

**OKSANA PANKOVA
HALYNA YURCHYK
HALYNA MISHCHUK**



**INTEGRATION OF
INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS:**

**GLOBAL PRACTICES AND
UKRAINIAN EXPERIENCE**

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Oksana PANKOVA

Halyna YURCHYK

Halyna MISHCHUK

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EXPERIENCE**

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Reviewers:

Viacheslav Liashenko, Professor, Institute of Industrial Economics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine;

Olga Osadcha, Professor, National University of Water and Environmental Engineering, Rivne, Ukraine;

Katarzyna Chudy-Laskowska, Associate Professor, Rzeszow University of Technology, Rzeszow, Poland.

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Oksana Pankova, Halyna Yurchyk, Halyna Mishchuk

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The monograph explores the challenges and opportunities of the social integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The proposed approach to assessing the level of social integration across various areas of interaction within society is supported by an analysis of international experience in this field, which has led to the systematisation of best practices and the author's own approach to evaluating factors of integration/isolation among IDPs. The methodology has been tested using the case of Ukraine to determine the level of, and barriers to, social integration through a dual-perspective analysis combining assessments from both IDPs and residents of host communities. The presented methodological developments, country case studies of states that have faced forced internal displacement, as well as recommendations for adapting global best practices to enhance social security in Ukraine, will be useful for scholars engaged in migration research and for practitioners involved in policy development and evidence-based regulatory decision-making.

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INTRODUCTION

The problem of social integration of internally displaced people (IDPs) is of particular importance in ensuring the security of society. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, the number of internally displaced persons worldwide increased significantly over the past 12 years, reaching 84.3 million in 2024. A significant share of internally displaced people are IDPs in Ukraine, which is among the top ten countries in the world in terms of the number of internally displaced people. This is the unprecedented wave of internal refugees across Europe after World War II. Therefore, the large scale of internal displacement and the numerous deprivations faced by these people make the problem of their social protection and social integration into the hosting communities a reality. At the same time, despite the problem's significance on the global scale, no single reliable methodological framework for a comprehensive assessment of IDPs' social integration has yet been established. The existing approaches propose overly generalised assessments of subjective perceptions of new circumstances and do not always lead to an understanding of the reasons for isolation derived from specific components of integration. Some approaches, in fact, are more consistent with the quality-of-life criteria, but not "integration" in the conceptual sense of the term. At the same time, the continuation of military aggression against Ukraine and the high risk of similar or other threats influence other countries, exacerbating this problem and necessitating thorough scientific and applied research that could serve as a basis for continuous monitoring of needs and reasons for isolation.

To achieve the aim of a comprehensive investigation of the social integration of IDPs, the monograph makes some crucial contributions. The first is methodological: we propose a multidimensional schema of social integration that deliberately distinguishes integration as a relational and civic phenomenon from indicators of material welfare. Building on an extensive literature review and an international comparison of practices, we identify five component blocks for

assessing integration in local settings: (1) political and religious integration; (2) economic integration; (3) participation in cultural and sports initiatives; (4) integration into community life; and (5) socio-psychological integration. They are operationalized through twenty-five sub-indicators. This taxonomy was designed to align with theoretical frames drawn from motivation theory, human development, and justice while remaining sensitive to the particularities of forced displacement. Proposed methods for using this framework enable assessing the social integration by combining the opinions of two groups - IDPs and the population of the hosting communities.

Complementing this, an expert evaluation refined the criteria and scale to local conditions; finally, nationally representative sociological monitoring and a targeted IDP survey yield empirical estimates of integration levels across the defined domains, facilitating robust comparison between expert judgment and lived experience.

The monograph, therefore, reframes integration as a multidimensional outcome: economic adaptation without concurrent civic and other forms of integration yields a fragile, incomplete integration, with attendant risks for social cohesion.

The experiences of other countries support our findings regarding the problem of social integration. These challenges and best practices for engaging IDPs in new communities are essential for societies in crisis.

From a policy perspective, the findings have important implications. Particularly, interventions should be designed to move beyond one-off humanitarian relief and towards sustained, locally embedded programmes that foster participation. Besides, psychosocial support and community-level initiatives regarding IDPs' integration are no less critical than employment and housing measures, since trust, social ties, and subjective belonging are decisive determinants of long-term stability and forming reliable links with hosting communities. And finally, assessment and evaluation frameworks used by policymakers and donors must adopt multidimensional indicators, such as the

composite integration/isolation index, to yield a comprehensive picture of progress and gaps.

This monograph is the product of collaborative methodological research, fieldwork, expert consultation, and empirical analysis, and it is intended for a diverse readership: scholars of migration and social policy, practitioners in governmental and non-governmental agencies, and local authorities responsible for community governance. The methodological approach is tested in Ukraine and informed by comparative lessons from countries with long experience of internal displacement. It is adaptable to other contexts where forced mobility challenges societies' capacity to include new populations without forfeiting cohesion.

The authors hope this study serves not only as a diagnostic instrument but as a practical bridge between research and policy. By clarifying what is to be measured and why, and by demonstrating how diverse data sources and analytic techniques can be integrated, we seek to enable evidence-based strategies that harness the potential of displaced populations as contributors to community development. In an era when displacement is a recurring global reality, rigorous, multidimensional research on integration is indispensable for sustainable public responses to IDPs' incomplete integration into local communities.

The monograph is prepared within the project funded by the National Research Foundation of Ukraine under the project No.2021.01/0343 “Ensuring social protection of ATO / JFO participants and social integration of IDP under the condition of increasing threats to social security”.

The authors' contribution to the study is as follows: O. Pankova – chapters 1 and 3; H. Mishchuk – introduction, paragraph 2.1, H. Yurchyk – paragraph 2.2, H. Mishchuk, H. Yurchyk – paragraph 2.3.

CHAPTER 1.

FORCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT OF UKRAINIANS IN THE CONDITIONS OF A PROLONGED WAR: CASES OF 2014-2025

The problem of mass forced migration of the population is not a phenomenon unique to Ukraine; it is a global problem. Forced external and internal displacement is one of the most serious social challenges faced by modern states due to armed conflicts, wars, natural and environmental disasters, and humanitarian crises.

According to the 2006 Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on internally displaced persons, the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, an internally displaced person (IDP) is a person or group of people who have been forced or obliged to leave or abandon their homes or places of habitual residence (in particular because of armed conflict or to escape its consequences, because of violence, human rights violations, natural or man-made disasters) and who have not crossed internationally recognized state borders.

The report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) notes that over the past decades, the number of forcibly displaced persons and refugees in the world has doubled. In 2015, the number of refugees worldwide reached 65.3 million people. In 2022, the number of forced migrants and refugees was 108.4 million people. In 2025, there will be more than 123 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide. The main reasons for the displacement were the protracted conflicts in Sudan, Myanmar, and Ukraine. The UNHCR emphasizes that the situation is becoming unbearable – people fleeing real threats are becoming increasingly vulnerable (UNHCR Ukraine - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2014-2025). Armed Russian aggression (2015-2025) became a tragedy for tens of millions of Ukrainians, caused radical changes in the life of the Ukrainian people, state and society. A new tragic stage of the modern history of modern Ukraine began,

lasting almost 12 years. The undeclared war against Ukraine became a powerful challenge for every person, family, city and village, region, and country as a whole. The mass forced displacement of the population of Ukraine (external and internal) started, increasing the level of uncertainty and intensifying the manifestation of challenges for specific individuals and society as a whole. The request for a substantive study of this process became urgent. The protracted nature of the war necessitated the search for ways to integrate IDPs into new conditions.

Substantiation of the methodological principles of research on the social integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the context of increasing threats to social security in Ukraine requires in-depth scientific research, a systematic analysis of approaches and results of research conducted in Ukraine on the problems, needs, integration, and adaptation of a new category of the population that appeared in Ukrainian society due to armed Russian aggression, the temporary occupation of part of the Donbas territories, and the annexation of Crimea.

We have conventionally divided the process of forced internal displacement of the Ukrainian population due to armed Russian aggression into periods before and after a relatively full-scale invasion. We have two waves of mass forced internal displacement due to an undeclared war. These are the period before the full-scale invasion (2014-2021) and after its deployment (2022-2025).

The dynamics of changes in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) registered in Ukraine during the first wave of mass forced internal displacement – from 2014 to 2021 – are presented in Figure 1.1 (according to official data from the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine). In reality, their number was, and remains, significantly higher, as not all displaced persons registered to obtain IDP status. For this reason, quantitative indicators of IDPs in Ukraine vary across different sources. This can be observed in the data of the IOM (International Organization for Migration), the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

(MinSocPolicy, IOC, 2025). Throughout 2014-2021, the state gained experience in managing and regulating the processes of forced internal displacement.

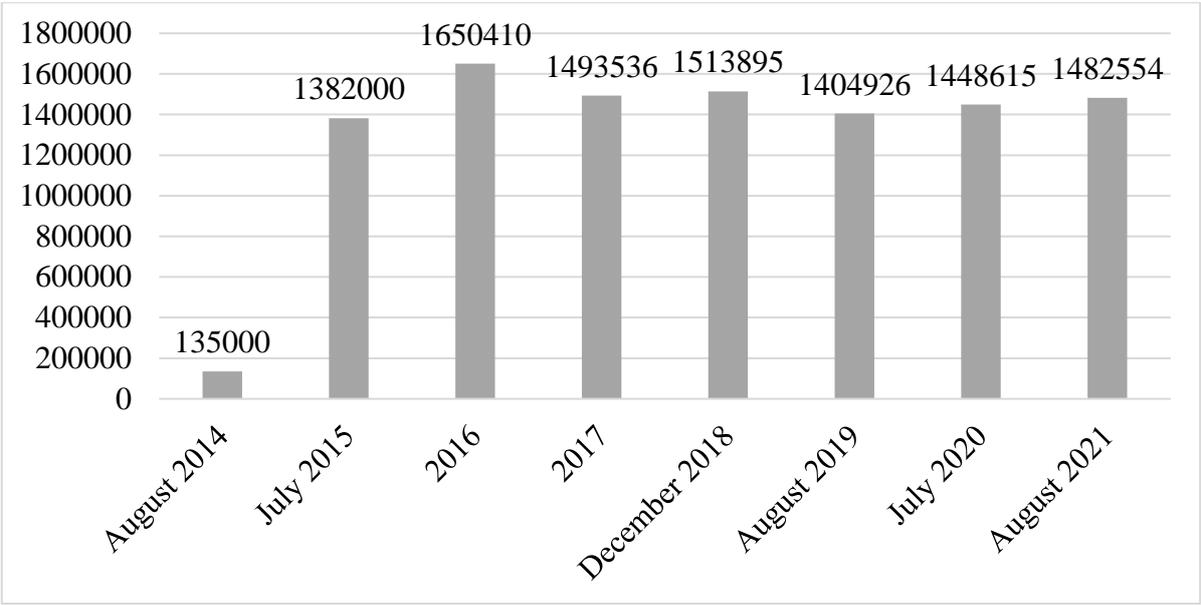


Fig. 1.1. Dynamics of the number of IDPs registered in Ukraine from 2014 to 2021, people

Civil society played a leading role in these processes. This largely became the basis for regulating these processes on a larger scale, starting in 2022. After all, the full-scale armed Russian aggression led to the emergence of countless new problems, large-scale losses, which required an operational response and were caused by an increase in risks and dangers for the individual, society, and the country as a whole.

Since February 24, 2022 – since the beginning of the full-scale war against Ukraine – more than 13 million Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes, of which more than 6 million remained in Ukraine and were forced to receive a new social status – “internally displaced person”. According to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as of the end of March 2022, there were about 6.7 million officially IDPs in Ukraine, and as of November 2025, almost 4.5 million IDPs were officially registered in Ukraine (Ministry of Social Policy, IOC, 2025) (Fig.1.2.). The situation with the real number of IDPs is the same as in the first wave of forced displacement, their number is actually much larger.

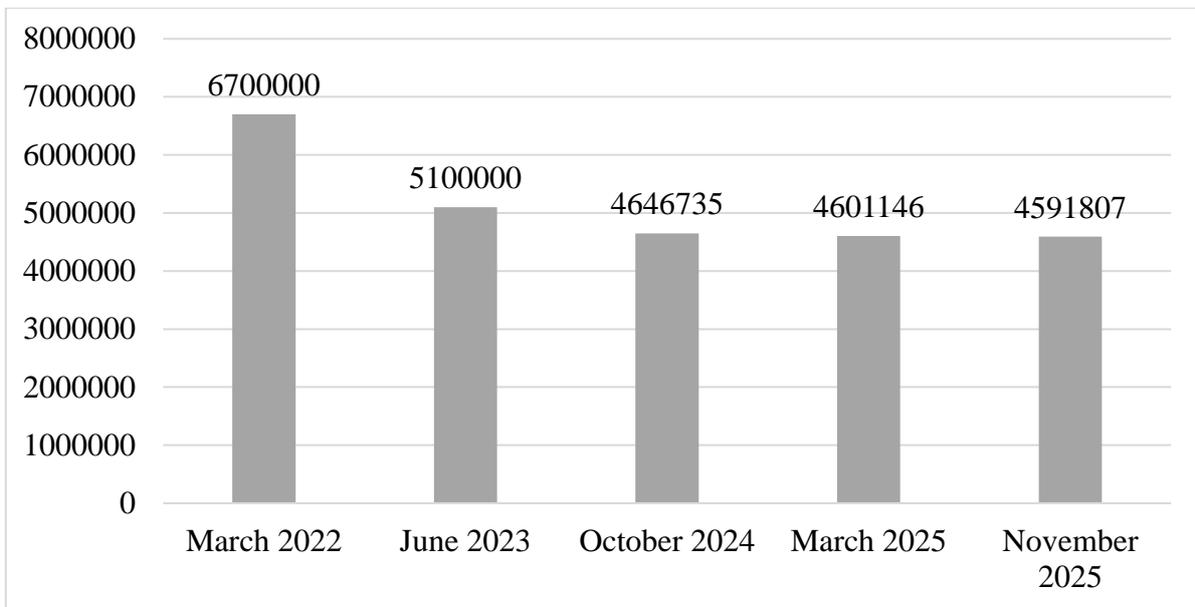


Fig. 1.2. Dynamics of the number of IDPs registered in Ukraine during the period of full-scale invasion – from 2022 to 2025, persons

The undeclared war continues and this process has not stopped yet. Therefore, public attention to the problems of IDPs, actualized needs and opportunities for their satisfaction, adaptation and integration of IDPs into host communities does not fade away. Ukraine has accumulated significant experience in researching, identifying and solving the problems of adaptation of IDPs in host communities. Similar studies were conducted before the start of the full-scale invasion, and the results obtained in these studies (including the methodological aspect) should be taken into account at this stage.

Of particular relevance are studies devoted to the analysis of the state, problems, trends, and the search for optimal solutions for regulating the processes of mass forced internal displacement of the population of Ukraine in connection with the Russian-Ukrainian war, starting in 2022 (the second wave 2022-2025). Let us consider the features of each of the waves of mass forced internal displacement of the population of Ukraine due to the war.

1.1. The first wave of mass forced internal displacement of the Ukrainian population in the discourse of social integration: cases of 2014-2021

Forced internal migration is one of the most serious social challenges faced by modern states experiencing armed wars and humanitarian crises. It causes significant changes in society, affecting the demographic situation, economic development of regions, the level of social tension, and the need to develop effective mechanisms of state support for affected citizens.

With the beginning of the armed conflict (2014), Ukrainian scientific institutions began to actively research the problems of IDPs, often acting on their own initiative and without state support. In the fall of 2014, the State Institution “Institute of Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine”, the M.V. Ptukha Institute of Demography and Social Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Institute of Economic and Legal Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Institute of Industrial Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, in cooperation with IDP NGOs (primarily with the NGO “Congress of the East of Ukraine”), created a permanent Forum on Solving the Problems of Internally Displaced Persons. On the basis of the Forum in 2014-2015, two scientific and practical conferences and a number of “round tables” were held. The interim results of scientific research were summarized in the National Report “Policy of Integration of Ukrainian Society in the Context of Challenges and Threats of Events in Donbas” (Libanova et al., 2015).

The involved institutes of the NAS of Ukraine during 2014-2016 published a number of collective monographs, scientific reports, articles and other publications on the issues of IDPs, the possibilities of state and non-state policy, communities, civil society, the state to promote their adaptation and integration. Gradually, these studies were institutionalized and received financial state support from the NAS of Ukraine. International partners provided grant opportunities for conducting updated research.

Research aimed at solving the problems of IDPs was conducted in parallel by scientists at universities, central and local state services and bodies, as well as state (National Institute for Strategic Studies) and non-state (e.g., “Crimea-SOS”, CEDOS) analytical centers (Titar, 2016).

Among the scientific institutions of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and sociological centers of Ukraine, the first to begin researching the problems of IDPs were the M.V. Ptukha Institute of Demography and Social Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the State Institution “Institute of Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine”, the “Ukrainian Institute of Social Research named after O. Yaremenko”, the Institute of Industrial Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (the institution was moved from Donetsk to Kyiv), the Institute of Economic and Legal Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (the institution was moved from Donetsk to Kyiv), the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the I.F. Kuras Institute of Political and Ethno-National Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the State Institution “Institute of Regional Studies named after M.I. Dolishnyi”, KIIS, the Ukrainian Catholic University, the Congress of the East of Ukraine and others. The teams of scientists from these institutions became the authors of the above-mentioned national report “Policy of Integration of Ukrainian Society in the Context of Challenges and Threats of Events in Donbas” (Libanova et al., 2015).

The national report reveals obstacles and opportunities for policy development to promote social adaptation and integration of IDPs, and also includes recommendations for improving the effectiveness of state policy on support and social protection of IDPs. They concern the simultaneous resolution of IDP problems in demographically depressed territories.

The emphasis in promoting the social adaptation of IDPs is on a new task for the state – a systematic approach to coordinating measures and practices to combat poverty and social exclusion of IDPs. It is proposed to realize the resource

potential of IDPs, in particular, by creating conditions for the realization of entrepreneurial potential. These recommendations concern preferential taxation, exemption from concession payments for 5 years, simplified tax on issuing permits, provision of tax preferences for business entities that employ IDPs, etc.

With the participation of four institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU), the scientific report “Rebuilding Donbas: Assessment of Socio-Economic Losses and Priority Areas of State Policy” (2015) was prepared and published. The National Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Ukraine (NISS) also responded to the events in eastern Ukraine with a comprehensive study of the war in Donbas and the annexation of Crimea, resulting in the monograph “Donbas and Crimea: The Price of Return” (2016). This monograph examines emerging issues of hybrid warfare from the standpoint of Ukraine’s national security and addresses the social consequences of Russia’s armed aggression against Ukraine, focusing in particular on the challenges faced by IDPs. The researchers identify the negative consequences of forced migration, which primarily consist of the loss of social status and the destruction of the displaced persons’ living environment. IDPs simultaneously lost their homes, property, jobs, and essential livelihood resources, and many were left without family and close relatives. In analyzing the issues of forced internal migration and IDPs, the study explored matters of social protection and the amount of social assistance provided to IDPs, the burden placed on the regions where IDPs were concentrated, and the accumulation of local social problems associated with their mass arrival. The authors did not consider IDPs from the standpoint of the resource potential for the development of territorial communities; however, they did devote attention to strategic directions of state policy – specifically, an analysis of the “Main Directions for Addressing Employment Issues of IDPs for 2015-2016” (CMU, 2015), which envisaged the creation of temporary jobs, permission for non-standard working arrangements, flexible employment schedules, and support for IDP entrepreneurial activity.

Of particular value are the studies conducted by institutions and centers that were themselves forced to relocate due to the armed conflict in Donbas – these are the Institute of Industrial Economics of the NAS of Ukraine (the institution was moved from Donetsk to Kyiv), the Institute of Economic and Legal Research of the NAS of Ukraine (the institution was moved from Donetsk to Kyiv).

The scientific and practical achievement of Ukrainian scientists from the Institute of Industrial Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IIE of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) – an institution relocated from Donetsk to Kyiv in 2014 – was the publication of the collective monograph “Internally Displaced Persons: From Overcoming Obstacles to a Strategy for Success” (2016). (Novikova et al., 2016), later – the monograph “Integration of internally displaced persons into territorial communities: status diagnostics and support mechanisms” (2018) (Novikova et al., 2018), which are based on the results of expert surveys of both IDPs themselves and representatives of specialized authorities dealing with IDP issues (more on the main results below).

At the beginning of the first wave of forced internal displacement already, displaced scholars conducted research and published monographs on the regulation of the rights and interests of IDPs as a separate important issue of IDP integration into host communities. Specialists of the Institute of Economic and Legal Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (the institution was moved from Donetsk to Kyiv in 2014) considered issues of legal support for the use of the potential of IDPs. The research conducted in 2015 included a legal assessment of the acts of the legislation of Ukraine in force at that time and individual legislative initiatives aimed at solving the key problems of IDPs, with an emphasis on employment, economic stimulation of IDP entrepreneurial activity, and legal principles for supporting IDP entrepreneurs.

Monographic works of a publicistic nature written by the displaced persons themselves continue to be published. For example, the Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy, with the support of Internews Europe within the Internews Ukraine project, facilitated the publication of the book “Dispossessed? Unbroken! Stories

of Displaced Persons” (Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy, 2016). This collection tells the stories of people – internally displaced persons – who became an important resource for the development of host communities and Ukrainian society, serving as a vivid example of resilience, inner strength, and steadfast character. Another publication that evokes respect for displaced persons who preserved their identity and endured during a time of loss and war is the book “Displaced. People Who Did Not Lose Themselves”, written by authors from Donbas (Oslavska, 2016)

The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine financially supported scientific research aimed at overcoming the negative consequences of the war and implementing the development paths of Ukraine. A significant achievement in disclosing the topic of IDPs was the collective monograph “Economic Efficiency vs. Social Justice: Priorities for the Development of Ukraine at the Stage of Overcoming the Crisis” (2019), which highlighted the issues of the impact of forced internal displacement on the development of territorial communities; problems, opportunities and prospects for the integration of internally displaced persons into territorial communities. The authors of the monograph revealed the mechanisms for using the potential of internally displaced persons as a development resource; identified the state, problems and proposed directions for improving migration policy taking into account the interests of IDPs and host communities. Systemic issues regarding IDPs were raised, relevant for the first wave of mass forced internal displacement. Thus, 2015-2016 were very fruitful and productive for publications dedicated to forced internal displacement in Ukraine. A significant number of them were prepared by the IDPs themselves – scientists, educators, publicists, entrepreneurs, and representatives of IDP public associations.

Key studies on the problems of forced internal displacement, integration and adaptation of IDPs in Ukraine: cases of 2014-2021.

From the very beginning of the research, the issue of socio-economic adaptation and integration of IDPs has been singled out as one of the key research

areas. One of the first statistical data on the number of IDPs of the first wave of resettlement in Ukraine was the information posted in May 2014 on the UNHCR website, which provided an assessment of the placement of registered IDPs as of the end of May 2014. Of course, this is not a sociological study, in fact, it is chronologically the first information section on the problems of IDPs (UNHCR, 2014).

Leading scientific institutions of the NAS of Ukraine raised questions, conducted exploratory research on the main problems of IDPs at the beginning of the first wave of forced resettlement, focused on such problems as: the lack of an official definition, procedure for recognizing and institutionalizing the status of IDPs, necessary for the introduction of targeted state assistance; an individual approach to each family; information provision on the possibility of moving to a permanent place of residence, the need for labor, and the possibility of resolving housing issues.

One of the earliest sociological studies of IDPs in Ukraine was the OSCE survey conducted in 2014 across 13 regions of the country (OSCE, 2014). The survey examined IDPs' self-assessment of their situation, future plans, expectations, conditions for returning to their place of residence, and attitudes of local residents toward them. At that time, the situation was perceived as temporary; therefore, long-term aspects related to the full integration of IDPs into host communities were not examined in detail. Subsequently, research on IDP issues in Ukraine under the auspices of the OSCE continued with studies conducted in 2017, which will be discussed later (in chronological order).

The research project "Modern Refugees in Ukraine: Reasons for Displacement, Resettlement Strategies and Problems of Adaptation" implemented at the end of 2014 is noteworthy, carried out by O. Mikheeva (an internally displaced person from Donetsk) and V. Sereda (Mikheieva & Sereda, 2015). The project investigated the processes of forced internal displacement in Ukraine due to the armed Russian aggression at the beginning of the first wave, namely the reasons and strategies of resettlement, as well as the problems of adaptation of

persons who were forced to leave Crimea and certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions in 2014. The purpose of the study was to clarify the motives of displacement, strategies for choosing a place of settlement and mechanisms of social adaptation of IDPs in the receiving territories, in order to further define and substantiate operational recommendations for policies and practices to support displaced persons. The study revealed significant difficulties with the adaptation of IDPs in the receiving communities – although conflicts as such were virtually absent, the problem of social isolation was felt quite acutely by IDPs. According to the results of the study, already at an early stage of forced displacement, the authors recommend that the adaptation of IDPs be based on the model of “engagement” or “open opportunities” instead of the “assistance” model (which in content corresponds to the strategy of full integration of IDPs, within the framework of which they are considered as a resource for the development of host communities, the involvement of which requires the implementation of appropriate mechanisms) (Mikheieva & Sereda, 2015). In fact, this perception of IDPs is typical for most studies, emphasizing the need for a systematic approach to the development, implementation and coordination of measures and practices aimed at the adaptation and integration of IDPs, and IDPs themselves are viewed as a potential resource for the development of host communities, and not just as an additional burden.

A valuable study, given the requests of the project implemented by the authors of the monograph, is the study “Assessment of the needs of internally displaced persons in Ukraine and services for them”, conducted by the NGO “Social Initiatives for Occupational Safety and Health” (January 2015) with the involvement of partner institutions and organizations, such as: regional centers of social services for families, children and youth (CSSFCY)¹, volunteer organizations “Everyone Can,” “East SOS,” “Employment Center for Free

¹Centers for Social Services for Families, Children and Youth (CSSFCY) are special institutions that provide various social services to families, children and youth who find themselves in difficult life circumstances. The purpose of their activities is to provide psychological, socio-pedagogical, socio-medical, informational and legal assistance, as well as conduct social and preventive work.

People” (NGO "Social Initiatives for Occupational Safety and Health", 2015). The basic needs of IDPs were studied (respondents – IDPs in 10 regions of Ukraine). The study revealed that the following needs of IDPs were met at a low level in 2015: 1) *financial (employment)* – 45%; 2) *housing* 41.2%; 3) *humanitarian (food, clothing)* – 34.5%, 4) *medical* – 28.3%; 5) *social (participation in community life, tolerant attitude from citizens, equal access to benefits and opportunities in society)* – 17%; 6) *political (participation in the political life of the state, decision-making, legislative activity)* – 14.2%; 7) *legal (protection of rights, representation of interests in court, legal consultations)* – 13.4%; 8) *psychological and cultural* – 9.7% each.

Among the sociological studies on IDP issues conducted in Ukraine in 2015-2016, the study “Forced Displaced Persons and Host Communities: Lessons for Effective Social Adaptation and Integration” deserves special attention (Balakireva, 2016). The authors emphasize that since 2014, the most acute problems for IDPs have been problems related to meeting humanitarian needs (food, clothing, medicines), finding housing and stable, income-generating work. The results of research conducted among vulnerable IDPs – women and elderly people among IDPs (early 2015) – revealed a significant proportion of those who reported the inability to provide themselves with the most necessary things. *Thus, 70% of respondents reported financial inability to buy necessary food, and 30% reported that they could not provide their children with a full, healthy diet; 67% of respondents reported that they had difficulty finding housing that they could pay for on their own. Problems related to paying utility bills and rent for housing were reported by 52% and 58% of respondents, respectively, and this is the majority of IDPs (!).*

Most of the above problems have not lost their relevance during the second wave of forced internal displacement – since 2022, due to the fact that the protracted war continues, and the destructive consequences are growing incalculably. The study covers a wide range of issues of adaptation and integration of IDPs in host communities: generalization of relevant international experience, research into the functions and capabilities of state authorities, local governments, private and public sectors, and rural communities in these processes in Ukraine. It also identifies manifestations and factors of social rejection among IDPs,

analyzes various forms of social capital of IDPs in Ukraine, and substantiates the determinants of their successful local integration. As separate important factors, socio-cultural problems of IDP integration are investigated. Based on the results of the study, a set of practical recommendations is proposed on appropriate directions of state policy on the adaptation and integration of IDPs in Ukraine.

Already at this stage, scientific research is being conducted on the formation of a methodology for studying the processes of adaptation and integration of IDPs into host communities, including the possibilities of using socio-cultural and resource approaches (Titar, 2016).

The international community and relevant international organizations have also made and are making significant efforts to study the issue of IDPs, and this has been done since the very beginning of the armed conflict. Thus, the large-scale study conducted by the OSCE in 2015 entitled “Conflict-related Displacement in Ukraine: Increased Vulnerabilities of Affected Populations and Triggers of Tension within Communities” deserves attention (OSCE, 2016). The issues of relations between IDPs and members of host communities, polarization and social cohesion, reintegration were investigated. Additionally, the problems of the elderly and the problems of providing IDPs with housing, the problems of IDP employment and unemployment, social protection and humanitarian assistance, etc. were raised.

Studies of the problems of adaptation and integration of IDPs at the level of specific territorial communities were also conducted. Thus, in October 2015, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) together with the public initiative “Crimea SOS” conducted a joint assessment of the needs of IDPs in the Kherson region. Among the most pressing problems of IDPs were housing and the need for more livable housing, access to medical care, lack of employment opportunities, etc.

An important factor that significantly affects the prospects for adaptation and integration of IDPs into host communities is the attitude towards them by permanent residents of the communities. This issue has been the subject of

research virtually from the very beginning of forced resettlement. Thus, according to the results of the study “Citizens of Ukraine on Security: Assessments, Threats, Ways to Solve Problems” (Razumkov Center, 2015), which was conducted by the Ukrainian Center for Economic and Political Research named after O. Razumkov, revealed the state of public opinion of the population of Ukraine regarding the attitude of citizens towards internally displaced persons from Crimea and the East. It was found that most often local residents have a neutral attitude towards IDPs – the presence of IDPs does not create any problems for the respondents personally” (40.5%). 32.1% have a positive attitude towards them (“sympathize and are ready to help IDPs if possible”). However, a fifth of the respondents (20.9%) indicated a negative attitude due to the fact that IDPs, primarily men, had to defend their villages and cities from pro-Russian separatists, and now they demand benefits, do not respect local residents and customs. Residents of the western part demonstrated a neutral attitude toward IDPs, with a slight negative shade, which was also partly observed in the central part. Residents of the eastern and parts of the central regions expressed a neutral-to-positive attitude. In the southern region, respondents were almost evenly divided between neutral and positive attitudes toward IDPs.

The study of the O. Razumkov Center (2016) “Identity of Ukrainian Citizens in New Conditions: Status, Trends, Regional Peculiarities” was devoted to assessing the integration of forcibly displaced persons (Sociological Service of the Razumkov Center, 2016). It was found that most IDPs are normally perceived by local residents, no significant differences are observed in terms of socio-cultural characteristics (customs, traditions, values). However, at that time there remained a fairly significant number of IDPs who failed to fully adapt and integrate into the host community (approximately a quarter to a third in various aspects of adaptation and integration).

In 2015, the public initiative “Restoring Donbass” together with the sociological company TNS Ukraine conducted a study “Immigrant Comfort Index” in 7 regions of Ukraine (Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Lviv,

Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv) and the city of Kyiv (Restoring Donbass, 2015). The purpose of the study was to identify the most pressing problems of IDPs in the regions of primary accommodation, to assess the possibilities of access of IDPs to service centers, hotlines, humanitarian aid, etc. Among the identified problems at that time, the most acute were: provision of housing, problems with employment, material support of the family. It was found that a third of the surveyed IDPs feel a lack of necessary information. At the same time, the main sources of information on solving problems were relatives, volunteers and acquaintances, and not official sources. According to IDPs, serious shortcomings were identified in the work of state social protection and employment bodies.

An important area of research during the very first stage of forced displacement was the search for ways to preserve and develop the economic potential of IDPs, particularly the opportunities and directions for sustaining and expanding the small business potential of displaced entrepreneurs. A corresponding study of IDP entrepreneurs was conducted, and based on its findings, the “*Green Paper on Policies to Support Small Entrepreneurship among Internally Displaced Persons (2015)*” (CIPE, 2015) was prepared. IDP entrepreneurs identified the following key problems: difficulties obtaining credit; significant challenges in renting or purchasing premises and other assets; and a lack of information about business opportunities, as well as about registering a business or individual entrepreneur (FOP). Respondents named the most effective state support tools as: interest rate compensation on commercial bank loans; provision of non-repayable financial assistance for the purchase of fixed assets (production equipment, raw materials, etc.); programs of preferential leasing or rental of premises and fixed assets; and the provision of zero-interest trade loans. For supporting the start-up of entrepreneurial activities, respondents emphasized the need for: ongoing access to advisory support on all matters related to entrepreneurship; consultations on starting a business; assistance with registration; and training in business fundamentals. Based on the study’s results, expert recommendations were developed for shaping an effective policy to

support small entrepreneurship among IDPs. The research revealed both barriers and opportunities for enhancing the economic integration of IDPs in line with community development needs.

A significant aspect of IDP integration is the attitude of residents of host communities towards them. In 2016, the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS), commissioned by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), conducted a public opinion poll on the attitude of permanent residents towards internally displaced persons. According to the results of the study, it was found that the majority of respondents have a positive attitude towards IDPs from Donbas and Crimea (43% across Ukraine and 58% in places of the highest concentration of IDPs) or neutral (47% and 34%, respectively). It is important that regular residents tend to perceive IDPs as citizens who have equal rights with others, who have become hostages of the situation and need support (89% across Ukraine, 96% in places of the highest concentration). The study participants do not consider IDPs to be to blame for the situation they find themselves in (77% and 85%, respectively). At the same time, according to the respondents, such civic duties as military service should also be borne by IDPs on an equal basis with everyone else (80% and 75%, respectively). The study also showed that the presence of IDPs has affected the daily life of 30% of host communities. This applies primarily to cities with the highest concentration of IDPs. Every fourth respondent heard about the existence of competition between the host community and IDPs in their city for jobs, housing, places in schools and kindergartens, reception hours in public institutions, and other resources, but only a small number of respondents had experienced such competition.

An important research event was the conduct of an all-Ukrainian survey of IDPs and residents of host communities by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) in 2016 (conducted at the request of the international public organization Internews Network as part of the project “Improving Communication of Communities Affected by Military Conflict and Their Relations with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ukraine”)(KIIS, 2016). The

research was conducted in all regions of Ukraine (except for territories not controlled by the Ukrainian authorities). The key issues studied were the attitude of the permanent population of the host communities towards IDPs, the level of satisfaction of IDPs with the work of state institutions, the presence of violations of IDPs' rights in various areas, an assessment of the social well-being of IDPs in the host communities, etc.

Research activities on IDP issues in Ukraine under the auspices of the OSCE continued. In 2017, a study was conducted entitled “Assessment of the Problems of Psychological, Socio-Economic Adaptation and Integration of IDP Women into New Communities (Vinnitsia, Lviv and Kyiv Regions)” (Youth Initiative NGO, 2017). The purpose of the study was to develop methodological principles and practical recommendations aimed at improving the mechanism for adapting IDPs to new conditions (with a special emphasis on women). Based on the results of the study, a map of problems in the economic, social, cultural and other spheres was developed for the adaptation and integration of IDPs to new living conditions in host communities, and recommendations were also proposed for improving the social and economic well-being of communities hosting IDPs, developing initiatives aimed at supporting this process through the integration of IDPs. And in this study, the main emphasis was placed on the integration of IDPs (primarily women) into host communities.

A targeted study on the integration of IDPs into host communities was conducted by IDP researchers from the Institute of Industrial Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IIE of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) in late 2016-early 2017. Its results are presented in detail in the collective monograph “Integration of Internally Displaced Persons into Territorial Communities: Status Diagnostics and Support Mechanisms” (2018) (Novikova et al., 2018). They are based on a social expertise, with the participation of IDPs and representatives of specialized authorities dealing with IDP problems. The results of the social expertise allowed its authors to systematize the urgent problems that arise in communities during the relocation of IDPs, as well

as to identify obstacles and positive consequences of the integration of IDPs into host communities. Since the study directly revealed the features of the integration of IDPs into territorial communities, it makes sense to dwell on its results in more detail (Tables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3).

Table 1.1

Problems for territorial communities caused by the displacement of IDPs, according to expert assessments, 2016-2017, % of all responses*

<i>Problems caused by the movement of IDPs into the Tercomad</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>%</i>
Non-perception of IDPs by the community population, conflicts between them	8	24.3
Increasing workload on educational institutions and preschools	4	41.4
Increasing burden on medical institutions	6-7	30.3
Increasing workload on pension fund departments	3	42.1
Increasing burden on social protection departments	1	50.7
Increasing burden on employment services	13	9.9
Increasing competition in the labor market	5	34.2
Increasing number of poor citizens	10	16.4
Growing social tension in the territorial community	9	19.7
Rising crime	14	9.2
Providing housing for IDPs	2	46.7
Sociocultural difference (in language, traditions, values, lifestyle, etc.)	12	11.8
Rising housing and rental prices	6-7	30.3
Local budget deficit due to increased spending on IDP issues	11	15.1
It's hard to answer.	15	3.3

*Compiled from source (Novikova et al., 2018)

Table 1.2

Positive consequences of integrating IDPs into territorial communities, according to expert estimates, 2016-2017, % of all responses*

<i>What are the most significant positive outcomes of IDP integration expected in the territorial community where they reside?</i>	<i>%</i>
Growth of general social activity due to public activists from among IDPs	25.7
Activation of entrepreneurial activity, opening of new enterprises with new jobs for IDPs and community residents	43.4
Improving the image of the community at the local and regional level	3.9
Consumer market development	17.1

Filling vacancies in the labor market that are not in demand by the permanent population	14.5
Increasing the quality and quantity of labor potential	28.9
The growth of the number of public associations in the territorial community	12.5
Stimulating community development through assistance from international organizations to IDPs living in the community	31.6
Increasing the size of the community due to IDPs, which strengthens the capacity of the community	15.1
Increase in local budget revenues from taxes and IDP expenditures	21.1
Development of social infrastructure	4.6
Consolidation of efforts of IDPs, community, government, and business on the basis of partnership	14.5
Activation of innovation and investment activities in the region	6.6
It's hard to answer.	7.9

**Compiled from source (Novikova et al., 2018)*

The positive outcomes of IDP integration into territorial communities presented in Table 1.1.2 confirm the considerable resource potential of IDPs, which should be further supported to meet the development needs of the community. The main obstacles to effective integration and engagement of IDPs in the life of host communities are presented in Table 1.3.

Table 1.3

Obstacles to the effective involvement of IDPs in the life of host communities, according to expert assessments, 2016-2017., % of all responses*

<i>What are the most significant obstacles to the effective inclusion of IDPs in the life of host communities?</i>	<i>%</i>
Problems of providing housing for IDPs	69.1
Deficit of local resources, which does not allow solving the problems of providing IDPs with social services	46.1
Lack of motivation of IDPs to integrate into the community due to the hope of returning to their hometowns	33.6
Unemployment problems and creating new jobs in the community	32.9
Community's disregard for the problems and special needs of IDPs	21.7
Limited information in the media about positive examples of IDP integration into communities	15.8

Lack of informing local community representatives about the existing problems and special needs of IDPs and the need for their support	14.5
Internal community resistance to the integration of IDPs into the community due to their different political and cultural views and negative attitudes towards residents from the East	13.8
Peculiarities of the age structure of IDPs in the community	5.9
Other	4.6
It's hard to answer.	2.6

**Compiled from source (Novikova et al., 2018)*

The possibilities of transforming IDPs into a real resource for the development of territorial communities depend on the formation of priority measures for implementing this process through financial and economic stimulation of IDPs' entrepreneurial and labor activities, and the creation of appropriate favorable conditions locally and nationwide.

Thus, the analysis of studies on the problems of forced displacement in Ukraine due to armed aggression, relating to the first, most acute, phase of the first wave of forced displacement (2014-2016), shows that they thematically focused on identifying problems and responding to them by both IDPs, the authorities, and the population of the host communities. The problems of adaptation and integration of IDPs were studied quite widely, and an appropriate information and analytical base was formed for further research in these areas.

The second phase of the first wave of forced displacement (conditionally 2017-2021) was characterized by a significant stabilization of the situation for IDPs – the processes of forced internal displacement stabilized in quantitative terms – a certain number of IDPs somehow settled in new places, a certain part of those who could not settle - either returned to their homes in temporarily occupied territories, or, conversely, moved even further, beyond the borders of Ukraine. An important event that pushed the issue of IDPs into the background was the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences. The pandemic caused a new wave of dangers to the life and health of people – both for IDPs and for all other citizens of the country, which in conditions of armed aggression created a space of increased dangers and threats for everyone.

A characteristic feature of the research of this, conditionally “stable” period, was the growing attention to a more in-depth study of specific aspects of IDPs’ lives, with a strategic, long-term perception of IDP problems and the search for ways, methods, and directions for solving them based on the principles of long-term planning coming to the fore. And the key issue of this relatively stable period was the issue of comprehensive integration of IDPs into host communities.

In this context, the study “Assessment of Efforts to Integration Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine” conducted in 2017 is very indicative (NGO Right to Protection, 2017), organized by the Right to Protection Foundation. The objectives of the study were to identify the legislative, social and regulatory frameworks that facilitate or hinder social integration efforts, as well as to assess the effectiveness of past and current integration programs, and to identify best practices and approaches. Representatives of the host community, IDPs, and experts from non-governmental organizations, international organizations, local governments, and government services were interviewed. The results showed that the most effective approach, which had not been widely used before, was to provide local residents with the opportunity to benefit from interaction with IDPs (a rational choice). In fact, despite the rather unusual wording, this conclusion corresponds in its content to the perception of IDPs as a potential resource for community development. The authors of the study reveal in quite detail the main areas of activity and tools by which the integration of IDPs into host communities should take place.

Research into the integration of IDPs continued, also in the methodological aspect (CEDOS, 2019). In particular, two approaches to assessing the level of integration of IDPs were considered: 1) based on an agreed understanding of what constitutes successful integration (i.e. a system of criteria for successful integration), an assessment is made of the real level of integration according to these criteria and appropriate decisions and measures are developed; 2) a comparison of the situation of IDPs and the situation of residents of specific host communities according to a defined system of criteria. The first approach is more

suitable for planning and organizing activities at the regional and national levels, as it is based on a cross-cutting and unified system of criteria. The second approach is more flexible and allows taking into account the specifics of specific communities (since among them there are more or less wealthy ones, with different levels of their own problems). Accordingly, this approach is focused on achieving by IDPs a level of integration that is no worse than the level of a specific host community, taking into account the real ability of a specific community to provide IDPs with a particular level of satisfaction of their needs and integration. However, the second approach is more difficult to use at the regional and national levels, because it is actually a case-oriented approach focused on the local characteristics of specific communities.

An important cross-cutting aspect regarding the prospects for IDP integration throughout the research period was the issue of protecting the legal rights of IDPs. In particular, the study “Improving the National Legislation of Ukraine on the Protection of the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons” can serve as an example in the field of IDP rights protection (Council of Europe, 2019), which examines in detail the functioning of the state mechanism for regulating the protection of the rights of IDPs and the directions for its improvement, which was prepared within the framework of the implementation of the Council of Europe Project “Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Developing Durable Solutions.”

Analytical work was actively carried out on the problems of ensuring the political rights of IDPs (NISD, Assessment of the Status of Ensuring the Political Rights of IDPs: Main Problems and Prospects for Their Resolution. Analytical Note, 2019), including electoral rights at the local level, since any legal restrictions significantly reduce the possibilities of IDPs’ participation in decision-making regarding community life, and, accordingly, negatively affect the level of their integration. The study revealed that at that time the active electoral right of IDPs, as well as other mobile categories of the population within the country, to participate in elections was limited. In particular, almost 8% of

voters (IDPs and labor migrants) did not have the right to participate in the elections of people's deputies of Ukraine in single-mandate districts, in all types of local elections, as well as in the nationwide referendum at the place of actual residence. Based on the results of the study, recommendations were prepared aimed at solving this problem. Also characteristic of this period is the appearance of a significant number of methodological materials on solving the problems of IDPs in host communities, which summarize the accumulated experience of adapting and integrating IDPs into host communities. Such materials contain a lot of valuable information on the specified problem and are of a practical nature. An example is the "Methodological Guide for Assessing the Needs of IDPs in Communities" published in 2020 (Kobzin et al., 2020), which contains a significant amount of legal, organizational, methodological and other information on the problems of integrating IDPs into host communities. The appearance of such materials in itself is a sign that a fairly large amount of information has already been accumulated in the relevant field, which is necessary for organizing practical activities.

In 2022, Lviv sociologists from the Ivan Franko National University conducted systematic research into the social well-being of IDPs in Ukraine. Based on the results of the research, a monograph was prepared (Kovalisko & Bubnyak, 2022), which analyzed empirical data on the situation of IDPs in the spatio-temporal dimension of the first wave of forced internal displacement during 2014-2020. This book clarified the nature and peculiarities of the attitude of the population of Lviv region towards IDPs, and in the national context determined the level of their social well-being, types of behavior of IDPs in resolving life situations. IDPs are gradually adapting in Lviv, as they have acquired new social connections, acquired new knowledge and skills, mastered local social norms, and realized that they are the masters of their own lives and that their future fate depends on them. It is interesting that almost everyone among them noted that personal connections contributed to their employment and adaptation to their new place of residence. Therefore, IDPs are characterized by a

fairly high level of activity in their work and in public life. The local population continues to support them and has a more positive than negative attitude towards them... IDPs rely only on their own strength, seek to enter into social contacts and are generally satisfied with their lives. The vast majority do not expect help from the state due to various circumstances. The forced need to start all over again contributed to increasing the IDPs' own professional competence in order to find a new job and a worthy position in the new social environment. In 2019, IDPs are characterized by two types of behavior, namely **adaptants** and **dependents**. A significant share of adaptants has already come to terms with the fact that returning to the territory before resettlement is impossible. Therefore, an established life in an already mastered place of residence is a basis for considering new opportunities for their own development. However, dependents believe that the authorities are to blame for everything, which are obliged to provide them with all the necessary means of subsistence.

Ways to solve problematic life situations of IDPs through the prism of foreign experience are also considered.

Summarizing the results of research activities on the issues of adaptation and integration of IDPs during the first wave of forced displacement (spring 2014 - January 2022), the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The studies began almost immediately after the start of forced internal displacement and continued throughout the period. They focused on identifying the needs of IDPs, ways to meet them, obstacles and opportunities for meeting them. In a way, the entire spectrum of issues related to the adaptation and integration of IDPs in host communities was considered. Targeted studies were conducted on "Policy of Integration of Ukrainian Society in the Context of Challenges and Threats of Events in Donbas" (Libanova et al., 2015), study "Forced Displaced Persons and Host Communities: Lessons for Effective Social Adaptation and Integration" (Balakireva, 2016), "Assessment of efforts to integrate internally displaced persons in Ukraine" (NGO Right to Protection,

2017), “Integration of internally displaced persons into territorial communities: status diagnostics and support mechanisms” (Novikova et al., 2018).

2. Significant involvement and activity in the study of acute problems of IDPs was shown by the IDPs themselves from institutions that moved from the occupied territories of Donbas and Crimea – scientists, educators, entrepreneurs, publicists, and representatives of public associations. There was an active search for ways to solve urgent problems.

3. The conducted research revealed the priority needs and problems that need to be solved for the successful integration of IDPs – problems of housing, financial security – regular income; employment and job placement, access to public services; support of the local community – perception of internally displaced persons by the population of host communities; problems of medical and social security, support for IDP entrepreneurship, socio-psychological assistance and support, ensuring the protection of IDP rights, etc. Their solution required appropriate actions and activities on the part of the state, civil society, IDPs themselves, residents of host communities, international partners.

4. A powerful intensification of research on IDP problems and ways to solve them occurred during the active phase of the armed conflict. During 2014-2015, the largest number of IDPs was recorded, the severity of the problems increased, research provided an opportunity to ensure sensitivity to IDP problems, to search for ways and mechanisms for their solution. Therefore, during 2014-2016, the largest number of studies was conducted. From 2017 to January 2022, there was a relative stabilization of the processes of forced internal displacement, the arsenal of responses to urgent problems with IDPs from the state, civil society, and local residents increased, and the IDPs themselves adapted to new conditions and settled down.

5. Before the full-scale invasion, research continued, but the proportion of generalizing works increased, as well as works devoted to in-depth and comprehensive study of more specific aspects of IDP integration (e.g., regulatory and legal aspects of ensuring and protecting the rights of IDPs). It is quite

understandable that before the full-scale invasion, researchers focused more on solving the problems of the east of Ukraine.

6. Ukrainian scientific monographs, publications, and results of research conducted in Ukraine on the forced internal displacement of Ukrainians in the period 2014-2021 reveal the essence, severity, and specificity of the problems, needs of IDPs, and the possibilities of solving them in the first wave, and can serve as a starting point for forming a methodology for studying the issues of IDPs in conditions of full-scale armed aggression.

The results of the first wave of research became the basis for the development of a relevant state policy on the adaptation and integration of IDPs. Of course, the formed policy was not completely perfect, and was constantly being improved, but it already had a long-term strategic nature, with fully formed basic principles. But the full-scale invasion “broke” the conditions and key long-term guidelines for the implementation of this policy, and many issues of its implementation now require radical updating

1.2. The second wave of mass forced internal displacement of the Ukrainian population in the discourse of social integration: cases of 2022-2025

The full-scale aggression radically changed the scale and severity of the problems, requiring new research to diagnose the situation and respond appropriately in the new conditions. In a sense, the problems remained roughly the same as during the first wave of forced displacement, but on a radically greater scale and severity.

The foundation for the formation of methodological principles for a comprehensive study of problems of integration and adaptation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) of Ukraine to host communities, which is being implemented within the framework of the project “Ensuring social protection of ATO/JFO participants (combatants) and social integration of IDPs in the context

of increasing threats to social security in Ukraine”, remain scientific developments of the period 2014-2021, but the greatest importance is a whole galaxy of all-Ukrainian, regional, and local studies conducted by Ukrainian specialists since February 2022.

The scientific community responded promptly to new threats and challenges associated with a new wave of forced displacement after the start of a full-scale war. Already in 2022, a sociological study (using the focus group interview method) was conducted in the territorial communities of the Lviv region on the topic “Trends and risks of local economic development in wartime” (USAID, 2022). The organizers of the study were specialists from the State Institution “Institute of Regional Studies named after M. I. Dolishnyi of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine”, who were involved as experts in the project “Formation of local economic development programs through the integration of displaced enterprises and IDPs into the economic life of territorial communities”. The project was implemented thanks to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Main conclusions are: local self-government bodies (LSGs) demonstrated their openness and readiness to cooperate with both IDPs and enterprises that intend to relocate to the community.

IDPs have long become an integral part of the social “landscape” of modern Ukraine, so, accordingly, the study of the issues of IDPs has become an obligatory component of broader recent research devoted to the transformations of Ukrainian society in war conditions, where these issues are considered in a broad general social context (NISS, 2025). At the same time, more specific issues are being investigated, for example, the issue of attitudes towards refugees and IDPs (KIIS, 2025). In the context of this study, the issue of attitudes towards IDPs is an influential factor in their full integration into host communities.

Among the studies of recent years relating to the second wave of internal forced displacement of Ukrainians after the start of the full-scale invasion, the monographic study “Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons of Ukraine on the Paths of War: Steps of Invincibility” stands out (Biryukova, 2023), where at the

methodological level, a resource approach is also implemented, primarily, and issues of invincibility resources are considered, in particular – improving state management mechanisms for ensuring the rights of IDPs, the social well-being of refugees and IDPs, individual security practices in situations of military threats, etc.

The study “Integration of Internally Displaced Persons in Host Communities” conducted in 2023 by the public holding “Influence Group” attracts attention (Public holding “Influence Group”, 2023). It was dedicated to identifying the main problems and needs of IDPs that arise during their integration into host communities; the response of local authorities to the problems caused by forced internal displacement, and how the authorities contribute to the integration of IDPs; identifying approaches to implementing the rights and ensuring the needs of IDPs in conditions of full-scale war. The study revealed that housing, employment and material conditions remain the most pressing issues for IDPs, especially for those who moved during the first wave of forced displacement, starting in 2014. The issue of employment is one of the most difficult and, at the same time, one of the most important for the further integration of IDPs into the community. This challenge is especially acute for small communities, where the lack of jobs has long been an urgent problem for local residents. The problem is complicated by the lack of information from local authorities about available opportunities and vacancies. The majority of IDPs surveyed believe that housing benefits should be left indefinitely for the entire period of internal displacement. For them, these payments are the necessary minimum provided by the state to pay for utilities or rent, thus compensating for the lack of the opportunity to live in their own home. The results showed that to address the issue of housing provision, information on the existing housing stock in communities should be updated, which will allow for a quick understanding of which buildings can be converted, or even in which location to build new housing. It is important that such activity is possible only in the synergy of IDPs, local and central authorities, as well as the public.

The International Research and Exchanges Council (IREX) within the framework of the “Unity for Action” program, together with the sociological center “Socioinform”, conducted a study “Attitudes, challenges and opportunities for the integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) into selected host communities” (International Research and Exchanges Council (IREX), 2023)

Methodologically important for solving the research tasks is the concept of resilience – as a certain integral concept that reflects the ability of a person, community, society as a whole to resist negative/destructive influences, both from outside and inside. A theoretical and methodological analysis of this concept is contained in the publication by Zlobina “Factors of preserving the viability of the population during war” (Zlobina, 2023). Already in the context of this research project, a comprehensive analysis of resilience is used as a fundamental concept in the analysis of human social security in wartime conditions, where human resilience is understood as the ability of a person to tolerantly perceive and withstand threats to personal life, society, and country, the ability to adapt and act constructively in emergency situations, maintain physical and mental health, be stress-resistant, increase the level of resilience – to recover, adapt, develop (Novikova et al., 2024). It is this integral indicator that is key to understanding the possibilities of full integration of IDPs and combatants.

The scientific discourse on the problems of IDPs in Ukraine during the period of full-scale invasion would be incomplete if we did not mention the scientific achievements of the authors of this monograph, prepared within the framework of the project “Ensuring social protection of ATO/JFO participants (combatants) and social integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in conditions of increasing threats to social security in Ukraine” commissioned by the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (DR No. 0123U102841). Thus, among the scientific research achievements and publications, it is worth noting the works devoted to the social integration of IDPs in Ukraine in the light of problems and challenges for the management of local communities (Roshchyk et al., 2024); on the conceptualization and logic of research on the needs, problems

and opportunities of social integration of IDPs of Ukraine in the context of increasing threats to social security (Pankova & Krol, 2023); on the strategic principles of the state policy of Ukraine regarding internal displacement and integration of IDPs into host communities (Pankova, 2023). Special attention should be paid to publications on the role of veteran business in the processes of social adaptation of combatants (Samolyuk et al., 2023); on the current needs of combatants (UBD) as the basis for their effective social protection (Grishnova et al., 2023); on the formation of human social security on the basis of resilience in wartime using the example of Ukrainian IDPs (Novikova et al., 2024); on the integration of temporarily relocated higher education institutions and IDPs into the competitive environment of the educational services market during the period of new threats to social security (Mazur, 2023), etc.

An important aspect of research after the start of a full-scale invasion is the analysis of the social consequences of large-scale forced displacement. This is the question addressed in the study “Social Consequences of Forced Internal Displacement of the Population in Ukraine” (Malynovska & Yatsenko, 2024). The results revealed that the main consequences include sudden poverty and mass impoverishment of the population affected by military actions, which suffered significant human and material losses; deterioration of the quality of life and transition to a survival mode, significant increase in property inequality, exclusion of thousands of people from the production process due to loss of jobs, own businesses, mobilization; sharp deterioration in the mental and physical health of IDPs, the emergence of tensions in relations between IDPs and residents of host communities, etc.

Recently, the problems and needs of vulnerable categories of the population affected by the war have been studied. IDPs are a separate vulnerable category. In the report of the research project “Study of the needs of target groups among vulnerable categories of the population of Ukraine” (implemented in 2021-2023, with the participation of the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology - KIIS), a separate section is devoted to the problems and needs of IDPs (KIIS, 2023). The

results of the study revealed that IDPs are a category that is particularly in need of socialization and a safe space for communication (the IDP category is the most receptive to the topic of psychological assistance – 25% need psychological or emotional support). The study revealed the hierarchy of needs of IDPs at that time (the most acute were lack of money, negative emotional state, the need to improve housing conditions, unemployment, etc.).

The National Institute for Strategic Studies continues its active research activities. In particular, it studies the issues of providing assistance to IDPs (including the possibilities of receiving assistance from international organizations) (NISD, 2022), as well as comprehensive analytics on internal forced displacement processes, IDP problems and ways to solve them (NISD, 2023). Unsatisfactory income levels and economic marginalization remain the main obstacles to the integration of forced migrants. For the state, there is a real risk of losing its population due to the departure abroad of some IDPs who were unable to establish their lives in their homeland. Thus, in Europe, the cohort of refugees from Ukraine will be replenished at the expense of internal migrants.

Since 2014, the Institute of Social and Political Psychology (ISPP) of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine has been actively working with IDPs on overcoming psychological trauma caused by war, implementing rehabilitation programs and seminars for IDPs, for combatants, and for the population affected by war; researching the problems of adaptation of IDPs, access to social services and support, ensuring social cohesion through joint interaction, as well as psychological, social, and economic aspects of integration. Among the key problems that need to be addressed and on which employees of the state institution are actively working are: psychological trauma and stress from war, social stigmatization and discrimination, difficulties with employment and housing, as well as problems with access to education and social services. ISPP research is aimed at developing scientifically based methods and programs to facilitate these processes (Institute of Social and Political Psychology, 2014-2025).

The contribution of public and charitable organizations is significant. Thus, the Charity Foundation “Right to Protection” implements activities in the field of protection of the rights of IDPs, refugees and stateless persons and is one of the leaders of the human rights movement in Ukraine. The organization has been implementing projects aimed at the social adaptation and integration of IDPs in Ukraine since 2014. Currently, the Foundation’s specialists are using new approaches and conducting sociological research that contribute to a deeper understanding of the problems and conflicts that arise locally in conditions of full-scale war. The development of effective tools for the social adaptation of IDPs for further integration is valuable, including:

Tool I. Psychological support: “Even a simple question works: ‘How are you?’”

Tool II. Vocational training and retraining: “Territory of acceptance and equality”

Tool III. Art therapy, participation in the cultural life of the community: “People are looking for self-realization and soft integration in a new space”

Tool IV. Access to social services and support: “Every day and every hour can be crucial for a person’s life and health”

Tool V. Social cohesion through shared interaction: “Displaced persons bring additional talents, experience to the community”

Tool VI. Implementation of policies and programs that promote the social adaptation of IDPs.

Active work continues on creating scientifically based methodological guides on practical tools for the social integration of IDPs into host communities, while also using new forms of placement and working with relevant materials (Right to Protection Foundation, 2023).

Without a systematic methodological, scientific and practical, methodical basis, it is practically impossible to find optimal ways of responding to acute problems, it is difficult to make sound decisions of a strategic and tactical nature in order to create conditions for the livelihood of war-affected categories of the

population, and to transform IDPs into a resource for development. This is extremely important for achieving victories and successes in the reconstruction of the country.

In summary, we can note the following.

1. Research activity on the issues related to the processes of adaptation and integration of IDPs during the second wave of forced displacement has fully retained its thematic focus, and even expanded and intensified to some extent, given the severity and scale of the problems. At the same time, at this stage, the achievements of the first wave period are fully used – but, of course, in a new context.

2. The number of field studies has increased (compared to the second stage of the first wave), which is obviously due to the scale and dynamics of forced displacement after the start of large-scale armed aggression. At the same time, the role and comprehensive support of research by various international organizations remained active.

3. In the context of the urgent need to update state policy on the integration of IDPs, a highly sought-after area of research is comprehensive research on IDP problems, which is necessary precisely from the point of view of forming an appropriate state policy in the context of a large-scale armed conflict with an uncertain end date.

1.3. Main Ukrainian research institutions/structures and foreign studies on the problems of forced internal displacement of Ukrainians in the discourse of social integration

Over the past decade, Ukraine has experienced (and continues to experience) mass forced displacement processes twice – the first wave from March 2014 to January 2022 (active phase - 2014-2016) and the second, much more powerful wave of forced migration of Ukrainians began after February 24, 2022 due to full-

scale armed Russian aggression against Ukraine and continues to this day. Despite certain features of the forced displacement of the population of Ukraine during both waves, which are regional and nationwide in nature, the main reason was common – saving one’s own life and health, the lives of family members from the direct dangers of war in zones of active hostilities, systematic shelling, and occupation.

A specific feature of the second wave is the radically larger scale of forced migrations of the population, the mass departure of Ukrainian refugees abroad to preserve their own lives and health. During the years of independence and until 2014, Ukraine had no experience of large-scale forced internal displacements, so this became an extremely powerful challenge for Ukrainian citizens, the system of state and local government, and the entire Ukrainian society. The topic of integration of IDPs into host communities has been one of the central ones in socio-humanitarian and political research in Ukraine since 2014. It has been especially relevant since the period of full-scale invasion – since 2022. The subject of research is tracking the features of forced internal displacement processes, the regulatory and legal framework, tools for supporting IDPs at the state and host communities levels, targeted studies of the needs of IDPs, the problems of their integration into host communities (introduced by international and domestic structures).

The basic part of the research on both the first and second waves of mass forced internal displacement of Ukrainians as a result of armed Russian aggression (both general studies and those focused on the context of IDP integration) was conducted by domestic scientists and specialists. At the same time, the analysis of successful global practices of social integration of IDPs requires a harmonious combination of the results of research by Ukrainian scientists (who are better oriented in the specifics of the situation with the integration of Ukrainian IDPs) and foreign specialists (who have relevant experience in researching IDP integration problems in other countries).

The analysis conducted in sections 1.1. and 1.2. allows for identifying the main Ukrainian research institutions and their areas of activity on the problems of forced internal displacement during the first and second waves. It turned out that these institutions are diverse, and include academic and educational structures, research centers, and public organizations. A list of the main ones and the main specifics of the research are given in Table 1.4.

Table 1.4

List of Ukrainian research institutions and areas of their activity on the problems of forced internal displacement in conditions of protracted war (2014-2025)

<i>Name of institution</i>	<i>Specificity of research</i>	
ACADEMIC, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, NATIONAL RESEARCH STRUCTURES		
M.V. Ptukha Institute of Demography and Social Research, NAS of Ukraine	Conducting comprehensive research on the problems of forced displacement (both internal and external), developing strategic solutions at the state level to form effective policies in the field of social protection, social support, employment and integration of IDPs. Research is conducted continuously, during both waves.	
Institute of Industrial Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine	Institutions – IDPs – displaced from Donetsk	
Institute of Economic and Legal Research of the NAS of Ukraine		Research on the problems of internally displaced persons (IDPs), analysis of their potential as a resource for the development of host communities, assessment of the state of integration of IDPs and their impact on local communities, formation of strategic principles of the state policy of Ukraine on internal displacement and integration of IDPs in conditions of armed aggression. Targeted research was conducted in 2014-2020, now - selective.
Institute of Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine		Assessment and development of legal mechanisms aimed at protecting the rights and freedoms of IDPs (social protection of IDPs, social security, housing, employment and other aspects defined by the legislation of Ukraine and international law; participation in the development of regulatory legal acts relating to the rights and interests of IDPs, ensuring their scientific and legal substantiation. The bulk of the research relates to the first wave of internal displacement.
I.F. Kuras Institute of Political and Ethno-National Studies, NAS of Ukraine	Research into socio-economic aspects related to internally displaced persons (IDPs), development of analytical materials and recommendations for public policy; analysis of challenges related to forced population displacement, development of proposals for using the migration potential of IDPs for the reconstruction of the country; strategic forecasting and scientific substantiation of decisions necessary for the integration of IDPs	
	Research into various aspects of IDP socialization in host communities, their socio-cultural integration, the specifics of IDP interaction with host communities; the impact of forced	

	displacement on the political views, identity, and integration of IDPs in new communities.
State Institution "Institute of Regional Studies named after M.I. Dolishny" NAS of Ukraine	The research is aimed at analyzing the socio-demographic profile of forced migration, the challenges and threats it poses to the social infrastructure of host regions (in particular the Carpathian region); studying the impact of IDPs on the infrastructure and other aspects of the life of host communities, as well as tools for reducing the social vulnerability of IDPs and integrating them into host communities.
Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine	Conducting annual monitoring, research on migration processes, situations with IDPs and refugees: socio-psychological consequences of forced internal displacement, social integration of IDPs, etc. Research is conducted on an ongoing basis
Institute of Social and Political Psychology (ISPP) of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine	Research into the psychological problems of IDPs, problems of socio-psychological adaptation and integration of IDPs, emotional state, needs for psychological assistance of IDPs).
National Institute for Strategic Studies (NISS)	Based on a systematic strategic approach, the research and analytical materials address a wide range of problems of internally displaced persons (IDPs) related to social integration, housing, employment, and legal protection, adaptation of IDPs in the new social environment, their interaction with host communities and ensuring access to quality social services. International experience in solving IDP problems is systematized and recommendations are provided for improving national legislation. Research is conducted continuously, during both waves.
Ukrainian Catholic University	The main areas of research are assessment of needs and mechanisms for assisting IDPs, social adaptation and integration of IDPs, mechanisms for providing housing, etc. Research is conducted continuously, during both waves.
RESEARCH AND ANALYTICAL CENTERS, PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS	
Razumkov Center	Conducting regular sociological research on the perception of IDPs by society, analyzing the impact of migration on the socio-economic situation and national security. Issues of social integration of IDPs into new communities and the possibility of using their potential as a resource for the development of territories through economic integration (employment, retraining). Research is conducted continuously, during both waves.
Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS)	Regular sociological surveys on attitudes towards refugees, internally displaced persons, the level of social distance and xenophobic sentiments among the Ukrainian population, the socio-psychological climate around IDPs, which is important for developing a policy of social cohesion and integration. Research is conducted continuously, during both waves.
Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation	Analysis of key socio-humanitarian needs of IDPs, integration processes and society's attitude towards IDPs; IDPs'

	expectations regarding the timing of their return home, reconstruction opportunities and life prospects in a new place; the level of IDPs' involvement in volunteer activities, their willingness to join the recovery processes in Ukraine. Research is conducted during both waves
Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER)	Research on the impact of forced internal displacement on the national economy, assessment of the effectiveness of state social policies and IDP assistance programs; economic aspects, financial status of IDP households, registration processes; assessment of the effectiveness of state social policies and IDP assistance programs. Research is conducted continuously, during both waves.
CEDOS (think tank).	Research on IDP integration processes, development of systemic solutions for developing mechanisms for monitoring the situation with IDPs by state structures, proposals for changing the principles of housing policy and stimulating the development of social housing for IDPs. Development of tools for assessing and measuring the possibilities of implementing IDPs in host cities and communities of Ukraine, calculation of the index of social integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Research is conducted continuously, during both waves.
Ukrainian Institute of Social Research named after O. Yaremenko	Research on the needs of IDPs, respect for IDP rights, research on vulnerable groups of IDPs, integration into host communities. Research is conducted continuously, throughout both waves.
P. Orlyk Institute of Democracy	Research is being conducted in the context of mediatization (identification of media images of IDPs), problems of social integration through the media; communication and information aspects of the lives of IDPs, and their political participation. Research is being conducted continuously, throughout both waves.

Of particular interest are studies conducted by academic institutions whose workforce was forced to relocate from Donetsk to Kyiv due to the armed conflict in Donbas, as specialists from such institutions combine scientific methods with their own experience in the status of IDPs in their research. These include, in particular, specialists from the Institute of Industrial Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Institute of Economic and Legal Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The scientific and practical achievement of these IDP scholars was the publication of collective monographs “Internally Displaced Persons: From Overcoming Obstacles to a Strategy for Success” (Novikova et al., 2016), as well as “Integration of internally displaced persons into territorial communities: status diagnostics and support

mechanisms” (Novikova et al., 2018), which are based on the results of expert surveys of both IDPs themselves and representatives of specialized structures dealing with solving IDP problems.

IDPs are considered as carriers of valuable socio-economic, professional and other resources, the involvement of which, on the one hand, will contribute to the development of host communities, and on the other hand, through the establishment of social, professional and other ties with the host community, will contribute to the integration of IDPs and the resolution of their problems.

In general, it can be noted that before the start of the full-scale invasion, Ukraine had accumulated extensive research and practical experience in addressing the problems of IDPs and creating mechanisms for their integration into host communities. The IOM national monitoring system and UNHCR monitoring studies on refugee rights were being improved. This created a certain foundation for addressing the problems of IDPs. However, the full-scale aggression that began on February 24, 2022, radically changed the scale and severity of the problems, and activated the request for new research to diagnose the situation, find optimal solutions, and respond appropriately in the new conditions.

For many comprehensive studies conducted in Ukraine, the integration discourse of internal displacement problems is becoming leading: “Integration of Internally Displaced Persons in Host Communities” (Public Holding “Influence Group”, 2023). Since IDPs have long become an integral part of the social “landscape” of modern Ukraine, research on the issues of IDPs has become an obligatory component of research devoted to the transformations of Ukrainian society in wartime conditions, where these issues are considered in a broad societal context (NISS, 2025). At the same time, more specific issues are being investigated, for example, the issue of attitudes towards refugees, IDPs and residents in places of displacement (KIIS, 2025), social well-being of IDPs, resilience, and resilience practices of IDPs (Biryukova, 2023).

An important aspect of the research remains the strengthening of the constructive role of local authorities in solving the problems of IDPs and ensuring their integration into host communities. This integration requires the full involvement of IDPs in community life in the following areas: political and religious integration, economic integration, integration into the cultural and sports life of the community, integration into public and political life, socio-psychological integration. Each of these areas requires the development of appropriate effective mechanisms and practices (Roshchuk et al., 2024). Issues important from the point of view of IDP integration are also being studied, such as the specifics of the acquired experience of long-term displacement, in the context of changing people's attitudes towards the status of an IDP, and the experience of their interaction with the state in the status of an IDP (Tarkhanova, 2023).

It is appropriate to begin the review of foreign research on the issue of IDPs in the discourse of social integration with the important study "Understanding Integration: Conceptual Principles", which was published back in 2008 (i.e., long before the start of armed aggression in Ukraine and the first wave of forced internal displacement) (Ager & Strang, 2008). Within the framework of this study, the authors provide a hierarchical system of conceptual principles for identifying key areas of integration, which looks like this:

1. Foundation: human rights and citizenship
2. Facilitators: 1) language and cultural awareness; 2) security and stability.
3. Social connection: 1) social bridges; 2) social ties; 3) social contacts.
4. Markers and means: 1) employment; 2) housing; 3) education; 4) healthcare (Ager & Strang, 2008).

The specified system is indeed exclusively framework in nature, but precisely due to its focus on the main aspects of integration and clear internal structure, it can serve as a clear and effective methodological and analytical tool in studying the problems of IDP integration in Ukraine.

After the beginning of the armed aggression against Ukraine, the international scientific community did not remain aloof from the research of the problems of Ukrainian IDPs, including in the aspect of their integration. The integration discourse is traced in foreign studies on Ukrainian IDPs during the period of full-scale war, conducted by foreign scientists. There are not so many of them, but there are valuable findings in methodological plans. Thus, it is worth noting the use of such an integral indicator as subjective well-being, which is calculated for both IDPs and members of the host communities for further comparison (Subjective Well-Being) (Perelli-Harris, 2023). The idea is to identify the extent to which the subjective well-being of IDPs differs from the subjective well-being of the population in places of displacement and to what extent the gap in the level of subjective well-being between IDPs and the local population is influenced by economic hardship, inadequate housing conditions and insufficient social support for IDPs (Perelli-Harris, 2023). The study found that the degree of integration of IDPs depends on the favorable conditions for their livelihoods. The losses of income, housing, material well-being, social ties and social protection experienced by IDPs are the main factors in the gap in life satisfaction indicators between IDPs and local residents (Perelli-Harris, 2023).

In general, a significant number of foreign studies on the integration of Ukrainian IDPs focus on comparison with relevant aspects of the life of permanent residents of the host community. The level of satisfaction of needs and integration into socio-economic life in places of displacement serves as a basis for comparison. This is a completely correct approach, because the level of subjective well-being of IDPs is perceived in comparison with the level of life and well-being of residents of the host community. Feedback is important to mitigate the social consequences of forced displacement, to support IDPs.

Foreign studies, the subject of which are Ukrainian IDPs, reveal in detail certain aspects of the integration of IDPs, for which a significant number of indicators are used. For example, the provision of housing to IDPs (housing status) is considered as a multidimensional construct that includes the right to own

housing, its quality and quantity, and reflects positions in the hierarchy of housing stratification. At the same time, all these aspects are taken into account when calculating integral indicators of housing satisfaction, in a similar comparison with local residents. Thus, the results of the study revealed significant property gaps between IDPs and local residents (Zavisca et al., 2023). This is an important emphasis that is relevant in the formation of relevant state policy – while overall housing provision for IDPs is improving, the gap between IDPs and local residents remains radical in terms of such a parameter as housing ownership. The aforementioned study also operates with the integral indicator “Subjective housing-related well-being”. The authors of the aforementioned study note that the feeling of whether a person feels “at home” in a new environment is also important – i.e., the traditional and rather mechanical understanding of housing provision as a certain level of housing conditions is supplemented by an important psychological aspect of “feeling at home”. In our opinion, this is really important if we understand the integration of IDPs as a complex phenomenon, which also has a psychological dimension (Zavisca et al., 2023).

Western researchers quite widely use certain constructs in analyzing the processes of IDP integration, which are generally not inherent in the Ukrainian scientific discourse in this area. For example, in such an important aspect for IDP integration as the formation of relations between internally displaced persons and local authorities, the concept of “local social contract” is used as a product of the gradual process of developing trust in state institutions at the local level. The implementation of a local social contract should contribute to ensuring IDP access to the development and adoption of decisions in the formation of local policy; reducing inequality between displaced and non-displaced residents, as well as creating formal platforms for civic participation. As a result, IDPs should become more “visible” to local authorities (Weihmayer, 2024).

An important area of research is the identification of risk factors that may negatively affect the adaptation and integration of IDPs, as well as supporting factors that, on the contrary, contribute to adaptation and integration. In the

framework of the study of these factors and the corresponding coping strategies, both groups of factors were divided into individual factors (i.e. inherent in the personality) and environmental factors (socio-environmental factors) (Rizzi et al., 2023). Among the significant individual risk factors were identified the following: financial instability, the presence of mental disorders, lack of sleep, belonging to women (female gender), IDP status, a sense of perceived threat, student status, helplessness and loss of hope, use of narcotic and other similar substances, refusal to fight (submission to circumstances), unhealthy patriotism. The following were attributed to socio-environmental risk factors: immediate threat of hostilities, presence of wounded or displaced relatives, torture or sexual violence, dissatisfaction with basic needs, unfamiliar or non-inclusive host environment, social isolation, cultural and language barriers. Protective factors were also identified, both individual and socio-environmental. Individual protective factors include: faith and religion, national identity, sense of humor, compassion (empathy), feelings of gratitude, feelings of security and planning for the future. The main socio-environmental protective factors are: the presence of effective support networks, developed communication, help from others and the presence of pets (Rizzi et al., 2023).

The study identified 5 coping strategies implemented by IDPs: 1) emotion-focused strategies (focused on managing emotional stress related to the trauma of displacement); 2) problem-focused strategies (focused on actively solving problems and overcoming the main stressors of displacement – e.g., finding housing or work); 3) avoidance strategies (focused on avoiding thoughts about traumatic events or current stressors); 4) faith-based strategies (focused on using religious or spiritual beliefs and practices to find strength and meaning); 5) belonging-based strategies (focused on finding connection and community with other people). Problem-focused strategies were the most effective and sustainable in overcoming difficulties, while simultaneously reducing dependence on emotional-avoidant strategies (Rizzi et al., 2023). The study highlights that social connections and inclusive interventions at the community level are vital for

improving the psychological well-being and resilience of Ukrainian refugees and IDPs.

It is important to note that multidimensional concepts (models) for assessing the integration of IDPs, which include a psychosocial component, have become part of the fundamental documents of relevant UN structures in recent years. An example is the “Sense of Belonging” model, which includes dignity, peace, rootedness and identity, and also affects access to services, employment opportunities and connections with host communities. This model is integrated into official UNHCR strategic documents (United Nations General Assembly, 2025).

Comparison of foreign and domestic research on the issues of integrating IDPs into host communities allows us to note the following.

1. Foreign scientific research focuses more on in-depth study of individual aspects of integration, ensuring multi-faceted and multidimensional analysis of the phenomena under study. At the same time, they sometimes lack a connection with the broader general processes taking place in Ukrainian society as a result of large-scale aggression. At the same time, several years may pass from the field stage to the publication of research results, which somewhat reduces the efficiency and value of the results obtained for developing appropriate policies and developing and making decisions regarding the integration of IDPs.

2. Domestic studies usually cover a wider range of issues related to meeting the needs of IDPs and integration problems, but look more simplified compared to similar foreign studies. The socio-psychological dimension of IDP integration into host communities is presented in a narrower way. However, it is domestic studies that allow us to develop practical solutions to influence the course of forced internal displacement processes, substantiate regulatory mechanisms, identify successful integration practices and obstacles to their implementation, etc. They provide operational results, which is valuable when making relevant decisions by state and local authorities, as well as when developing and implementing policies on IDP integration.

In the context of analyzing the prerequisites for adapting successful global practices of social integration of IDPs in Ukraine, it is advisable to combine both types of research, because the depth and multifacetedness of foreign research should be combined with the complexity and efficiency of research by domestic scientists.

The analysis conducted allows us to form a comprehensive vision of the key dimensions of IDP integration into host communities, identify relevant indicators of successful IDP integration, and correlate them with regulatory mechanisms and practices (Table 1.5).

Table 1.5

Key dimensions and indicators of successful IDP integration with identification of relevant regulatory mechanisms, measures

<i>Dimension integration IDPs</i>	<i>Key indicators of successful integration (2023–2025)</i>	<i>Theoretical basis / Sources (main)</i>	<i>Regulatory mechanisms, measures</i>
1. Institutional and legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent residence registration or alternative mechanism • Access to social benefits, medical, and educational services without discrimination • Participation in decision-making at the local level through the activities of IDP councils 	Ager & Strang (2008); Tarkhanova (2023); Weihmayer (2024);	Improving regulatory and legal support (including local regulatory and legal acts); creating transparent and effective mechanisms for access to guaranteed social services.
2. Economical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment rate $\geq 70\%$ of able-bodied IDPs • Income not lower than 80% of the community average • Availability of own or long-term housing • Participation in local SMEs/entrepreneurship 	Zavisca et al. (2023); IOM (2025b); Roshchik et al. (2024).	Implementation of long-term programs to provide IDPs with housing; promotion and support of IDP entrepreneurial activity; creation of jobs for IDPs at local enterprises; vocational training and retraining of IDPs; introduction of benefits for employers when employing IDPs
3. Socio-psychological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subjective well-being (SWB) 	Perelli-Harris et al. (2023); UNHCR Mental Health Reports 2024–2025	Implementation of services and structures of socio-psychological support; promotion of

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of clinically significant anxiety/depression • Feeling of “I am at home here” \geq 60% of respondents • Presence of mixed social networks, communication platforms (IDPs + local residents) 	<p>The “Sense of Belonging” Model in the Context of IDPs Ager & Strang (2008); Rizzi et al. (2023); Roshchyk et al. (2024).</p>	<p>integration of communication networks of IDPs and local residents into single networks; involvement of IDPs in local socially significant initiatives; formation of mixed IDP assistance groups – from IDPs themselves and local residents</p>
4.Sociocultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local tolerance \geq 75% • Participation of IDPs in joint cultural, sports, and volunteer activities \geq 50% • Absence of systematic conflicts “IDPs–local residents” • Recognition of IDPs as a “community resource” 	Roshchyk et al. (2024).	Involving IDPs in local cultural, sports, environmental and other events; establishing links between IDPs and local residents around solving common community problems; identifying and preventing conflicts between IDPs and local residents
5. Political / civil / religious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDP representation in community councils or advisory bodies • Ability to influence local decisions (participatory budget, petitions, etc.) • The feeling of “I can make a difference here” • Possibility of free religion, availability of conditions for this 	Weihmayer (2024) – “local social contract”; Tarkhanova (2023); Roshchyk et al. (2024).	Creating mechanisms for IDP participation in the political life of the community and decision-making; forming mechanisms for permanent representation of IDPs in local authorities; ensuring conditions for free religious practice by IDPs, through participation in the life of local religious communities

The combination of key dimensions (directions) of IDP integration into host communities according to specific indicators with relevant effective practices and mechanisms creates comprehensive prerequisites for the formation of IDP integration policy and its strategic principles at all levels – from the conceptual level to the level of direct practical activity.

CONCLUSIONS

The main feature of the mass forced internal migration of Ukrainians in the conditions of a protracted war is its indefinite duration. Therefore, important tasks for the authorities and the public sector are to determine the desired individual strategies for the further life path of IDPs, as well as to develop a socio-economic policy aimed at the adaptation, integration and social inclusion of this group in the host communities. Summing up the analysis of research on the IDP issue during both waves from 2014 to 2025, it is worth noting that at this point a truly powerful theoretical, methodological and methodological basis has been created for solving the problems of IDPs and ensuring their full adaptation and integration into the host communities. The relevant developments have been reflected both in the principles of state policy and in the organization of direct practical activities of subjects of public relations on the ground.

However, the full-scale aggression has radically changed the conditions and context for resolving IDP problems, and many issues that could already be considered effectively resolved have emerged with renewed vigor, requiring new answers that are adequate to the scale and severity of the problems. In addition, the situation of uncertainty regarding the specific circumstances of the further course of the war, the terms and conditions for achieving peace have significantly limited the possibilities of long-term planning of activities to resolve IDP problems and meet their needs, their adaptation and integration into host communities. An important strategic change regarding internally displaced persons in Ukraine (since March 2024) has been that state policy blurs the boundaries of this extremely vulnerable social group and integrates IDPs into the general category of the country's war-affected population.

It is the need to study, in a certain sense, traditional issues of adaptation and integration of IDPs, but in conditions of long-term full-scale aggression, with a different level of severity and scale of these issues, that determines the feasibility of implementing the project “Ensuring social protection of ATO/JFO participants (combatants) and social integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in

conditions of increasing threats to social security in Ukraine”. Based on the existing developments of the period 2014-2021, as well as on the results of theoretical, methodological, empirical research implemented directly within the framework of this project, it is planned to substantiate a set of recommendations, the implementation of which will contribute to a significant increase in the efficiency of the processes of adaptation and integration of IDPs in the new conditions.

CHAPTER 2.

SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT OF PROBLEMS IN UKRAINE

2.1. Social integration of internally displaced persons: research areas and methodology for assessing

The problem of forced internal displacement is not new in migration research. However, in recent decades, the issue has become critical: according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, over the past 12 years (from 2013 to 2024), the number of internally displaced persons worldwide has more than doubled: from 33.3 to 84.3 million people (IDMC, 2025). A significant share of these people are internally displaced persons in Ukraine. In particular, Europe and Central Asia recorded 846,000 internal displacements in 2024, nearly 60 percent associated with the conflict between Russia and Ukraine (IDMC, 2025). Internal displacements in Ukraine are caused by war, and therefore, they are often associated with loss of housing and destruction of the territory. This means the prospect of long-term or irreversible displacement for a significant number of such people, which increases the need for social integration of IDPs into new communities.

The existing methodological and applied tools for researching the social integration of migrants exhibit a notable pattern – the vast majority of such studies focus on external migration. This orientation is understandable given that external migration involves more risks. They are considered by scientists in the light of the problems of migrants entering the labor markets (Kochaniak et al., 2024; Mishchuk et al., 2025), the provision of social services at the expense of host countries (Sułkowski et al., 2025), macroeconomic consequences for countries, in particular, changes in investment attractiveness and the overall dynamics of economic development (Tutar et al., 2024; Zatonatskiy et al., 2024), the stability of public administration systems in conditions of intensive migration

(Chugaievska & Wisła, 2023; Pavlovskiy et al., 2024; Pyatnychuk et al., 2024), opportunities for ensuring well-being (Aliyev et al., 2023; Burliai et al., 2023; Vasylieva et al., 2023). The study of factors of migration activity covers different age and gender groups. Such works frequently concern the youth and women, which, due to the greatest impact of such migration flows on the demographic prospects of both host and donor countries (Berde & Remsei, 2025; Mishchuk & Oliinyk, 2025; Vasylytsiv et al., 2024). Many problems related to changes in labor markets under the influence of migrants have become especially noticeable against the background of the pandemic and post-pandemic market changes (Kuzior et al., 2024; Saher et al., 2024; Vysochyna et al., 2024). The negative consequences of migration often lead to the development of restrictive policies towards migrants (Brumat & Feline Freier, 2023) and are embodied in the form of various kinds of barriers, particularly in employment and entrepreneurship (Badalič, 2023; Palmer & Piper, 2023; Sabary & Ključnikov, 2023).

Of course, in the case of external migration, such consequences are very noticeable and attract considerable attention from scholars and practitioners. However, the increasing intensity of forced internal migration is also becoming an increasingly important object of scientific research. Even within a single country, population movements are accompanied by problems of social protection and sometimes social tension between local residents and IDPs (Oliinyk et al., 2025).

In this regard, the problem of social integration of IDPs becomes very significant and grows as the war continues, especially after the full-scale invasion in 2022. Some IDPs have been exposed to such extreme events twice – first as a result of the occupation of part of the eastern regions in 2014, and later – with the outbreak of the war in 2022 (Porkuian et al., 2023). In this context, IDPs face both numerous personal problems (moral and material) and are forced to adapt to new communities, which requires balanced approaches to the application of inclusive development mechanisms, improving local self-government practices regarding IDPs, which is currently reflected in scientific discussions on IDP problems in

Ukraine. They are currently considered in different contexts. Problems of local governance of relations with IDPs are very common (Porkuian et al., 2023; Voznyak et al., 2023), especially in light of new military threats (Karolyi et al., 2025), problems of effective use of budget funds for social support programs for IDPs (Bilan et al., 2025; Yurchyk et al., 2023; Yurchyk et al., 2025), ensuring basic life needs, in particular in housing, healthcare, social protection (Krakhmalova, 2018; Perelli-Harris et al., 2023; Zewude & Siraw, 2024), establishing sustainable ties with the new social environment (Orendain & Djalante, 2021). In fact, the works cited directly or indirectly relate to security – both for IDPs themselves (in terms of ensuring their life needs and respecting rights in new communities), and for host communities (in terms of the quality of relations and understanding with new residents, changes in labor markets, living conditions, comparability of political and other beliefs).

All these problems often become barriers to successful social integration and lead to new waves of displacement, often abroad, which increases threats to the demographic reproduction of the population. Therefore, identifying gaps in ensuring the social integration of IDPs and the most relevant areas of efforts for such integration is an important scientific task.

It is worth noting that there is little progress in its solution and ambiguity of the sub-sections to the assessment of integration itself, and not the related problems of forced internal migrants. For a comprehensive assessment of the social integration of IDPs, despite the significance of this problem in the global dimension, a single reliable methodological basis has not yet been created. Currently, numerous studies in this area, including those funded by foreign government and public programs, are reduced mainly either to subjective assessments of the feeling of integration into local communities, or to objective indicators of compliance with certain integration criteria, which in fact coincide more with the criteria of quality of life, but not “integration” in the conceptual understanding of this concept.

One of the most relevant approaches that offers the possibility of a comprehensive assessment remains the methodology used in the process of National monitoring of the situation with internally displaced persons. The monitoring has been carried out since 2016, but over the three rounds that have been conducted (the last one in 2021), the assessment of respondents has remained almost at the same level, with only 55% fully integrated and 34% partially integrated (IOM, 2021, p.11). But the methodology for assessing integration is based on sociological surveys on the general subjective perception of the level of integration, as well as individual partial factors. At the same time, the composition of factors, although somewhat supplemented in 2021, is still debatable. For example, relationships with family and friends indicate more about the preservation of existing ties, rather than the building of new ones; provision of housing, work, access to social services, and basic living conditions are signs of social protection, not integration. In this regard, the methodological principles for assessing integration itself still remain a subject of scientific debate, but without an agreed approach that could be applied in different countries and regardless of the main reason for displacement.

Regarding the directions of scientific discussions of the most obvious problems of social integration of IDPs, the methodology of bibliometric analysis was used to identify and systematize them. In supplement to the traditional literature review that is quite biased and qualitative in scope, the bibliometric analysis could be employed to gather data about researchers (authors of scientific works), journals, research organizations, and keywords in a clear and measurable manner to detect the most comprehensive and influential research papers, identify the trends and perspectives in the research field.

Given these considerations, we employed VOSviewer v.1.6.10 to conduct a keyword-based search using the terms “internally displaced,” “security,” “war,” and “social integration.” These keywords were selected to reflect the core focus of the study (“internally displaced,” “social integration”), the primary cause of internal displacement in Ukraine (“war”), and the overarching concept that links

the thematic domains identified in the literature review (“security”). As the reviewed scholarship demonstrates, regardless of the specific research interests concerning IDPs, the analyses consistently converge on issues of “security,” whether pertaining to IDPs themselves or to host communities.

For the analysis, there were selected publications from the Scopus database since 1991, taking into account that in the 1990s there were numerous military conflicts in Europe that provoked internal displacement. The experience of managing them is valuable for determining priorities in Ukrainian realities.

The flowchart showing the steps of the academic literature search and the process of criteria selection for the bibliometric analysis is depicted in Figure 2.1.

As a result of this step-by-step screening of sources and their processing with the capabilities of VOSviewer, separate clusters were formed, illustrating the concentration of research around certain common problems (Figure 2.2).

In total, 5 research clusters were obtained (Figure 2.2) according to the main areas of scientific interest in IDP issues:

- humanitarian sphere with an emphasis on biomedical and medico-social factors (the green cluster), which is closely intertwined with related problems of maintaining physical and emotional state, identified in nearby clusters – yellow, blue and lilac;

- problems of social integration, interaction, difficulties in decision-making and self-identification with special attention to children’s problems (the yellow cluster);

- support for mental health, with attention to the problem of anxiety and depression, which, as can be seen from Figure 2.2, is most typical for middle-aged and older people (the blue cluster);

- provision of healthcare services and research methods, among which, as we can see, qualitative analysis prevails (the lilac cluster);

- the largest number of research objects is currently focused on “integration” in its general meaning, which includes social (as can be seen from the connections between these two research objects) in terms of overcoming conflict, studying the

features of internal displacement, connections with the concept of “refugees”, sustainable development, citizenship and ethnic aspects – the red cluster.

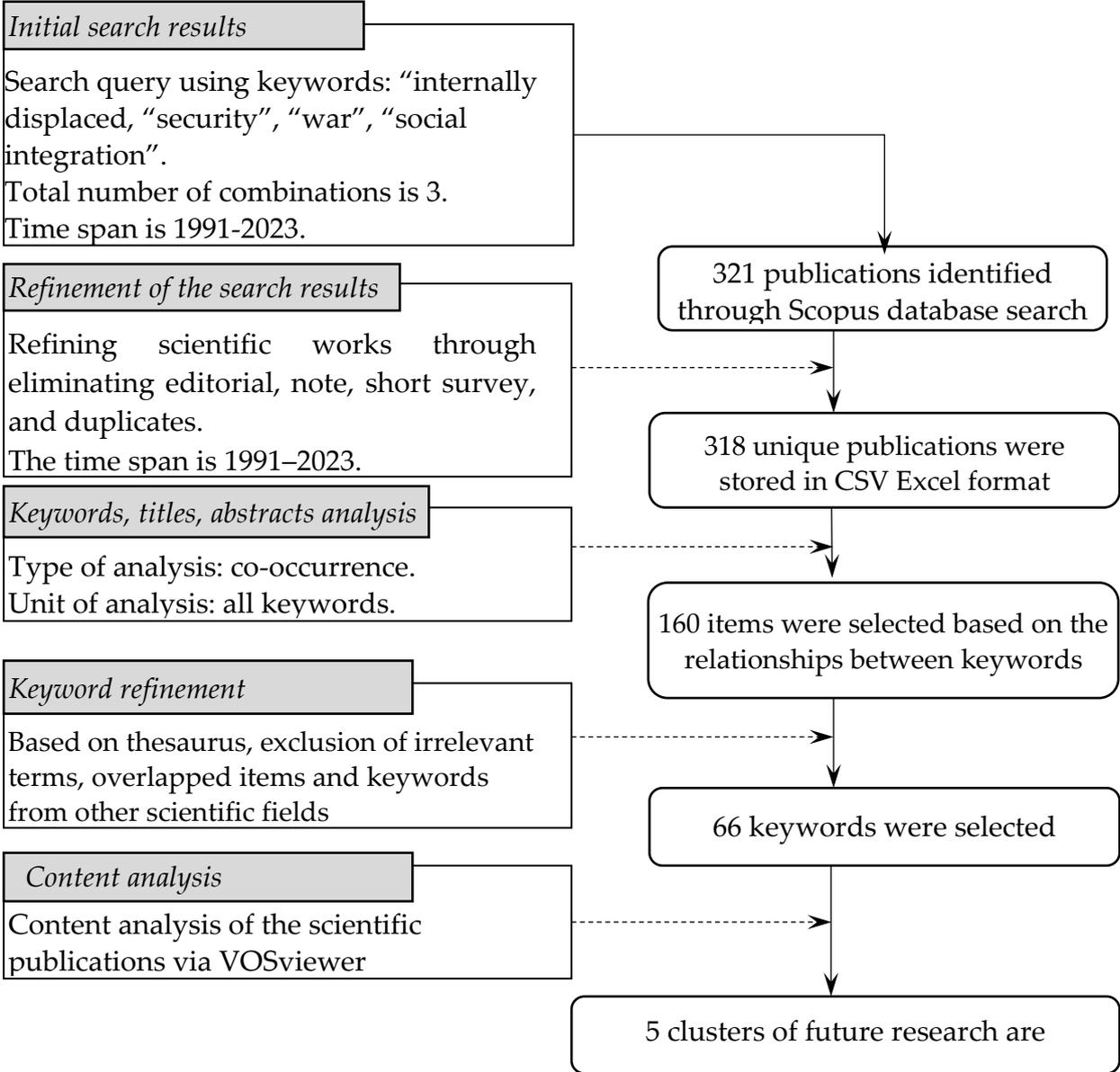


Figure 2.1. Research methodology of studying IDPs’ social integration via VosViewer

Source: search term identification

It is in this group that research on the integration of IDPs in Ukraine is currently concentrated, as well as developments that can be used based on the experience of resolving the problem in the EU and Africa, where the scale of internal displacement and the problems associated with it were also very significant.

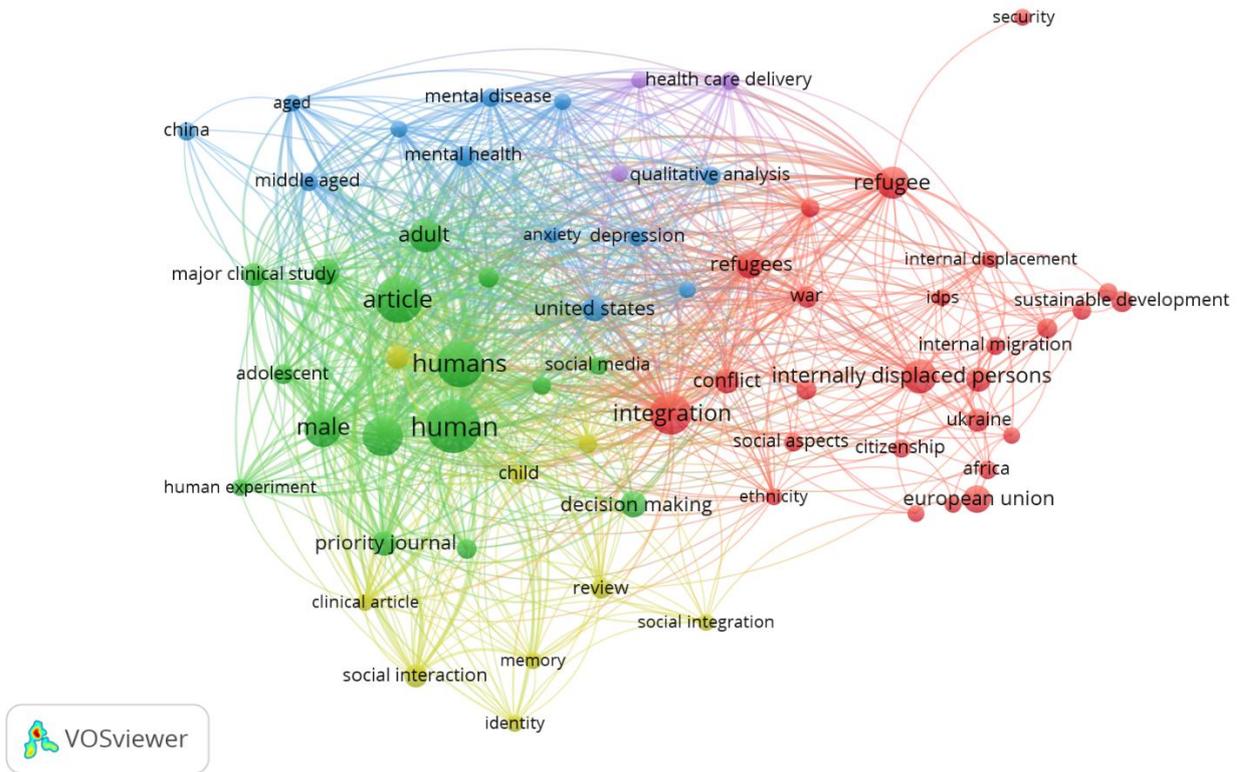


Figure 2.2. Graphical visualization of the relationship between research on IDPs’ social integration (Constructed via VOSviewer v.1.6.10)

The chronological development of research also indicates (Fig. 2.3) that the most recent works are also related to Ukraine. It is noticeable that for a long time the problem of internal displacement has not been considerably concentrated around one country.

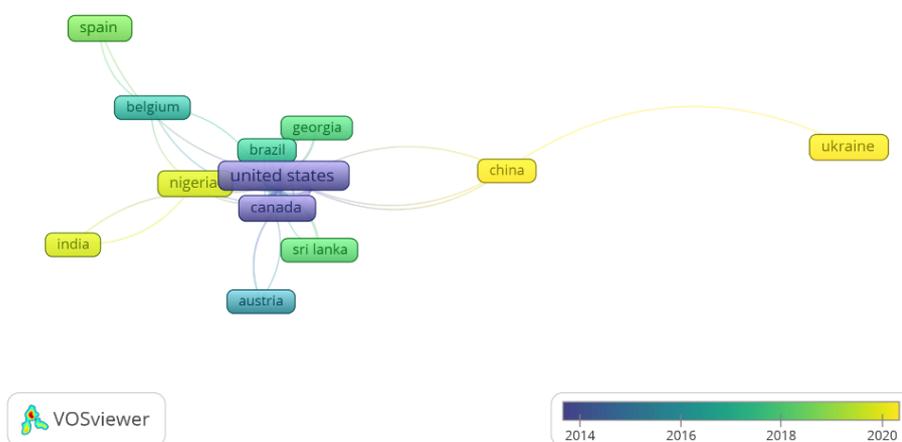


Figure 2.3. Visualization map of spatiotemporal measurement of research on IDPs’ social integration according to the Scopus database (Constructed via VOSviewer v.1.6.10)

At the same time, the research is carried out not only by Ukrainian authors, but mainly by researchers from other countries – the USA, Great Britain, Canada, Australia and other countries, which, as can be seen from Figure 2.4, are represented by countries that actively support Ukraine in the war.

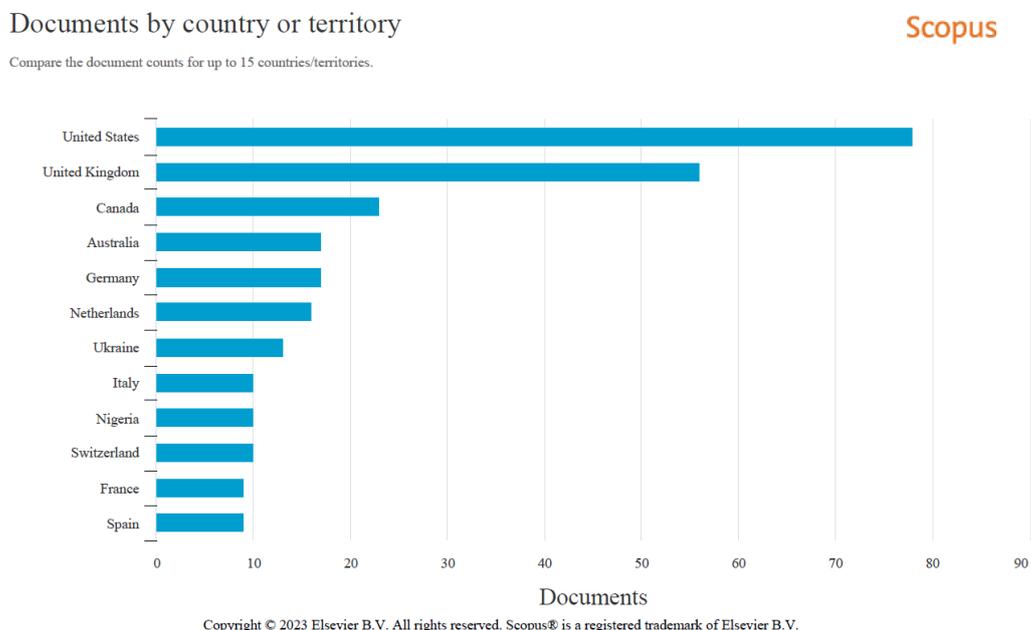


Figure 2.4. Top-12 leading countries according to the number of scientific publications indexed by the Scopus database for 1991-2023

Having received data from bibliometric analysis, which confirm the interests of researchers in solving the problems of social integration of IDPs by paying attention to health issues, social interaction, cohesion, and observance of civil rights, at the same time it can be stated that the studies do not offer a comprehensive approach to solving these problems. If such studies were published, they were either isolated or with unclear accents, as a result of which they were not reflected in a separate direction in any of the clusters. Of course, there are attempts at comprehensive assessments, and they are reflected in individual works, such as those by Chuiko & Fedorenko (2020) and Mitchneck et al. (2009). In practice, however, the purported complexity of such approaches is not substantiated when the composition of the authors' selected factors is examined more closely. These factors, to varying degrees, are fragmentary and rely primarily on the analysis of discrete components – such as social ties, economic activity, or a limited set of isolated indicators of integration – rather

than on a comprehensive or holistic framework.

Therefore, the central idea of this study is to use a comprehensive socio-economic approach to assessing the social integration of IDPs, which requires taking into account all the main areas of social interaction.

To identify such areas, the results of a literature review on the problems of integration into new communities, as well as the current instruments of social protection and social integration of IDPs defined in Ukrainian legislation, were taken into account. In addition, existing methodological, including conceptual, gaps in the assessment methodology developed to date were taken into account. In particular, when analyzing integration, researchers conceptually proceed from the recognition that IDPs are considered integrated when their situation is equal to the situation of the local population. However, measuring such a state of conditional equality of position from a methodological point of view contradicts the concept of “integration,” and describes only equality and standard of living, which, in particular, is directly recognized by the main document created with the support of the UN, on which other domestic and international methods of assessing the integration of IDPs are based – Framework on durable solutions for internally displaced persons (Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 2010). At the same time, the achievement of “long-term solutions” depends on national standards and decisions, and the criteria that are most often used for assessment directly coincide with assessments of quality of life and equality of rights with the local population.

This methodological flaw was eliminated in our study by clarifying the criteria, by which a population can be considered fully or partially integrated (with clarification of the level) and, accordingly, isolated. Generalizing indicators in the form of a complex indicator of social integration/isolation will be an important addition to existing approaches in this area in the world, allowing for the combination of objective and subjective indicators of social integration, including assessments of the level of self-identification of IDPs.

Therefore, the comprehensive approach to assessing the integration/isolation of IDPs proposed in this study is justified taking into account the existing theoretical and applied principles of ensuring the integration of IDPs, which are methodologically related to the theories of motivation, justice and human development. An important difference of our own approach is that the proposed indicators make it possible to assess integration into local communities, and not the standard of living and other similar characteristics, which are often used to replace the concept of “integration” in studies conducted to date.

Based on the systematization of this information, the authors of the “Ensuring social protection of ATO / JFO participants and social integration of IDPs under the condition of increasing threats to social security” project (funded by the National Research Foundation of Ukraine) defined a system of criteria for the social integration of IDPs.

The assessment criteria, together with the scale for assessing the level of integration for each partial area of interaction in the host communities, were tested in a pilot expert survey. The pilot survey was conducted in August 2023 before the start of the main expert survey and, accordingly, the sociological survey of IDPs. On its basis, clarifications and adjustments were made to the system of criteria. As a result, a system of criteria for assessing the social integration of IDPs was obtained, which includes 5 component “blocks” of integration:

- political and religious integration;
- economic integration;
- integration into cultural and sports initiatives;
- integration into community life;
- socio-psychological integration.

Political and religious integration reflects the need for IDPs to participate in the political life of the community, in the development, adoption, and implementation of decisions within the community. In this case, if no participation, then a mutual tolerant attitude (especially regarding the religious component of integration) is important.

To assess the integration of this block, the following partial indicators of integration were used:

- ✓ monitoring political events at the community level; participation in discussions and debates;
- ✓ tolerant attitude towards representatives of different religions;
- ✓ involvement in decision-making at the local level, including in community budget matters.

Economic integration encompasses indicators of the material well-being of internally displaced persons (IDPs), their need for housing and security, as well as the level of their economic activity, including employment relations and the implementation of entrepreneurial initiatives.

Partial indicators under this criterion include:

- ✓ active job search and other legal ways to generate income;
- ✓ adherence to labor law (as employees and as employers);
- ✓ entrepreneurial activities (including relocated businesses);
- ✓ compliance with tax legislation;
- ✓ participation in grant and project activities for local community development and/or personal business;
- ✓ income in line with knowledge and skills.

Integration into cultural and sports initiatives includes the need for acceptance and cultural identity of IDPs with members of the host community, support for relevant initiatives at a level characteristic of community residents.

Partial indicators according to the criterion:

- ✓ participation in cultural events in the community;
- ✓ support for initiatives promoting a healthy lifestyle and sports.

Integration into community life includes the need to create and build community social capital. Such assessments covered participation in community development, initiatives related to defense and support for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and participation in human rights activities.

Partial indicators according to the criterion:

- ✓ participation in human rights initiatives, protection of personal rights, and the rights of local residents;
- ✓ advocacy for community interests, participation in public oversight, etc.;
- ✓ participation in the activities of public organizations (including those addressing IDP issues) and charitable activities;
- ✓ support for the Armed Forces and countering russian aggression in available forms;
- ✓ participation in local initiatives related to territorial development;
- ✓ participation in environmental protection activities;
- ✓ refusal to consume certain goods and services for political or environmental reasons.

Social and psychological integration includes an assessment of IDPs' internal aspirations for integration, motivation for individual and group activity, and the need to establish long-term, including friendly, ties with community residents.

Partial indicators according to the criterion:

- ✓ respect and absence of conflicts concerning local residents;
- ✓ respect from local residents;
- ✓ desire to establish friendly relations with local residents.

In total, 25 partial indicators of integration have been identified. Each of the criteria that form blocks of questions by component allows us to determine the systemic impact on the degree of integration of IDPs, which, accordingly, is reflected in the level of social well-being and allows us to assess the bilateral consequences of integration - for IDPs and communities.

Expert assessment of the level of integration for each manifestation of integration within the selected criteria was carried out on a scale from 1 to 6 points, where:

-score 1 corresponds to the indicator “the vast majority of IDPs do not take any part in the relevant component of relations, have a significantly lower level of interest compared to local residents”;

-score 5 – “the vast majority of IDPs take an active part, the formed civic position corresponds to the level of an active local resident;

-score 6 – “some IDPs demonstrate higher activity than local residents.”

This approach is a modification of the Likert scale known in sociological and expert surveys. We additionally introduced a score of 6 points taking into account the specifics of the research object: some IDPs demonstrate higher social activity than representatives of local communities, which is evident from certain integration practices in Ukraine - the activities of relocated businesses, grant activity of relocated universities for the benefit of community development, etc. Therefore, the introduction of such an assessment for understanding the activity of IDPs is important for assessing the resource for community development obtained through the movements of human and related capital (social, financial - in the case of business relocations). Thus, in the future, the obtained assessments will allow us to assess additional opportunities for community development at the expense of IDPs, which is an unpredictable positive effect and can compensate for some of the negative assessments of a social and other nature, which are often perceived as an aggravating factor in discussing forced migration issues.

The expert survey involved 38 representatives of the national and regional authorities, scientists and NGOs specialized in the field, volunteering organizations from 11 Ukrainian regions. The organizers of the survey paid great attention to involving experts from the regions with the largest number of IDPs (Kyiv and Kyiv region, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv regions), but Vinnytsia, Zaporizhia, Lviv, Odesa, Poltava, Rivne, Kherson, Chernivtsi regions were also covered, which made it possible to comprehensively assess the problems of social integration of IDPs according to the main directions of their movements.

A more detailed profile of the experts is given in Table 2.1. The obtained expert assessments were processed using statistical methods: coefficients and average values - to calculate generalized values of integration according to the criteria determined by the experts and authors of the study; relative values using

the data analysis package available in MS Excel - to assess the distribution of expert judgments.

Table 2.1

Distribution of experts involved in the survey on the social integration of IDPs

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Category of respondents</i>	<i>Number of respondents, persons</i>	<i>Share of respondents, %</i>
<i>Gender</i>	Male	10	28.9
	Female	28	71.1
<i>Age</i>	under 35 years old	8	21.1
	36-59 years old	26	68.4
	60 years old and over	4	10.5
<i>Representation</i>	Public social protection bodies or medical institutions	4	10.5
	National and regional authorities	7	18.4
	Local governments	7	18.4
	Scientific and educational institutions (involved are only representatives dealing with the problems of IDPs)	12	31.6
	Volunteering or other public organizations	8	21.1

As a result, expert assessments of the integration of IDPs provide a first idea of the theoretical and practical suitability of the developed system of criteria. In particular, the results obtained in the process of expertise are reliable in terms of statistical distribution indicators, and the obtained assessments allow identifying the largest gaps in integration. This is a significant difference from other similar studies in this field - the possibility of a comprehensive assessment and identification of reserves and opportunities for improving the impact on integration processes, taking into account specific problems in integration processes.

In particular, the results of the expert survey, presented in Table 2.2, confirmed the incomplete integration of IDPs according to each of the criteria -

the best indicator is 4.18 points in the group of factors of integration into community life.

Table 2.2

Experts' assessments of social integration of IDPs

No.	Criteria and components of integration	mean	min	max	Standard Deviation	Sample Variance
<i>Political and religious integration</i>						
1	They actively monitor political events at the community level, participate in discussions and debates, including in social media	3.08	1	6	1.44	2.07
2	They show respect for representatives of different faiths and develop a tolerant attitude (at least in their own cultural and everyday space)	3.53	1	6	1.25	1.55
3	They actively participate in initiatives to ensure equality of rights and freedoms in the community to eradicate discriminatory practices	3.00	1	5	1.27	1.62
4	They are actively involved in decision-making at the local level and development of local policies	2.55	1	6	1.18	1.39
<i>Economic integration</i>						
5	They are actively looking for work and other legal ways of earning income	3.74	1	6	1.31	1.71
6	In labor relations, they act on the principles of equal rights and fair competition and spread them in their environment	3.84	1	6	1.17	1.38
7	They make efforts to protect consumer rights	3.34	1	6	1.19	1.42
8	Managers of relocated enterprises and organizations receive the same attitude from the authorities and the population as local business entities; they respect the outlook and values of the locals, fully integrating into new conditions	3.63	1	6	1.24	1.54
9	Relocated businesses and IDPs receive income and participate in forming local budgets on the same principles as local businesses and the population, without any pressure or preferences in their activities	3.61	1	6	1.33	1.76
10	They are actively involved in grant and project activities for the self-actualization and development of the local community	3.87	1	6	1.40	1.96
11	They make efforts to create a new business, implement business projects, and attract investments to the community	3.68	1	6	1.47	2.17

<i>Integration into cultural and sports initiatives of the community</i>						
12	They are involved in significant cultural events in the community, artistic (theatrical, musical, visual) projects, take an active part in their organization, holding or attendance	3.58	1	6	1.22	1.49
13	They support local initiatives to develop a healthy lifestyle and sports (bicycle races, marathons, etc.)	3.58	1	6	1.24	1.55
<i>Integration into community life</i>						
14	They are involved in supporting the activities of NGOs (including on the issues of IDPs) and volunteer activities	3.79	1	6	1.26	1.58
15	They actively participate in local initiatives for the improvement of the territory	2.95	1	6	1.21	1.46
16	They support environmental initiatives aimed at environmental safety, animal protection and preservation of the natural ecosystem	2.79	1	6	1.21	1.47
17	They refuse to consume certain goods and services for political or environmental reasons (eg, damage to the community's environment, uneconomical use of resources)	2.71	1	6	1.47	2.16
18	They are willing to advocate for community interests, sign petitions, and submit and/or support community budget projects	2.84	1	6	1.46	2.14
19	They are ready to participate in human rights projects and/or initiatives, actively defend their rights and the rights of the residents of the host community, get involved in public control initiatives, and make efforts to fairly resolve controversial situations regarding the protection of rights and freedoms	3.11	1	6	1.48	2.20
20	They take an active part in supporting the Armed Forces and countering Russian aggression in available forms (opposing Russian propaganda ideas, spreading patriotic ideas and participating in fundraising for the needs of the Armed Forces and supporting the rehabilitation of wounded soldiers released from civilian captivity)	4.18	1	6	1.39	1.94
<i>Socio-psychological integration</i>						
21	They try to steadily enter a new social space and form stable friendships and a positive environment with life values, which prevents further displacement	3.50	1	5	1.11	1.23
22	They tolerate gender and age differences and are ready to support relevant public initiatives	3.68	1	6	1.30	1.68
23	They show trust in authorities and participate in public councils and activities of local social communities	2.95	1	6	1.23	1.51

24	They show trust in the community and feel supported, which allows self-realization	3.13	1	5	1.12	1.25
25	They join psychological recovery initiatives and share best practices	3.16	1	5	1.08	1.16

Note: color gray indicates the level of integration lower than the calculated average (3.5 points); color green – maximum estimates for the indicator do not exceed the highest level typical for an average community resident.

It is also notable that values of 12 out of 25 assessed components are below the average - the average in this case is calculated at the level of 3.5 points as a simple arithmetic mean from the range of values (from 1 to 6 points). The lowest is the level of IDPs' integration in dimensions of political and religious integration, integration into community life, and socio-psychological integration (if to consider the number of factors with values lower than average rating).

Basing on the obtained results of expert evaluation it can be assumed that the integration of IDPs is comparatively highly rated in the majority of evaluated dimensions. The maximum level of 6 points, which reflects the level of activity and participation in community life higher than the average resident of the host community, is typical for the expert estimates for almost all factors, except for 4, which were evaluated in the blocks of socio-psychological and political integration.

An important statistical feature of the results is the relatively low standard deviation and sample variance, which is noteworthy given the variety of the expert group. As shown in Table 2.1, the experts represented diverse professional and civic backgrounds and exhibited substantial age variation. This diversity enhances confidence in the assessments, which can be regarded as genuinely multifaceted, even though divergence in opinions had been anticipated. For instance, representatives of volunteer organizations and public authorities are known to hold differing perspectives on many social processes in Ukraine, which initially suggested the likelihood of wider variation in ratings.

Nevertheless, this outcome is analytically valuable, as the data in Table 2.2 provide a comprehensive evaluation of the overall level of IDP integration.

In a generalized form, the estimates are shown in Figure 2.5 according to the

average integration assessments by the criteria.

So, according to experts, the lowest is integration into the political and religious life of communities, as well as integration into public life. Such results in a generalized form, of course, cannot be used for making regulatory decisions; the information in terms of partial indicators, given above, is much more informative. But the use of generalized assessments by blocks of indicators allows us to identify the largest gaps in the regulation of social processes. These are precisely the political disagreements and the unwillingness of some IDPs to perceive new communities as a permanent place of residence. In addition, the war introduced significant changes and certain barriers to the integration of IDPs, such as, for example, restrictions on their electoral rights (regarding local elections - to vote and be elected), which is very debatable from the point of view of human rights. The same results and dissatisfaction of IDPs with the restriction of their rights are confirmed in the IOM report (2025a).

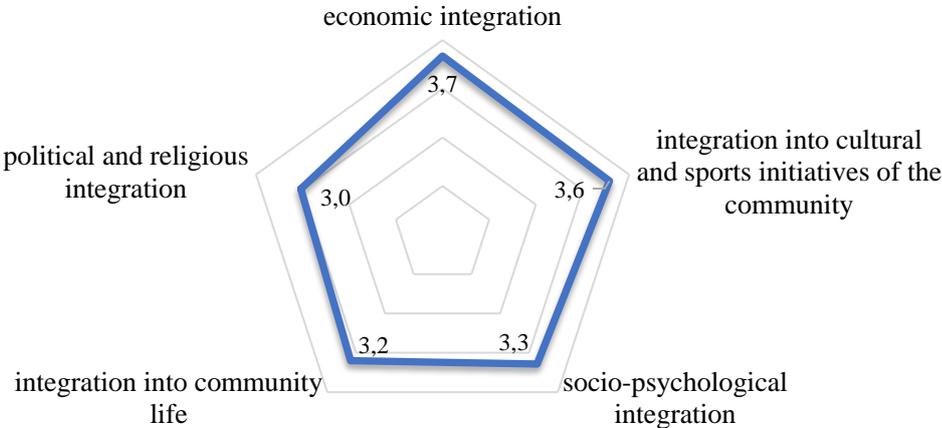


Figure 2.5. Average expert assessments of integration of IDPs according to defined criteria, points

From the experts' point of view, IDPs are best integrated in the economic sphere, cultural and sports initiatives – the gap from full integration on a par with local residents (with a maximum score of 5.0 points) is insignificant. At the same time, in all other areas, significant differences between IDPs and the local

population are noticeable, which requires further attention to clarifying the reasons for isolation in various aspects of the life of local communities.

Such assessments are possible based on a combination of expert judgments and sociological surveys of IDPs. For this purpose, the above-proposed system of criteria was tested in Ukraine by the authors of the project “Ensuring social protection of ATO/JFO participants and social integration of IDPs under the condition of increasing threats to social security” in 2024.

Data were collected with national coverage between June 24 and July 23, 2024. Responses were obtained using the CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) method through street interviews.

The IDP sample included 514 people aged 18 and over. Both samples included citizens of all regions, except for the temporarily occupied territories. The sample was quota, stratified, representative of the region of residence, type of settlement, age and gender of respondents. The sample of internally displaced persons is calculated according to the data provided in the IOM report for October 2023 (IOM, 2023). Sample representativeness error: with a confidence interval of 0.95 does not exceed for indicators close to: 50% - 4.32%; 25% and 75% - 3.74%; 10% and 90% - 2.59%; 5% and 95% - 1.88%; 1% and 99% - 0.86%.

Thus, the results obtained can be considered reliable enough for comparison with expert estimates. They are presented in more detail in the next section of the paper.

2.2. Assessment of social integration of IDPs in Ukraine based on the results of sociological monitoring

As noted, the scale of internal displacement in Ukraine is one of the largest in the world - Ukraine ranks third in the world in terms of the number of IDPs, and their number is almost 6 million people (Havryliuk, 2024). With the beginning of the armed conflict in Ukraine, the issue of integrating IDPs into

recipient communities has become acute. As a group, IDPs have encountered severe economic and social challenges during resettlement (Perelli-Harris, 2022).

The integration of IDPs into local communities is becoming a strategic priority for local authorities, requiring the implementation of political, social and economic solutions. It is important not only to address the most pressing problems of IDPs (housing, education, healthcare and employment), but also to address issues of their social adaptation and psychological support.

The integration of IDPs into territorial communities requires coordinated efforts at all levels of government, active participation of the communities themselves, as well as communication with IDPs in order to identify their needs, attitudes and integration. To assess the social integration of IDPs into host communities, it is advisable to conduct sociological monitoring, the significance of which is emphasized by(IOM, 2025a; IDMC, 2023; Voznyak, 2023).

To study the satisfaction of IDPs' needs and the level of their integration into host communities, a sociological survey was conducted, the characteristics of which are presented above.

The integration of IDPs into territorial communities faces a number of challenges that can complicate the process of adaptation and inclusion of IDPs into new social, economic and cultural ties. In order to assess the level of integration of IDPs into host communities, one of the questions of the above-mentioned sociological monitoring concerned *IDPs' self-assessment of their own integration in their "new" place of residence* (Fig. 2.6).

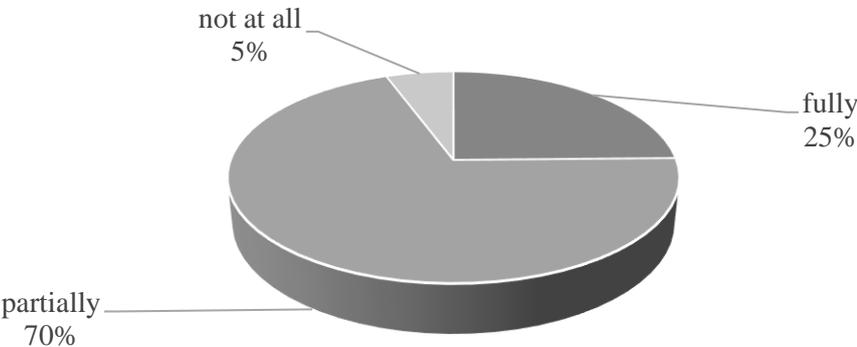


Fig. 2.6. Distribution of IDPs by level of their integration into host communities

The survey results show that only one in four of the surveyed IDPs indicated full integration into the host community. At the same time, 70% of the surveyed IDPs indicated only partial integration in their “new” place of residence. An extremely negative phenomenon is the fact that 5% of IDPs are completely unintegrated.

Such results of sociological monitoring indicate the unresolved nature of several IDP problems in host communities, which hinder their full integration. Increasing the effectiveness of national policy on supporting IDPs and strengthening the targeting of relevant programs for their social protection requires identifying the most vulnerable groups of IDPs who have the greatest problems with integration into host communities. Such vulnerability of IDPs requires the government to create and use a whole range of possible measures and means that will ensure proper social integration of these individuals in a new environment, among which the most important are: providing housing, employment opportunities, exercising the right to medical care and education, psychological support, etc., as well as financial support, which is perhaps the most important element of providing social services (Kapitan, 2024).

A study of IDP integration levels by gender and age (Fig. 2.7) shows that the highest proportion of respondents reporting full integration into host communities is found among those aged 18-29 (38%), followed by the groups aged 30-39 (25.5%) and 60 and older (24.8%). In contrast, the share of fully integrated IDPs is considerably lower in the age groups 40-49 (19.1%) and 50-59 (16.7%). Notably, between 2.1% (40-49 age group) and 7.7% (50-59 age group) of IDPs reported not being integrated into host communities at all. Between 57% (18-29 age group) and 78.7% (40-49 age group) assessed their level of integration as partial.

The share of males who considered themselves fully integrated into their host communities is higher than that of women (24.8% versus 21.6%, respectively). 6.8% of women and 4.2% of men among IDPs consider themselves not integrated at all into their communities. Thus, when formulating a policy to support IDPs in

Ukraine, it is necessary to take into account the relatively lower level of integration of IDPs aged 40-49 and 50-59, as well as females.

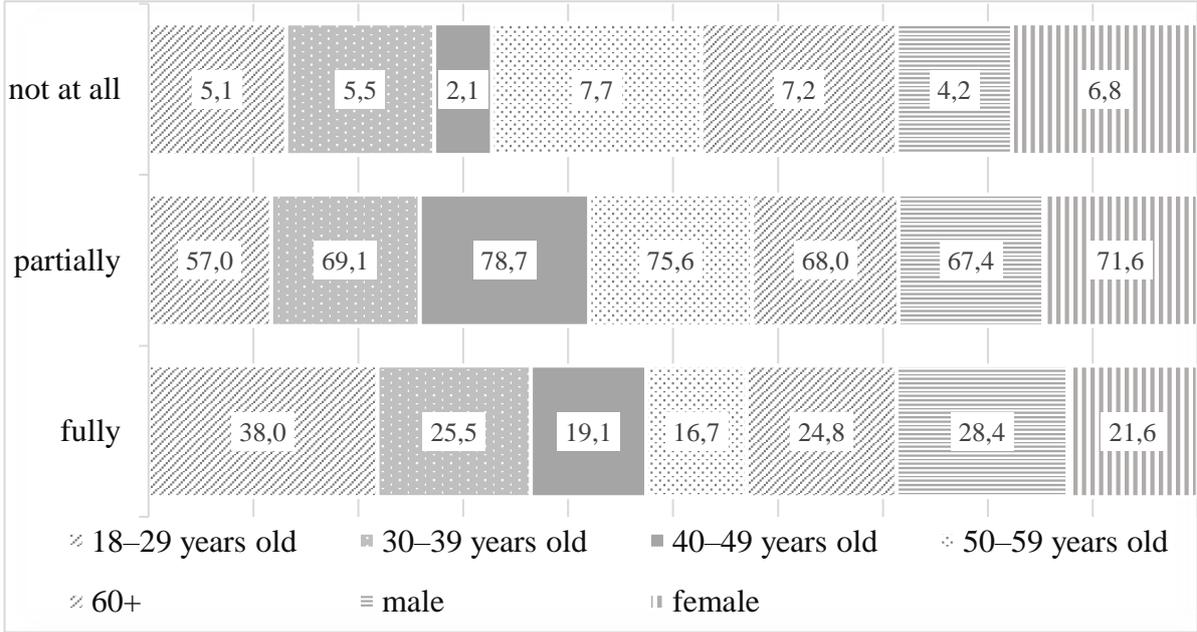


Fig. 2.7. Distribution of IDPs by age, gender and level of their integration into host communities, %

A study of the integration of IDPs by region of residence (Fig. 2.8) suggested that almost every fourth IDP surveyed, regardless of their region of residence, indicated that they were fully integrated into their host communities. The largest share of such IDPs is observed in the western regions (27.8%). The largest share of IDPs who indicated that they were partially integrated into local communities is observed in the north of Ukraine (71.1%), the smallest – in the central part of Ukraine (65.8%). From 2.2% (west) to 7.6% (center) of IDPs considered themselves as not integrated into host communities at all. Taking into account the place of residence of IDPs provides grounds to argue that slightly higher levels of integration are observed among those residing in non-regional cities or rural areas. In contrast, IDPs living in regional-level cities demonstrate somewhat lower levels of integration. Consequently, policies aimed at supporting IDPs in Ukraine should consider the stronger influence of deterrent factors on their integration in the northern and eastern regions of the country, as well as in regional centres.

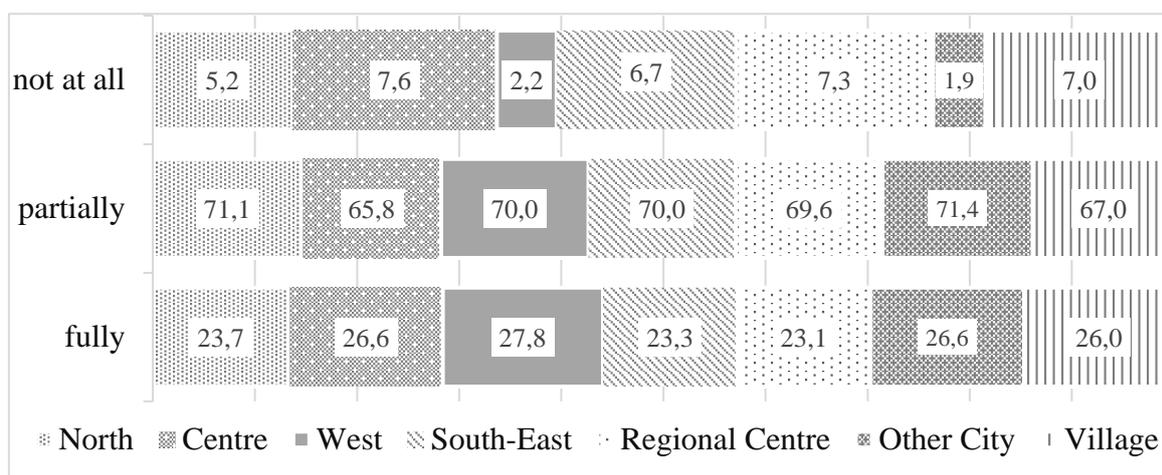


Fig. 2.8. Distribution of IDPs by region, place of residence and level of their integration into host communities, %

Certain differences in the level of integration of IDPs are observed by their level of education (Fig. 2.9).

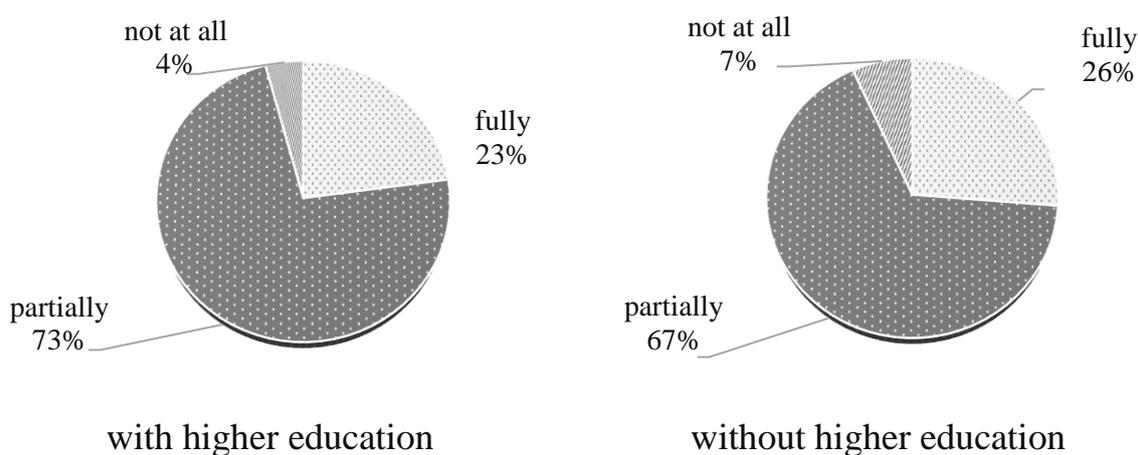


Fig. 2.9. Distribution of IDPs by level of education and level of their integration into host communities, %

Thus, 23% of IDPs with higher education indicated their full integration into the host communities, while this share of IDPs without higher education is 26%. Partial integration into the communities is more widely declared by IDPs with higher education, as well as by IDPs without higher education – 73% versus 67%, respectively. Only 4% of IDPs with higher education and 7% without higher education were not integrated into the host communities at all. A study of the integration of IDPs in terms of political, religious, economic and socio-

psychological components, integration into public life, cultural and sports initiatives of the community shows that some IDPs indicated their irrelevance (Table 2.3).

Table 2.3

Distribution of IDPs by level of integration in terms of individual components*

	Not relevant	Integration			
		in general	including by levels		
			1	2	3
Political and religious integration					
Observing and participating in political events in the community	12.3	87.7	34.4	51.2	14.4
I am tolerant of representatives of different religions.	4.1	95.9	6.1	64.1	29.8
I participate in decision-making at the local level.	25.7	74.3	61.8	29.1	9.2
Economic integration					
I am actively looking for work and other legal ways to earn income.	31.7	68.3	21.4	47.9	30.8
I advocate compliance with all labor law regulations regarding me as an employee.	33.9	66.1	15.3	57.1	27.6
I relocated and run my own business.	72.4	27.6	72.5	21.8	5.6
I act legally and pay taxes on the income I receive to the local budget.	36.4	63.6	14.4	54.7	30.9
I am involved in grant and project activities for the development of the local community.	60.9	39.1	63.2	30.8	6.0
I receive income that matches my knowledge and skills.	22.2	77.8	33.5	45.8	20.8
Integration into public life					
I participate in human rights initiatives, actively defend my rights	28.0	72.0	55.9	35.7	8.4
I defend the interests of the community, I get involved in public life	29.4	70.6	59.0	32.2	8.8
I participate in the activities of public organizations.	27.6	72.4	57.0	31.7	11.3
I participate in supporting the Armed Forces of Ukraine and countering russian aggression	5.8	94.2	12.6	56.6	30.8
I participate in local initiatives on the improvement of the territory	22.4	77.6	49.1	39.6	11.3
I participate in environmental protection activities.	26.3	73.7	52.8	32.7	14.5
I refuse to consume certain goods and services for political or environmental reasons.	18.3	81.7	25.5	56.7	17.9
Integration into community cultural and sports initiatives					
I participate in cultural events in the community.	20.6	79.4	38.5	46.6	15.0
I join local initiatives aimed at developing a healthy lifestyle and playing sports.	23.7	76.3	40.1	44.9	15.1
Socio-psychological integration					
I show respect in my relationships with local residents, I do not conflict.	0.6	99.4	3.3	59.5	37.2
I feel respected by the local residents.	0.8	99.2	7.3	63.3	29.4
I establish friendly relations with local residents.	0.6	99.4	4.9	61.4	33.7
- maximum values in columns by integration type					
- minimum values in columns by integration type					

Note: to assess the level of integration in this table and further, the following integration scale was used: 1 - less than the local population; 2 - at the level of the local population; 3 - more than the local population.

Thus, the largest share of IDPs who indicated irrelevance is observed in economic integration and integration into public life in the following areas: relocation and running their own business (72.4%); involvement in grant and project activities for the development of the local community (60.9%); legal activity and payment of taxes from income received to the local budget (36.4%); advocacy for compliance with all labor law standards as an employee (33.9%); active search for work and other legal ways to generate income (31.7%); advocacy for the interests of the community, involvement in public life (29.4%).

It is indicative that the level of passivity of IDPs is somewhat lower in terms of political and religious, socio-psychological integration, and integration into cultural and sports initiatives in the community.

A significant proportion of IDPs indicated a lower level of integration compared to local residents.

Such assessments take place in the following areas of integration: involvement in decision-making at the local level (61.8%); relocation and running own businesses (72.5%); involvement in grant and project activities for the development of the local community (63.2%); advocacy of the interests of the community, involvement in public life (59%); participation in the activities of public organizations (57%); participation in human rights initiatives, active advocacy of own rights (55.9%); participation in environmental protection activities (52.8%); involvement in local initiatives aimed at developing a healthy lifestyle and doing sports (40.1%); involvement in cultural events in the community (38.5%).

In a significant number of areas, IDPs assess their own level of integration on a par with local residents (2), including: tolerant attitude towards representatives of different religions (64.1%); advocacy of compliance with all labor law norms as an employee (57.1%); legal activity and payment of income taxes to the local budget (54.7%); active search for work and other legal ways of earning income (47.9%); earning income that corresponds to knowledge and skills (45.8%); refusal to consume certain goods and services for political or

environmental reasons (56.7%); participation in supporting the AFU and countering russian aggression (56.6%); participation in local initiatives on improving the territory (39.6%); participation in human rights initiatives, active advocacy of own rights (35.7%); involvement in cultural events in the community (46.6%); involvement in local initiatives aimed at developing a healthy lifestyle and doing sports (44.9%).

Over 60% of IDPs assess the level of socio-psychological integration at the same level as local residents. A small proportion of IDPs in certain areas assessed the level of their own integration at a higher level than the local population, in particular in the following components: tolerant attitude towards representatives of different religions (29.8%); legal activity and payment of income taxes to the local budget (30.9%); active search for work and other legal ways of earning income (30.8%); participation in supporting the AFU and countering russian aggression (30.8%); showing respect in relations with local residents, absence of conflicts (37.2%); establishing friendly relations with local residents (33.7%); advocating compliance with all labor law norms as an employee (27.6%); receiving income that corresponds to knowledge and skills (20.8%) and others.

The above results regarding the level of integration of IDPs in general should be specified in more detail by individual components of integration.

An important component of the integration of IDPs is their *political and religious integration into the host communities*. After all, the arrival and residence of IDPs in the community strengthens the behavioral reflections of local residents regarding the integration of IDPs (Voznyak, 2024). Quite often, an important factor in the behavior of local residents is the political views and religious beliefs of IDPs.

Eighty-six percent of IDPs reported experiencing political and religious integration at varying levels: 48% indicated integration comparable to that of the local population, 34% reported a lower level than the local population, and 18% reported a higher level (Figure 2.10).

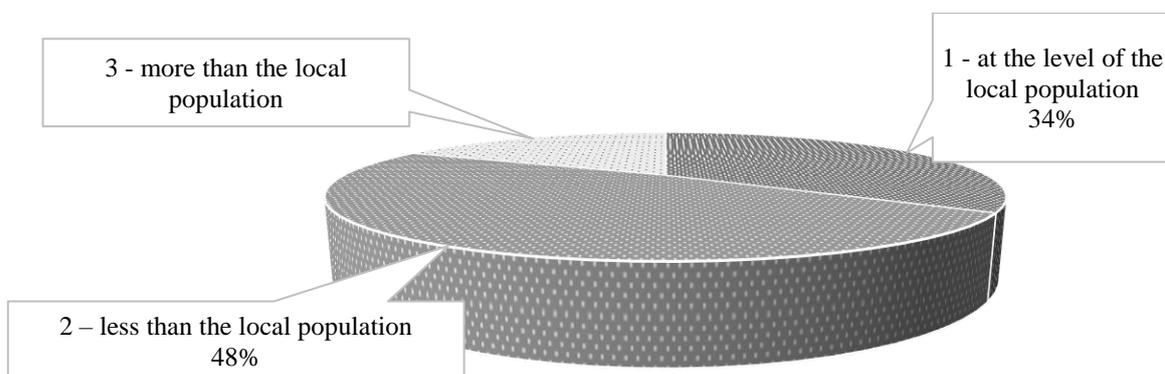


Fig. 2.10. Distribution of IDP responses on the level of political and religious integration in host communities, %

Almost every third IDP integrated into the political and religious life of the host community at a level below that of the local population. This indicates the existence of deterrent factors for the religious and political integration of IDPs that need to be removed.

A study of the political and religious integration of IDPs by its manifestations indicates a higher level of integration of IDPs in terms of attitudes towards representatives of different religions and the lowest level in terms of participation in decision-making in local communities (Fig. 2.11).

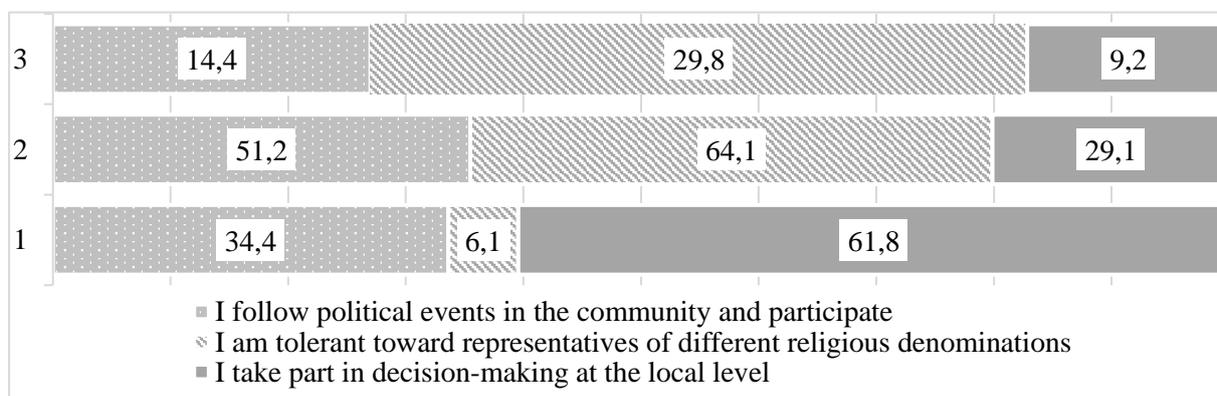


Fig. 2.11. Distribution of IDPs by level of political and religious integration by its manifestations, %

In particular, the share of IDPs who assessed their own integration in terms of observing the political life of the community at the same level or higher compared to local residents is 66%. At the same time, every third IDP (34.4%) indicated lower integration compared to local residents by this criterion. 94% of

the surveyed IDPs indicated a tolerant attitude towards representatives of different religions at the same level or higher compared to local residents, which is undoubtedly positive. Only 6.1% of IDPs indicated their own integration in this direction below the level of the local population. Almost 62% of IDPs indicated a lower level of involvement in decision-making at the local level compared to the permanent population. Only every third IDP indicated participation in decision-making in the community at the level of local residents.

Taking into account the age criterion, it is possible to state that the highest level of integration in terms of tolerant attitude towards representatives of different religions is demonstrated by IDPs aged 18-29 and 50-59. A relatively lower level of integration in terms of participation in decision-making at the local level is observed among IDPs aged 50-59 and 60+ (Table 2.4).

Table 2.4

Distribution of IDPs by level of religious and political integration in the context of individual areas by age groups

Age	<i>I follow political events in the community, I participate</i>				<i>I am tolerant of representatives of different religions</i>				<i>I participate in decision-making at the local level.</i>			
	Level of integration				Level of integration				Level of integration			
	in general	including by levels			in general	including by levels			in general	including by levels		
		1	2	3		1	2	3		1	2	3
18-29	94.9	34.7	56.0	9.3	98.7	6.4	65.4	28.2	81.0	54.7	34.4	10.9
30-39	94.5	40.4	47.1	12.5	97.3	6.5	57.9	35.5	83.6	59.8	30.4	9.8
40-49	81.9	32.5	49.4	18.2	95.7	8.9	60.0	31.1	72.3	61.8	27.9	10.3
50-59	79.5	24.2	59.7	16.1	97.4	3.9	67.1	28.9	66.7	71.2	23.1	5.8
60+	86.9	35.3	48.9	15.8	92.8	4.9	69.0	26.1	69.3	63.2	28.3	8.5

By gender, the highest level of integration in observing political events in the community is demonstrated by male IDPs, and by region of residence – by IDPs living in the north and southeast, as well as in regional centers (Table 2.5).

A significantly higher level of tolerant attitude towards representatives of different religions is observed among all groups of IDPs (the highest among men and IDPs living in the south-eastern regions and in rural areas). The lowest level

of IDP integration is observed in terms of involvement in decision-making in local communities among women and IDPs living in the central regions of Ukraine.

Table 2.5

Distribution of IDPs by level of religious and political integration in the context of individual areas by gender, regions and place of residence

Sign	<i>I follow political events in the community, I participate</i>				<i>I am tolerant of representatives of different religions.</i>				<i>I participate in decision-making at the local level.</i>			
	Level of integration				Level of integration				Level of integration			
	in general	including by levels			in general	including by levels			in general	including by levels		
		1	2	3		1	2	3		1	2	3
Sex												
Men	86.0	31.5	51.7	16.7	95.3	4.9	68.0	27.1	72.9	58.7	32.0	9.3
Women	89.2	36.7	50.8	12.5	96.4	7.1	60.8	32.1	75.5	64.3	26.7	9.0
Regions and place of residence												
North	84.4	30.7	61.4	7.9	96.3	7.7	72.3	20.0	71.1	59.4	36.5	4.2
Center	94.9	34.7	54.7	10.7	96.2	6.6	67.1	26.3	83.5	72.7	18.2	9.1
West	92.2	41.0	47.0	12.0	96.7	9.2	57.5	33.3	83.3	45.3	44.0	10.7
Southeast	85.2	33.5	45.3	21.2	95.2	3.5	60.5	36.0	69.0	66.9	21.4	11.7
Regional center	88.5	30.4	50.9	18.7	96.2	6.0	60.4	33.6	76.2	64.1	24.7	11.1
Another city	87.7	36.3	51.1	12.6	96.1	7.4	64.9	27.7	70.1	56.5	36.1	7.4
Village	86.0	41.9	52.3	5.8	95.0	4.2	72.6	23.2	76.0	63.2	30.3	6.6

Research on the level of economic integration of IDPs is of particular importance, which is emphasized by ACCESS (2023). The results of sociological monitoring showed that a significant proportion of IDPs (37%) indicated that their level of integration in the economic sphere is lower compared to the local population (Fig. 2.12). This is an indicator of the significant impact of constraining factors on the economic integration of IDPs in host communities. 43% of IDPs indicated that they consider themselves integrated in the economic sphere on a par with local residents. And only every fifth IDP believed that their level of economic integration was higher compared to the local population.

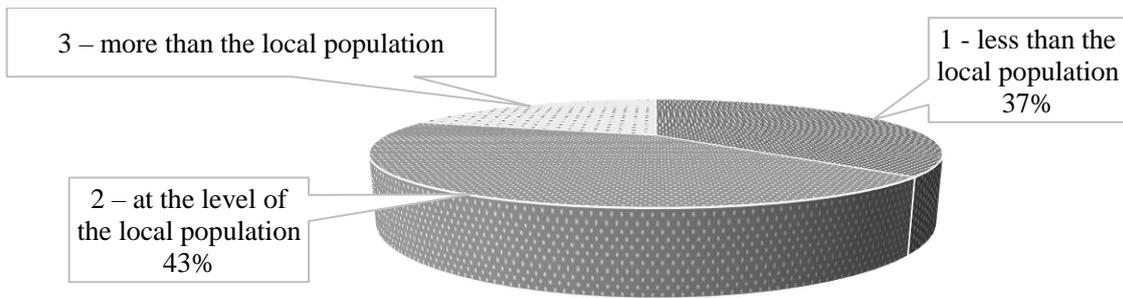


Fig. 2.12. Distribution of IDP responses on the level of their economic integration in host communities, %

The highest proportion of IDPs who reported economic integration at or above the level of local residents was observed in the following areas: engagement in legal activities and payment of income taxes to the local budget (85.6%); adherence to labor law standards in the field of hired employment (84.7%); and active job searching and other legal means of earning income (78.6%). The latter measure suggests, according to IDPs' self-assessments, the absence of discrimination in accessing employment and earning a labor income. However, it also reflects the unresolved employment challenges faced by a significant share of IDPs (Fig. 2.13).

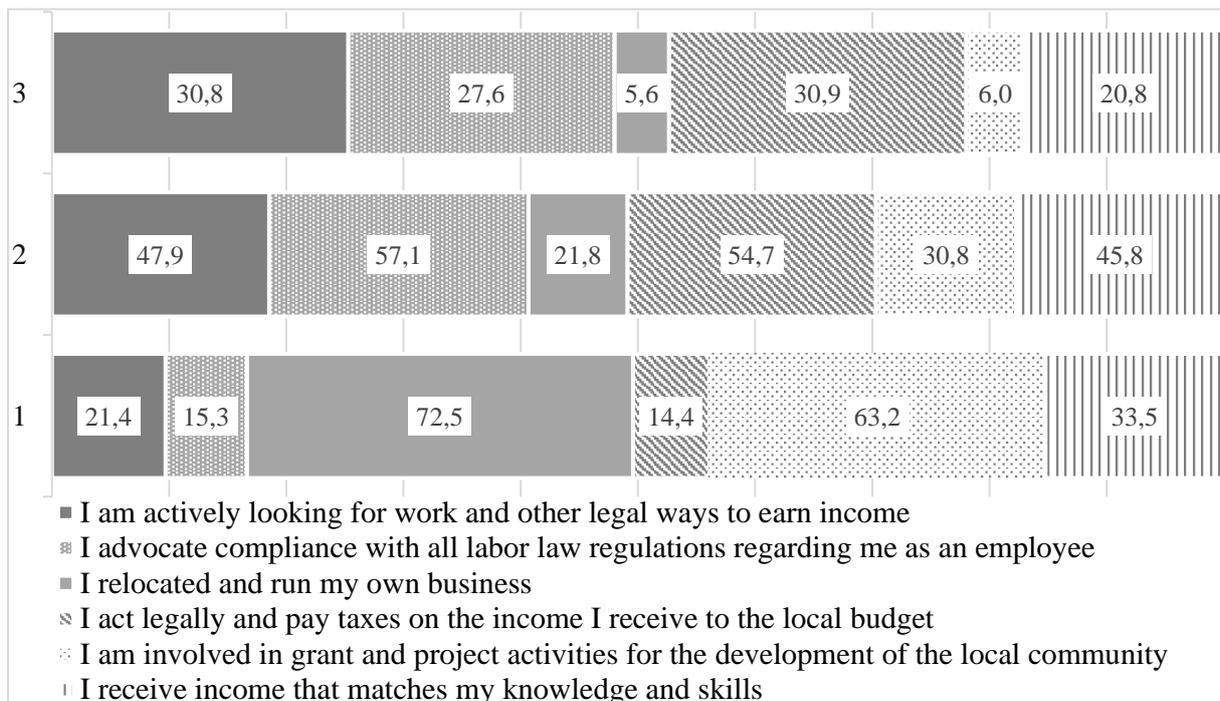


Fig. 2.13. Distribution of IDP responses by level of economic integration by its manifestations, %

Over 72% and 63% of IDPs assessed their level of integration into host communities at level (1), i.e., lower than local residents. This indicates the presence of problems in the implementation of entrepreneurial initiatives of IDPs in their new place of residence. Every third IDP considers their own integration in terms of receiving income that corresponds to their knowledge and skills to be also lower than that of the permanent population. The smallest share of IDPs who consider their level of integration to be lower than that of local residents is in areas such as advocating compliance with all labor law standards in the field of hired labor (15.3%) and legal activity and payment of taxes to the local budget (14.4%).

When assessing the economic integration of IDPs, it is advisable to take into account the age and gender of IDPs (Table 2.6). Thus, in this area of economic integration as active search for work and other legal ways of earning income, the largest share of IDPs who assess the level of their own economic integration at the level of or higher than that of local residents is observed in the age groups 40-49 years old (89.7%) and 30-39 years old (86.8%).

At the same time, the lowest level of integration in this dimension is objectively observed among IDPs of retirement age (60+ years). Men, compared to women, also demonstrate a slightly higher level of integration in terms of job search and other legal means of generating income (the share of men who assess their own level of integration in this area as equal to or higher than that of local residents is 80.1%, compared to 77.2% among women). One of the highest levels of economic integration among IDPs is observed in the area of advocating for compliance with all labor law standards in the sphere of hired labor. In this dimension of economic integration, the largest share of IDPs integrated at a level equal to or higher than that of local residents is found among the age groups 18-29 and 30-39, as well as among men.

At the same time, the largest share of IDPs who integrated below local residents in terms of upholding labor rights in the field of hired labor is observed in the age group of 50-59 years.

Table 2.6

Distribution of IDPs by level of economic integration in individual areas by age
and gender

	Integration by levels	Age groups					Sex	
		18-29 years old	30-39 years old	40-49 years old	50-59 years old	60+	Men	Women
<i>I am actively looking for work and other legal ways to earn income.</i>	in general	79.7	82.7	83	76.9	38.6	72.5	64.7
	1	25.4	13.2	10.3	21.7	44.1	19.9	22.8
	2	39.7	56	48.7	51.7	39	52	43.9
	3	34.9	30.8	41	26.7	16.9	28.1	33.3
<i>I advocate compliance with all labor law standards as an employee.</i>	in general	79.7	88.2	85.1	67.9	30.7	69.5	63.3
	1	14.3	8.2	16.3	15.1	29.8	13.4	17
	2	55.6	64.9	52.5	56.6	51.1	61	53.4
	3	30.2	26.8	31.3	28.3	19.1	25.6	29.5
<i>I relocated and run my own business.</i>	in general	31.6	35.5	31.9	32.1	15	28.8	26.6
	1	72	66.7	70	72	87	67.6	77
	2	24	25.6	26.7	20	8.7	26.5	17.6
	3	4	7.7	3.3	8	4.3	5.9	5.4
<i>I act legally and pay income taxes to the local budget.</i>	in general	74.7	72.7	80.9	71.8	36.6	65.3	62.2
	1	13.6	8.8	13.2	21.4	17.9	14.9	13.9
	2	54.2	66.3	55.3	44.6	48.2	53.9	55.5
	3	32.2	25	31.6	33.9	33.9	31.2	30.6
<i>I am involved in grant and project activities for the development of the local community.</i>	in general	46.8	55.5	42.6	41	20.3	40.3	38.1
	1	56.8	54.1	70	68.8	74.2	56.8	68.9
	2	37.8	37.7	25	28.1	19.4	36.8	25.5
	3	5.4	8.2	5	3.1	6.5	6.3	5.7
<i>I receive income that matches my knowledge and skills.</i>	in general	81	91.8	90.4	85.9	54.2	82.2	74.1
	1	25	27.7	35.3	41.8	38.6	33.5	33.5
	2	56.3	47.5	42.4	43.3	41	47.4	44.2
	3	18.8	24.8	22.4	14.9	20.5	19.1	22.3

One of the lowest shares of IDPs whose integration is at or above the level of local residents is observed by relocation and owning their own business (among all IDP groups by age and gender, it varies from 13 to 33%). This indicates the need to strengthen support for IDPs who are active in the field of entrepreneurship.

A fairly high level of economic integration of IDPs, which corresponds to or is higher than that of the local population, is observed in such components as legal activity and payment of taxes to the local budget. By gender, the above-mentioned

share is practically the same (85.1% versus 86.1% among men and women, respectively); by age groups – slightly higher in the age group of IDPs of 30-39 years old (91.3%) and lower – in the age group of 50-59 years old (78.5%).

The level of economic integration of IDPs through their participation in grant and project activities for local community development is quite low. However, a somewhat higher level of integration of IDPs in this area occurs in the age groups of IDPs of 18-29 and 30-39. In terms of such a component of economic integration as receiving income that corresponds to knowledge and skills, the level of integration of IDPs is average. A somewhat higher level of integration of IDPs by direction occurs only in the age groups of IDPs of up to 39 years.

Thus, the economic integration of IDPs into host communities is largely determined by opportunities for their employment and self-realization in work, research on which is also reflected in TSCVRU (2024). As part of our own sociological monitoring, a number of questions in the questionnaire were specifically related to the satisfaction of IDPs’ needs for employment and self-realization at work. The results of assessing the level of satisfaction of IDPs’ needs for employment and self-realization at work (on a 5-point scale) indicate that 40% of IDPs consider the satisfaction of this need to be at a high (5) and medium (4) levels (Fig. 2.14).

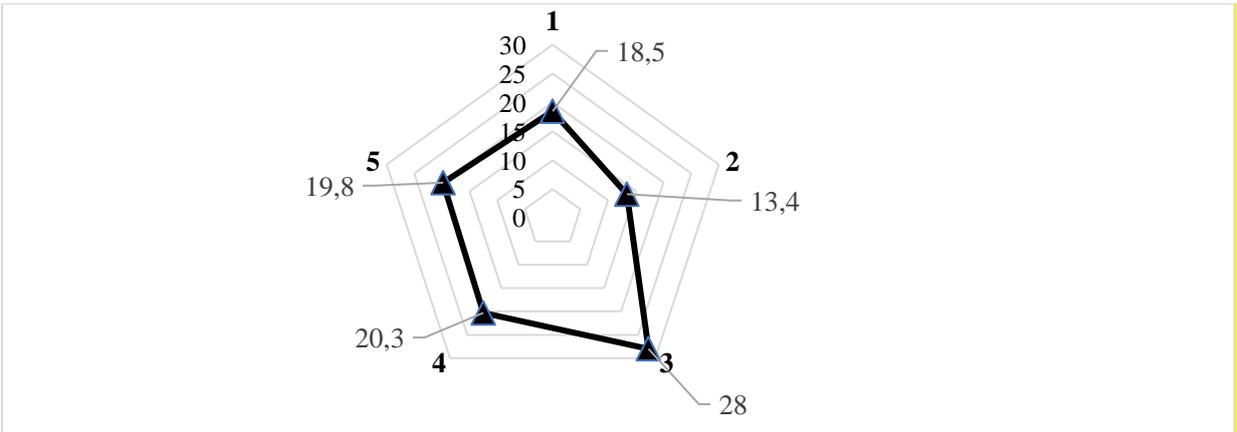


Fig. 2.14. Level of satisfaction of IDPs’ needs for employment and self-realization in work as a factor of their economic integration

Note: to assess the level of satisfaction of IDP needs in this figure, a scale was used: 1 - not satisfied; 2 - weakly satisfied; 3 - moderately satisfied; 4 - adequately satisfied; 5 - fully satisfied.

About 32% and 28% of IDPs indicated that the satisfaction of the need for employment and self-realization at work is at a level below the average (1-2) and at the medium (3) level. This indicates the presence of problems in the implementation of economic activity of IDPs, which hinder their economic integration into local communities (Fig. 2.14).

The largest share of IDPs who rated their satisfaction with the need for employment and self-realization at levels (1) and (2) is observed among IDPs aged 60 and over (47.6%). This to some extent indicates this group’s desire to work; however, it does not always correspond to the realities of the labor market. (Fig. 2.15). A significant share of IDPs who reported difficulties in meeting this need is also observed in the 30-39 age group (33.3%). The largest proportion of IDPs who assessed their level of employment-need satisfaction at level (3) or higher is found among those aged 18-29 (75.4%) and 50-59 (73.5%). Overall, the analysis of the IDP needs map indicates substantially greater challenges in meeting employment-related needs among individuals aged 30-39 and those aged 60 and above.

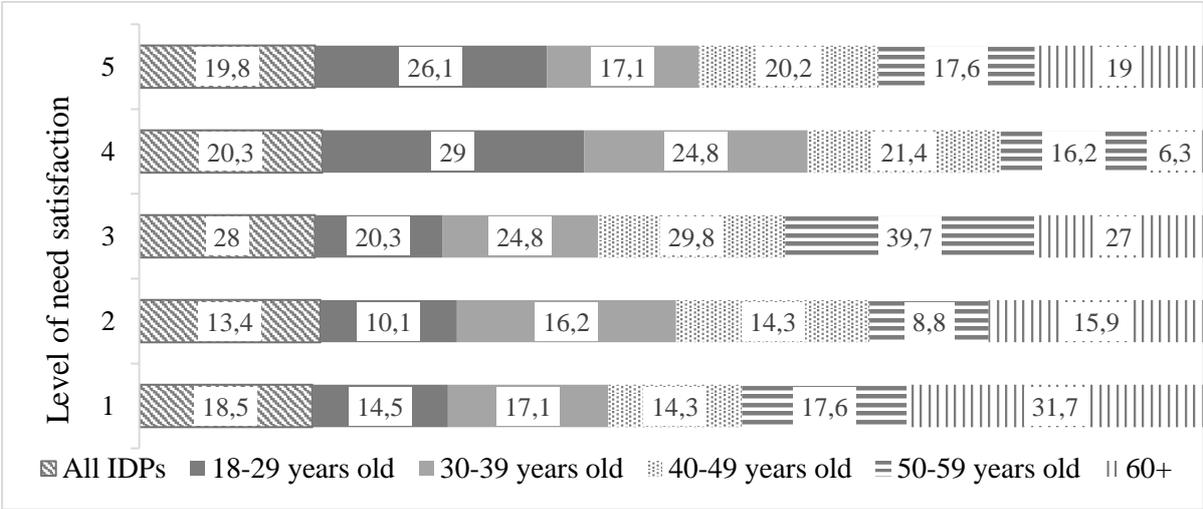


Fig. 2.15. Distribution of IDPs by the level of need satisfaction with employment and self-realization in work by age, %

The survey results further show that the proportion of women who assess the level of need satisfaction with their employment and self-realization at levels (1) and (2) is slightly higher compared to men (35.8% versus 27.6%). At the same time, the share of men whose employment needs are satisfied at the average level (3) or

higher amounts to 72.4% (compared to 64.2% among women). Thus, within the IDP needs map, the level of unmet employment needs is higher among women (Fig. 2.16).

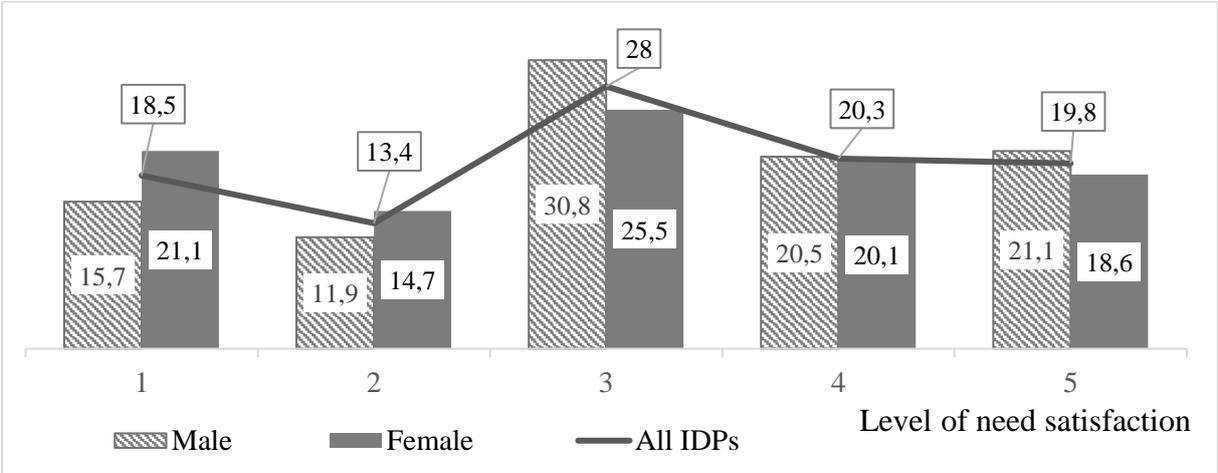


Fig. 2.16. Distribution of IDPs by the level of need satisfaction with employment and self-realization in work by gender, %

A significantly larger share of IDPs who reported an average (3) and higher level of satisfaction with the need for employment and self-realization at work is observed in the south-eastern regions of Ukraine (71.6% versus 68.1% among all IDPs). The lowest level of satisfaction of this need is among IDPs living in the central (40.4%) and northern (33.7%) regions of Ukraine (Fig. 2.17).

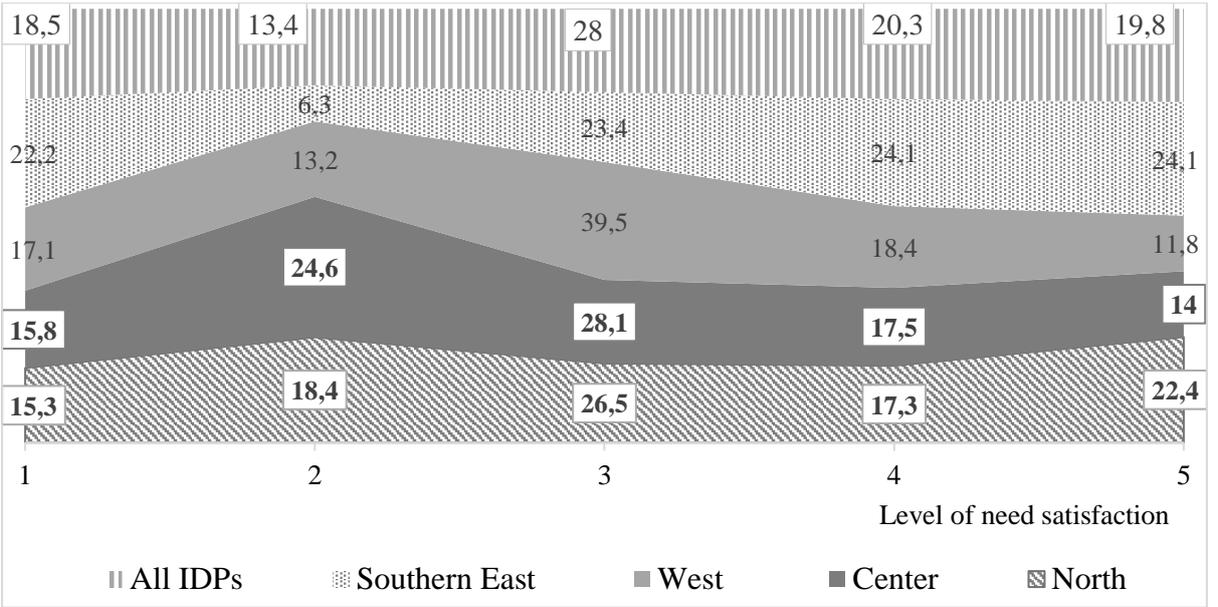


Fig. 2.17. Distribution of IDPs by level of need satisfaction with employment and self-realization in work by region of residence, %

A significantly larger share of IDPs who reported that their employment needs were satisfied at an average level (3) or higher is observed among those with higher education (72.3% compared to 63.9% among IDPs without higher education). Thus, while nearly one in four IDPs with higher education faces difficulties in securing employment, among IDPs without higher education, this proportion increases to nearly one in three (Figure 2.18).

In addition, the economic integration of some IDPs who implement or seek to implement their economic activity in the field of entrepreneurship and self-employment is largely determined by existing programs to support their business (Pankova, 2021). Given this, within the framework of the sociological monitoring conducted, a number of questions related specifically to the *satisfaction of IDPs' needs for business support*. As the survey results showed, this need is relevant only for 32% of IDPs, and irrelevant for 68% of IDPs. Therefore, when further analyzing the results of the IDP survey by the level of need satisfaction with business support, only the responses of those IDPs for whom the specified need is relevant were taken into account.

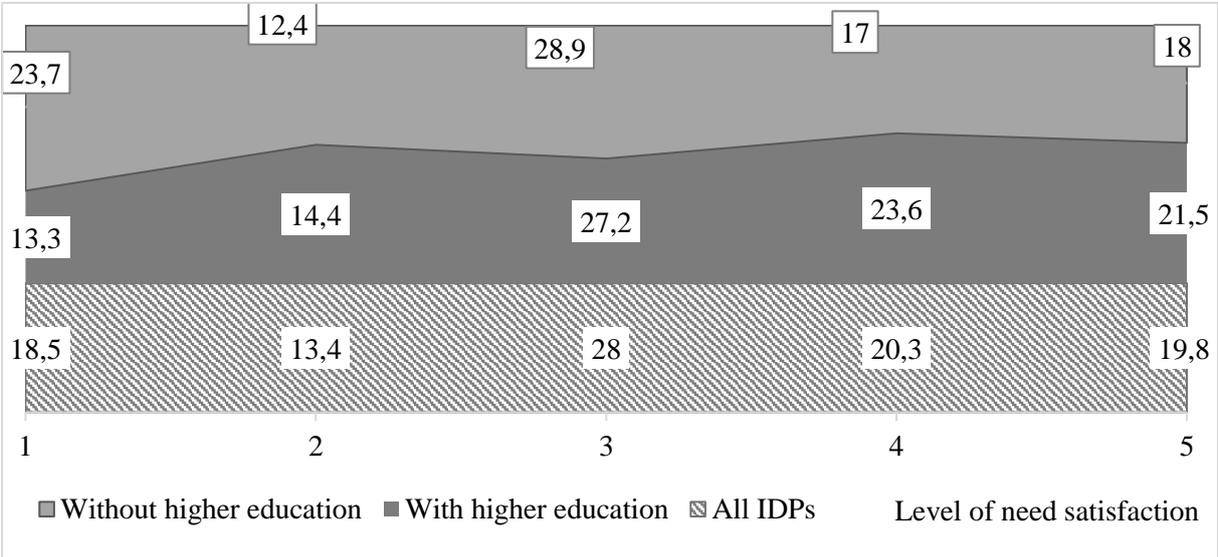


Fig. 2.18. Distribution of IDPs by level of need satisfaction with employment and self-realization in work for equal education, %

The survey results indicate that the level of IDPs' satisfaction with support for their business activities is quite low (Fig. 2.19).

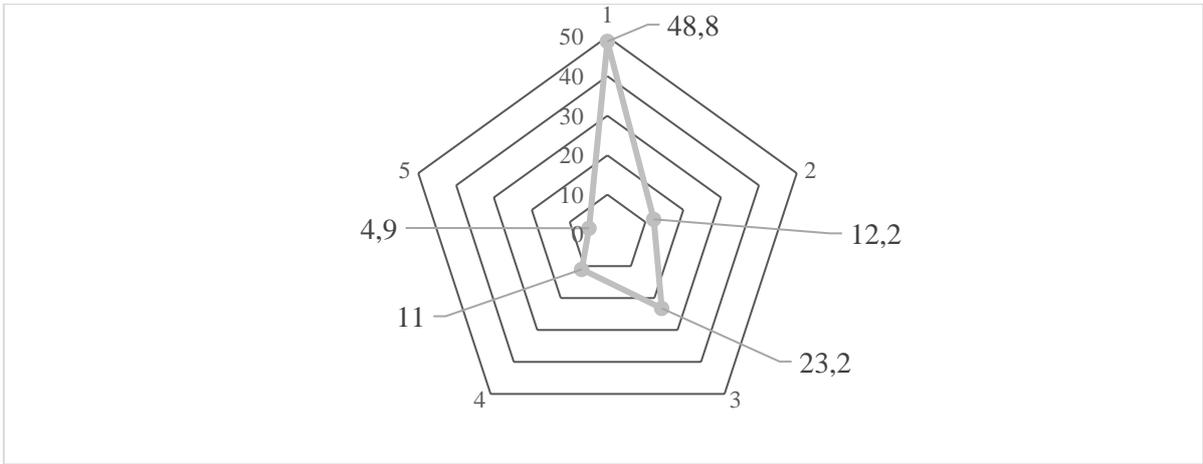


Fig. 2.19. Level of IDPs' need satisfaction with business support (relocation and business development in a new location, starting a new business) as a factor of their economic integration

Nearly every second respondent reported that the level of satisfaction of this need corresponds to the lowest level (1). Only one in four IDPs assessed the level of satisfaction with business-support needs at the medium level (3). The share of IDPs who evaluated their satisfaction with business-support needs at the high (5) or above-average (4) levels is only about 16%. This highlights the need for the to intensify its efforts to support the entrepreneurial initiatives of IDPs. The highest share of IDPs who indicated that their need for business support was satisfied at an average (3) or higher level is observed in the 18-29 age group (65.4% versus 39% among all IDPs) (Figure 2.20).

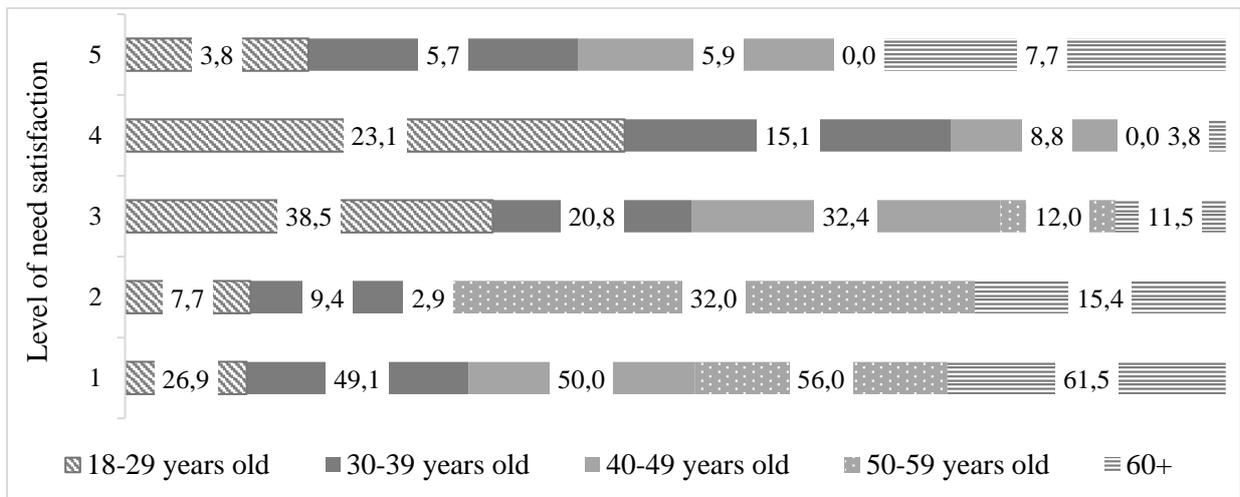


Fig. 2.20. Distribution of IDPs by need satisfaction with business support by age, %

A fairly high proportion of IDPs indicated that this need was satisfied at the same level at the age of 40-49 (47.1%) and at the age of 30-39 (41.5%). The highest level of dissatisfaction with the need for business support, according to their own estimates, is found among IDPs aged 50-59 (88%) and those aged 60 and older (76.9%).

There are no significant differences in the level of need satisfaction with business support among IDPs by region of residence (Fig. 2.21).

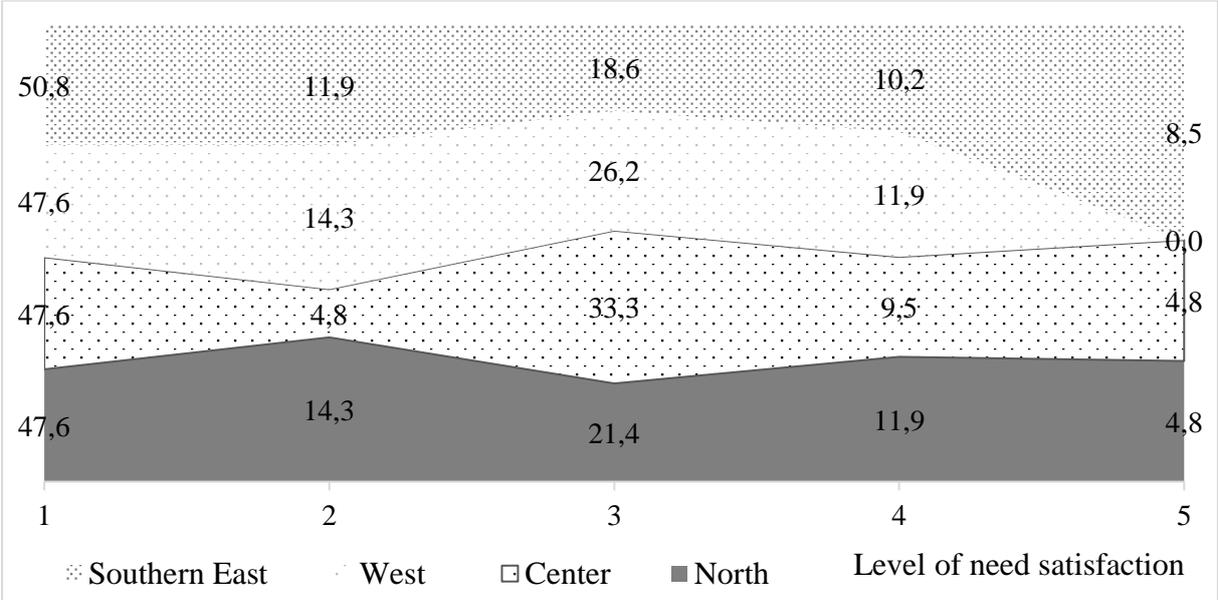


Fig. 2.21. Distribution of IDPs by need satisfaction with business support by region of residence, %

The only exception is the central regions of Ukraine. The share of IDPs living in the central regions of Ukraine who assess the need satisfaction with business support at an average (3) and higher level is 47.6% compared to 39% among all IDPs for whom this need is relevant. In the meantime, a higher level (3 and above) of need satisfaction with business support was indicated by IDPs with higher education (44.3% versus 32.9% among IDPs without higher education).

At the same time, a higher level (3 and above) of need satisfaction with business support was indicated by IDPs with higher education (44.3% versus 32.9% among IDPs without higher education).

An important component of the integration of IDPs is their *integration into the public life of the host communities*. The importance of this direction of IDP

integration is emphasized by Mishchuk (2024). In particular, significant obstacles to the integration of IDPs are claimed to be lower opportunities compared to the local population to participate in projects aimed at the development of local communities and to participate in decision-making regarding community development (Mishchuk, 2024).

77.5% of IDPs indicated their own integration into public life at different levels: 41% - at the level of the local population; 44% - less than the local population; 15% - more than the local population (Figure 2.22).

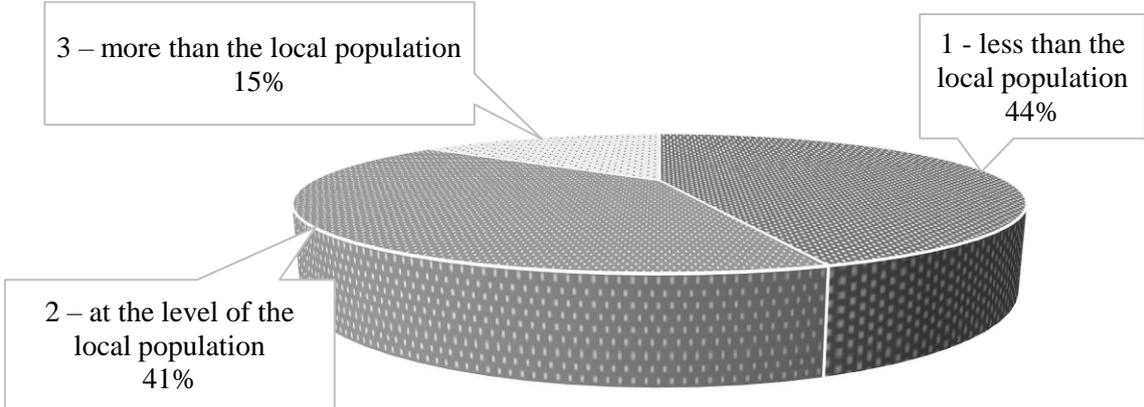


Fig. 2.22. Distribution of IDP responses on the level of integration into the public life of host communities, %

That is, almost every second IDP was integrated into the public life of the host community at a level lower than the local population. This indicates the existence and need to remove barriers to the participation of IDPs in public life.

A study of integration into the public life of host communities indicates a higher level of IDP participation in supporting the AFU and countering russian aggression (Fig. 2.23).

At the same time, the lowest level of IDP integration into community life is observed in their participation in civic movements, as well as in human rights initiatives and community advocacy. Notably, almost every second IDP surveyed assessed their own integration into community life in these areas as being below the level of local residents.

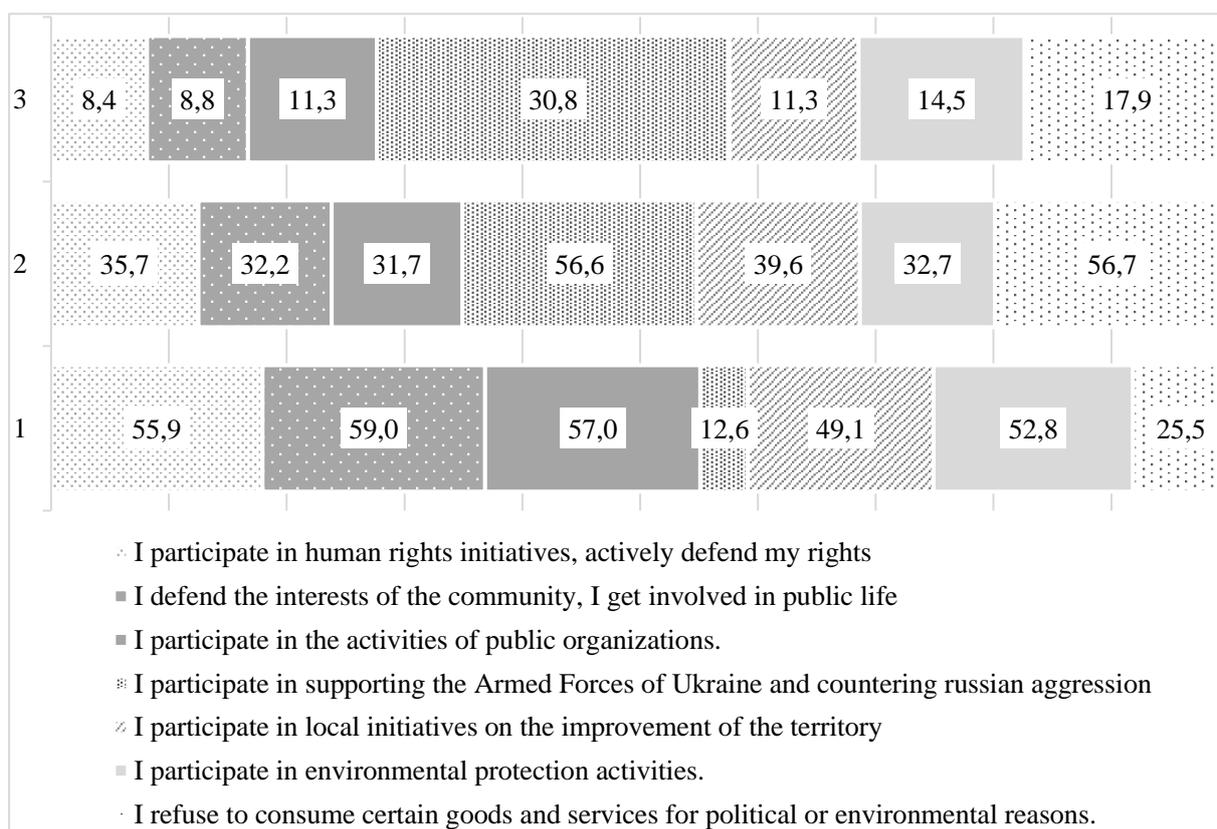


Fig. 2.23. Distribution of IDPs by level of integration into public life, by its manifestations, %

Considering the age and gender of IDPs made it possible to identify certain differences in the integration of these groups into community life (Table 2.7). Despite the generally low level of IDP integration in human rights initiatives and the defence of their own rights, somewhat higher levels of integration in these areas are observed among those aged 30-39 and among men (the share of these groups reporting integration at a level equal to or higher than that of local residents is 47.1% and 48.6%, respectively). Nonetheless, unfortunately, almost every second IDP – regardless of age or gender – reported lower participation in human rights initiatives and rights advocacy compared to local residents. The defence of community interests and engagement in community life are also characterised by a rather low level of IDP integration. Nearly every second IDP surveyed assessed their participation in these activities as below that of local residents. A slightly higher level of participation in defending community interests is observed only among IDPs aged 30-39.

Table 2.7

Distribution of IDPs by level of integration into public life in the host
community in the context of individual areas by gender and age

	Integration by levels	Age					Sex	
		18-29 years old	30-39 years old	40-49 years old	50-59 years old	60+	Men	Women
<i>I participate in human rights initiatives, actively defend my rights</i>	in general	83.5	79.1	75.5	65.4	62.1	75	69.4
	1	53	52.9	53.5	62.7	58.9	51.4	60.1
	2	43.9	32.2	39.4	33.3	31.6	40.7	31.1
	3	3	14.9	7	3.9	9.5	7.9	8.8
<i>I defend the interests of the community, I get involved in public life</i>	in general	83.5	76.4	74.5	65.4	60.1	69.9	71.2
	1	57.6	50	62.9	64.7	62	55.8	61.6
	2	37.9	35.7	31.4	29.4	27.2	37	28.3
	3	4.5	14.3	5.7	5.9	10.9	7.3	10.1
<i>I participate in the activities of public organizations.</i>	in general	79.7	80.9	78.7	65.4	62.1	72.9	71.9
	1	66.7	43.8	50	62.7	65.3	55.8	58
	2	30.2	37.1	35.1	31.4	25.3	32.6	31
	3	3.2	19.1	14.9	5.9	9.5	11.6	11
<i>I participate in supporting the Armed Forces of Ukraine and countering Russian aggression</i>	in general	98.7	96.4	94.7	96.2	88.9	93.6	94.6
	1	10.3	9.4	9	12	19.1	11.8	13.3
	2	59	54.7	58.4	60	53.7	58.8	54.8
	3	30.8	35.8	32.6	28	27.2	29.4	31.9
<i>I participate in local initiatives on the improvement of the territory</i>	in general	81	82.7	81.9	76.9	69.9	77.1	78.1
	1	57.8	45.1	41.6	46.7	54.2	49.5	48.8
	2	32.8	38.5	45.5	46.7	36.4	40.1	39.2
	3	9.4	16.5	13	6.7	9.3	10.4	12
<i>I participate in environmental protection activities</i>	in general	78.5	84.5	79.8	69.2	62.1	73.7	73.7
	1	53.2	45.2	49.3	55.6	61.1	54	51.7
	2	32.3	37.6	33.3	33.3	27.4	35.1	30.7
	3	14.5	17.2	17.3	11.1	11.6	10.9	17.6
<i>I refuse to consume certain goods and services for political or environmental reasons</i>	in general	89.9	86.4	89.4	79.5	70.6	80.1	83.1
	1	26.8	21.1	20.2	33.9	27.8	25.4	25.5
	2	63.4	54.7	53.6	58.1	55.6	57.7	55.8
	3	9.9	24.2	26.2	8.1	16.7	16.9	18.6

Participation of IDPs in the activities of civil society organizations is also quite low. A slightly larger share of IDPs who reported integration at a level equal to or higher than that of local residents in this area is observed only in the age groups 30-39 (56.2%) and 40-49 (50%). In terms of gender, IDP integration in civil society organization activities is nearly identical.

The highest level of IDP engagement in community life is observed in support for the AFU and in countering Russian aggression. In this dimension, the share of IDPs who assessed their own integration as equal to or higher than that of local residents is the highest, ranging from 80% to 90% across different groups.

Almost every second IDP – regardless of age or gender – reported lower participation than local residents in local initiatives related to community improvement and environmental protection. A higher level of integration in these areas is observed only among IDPs aged 30-39 and 40-49, as well as among women.

A comparatively high level of IDP engagement is noted in the area of refusing to consume certain goods and services for political or environmental reasons. The share of IDPs who assessed their own integration at a level equal to or higher than that of local residents is consistently high across all age groups (ranging from 66.2% to 78.9%) and both genders (74.4% to 76.4%).

Considering the region of residence when assessing IDP integration into community life also revealed certain differences (Table 2.8).

Table 2.8

Distribution of IDPs by level of integration into the public life of the host community in terms of individual areas by region of residence, %

	<i>Integration by levels</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Southeast</i>
<i>I participate in human rights initiatives, actively defend my rights</i>	in general	66.7	83.5	73.3	70.5
	1	46.7	63.6	47	62.2
	2	50	24.2	47	27
	3	3.3	12.1	6.1	10.8
<i>I defend the interests of the community, I get involved in public life</i>	in general	66.7	83.5	75.6	66.2
	1	47.8	65.2	47.1	69.1
	2	44.4	24.2	50	19.4
	3	7.8	10.6	2.9	11.5
<i>I participate in the activities of public organizations.</i>	in general	68.1	86.1	76.7	68.1
	1	45.7	66.2	40.6	67.8
	2	44.6	22.1	42	23.1
	3	9.8	11.8	17.4	9.1
<i>I participate in supporting the Armed Forces of Ukraine and countering Russian aggression</i>	in general	94.1	97.5	97.8	91.4
	1	6.3	10.4	13.6	17.2
	2	74	64.9	40.9	49

	3	19.7	24.7	45.5	33.9
<i>I participate in local initiatives on the improvement of the territory</i>	in general	74.8	87.3	81.1	74.3
	1	45.5	52.2	39.7	54.5
	2	47.5	36.2	43.8	34
	3	6.9	11.6	16.4	11.5
<i>I participate in environmental protection activities.</i>	in general	71.1	81	76.7	71.4
	1	50	67.2	43.5	52.7
	2	40.6	21.9	43.5	27.3
	3	9.4	10.9	13	20
<i>I refuse to consume certain goods and services for political or environmental reasons.</i>	in general	87.4	87.3	80	76.7
	1	19.5	23.2	19.4	33.5
	2	66.9	62.3	61.1	44.7
	3	13.6	14.5	19.4	21.7

In particular, a significantly lower level of IDP participation in human rights initiatives, advocacy for their own rights and community interests, local initiatives related to community improvement and environmental protection, and the activities of civil society organizations is observed in the southern and southeastern regions of Ukraine. At the same time, over 50% of IDPs residing in the northern and western regions reported that their participation in these activities is equal to or higher than that of local residents.

Consistently high levels of IDP integration across all regions are observed in support for the AFU and in countering Russian aggression, as well as in refusing to consume certain goods and services for political or environmental reasons. The share of IDPs reporting support for the AFU and participation in countering Russian aggression at a level equal to or higher than that of local residents ranges from 83% in the southeastern regions to 94% in the north. Similarly, the share of IDPs who refrain from consuming certain goods and services for political or environmental reasons ranges from 66% in the southeast to 81% in the north and west.

An important component of IDP integration is their ***integration into cultural and sports initiatives of the community***. 77.2% of IDPs reported their integration into cultural and sports life at various levels: 46% at the level of local residents, 39% below the level of local residents, and 15% above the level of local residents (Fig. 2.24). In other words, nearly one in three IDPs is integrated into the cultural

and sports life of the host community at a level below that of local residents. This indicates the existence of barriers to participation and the need to address them to enhance IDP engagement in these activities.

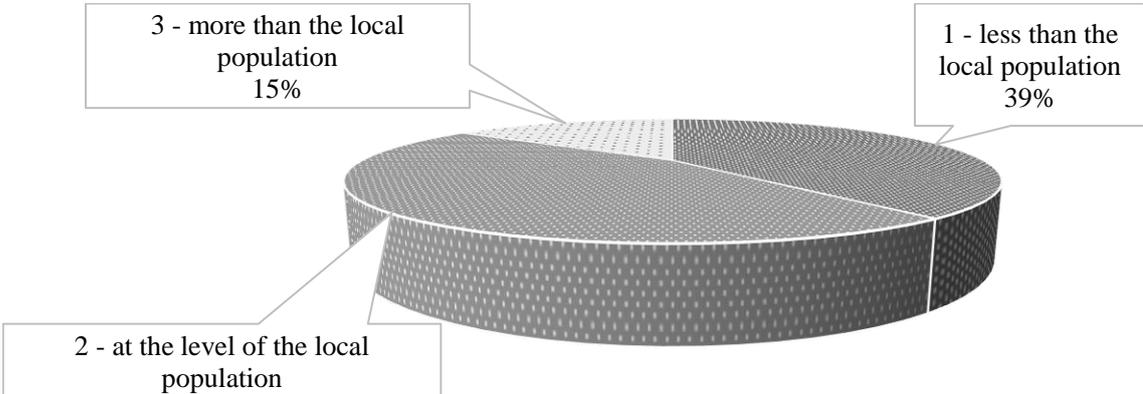


Fig. 2.24. Distribution of IDP responses on the level of integration into cultural and sports life in host communities, %

A study of IDP integration into cultural and sports life reveals a slightly higher level of IDP involvement in cultural events compared to the involvement in sports initiatives (Fig. 2.25). However, in both the first and second areas, the share of IDPs who assess their own integration at the same level or higher than local residents is quite high (about 60%).

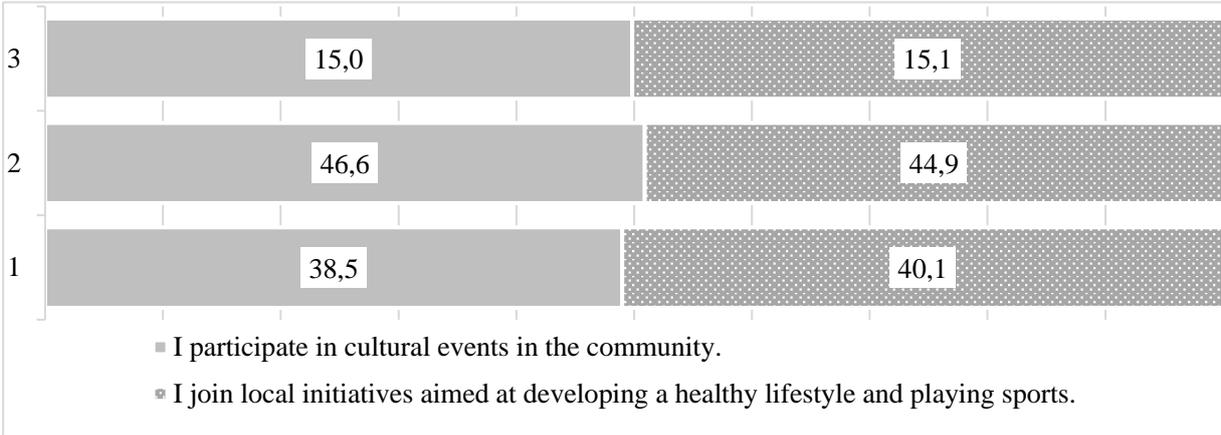


Fig. 2.25. Distribution of IDPs by level of integration into public life by its manifestations, %

The study of IDP integration into cultural and sports life in the community requires specification by age, gender, region and place of residence, and level of education (Table 2.9). In all IDP groups categorized by age, gender, region and place of residence, and education level, the share of those who assessed their

integration in community cultural events at a level equal to or higher than that of local residents exceeds 50% (the only exception is the group of IDPs residing in the southeastern region).

Table 2.9

Distribution of IDPs by level of integration into community cultural and sports initiatives in the context of individual areas by age, gender, regions and place of residence, level of education, %

	<i>I participate in cultural events in the community.</i>				<i>I join local initiatives aimed at developing a healthy lifestyle and playing sports.</i>			
	<i>Integration by levels</i>				<i>Integration by levels</i>			
	<i>in general</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>in general</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
Age groups								
18-29 years old	86.1	42.6	45.6	11.8	86.1	25.0	60.3	14.7
30-39 years old	83.6	27.2	54.3	18.5	82.7	30.8	51.6	17.6
40-49 years old	81.9	27.3	48.1	24.7	78.7	33.8	45.9	20.3
50-59 years old	71.8	46.4	44.6	8.9	69.2	53.7	37.0	9.3
60+	75.2	48.7	40.9	10.4	68.6	55.2	32.4	12.4
Sex								
Men	79.7	40.4	44.1	15.4	75.8	39.1	44.7	16.2
Women	79.1	36.8	48.6	14.5	76.6	40.8	45.1	14.1
Regions and place of residence								
North	80.7	25.7	66.1	8.3	79.3	34.6	56.1	9.3
Center	84.8	38.8	49.3	11.9	79.7	42.9	47.6	9.5
West	84.4	28.9	56.6	14.5	84.4	34.2	50.0	15.8
Southeast	74.3	51.9	26.9	21.2	69.5	45.9	32.9	21.2
Regional center	79.2	41.7	39.8	18.4	78.5	42.6	39.7	17.6
Another city	82.5	36.2	49.6	14.2	78.6	41.3	43.0	15.7
Village	75.0	33.3	60.0	6.7	67.0	29.9	64.2	6.0
Education level								
With higher education	83.1	31.6	52.6	15.8	81.8	38.3	47.2	14.5
Without higher education	76.3	44.8	41.0	14.2	71.6	41.7	42.7	15.6

A significantly higher level of integration according to this criterion is observed among IDPs aged 30-49 and those residing in the northern and western regions, with the share of IDPs in these groups assessing their integration at a level equal to or higher than that of local residents exceeding 70%.

Another dimension of IDP integration involves participation in local

initiatives aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle and engaging in sports. In almost all IDP groups – by age, gender, region and place of residence, and education level – the share of those who assessed their participation in local sports initiatives at a level equal to or higher than that of local residents exceeds 50% (the only exception is IDPs aged 50 and above). A notably higher level of integration into sports activities is observed among IDPs living in rural areas and among youth under 29 years old, with the share of IDPs in these groups assessing their integration at or above the level of local residents exceeding 70%. Interestingly, approximately one in ten IDPs rated their participation in local sports events as higher than that of local residents.

Full integration of IDPs into host communities is not possible without their *socio-psychological integration*, which involves promoting mutual respect in relationships with local residents, establishing friendly contacts, and similar social interactions. During socio-psychological adaptation, IDPs may exhibit certain deviations in tendencies toward passivity and emotional discomfort (Aleksandrov, 2025). The importance of social capital in the process of IDP integration into “new” places of residence has also been emphasized (Nykyforenko, 2017).

Sociological monitoring indicates that one in three IDPs reported a higher level of their own socio-psychological integration compared to local residents (Fig. 2.26).

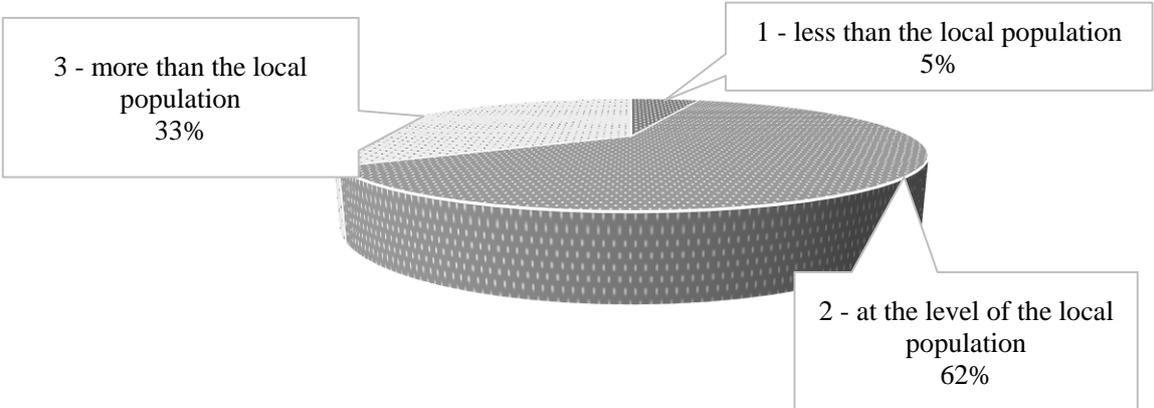


Fig. 2.26. Distribution of IDP responses on the level of socio-psychological integration in host communities, %

Sixty-two percent of IDPs believe that, in terms of socio-psychological integration, they have integrated into local communities at the level of local residents, which is undoubtedly positive. Only 5% of IDPs assessed their own social and psychological integration into local communities as below the level of the permanent population. In other words, nearly one in three IDPs has integrated into the local community at a level higher than that of local residents, and one in two at the level of local residents. These survey results are quite encouraging and indicate an adequate level of socio-psychological adaptation among the vast majority of IDPs.

The study of IDPs’ socio-psychological integration across its dimensions (Fig. 2.27) indicates a generally high level of respect shown by IDPs in their relationships with local residents, as well as the presence of friendly relations with the local population. Only a small proportion of IDPs (3.3–7.3%) assess their own socio-psychological integration in these dimensions as below the level of local residents.

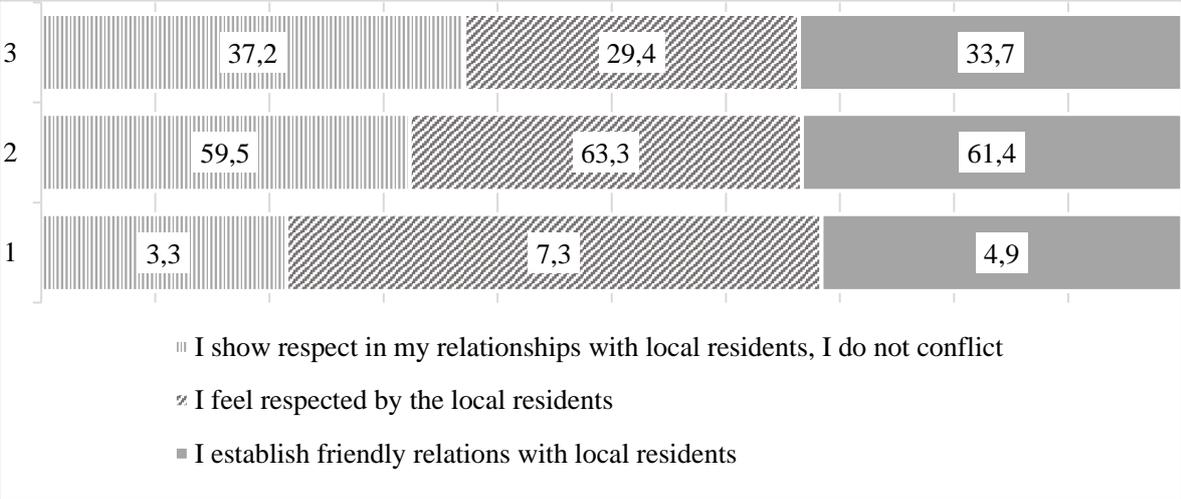


Fig. 2.27. Distribution of IDPs by level of socio-psychological integration, by its manifestations, %

An analysis of socio-psychological integration by age, gender, region and place of residence, and education level further confirms the generally high level of integration across almost all IDP groups (Table 2.10).

It is positive that, across all IDP groups – by age, gender, region and place of residence, and education level – the share of IDPs who assess their socio-

psychological integration at a level equal to or higher than that of local residents is 90% or more. In other words, it can be concluded that the issue of psychological non-acceptance of IDPs by local residents, and vice versa, is virtually nonexistent.

Table 2.10

Distribution of IDPs by level of socio-psychological integration into host communities in the context of individual areas by age, gender, regions and place of residence, level of education, %

Sign	<i>I show respect in my relationships with local residents, I do not conflict</i>				<i>I feel respected by the local residents</i>				<i>I establish friendly relations with local residents</i>			
	<i>Integration by levels</i>				<i>Integration by levels</i>				<i>Integration by levels</i>			
	<i>in general</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>in general</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>in general</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
Age												
18-29 years old	100.0	3.8	65.8	30.4	100.0	2.5	73.4	24.1	100.0	5.1	63.3	31.6
30-39 years old	100.0	1.8	61.8	36.4	100.0	8.2	66.4	25.5	100.0	2.7	65.5	31.8
40-49 years old	100.0	2.1	56.4	41.5	100.0	7.4	55.3	37.2	98.9	2.2	62.4	35.5
50-59 years old	98.7	3.9	55.8	40.3	98.7	10.4	59.7	29.9	100.0	9.0	52.6	38.5
60+	98.7	4.6	58.3	37.1	98.5	7.3	62.7	30.0	98.7	6.0	61.6	32.5
Sex												
Men	99.2	3.0	61.5	35.5	98.3	6.9	67.2	25.9	98.7	3.4	63.1	33.5
Women	99.6	3.6	57.8	38.6	97.6	7.6	60.1	32.4	100.0	6.1	60.1	33.8
Region and place of residence												
North	98.5	3.8	76.7	19.5	98.5	9.0	78.2	12.8	99.3	9.0	70.9	20.1
Center	100.0	1.3	58.2	40.5	100.0	7.6	65.8	26.6	100.0	8.9	59.5	31.6
West	100.0	5.6	50.0	44.4	98.9	10.1	56.2	33.7	100.0	3.3	60.0	36.7
Southeast	99.5	2.9	53.1	44.0	99.5	4.8	56.0	39.2	99.0	1.4	56.7	41.8
Regional center	99.2	2.7	53.5	43.8	99.2	7.8	58.5	33.7	99.6	4.6	54.8	40.5
Another city	99.4	2.6	62.1	35.3	98.7	6.6	63.8	29.6	99.4	5.9	64.1	30.1
Village	100.0	6.0	71.0	23.0	97.9	7.0	75.0	18.0	99.0	4.0	74.7	21.2
Education level												
With higher education	98.7	3.0	56.7	40.3	99.6	7.7	62.1	30.2	99.6	4.7	57.4	37.9
Without higher education	100.0	3.6	61.9	34.5	98.9	6.9	64.4	28.7	99.3	5.1	64.9	30.1

2.3. Obstacles to social integration and the development of survival strategies of IDPs

When analyzing the problems that hinder social integration of IDPs into public life, it was assumed that the first understanding of existing obstacles may be achieved through expert evaluation (methodology is described in 2.1) considering the expertise of the experts in the field of study. The obstacles were defined considering the possible sources of their appearance: internal (personal reasons) and external – derived from bureaucracy and relations with local communities. The latter one includes insufficient support or direct discrimination and unfriendly attitudes towards IDPs.

The analysis was processed using the principles: using a 5-point scale (1 – problem is insignificant, 5 – problem is widespread); the level of 3 points is not taken into account in the interpretation of results as a neutral assessment; levels of 1-2 points are defined as a minor manifestation of the problem, the reacting to which should not be considered among the priorities of local communities governing; levels of 4 and 5 points determine the most crucial problems requiring urgent solutions. The distribution of expert estimates in the defined intervals is given in Table 2.11.

The survey results indicate that 36.9% of respondents identified bureaucratic barriers to meeting basic needs as the most widespread and urgent challenge faced by IDPs. Conversely, 68.4% considered discrimination or disrespect towards IDPs by residents of hosting communities to be the least pressing issue. A further 36.8% of respondents attributed their difficulties with social adaptation to personal factors (psychological or related causes), yet classified these as minor and sporadic in nature. 42.1% of respondents considered the insufficient support provided by local communities for IDPs to be an irrelevant obstacle.

Overall, 43.4% of the experts surveyed considered the proposed obstacles to social adaptation and integration to be insignificant and occurring only in isolated cases. Nevertheless, the expert evaluations consistently highlight bureaucratic impediments as the most acute and consequential barrier to effective integration.

Table 2.11

Assessment of the level of problems hindering social adaptation and integration of IDPs into public life, % of the number of respondents

<i>Problem hindering social adaptation and integration of IDPs into a new social environment</i>	<i>Level of problem manifestation</i>				
	<i>1 - the problem is insignificant, has isolated manifestations</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5 - the problem is current, widespread</i>
Own personal reasons (psychological, etc.)	18.4	18.4	36.8	18.4	7.9
<i>Total indicators</i>	36.8			26.3	
Bureaucratic barriers to meeting needs	15.8	10.5	36.8	23.7	13.2
<i>Total indicators</i>	26.3			36.9	
Insufficient support for the integration of IDPs on the part of local communities	13.2	28.9	31.6	23.7	2.6
<i>Total indicators</i>	42.1			26.3	
Discrimination against and disrespect for IDPs	26.3	42.1	10.5	15.8	5.3
<i>Total indicators</i>	68.4			21.1	
% of experts' ratings	18.4	25	28.9	20.4	7.2
<i>Total indicators</i>	43.4			27.6	

Note: light green - minor manifestations of problems, color gray - the most significant obstacle for integration.

Taken together, the findings demonstrate that the majority of potential obstacles to the social integration of IDPs are perceived as relatively minor. At the same time, personal factors (such as psychological, moral, or ethical challenges, or other forms of individual reluctance to adapt to new communities) do not appear to constitute a substantial impediment for most IDPs.

As it is seen from the experts' suggestions, the obstacles for integration are mainly insignificant. However, even with respect for the experience of the experts, the deeper understanding of integration (or isolation) prerequisites requires the estimation of the target group opinion. For this aim, the results of the sociological survey should be used as more informative.

An important indicator of the proper level of integration of IDPs in host communities is the immutability of their chosen place of residence. In fact, we

can talk about the creation of a proper environment for the residence and life of IDPs, which shapes their aspirations to live in the host community. A significant role in creating such an environment is assigned to state authorities at the level of specific administrative-territorial units. Moreover, the *immutability of the place of residence of IDPs in a particular host community* can be considered as a criterion for the effectiveness of the activities of state authorities at the appropriate level.

The vast majority of IDPs (73.5%), having arrived at their new place of residence, did not change it (Fig. 2.28). This is an indicator of favorable conditions for their residence and a fairly high efficiency of the activities of state authorities in the host communities in promoting their integration.

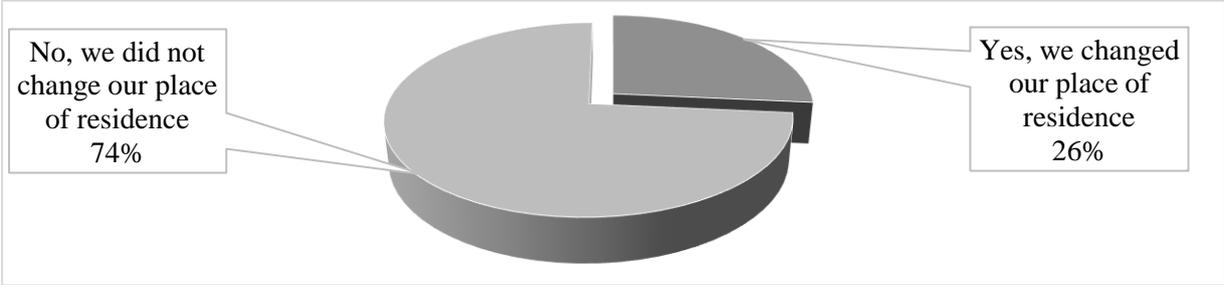


Fig. 2.28. Distribution of IDPs by change of place of residence, %

At the same time, 26.5% of IDPs (almost one in four) changed their primary place of residence. The main reasons for changing their place of residence were housing problems (43.4%), lack of work (26.5%), danger to life caused by military actions (19.1%), and low income (14.0%) (Fig. 2.29).

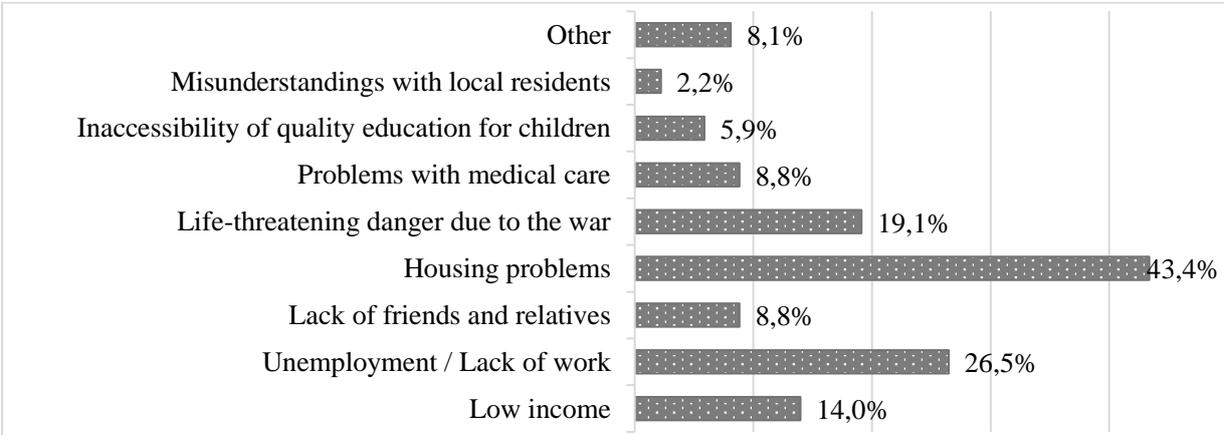


Fig. 2.29. Distribution of IDPs by reasons for changing their primary place of residence, %

Also among the significant reasons for changing residence are the distance from friends and relatives (8.8%) and problems with medical care (8.8%).

The housing problem as a factor in changing residence is significant for all age groups of IDPs (Fig. 2.30). Unemployment is also a fairly significant factor prompting a change of residence for most IDP age groups (with the exception of those aged 60 and older). At the same time, low income and problems with medical care were cited as reasons for relocation by more than 18% and 24% of IDPs over 60, respectively. Misunderstandings with local residents are the most significant reason for relocation among youth aged 18-29, whereas the inaccessibility of education for children is most relevant for IDPs aged 40-49.

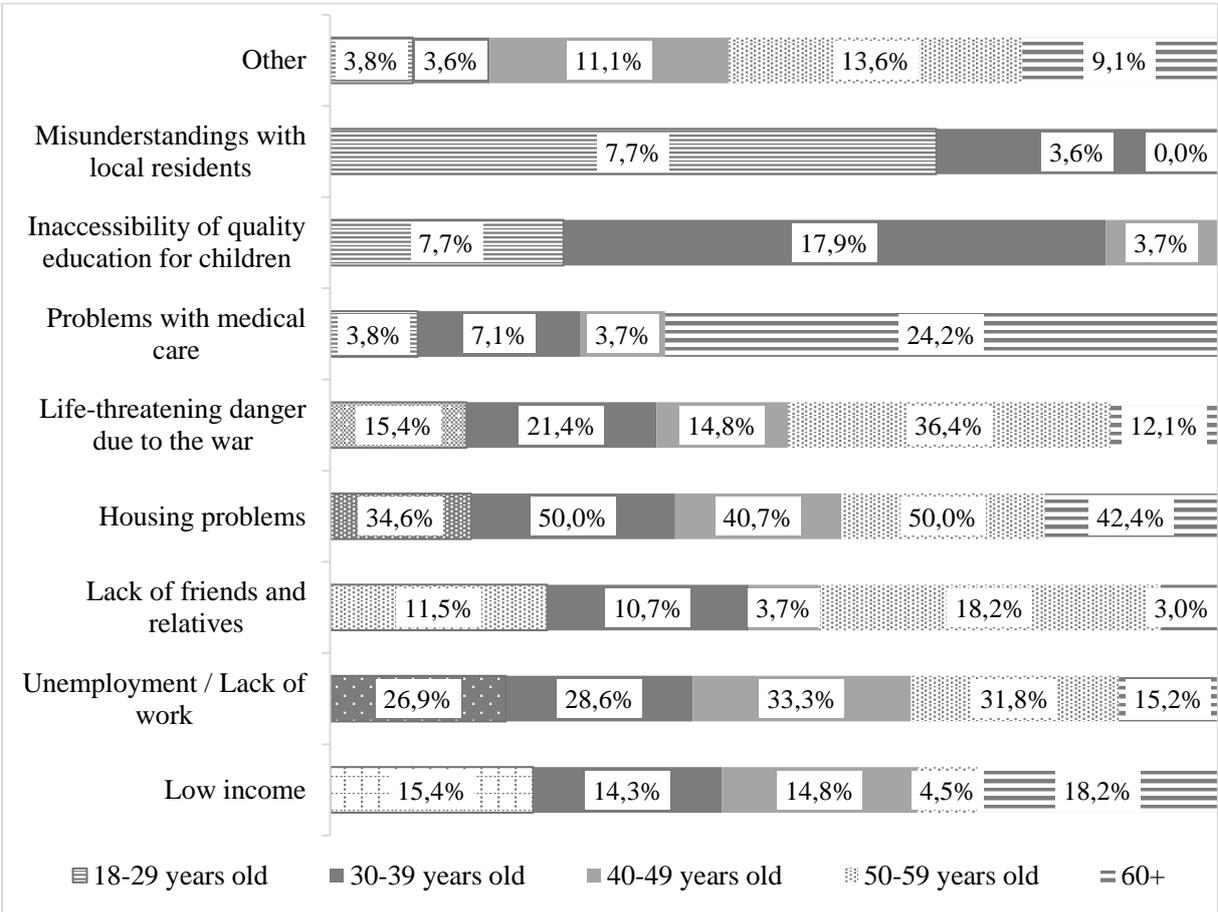


Fig. 2.30. Distribution of IDP responses by reasons for changing residence by age, %

The distribution of IDPs by reasons for changing residence, analyzed by gender, education, status, and region of residence, also revealed certain distinctive patterns (Table 2.12).

Table 2.12

Distribution of IDP responses by reasons for changing residence by gender,
education, status and regions of residence

<i>Reasons for changing residence</i>	<i>Sex</i>		<i>Education</i>		<i>Status</i>						<i>Region</i>			
	Men	Women	With higher education	Without higher education	Still learning.	Working on an ongoing basis	Temporarily out of work (care for a child or a disabled person)	Unemployed (registered)	Working pensioner	Unemployed pensioner	North	Center	West	Southeast
<i>Low income</i>	11.8	15.3	11.7	15.8	0.0	12.3	14.3	10.0	33.3	18.8	13.0	11.1	11.1	16.7
<i>Lack of work</i>	17.6	31.8	31.7	22.4	0.0	29.2	33.3	60.0	66.7	6.3	23.9	16.7	11.1	37.0
<i>Distance from friends and relatives</i>	7.8	9.4	11.7	6.6	0.0	10.8	9.5	0.0	33.3	6.3	8.7	5.6	22.2	5.6
<i>Housing problems</i>	45.1	42.4	33.3	51.3	60.0	33.8	71.4	40.0	0.0	46.9	32.6	61.1	55.6	42.6
<i>Life-threatening danger due to the war</i>	17.6	20.0	23.3	15.8	40.0	23.1	14.3	0.0	0.0	18.8	21.7	22.2	22.2	14.8
<i>Problems with medical care</i>	11.8	7.1	6.7	10.5	20.0	1.5	14.3	0.0	0.0	21.9	13.0	5.6	0.0	9.3
<i>Inaccessibility of quality education for children, including preschool</i>	5.9	5.9	8.3	3.9	0.0	7.7	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	11.1	11.1	3.7
<i>Misunderstandings with local residents</i>	2.0	2.4	1.7	2.6	0.0	3.1	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	0.0	1.9
<i>Other</i>	7.8	8.2	6.7	9.2	0.0	10.8	0.0	10.0	0.0	9.4	8.7	5.6	0.0	11.1

By gender, the reasons for changing residence are generally similar across different IDP groups, with the exception of unemployment, which is a more significant reason for women than for men. Notably, relocation due to housing problems affects individuals without higher education to a greater extent, whereas relocation due to lack of work is more common among those with higher education. The majority of IDPs who changed residence due to housing problems are temporarily inactive (over 70%), students (60%), and unemployed (40%). Lack of

work is the most significant factor for relocation among working pensioners (67%) and the unemployed (60%). Across different regions of Ukraine, housing problems are the most significant reason for changing residence, particularly in the central and western regions.

An important factor in the social integration of IDPs in host communities is the *presence of friendly relationships with local residents*. Sociological monitoring results indicate that only a small share of IDPs assess their satisfaction with friendly treatment by local residents at a low level (1 or 2), accounting for just 7% (Fig. 2.31).

At the same time, every second (50%) and every third (29%) IDP indicated that this need was met at a high (5) and adequate (4) level, respectively. These results indicate that IDPs generally have good relations with residents in their host communities.

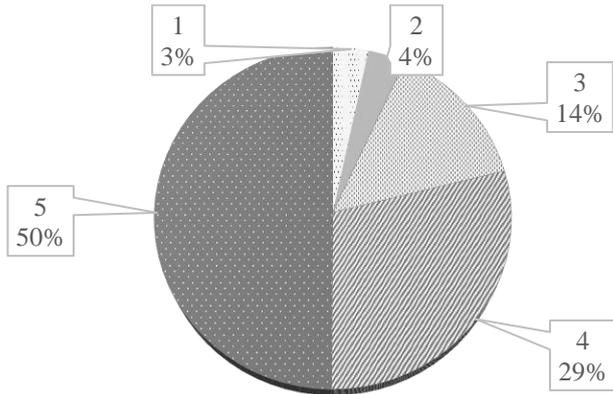


Fig. 2.31. Distribution of IDPs by the level of need satisfaction with friendly treatment by local residents, %

Note: to assess the level of satisfaction of IDP needs in this figure and further, a scale was used: 1 - not satisfied; 2 - slightly satisfied; 3 - moderately satisfied; 4 - moderately satisfied; 5 - completely satisfied.

The study of IDPs’ satisfaction with their need for friendly treatment by local residents across age groups confirmed a high level of satisfaction in all age groups (Fig. 2.32). Indeed, the share of IDPs reporting satisfaction at a medium level (3) or higher exceeds 90% in all age groups, reaching 96.2% among those aged 18-29 and 50-59.

It can be concluded that the level of satisfaction with the need for friendly treatment by local residents is high across all regions of IDP residence, with the share of respondents rating their satisfaction at a medium level or higher reaching 90% or more in all regions.

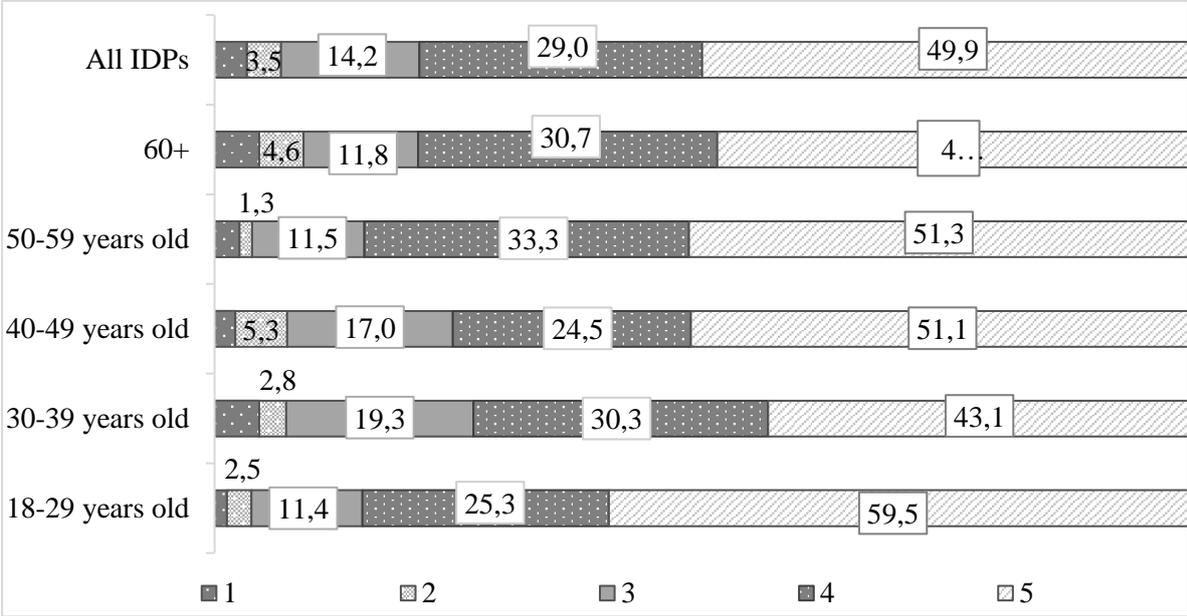


Fig. 2.32. Distribution of IDPs by satisfaction of the need for a friendly treatment by the local population, by age groups, %

The proportion of IDPs reporting complete dissatisfaction (1) or weak satisfaction (2) with this need ranges from 5.2% to 10.1% across regions (Fig. 2.33).

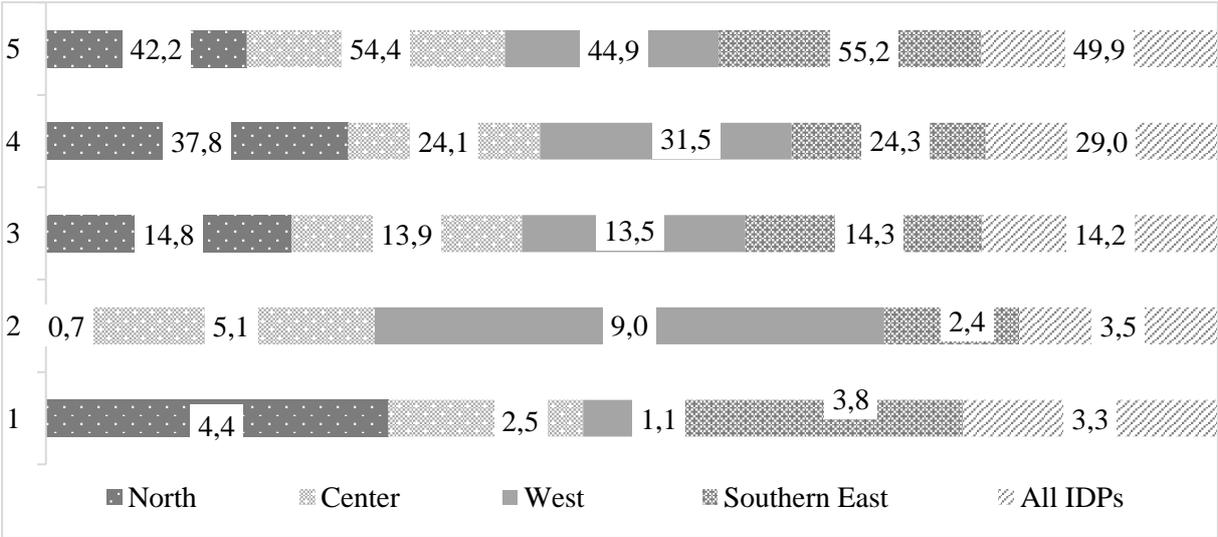


Fig. 2.33. Distribution of IDPs by satisfaction with the need for a friendly treatment by the local population, by region of residence, %

Overall, in the IDP needs map, the need for friendly treatment by local residents is the most satisfied, which promotes their social integration.

One of the restraining factors for the *social integration of IDPs into host communities is conflicts with other stakeholders* (family members, war veterans, local residents, employers, and government authorities providing social services and benefits).

Conflicts between IDPs and local residents, as well as between IDPs and local authorities, require a proactive approach by local governments, including the initiation of psychological support programs and the creation of communication platforms for sharing individual experiences and discussing psychological and emotional issues (Voznyak, 2024).

Sociological monitoring results indicate that the vast majority of IDPs (63.4% to 74.9%) reported no conflicts with other stakeholders (Fig. 2.34).

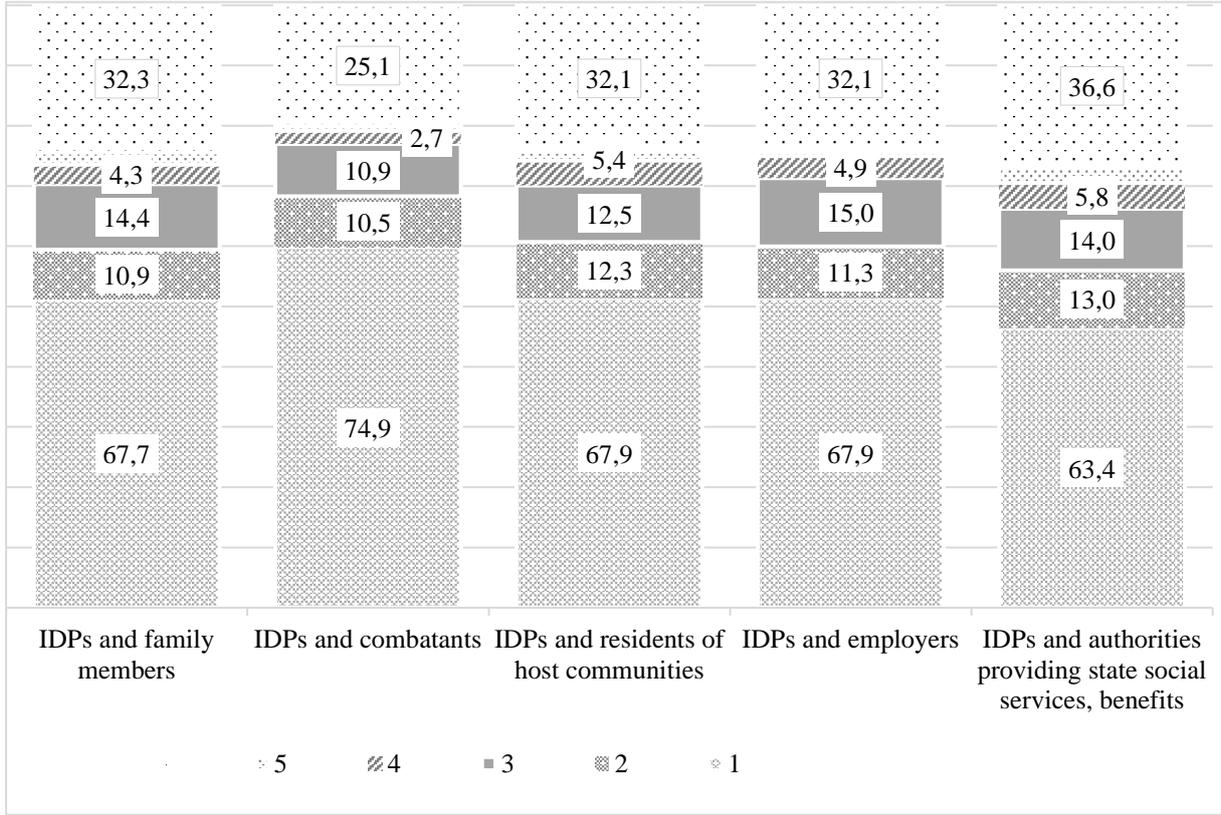


Fig. 2.34. Distribution of IDPs by their level of conflict with other subjects, %

Note: To assess the level of conflict among IDPs in this figure and in subsequent analyses, the following scale was used: 1 – no conflict at all; ...; 5 – maximum relationship tension, frequency, and intensity of conflicts

Approximately one in four to five respondents indicated the presence of conflicts with other stakeholders at levels (2) and (3). The largest share of IDPs (27%) reported conflicts at levels (2) and (3) with government authorities providing social services, which is clearly a negative outcome. Conflicts at levels (2) and (3) were reported by 25.3% and 24.7% of IDPs with family members and employers, respectively.

It is positive that only a small share of IDPs (3.7% to 9.5%) reported conflicts with other stakeholders at levels (4) and (5). At first glance, these results appear encouraging. However, the presence of conflicts at levels (4) and (5) with government authorities providing social services for one in ten IDPs is a cause for concern.

A slightly higher level of conflict with family members is observed among IDPs aged 18-29 (Table 2.13).

Table 2.13

Distribution of IDPs by age and level of their conflict with other entities, %

<i>Level of conflict</i>	<i>All IDPs</i>	<i>18-29 years old</i>	<i>30-39 years old</i>	<i>40-49 years old</i>	<i>50-59 years old</i>	<i>60+</i>
IDPs and family members						
1	67.7	70.9	69.1	69.1	56.4	69.9
2	10.9	6.3	9.1	10.6	19.2	10.5
3	14.4	8.9	13.6	16.0	19.2	14.4
4	4.3	10.1	5.5	3.2	2.6	2.0
5	2.7	3.8	2.7	1.1	2.6	3.3
IDPs and combatants						
1	74.9	68.4	78.2	75.5	70.5	77.8
2	10.5	7.6	9.1	13.8	11.5	10.5
3	10.9	17.7	9.1	7.4	12.8	9.8
4	2.7	6.3	1.8	2.1	5.1	0.7
5	1.0	0.0	1.8	1.1	0.0	1.3
IDPs and residents of host communities						
1	67.9	62.0	64.5	70.2	62.8	74.5
2	12.3	11.4	10.9	14.9	17.9	9.2
3	12.5	13.9	15.5	8.5	11.5	12.4
4	5.4	8.9	5.5	5.3	6.4	3.3
5	1.9	3.8	3.6	1.1	1.3	0.7
IDPs and employers						
1	67.9	65.8	61.8	64.9	70.5	73.9

2	11.3	17.7	10.9	9.6	10.3	9.8
3	15.0	8.9	20.9	17.0	14.1	13.1
4	4.9	7.6	5.5	6.4	5.1	2.0
5	1.0	0.0	0.9	2.1	0.0	1.3
IDPs and authorities providing state social services and benefits						
1	63.4	59.5	54.5	64.9	61.5	71.9
2	13.0	15.2	19.1	8.5	10.3	11.8
3	14.0	13.9	16.4	17.0	16.7	9.2
4	5.8	8.9	5.5	5.3	10.3	2.6
5	3.7	2.5	4.5	4.3	1.3	4.6

At the same time, a larger share of IDPs reporting no conflicts (1) with family members is found among those aged under 49 and over 60, accounting for about 70% compared to 67.7% among all IDPs. The vast majority of IDPs across all age groups reported no conflicts with war veterans, with shares ranging from 68.4% to 78.2% across different ages. A somewhat higher share of IDPs reporting conflicts with war veterans at level (3) or higher is observed among those aged 18–29 and 50–59. One in four IDPs aged 18–29 and 30–39 reported conflicts with local residents at level (3) or higher, whereas among all IDPs this applies to only one in five.

One in four IDPs aged 30–39 and 40–49 reported conflicts with employers at level (3) or higher, whereas the overall share of such IDPs is 20.9%. The lowest level of conflict with government authorities is observed among IDPs aged 60 and older. At the same time, nearly one in four IDPs in the other age groups reported conflicts with government authorities at level (3) or higher.

Survey results indicate certain differences in the level of IDP conflict by gender and region of residence (Table 2.14).

A slightly higher share of female IDPs, compared to male IDPs, reported no family conflicts (69.4% versus 65.7%, respectively). Among IDPs, 20.8% of men and 21.9% of women assessed the level of family conflict at a medium level (3) or higher. The vast majority of both male and female IDPs reported no conflicts with war veterans (72.9% and 76.6%, respectively), which is clearly positive. At the same time, a slightly smaller share of women (12.9%) compared to men (16.5%) reported

conflicts with war veterans at level (3) or higher. Regarding conflicts with local residents, 70.1% of women reported no conflicts, compared to 65.3% of men.

Table 2.14

Distribution of IDPs by gender, place of residence and level of their conflict with other subjects, %

<i>Level of conflict</i>	<i>All IDPs</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Southeast</i>
IDPs and family members							
1	67.7	65.7	69.4	54.8	59.5	61.1	81.9
2	10.9	13.6	8.6	12.6	19.0	18.9	3.3
3	14.4	14.0	14.7	22.2	16.5	10.0	10.5
4	4.3	4.7	4.0	8.1	2.5	5.6	1.9
5	2.7	2.1	3.2	2.2	2.5	4.4	2.4
IDPs and combatants							
1	74.9	72.9	76.6	61.5	73.4	70.0	86.2
2	10.5	10.6	10.4	13.3	15.2	16.7	4.3
3	10.9	11.0	10.8	19.3	8.9	8.9	7.1
4	2.7	4.2	1.4	5.2	1.3	4.4	1.0
5	1.0	1.3	0.7	0.7	1.3	0.0	1.4
IDPs and residents of host communities							
1	67.9	65.3	70.1	57.0	68.4	60.0	78.1
2	12.3	12.7	11.9	14.1	11.4	18.9	8.6
3	12.5	12.7	12.2	17.8	13.9	14.4	7.6
4	5.4	5.1	5.8	8.9	5.1	5.6	3.3
5	1.9	4.2	0.0	2.2	1.3	1.1	2.4
IDPs and employers							
1	67.9	65.7	69.8	56.3	62.0	62.2	80.0
2	11.3	11.9	10.8	17.8	12.7	13.3	5.7
3	15.0	16.5	13.7	18.5	17.7	21.1	9.0
4	4.9	4.2	5.4	7.4	7.6	2.2	3.3
5	1.0	1.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.9
IDPs and authorities providing state social services and benefits							
1	63.4	61.4	65.1	54.8	67.1	50.0	73.3
2	13.0	14.4	11.9	14.8	7.6	24.4	9.0
3	14.0	13.6	14.4	22.2	13.9	12.2	9.5
4	5.8	5.9	5.8	8.1	6.3	7.8	3.3
5	3.7	4.7	2.9	0.0	5.1	5.6	4.8

Conversely, 22% of men reported conflicts with local residents at level (3) or higher, while the corresponding share among women was 18%. A higher level of conflict with employers is declared by male IDPs compared to female IDPs. Among

IDPs, 65.1% of women reported no conflicts with government authorities, while the corresponding share among men was slightly lower at 61.4%. Nevertheless, nearly one in four respondents, both men and women, reported conflicts with government authorities at level (3) or higher. The lowest share of IDPs reporting no family conflicts is observed in the southeastern region (81.9%), whereas the corresponding share among all IDPs is 67.7%.

The share of IDPs reporting family conflicts at level (3) or higher is lowest in the western region (20%) and highest in the northern region (32.5%). Only one in ten to eleven IDPs, regardless of region, reported conflicts with war veterans at level (3) or higher, indicating that such conflicts are generally rare and exceptional. The highest share of IDPs reporting no conflicts with local residents is observed in the southeastern region (78.1%). In contrast, a substantially smaller share reported no conflicts with local residents in the northern region (57% versus 67.9% among all IDPs). Notably, 28.9% and 21.1% of IDPs living in the northern and eastern regions, respectively, reported conflicts with local residents. Higher levels of conflict with employers are observed in the northern and central regions. The largest share of IDPs reporting conflicts with government authorities at level (3) or higher is in the northern (30.3%) and western (25.6%) regions.

An important aspect of studying IDP integration in host communities is *identifying their intentions regarding returning to their permanent place of residence* after the de-occupation of their former territories. According to the data, 52% of IDPs plan to return to their previous place of residence (Fig. 2.35). Twenty-one percent plan to remain in the new communities. At the same time, 7% indicated they plan to seek a new place of residence within Ukraine, and 3% abroad. Seventeen percent of IDPs have not yet determined their intentions regarding their place of residence after the de-occupation of their former territories.

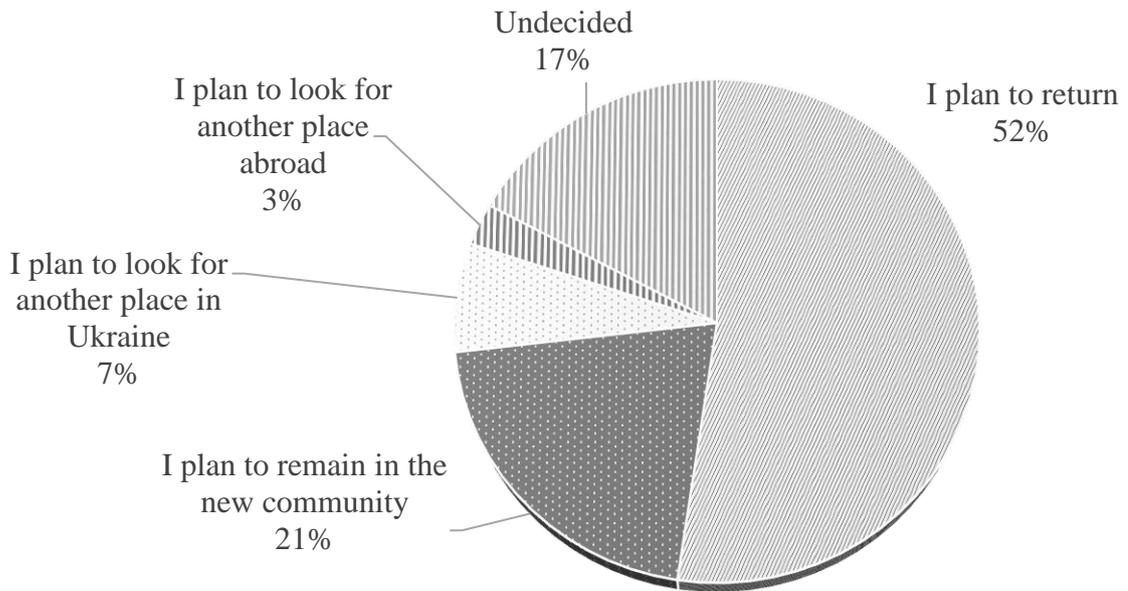


Fig. 2.35. Distribution of IDPs by their intentions to return to their place of permanent residence after the deoccupation of settlements, %

The smallest share of IDPs expressing an intention to return to their previous permanent residence is observed among those aged 18-29 (36.7%), while the largest share is among IDPs over 60 years old (57.5%) (Fig. 2.36).

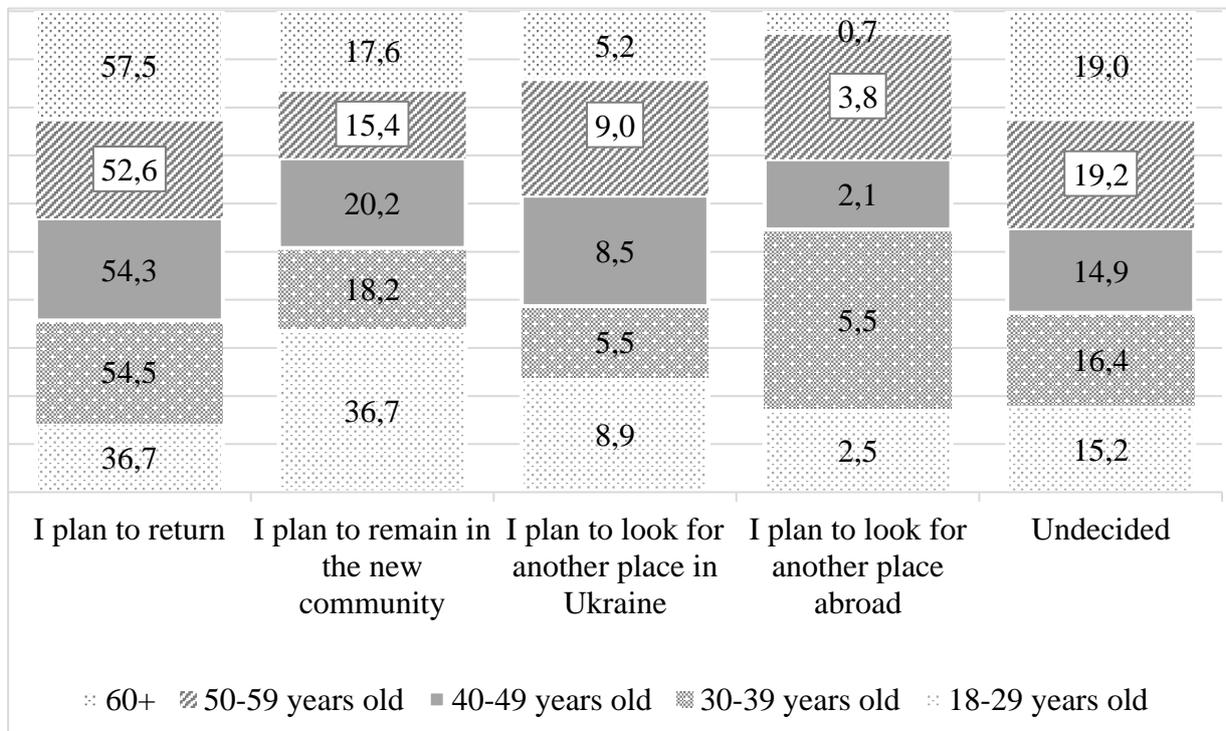


Fig. 2.36. Distribution of IDPs by age and intentions to return to their place of permanent residence after the deoccupation of settlements, %

Among young IDPs under 29 years old, the share planning to remain in the new community is the highest (36.7%). In contrast, the share of those with the same intention is lowest among IDPs aged 60 and older and 50-59 years (17.6% and 15.4%, respectively). Nearly one in ten respondents aged 18-29, 40-49, and 50-59 indicated an intention to look for a new place of residence within Ukraine, while the smallest shares are observed among IDPs aged 60+ and 30-39 years (5.2% and 5.5%, respectively). The largest, though still small, share of IDPs planning to seek a new place of residence abroad is observed among those aged 30-39 years (5.5%).

Approximately one in five to six respondents has not yet decided on their future place of residence. It is important to note that a higher share of women indicated intentions to return to their previous permanent residence compared to men (56.1% versus 47.9%, respectively) (Fig. 2.37). At the same time, nearly one in four male IDPs expressed a desire to remain in the new community, whereas the share of women with the same intention is 18.3% (approximately one in five). The share of male and female IDPs who are undecided about their future place of residence is practically the same.

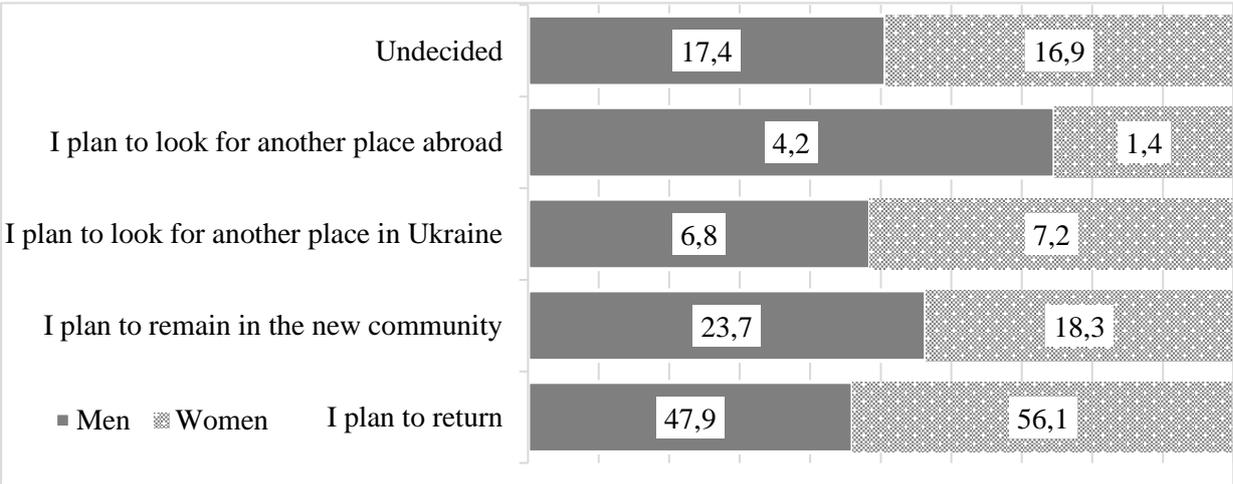


Fig. 2.37. Distribution of IDPs by gender and their intentions after the deoccupation of settlements where they permanently resided, %

Notably, the largest share of IDPs expressed a desire to return to their permanent place of residence in the central regions (63.3%), while the smallest

share was observed in the northern regions (42.2%). (Fig. 2.38). In the western and southeastern regions, every second IDP expressed a desire to return to their permanent residence. The largest share of IDPs indicating a willingness to remain in the new community is observed in the northern regions (27.4%), while the smallest is in the central regions (11.4%). Approximately one in ten to twenty respondents plan to seek a new place of residence within Ukraine.

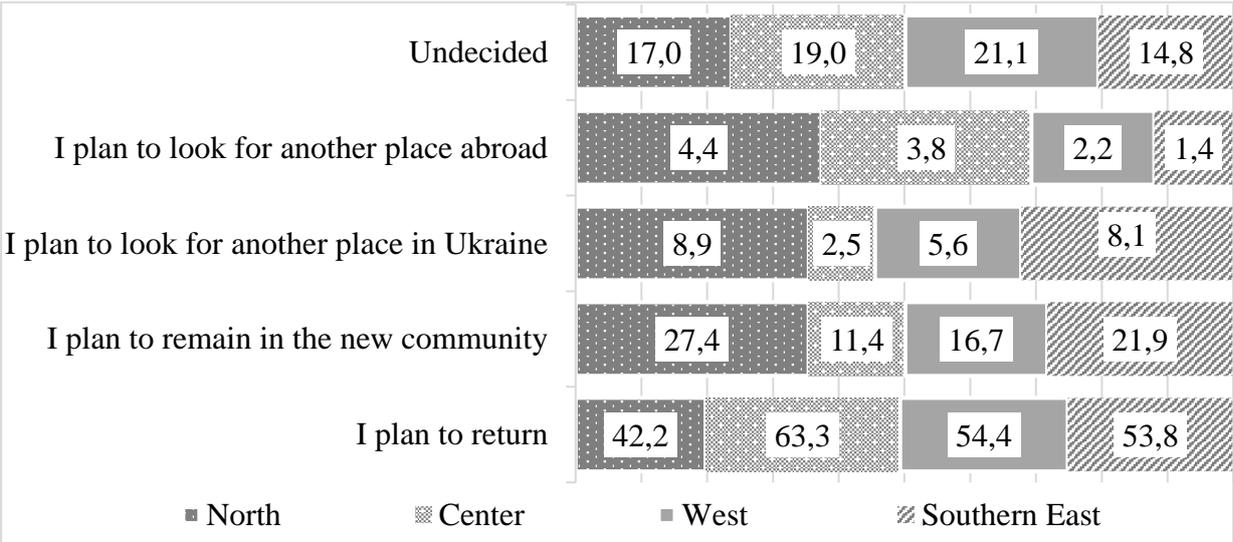


Fig. 2.38. Distribution of IDPs by region of residence and their intentions after the deoccupation of settlements where they permanently resided, %

An important *factor in the integration of IDPs into host communities is the level of satisfaction with their needs*. According to IDPs, the most unmet needs are: 1) business support - relocation and business development in a new place, starting a new business (for 48.8% of IDPs); 2) humanitarian support (for 26.8% of IDPs); 3) education, retraining, professional development (for 25.7% of IDPs); 4) social support - restoration or assignment of pensions, benefits, social payments, accessibility of social services, external care, etc. (for 21.6% of IDPs); 5) medical care, treatment and rehabilitation (for 19.2% of IDPs); 6) employment and job realization (for 18.5% of IDPs); 7) legal and informational and advisory assistance - restoration of lost documents, registration of IDP status, etc. (for 17.5% of IDPs); 8) housing (for 16.7% of IDPs).

Analyzing the list of completely unmet needs, it can be noted that nearly one

in four to five IDPs reports significant unmet material needs, such as humanitarian assistance, social support, and employment, as well as non-material needs, including education, medical care, and legal and informational and advisory assistance (Fig. 2.39).

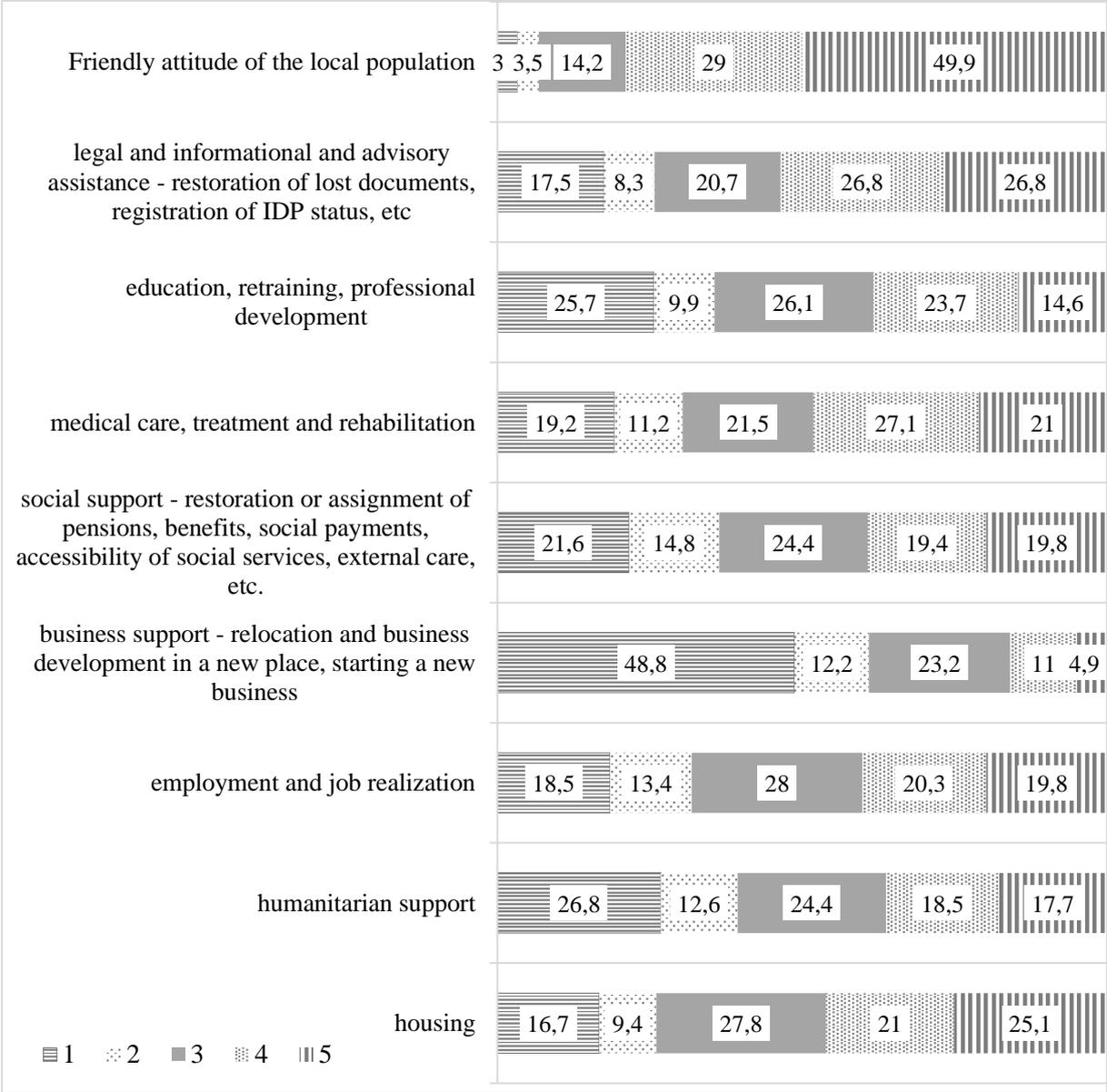


Fig. 2.39. Level of IDPs’ satisfaction with basic needs

Note: this need is relevant only for 31.9% of surveyed IDPs; 68.1% of IDPs indicated that this need is not relevant for them.

The group of unmet needs (1) is complemented by a group of needs that are poorly met (2). The distribution of IDPs by needs that have an appropriate assessment is quite even – almost every tenth or ninth surveyed IDP indicated a weak level of satisfaction with each of the identified needs (the only exception

was the need for a friendly attitude from the local population, for which the share of IDPs is only 3.5%).

The total share of IDPs who indicated the level of satisfaction with their needs at level (1) or (2) is significantly higher. In particular, for about 39% of IDPs, the needs for humanitarian support are completely or practically unsatisfied; for 36% of IDPs, the needs for social support and education; for 32%, the needs for employment and self-realization at work; for 30%, the needs for medical care. For a fairly significant share of IDPs who are trying to realize their entrepreneurial abilities, the need for support for their business is completely or practically unsatisfied (61%). Such results are an indicator of the presence of serious problems in the “map” of satisfaction of IDP needs.

The largest share of IDPs who indicated that their needs were met at an average and higher level was observed for a friendly attitude towards the local population (93%); housing (74%); legal and informational and consulting assistance (74%); and medical assistance, treatment and rehabilitation (70%).

The presence of numerous challenges in meeting the needs of IDPs contributes to the *difficult material situation of a significant number of IDP families*.

Seventy percent of IDPs reported experiencing financial hardship in the host communities, which is undoubtedly a negative outcome. Only 30% of respondents indicated that they were not in a difficult financial situation. (Figure 2.40).

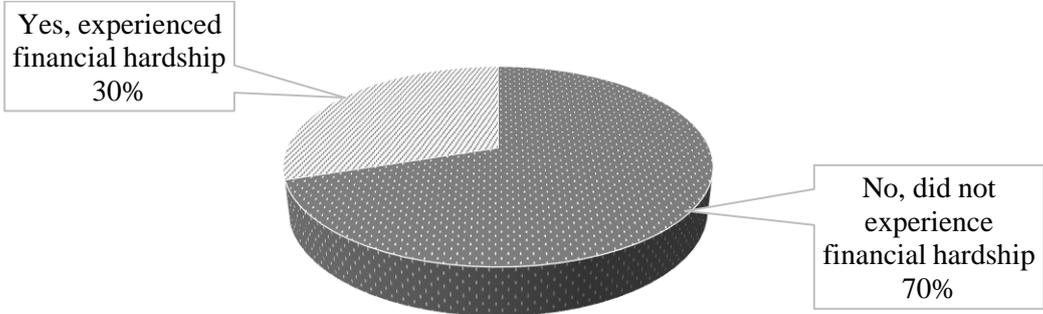


Fig. 2.40. Distribution of IDP responses regarding their experience of financial hardship, %

The largest share of IDPs reporting financial hardship is observed among those aged 40-49 years (79.8%), while the smallest share is among those aged 18-29 years (62%) (Fig. 2.41).

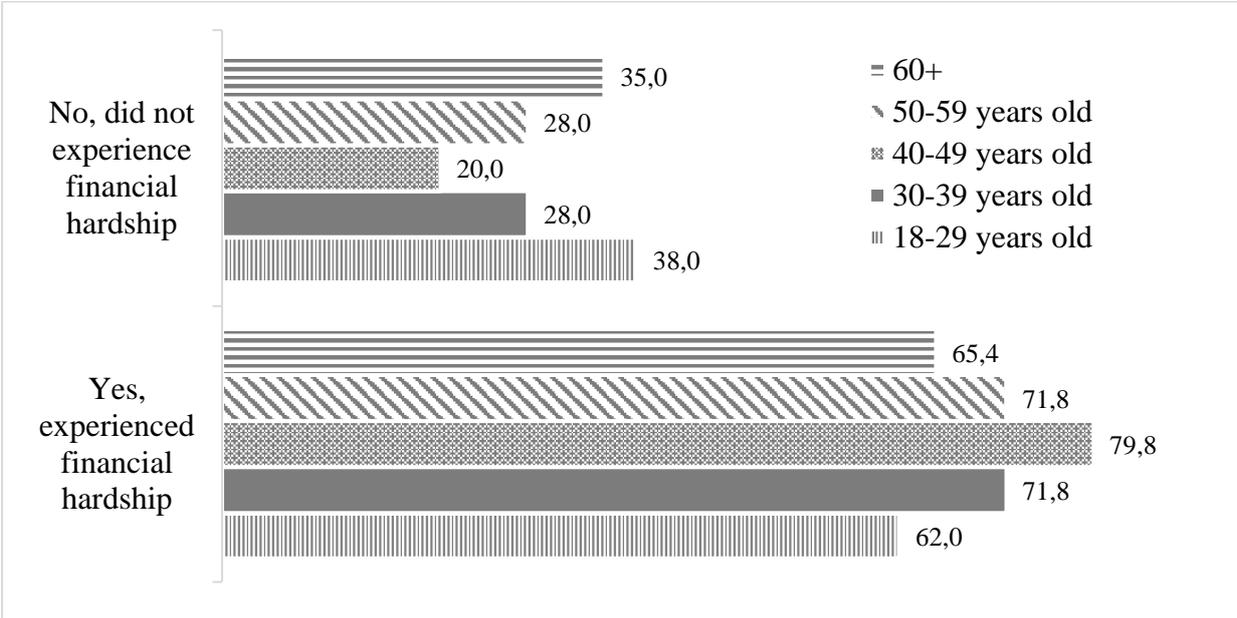


Fig. 2.41. Distribution of IDP responses regarding their experience of financial hardship by age, %

The largest share of IDPs who were in difficult financial situations is observed in the central (77.2%) and western (72.2%) regions of Ukraine, the smallest – in the south-east (66.2%) (Fig. 2.42).

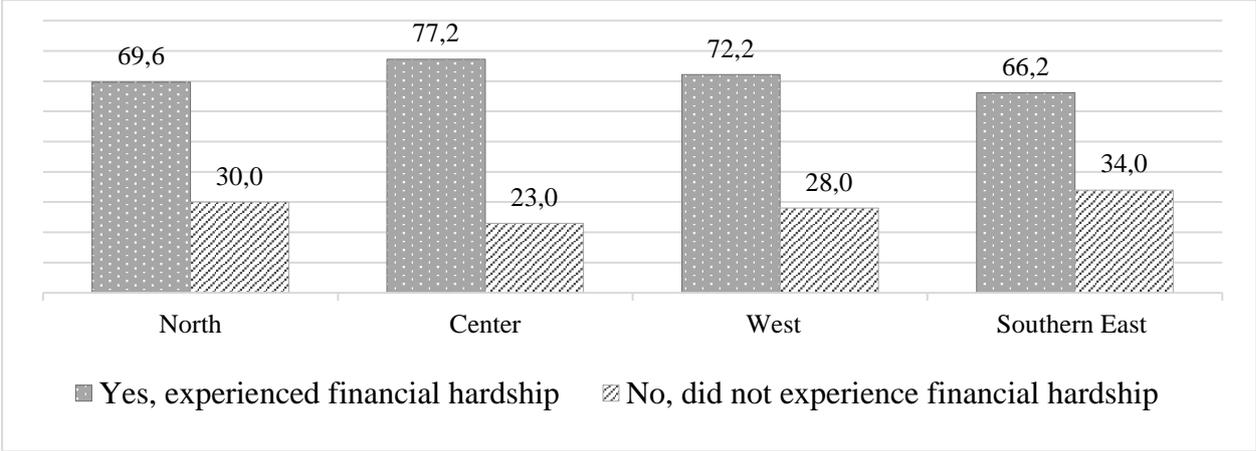


Fig. 2.42. Distribution of IDP responses regarding their experience of financial hardship by region of residence, %

The share of IDPs who reported not experiencing financial hardship varies across regions, ranging from 23.0% to 34.0%.

The largest share of IDPs reporting financial hardship is observed among working pensioners (77.8%), unemployed individuals (77.6%), and temporarily inactive IDPs (75.5%), which can be partly explained by their status in the labor market (Fig. 2.43).

The smallest share is found among IDPs who are students (58.8%), non-working pensioners (66.1%), and those employed on a permanent basis (69.3%). (69.3%).

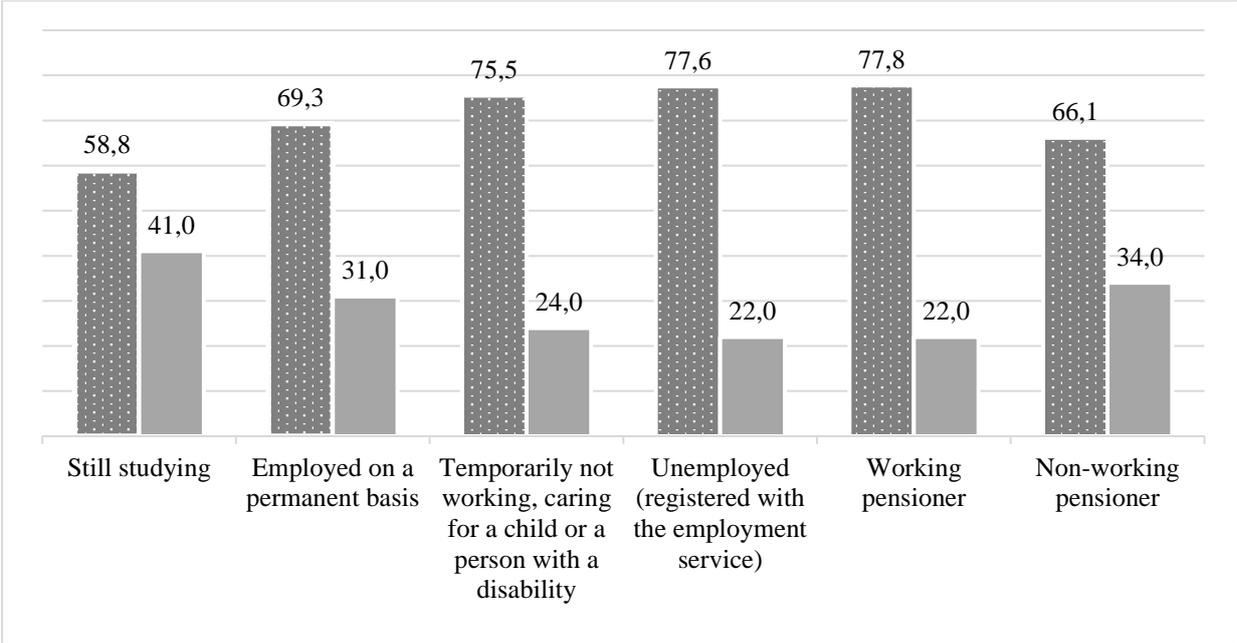


Fig. 2.43. Distribution of IDP responses regarding their experience of financial hardship by their status, %

The presence of challenges in meeting a wide range of IDP needs, as well as the fact that a significant share of them experience financial hardship, highlights the importance of examining *IDP survival strategies*.

The most common survival strategy among IDPs facing financial difficulties is cutting back on food and essential goods (76.6%) (Fig. 2.44).

This situation is undoubtedly negative, as it threatens meeting the IDPs’ basic needs. To survive, 57.7% of IDPs used their savings, while 49.3% economized on health and leisure. Notably, 40.7% of IDPs took low-prestige, low-paid jobs or combined multiple jobs to ensure their survival.

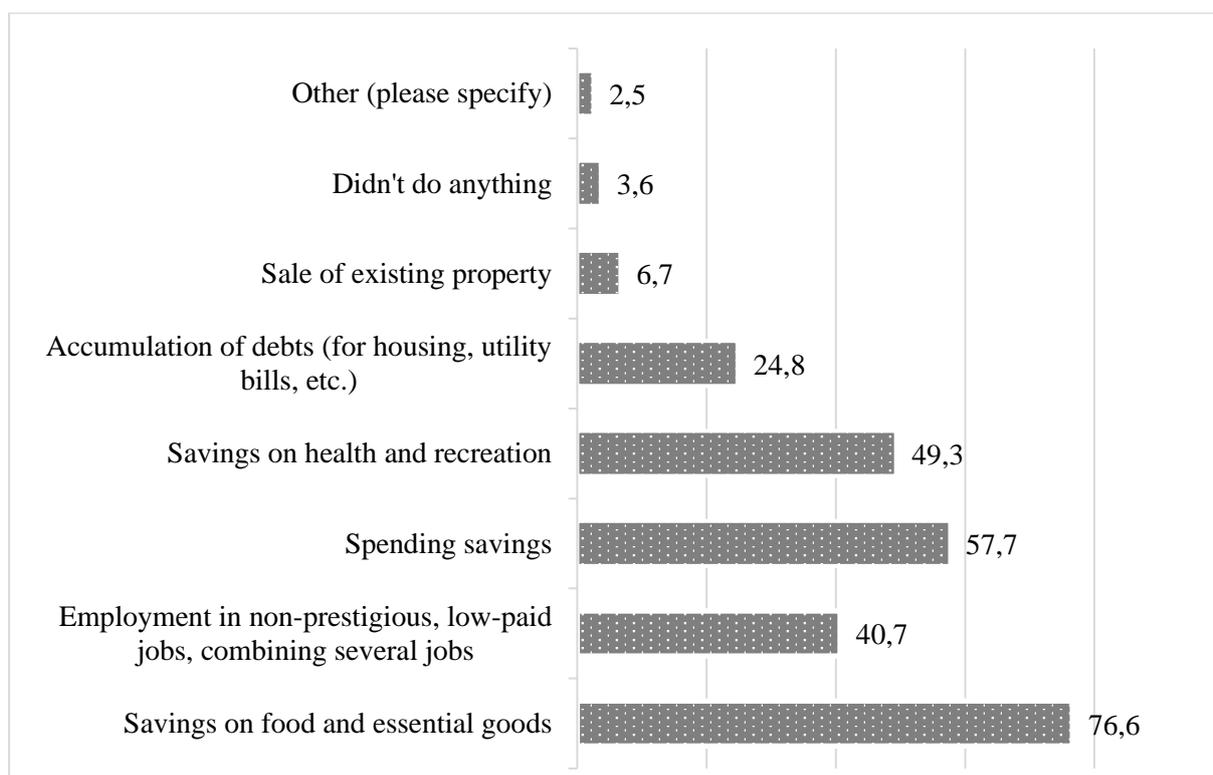


Fig. 2.44. Distribution of IDP responses by survival strategies under financial hardship, %

Sociological monitoring indicates certain differences in the frequency of adopting various survival strategies under financial hardship.

The largest share of IDPs who economized on food and essential goods for survival is observed among those aged 60 and older (83%) and women (80.5%), while the smallest share is found among IDPs aged 18-29 years (71.4%) and men (71.4%) (Table 2.15). Notably that this survival strategy is employed by the majority of IDPs across all age and gender groups.

Another fairly common survival strategy among IDPs is spending savings. This strategy is used by 57% of IDPs aged 60+ to 61.2% of IDPs aged 18-29, as well as 53.9% of women and 60.5% of men. Almost every second IDP surveyed, in order to survive, resorts to low-paid/unprestigious jobs and savings on health/leisure. The first of these strategies is used by 18% to 56% of IDPs of all ages, as well as 43.5% of men and 38.5% of women. The second of these survival strategies is used by 44.6% to 54.7% of IDPs, as well as 49.4% of men and 49.3% of women.

Table 2.15

Distribution of IDP responses by survival strategies under financial hardship by age groups, sex

<i>Survival strategies</i>	<i>Age groups</i>					<i>Sex</i>	
	<i>18-29 years old</i>	<i>30-39 years old</i>	<i>40-49 years old</i>	<i>50-59 years old</i>	<i>60+</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
<i>Savings on food and essential goods</i>	71.4	73.4	77.3	73.2	83	71.4	80.5
<i>Employment in non-prestigious, low-paid jobs, combining several jobs</i>	42.9	46.8	56	50	18	43.5	38.5
<i>Spending savings</i>	61.2	58.2	60	51.8	57	53.9	60.5
<i>Savings on health and recreation</i>	53.1	45.6	54.7	44.6	49	49.4	49.3
<i>Accumulation of debts (for housing, utility bills, etc.)</i>	38.8	27.8	22.7	19.6	20	22.7	26.3
<i>Sale of existing property</i>	6.1	7.6	8	5.4	6	5.8	7.3
<i>Didn't do anything</i>	4.1	3.8	0	5.4	5	3.2	3.9
<i>Other</i>	2	2.5	1.3	5.4	2	4.5	1

Unfortunately, it can be stated that almost every fourth to fifth of the surveyed IDPs accumulate debts for the purpose of their own survival.

Taking into account the region of residence of IDPs also revealed certain differences in the application of survival strategies (Table 2.16).

Table 2.16

Distribution of IDPs by region of residence and survival strategies under financial hardship

<i>Survival strategies</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Southeast</i>
<i>Savings on food and essential goods</i>	74.5	75.4	66.2	83.5
<i>Employment in non-prestigious, low-paid jobs, combining several jobs</i>	37.2	42.6	41.5	41.7
<i>Spending savings</i>	41.5	70.5	53.8	64.7
<i>Savings on health and recreation</i>	36.2	39.3	49.2	62.6
<i>Accumulation of debts (for housing, utility bills, etc.)</i>	17	27.9	15.4	33.1
<i>Sale of existing property</i>	3.2	9.8	9.2	6.5
<i>Didn't do anything</i>	5.3	4.9	4.6	1.4
<i>Other</i>	3.2	3.3	4.6	0.7

The most savings on food and essential goods are made by IDPs living in the southeast (83.5%). At the same time, the share of IDPs who save on food and essential goods is the lowest in the west (66.2%). Spending on savings as a survival strategy is used by 41.5% to 70.5% of IDPs in different regions. Saving on health and recreation as a survival strategy by IDPs is most commonly used in the southeast. Employment in non-prestigious, low-paid jobs, combining several jobs as a survival strategy is most often used by IDPs in the center (42.6%). The significance of other survival strategies (accumulation of debts, sale of existing property, doing nothing, etc.) among IDPs is significantly lower.

Taking into account the status of IDPs when studying their survival strategies in difficult situations allowed us to identify a number of features (Table 2.17).

Table 2.17

Distribution of IDPs by their status and survival strategies under financial hardship

<i>Survival strategies</i>	<i>Status</i>					
	<i>Still learning.</i>	<i>I work on a permanent basis.</i>	<i>Temporarily out of work, caring for a child or a disabled person</i>	<i>Unemployed (registered with the employment service)</i>	<i>Working pensioner</i>	<i>Non-working pensioner</i>
<i>Savings on food and essential goods</i>	70	73.3	73	76.3	92.9	83.3
<i>Employment in non-prestigious, low-paid jobs, combining several jobs</i>	30	59.7	32.4	28.9	71.4	6
<i>Spending savings</i>	60	58.5	54.1	52.6	78.6	56
<i>Savings on health and recreation</i>	30	50.6	45.9	55.3	50	47.6
<i>Accumulation of debts (for housing, utility bills, etc.)</i>	10	23.3	40.5	31.6	28.6	19
<i>Sale of existing property</i>	10	4.5	16.2	2.6	14.3	7.1
<i>Didn't do anything</i>	0	2.8	0	5.3	0	7.1
<i>Other</i>	0	2.3	2.7	2.6	0	3.6

The largest share of IDPs who resort to saving on food is observed among pensioners. Employment in low-prestige, low-paid jobs or combining multiple jobs as a survival strategy is more commonly chosen by working pensioners (over 70%) and those employed on a permanent basis (60%). Spending savings is a widespread survival strategy across all IDP groups by status (the share of IDPs ranges from 52.6% to 78.6% across different groups). Saving on health and leisure is a survival strategy for nearly every second IDP in all status groups (with the exception of IDPs who are studying, whose share is 30%). Incurring debt is most common among temporarily unemployed and unemployed IDPs. Selling existing property as a survival strategy is most frequently adopted by temporarily unemployed IDPs (16.2%) and working pensioners (14.2%).

Thus, sociological monitoring has allowed for the assessment of the level of IDPs' integration and the satisfaction of their basic needs. These findings should form the basis for managerial decision-making by central and local authorities.

Clearly, enhancing the level of IDP integration requires a multidimensional approach that involves coordination among various stakeholders and focuses on meeting the fundamental needs of IDPs (Shehu, 2024).

Successful integration of IDPs into host communities depends on: establishing effective information and communication links among all stakeholders; overcoming sociocultural conflicts between IDPs and host community members; involving IDPs in decision-making within host communities; providing psychological support to IDPs; offering free legal assistance; creating employment opportunities and supporting social entrepreneurship; ensuring equal access to education; fostering community social cohesion; integrating IDPs with children into the social and educational environment of host communities; and other related measures.

CONCLUSIONS

The methodology for assessing the social integration of IDPs proposed in this study was developed to address the shortcomings of other approaches, which are often either based on fragmented analyses of individual aspects of integration or, conversely, overly generalized and rely on self-assessment of integration without detailing its components. Considering the existing directions of social integration analysis in the scientific literature, as well as the methodologies of motivation, human development, and justice theories, the proposed system of IDP integration criteria highlights five blocks of indicators – political and religious integration; economic integration; integration into cultural and sports initiatives; integration into community life; socio-psychological integration – encompassing a total of 25 sub-indicators.

The initial testing of the proposed methodological approach was conducted using expert assessments and later through sociological surveys of the population. The similarity of the results confirms the suitability of this approach for further scientific and practical use.

This approach currently has no analogues in global research on the social integration of IDPs and other forced migrant groups and will constitute a significant addition to existing methodologies for migration research and the analysis of social policy effectiveness regarding forced migrants and the search for effective regulatory solutions in this field.

The study of IDP integration into local communities was based on the results of a representative sample survey across Ukraine.

Partially integrated IDPs account for 70%, fully integrated for 25%, and completely non-integrated for only 5%. The highest shares of fully or partially integrated IDPs are found among the age groups 18-29 and 30-39 years, men, and IDPs residing in western regions and cities of non-regional significance. The highest share of fully non-integrated IDPs is observed among the age group 50-59 years, women, and IDPs living in the southeast and rural areas.

Political and religious integration of IDPs is generally quite high. However, nearly one in four IDPs indicated that they are not involved in participation in local decision-making. Over 60% of IDPs assessed their integration in this area as lower than that of local residents. A significant share of IDPs do not follow political events in the community or rate their integration below that of the local population (12.3% and 34.4%, respectively). The highest levels of political and religious integration are seen in tolerant attitudes toward representatives of different faiths.

The level of economic integration among IDPs is generally moderate. Over 60% of IDPs reported not being involved in components such as business relocation and management, participation in grant or project activities for community development. Regarding income corresponding to skills and qualifications, nearly one in three IDPs considers themselves less integrated than local residents. One in five assesses their integration at the same level in terms of actively seeking work and other legal income sources. The largest share of IDPs who assess their economic integration at or above the level of local residents is observed in activities such as advocating for labor law compliance in the field of hired labor (84.7%) and legal activities with income tax payment to the local budget (85.6%).

Integration into community life is among the highest. However, for activities such as participation in human rights initiatives, actively defending rights, advocating for community interests, engaging in public life, participating in NGO activities, and involvement in local initiatives on environmental protection and community improvement, nearly one in four IDPs reported non-involvement. For most manifestations of integration into community life, the share of IDPs who assess themselves at or above the level of local residents exceeds 40%. The highest level of engagement surpassing local residents is observed in support for the Armed Forces of Ukraine and opposition to Russian aggression, as well as refusal to consume certain goods and services for political or environmental reasons.

Integration into cultural and sports initiatives is above average. Nearly one in four to five IDPs reported non-involvement in cultural and sports events. About 40% of IDPs rate their integration in this area below the level of local residents. Nevertheless, over 60% of IDPs assess their integration into the cultural and sports life of the community at or above the level of local residents.

Socio-psychological integration is the highest. Over 90% of IDPs indicated their socio-psychological integration at or above the level of local residents.

Evidence of sufficient integration of IDPs into host communities is reflected in the significant share who have not changed their place of residence (73.5%). In contrast, 26.5% of IDPs have changed their primary place of residence. The main reasons for relocation among IDPs are housing problems (43.4%), lack of work (26.5%), life-threatening conditions (19.1%), and low income (14.0%).

Regarding future intentions, 52% of IDPs plan to return to their previous place of residence. 21% plan to remain in the new communities. 7% plan to search for a new place of residence within Ukraine, and 3% abroad.

The majority of IDPs (63.4-4.9%) reported no conflicts with other parties. The largest share (37%) reported conflicts with authorities providing state social services. One in three IDPs reported conflicts with employers, family members, and members of host communities.

Nearly one in four to five IDPs have unmet essential material needs such as humanitarian aid, social support, and employment, as well as non-material needs including education, medical care, and legal and informational-consulting support.

The highest satisfaction, according to IDPs, is reported for needs such as friendly attitudes from local residents, legal and informational-consulting support, and housing. The lowest satisfaction is reported for business support, humanitarian aid, and social support.

70% of IDPs experienced difficult material conditions in host communities, while 30% reported not being in a difficult material situation.

The most common survival strategy among IDPs in difficult material conditions is economizing on food and essential goods (about 77% of IDPs). Between 50-60% of IDPs use savings and economize on health and leisure. Approximately 41% of IDPs take low-prestige, low-paid jobs or combine several jobs as a survival strategy.

CHAPTER 3.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ADAPTATION AND INTEGRATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS): LESSONS, CONCLUSIONS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR UKRAINE

The phenomenon of forced mass internal displacement in Ukraine is not unique – many countries of the world have had to solve similar problems in recent decades and are currently facing them. The causes of mass internal displacement are armed conflicts, events with catastrophic consequences – natural disasters, as a result of which one or other territories become uninhabitable (earthquakes, floods, etc.), climate change, anthropogenic disasters and other events that make it impossible for people to continue living in the relevant territory. However, it is wars and armed conflicts that remain the main cause of mass forced internal and external displacement. It is important to study the international experience of adaptation and integration of forced internal migrants, the possibilities and prospects for its use in Ukraine.

3.1. Analysis of international experience in the adaptation and integration of internally displaced persons in conditions of armed conflicts: lessons for Ukraine

The intensification of migration processes and the actualization of IDP problems encourage the world community to increase attention and take effective steps to solve humanitarian problems caused by large-scale internal displacements. The need to develop common approaches to their solution and the scale of these processes led to the expansion of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which extended to refugees and asylum seekers who have left their countries of residence and are in need of international protection, as well as to persons forcibly displaced within their own countries (Novikova et al., 2016).

The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (hereinafter referred

to as the Guiding Principles) were adopted. They are a framework international document defining the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and have been ratified by Ukraine (UNHCR, 2004). The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement provide a conceptual framework for assessing and analyzing activities to ensure the adaptation and integration of IDPs. This applies to Ukraine and other countries.

In developed EU countries, adaptation and integration policies for forced migrants/displaced persons, as a rule, include three main components: political and legal, socio-economic and cultural and religious (Kuzemska, 2021). The political and legal component focuses on improving the legal situation, protecting the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons, social and legal counseling by providing refugees with information about their rights and obligations, as well as implementing anti-discrimination measures. The socio-economic component is aimed at solving problems in the field of employment, housing, health care, social security, and adaptation to new living conditions. Accordingly, the cultural and religious component of the adaptation and integration policy includes a set of measures aimed at familiarizing migrants with the peculiarities and traditions of the country and region of their stay, with those customs of life and urban culture that some of them have not yet encountered (Novikova et al., 2016).

The socio-economic component is one of the most important, as it addresses a significant number of issues related to ensuring the quality of life of IDPs in host communities. An analysis of international experience in the adaptation and integration of IDPs shows that the socio-economic block includes the following components:

- 1) addressing IDP employment issues (providing support in achieving economic self-sufficiency; assisting in starting a business; supporting access to primary and additional employment; providing help with vocational training and retraining; offering information on labor, employment, and career guidance, etc.);

- 2) addressing housing issues (providing IDPs with housing for both temporary and permanent residence through the creation of a housing support

system funded by the state budget for the construction and purchase of new housing; housing subsidies; loans; grant and sponsorship assistance; contributions from the IDPs themselves; as well as assistance in renting temporary housing);

3) ensuring full access to the healthcare system (medical-social counseling; provision of pre-medical care; support for health screening of refugees and IDPs; monitoring of adequate sanitary-preventive work and compliance with social hygiene standards; socio-psychiatric diagnostics and assistance; support with acquiring medications and other medical supplies; organization of long-term sanitary-epidemiological supervision of IDP accommodation and living conditions);

4) social welfare for IDPs (usually implemented through comprehensive programs that include: providing social consultations; informing IDPs about the activities of social services; collecting and systematizing information about IDPs to organize effective social work; raising public awareness of migration and displacement issues to foster stable social connections; promoting adequate media coverage of migration-related topics; conducting social rehabilitation activities in institutional and non-institutional settings; identifying individuals in particular need of social assistance; helping IDPs obtain pensions and other social benefits; supporting the creation of self-help and mutual-aid groups; assisting in the restitution of refugees' property and compensation claims; and cooperating with various state institutions and civil society organizations on IDP assistance issues) (Novikova et al., 2016).

We selected those countries for analysis that had experience of mass forced internal displacement due to armed conflicts, in order to use this experience in Ukraine. These are Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Moldova and Georgia.

1. *Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Council of Europe, 2019). In 1992–1995, a civil war raged between Bosnian Serbs, Croats, and Bosniaks (Muslims). More than 2 million people (almost half the population) became refugees or internally displaced persons. After the war, the country was divided

into two autonomous parts: The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska.

Table 3.1

Experiences of Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina on forced internal displacement and integration of IDPs for Ukraine

<i>Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	
<i>Challenges encountered</i>	
1. Ethnic segregation: Due to wartime trauma, many IDPs were reluctant to return to mixed regions. 2. Political fragmentation: The complex governance structure complicated the coordination of integration policies. 3. Lack of sustainable funding: As international donor activity declined, the pace of integration slowed. 4. Traumatic experiences: Many IDPs suffered deep psychological trauma, yet systematic psychosocial support was insufficient	
<i>Key steps for IDP integration</i>	
<i>Area</i>	<i>Description of measures</i>
Housing	Programs for returning to destroyed homes or resettlement, large-scale reconstruction.
Labor market integration of IDPs	The program “Social Entrepreneurship for Better Dialogue and Economic Strengthening” aimed to unite community efforts to support the employment of vulnerable IDPs – unemployed individuals, women, youth, and older people
Right of return	Annex VII of the Dayton Accords was adopted – a guarantee of voluntary return to pre-conflict places of residence.
Interethnic mediation	Reconciliation programs between ethnic groups aimed at fostering shared coexistence.
<i>Lessons for Ukraine</i>	
<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Choice must be preserved	IDPs should decide for themselves whether to return or integrate in a new location.
Invest in communities, not only infrastructure	Building housing without community integration leads to isolation.
Psychosocial rehabilitation is critical	Mental health support programmes must address the impact of war trauma.
Justice and reconciliation	Full integration is impossible without addressing

	historical grievances and conflicts.
Decentralization helps	Empowering communities and municipalities enables faster and more effective responses to needs.
Administrative flexibility is key to efficiency	Moldova simplified many procedures for IDPs – registration, work permits, and access to services are provided as quickly as possible.

**Compiled by the authors with partial use (Council of Europe, 2019)*

2. **Slovenia.** In 1991, there was a short but real war for independence from Yugoslavia (the 10-Day War). As a result of this and the subsequent Balkan wars, Slovenia received refugees from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo. In 2015–2016, Slovenia was part of the migration route to the EU for refugees from the Middle East.

Table 3.2

Slovenian experience in forced internal displacement and integration of IDPs for Ukraine (SLOGA Platform and Povod Institute, 2020)

<i>Slovenia</i>	
<i>Challenges encountered</i>	
1. Limited resource base – Slovenia does not possess large financial reserves to support prolonged refugee reception.	
2. Language barrier – Slovene is a difficult language, and proficiency is essential for full participation in the country’s social and economic life.	
3. Institutional weakness – although the laws are progressive, implementation mechanisms are sometimes slow.	
4. Public fatigue – at certain periods, rejection of “outsiders” increased, especially in less urbanized regions.	
<i>Key elements of integration</i>	
<i>Area</i>	<i>Description of measures</i>
Legal status	Admission under temporary protection; access to housing, healthcare, and education.
Education	Integration of children into the school system; introductory language adaptation courses.
Healthcare	Access to basic services for all IDPs, including pregnant women and children.
Housing	Initial placement in reception centres, followed by rental support or resettlement in communities.
Language adaptation	Slovene language courses – mandatory for participants

	in employment or education programmes.
Civil society	NGOs and local volunteers play a key role in providing integration support.
Labor market	Gradual opening of access to employment, particularly for Ukrainians after 2022.
<i>Lessons for Ukraine</i>	
<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Cooperation with civil society organizations	They can mobilize quickly and provide targeted, flexible support.
Language policy must be a priority	Without language proficiency, IDPs often cannot fully access rights and services.
Communication with host communities	Information campaigns help prevent conflicts and promote positive perceptions of IDPs.
Decentralized resettlement	Even distribution helps avoid overburdening individual cities and reduces social tension.
Legal protection must be accompanied by action	Legislation alone is insufficient – real accessibility of services is crucial.

**Compiled by the authors with partial use (SLOGA Platform and Povod Institute, 2020)*

3. **Moldova.** Moldova has experience working with internally displaced persons from Transnistria, and therefore has a certain understanding of the humanitarian challenges posed by such situations (Secrière, 2023).

Table 3.3

Moldova’s experience in forced internal displacement and IDP integration for
Ukraine

<i>Moldova</i>	
<i>Challenges encountered</i>	
1. Limited resources – Moldova has one of the lowest-income economies in Europe, and the number of IDPs created additional pressure.	
2. Legal uncertainty for long-term stay – some IDPs did not have a clear status after one year of residence.	
3. Infrastructure unprepared for large-scale assistance – logistical difficulties and the absence of stable response mechanisms.	
4. Limited psychological support – an insufficient number of specialists and programmes for mental-health assistance.	
<i>Key elements of integration</i>	
<i>Area</i>	<i>Description of measures</i>

Legal status	Temporary protection, residence permit, the possibility of obtaining a residence permit.
Housing	Accommodation in state centers, dormitories, hostels, as well as in private homes with compensation hosting IDPs.
Healthcare	Free emergency care, vaccinations, support for pregnant women, access to medicines (in partnership with NGOs).
Education	Access to schools, integration of children into the local system, assistance with language adaptation.
Employment	Access to the labor market without complex procedures, consultations, and support for small IDP-led businesses.
Linguistic and cultural integration	Romanian language courses, cultural events, participation in community life, youth programs.
Partnership with international organizations	Assistance from UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, ACTED, NRC, which support both state and community initiatives, mainly at the local level.
<i>Lessons for Ukraine (for the future and in the context of IDP integration)</i>	
<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
The power of communities and solidarity	Despite poverty, Moldovan society demonstrated humanity, trust toward IDPs, and mutual support through local communities.
The role of international aid as a catalyst	Moldova could not have coped alone – involvement of the UN, EU, and NGOs made it possible to build an assistance system from scratch.
The “community-to-community” model works	Programmes in which local residents participate directly in hosting IDPs foster trust and positive shared experience.
Education and language as a bridge to stability	Language support and adaptation of children in schools is the best long-term investment into the future.
Administrative flexibility as a key to efficiency	Moldova simplified many procedures for IDPs — registration, work permits, and access to services are processed as quickly as possible.

**Compiled by the authors with partial use (Secrière, 2023).*

4. **Georgia.** Georgia has significant experience – over 30 years in addressing IDP issues, starting from the 1990s (conflicts in Abkhazia, South Ossetia) and 2008 (Russian-Georgian war). The majority live in Tbilisi and regions (Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Shida Kartli), with a high level of urbanization (~80% in cities). The transition period – elections, hybrid threats after 2024 have

increased vulnerability (Proskurenko, 2023; Tatarashvili & Okropiridze, 2024).

Table 3.4

Georgia’s experience with forced internal displacement and integration of IDPs for Ukraine

<i>Georgia</i>	
<i>Challenges encountered</i>	
<p>1. Limited resources – it became necessary to use even abandoned sanatoriums, hotels, and dormitories; people remained for years in living conditions far below acceptable standards.</p> <p>2. “Frozen conflicts” and occupation hinder returns (~23,000 IDPs in Georgia have no realistic prospects of returning); mined territories and ethnic tensions persist.</p> <p>3. Corruption and misuse of international aid at various hierarchical levels of IDP-related governance.</p> <p>4. Mass construction of “mushroom villages” near major cities such as Tbilisi – large areas of compact IDP settlement (e.g., extensive modular housing complexes).</p> <p>5. Social marginalization of IDPs – increased poverty, a deepened sense of temporariness lasting for decades, and related psychological problems.</p> <p>6. Healthcare challenges – insufficient services in remote areas, disease outbreaks in camps, and underfunding (approx. 60% of actual needs) with shortages driven by global crises.</p> <p>7. Limited capacity and weakness of social infrastructure for providing essential living conditions (constraints in water, energy, and electricity supply).</p>	
<i>Key elements of integration</i>	
<i>Area</i>	<i>Description of measures</i>
Housing	Construction of housing (new IDP settlements, relocation from overcrowded centres), transfer of housing into private ownership (many IDPs received ownership rights to their formerly temporary homes).
Socio-economic sphere	Skills-training programmes (over 10,000 people/year), microcredits for small businesses (up to 5,000 GEL), support for agricultural activities (seeds, tools). Labour-market integration through job fairs and grant support for self-employment.
Coordination and return	Voluntary return framework (Geneva Discussions since 2008), repatriation grants, local partnerships (risk monitoring).
Legal status of IDPs	Legal protection ensured through the Law on IDPs

	(2007, updated 2014), which defines and secures their rights.
Integration measures	Development and implementation of integration programmes (state, local, and donor initiatives focused on employment, access to healthcare and education).
Involvement of IDPs	Expanding opportunities for IDPs to participate in community life and local decision-making processes.
<i>Lessons for Ukraine (for the future and in the context of IDP integration)</i>	
<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Leading role of host communities in integration	Focus on smaller host communities, which demonstrated greater effectiveness in integrating IDPs.
Active role of IDPs in sustaining their livelihoods	Developing an active stance among IDPs through engagement mechanisms to meet basic needs and defend their rights and interests.
Complex, multi-sector approach to integration	Problems were addressed through a systemic model of ensuring IDP well-being: housing, employment, education, healthcare, and social integration.
IDP participation in policy development and decision-making	Providing opportunities for IDPs to take part in shaping and adopting decisions at the local and community level, ensuring inclusive solutions to urgent issues.

**Compiled by the authors with partial use (Tatarashvili & Okropiridze 2024; Slezacek, 2018)*

Therefore, the experience of European countries regarding forced internal displacement and integration of IDPs into host communities due to armed conflicts is valuable for its use in Ukraine (important decisions for Ukraine based on the generalization of international experience with IDPs are disclosed in detail in section 3.3).

3.2. International monitoring information and analytical surveys of Ukrainian IDPs regarding the dynamics of changes in their status, problems, needs, intentions, and opportunities

With the outbreak of armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea (since 2014), and throughout the period of full-scale invasion (from 2022 to the present), international organizations have been conducting continuous monitoring and analytical assessments of the situation, challenges, needs, and intentions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine. These monitoring studies and assessments are carried out by specialized international institutions that address issues related to refugees and forced external and internal migration globally. Among them is the *International Organization for Migration (IOM)*, which launched the *National Monitoring System (NMS)* in Ukraine, based on the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

Another key institution conducting monitoring assessments is the *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*. The systematic work of these two international organizations in Ukraine forms a robust information base for decision-making on internal displacement. This is critically important for providing targeted assistance to various groups of IDPs. UNHCR's monitoring activities in Ukraine rely primarily on two major information platforms: the Operational Data Portal (which tracks internal displacement trends among Ukrainians) and the Refugee Data Finder (which captures trends in external forced migration).

Several international research centres also contribute to monitoring efforts. The *Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)*, operating as part of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), is one of the world's leading sources of data and analytics on internal displacement, informing political and operational decisions aimed at improving the lives of displaced people. The Centre analyses IDP issues globally and maintains an up-to-date section tracking the situation in Ukraine (IDMC, 2025). Also noteworthy is the research activity of the *European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)*, which supports EU Member States in applying

the EU legislative framework governing asylum, international protection, and reception conditions (EUAA, 2024). The *European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)*, an autonomous EU agency specializing in external and security policy (EUISS, 2025), also conducts thematic studies.

Nevertheless, the key actors conducting continuous and systematic monitoring of IDPs in Ukraine, from 2014 to the present, remain the *International Organization for Migration (IOM)* and the *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*. IOM's assessments are based on the methodology of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), a global system for tracking population displacement (IOM, 2025) (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5

IOM monitoring surveys (IOM) based on DTM in Ukraine - IDP estimates (as of November 2025)*

<i>DTM tool</i>	<i>Data collected</i>	<i>Periodicity</i>
<i>Baseline Assessment</i>	Number of IDPs by community (hromada-level)	Monthly
<i>Area Baseline</i>	Number of IDPs by regions and districts	Monthly
<i>GPS (General Population Survey)</i>	Representative telephone survey of IDPs (demographics, needs, intentions)	Every 3–4 months
<i>MaNA (Monthly Needs Assessment)</i>	Needs assessment of 253 communities (since 2023)	Monthly
<i>CoRA (Community Return Assessment)</i>	Security and access to services in 85 communities near the frontline	Every 6 months
<i>Return Index</i>	Return rate by region (1–4 points)	Every 2 months
<i>Satellite Imagery Analysis</i>	Housing destruction, real-time return tracking (since 2024)	Weekly

*Compiled by the authors based on the source (IOM, 2025)

IOM’s monitoring studies constitute an exceptionally important source of information on the state and dynamics of IDP-related issues across a wide range of topics. IOM (2025) also conducts thematic research offering more detailed examinations of specific IDP-related issues. This forms a powerful empirical foundation for assessing the multifaceted aspects and challenges of large-scale

internal displacement in Ukraine, enabling the tracking of key trends over time.

Monitoring studies conducted by the UNHCR (UNHCR, 2023) are also crucial for understanding the situation of IDPs during protracted war. These studies focus on protection, assistance, return, and integration. Since 2014, UNHCR has ensured systematic data collection (UNHCR, 2014–2025) through portals, surveys, and reports, integrating them with national registries and the DTM used by IOM (Table 3.6).

Table 3.6

Key information systems and monitoring tools used by UNHCR

<i>Tool/System</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Frequency/Coverage</i>
<i>Operational Data Portal (data.unhcr.org)</i>	Dashboards for IDPs, returnees; Flash Updates, Protection Response Updates.	Monthly/quarterly; nationwide
<i>Refugee Data Finder and Microdata</i>	Statistics, microdata from IDP surveys.	Annual/one-off rounds.
<i>Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives</i>	IDP and Refugee Intention Survey (#6 – November 2024).	2–3 times a year.
<i>Protection Monitoring and CSM</i>	Monitoring of protection issues, collective centers.	Quarterly rounds
<i>Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS)</i>	Socio-economic analysis (regional, but includes returnees).	Annually.

*Compiled by the authors based on the source (UNHCR, 2014-2025)

Monitoring studies implemented by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are carried out mainly through the *Operational Data Portal (ODP)* and *UNHCR Refugee Data Finder systems* – these are the main online resources, key information platforms that provide access to data on forcibly displaced persons – both external and internal.

Thus, the international system of information monitoring of large-scale internal displacement in Ukraine – continuously and dynamically (from 2014 to the present) – is implemented through the *National Monitoring System (NMS)* introduced by IOM, as well as UNHCR’s monitoring assessments in Ukraine. The

clear advantages of these studies include their comprehensiveness, systematic character, and solid empirical foundation. However, their parameters also have limitations, particularly regarding more nuanced and in-depth analysis of IDPs' satisfaction with assistance, mechanisms of support, and the challenges and opportunities of IDP adaptation and integration in host communities. The project "Ensuring Social Protection for ATO/JFO Participants (Combatants) and Social Integration of Internally Displaced Persons under Increasing Threats to Social Security in Ukraine" is designed precisely to address these pressing needs - seeking durable solutions, effective tools, and policies to support the informational and applied research foundations for IDP adaptation and integration during protracted war and in the context of post-war recovery.

3.3. Durable solutions for the social integration of internally displaced persons in the international dimension: conclusions for Ukraine

To address the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and respond to the challenges of the full-scale war – particularly the mass internal displacement – a wide range of international partners became involved. These include the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the national governments of developed countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and European states (primarily Germany, Poland, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Estonia), as well as Norway, Israel, Switzerland, Canada, and Japan; the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM); NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC); the World Food Programme (WFP); UNICEF; the UN Population Fund (UNFPA); the UN Development Programme (UNDP); the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); the World Health Organization (WHO); Plan International; the United States Agency for

International Development (USAID); the Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid (ISRAAID); the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ); the EU Advisory Mission in Ukraine (EUAM); the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); the Danish Refugee Council (DRC); and many other international organisations and disaster-response mechanisms at both international and national levels.

The role of the Council of Europe (CoE) for Ukraine (*Council of Europe Office in Ukraine – <https://www.coe.int/uk/web/kyiv/programmes>*) deserves special attention in light of its support for Ukraine in fulfilling its obligations as a CoE member state and in facilitating the implementation of the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement. At present, the CoE Secretariat, in cooperation with the Government of Ukraine, is implementing the *Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” 2023–2026* (Council of Europe, 2023). The Plan provides for measures aimed at the reintegration of IDPs and the strengthening of human-rights protection for displaced persons and returnees, improving their living conditions, and mitigating the negative consequences of displacement, including gender-sensitive responses, in line with CoE requirements and European standards. The essence of the Action Plan lies in the introduction of a set of mechanisms and interventions directed at restoring and fully protecting IDP rights, ensuring their access to essential services (housing, social protection, free legal aid, access to justice), and implementing practical measures for their reintegration and social rehabilitation. Within the framework of the Action Plan, the project *“Strengthening the social dimension in Ukraine”* has already been launched to provide targeted support and enhance social protection for broad segments of the population and vulnerable groups affected by the war, including IDPs.

Shortly after the full-scale invasion, international partners and relevant institutions developed a package of recommendations for Ukraine concerning the comprehensive resolution of IDP-related issues (Rabus, 2022). These recommendations synthesise accumulated international experience in IDP

adaptation and integration, incorporate Ukraine’s prior experience with internal displacement (2014–2022), and are targeted at specific stakeholders (the Government of Ukraine, local authorities, international humanitarian organisations, and the international community). Their analysis shows that from the outset they were oriented towards creating a comprehensive, multi-level system for addressing IDP issues, fostering adaptation and social integration in line with international frameworks and existing practices (Table 3.7).

Table 3.7

A package of targeted recommendations for a comprehensive solution problems of IDPs in Ukraine, provided by international partners*

<i>Institutional body / Entity</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Address recommendations</i>
<i>Local authorities</i>	1	Establish IDP community councils to convey the proposals and concerns of IDP communities to local and national authorities
	2	Expand the collection, analysis and exchange of information on internal displacement
	3	Develop local long-term housing solutions for IDPs through the involvement of both IDPs and host communities
	4	Promote IDP integration through advocacy campaigns; raise IDP awareness of available services through information dissemination
<i>Government of Ukraine</i>	1	Urgently improve the legal and regulatory framework on IDPs to ensure emergency support while addressing long-term needs.
	2	Ensure that policies and programmes of all state institutions prioritise and safeguard IDP rights and agency.
	3	Support local authorities in upholding IDP rights and addressing IDP-related challenges.
<i>International humanitarian organizations</i>	1	Strengthen cooperation among themselves to ensure a more coordinated response to the consequences of the full-scale aggression.
	2	Promote localised efforts and systematic engagement with civil-society organisations and IDP community members.
	3	Formalise consultative mechanisms with various IDP groups during both short- and long-term interventions.

	4	Integrate long-term solutions for internal displacement into future humanitarian response plans and development frameworks.
<i>International community (donors, governments of other countries, IFOs)</i>	1	Support the Government of Ukraine in fulfilling its obligations toward IDPs through technical assistance and financial support.
	2	Increase targeted financial support for IDPs, with an emphasis on initiatives combining emergency and long-term needs.
	3	Ensure funding for both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term solutions for IDPs.
	4	Strengthen monitoring and evaluation to ensure that funding aligns with specific IDP needs.

**Compiled by the authors based on Rabus (2022).*

Based on the analysis of international experience, a set of effective measures for the integration of IDPs into host communities in Ukraine can be identified, as well as practices that should be avoided (as they hinder integration).

Effective practices and policies for the social integration of IDPs that should be introduced and developed in Ukraine:

1. A systemic approach to IDP integration, expanding opportunities for IDP participation and ensuring IDP involvement in community-level decision-making.

2. A flexible *partnership-based integration model*, coordinating the efforts of communities, IDPs, volunteers, international organisations, donors, and the state.

3. Minimising bureaucracy, ensuring transparency, and simplifying procedures for registration, delivery of social services, and international assistance.

4. Establishing *humanitarian hubs* – multiservice centres providing legal, medical, psychosocial, informational, and educational support to IDPs (UNHCR, 2023).

5. Developing *community hubs* that serve not only as assistance centres but also as spaces for co-existence, dialogue, cooperation, learning, and social entrepreneurship.

6. Introducing advanced *digital solutions* for IDP-related issues (electronic registries, service-access platforms).

7. Expanding the authority of municipalities to strengthen responsiveness and trust between IDPs and host communities.

8. Implementing investment programmes for local communities and micro-grant schemes, not limited to infrastructure reconstruction alone.

9. Encouraging civic engagement among IDPs.

10. Maintaining flexibility in local integration policies with minimal bureaucracy.

11. Ensuring simplified and prompt procedures for IDPs (registration, work permits, access to services).

12. Securing targeted international assistance for IDP needs and integration at the local level to strengthen trust and social cohesion.

Analysis and generalization of foreign experience allowed us to identify **practices that should be avoided:**

1. Prolonged “temporariness” – without prospects for a stable life, IDPs remain socially vulnerable (e.g., Georgia, Bosnia).

2. Isolation of IDPs – creating separate settlements or limited contact with host communities (e.g., Lebanon, Colombia).

3. Insufficient communication, informational secrecy – leads to prejudice, fatigue, and local conflicts.

4. Lack of active IDP engagement in sustaining their own livelihoods or participating in local planning, policy development, and decision-making.

Thus, effective IDP policy – grounded in contemporary international experience and targeted recommendations for Ukraine (Rabus, 2022) – should rely on a comprehensive multi-level system and include the following components:

- ensuring coherence and coordination within national IDP-related policy. The updated State Strategy on Internal Displacement should align with the State Regional Development Strategy 2021–2027 and other key regulatory documents;

- investing in education and local infrastructure (especially housing), creating humanitarian and communication hubs, and incentivising employers to hire IDPs – these form the foundation for sustainable IDP integration in Ukraine.

Particular attention, in the authors' view, should be paid to the issue and consequences of social exclusion of IDPs, including rights violations and discrimination. Tools are needed to identify and measure the prevalence of exclusion and its impact on social processes. The effectiveness of assistance can be significantly improved through regular local-level assessments, enabling targeted, needs-based support.

A transition to a **partnership-based integration model** will play a crucial role – one grounded in the capacity of host communities, political will to support IDPs, strong cooperation with international organisations and donors, engagement of volunteers, IDP organisations, and local civil-society structures. Sustainable solutions require coordinated and purposeful state policy, local initiatives, international assistance, civil-society engagement, and active participation of IDPs to transform displacement into a resource for development

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Integration of internally displaced persons: global practices and Ukrainian experience

Authors

©Oksana Pankova, Institute of Industrial Economics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; Halyna Yurchyk, Halyna Mishchuk, National University of Water and Environmental Engineering, Ukraine.

Reviewers

Viacheslav Liashenko, Professor, Institute of Industrial Economics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine;
Olga Osadcha, Professor, National University of Water and Environmental Engineering, Rivne, Ukraine;
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