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### MIGRANT SOCIAL INTEGRATION: KEY OBSTACLES AND PATHWAYS TO EFFECTIVE ADAPTATION

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# Migrant Social Integration: Key Obstacles and Pathways to Effective Adaptation

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## Abstract

The study of the social integration of migrants is of great theoretical and practical importance. Identifying patterns and features of migration allows us to model strategies for successfully adapting migrants. The social and socio-cultural characteristics of the host environment: its stratification and value-normative foundations, the degree of ethnic mosaicism, which characterises the density and frequency of interethnic interactions, mentality and culture, and tolerant readiness to interact with others, are identified as essential factors in adaptation processes. The study aims to characterise the problems and strategies of successful adaptation to migrants' social integration. The object of the study is the process of integrating migrants into society. The empirical basis of the study is based on the results of the author's research conducted in the autumn of 2024. In the course of the study,

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480 respondents were interviewed. The respondents were selected in two stages: 1) selection of respondents by place of residence; 2) selection of respondents by gender, age, nationality, education and length of stay in the Kyiv region. The study used the following methods: analytical method, method of probabilistic analysis, method of generalisation, comparative and descriptive method, survey, correlation analysis, and methods of descriptive statistics. It was concluded that migrants show a higher degree of tolerance in cases of a specific positive identity and, conversely, hyper-identity or marginal, negative identity creates preconditions for intolerance in the interaction between migrants and the local population. The data analysis allowed us to conclude that the processes of migrants' adaptation to the conditions of their new life are highly successful. The decisive factors in the social adaptation of displaced people to the socio-cultural environment of the Kyiv region were the social characteristics and social potential of migrants, which is reflected in their accumulated education, professional training and qualifications.

*Keywords:* adaptation; integration; culture; migrants; environment; society; strategy; factors.

## Introduction

In reforming public life and establishing market relations, a deep and comprehensive study of migration communities of people and migration ties of a large city – the state's capital – is especially relevant. Knowledge of the regularities of migration processes can significantly improve the reliability of population forecasts, the scientific validity of strategies for the development of the economy of such cities, the laws and patterns of formation of migration communities of people, migration ties and the peculiarities of their impact on the life of the capital.

The study aims to characterise the problems and strategies of successful adaptation to migrants' social integration.

The work uses the following methods: analytical method using a problem-based policy-oriented approach; probabilistic analysis, which considers not an event but the probability of occurrence of a set of events and processes, the causes of which are not always clear; generalisation in the scientific consideration of migration processes; and comparative and descriptive method. All these methods help to determine the effectiveness (ineffectiveness) of external influences on the formation of ideology and organisational improvement of migration policy practice.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the study includes scientific research on adaptation processes in Ukraine and foreign countries (Ryndzak, 2014, 2015; Hrabynskyi & Yeleiko, 2015; Hokkhan, 2016; Hyrina, 2017; Savrutskaya *et al.*, 2018; Havrysh, 2019; Ivanova, 2019; Zahoruiko & Hut, 2020; Fakhoury

*et al.*, 2021), and in adaptation psychology (Sydorenko, 2013a, 2013b; Robalino Guerra *et al.*, 2019; Osadchaya, 2021).

Social adaptation concerns the social group of displaced people. This requires referring to certain methodological principles and theoretical approaches in the literature. First, let us focus on the generally accepted scientific provisions present in any research on social adaptation (Khomiak, 2019).

### *Literature review*

Understanding the essence of population migration is very complex and impossible without theoretical generalisations. Unfortunately, migration scholars are not unanimous in their approaches to understanding theories' role in studying migration processes (Riabchenko, 2015; Krymova, 2019; Marusyk, 2019). Some deny the possibility of building a population migration theory, emphasising the spontaneity and subjectivity of individual migration behaviour. This is the position of Borgogard (2020). This point of view leads science to a dead end since the essence of any process of cognition is theorisation, generalisation, and idealisation of empirical research.

Social means of adaptation include activities and various individual and group identification forms. Social means of adaptation allow, through various adaptive strategies, to ensure adaptation to various deficit, creative and subjectively perceived social and psychological situations, as well as: (1) to mediate the controversial process of social adaptation of the individual; (2) relying on borrowed samples of individual or group social adaptation strategies to avoid possible mistakes when searching for them on their own; (3) to find social and psychological unity with the reference group, which allows overcoming the state of social exclusion; (4) to find new acceptable roles that meet both individual and societal expectations and demands (Robalino Guerra *et al.*, 2019; Osadchaya, 2021; Le-Phuong *et al.*, 2022).

The unity of activity, social, and psychological factors does not exclude the prevalence of each in a particular adaptive situation. This unity is reflected in the current issue of the criteria for social adaptation (Bontenbal, 2023). Thus, the social adaptation of forced migrants is seen as a process at two interrelated levels: institutional and personal. The study of adaptation at the institutional and personal levels does not coincide in its content; it is about the individual, which has differences and unity (Levytska *et al.*, 2020). Thus, at the personal level, social adaptation reflects both a genetic connection with general biological processes and a connection with social and psychological processes formed during individual life. As for the institutional level, adaptation reflects the state's need for self-preservation, life, and development of the individual and society.

Considering social adaptation at two levels leads us to the understanding that, at the same time, this phenomenon appears as a universal process of adaptation of people in society, which is determined by the institutional level and objectifies the relationship between the individual and the environment through active activity.

It is an intrinsically motivated process that encourages a person to be active, preserves the social aspect of a person, and subjectifies social relations at the level of a human individual. Thus, social adaptation is both a process of adaptation (a social phenomenon) and a specific state of the individual: aspirations, expectations, and value orientations (a socio-psychological phenomenon).

Social adaptation is associated with including a person (subject) in a new social community. This inclusion is carried out on an activity (functional) basis. It is also worth noting that the structure of social adaptation distinguishes its subject and object, which are in a complex, contradictory interaction (Kusuma et al., 2009; Savrutskaya et al., 2018). Thus, the analysis of different approaches demonstrates specific differences in interpreting the concept of “social adaptation” by representatives of different sociological directions. Thus, researchers who understand social adaptation as a normative and functional process (supporters of the “role theory” of personality) focus on the object of adaptation, i.e., what an individual or group adapts to. In this case, social adaptation is understood as the process of restructuring the system of behaviour and activity of an individual under the influence of the requirements imposed on him/her in the form of views, norms and value orientations fixed in the social environment, adaptation to the social system “at any cost and by any means”. The subjective aspect of adaptation is not taken into account.

The above examples do not exhaust the variety of approaches to defining the essence of social adaptation. However, they allow us to summarise the positions of different authors on the definition of the essence of adaptation: (1) Human adaptation is a complex socially conditioned phenomenon, characterised by the contradictory unity of three levels of adaptive human behaviour: biological, psychological and social; (2) The term adaptation describes the process by which an individual adjusts to a new environment. Adaptation is also understood as the result of this process; (3) Adaptation implies a specific goal that the subject (the adaptor) strives for; (4) The term “adaptation” refers to the relative equilibrium established between the subject and the environment (homeostatic approach); (5) Adaptation is a process subject to homeostatic laws, providing an opportunity to develop adaptation as a subject; (6) The process of adaptation includes both objective and subjective aspects. The objective aspect expresses the normative or functional adaptation of a subject (person, group) to a new or changed environment. The subjective aspect expresses the state of satisfaction and internal (psychological) comfort of the subject associated with his/her adaptation to the environment; (7) Social adaptation is not only the adaptation of the subject to the environment but also the adaptation of the environment to the subject. These two aspects of social adaptation are closely interrelated. Adapting the environment to the subject is possible with the help or based on the subject’s adaptation to the requirements of the external environment. In one case, social adaptation is limited to adaptation to the requirements of the external environment (normative-functional adaptation). In the other case, the

adaptation of the subject to the environment becomes the basis, a prerequisite for the adaptation of the environment to the subject (activity-innovative adaptation).

In the process of social adaptation, the mediators between the adaptive situation and the nature and specificity of the individual's adaptive strategy are always, on the one hand, the person's value orientations and, on the other hand, the subjective interpretation of the adaptive situation. Accordingly, an integral definition of the concept of "social adaptation" must consider interpretative and value factors and situational conditions of an individual's adaptation process.

## **Methodology**

The following methods were used in the study: analytical method using a problematic policy-oriented approach; probabilistic analysis method, which considers not an event but the probability of a multitude of events and processes, the causes of which are not always clear; generalisation method in the scientific consideration of migration processes; and comparative and descriptive method. Along with migrants, various groups of the local population were interviewed. The results obtained were analytically described, correlated, and analysed using descriptive statistics. All these methods help to determine the effectiveness (ineffectiveness) of external influences on the formation of ideology and organisational improvement of migration policy practice.

## **Results**

By examining the complex and multifaceted problem of forced migration using the Kyiv region as an example, we can understand and analyse some aspects of this phenomenon. Today, the Kyiv region is one of the most attractive for internally displaced persons seeking refuge because of the war. Today, the Kyiv region can be classified as one of those regions where migration has a significant impact on both the demographic (migration inflows not only maintain the population but also contribute to population growth) and socio-economic situation (migrants, primarily people of working age, replenish the region's scientific, intellectual and production potential).

The typical situation faced by displaced people after moving is characterised by the lack of permanent housing, loss of personal property, loss of employment and socio-professional status, breakdown of interpersonal relationships, the need to establish new social ties, lack or insufficient social support and protection, and complex financial situation (Stepanova, 2012). All of the above factors can be an obstacle to the social and psychological adaptation of IDPs to new living conditions.

The sociological research we conducted focused on studying the content and quality of forced migrants' social adaptation to the socio-cultural environment of the Kyiv region. The study used the survey method (questionnaire – the text of the questionnaire is given in Appendix A), which allowed us to identify respondents' subjective opinions and attitudes toward the problems of interest. The survey was conducted in two stages, in two social groups: a survey of migrants and the local population. The survey of respondents from the first social group (migrants) addressed the following issues: (1) the main problems of migrants are highlighted; (2) the levels of conflict and conflict resistance of migrants are determined; (3) the peculiarities of relations and interactions between migrants and the local population are identified; (4) the problems of relations between migrants and social protection agencies are identified; (5) groups of migrants are identified and described based on these criteria.

The second stage of the study, which involved interviewing 270 representatives of the host community (residents), addressed the following objectives: (1) the main problems of migrants from the point of view of the local population are highlighted; (2) the levels of conflict and conflict resilience of residents were determined; (3) the peculiarities of relations and interactions between migrants and the local population are identified; (4) the peculiarities of the local population's attitude to migrants and migration processes are identified; (5) based on these criteria, groups of residents were identified and described.

According to the main parameters (gender and age), the sample population corresponded to the general population (differences were no more than 4.9%), which made it possible to extend the conclusions drawn from the survey to all residents who moved from the eastern regions to the Kyiv region. An analysis of the age structure of the considered contingent of IDPs suggests that the proportion of people of working age is quite high: 66.5% (except people of pre-retirement and retirement age (50–60 years and older), who make up 33.5%). An analysis of the respondents' distribution by education level shows (Babushko & Solovei, 2017) that 13% have incomplete secondary education, 46% have secondary or vocational education, and 41% have higher education (including incomplete). That is, the vast majority of respondents (87%) have a tremendous educational potential to fulfil themselves for the benefit of Kyiv and the region.

According to our research, in terms of the respondents' areas of activity, the most significant share – 40.28% (of the number of those who answered the question) – is made up of those working in commerce, trade or housing and communal services; 13.89% are employed in industry, 15.3% in agriculture; 8.3% are employed in construction; representatives of healthcare and transport account for 5.6% of respondents each; 5.6% are employed in culture and education, and 1.4% in law enforcement. However, it should be noted here that the sectoral composition of respondents depends not so much on their professional orientation as on the conditions in which people managed (or failed) to realise themselves based on the

infrastructure of the regional labour market (Khabasinska & Budzynsky, 2017; Kuzmin et al., 2023).

Thus, the characteristics of the age, the educational and sectoral composition of the displaced people who took part in the survey suggest that the receiving region receives additional labour potential of a very high-quality level, which has a beneficial effect on the development of Kyiv and the region. The duration of residence of the surveyed migrants in the Kyiv region mostly exceeds 1 year (93%). About half of the respondents (48.5 per cent) have lived in the region for more than 5 to 10 years. 28.5 per cent of IDPs have lived in the Kyiv region for 1 to 5 years. Another 16% have lived in the region for more than 10 years (Table 1).

Table 1. Duration of residence of migrants in the Kyiv region

Length of stay	Number of migrants, %
Less than a year	7
From 1 to 5 years	28
From 5 to 10 years	48
More than 10 years	16

It can be assumed that the duration of residence in a new socio-cultural environment is an important indicator that affects the adaptation process, as the probability of successful adaptation increases with each year of migrants' life in a new place (Bubnov & Khalilova-Chuvaieva, 2017).

A large number of "unsympathetic" migrants in the region creates a potentially conflictual situation that can provoke difficulties in the adaptation process (Savrutskaya et al., 2018).

Thus, the place of departure of migrants is associated in the minds of the local population with the titular nationality of the representatives of the recipient country.

Table 2. Places of former residence of migrants

Region	Number of migrants, %
Donetsk region	43
Luhansk region	12
Kharkiv region	3
Sumy region	10
Kherson region	3
Odesa region	9
Chernihiv region	17



Most surveyed migrants indicate their migration was forced (77 per cent). The results of the correlation analysis show that 82% (% of those who answered the question) of those who identified their move as forced left their previous place of residence due to a threat to life safety associated with inter-ethnic conflicts, armed clashes, and violations of rights; another 27% left due to the worsening crime situation. Of interest is the fact that among those who were unable to determine the degree of forced displacement, more than half (52% of those who answered the question) also mentioned a threat to life safety as one of the reasons, and 29% – an aggravation of the crime situation (Table 3).

Table 3. Forced migration

Forced migration	Number of migrants, %
Forced	77
Unforced	12
Difficult to answer	10

Obtaining the appropriate status is of primary importance in any person’s resettlement process. This status largely determines how life will develop in the new place. Receiving compensation and housing, assistance in finding a job, and social support is impossible without official recognition of a person by the migration service (Babiak, 2015, 2018).

27.5% of respondents have the status of an internally displaced person. 37% of respondents do not have the status after its expiry (it should be remembered that it is limited to five years). Notably, 25.5 per cent of respondents did not apply at all, did not take care of the documents, and arrived and are living. This may indicate a lack of legal literacy among migrants who do not know where and why to apply after arrival. 10 per cent of respondents said they had applied for a status but were denied.

One of the most critical factors in the socio-cultural adaptation of migrants is cultural distance. Psychologists have long and rightly paid close attention to the “conflict of cultures” that manifests itself in cases of migration and implies the need for profound changes in the lifestyle and thinking of migrants. At the same time, the difficulties of adjustment may be so great compared to the individual’s capabilities that he or she will not be able to adapt to the new environment. Socio-cultural distance is a subjective phenomenon of “distancing” from others due to actual or perceived differences in lifestyle, values and attitudes, views and assessments.

The difference between the way of life in the past and the place of their current residence is felt by 81% of migrants. The rigidity of these differences is noted by 11% of migrants. Ready to show flexibility and mobility about the current way of life in the region are 46.5% of migrants. Analysing a similar question addressed to the local population, we can say that the distribution is almost the same: 9.1%

of the local population show rejection and rigidity towards the way of life of migrants, while the rest of the respondents have a certain level of social tolerance.

Most migrants are characterised by increased cultural tolerance and adaptability (66.5%). The reasons for this loyalty may be as follows: (1) the consequences of democratic education; (2) the closeness of the traditions of the Kyiv region to those of the places of former residence; (3) initially (at the place of birth of migrants or their relatives), the preference for the traditions of the local population; (4) character and personality traits; (5) the primacy of favourable social conditions over cultural preferences (living standards are more important than differences in traditions). About a quarter of migrants (23.5%) point to significant differences in the traditions of their former residence and Kyiv region and report difficulties adapting to them. A local population survey found that 50% of Kyiv residents have cultural tolerance, while 26.7% are not ready to demonstrate an understanding of cultural differences.

Migrants pay the local population in advance with trust through cultural tolerance (55%). However, at the same time, 23.5% suspect residents of having an unfriendly and intolerant attitude towards migrants' culture. The social intuition of migrants is highly developed, as most Kyiv residents have social tolerance (50%), and about 1/4 have an uncompromising position towards foreign cultures and traditions (26.7%).

78% of migrants are ready to adapt to the new socio-cultural environment (probably, they are ready to live in the Kyiv region for a long time). 12% are likely to perceive the current situation as temporary (or socio-cultural traditions are so strong that it is difficult to adapt them to the local culture) and are not ready for socio-cultural adaptation, maintaining cultural alienation.

The study also compared auto- and hetero-stereotypes held by migrants about the local population. The most frequently mentioned positive qualities of the local population in the migrants' responses were sociability (56.7%), hospitality (22.7%), and cheerfulness (21.8%). If we conditionally divide all the qualities proposed in the questionnaire into 3 blocks, we will get the following groups: (1) communication block: hospitality, cheerfulness, sociability; (2) empathy and tolerance block: kindness, sensitivity, tolerance; (3) willpower: honesty, accuracy, responsibility.

Thus, among the positive qualities of the local population, migrants highlight the qualities of the communication bloc (Kosic *et al.*, 2023). Most migrants also highlighted their commitment to traditions (20.8%). Migrants consider the qualities of a strong-willed bloc to be the least represented among Kyiv residents (honesty (3.5%), accuracy (2.8%), and responsibility (2.8%)). It should also be noted that 16.3% of respondents found it difficult to list positive characteristics of the local population. This may indicate either a lack of experience in communication or an unwillingness to see the positive in representatives of the new socio-cultural

environment (Le-Phuong *et al.*, 2022). In addition, the “us vs. them” syndrome can lead to antagonism between groups.

Among the negative characteristics of the local population, irresponsibility (27.3%), hostile attitude towards newcomers (24.4%), and envy (20.8%) prevail. In addition, greed (17.2%) and intolerance (14.5%) were also mentioned. 17.2% of respondents found it difficult to name negative qualities of the local population. Comparing the data obtained during the analysis of the answers to the previous two questions, we can get a paradoxical portrait of a native resident of the Kyiv region: this is a sociable, hospitable person, not generous in his or her way and prone to envy, cheerful, but intolerant and irresponsible.

The study of migrants’ auto-stereotypes reveals a clear predominance of positive assessments over negative ones. The migrants endow themselves with the following positive qualities: hospitality (63.4%), responsiveness (33.8%), tolerance (18%), accuracy (21.2%), responsibility (38%), and hard work (51%). This can be explained by the high need of displaced people for compensatory psychological mechanisms that can unite the group and enhance the positive identity of its members. Among the negative auto-stereotypes, migrants highlight persistence and short temper.

Having analysed the individual components of the process of socio-cultural adaptation of displaced people, based on correlation analysis, by the criteria of adaptability, we will give a social portrait of migrants at different levels of adaptability. Displaced people have a high level of adaptability and: (1) the living situation they are in is assessed as “satisfactory”; (2) most of them have relatives in the Kyiv region; (3) have lived in the region for 1 to 5 years or more than 10 years; (4) no IDP status (did not apply, did not deal with documents, came and lived); (5) they did not seek legal assistance to resolve problems arising in the course of employment; (6) currently live in Kyiv, in their own house or apartment (i.e., their housing issue is resolved); (7) believe that previous living conditions were better; (8) believe that the most appropriate way to solve the housing problem is to receive an interest-free loan from the state for the construction or purchase of housing (43%) or to buy housing from the “secondary stock” (25%); (9) their financial situation has changed slightly for the better (23%) or not at all (24%); (10) believe that the arrival of migrants has an undoubtedly positive impact on the development and vital activity of Kyiv and the region as a whole; (11) half of them believe that the assistance of the state and local authorities is necessary for all migrants without exception, and 40% believe that priority assistance and attention is needed for migrants who have left their former places of residence due to war, national conflicts, ethnic discrimination and restriction of rights (Shankley, 2024); (12) they did not apply to local and federal authorities or resettlement organisations for assistance, so they cannot assess their activities about migrants; (13) the attitude of the local population is assessed as friendly (the more personal the relations (relations with neighbours and co-workers), the higher the score); (14) have friends among the local population, have not had any conflicts with the

local population, and are tolerant of local people and their traditions; (14) the most pressing life problems of migrants include: first of all, problems related to housing and registration (64%); employment problems occupy second place (59%); 3rd place is occupied by problems of psychological adaptation of migrants (29%); (15) believe that the priority assistance needed by migrants is, firstly, employment assistance (73%), secondly, assistance in housing arrangement (66%), and thirdly, financial assistance (43%); (16) the following factors help them to adapt (in order of importance, starting with the most important): family (71%); IDP and local friends (35%); personal hobbies (32%); and personal hobbies (23%); (17) in their opinion, the following factors impede the adaptation of migrants: low income (this factor was noted by 32% of migrants who rated their living situation as satisfactory); lack of housing (29%); lack or insufficient assistance from the state (24%); they believe that 1–5 years is enough to adapt to new conditions fully; (18) the attitude of this group of migrants to leave is low – they intend to stay in the Kyiv region forever; 56% of them are women, 44% are men; (19) they have a job. Generally, it is a commercial activity that satisfies them in all respects (“delighted with their job”).

The average level of adaptability is observed among IDPs who: (1) the living situation they are in is assessed as “tolerable”; (2) have lived in the region for 5–10 years or more than 10 years; (3) most of them do not have the status of an internally displaced person (upon the expiry of their validity); (4) did not seek legal assistance in the process of resettlement; (5) live in their own house or apartment (29% of those who rated their living situation as “tolerable”), rent housing or live in a dormitory (57% of respondents); (6) living conditions are better than before; (7) the best way to solve the housing problem is to obtain an interest-free repayment loan or to buy housing from the “secondary stock”; (8) their financial situation has not changed or has changed slightly for the worse; (9) believe that the arrival of migrants has a positive impact on the development and livelihoods of Kyiv and the region; (10) 48% of them believe that all migrants, without exception, need help from the state and local authorities; (11) believe that local authorities only sometimes make decisions that make their lives easier; (12) the attitude of the local population is assessed as follows: they believe that neighbours and work colleagues are primarily friendly and try to help them, while the company’s administration and local authorities are indifferent; (13) the vast majority of them have friends among the local population and have not had any conflicts with the locals; (14) among the most pressing life problems, they identified the following (in order of importance, starting with the most important): employment problems (71%), problems with housing and registration (57%), problems with financial situation and receiving compensation (29%); (15) believe that the priority assistance needed by migrants is, firstly, employment assistance (74%), secondly, assistance in housing arrangement (65%), and thirdly, financial assistance (63%); (16) the following factors help them to adapt (in order of importance, starting with the most important): family (74%); friends from IDPs and locals (31%); and

friendly attitude of the local population (14%); (17) in their opinion, the following factors impede the adaptation of migrants: low income (this factor was mentioned by 55% of IDPs who assessed their living situation as mediocre); lack of housing (31%); lack or insufficient assistance from the state and local authorities (28%); (18) the majority of respondents believe that 5 years is enough for them to adapt to the new environment fully, but 32% found it difficult to answer; (19) this group of migrants has an uncertain attitude towards leaving (the answer is “as soon as possible”); (20) they have jobs, but job satisfaction is not always high, mainly due to the lack of matching with their speciality and low salaries.

Migrants who have a low level of adaptability have a low level of adaptability: (1) the living situation they are in is assessed as “unsatisfactory”; (2) have lived in the region for less than 1 year or from 1 to 5 years inclusive; (3) half of them now live in Kyiv; (4) 41% of respondents have the status of an internally displaced person; (5) did not seek legal assistance in the process of resettlement; (6) the vast majority rent housing or live in a dormitory; (7) living conditions are better than before; (8) the best way to solve the housing problem is to obtain an interest-free repayable loan or to receive an apartment free of charge from the state; (9) their financial situation has changed significantly for the worse; (10) cannot estimate the impact of migrants on the development and livelihoods of Kyiv and the region; (11) believe that the assistance of the state and local authorities is necessary for migrants who have left their former places of residence due to war, national conflicts, ethnic discrimination and restriction of rights; (12) believe that local authorities only sometimes make decisions that make their lives easier; (13) the attitude of the local population is assessed as follows: they believe that their neighbours are unfriendly or hostile to them; their work colleagues mostly try to help them and are friendly; the administration of the enterprise and local authorities are indifferent; and most of them have friends among the local population; (14) conflicts with locals arose in 41% of respondents, with the reasons being the domestic situation and differences in traditions; (15) among the most pressing life problems, the respondents identified the following (in order of importance, starting with the most important): problems with housing and registration (66%), employment problems (62%), problems with financial situation and receiving compensation (38%); (16) believe that the priority assistance needed by migrants is, firstly, assistance in employment (78%), secondly, assistance in housing arrangement (69%), and thirdly, financial assistance (50%); (17) the following factors help them to adapt (in order of importance, starting with the most important): family (72%); friends from IDPs and locals (53%); personal hobbies (28%); (18) in their opinion, the following factors impede the adaptation of migrants: low income (this factor was mentioned by 62% of IDPs who rated their living situation as unsatisfactory); lack of housing (44%); lack or insufficient assistance from the state and local authorities (63%); (19) most respondents believe that it will take them up to 10 years to adapt to the new environment fully, but 22% found it difficult to answer; (20) this group of migrants has a higher attitude towards leaving than the previous two groups

– only 49% intend to stay in Kyiv region forever; 28% chose the answer “as it works out”; 11% intend to return to their previous place or move to another; 12% found it difficult to answer.

Thus, the attitude towards leaving is high only among 11% of respondents who assess their life situation as unsatisfactory. In this situation, a paradoxical situation is evident when IDPs are characterised by the lowest life satisfaction and low orientation to leave (Galor & Stark, 1991). It is logical that worse living conditions and dissatisfaction with the life situation in which a person finds themselves encourage them to look for another, more suitable residence (Elmallakh & Wahba, 2022). However, in the situation of forced migration from the eastern regions, we observe the opposite picture. Even difficult living conditions and complete dissatisfaction with the living situation make people want to “get a foothold” in their native land. This is mainly a category of people who either have a job (45%) but are entirely dissatisfied with it due to low wages, mismatch of speciality and/or hard work; or people in pre-retirement (20% who cannot find a job in their speciality or cannot find a job at all) or retirement age (24%).

Thus, taking a comprehensive view of the problem of forced migrants’ social adaptation to the new socio-cultural environment, we used adaptability levels as one of the main indicators of the process under study. Among the criteria that can be used to determine the level of adaptation, we have identified: labour efficiency (adaptation to activities); the degree of integration of a person (group) into a new socio-cultural environment; emotional well-being (assessment of the life situation) (Karasu & Aksungur, 2022). Having analysed the individual components of the process of socio-cultural adaptation of displaced people, taking into account the correlation analysis by the adaptability criteria (Habasinska, A. 2017), we have identified the social portrait of migrants with different levels of adaptability.

## Discussion

In our opinion, the process of adaptation of any migrant in a particular social environment requires at least successful employment. Therefore, migration services should organise the collection of information on migrants seeking employment and update it on the Internet for general use by employers.

The issue of feedback also arises in the complex range of migrant-information relations. One of the most effective methods of collecting information is a hotline, as this research tool, unlike expensive sociological surveys, helps to identify and investigate the full range of problems faced by migrants.

The decisive factors in the social adaptation of displaced people to the socio-cultural environment of the Kyiv region are social characteristics and social potential of migrants, which is contained in the accumulated social capital (education, professional training and qualifications). Family and friendship ties

and relations play a significant role in the decision to move to the Kyiv region, further adaptation and integration of migrants into the community of residents, which should also be considered as a manifestation of social capital.

It is well-known that the media shape public opinion, i.e., they adjust the mass consciousness to certain moods, likes or dislikes. We need to investigate the psychological atmosphere in society towards migrants created by the media. After all, the tone of the media's communication with the audience is essential. It should be based on the principles of camaraderie, respect, tact and not create interethnic tension ("It is worth remembering that tone, language, text often become instruments of power, a way of freezing political and social consciousness" (Chichanovskyi & Shkliar, 2023).

## Conclusion

Thus, empirical data on the nature of identity in the host environment (population of Kyiv region) indicates a blurred, uncertain and hostile orientation of social identity among representatives of the local population. Migrants show a higher degree of tolerance in cases of a specific positive identity, and vice versa; hyper-identity or marginal, negative identity creates preconditions for intolerance in the interaction between migrants and the local population. According to the study, intolerance, as a property of social interactions and social relations between the local population and migrants, does not contain a high potential for aggression and is produced primarily by difficulties in recognising and defining new interaction situations with non-locals. The analysis of the data from the sociological study of social adaptation of ethnic migrants in the host community in the Kyiv region allows us to conclude that migrants' adaptation processes to the conditions of their new life are highly successful. Migrants do not encounter open opposition from the locals; on the contrary, many feel adequately supported and assisted by the local population.

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