoming the second most populous country in the world after India. These trends are already having a profound impact, changing where workers are needed and where they can be found [1].

Climate change increases the economic drivers of migration. More than 40 percent of the world's population – 3.5 billion people – live in places that are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change: heat stress, water scarcity, drought, sea level rise and extreme events such as tropical cyclones and floods. Economic opportunities in affected regions are reduced, which in turn increases vulnerability and stimulates migration. Climate impacts threaten the habitability of entire regions in places as diverse as the Sahel, lowland Bangladesh, and the Mekong Delta. In some small island developing states, this impact is forcing leaders to consider planned resettlement. Most of the movements related to climate change so far take place over short distances, mostly within the borders of the country [1]. However, the outline

may be subject to change. Will climate change intensify international movements in the coming decades, and if so, how much? This issue depends on national and global climate change mitigation and adaptation policies adopted and implemented already. At the same time, conflict, violence and persecution continue to displace large numbers of people from their home countries. Over the past decade, the number of refugees has more than doubled.

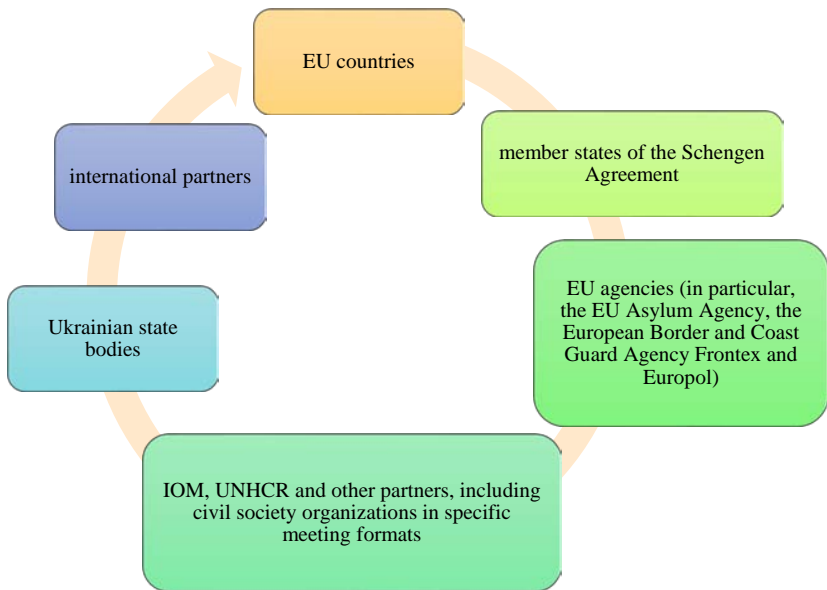
Forced displacement and economic migration have significant differences. The movement of refugees is often quick and sudden. As refugees seek the nearest safe destination, they are concentrated in a small number of nearby host countries. In addition, there is a large number of vulnerable people among the refugees – children make up 41 percent of the total number. In the face of such forces, migration must be managed in such a way that its benefits for development can be fully realized. Today's approaches often fail both migrants and citizens of the country. They cause significant inefficiencies and lost opportunities in both destination and origin countries. Sometimes they lead to human suffering. In many countries at all income levels, broad sections of society challenge migration within a broader anti-globalization discourse.

One of the current challenges for the migration policy of the European Union is the war in Ukraine and, accordingly, a large number of refugees who, saving their lives, left abroad. After Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the European Union reacted very quickly and showed effective solidarity by supporting people in need. This included direct humanitarian aid, emergency civilian protection, border support, and protection for people fleeing war. The Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) coordinates the Solidarity Platform, which brings together EU states, international partners and EU agencies to ensure the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive. The European Union Emergency Preparedness Plan is involved in the collection of important information, in particular, the arrival of refugees. These measures are necessary to stimulate response measures to regulate migration processes.

According to data from the European Commission, as of May 3, 2023, 4 million registrations for temporary protection were made in the EU+ (member countries of the European Union and countries of the Schengen zone). In the EU+, 35,100 Ukrainians requested asylum, more than 5.3 million are internally displaced in Ukraine, 3 million of this number are children, 779,774 Ukrainian students are integrated in the school systems of the European Union countries [2]. Given the past experience of regulating migration, it later became apparent that the states of the European Union would not have the proper means to process the asylum applications submitted by the large number of people fleeing war. Just then, on March 2,

2022, the Commission proposed to implement the Temporary Protection Directive. This Directive was later, in particular, on March 4, 2022, adopted by the European Council in a decision on granting temporary protection to people fleeing the war in Ukraine [3].

The Solidarity Platform was created to enforce the provisions of the Temporary Protection Directive in close cooperation with all the parties listed below. The role of the latter lies in monitoring the needs identified in the EU countries and in coordinating the operational response. The Solidarity Platform, which is coordinated by the General Directorate for Migration and Internal Affairs, combines the components shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1. Components of the Solidarity Platform coordinated by the Directorate General for Migration and Internal Affairs**

*Source: structured according to materials [4]*

Cooperation with international partners plays a leading role. European Union partners such as the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom participate in Solidarity Platform meetings dedicated to international cooperation. Among other things, the involvement of Ukrainian state bodies in Ukraine, Ukrainian embassies and consulates in the member states of the European Union plays an important role. The Solidarity Platform regularly engages Ukrainian government bodies to assess the needs and resolve potential problems faced by Ukrainian citizens in the European Union.

Moreover, the European Commission regularly cooperates with civil society organizations through the Solidarity Platform, through bilateral meetings, and through EU staff in the relevant Member States.

Therefore, the common migration policy of the European Union is constantly being developed and improved in the context of modern challenges. The European Union is working on increasing the efficiency of its own system in various areas. In particular, this includes providing asylum, strengthening cooperation with third countries, protecting the rights of refugees and migrants, strengthening our own external borders and improving the integration of refugees and migrants. Solving these key tasks, the European Union seeks to create an effective and comprehensive migration policy that will ensure humane and fair treatment of all refugees and migrants.

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