

# Regulating the Migration of People in the Bordering Areas of the Russian Federation

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**Abstract** — The paper analyzes the current migration situation in the bordering areas of the Russian Federation. The impact of migration is regarded as one of the most important aspects of national security, which has an ambiguous impact on the socioeconomic and political situation in Russia. On the one hand, in a country where an aging population and a decline are in birthrate migrants are necessary for the growth of labor force, and on the other hand, illegal migration has become a threat to the rule of law and the security of the state. Therefore, the migration policy of Russia in terms of regulating migration should be built in accordance with the national interests of the state. Amid rising outright opposition to migration in a number of countries, 2018 was marked by a turn to harder policies in most countries, including Russia.

**Keywords** — *population migration, migration security, migration policy, bordering areas, struggling illegal migration.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The relevance of the presented paper is based on the fact that the threats to the national security of states from illegal migration have increased significantly. Moreover, radical extremists who fought in Syria are beginning to return to Russia and other countries. It is necessary to improve international cooperation of law enforcement agencies to prevent terrorist acts.

In 2018 the countries of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) began the operation "Mercenary" in order to identify citizens returning from combat zones after participating in the activities of terrorist organizations.

Also, in the same year the most UN member states have adopted the first international agreement on cooperation in the field of migration [1].

Jeanne Batalova and Michael Fix said that it was a turn to harder policies in the United States in 2018 and parts of Europe against illegal migration. The year unfolded with an escalation of humanitarian crises in sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and beyond [2].

Migration in a sociological sense is an ambiguous social phenomenon (social phenomenon, a phenomenon in society). Russian scientist T. Yudina said that migration is a change in the social structure and status characteristics of various layers and groups of a state or region under the influence of social movements of a population or its part beyond the state or administrative border for a relatively long period [3]. The current situation requires new approaches to the regulation of

migration processes. They should be managed in strict compliance with international obligations, the needs of the economy, the interests of national security, the protection of public order and public health. There are various approaches to understanding this phenomenon [4].

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS (MODEL)

At present, there are already established migration directions from donor countries to recipient countries.

At the same time there are various factors that actualize the movement of population. One of the main causes of internal migrations is to look for work, improve living conditions, raise the level and change lifestyle, etc. For internal migrations, countries with a large territorial area, different areas of climatic and economic conditions are characteristic. Due to the large territory in such countries, a special place is given to rural-urban or seasonal movements of labor resources.

International migration is peculiar to the economic factor, which is the difference in wages for performing similar work in different countries of the world. The lack of highly qualified specialists of a certain profession in the regions raises the level of wages for specialists in this field, which naturally affects the migration flow. In external labor migration, an increase in the share of highly qualified specialists in its composition is observed.

Nevertheless, many migrants become marginals and find themselves at the bottom of the social ladder, which means illegal stay in another state. At the same time, they do not have the opportunity to find a job legally, which makes them fill niches in the labor market to do the dirtiest and ungrateful work in which the indigenous population refuses to work.

Being in difficult circumstances, migrants go to crime. So, on April 2019 residents of Yakutsk came to a spontaneous rally after a woman was raped by several migrants, presumably from Central Asia. About 200 people took part in the action. During the rally, citizens expressed anti-migrant sentiment.

The situation with impunity of illegal migrants was launched to the limit because of inaction of the authorities of the republic. So, the rape actually became a trigger, the last straw in the patience of residents of the republic, who often suffer from migrants. Migrants cheat in stores and not give checks. Migrant drivers are rude and do not pay taxes.

“We will wake up tomorrow in another republic. This day can be officially called the beginning of economic sanctions against the illegal migrants. And these sanctions were imposed not by the state, not by the control bodies, but by the people! We will strengthen migration legislation, demand from the authority concrete actions in defense of local people. In our cities, villages and settlements - we must feel safe!” wrote the deputy in the social network [5].

The specificity of the border areas, the geopolitical location of the subject of the Russian Federation, the socio-economic, political and social situation affect the nature of the border processes in the border areas of Russia. Weak control of migration flows in border areas is fertile ground for interethnic conflicts and clashes, violation of the interests of the individual, society and the state in the border area, and in some cases leads to political instability in the country.

The border of the territory of the Russian Federation is quite long. Its largest segment, comprising five of the nine federal districts and their 13 regions, borders on the Republic of Kazakhstan. This neighborhood has a certain specificity of the migration situation in the border regions of Russia.

Since Kazakhstan is a member of the EurAsEC Customs Union, the border regime has a special border regime between the states, which simplifies the entry of foreign citizens into the country. In addition, Kazakhstan borders with Afghanistan, and other countries of the Central Asian region, as well as with China and India, which contributes to an increase in migration flows, including transit and illegal ones. This is confirmed by various analytical and statistical materials. It should be noted that the proximity of the Russian regions to the border has a significant impact on the qualitative and quantitative indicators of the migration situation, allowing to determine the largest number of migrants in the border regions from the neighboring state, as well as the countries of the Central Asian and Caucasus regions.

Further, the importance should be allocated to the section of the Russian-Belarusian state border, which passes through the territory of two federal districts and three border regions. The Republic of Belarus is also a member of the EurAsEC Customs Union and at the same time has a number of visa-free travel agreements with many countries that have a visa regime for crossing the border of the Russian Federation. As a result, the citizens of such countries in transit through a neighboring state freely and illegally enter the territory of our country, using the so-called “border transparency”.

A distinctive feature of the Russian-Ukrainian border is the fact that from 2014 to the present, there has been a difficult political situation. Three federal agencies and seven regions belonging to them adjoin the border territory of the Russian Federation. Under the influence of political events, the migration and demographic situation in the border regions is shaped by the political events taking place in Ukraine, which is in a state of social and political instability and civil war. The change of political regimes provoked national differences that led to the persecution of the Russian-speaking population, resulting in a flood of refugees, both in Western Ukraine and in the Russian Federation. Thus, forced migration from Ukraine has replaced labor and economic migration, which has political implications for Russia to the present.

As a result of the analysis of statistical data of the migration service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in areas bordering on Ukraine, as well as in other border regions of Russia, an increase in migration flows from Ukraine, including the transit of foreign citizens, was noted. At the same time, according to the results of content analysis of media materials and Internet resources, facts of conflict relations between Ukrainian refugees and indigenous people were revealed.

About two million foreign migrants, according to police estimates, are currently in Russia illegally. During 2018, 17 million foreign citizens entered the territory of Russia, of which about 10 million foreigners are currently in the country.

It is noteworthy that the FIFA World Cup held in Russia in the summer of 2018 did not affect the coming crime rate. There were no violations beyond what we had on a daily basis recorded during the championship. Public order was observed [11].

It is not true that most crimes are committed by migrants.

2,058,476 crimes were registered in Russia in 2017. Among them 41,047 crimes committed migrants (that is, about 2% of the total number of registered crimes). In 2017, 697,054 migrants were convicted (about 3.4%)

If you look at the severity of the crimes, then, for example, 8028 people were convicted of murder (article 105 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, parts 1 and 2), of which 343 are foreigners, that is, only 4.3% of those convicted under this article of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

The first three regions by the number of migrants in Russia: Moscow, Moscow region and St. Petersburg. In Moscow, and the highest quantitative crime rate: in 2017 - 140,134 crimes. Of these, 6 873 crimes were committed by migrants, that is 4.9%.

The crime rate in Moscow related to migrants has decreased by half due to their registration and issuance of patents. More than 70 percent of migrants in Moscow are registered, receive a patent, and mandatory fingerprinting is provided for them. That is, law enforcement agencies know them. This has led to a significant, in half, reduction in crimes committed by migrants.

In St. Petersburg in 2017, 52,138 crimes were committed, of which 2,607 were foreign citizens, that is, exactly 5%. 84 307 crimes were registered in the Moscow Region, of which 5805 were committed by migrants, that is, 6.9%.

A third of migrant crimes are minor crimes, namely the theft of food and clothing from network hypermarkets (theft of 2,000 rubles or more is a criminal offense). The next third of crimes is what qualifies as articles related to the use of knowingly false documents. If a migrant was made a fake patent for work by intermediaries, he has every reason to be attracted by such an article.

According to the website of the Prosecutor General’s Office of Russia, 80% of crimes in Moscow are committed by men with secondary education, citizens of Russia aged 30 to 49 years old, without permanent sources of income [12].

Thus, Russia is the second country in the world in terms of the intensity of migration flows: last year, the total number of officially registered migrants exceeded 17 million people. This fact imposes additional responsibility on law enforcement officers.

Although the share of migrants in the crimes committed is not large, but these crimes are capable of "overnight exacerbate the situation in the sphere of interethnic relations" in any region of Russia.

As an example, you can again return to the recent events in Yakutsk, where "the crimes committed by the natives of one of the CIS countries led to the mass demonstration of local residents." The investigative committee against migrants initiated several criminal cases, including those on "Rape", "Abduction of a person", and "Illegal imprisonment of a group of persons by prior agreement".

Law enforcement agencies continuously monitor migration flows, identifying persons involved in extremist activity. Special attention is paid to the identification of lone terrorists who have repeatedly demonstrated the ability to carry out resonant attacks in cities, while not getting into the field of vision of the special services.

We must not forget about the thousands of citizens of the former Soviet Union who fought in Iraq and Syria. The survivors are now settling in Afghanistan and Central Asia, and all of them "inevitably plan to return to their homeland" [14].

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Russian migration policy is a kind of indicator of stability and well-being of the political and ideological component of society. This is one of the powerful factors influencing the development of many public social institutions. It is with the help of an effective migration policy that certain areas and sectors of the economy are regulated not only in individual countries but also in the world as a whole. At the same time, uncontrolled (illegal) migration can cause significant harm to both a single country and an integration association.

A huge part of migrants come to the territory of the Russian Federation from the CIS countries: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan.

As a rule, migrants are residents of countries with a lower standard of living. Therefore, the main purpose of migration - earnings.

In the Russian Federation, enhanced control over employers has been introduced, which makes it possible to reduce the number of places where illegal immigrants are employed. The current legislation provides for significant fines for employers who violate immigration laws.

In recent years, the flow of people willing to live on the territory of developing countries in Asia and Africa has been so much increased that it almost led to a migration crisis. In this regard, we should not forget that not only the foreigner himself will be punished, but also the person assisting him at the border crossing, who provided housing, and also employed him.

The most effective punishment procedure is the deportation of an illegal resident. In addition to his expulsion

from the Russian Federation, for some time he will be banned from entering this country.

So for Russians, personal income tax will be 13%, while citizens of other countries are obliged to pay all 30% of income. This measure may be of considerable interest to migrants in order to reduce the tax burden. Explanatory measures to allow foreigners to understand what responsibility may be incurred for illegal migration.

According to columnist Tom Motto (Tom DeWeese), the fight against illegal migration should be stronger than the fight against terrorism ... the fact is that illegal migrants "flow through our borders" and, as a result, taxpayers suffer because of social areas like education and health care [8].

Therefore, many scientists and public figures refer to illegal migration to modern threats to security and world order.

In 2015-2016 the European Union is faced with a real "migration collapse". During this period, more than 2.5 million people have applied for asylum in the EU. At the same time, as a result of an illegal crossing, about 2,257 people drowned in the Mediterranean Sea in the first six months of 2017 (as of June 28, 2017).

In 2016, 5,022 people died at sea, and in 2015, 3,771 people died.

Despite the fact that in 2016 the EU made 1.1 million asylum decisions, of which 61% were positive, 2.2 million were illegally in the Union in 2015, in 2016 - 984,000. Of the 533,000 migrants who were refused asylum in 2015, only 43% left the EU. In 2016, half of 494,000 illegal immigrants returned to their homeland [9].

Thomas de Maizière (the German Interior Minister) said that the number of crimes committed by migrants cannot be "masked" and this is despite the German open doors policy regarding refugees and asylum seekers.

On April 5, 2017 the European Parliament approved the EU medium-term budget for 2014-2020. Additional support in the amount of 3.9 billion euros will be provided for interim measures related to migration. To address the root causes of migration, the European Union has allocated 44 billion euros to mobilize private investment in Africa [10].

Currently, the protection mechanisms of the Russian borders have become more effective, as increased attention is paid to the problems of illegal migration. The Russian border services cooperate with law enforcement agencies in neighboring states. They are endowed with operational investigative powers in order to regulate the migration processes and to counter transnational crime.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the context of global interdependence and permeability, the necessity of the collective efforts of the world community in the fight against transnational crime to develop adequate means and methods to counter contemporary threats of a criminal nature is confirmed. This goal is achieved by the convergence of national legislation, the adoption of uniform criteria for the classification of crimes, uniform law enforcement practice, as well as the

development of common principles and a common strategy to combat crime.

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