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Shaibakov D.,
cadet of the National
Academy of Internal Affairs
Language adviser: **Skrynyk M.**

THE SPECIAL STATUS OF UKRAINIAN EMIGRANTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION DURING THE WAR

The full-scale war waged by Russia against Ukraine has forced millions of Ukrainians to leave their homes and seek refuge abroad. The European Union has responded to this extraordinary situation by granting Ukrainians a special status of temporary protection on its territory. This initiative, known as Temporary Protection, provides Ukrainian refugees with a wide range of rights and opportunities within EU countries.

According to Council Directive 2001/55/EC on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons [1], Ukrainians fleeing the war are entitled to:

1. Permission for legal stay in EU countries.
2. Access to the labor market and the ability to seek employment.
3. Access to social welfare, healthcare, education, and housing under the same conditions as nationals of the host EU Member State.
4. The right to family reunification for family members who remain in Ukraine.
5. A stable legal status and protection against deportation during the period of temporary protection.

This system of temporary protection aims to ensure fundamental rights and a dignified life for Ukrainians who have been forced to leave their country due to the war [2]. Additionally, EU countries are providing further support to Ukrainians, including financial assistance, free transportation, access to education, and employment opportunities [3].

However, despite these efforts, Ukrainian emigrants face numerous challenges and difficulties, such as language barriers, cultural differences, housing and employment issues. Some EU countries have experienced an overload of their refugee reception systems due to the large influx of Ukrainian emigrants.

The European Union and its Member States continue to adapt and refine their policies and measures to better support Ukrainians seeking refuge during the war. This includes enhancing coordination, providing additional funding, supporting integration efforts, and ensuring equal opportunities for Ukrainian emigrants [4].

Overview of the Temporary Protection Directive

The Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC) [1] was established by the European Union as a mechanism to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons in the event of a mass influx. This directive aims to harmonize minimum standards for granting temporary protection and promote a balance of effort among EU Member States in receiving and supporting these individuals.

Key provisions of the Temporary Protection Directive include:

1. Eligibility criteria: The directive applies to displaced persons who cannot return to their country of origin due to armed conflict, endemic violence, or systematic human rights violations.

2. Duration of protection: Temporary protection is granted for an initial period of one year, with the possibility of extending it for up to three years.

3. Rights and benefits: Persons under temporary protection are entitled to residence permits, access to employment, access to suitable accommodation or housing, access to social welfare assistance, access to medical treatment, and access to education for minors.

4. Family reunification: The directive facilitates the reunification of family members who are already present in the EU Member States.

5. Burden-sharing: The directive aims to promote a balance of effort among EU Member States in receiving and supporting displaced persons through solidarity and burden-sharing mechanisms.

6. Voluntary repatriation: The directive encourages voluntary repatriation and provides for the cessation of temporary protection when the situation in the country of origin improves.

The Temporary Protection Directive serves as a crucial legal framework for the EU and its Member States to respond effectively to mass influxes of displaced persons, ensuring their protection and access to basic rights and services.

Challenges Faced by Ukrainian Refugees in the EU

Despite the efforts of the European Union and its Member States to provide support and protection to Ukrainian refugees, they continue to face numerous challenges and difficulties. Some of the key challenges include:

1. Housing and accommodation: Finding adequate and affordable housing has been a significant challenge for many Ukrainian refugees, particularly in cities with high housing costs and limited availability [5]. Some have had to rely on temporary shelters or live in overcrowded conditions.

2. Employment and economic integration: While Ukrainian refugees have the right to work in EU countries, language barriers, skills mismatches, and bureaucratic hurdles have made it difficult for many to find suitable employment [6]. Economic integration remains a significant challenge, especially for those who left behind established careers and professions in Ukraine.

3. Access to healthcare: Although Ukrainian refugees are entitled to healthcare services in EU countries, navigating unfamiliar healthcare systems, language barriers, and limited availability of medical professionals who speak Ukrainian can hinder access to quality care [7].

4. Education and schooling: Ensuring continuity of education for Ukrainian children has been a priority, but challenges arise from limited

capacity in local schools, language barriers, and the need for additional support and resources to address the specific needs of refugee students [8].

5. Mental health and trauma: Many Ukrainian refugees have experienced traumatic events and psychological distress due to the war, displacement, and separation from family members [9]. Providing adequate mental health support and counseling services remains a significant challenge for host countries.

6. Cultural integration: Adapting to new cultural norms, customs, and social environments can be challenging for Ukrainian refugees, especially for those who have lived their entire lives in Ukraine. Language barriers and cultural differences can lead to feelings of isolation and difficulties in integrating into local communities [10].

7. Family reunification: While the Temporary Protection Directive facilitates family reunification, the process can be complex and time-consuming, leaving families separated for extended periods [1]. This can contribute to emotional distress and difficulties in adjusting to the new environment.

Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated effort from EU institutions, national governments, non-governmental organizations, and local communities. Providing adequate resources, support services, and integration programs is crucial to ensuring the well-being and successful integration of Ukrainian refugees within the European Union.

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Shapoval Y.,

cadet of the National

Academy of Internal Affairs

Language adviser: **Loputko O.**

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO IMPROVING THE POLICE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN UKRAINE: STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

The police education system in Ukraine plays a pivotal role in shaping the quality of training provided to law enforcement officers and ensuring their proficient performance amidst the complexities of modern challenges and threats. As the guardians of public safety and order, police officers are tasked with upholding the law, protecting citizens, and maintaining social