THE MAIN PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION FROM UKRAINE

Introduction. Reasons of international labour migration from Ukraine abound including political instability, low wages, high unemployment rate and corruption, etc. Labour migration has both positive and negative sides. On the one hand, we can observe a high rate of brain drain, which has a negative impact on the research and development sector. On the other hand, Ukrainians who are employed abroad send a significant part of their income to their families in Ukraine. That is good for macroeconomic stability of the state. At the same time labour migration from Ukraine is much more complex than it is commonly assumed and needs continuous monitoring.

Review of recent publications. A lot of scientists, both Ukrainian and foreign, have been studying labour migration; among them are Y. Baranovsky, S. Honcharova [3], O. Kyrylenko, N. Kulyk, L. Lisohor, M. Mosiuk, Y. Sotnikova and many others.

The purpose of the paper is to analyze the main features of international labour migration from Ukraine.

Results of research. International labour migration is one of the key aspects of developing international relations. It creates the world labor marker. Irregular migration prevents getting the accurate information so the statistic will be lower than in reality.

According to the study conducted under the International Organization for Migration (IOM) project in 2015 about 700 thousand Ukrainians were working abroad. Due to the military conflict and a grave economic crisis, Ukrainians are increasingly looking for overseas job opportunities and today about 300 thousand Ukrainians are going to emigrate [1].
The majority of both short- (64%) and long-term (71%) migrant workers are between 18-44 years old. Older people are more interested in short-term labour migration, while those in the 30-40 age group are more engaged in long-term migration.

According to the migrant survey data, in the younger age group of 18-29-year-olds, the number of men and women is closer to being balanced. Men predominate in the 30-44 age group, while women are more likely to be in the 45-65 age group. These indicators can be easily explained because Ukrainian female migrant workers are largely employed in domestic care and agriculture. These sectors attract mostly older women [1].

A defining characteristic of Ukrainian migrant workers is their high level of education and professional experience. The migrant survey data shows that 37% of all migrant workers have completed university-level education, and 41% completed high school or professional/vocational education.

A large number of educated and professional people (engineers, doctors, IT specialists, teachers, agronomists, etc.) working abroad contribute to “brain drain”. This process can be observed by loss of skills, because qualified migrant workers often undertake lower-skilled work.

The top-5 countries of destination for Ukrainian labour migrants are the Russian Federation, Poland, the Czech Republic, Italy and Belarus. These countries take about 80% of all Ukrainian labour migrants. The statistics about distribution of labour migrants in the top-5 countries of destination are shown in figure 1.

![Fig. 1 The distribution of Ukrainian labour migrants in the top-5 countries of destination, number of people](image)

*Source: created by the author based on [1]*

The main sectors of employment for Ukrainian migrant workers are construction, manufacturing, hospitality industry, domestic care and agriculture. Figure 2 shows the differences between the number of male and female workers in the most popular sectors [2].
There are two ways of migration development. First, there is labour migration to the EU because of Ukraine’s intentions towards European integration, which will increase the employment opportunities in the EU countries, and therefore significantly intensifies migration processes. Second, there is a reduction of labour migration to Russia, which previously took about half of Ukrainian migrants. The reasons are the economic decline in Russia as a result of EU sanctions, the creation of additional barriers for Ukrainian citizens by the Russian authorities and an acute political situation between countries [3].

**Conclusion.** Overall, the majority of migrant workers are highly-experienced university-level graduates between 18-44 years old. They mostly emigrate to several nearest countries including the Russian Federation, Poland, the Czech Republic, Italy and Belarus. These countries take about 80% of all Ukrainian labour migrants employing them in a number of industries, construction and domestic care being dominant.

In such conditions, international labour migration has become the only opportunity to get employed and boost the well-being. In the future, we should expect a rapid decline in migration flows from Ukraine to Russia along with a rapid increase in migration flows to the EU countries. Such perspectives are explained by the difficult political situation in eastern Ukraine and by the Ukraine’s Policy towards the European Union.

**References**

INNOVATIVE PROCESSES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Introduction. The only way to improve the competitiveness of the national economy is to support and develop innovation potential of economic entities in domestic and foreign markets of goods and services. In these circumstances, Ukraine urgently needs to make a model of economic growth taking into account changes in the external environment that strategically aims at implementing the existing competitive advantages with the use of technology modernization.

Review of recent publications. In scientific literature there is no uniform approach to the interpretation of the essence of innovation potential of the region, with the existing definitions failing to reveal its essence to the full extent. Scientific controversy regarding the impact of innovations on employment, which was initiated by the classics of political economy (A. Smith, D. Ricardo, K. Marx), continues today. The challenges of labour market regulation have been studied by D. Galbraith, G. Erenburg, J. Keynes, K. McConnell, P. Samuelson, as well as by such Ukrainian scholars as N. Kozhevin, I. Vernadsky, S. Podolynsky, N. Tuhan-Baranovsky and others.

Despite numerous studies on theoretical and practical aspects of formation of innovation systems in the region in economic science, still to be worked out is the holistic vision of the essence, the structure of the regional innovation systems and the specific features of the interaction between their elements.

Objectives of the paper. The aim of the paper is to study the nature of regional innovation systems and the systematization of the existing approaches to their structuring in order to comprehensively study the ways of optimization and the effective interaction between their structural elements.

Results of research. The transition of Ukraine to the market economy calls for fundamental changes in the structure and quality of labour, fixed and operating capital, finance system and investment areas. The underlying principles of market economy are economic liberties, liberalization of production, predictable state economic, fiscal and monetary policies, and tight competition between