

Regional Experience in Socio-Cultural Adaptation of Displaced Persons from the South-East of Ukraine

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Abstract: The study considers the issue of the socio-cultural adaptation of displaced persons from the South-East of Ukraine, the main trends of adaptation of displaced persons in the Belgorod region.

Key words: Forced migration, refugees, socio-cultural adaptation, region, displaced

INTRODUCTION

In the situation of the continuing civil war in the South-East of Ukraine, the obvious humanitarian disaster in Novorossiia (the self-proclaimed Lugansk and Donetsk Republics), the processes of migration to the Russian Federation of the civil population of the fraternal Slavic community do not stop. This is determined by the set of goals, motives, reasons of the political, ideological, economic, national, religious, socio-cultural nature proceeding in the adjoining state that currently turned over 830 thousand of the Russian-speaking population of the South-Eastern Ukraine into refugees (Grudtsina, 2014). Totally during the year 2014 in Russia, 265, 430 applications for granting the temporary refuge were lodged by the citizens of Ukraine. According to the federal migration service over 100 thousand of Ukrainian citizens already contacted the service departments for advice regarding the long-term stay on the territory of Russia.

According to the administration of the region in 2015, the Belgorod region accepted over 60 thousands of displaced persons from the Southern-Eastern regions of as of today 30 thousand people stay here. Total 18 temporary accommodation facilities operate in the region. Using the program of the compatriots' resettlement about 12 thousand of the Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine complete the documents granting the right of residence in the Russian Federation; 14 thousand people want to win the temporary refuge or the refugee status. 8553 people lodged the application for granting the temporary refuge to the Directorate of the Federal Migration Service of Russia for the Belgorod region, 234 asks for a refugee status. Temporary refuge has already been granted to 8100 Ukrainian citizens, the refugee status to 64 persons.

The overwhelming majority of refugees, namely 59853 wait out the rough time at their relatives and friends which speaks of the centuries-long family, historical-cultural and economic ties of the Belgorod Region with the adjoining

territories of the Kharkov, Lugansk and Sumy regions of Ukraine. Nevertheless, today at 55 temporary accommodation facilities about two thousand of Ukrainian citizens stay, more than thousand of which are children and students. All of them are supplied with food, articles of daily necessity; get the required medical aid, psychological support, professional advices regarding the social and legal issues. There has been allocated the sufficient amount of financial funds for transferring the displaced persons to the regions they would choose. There was observed tending to reduction in the number of refugees staying at the temporary accommodation facilities and increase in the number of those who stay at families or go to other regions of Russia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The theoretical review and analysis of the dedicated and scientific literature, the content analysis of the official documents and materials of the web-site of the Federal Migration Service of Russia and Belgorod region.

It is obvious that in this situation the issue of the socio-cultural adaptation of migrants to the new conditions of the living environment gains special topicality. As is known, one means by adaptation the adjustment of the self-organizing systems to the changeable environmental conditions; the social adaptation represents the kind of interaction of a person or a social group with the social environment in the course of which their mutual requirements and expectations are agreed and coordinated (Pashkus *et al.*, 2014). The socio-cultural adaptation may be defined as the process and result of the active adaptation of ethnic groups to conditions of another socio-cultural environment. One shall take into account the essential component of adaptation alignment of the self-estimation and ambitions of a subject with his capabilities and reality of the social environment including account of the trends of development of the environment and subject (Kucheruk, 2014).

Adaptation of migrants to the new conditions is a painful process as it is related to the loss of the social status of refugees, psychological stresses, material and household losses, sense of detachment; however, in the Belgorod region it is minimized by times (Dudin *et al.*, 2014).

The committee of the public support of citizens of the South-East of Ukraine headed by N.I. Ryzhkov approved the experience of the Belgorod region in the social adaptation of Ukrainian refugees having recommended to the other regions of Russia to study and use this experience (Belokrylova and Kiseleva, 2014).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As the analysis shows the practice of the Belgorod authorities is based on the forms of the socio-cultural adaptation tested in the region to which we primarily refer the progressive form characterized by general enhancement of the life activities of individuals as it provides for taking into account the set of the internal (subjects) and external (environment) factors.

Internal: Personal, demographic (age, sex, education), life experience circumstances, knowledge of the language and idea of the new environment.

External: Tolerance on the part of surrounding in the new environment, the well-reasoned migration policy, positive activity of the public resettlement organizations, employment, registration, professional self-fulfillment, psychological, socio-cultural rehabilitation, delivery of medical aid, social services, solving the issues of the children's education (Babiker *et al.*, 2009).

It is this approach to the work with migrants within the Belgorod region that ensures the appropriate level of their adaptation by means of the free servicing of thousands of refugees, their treatment, education and feeding, socio-cultural rehabilitation.

The regional employment center granted to the refugees from Ukraine over 20 thousand of vacancies. As of the beginning of the year 2015, 820 persons were employed of which about 10% engineers, doctors, agriculturists, teachers, economists, musician and lecturers. The specialists of the migration service daily receive up to 200 Ukrainian citizens in the matters of their adaptation and integration in the Russian Federation.

In the Belgorod region, there is the unified 'hot line' of advisory and information support. The main refugee support coordination center is still being the Red Cross organizing charitable events and collection of the food products and clothes for refugees.

During the armed conflict the Belgorod doctors assisted in coming into the world of nine babies from Ukraine that may legally become the citizens of Russia;

over 50 women are registered with the municipal prenatal clinics. Almost all refugees arrived get medical aid: five thousand people have been vaccinated.

The Belgorod and Starooskol Metropolis, the Public Advisory Board of the Directorate of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation for the Belgorod region were the founders of the Migrants' Adaptation Center (03.09.2014). In terms of its organizational-legal form the center is a socially-oriented non-commercial organization the purpose of which is adaptation of migrants to the new environment by means of studying the Russian language, the history of Russia, fundamentals of legislation of the Russian Federation. The adaptation course is rated at 2 months and is aimed at preparing the migrants for the compulsory testing passing of which is necessary for getting the temporary residence permit, permanent residence permit or citizenship.

Similar centers appeared in Russia 2 year ago by order of the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin for the purpose of optimization of the process of adaptation of the increasing flow of emigrants as the method of releasing the inter-national tension in the hosting regions.

The socio-cultural adaptation of children of Ukrainian refugees is performed in line with their psychological-pedagogical rehabilitation, development of the creative activity, communicative openness, respect of the human personality, motivation towards education, formation of the universal method of orienting within the complex contradictory world (Balykhina, 2014).

Today above 700 displaced persons study at the educational institutions of Belgorod. None of them was refused. For example, the Belgorod school no. 41 accepted 67 pupils from the 1st to the 11th grade. For the purposes of successful adaptation no specialized classes were created for refugees, they were distributed among the already existing school groups; at the same additional classes in the subjects that have not been studied by pupils before were arranged (History, Sociology, Orthodoxy, the Russian language and Literature). The two latter disciplines have been studied at Ukrainian schools as optional subjects.

The pre-school institutions of the Belgorod region accepted over 200 babies and the higher educational institutions of the Belgorod region, provided the state-subsidized education to over 500 boys and girls from the South-East of Ukraine according to the quotas granted by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation with regard to the complicated situation in the adjoining state.

For example, today at the NRU 'BelGU' 450 students from Ukraine study, there were created the optimal conditions for their education, accommodation, fulfillment

of the research-creative potential, adaptation to the new socio-cultural environment. In the academic year 2015, they plan to accept another 350 students from the Southern-Eastern regions of Ukraine. The Foreign students are made acquainted with the Russian legislation, the code of conduct at the university. Special free-of-charge courses of compensating education, classes in the subject-oriented and basic disciplines were organized to all who wish to fill in the gaps in their knowledge of the education disciplines that were not included in the school academic program in Ukraine (the History of Russia).

The acute migration issues worrying students were answered at the meeting of students with the university administration, representatives of federal and regional authorities. How to get the refugee status, temporary refuge, citizenship according to the simplified procedure the students were informed by the deputy head of the Directorate of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation for the Belgorod region V. Yevtushenko. Nearly all students were interested in getting the Russian citizenship. This is why, the president of the NRU 'BelGU' O.N. Polukhin proposed to create by the juridical institute of the university the advisory service that will help anyone sorting out the situation.

The issues of socialization of the Ukrainian students (nutrition, accommodation, payment of scholarships were cover by the director of the center of social development of the NRU 'BelGU' T. Nikulina. The therapeutical-preventive measures, issues of psychological support, integrated safety and security, code of conduct at the student's hostel and university have also not been neglected. The vice-president for the cultural-educational activity S. Ostrikova called the youth for the active participation in the on-stage performance groups of the university, sports groups, student self-government authorities promoting to the socio-cultural adaptation of students, formation of communication skills, professional and personal qualities, proactive approach to life (Mukomel, 2014).

CONCLUSION

Thus, in the region in whole and at the Belgorod State University special attention is paid to formation of the tolerant culture of students as the quality of a person to show readiness for the adequate perception of the cultural environment of age mates of another national, confessional, historical and cultural membership (Humboldt, 1985). The content of disciplines of culturological cycle is aimed at formation of the national

and universal values, spirituality, ability for mutual understanding, recognizing another's point of view, development of the codes to the topical issues of the modern world, thus, ensuring the process of socialization of the student's youth within the new socio-cultural environment.

The positive dynamic of this process is determined by one of the basic adaptation strategies integration (acculturation) characterized by preservation by migrants of the own traditions, culture and parallel internalization by them of the attributes of another culture, activation of the parity intercultural dialogue, research-and-creative cooperation, adaptation of the social cultural institutions to the needs, requests and claims of the adaptation subjects (Zhiron and Zhirona, 2012).

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