

Migration policy as a factor in ensuring social security: expert opinions in cross-border regions of Russia

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Abstract. The article presents the results of a survey of the expert community on international issues in the framework of sociological monitoring of problems of transit migration, transit regions and migration policy of Russia, including in the context of security and Eurasian integration. The study was conducted in seven territories of the Russian border area, particularly in the Rostov, Orenburg, Murmansk, Pskov, and Altai regions, as well as in Moscow and Dagestan. The studied border areas of Russia are characterized by significant migration flows from neighboring countries. Most migrants come from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. The problem of adaptation and integration of migrants into host communities is becoming one of the most significant social tasks for both migrants and the local population. In addition, the importance of studying the forecast of regional national security, identifying conflicting determinants, the knowledge of which will allow to improve social control and management in the sphere of interethnic relations, is increasing. The article presents general and specific regional assessments of experts from host regions in significant areas of optimization of the relationship between migrants and regional communities. The basic directions of migration policy are presented, which require optimization in the context of ensuring social security and sustainable development of the border regions of Russia.

Keywords: migrant, migration, migration policy, security, national security, adaptation, integration

1. Introduction

Within the framework of sociological science, the two fundamental theories of migration were formulated: (1) the synthetic migration theory by D. Massey and (2) the concept of transnational migration by Sh. Glick [9]. The synthetic theory of migration (also known as a network theory of migration) was proposed by Douglas Massey, a sociologist. This theory is that the main cause of population migration is the rapid development of the economic, political and social aspects of the life of countries, which entails the domination of capitalist relations in society [11]. This inevitably leads to the fact that the usual, well-established ties within that or another society are destroyed. There is a “crowding out” of people from their usual environment. There is a need to find your place for an effective (from the economic point of view) existence. The main migration flows are directed not from the undeveloped countries and regions, but from those territories where there is a transformation of the labor market, the market of goods and services, etc.

The network theory of migration by D. Massey states that people migrate to those countries, regions, cities where their work is more in demand, where higher pay checks are offered for their activities [6].

However, D. Massey does not determine the level of wages as the main factor in the change of residence. Relocation is a guarantee of income as such, which allows you to ensure a stable life for your family members in the “home” region of departure. A person can constantly change his place of stay if this is required by a situation, for example, a change in the position of a country in economic terms. Over time, a migrant can influence his family members, friends, relatives, for the purpose of migration after him. This entails the creation of migration networks, due to which this theory got its name. Migration networks gradually grow, acquire a national character [4]. An illustrative illustration of this theory can serve as the migration of citizens from the CIS countries and from the countries of the Middle East to work in Russia and in other developed countries [1, 2, 3]. The sociological nature of this theory lies in the fact that, due to the economic orientation of migrations, social ties are increasing and strengthening, an increasing number of new social societies are emerging [5]. A new sociocultural space is being created in a particular territory.

The concept of transnational migration by S. Glick explains the process of the emergence of new transnational networks. The main essence of this theory is that the migrants, leaving the country, region, etc., move to new countries, regions, cities, etc. But, the process of migration occurs without the final “separation” from the territory of departure. On the territory of new residence, specific social societies are formed, which have connections in the “home” territories. A certain bridge between the two objects of human settlement becomes formed [8]. According to this theory, a person who is a migrant can identify and associate himself with two, three, or even more societies at once, depending on the frequency of his migration. A migrant may be included in the life of several societies at once, he may be interested in the political, social, economic, cultural life of both regions [18], [19], [20]. After analyzing modern sociological theories of migration, we can conclude that migration is a global process, a discrete and at the same time continuous social mobility in search of a new place for life activity in general, the process of building by man new social connections, relationships; changing the political, economic, cultural attitudes and preferences of the migrant; the controversial process of inclusion of the migrant in a new society [16], [17].

2. Materials and Methods

The study of the problems of social integration and adaptation of migrants in the cross-border territories of Russia was carried out on the basis of the results obtained in the process of sociological research, including a survey of the population, migrants, as well as an expert survey of citizens who directly head state and public structures designed to lead migration processes. The study was conducted in six transboundary regions: Altai region, Murmansk region, Pskov region, Orenburg region, Rostov region, Republic of Dagestan (2017-2018). A multistage quoted sampling was applied, $N = 2400$, the age of respondents is 18-70 years. This article presents an analysis of a fragment of expert opinions. An expert questionnaire was used, including 32 questions. Questions studying the nature of the migration situation in the region; the prevalence of transit migration; nature of migration; routes and targets of visitors; the impact of migration on the processes in the regions; positive and negative aspects of migration; assessment of the specific risks of transit migration, etc. This article provides a primary analysis of descriptive statistics. Both generalized aggregate opinions of experts were described, and regional specificity was revealed in their views on the processes of integration and adaptation of migrants in a particular region.

3. Results

The problem of adaptation and integration of migrants into host communities is becoming one of the most significant social tasks for both migrants and local populations. In addition, the importance of studying the forecast of regional national security, identifying conflicting determinants, knowledge of which makes it possible to improve social control and management in the sphere of interethnic relations, increases. One could consider that in the context of expert opinion. More than half of the experts (57.1%) agreed on the need to form a system of measures for the adaptation and integration of migrants, this was due to the extreme relevance and prevalence of migration problems in the studied regions. Every third

expert (33.3%) believes that selective measures are necessary only for some migrants who are experiencing particularly difficult problems that increase maladjustment and disintegration in the host community. A small number of experts (5.3%) believe that no measures are needed, and a total of 2.3% finds it difficult to answer.

We also identified a regional specificity of the expert opinions regarding the need for measures for the adaptation and integration of migrants. In the Rostov region, most experts (85.1%) emphasized the need for integration measures. More than half of the experts surveyed in the Orenburg region (70.1%), Dagestan (60.1%), Altai region (53.8%), Moscow (50.1%) also appreciated the importance of such events. Slightly less than half of the experts in the Murmansk region (40.1%) and the Pskov region (40.1%) confirmed the revealed opinion. Most of the experts who responded that there was no need for measures for adaptation and integration of migrants were found in the Pskov (15.1%) and Murmansk regions (10.1%). An insignificant number of experts from Dagestan (5.1%), Rostov (5.1%), and Altai (3.8%) responded in a similar way. Representatives of the expert community of the Murmansk (10.1%), Orenburg (5.1%), Altai regions (3.8%) found it difficult to answer. The revealed expert opinions are explained by objective processes of growth of migration processes in the border regions under study.

In particular, the Altai region in 2017 -2018, according to statistics, was distinguished by the largest number of able-bodied people who left the region (about 7 thousand people). At the same time, about 6,458 thousand migrants arrived in the region, which increased the social significance of the activities that optimize the process of socialization and adaptation of migrants. It caused a tough need to explore and optimize some trends. For example, related to the fact that one migrant representative of the region with higher or secondary vocational education left, there are five migrants, a distinctive feature of which is lack of education, poor knowledge of the Russian language, a low level of general culture, etc. CIS countries and neighboring countries, which is about 65% compared with intra-regional and interregional migration.

In 2017-2018, the growth of migration flows was recorded in the region, primarily from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan. This actualizes the problems of adaptation and integration of the arriving population in the Altai region, which is additionally confirmed in their assessments by representatives of the expert community. Over the past year, about 48,000 people arrived to Moscow. Rostov region about 20,573 people, in Dagestan, 3,238 immigrants. In the Pskov region 2,452, in the Murmansk region 3,295, in the Orenburg region about 1,600 people (Source: official website of state statistics). In this regard, the study of trends in migration processes, which must be taken into account when making changes, amendments to the Concept of State Migration Policy, is intended to become a significant social resource. The overwhelming majority of migrants arriving in these territories include the residents of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Armenia, and Ukraine. In addition, in the Murmansk region, the flow of migrants from China increased by 40%. In the context of well-known sociopolitical processes, the flow of refugees from Ukraine has increased in the studied regions. It should be noted that the ethnocultural similarity of the Ukrainians and Russians somewhat softened the processes of integration and adaptation of migrants.

The expert community of the studied regions determined the rating of the most popular events that optimized the integration of migrants [15]. Among all aspects of the activity, teaching Russian is predominant (64.3%), then go legal education (51.2%), intercultural communication activities, formation of ethnic and religious tolerance among the population (42.4%), employment assistance (37, 9%). Among the less popular areas of activity, the experts noted: assistance in finding housing, solving domestic problems (17.3%), informing about the activities of human rights non-profit organizations (13.1%) working with migrants, assistance in obtaining education, and advanced training (7.8%), psychological counselling, assistance in overcoming the stress associated with migration, the formation of adaptive behavior (5.3%). Experts of the Murmansk region consider the following most relevant activities for the region: learning the Russian language (60.0%), awareness of the services of human rights non-profit organizations working with migrants (35.0%), and legal education (35.0%). It is noteworthy that the head of the migration service of the Murmansk region stressed that due to the complex measures taken, the criminal situation among the migrants remained under control [9].

The expert community of the Pskov Region most actualized the training of migrants in Russian (60.0%). A qualified legal assistance for the migrants is noted by 50.0%. The direction of intercultural communication activities (50.0%) will help accelerate and optimize the adaptation and integration of migrants in the region. A third of all experts (30.0%) emphasizes the need for assistance in finding jobs, introducing migrants to the norms and laws of the Labor Law in the Russian Federation. For Dagestan, the most significant and sought-after areas of assistance to migrants were learning the Russian language (75.0%), as well as in other regions, the legal education of the newcomers (75.0). In the Rostov region, according to experts, the most popular are not only the Russian language learning (75.0%), but also intercultural communication activities, the formation of ethnic and religious tolerance between the local population and migrants (70.0%). The expert opinion rating regarding the demand for adaptation measures for migrants in Moscow included: assistance in mastering the Russian language (80.0%), legal education (50.0%), intercultural communication and tolerance activities (45.0%), assistance in employment (45.0%), finding housing (30.0%), education, advanced training (20.0%), informing about help services (20.0%), psychological counseling (15.0%). The latter type of assistance is updated only in the capital, which is associated with a relatively high level of development of this service, as compared with the border regions. Thus, expert opinions and their specificity reflect the features of migration processes in the regions, as well as current trends in migration interethnic policies, their relevance and effectiveness.

4. Discussion

An analysis of the regional specifics of expert opinions on current types of assistance to migrants highlighted several features. So, for example, experts of the Altai Territory to the greatest extent see the social significance of assistance related to teaching Russian as it is the objective basis of other optimizing activities, in particular, intercultural communication activities, impossible without knowledge of the language. This is consistent with the opinion of the migrants themselves, arriving in the region and experiencing great difficulties namely and first of all in mastering the Russian language. This type of assistance is also relevant for Dagestan and the Rostov Region. For Orenburg, such activities as employment, advising on compliance with labor laws, as well as legal education, assistance in obtaining the necessary documents for the legal stay of migrants in the region are the most popular for migrants. Experts of the Murmansk region, the most significant activities for the region, highlighted Russian language training, awareness of human rights non-profit organizations working with migrants, as well as legal education, assistance in obtaining the necessary documents related to the legal status of migrants. It is noteworthy that the head of the migration service of the Murmansk region stressed that thanks to the complex measures taken, the criminal situation among migrants remains controlled [10].

The expert community of the Pskov region has made the most urgent for migrants to receive legal assistance, which, in their opinion, will help accelerate and optimize the adaptation and integration of migrants. For Dagestan, the most significant and sought-after areas of assistance to migrants have been learning the Russian language, as well as in other regions, legal education of the newcomers. Moreover, such areas as psychological counseling and assistance in obtaining education and advanced training, according to experts, are not in demand, which apparently reflects the specifics of the national and cultural specifics of the region. In the Rostov region, according to experts, the most popular is not only teaching Russian, but also intercultural communication activities, the formation of ethnic and religious tolerance between the local population and migrants. Thus, expert opinions and their specificity reflect the features of migration processes in the regions, as well as current trends in migration interethnic policies, their relevance and effectiveness.

5. Conclusion

Considering the regional peculiarities, it should be noted that the experts of the Altai Territory to the greatest degree note the positive role of diasporas in optimizing their migration problems in their region, which indicates the presence of a constructive dialogue between the regional authorities and representatives of the ethnic diasporas that are widespread in the region, a good level of agreement

between them. The minimal positive role of diasporas is noted by experts of Dagestan and the Pskov region. In addition, some experts of the Pskov region believe that, under certain conditions, diasporas may hinder integration processes. In the Rostov region, Altai region, and Dagestan, the expert opinions show that diasporas do not play a special role in adaptation processes, although these opinions are insignificant. However, they require additional research into the causes of such opinions. The obtained scientific data could help to understand the mechanisms and social potentials of interaction between diasporas and government officials to optimize migration processes in the regions.

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