

# Russian migration policies after reunification with the Republic of Crimea

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**Abstract.** This article analyzes the migration policy of the Russian Federation after the Republic of Crimea became part of Russia, discusses the provisions of the long-term strategy for the social and economic development of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol until 2030, approved by the Law of the Republic of Crimea *On the Strategy of the Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol until 2030* of December 28, 2016. The authors reviewed the characteristics and features of the refugees' legal status in Russia, as well as the problems of the implementation of their rights in the country.

**Keywords:** migration, strategy, strategy of socio-economic development, legal status, policy

## 1. Introduction

The annexation of Crimea to Russia was an unprecedented, large-scale event in the history of our state, which affected all sectors of the economy, politics, culture in general and the existing migration flows in particular.

The attractiveness of a new region for migrants due to economic, geographical, and geopolitical factors. The emergence in the Russian Federation of new subjects – the Republic of Crimea and the city of federal significance Sevastopol – created the prerequisites for the persons' migration to this region (first of all, citizens of Ukraine) who are in need of security. In addition, for these individuals, the prospect was opened to move to nearby areas, while leaving the opportunity to return to their homes. In addition, the Crimea became an intensively developing region, which resulted in an influx of people in need of work. This migration phenomenon has created a number of problems and tasks that our state has to solve in the near future and as soon as possible.

In criminological research, migration is understood as a territorial movement between different settlements of one or more territorial units, regardless of the duration and purpose [5]. There is internal and external (international) migration depending on the area of displacement. Currently, in the scientific literature, the concept of migration flows is used to give them a sign of mass character.

In the scientific literature, describing this complex social phenomenon, scientists determine the positive and negative features of migration. Among the positive features, they note the maintenance of the potential of economic development and the geopolitical stability of individual regions. Unfortunately, the level of international migration flows, including from the CIS countries, has decreased. Negative traits are the product of interethnic, interfaith religious conflicts, as well as increased social tensions.

## 2. Materials and Methods

The basis of our research is the dialectical method of cognition of social and legal phenomena, as well as general scientific and special methods of cognition, such as comparative legal, logical legal, statistical, sociological, taxonomic.

During the study, a comprehensive analysis of regulatory documents and a comparative analysis of information sources were carried out. The empirical base of the research is the statistical data of Sevastopolstat, and Krymstat, which contain information on population migration on this issue.

## 3. Results

The Law of the Republic of Crimea *On the Strategy for the Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol until 2030* of December 28, 2016, based on the Decrees of the President of the Russian Federation, federal by-laws, regulatory acts of the subject, defines the main world demographic and social trends of socio-economic development, among which the intensification of migration to this region stands out.

From 2005 to 2015, migration plays an important role in compensating for the natural decrease in the population in the Republic of Crimea. An increase in the migration flow is observed: 2.8 thousand people in 2005 and 16.3 thousand people in 2015 [8]. In the first years of the reunification of the Crimea with Russia, from 2014 to the end of the third quarter of 2016, according to official data, the net migration inflow to the Crimea amounted to about 83 thousand people. In particular, over 149 thousand people moved to the peninsula, and about 66 thousand people left it [8]. The figures are based on data from Rosstat divisions, divided by territoriality (Sevastopolstat and Krymstat).

According to the strategy of socio-economic development, the long-term demographic development of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol implies the implementation of three scenarios: conservative, modernization, and innovation. The conservative scenario is designed for implementation in 2019, while it does not imply any significant changes in the economy and predicts a decline in the population due to a high natural decline in the population of the Republic of Crimea and a slight migration increase. The increase in life expectancy is up to 72.4 years; a migration gain is characterized by unskilled labor [7]. The modernization scenario determines the progressive development (the population growth due to migration growth by 2026). In comparison to conservative plans, life expectancy is increased to 73.2 years [7].

In 2030, high growth rates in the economy and the social sphere should be expected from the innovation scenario, it implies a population growth due to the natural growth of the population of the Republic of Crimea and the migration increase. Life expectancy will reach 77.3 years, and the migration growth is characterized mainly by skilled labor. The transition to a system for managing migration flows that is currently being formed is expected as a result of the concept.

According to the current data of Krymstat, the migration increase was 1,181 people in 2018, which indicates a decrease in the rate by more than 30%. In comparison with the year 2017, which was 3,793 people. This can be considered the first result of the implementation of the conservative scenario of the strategy of social and economic development of the Republic of Crimea [9].

The migration flow to the Republic of Crimea related to military actions on the territory of Ukraine is characterized, first of all, by the arrival of citizens of this state in order to obtain legal refugee status. The arising conflicts between the Crimean population and those refugees from Ukraine who wish to obtain refugee status in Russia characterize the problem of assimilation of foreign citizens. However, those persons who have left Ukraine have the right to receive a refugee status in Russia, then obtain a temporary residence permit, and as a result, obtain a citizenship of the Russian Federation.

The Federal Law of the Russian Federation of February 19, 1993 No. 4528-I *On Refugees* establishes a procedure for obtaining a refugee status, according to which a person must register at the place of stay independently in the bodies of the Federal Migration Service. Persons applying for a refugee status have the right to reside temporarily in the Russian Federation for three years, with the appropriate permission. Refugees have the right to employment without relevant statutory documents; they are entitled to various social guarantees, including benefits, as well as a qualified medical assistance.

Analyzing the Russian legislation, the legal status of a refugee can be obtained by any person who arrives in the Russian Federation, including a foreign citizen without documents. In this case, the status is determined on the basis of a questionnaire and an interview, as a result of which a questionnaire is compiled. It is not always possible to verify such information; therefore, the migration service authorities always satisfy the application within a month. In our opinion, this practice is not correct.

In addition, a simplified procedure for registering refugees from Ukraine has been established. It determines the period of registration of a refugee in 10 working days, if the citizen is included in a special state program in 2019. The term of registration in the general order is 1 month. Also, the procedure for registering refugees is provided for in Moscow, the Moscow Region, St. Petersburg, the Republic of Crimea, and the city of Sevastopol, despite the fact that there is no quota (temporary residence permit) for registering this category of persons in these subjects. Perhaps this condition applies to persons of the state program to support immigrants, and the immigrant's relatives who arrived within its framework are entitled to receive a temporary residence permit outside the quota, residence permit and citizenship in a simplified manner.

A mandatory condition for obtaining a refugee status is a medical examination. A refugee status in the Russian Federation gives the right to receive certain benefits, for example, to receive benefits in the amount of 100 rubles per day for each registered person; for the disabled persons, the benefit is 150 rubles per day. More than 24,000 rubles per month is spent from the budget of the Russian Federation for each person registered as a refugee [1].

The provision of temporary housing from the temporary housing fund to accommodate a refugee is part of the expenditure commitments of the Russian Federation, as well as arrangements for receiving, traveling and accommodating persons applying for recognized refugees [1]. But the problem is the availability of housing of this fund and the satisfactory condition of housing. At the state level, the issue of housing is being resolved at present, leaving the adoption of this decision within the competence of the subjects of the Russian Federation. For example, in Kuzbass, the regional authorities provide refugees with sufficiently comfortable housing in hostels, pay a primary allowance of 20,000 rubles. The authorities of the region promise to help with an employment assistance. Children arriving without parents are accommodated in rehabilitation centers.

The Federal Migration Service authorities provide assistance to refugees in finding employment, receiving appropriate benefits; due to their status, they acquire the same basic rights as citizens of the Russian Federation. The average salary of a migrant who got a job after employment, as indicated on the site, is 15 thousand rubles per month. The problems related to employment are that the refugees must pay a tax every month for using the patent necessary for employment. This fact alarming some citizens because of the loss of part of the income necessary for the maintenance of the family.

Refugee resettlement issues are also regulated by the state program to assist the voluntary resettlement of compatriots living abroad to the Russian Federation. The program dates back to 2006. She wore a temporary character, which was 6 years. Since 2013, the program operates on an ongoing basis. The program imposes sufficiently strict requirements on potential candidates, and these requirements are justified from the financial side. Some of them include the following: a person must be fully capable and legally capable; a level of written and spoken language should be close to the level of rapid adaptation in the country; presence of a work experience; a lack of active work in organizations of terrorist and extremist orientation; no conviction or administrative deportation sanction [9].

The condition of the program is that the person is exempted from paying fees and customs duties for the transport of personal vehicles. The cash payment amounts to 240 thousand rubles, it has a special purpose, which is to solve life and domestic issues, including this money can be used as a business support, when purchasing and renting housing, and its family members are paid 120 thousand rubles for each relative. Lifting pays are paid in two stages: the 1st part is paid after relocation, and the 2nd part is after the justification at a new place in six months. According to the program, choosing a place of stay and further residence is at the discretion of a person, but more often it should be a priority region of the Russian Federation, the list of which is approved each year. In 2019, there are 57 subjects, which is 10 subjects more than in 2016. The undeniable advantage is the provision of state support in full only in

priority areas. The disadvantage of this resettlement program is that the participant is obliged to live and work only in the territory of his region until citizenship [9]. It is planned that the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol will be among these regions.

#### 4. Conclusions

Positive trends emerged as a result of the influx of migrants into the territory of Crimea. Thus, the economic factor characterizing the state of any subject of the Russian Federation has changed significantly over the period of stay of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol within Russia. In the first three years, the purchasing power of citizens of these regions increased by 3% in comparison with the period when the autonomous republic and Sevastopol were located under the jurisdiction of Ukraine. Analyzing the economic situation of households, we should note the population's increasing welfare and growing needs. In comparison with 2017, the number of people willing to buy a car and a summer house increased by 4% in 2018. Nevertheless, the economic policy in the field of housing and communal services caused difficulties in payment for such services, the figure decreased by 5% over the specified period. Perhaps this is due to ensuring the safety of the population from external influences in accordance with the policy, which is the opinion of the majority of the population of the subject.

Thus, the adoption of the strategy of socio-economic development in the demographic area of the population by the State Council of the Republic of Crimea in 2016 confirms the readiness of the authorities for significant changes on the peninsula. Versatility and comprehensiveness of the strategy are not without certain risks associated with its implementation. The first positive results of the stay of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as part of Russia characterize the mobility of the population and support for future policies.

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