

MIGRATION IMPLICATIONS OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE ON BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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Abstract: Migrations, as a global contemporary phenomenon, take place as a result of various “push-pull factors”, and can have many political, social, cultural or security implications. However, we can state that it is mostly about voluntary migration, while on the other hand, wars as a “push factor” of migration mostly cause forced migration. The war in Ukraine triggered the largest migration movements in Europe after World War II, because according to UNHCR data, 4.8 million refugees from Ukraine were registered for temporary protection or similar programs in the European Union (EU). However, the question arises as to what types of migrations the war in Ukraine triggered, were actually only Ukrainians moving, or as a result of the war were movements of citizens of the Russian Federation recorded as well? The purpose of this paper is to look at the approach of the EU to the war in Ukraine from several different perspectives, the approach of the countries of the Western Balkans (WB), as well as the approach of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The paper will present the scope of the migration implications of the war in Ukraine on Bosnia and Herzegovina, through the presentation of data on the entry, movement, stay and international protection of citizens of Ukraine and citizens of the Russian Federation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Special focus will be on the analysis of the reasons for these migrations, and the approach to solving their status will be considered.

Keywords: war, Ukraine, Russian Federation, migrations, refugees, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Introduction

Migratory movements are increasingly becoming our everyday life, both from the aspect of legal movements, and from the aspect of illegal movements, which bring many different challenges and risks to the countries of transit and final destination of migrants. Observing the “push” factors of migration, we can state that voluntary migration is the most represented in the migration movements, because economic reasons and poverty are the main causes that motivate the departure of migrants from their home countries. On the other hand, armed conflicts and wars contribute to the emergence of forced migrations and lead to the movement of refugees, who are a particularly vulnerable category and have

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numerous other specificities. In 2020, 281 million international migrants were registered in the world, of which 146 million were men and 135 million were women. Approximately 115 million international migrants, which is more than 40% of the world, come from six Asian countries: India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines and Afghanistan. The largest number of international migrants in the world comes from India, followed by Mexico, the Russian Federation, China and Syria (IOM, 2022). The war in Syria led to the forced movement of refugees to several countries, and to the greatest extent to Turkey, where they received residence status, accommodation and other benefits. However, the open invitation of German Chancellor Merkel in 2015 led to a secondary movement of Syrian refugees towards Germany, which was also taken advantage of by economic migrants who joined the refugees and headed towards the EU countries.

Data from the European Border Agency (FRONTEX) indicate that during 2015 and 2016, 2,333,548 illegal border crossings were registered at the external borders of EU member states, and 1,191,265 migrants illegally staying in EU countries were detected (Frontex, 2017). The migrant and refugee crisis in Europe in 2015 represented a new phenomenon, which the EU countries had never encountered on such a scale before. That crisis tested the Union's strategic approach, legislation, established systems, inter-agency and international cooperation and information exchange, as well as the readiness of competent authorities to confront these phenomena. Security, as well as all other challenges and problems of illegal migration, became much more pronounced during the massive influx of refugees and migrants into the EU. During the crisis, the unity of the Union, the sustainability of the Schengen zone, and cooperation within the Union on many issues were called into question. Acceptance and distribution of the burden of refugees and migrants was one of the issues where it was not possible to reach an agreement, while some EU countries tried to reduce migrant pressure through bilateral action (Buzar, 2022).

However, Russia's attack on Ukraine in 2022 triggered the movement of refugees towards EU countries, even on a much larger scale than was the case during the 2015/2016 crisis. The migration implications of the war in Ukraine were also felt by the countries of the WB, including BiH. This paper will look at the approach of the EU to this phenomenon, with reference to the approach during the refugee and migrant crisis of 2015/2016, and will investigate to what extent the war in Ukraine had migration implications on the WB, and especially on BiH, and consider the approach to solving their status issues.

Russia's attack on Ukraine

In December 1991, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia "blessed" the dissolution of the Soviet Union, but Moscow still intended to maintain a strong influence in these countries. Russia and Belarus formed a strong alliance, but Ukraine was more interested in getting closer to the West. By signing the "Great Treaty" in 1997, Moscow recognized the borders of Ukraine, including the Crimean Peninsula. In 2008, American President George Bush tried to introduce Ukraine and Georgia into the North Atlantic Military Alliance (NATO), but Moscow expressed strict opposition to this and emphasized that it would never agree to the complete independence of Ukraine, and Germany and France prevented the realization of this idea. Ukraine tried to get closer to the West by signing the EU Approximation Agreement, but during the summer of 2013, Moscow exerted strong economic pressure on Kyiv, which led

to the delay in signing the Agreement. The aforementioned caused strong civil protests, and President Viktor Yanukovich fled to Russia in February 2014. Moscow took advantage of this situation and annexed Crimea in March, declaring people's republics in Donetsk and Luhansk. Since then, constant tensions have been evident on the Moscow-Kiev route. In June 2017, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Law on Emphasizing the Intent for NATO Membership, while in September 2020, President Volodymyr Zelensky approved a security strategy to lay the foundation for partnership with NATO. Since December 2021, Russian President Vladimir Putin has openly demanded from the United States of America (USA) that Ukraine should not become a member of NATO, nor receive any military aid from the West, which NATO refused (Deutsche Welle, 02/24/2022). After that, there were various speculations about whether Russia would really attack Ukraine, but in addition to the speculations, official warnings were also sent by the Western governments.

The White House warned that Russia could invade Ukraine at any moment, warning of an "extremely dangerous situation" developing on the border with Ukraine. *"We believe that we are now at a stage where Russia can attack Ukraine at any moment,"* spokeswoman Jen Psaki said (NBC News, 01/18/2022). US President Joe Biden said in the White House that Washington does not see the signs of retreat promised by Russia, that the threat of invasion remains "very high" because Russia has moved its forces towards the border of Ukraine, instead of withdrawing them. *"All the indications we have are that they are ready to go to Ukraine, to attack Ukraine,"* Biden said (Associated Press, 02/18/2022). British Défense Minister Ben Wallace warned that due to certain moves by the Kremlin, as well as the continued arrival of military forces and technology on the border with Ukraine, Great Britain believes that Russia is still planning to invade Ukraine (Politico, 02/21/2022).

Just three days after the British Défense Minister's warning, on Thursday, 02/24/2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, attacking several key cities, including Kiev. Russian President Putin has announced that Russia will conduct a "special military operation" in Ukraine. Their goal, as Putin called it, is the "demilitarization" of Ukraine. Russian plans do not include the occupation of Ukrainian territories, "we do not want to impose anything on anyone by force," Putin said. Ukrainian President Zelensky called for an "immediate stop to Putin's war against the world" calling for the establishment of an anti-Putin coalition. He called for the introduction of urgent sanctions against Russia, requested financial and military aid, and declared that "the world must force Russia to make peace." NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg said that NATO will increase its military presence in the eastern member countries of the Alliance, but that NATO has no plans to send military forces to Ukraine. American, European and Ukrainian officials condemned the attack, calling for severe sanctions against Moscow. US President Biden convened a meeting of the National Security Council to discuss the US response to the attack. In announcing a "special military operation" in Ukraine, Putin issued a stark warning to the West, saying any country that tries to "interfere" will face immediate consequences (CNBC, 02/24/2022). The Council of the European Union strongly condemned Russia's unprecedented military aggression against Ukraine, which they said severely violates international law and threatens European and global security and stability. They demanded that Russia immediately cease military operations, unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from Ukraine, and fully respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine. They said that the European Union (EU) stands firmly by Ukraine

and its people as they face the war, and promised to provide additional political, financial and humanitarian assistance (Council of the European Union, 02/24/2022).

European Union's response to the Russian attack

The European Union strongly condemned the Russian attack, appreciating that such behaviour threatens European and global security and stability. When we look at the geostrategic position of Ukraine, it is evident that four member states border Ukraine on the external borders of the EU, namely: Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland. With this act, Russia brought the war to the doorstep of the EU, which certainly caused fear in the EU. On the other hand, Great Britain and the USA also, in addition to officially condemning the invasion, made concrete moves to support Ukraine in resisting the invasion.

The introduction of sanctions against Russia was one of the first moves by the EU, which aimed to weaken Russia's economic and military power. Sanctions are aimed at officials, freezing their assets, the financial sector, the energy sector, the technology sector, the ban on transactions with the Russian Central Bank, the restriction of access to capital markets and financial services of the EU, the ban on overflights and access to airports for Russian carriers, sanctions on Russian oligarchs, and a number of other sanctions. In addition to Russia, the EU also imposed sanctions on Belarus. Also, activities were undertaken to reduce the EU's energy dependence on Russia. The diplomatic efforts of the EU with the aim of gaining international condemnation of Russian aggression were to a good extent strengthened. One of the very important issues was EU support to the Ukrainian armed forces, which was channelled through the European Peace Aid Instrument. In October 2022, the Council of the EU established the Mission for Military Assistance to Support Ukraine (EUMAM UKRAINE), which strengthened the military capabilities of the Ukrainian armed forces. On the other hand, the EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Reform (EUAM UKRAINE) will provide support to Ukraine in investigations and prosecution of international crimes in the context of aggression. The EU Agency for Cooperation in Criminal Justice (Eurojust) was given the mandate to preserve evidence of war crimes, process and analyse it, and deliver it to international and national authorities, including the International Criminal Court (Council of the European Union).

Another very important issue referred to the reception and treatment of refugees from Ukraine arriving in EU member states. For this purpose, on 3/4/2022, the EU activated the directive on temporary protection with the aim of easing the pressure on national asylum systems, on the one hand, while on the other hand enabling refugees to enjoy harmonized rights throughout the EU. These rights include issues of residence, access to the labour market and housing, medical assistance, access to education for children, social assistance, and health care. This mechanism of temporary protection is activated in the event of a mass influx of refugees, that is, it is a mechanism for emergency cases. The mechanism was approved for one year and has already been extended until 3/4/2024. Financial aid and support are also provided for EU member states that accept refugees, in order to have enough funds to ensure access to the rights of refugees from Ukraine. Technical support in the absorption of EU funds for the needs of acceptance and integration and the implementation of temporary protection mechanisms is provided within the framework of the Technical Support Instrument. A step forward was also made in the provision of operational guidelines by the European Commission for the management of external borders in order to facilitate border crossing during the mass

influx of refugees at the external borders of the EU and Ukraine. On 3/17/2022, the EU signed an agreement enabling Frontex to provide assistance to Moldova in border management, by deploying teams that will provide support to the competent authorities of Moldova in registration and border control operations, regarding refugees from Ukraine (Council of the European Union).

According to UN data from July 2022, more than 12 million people have left their homes since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Close to 8 million people are considered internally displaced persons in Ukraine, while more than 5.2 million refugees have left Ukraine and sought protection in other countries. The largest number of Ukrainian refugees was recorded in Russia, 1.4 million, followed by 1.2 million in Poland, 867,000 in Germany, 382,768 in the Czech Republic, and 141,562 in Italy. President Putin stated that Russian forces evacuated 140,000 civilians from Mariupol to Russia, while he is categorical that none of the Ukrainians were forcibly taken to Russia. UN data indicate that by 6/21/2022, over 3 million border crossings to Ukraine were recorded. The Ukrainian border service recorded 30,000 entries into Ukraine on a daily basis. Refugee returns to Ukraine have been recorded, but especially to cities that were considered safer, such as Kyiv (BBC News, 7/4/2022). According to EU data from March 2023, 4 million Ukrainians enjoy temporary protection in EU member states. The largest number of refugees use protection in Germany, 1,034,630, followed by 993,755 in Poland, 447,830 in the Czech Republic, 168,970 in Spain, 151,590 in Bulgaria, and 148,060 refugees in Italy (Council of the European Union - Infographic).

Ukrainian refugees under temporary protection in EU countries



Chart 1. Ukrainian refugees under temporary protection in EU countries

The results of a survey conducted among refugees from Ukraine on the reasons for leaving their country indicate that 53% percent of them left Ukraine because of possible military attacks, 49% because of military attacks, 33% because of a lack of basic needs (food, water, housing), 32% due to fear of being a personal target, 30% due to fear of sexual or gender-based violence, 21% due to fear of torture or punishment and 20% due to unemployment and poverty (EUAA, 2022).

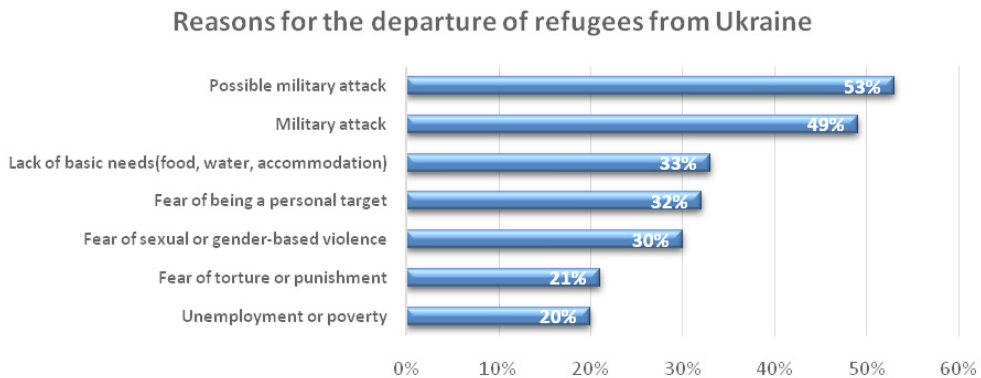


Chart 2. *Reasons for the departure of refugees from Ukraine*

On the day when Russia's attack on Ukraine began, Ukrainian President Zelensky made a decision on general military mobilization, within the framework of which men aged 18 to 60 are prohibited from leaving the territory of Ukraine (CNN, 02/24/2022). This decision resulted in only women and children leaving Ukraine, and some called the Ukrainian refugee crisis a "women's crisis" for this reason. According to UNHCR estimates, over 90% of refugees from Ukraine are women and children (UNHCR). In March 2022, UNICEF presented data according to which over 2 million children from Ukraine had been forced to leave due to the war. UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said: *"The situation inside Ukraine has escalated. As the number of children running away from their homes increases, we must remember that each of them needs protection, education, security and support"* (UNICEF, 3/30/2022).

Migratory implications for the Western Balkans and approach towards the refugees from Ukraine

After Russia's attack on Ukraine, refugees from this country moved to the countries of the Western Balkans as well, and in the following we will look at the migration implications of the war in Ukraine and what kind of approach they took towards the Ukrainian refugees. Citizens of Ukraine do not need a visa to enter and stay in the Republic of Serbia for up to 90 days in a 180-day period. The Government of the Republic of Serbia has passed the Decision on providing temporary protection to displaced persons from Ukraine on 3/17/2022, which gave them access to all rights from Article 76 of the Act on Asylum and Temporary Protection. These rights, in addition to residence, also give the right to health care, free primary and secondary education, as well as the right to work. On 3/21/2022, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of Serbia (KIRS) presented data that from the beginning of the war in Ukraine until then, more than 13,000 Ukrainians passed through Serbia to the countries of the European Union, while about 3,000 refugees remained in Serbia. According to the statement of Vladimir Cucić from KIRS, they are located in 45-46 cities and municipalities, that they mostly stay with friends or relatives, and that they are women with small children and teenagers (Radio Slobodna Evropa, 3/21/2022). By October 2022, about 116,000 citizens of Ukraine passed through Serbia, most of whom were in transit. According to Acting Commissioner for Refugees Nataša Stanisavljević, about 3,500 refugees from Ukraine are in private accommodation, while 76 refugees are staying in the collective centre in Vranje,

which is designated for the accommodation of refugees from Ukraine as part of the response under the Decision on Temporary Reception, and where they have accommodation, food and everything they need (RTS, 10/14/2022). The new UNHCR representative in Serbia, Soufiane Adjali, said in February 2023 that according to official data, 148,500 refugees from Ukraine have entered Serbia so far, of which 145,513 then went to another country. *“Serbia has shown unequivocal support for refugees from Ukraine, and UNHCR especially welcomed the decision of the Government of Serbia to provide them with temporary protection. We heard that refugees feel very welcome in their new environment”* (Danas, 2/27/2023). In March 2023, the Government of Serbia adopted the Decision on the extension of the status of temporary admission to persons from Ukraine until 3/18/2024. The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights welcomed the aforementioned decision of the Government, which is harmonised with the EU’s approach to the mass influx of people caused by the war in Ukraine. Since the adoption of the Decision until 3/1/2023, the Asylum Office has issued 1,214 decisions granting temporary protection to citizens of Ukraine. With this decision, in addition to citizens of Ukraine, temporary protection can also be granted to foreigners who had a regular stay in Ukraine (Danas, 3/20/2023).



Chart 3. Number of Russian companies and entrepreneurs

On the other hand, a large number of citizens of the Russian Federation also arrived in Serbia after the start of the war in Ukraine, who do not need a visa to enter and stay in Serbia for up to 30 days. Through various resolutions, Serbia has condemned Russia’s attack on Ukraine, but it still refuses to impose sanctions, which is a problem for the EU, which calls on it to align its foreign policy with the European one. Avoiding the introduction of sanctions enables the smooth development of air traffic between Russia and Serbia, and passenger travel. During 2022, the Government of Serbia decided to grant Serbian citizenship under special conditions to 50 citizens of Russia, three times more than during 2021. The introduction of EU sanctions aimed at business entities and financial operations in Russia led to another phenomenon in Serbia, the opening of Russian business entities. Number of new Russian business entities and entrepreneurs in 2021 was 159, whereas it grew to 4,187 during 2022 (Radio Slobodna Evropa, 1/25/2023). When Putin announced military mobilization in September 2022, Serbia faced a new wave of arrivals of Russian citizens fleeing the

mobilization. Tickets were sold out on flights from Moscow to Belgrade, and the price reached the record USD 5,600 (Nova RS, 9/21/2022).

Montenegro also has a visa-free regime with Ukraine, and citizens of Ukraine can enter and stay in Montenegro for up to 90 days. Shortly after Russia’s attack on Ukraine, on 3/10/2022 the Government of Montenegro adopted the Decision on granting temporary protection to refugees from Ukraine, for a period of one year, and established a Coordination Body that will supervise the implementation of the decision. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Police Directorate are responsible for facilitating the entry of citizens of Ukraine into Montenegro for humanitarian reasons. The Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Red Cross and the UNHCR, is responsible for providing accommodation facilities for adequate accommodation of foreigners under temporary protection, necessary assistance and basic means of living. At the time the Decision was adopted, 7,000 people from Ukraine had already entered Montenegro (Voice of America, 3/10/2022).

President of the Parliament of Montenegro Danijela Đurović, at a meeting with the head of the UNHCR in Montenegro, Jean-Yves Bouchardy, held on 11/8/2022, stated that Montenegro accepted 30,000 Ukrainians, which ranks it among the five countries with the largest number of refugees (Dnevno, 11/8/2022). On 2/14/2023, the Government of Montenegro made a decision to extend temporary protection for all persons from Ukraine. Acting Director of the Directorate for Administrative Affairs, Citizenship and Foreigners in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Radovan Popović, stated that *“currently in Montenegro, there are about 8,000 refugees from Ukraine, and all of them are provided with basic rights. These persons are provided with the right to housing, the right to work, health care, education, as well as other human rights that they need during their stay in Montenegro.”* (Barinfo, 2/23/2023). However, in addition to the arrival of refugees, the establishment of companies by citizens of Ukraine in Montenegro was also recorded. According to the data of the Revenue and Customs Administration, in the period from 2/1/2022 until 6/9/2022 104 companies of natural persons from Ukraine were founded and registered, mainly with activities in the IT sector (Investitor, 11/27/2022).



Chart 4. Number of Russian citizens with approved residence in Montenegro

Citizens of the Russian Federation also do not have a visa regime with Montenegro and can stay up to 30 days after entering. In the first three months of 2023, 21,320 citizens of the Russian Federation were registered for approved stay, while in the same period, a stay of up to 90 days was registered for 64,303 citizens of the Russian Federation. This represents more than 10% of the total population of Montenegro, which has about 620,000 inhabitants. Demographer Miroslav Doderović points to the limited capacity of Montenegro to integrate such a large population: *“So, it is a sort of a challenge for our identity, for political and economic sovereignty”*. Given that one of the ways to obtain a residence permit in Montenegro is the establishment of a company or employment, it is important to refer to the fact that from the beginning of 2022 to the end of March 2023, out of a total of 9,000 established companies, 56% of them were founded by Russian citizens. In the period from 3/30/2022 until 3/30/2023 the number of Russian citizens with approved residence in Montenegro tripled, from 7,103. to 21,320. The largest number of Russian citizens live in Budva, Bar and Herceg Novi, where real estate rents have been increased due to high demand, and there is a lack of places in kindergartens and schools (Radio Slobodna Evropa, 7/4/2023).

On 3/18/2022, the Albanian Government has adopted decisions related to the legal status of the Ukrainians in Albania. The first decision granted a right of residence in Albania for a period of up to one year without the need of obtaining residence permit. With the second decision, the temporary protection provision entered into force, and Ukrainians could express an intention to apply and obtain this type of protection (Sot, 3/19/2022). The first refugees from Ukraine arrived in Albania on 3/22/2022, but they did not ask for help or shelter from the Albanian authorities, but travelled to coastal areas where they have their own apartments (Kosovo online, 3/2/2022). According to the ambassador of Ukraine in Albania, Volodymyr Shukrov, until 4/16/2022 816 Ukrainian refugees were taken care of in Albania. He emphasized the good cooperation with the Albanian authorities that provide support to refugees, and especially expressed gratitude for the possibility of continuing the educational process of Ukrainian children, which they will follow online according to the curriculum of Ukraine (Albanian Daily News, 4/16/2022). From 2/24 to 12/31/2022, nearly 32,000 Ukrainians entered Albania, of which nearly 29,000 left the country. As of the end of December 2022, about 2,500 Ukrainians who fled the war in Ukraine were estimated to be present in Albania (IOM, 2022).

On the day of Russia's attack on Ukraine, the government of North Macedonia announced that it was ready to accept refugees from Ukraine, and to fully comply with the EU's foreign and security policy (Euractiv, 2/24/2022). It is estimated that over the period from February 24 to August 15, nearly 16,000 Ukrainians entered North Macedonia, of which nearly 13,000 left the country. Most of them stay in Skopje, with friends or relatives or by renting houses/apartments. The cities with the greatest presence of refugees from Ukraine are Skopje, Bitola, Prilep and Ohrid. The Law on Foreigners allows Ukrainian nationals entering North Macedonia to apply for temporary residence on humanitarian grounds for a period of one year with the possibility of extending it for a further period of five years. The temporary protection, similar to the Temporary Protection Directive 2001/55/EC adopted by the European Council on March 4, has not been activated. Furthermore, the government of North Macedonia has approved a soft measure to allow Ukrainian nationals to register with the Public Health Insurance Fund and cover their monthly fee, guaranteeing them the right to use the services of public health medical facilities and services (IOM, 2022).

Migrant implications for Bosnia and Herzegovina and approach towards refugees from Ukraine

As in neighbouring Serbia and Montenegro, citizens of Ukraine can enter Bosnia and Herzegovina without the need to obtain a visa and stay for up to 30 days in a period of 60 days. The first refugees from Ukraine arrived in BiH on 3/1/2022, just a few days after the Russian attack. The family that arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina went to Međugorje, where they visited a year earlier (N1, 3/2/2022). A few days after that, the first organized group of 50 refugees arrived in Međugorje, who were placed with the families of the citizens of Međugorje until the issue of accommodation was resolved. However, regardless of the hospitality shown in Međugorje, they do not want to stay long, because they want to go to one of the EU countries where they have greater security, the possibility of educating their children and health care (Anadolu Agency, 3/6/2022). Ukrainian refugees were visited on 3/5/2022 by the FBiH Red Cross representatives, who, in addition to humanitarian aid, psychosocial support, and the Search Service, will also perform antigen testing for COVID-19 (Al Jazeera, 3/5/2022). Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the Ministry of Security has been in constant communication with competent institutions, humanitarian organizations and the Red Cross, so that in the event of a massive influx, they could adequately respond and accommodate persons requesting international protection. The Ministry has prepared a draft of the decision on preliminary protection for citizens of Ukraine, which, after the necessary consultations with the relevant ministries and agencies, will be sent to the BiH Council of Ministers for a further procedure for adoption. *"This decision would resolve their status, but would also include all competent institutions for taking care of this category"* said Selmo Cikotić, the Minister of Security. If there is no mass influx and the Decision on temporary protection is not adopted, the competent institutions of BiH will make adequate Decisions in terms of resolving the status of residence of citizens of Ukraine in BiH considering the duration of the visa-free regime (Faktor, 3/18/2022). On April 20, the BiH Council of Ministers passed decisions on the basis of which the entry of citizens of Ukraine into BiH is facilitated, and they are allowed to submit requests for temporary residence approval based on humanitarian grounds caused by the war in Ukraine, which may be extended. In addition to the above, their entry into BiH was approved under easier conditions, they are released from the obligation to present a negative test for the corona virus when entering BiH, i.e., a certificate that they have recovered from it or that they have been vaccinated, and they are exempt from paying the administrative fee in the process of granting temporary residence from humanitarian reasons. The BiH Asylum Law defines temporary protection as a mechanism of an urgent and temporary nature that is granted to foreigners in situations of their mass influx, and is intended for persons who cannot return to their country due to armed conflict or systematic violation of human rights. In addition to staying in BiH, this type of protection guarantees accommodation, health care, access to primary and secondary education, and the right to work. However, the decision was made exclusively for the possibility of granting residence for humanitarian reasons to citizens of Ukraine (Radio Slobodna Evropa, 4/20/2022). In mid-June 2022, according to the data of the Service for Foreigner's Affairs (SFA), 363 citizens of Ukraine were registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the largest number of whom were accommodated in hotels and private accommodation. Out of the total number, 102 citizens of Ukraine expressed their intention to seek international protection in BiH. The FBiH

Government has decided to allocate the capacities of the Walter Hotel in Sarajevo, which is managed by the FBiH Agency for the Management of Confiscated Assets, for the purpose of housing refugees from Ukraine (FTV, 6/15/2022).

As part of the celebration of UN Day, on 10/25/2022 representatives of UNHCR and UNICEF visited Ukrainian refugees located in Međugorje. *"I want to thank the local community, the municipality of Čitluk, and especially the Red Cross and the residents of Međugorje for their timely and quick action in providing shelter and organizing support for Ukrainian refugees. The municipality of Čitluk is an example of how communities should respond to the reception of those who flee their homes in search of safety"*, said during the visit, Lucie Gagné, representative of UNHCR in BiH. The support of UNHCR and UNICEF was also provided when it comes to refugee children who are enabled to follow lessons online from the classrooms of Bijakovići Primary School, which is organized by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science. *"The sooner children who survived the war have the opportunity to learn and communicate with schoolmates and teachers in the school environment, the faster they master the material and recover - especially the most vulnerable children. In addition to the support provided by UNHCR, UNICEF will hire learning support officers who will provide daily assistance to Ukrainian children at school to continue learning according to the Ukrainian curriculum,"* said dr Rownak Khan, representative of UNICEF in BiH (UNICEF, 10/25/2022). A year after the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, 153 refugees from Ukraine were staying in BiH. Since the beginning of the invasion, more than 51,000 Ukrainian refugees have arrived in BiH, but most have left the country. They do not have the right to stay under temporary protection, nor do they exercise all rights as under temporary protection, as in other European countries. *"We hope that the BiH authorities will reconsider their decision and decide to introduce temporary protection for refugees from Ukraine. This would be the best solution to provide all Ukrainian citizens with access to adequate protection and rights while they are outside their home country."* said Lucie Gagné, representative of UNHCR in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Klix, 2/23/2023). According to the data of the SFA 163 temporary residence permits were granted to citizens of the Ukraine in 2022 based on humanitarian grounds (SFA, 2022). It is evident that there has been a decrease in the number of Ukrainian refugees in BiH, as some of them have returned to Ukraine, while others have gone further towards EU countries. Most of the refugees who stayed in BiH, came to their family members or friends with whom they found refuge from the war.

When it comes to the arrival of citizens of the Russian Federation in BiH, there has been an increase in the opening of legal entities whose founders are Russian citizens. In the territory of the BiH entity Republika Srpska, 12 companies whose founders are Russian citizens were opened in 2022, which is a significant increase compared to 2021, during which two such companies were registered (Radio Slobodna Evropa, 1/24/2023). Since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine, more than 30 companies whose founders are Russian citizens have been registered in the Sarajevo area. However, some of the banks in BiH refuse to open accounts for companies with Russian owners due to fear of sanctions, which complicates business operations (Detektor, 3/17/2023). According to the data of the SFA 196 temporary residence permits were granted to citizens of the Russian Federation in 2022, which is a slight increase compare to 2021, during which 158 temporary residence permits were granted (SFA, 2022).

Godina	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Ruska Federacija	192	175	162	158	196	883

Tabela 1. *Granted temporary residence permits to citizens of the Russian Federation 2018-2022*

Bosnia and Herzegovina also faced another phenomenon when it comes to citizens of the Russian Federation. In December 2022, groups of Chechens, citizens of the Russian Federation, started arriving in BiH, arriving in Sarajevo, Tuzla or Banja Luka by plane from Moscow via Istanbul. They continued their journey towards the Una-Sana Canton, where in the area of Velika Kladuša, they tried to legally leave BiH through the Maljevac border crossing and request asylum in the Republic of Croatia. According to them, they were running away from mobilization because they did not want to fight for Russia. In October 2022, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov announced on Telegram and proposed a dramatic increase in the number of people for the war in Ukraine. On that occasion, he said that Chechnya has 1.6 million people, and that at least 300 or 400 thousand can be sent to war. A group of Russian citizens from Chechnya and Ingushetia was refused entry on 12/29/2022 at Sarajevo Airport, and were returned to Istanbul. The BiH Border Police (BP BiH) announced that these persons "abuse the visa-free regime of BiH and Russia" and that they do not meet the conditions for entering the country (Radio Slobodna Evropa, 12/30/2022). After BP BiH started refusing entry to these groups of Russian citizens due to failure to meet the conditions for entry into BiH, this phenomenon gradually disappeared.

Conclusion

Russia's attack on Ukraine, although somewhat expected, still shocked the whole world. The European Union, the USA, Great Britain and many other countries were united in condemning Russia's invasion, imposing sanctions, providing humanitarian and military support to Ukraine, accepting and caring for refugees from Ukraine, and taking a strong "diplomatic offensive" in gathering as many countries as possible to stand on side of Ukraine. A special step forward was made in the reception and treatment of refugees from Ukraine, where the EU, by adopting a directive, adopted a unique solution that was applied by all member states, and we did not witness disagreements like in 2015/2016 during the migrant and refugee crisis. The Russian attack triggered migration movements, but in addition to forced migrations, we also recorded voluntary migrations. A large number of Ukrainian refugees fled the war, mostly women and children because the men could not leave Ukraine, where they were accepted in different countries that provided them with accommodation and access to rights. On the other hand, a certain number of Ukrainian citizens rented real estate for housing, which in some countries led to a sharp increase in real estate rental prices. They also registered companies in host countries, which indicates that they transferred their businesses from Ukraine and continued to operate. However, it is also interesting that at the same time migration movements of citizens of the Russian Federation were also recorded, as a consequence of the war in Ukraine. Two elements were important for these developments, first of all, the imposition of sanctions on Russia, which affected the business of many

companies. When we look at the Western Balkans, the largest number of Russian companies was founded in Serbia, which did not join the EU's foreign policy and imposed sanctions on Russia, followed by Montenegro, but such cases were also recorded in BiH. Second element was the military mobilization in Russia, before which many left Russia and fled to countries where they could travel without visas. One of the preferred destinations was Serbia, which has established direct flights with Russia.

Regarding access to the reception and treatment of refugees from Ukraine, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania have adopted decisions on recognizing the status of temporary reception for refugees from Ukraine, in line with EU positions, while North Macedonia has not. Bosnia and Herzegovina belatedly made a decision on facilitating the entry of Ukrainian refugees into BiH, as well as the possibility of granting temporary residence for humanitarian reasons. Such a decision of BiH was not harmonized with the positions of the EU, nor with the decisions of neighbouring countries. Russia's attack on Ukraine without a doubt showed all the complexity and complexity of the war and its consequences, highlighted the incredible unity of the West in supporting Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees throughout Europe, and resulted in significant migration implications for the European union, Western Balkan and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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