BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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CHALLENGING MIGRATION: security, mobility, labour market, integration, human rights



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Michelle Pace

Unwelcome and Unprotected: Refugee Integration and the Reconfiguration of the Right to Asylum

This keynote examines how contemporary European migration governance has reshaped the right to asylum through policies that prioritize security, temporariness, and labour market participation. Drawing on a decade of research on the case of Denmark, refugee labour market integration, and the experiences of vulnerable groups (including women and minors, as well as Syrian refugees in Europe and the Middle East) — the lecture argues that protection has increasingly become conditional and fragmented. While integration is formally promoted, access to durable rights and long-term security is progressively constrained. The keynote invites reflection on what this transformation means for refugee protection, social cohesion, and the future of asylum in Europe.

Professor in Global Studies
Incoming Visiting Fellow, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford (Trinity Term 2026)

Michelle Pace is a Professor of Global Studies based in Roskilde, Denmark, and a leading scholar in migration, human rights, democracy, and global governance. During Trinity Term 2026, she will be a Visiting Fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, where her research will focus on displacement, mobility, and the political and ethical challenges surrounding migration. Her work bridges academic research and policy debates, with particular attention to security, labour markets, integration, and human rights in a global context.

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Besnik Fetahu

From an exporter of insecurity to a reintegration model: The comprehensive institutional and social approach in Kosovo

This study analyzes the security and socio-economic transition of Kosovo, evolving from the country with the highest per capita ratio of foreign fighters in the Syrian and Iraqi conflict zones into a regional and European model for their systematic repatriation and reintegration process. By using a mixed methods approach that combines statistical data on returnees with qualitative policy analysis, this study evaluates the efficacy of Kosovo's National Strategy on Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE). This study focuses on the state's three-part intervention strategy: strict criminal prosecution, psycho-social rehabilitation process, and the use of religious counter-narratives. The findings demonstrate that the "Kosovo model" succeeds because of a combination of "hard security" measures, such as monitoring, imprisonment, and punishing those who take part in international wars, and "soft power" techniques, such as non-coercive, preventive and rehabilitative measures. Moreover, the study highlights the need for the state's proactive role in peripherally and economically disadvantaged areas, previously recognized as recruiting hotspots due to institutional weaknesses. The study finds that this comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach, shifting from punitive isolation to holistic community-based reintegration, has lowered the chances of recidivism. As a result, Kosovo's experience provides practical lessons for the other countries on how to handle foreign fighters and their families who have returned home.

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Magdalena El Ghamari

Al-Hol to Europe: Empirical Insights from North-East Syria and the Security–Human Rights Dilemma of Repatriation

The repatriation of women and children from the Al-Hol and Roj camps in north-eastern Syria (2026) constitutes a complex intersection of migration governance, security policy and human rights protection. These individuals are positioned simultaneously as subjects of international protection (international refugee law; human rights regime) and as potential security concerns (securitisation theory; risk society theory). This dual framing generates legal, political and ethical dilemmas for European states. The presentation is based on empirical field research conducted in north-eastern Syria, including direct observation and expert consultations regarding the functioning of the camps and the profiles of detained women and minors (qualitative field research; security studies methodology). It examines repatriation as a multidimensional governance challenge requiring integrated risk assessment, child protection mechanisms, deradicalisation and disengagement strategies (radicalisation process theory), and long-term reintegration policies. The central argument is that repatriation should not be reduced to a binary choice between humanitarian obligation and security threat. Rather, it should be understood as a test of state resilience — defined as the capacity of a state to manage risk coherently, proportionally and in compliance with international law, while maintaining democratic standards and ensuring sustainable reintegration outcomes.

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Kamil Kardis, Mária Kardis

Desire for Dignity and the Politics of Resentment in the Migration Context: Fukuyama's Concept of Identity as an Analytical Framework for Integration

In recent years, the issue of immigrant integration, especially from Muslim countries, has once again become the focus of public and academic debate in Europe. The growing scale of migration and the complexity of the social processes accompanying population mobility have led to numerous criticisms of existing integration policy models and calls for their fundamental revision. This criticism is often based on the belief that measures aimed at adapting foreigners to the host society are of limited effectiveness. Public debate raises concerns about the possible impact of large immigrant communities on national identity and social solidarity, the functioning of social welfare systems, and the level of social security, including the risk of violence or ethnic tensions. At the same time, attention is drawn to phenomena such as the formation of ethnic ghettos, limited knowledge of the language of the country of settlement, marginalization in the labor market, lack of opportunities for social advancement, and the emergence of so-called "parallel societies" in which cultural norms and values may be at odds with dominant European values.

The aim of the presentation is to interpret these phenomena in the light of the concept of identity presented by Francis Fukuyama. The starting point is the assumption that contemporary tensions related to migration and integration do not result solely from economic or institutional factors, but are deeply rooted in the symbolic sphere—in the need for recognition, dignity, and a sense of belonging on the part of both host societies and migrants themselves. In this context, Fukuyama's concept, which refers to the category of thymos and the desire for recognition, can be a useful analytical tool for better understanding the dynamics of identity conflicts accompanying migration processes.

The article proposes using this perspective as an interpretative framework for analyzing contemporary integration policies in Europe. It points out that effective integration requires not only institutional and economic solutions, but also consideration of the symbolic and cultural dimensions, in which mutual recognition, dialogue, and the redefinition of the relationship between national and civic identity and the cultural diversity of European societies play a key role.

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Daniela Panc

The impact of new European Union legislation on the rights of migrants and refugees

The Pact on Migration and Asylum, adopted by the European Union on the 14th of May 2024, marks the most comprehensive reform of the Common European Asylum System to date. This presentation examines the impact of the new legislative package on the rights of migrants and refugees, with particular attention to challenges and concerns regarding the mechanisms and procedures introduced by this new legal framework, which must be applied by the Member States by mid-2026. Main innovations include the introduction of a mandatory pre-entry screening procedure under Regulation (EU) 2024/1356, establishing uniform identity, security, health and vulnerability checks at external borders, and the replacement of the Dublin III system with a new solidarity-based responsibility framework under Regulation (EU) 2024/1351. The Pact expands the use of border asylum procedures, accelerates return mechanisms, and reinforces interoperability of EU databases, while requiring independent monitoring of fundamental rights during screening and border procedures. The presentation addresses concerns regarding procedural safeguards, detention risks, and effective access to asylum, assessing the balance between solidarity and fundamental rights protection of migrants and refugees within the European Union.

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Agnieszka Bielewska, Ewa Ślęzak-Belowska

Social integration of Ukrainian forced migrants in Poland. Best practices of local and national administration

Regional and local governments, but also other actors like civil society and citizens, for nearly three decades, have undertaken integration initiatives and actions towards both migrant and local residents, at times with minimal support of central government (Łodziński & Szonert, 2023; Ślęzak & Bielewska, 2022). The aim of this presentation is to present the good practices identified during the Erasmus+ project MINTE. These are practices of migrant integration covering the micro level (e.g., specific cultural or educational institutions, civil society organizations), the meso level (cities, regions, networks) and at the national level. The particular emphasis is placed on the role of digital technologies in shaping contemporary approaches to migrant inclusion. Increasingly, integration-oriented actors make use of digital technologies and data-driven solutions. Local institutions deploy digital platforms for accessing public services, online language-learning tools, and culturally adapted virtual information portals. Civil society organizations and informal initiatives rely on social media, mobile applications, and digital communication channels both to support migrants and to build translocal communities. At the municipal and regional levels, technological tools enhance the monitoring of integration processes, enable more responsive policymaking, and facilitate inclusive consultation. The growing relevance of digital infrastructures also raises questions about accessibility, digital literacy, and the digital divide as key components of sustainable integration strategies. Our presentation points out both the benefits and challenges of using digital technologies for migrants' integration.

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José Carlos Pereira de Morais

Integration challenges faced by immigrant entrepreneurs: A multiple case study in Portugal

This study aims to explore the integration challenges faced by immigrant entrepreneurs in Portugal. It employed a multiple case study approach, drawing on semi-structured interviews with nine immigrant entrepreneurs from three distinct communities in Portugal. The findings of this study highlight the role of social networks in enabling and shaping the entrepreneurial journeys of immigrants in Portugal. These networks act as a bridge to help immigrants overcome barriers such as unfamiliarity with local markets, restricted access to resources, and cultural differences. In this context, community knowledge and referrals play a particularly significant role. Furthermore, the findings also identify five types of challenges faced by these communities including the financial, regulatory, social, institutional, and psychological dimensions. This study is relevant due to the role of immigrants in fostering economic growth and social cohesion. Understanding and addressing the integration challenges is key to enabling their success, which in turn strengthens local economies and promotes inclusive growth. Additionally, exploring these issues helps policymakers and organizations develop targeted strategies to support immigrant entrepreneurs, ensuring they can fully realize their potential and contribute positively to the host society.

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Nurcan Özgür Baklacioğlu

Managing Migration, Integration and Return: Lessons Learned from Turkish experience

Türkiye is a nation-state established by/together with Ottoman refugees who found refuge in Anatolia as result of a century long Ottoman retrieval from the Balkans, Caucuses and the Levant region. As a geopolitical bridge connecting regions with constant instability Türkiye accumulated diverse refugee and migrant influxes and communities, thus having both local and Euro-Mediterranean experience in migration governance. After a short introduction to its historical legacies, the presentation will sum up and evaluate the lessons learned from the contemporary "Europeanised migration management" experience in regard to the administrative, economic and societal dimensions of integration, social cohesion and return, with special emphasis on the youth refugees.

Professor, Istabul University

Nurcan Özgür Baklacıoğlu graduated from International Relations Department, Istanbul University, Faculty of Economics. She completed MA in Balkan, Middle East, Central Asia Studies, Faculty of Economics, Istanbul University, MA in Political Science from Central European University, Budapest, Hungary and PhD in International Relations at the Faculty of Political Science, Istanbul University.
She specializes in critical migration studies, dual citizenship and border politics in Turkey and the Balkans.

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Georgia Dimari, Anna Citkowska-Kimla, Piotr Kimla

Political culture, securitization and differential reception: Poland, Greece and the geopolitics of new migration routes

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 reconfigured European migration governance in real time and revealed a sharp duality. On the one hand, the EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD), enabling swift protection and facilitated inclusion for people fleeing Ukraine. On the other hand, securitized border responses at other EU frontiers persisted or intensified, including along the Poland-Belarus border and at Greece's land and maritime borders, where deterrence, infrastructure expansion, emergency framings and allegations of pushbacks continued to shape practice and public debate. This juxtaposition raises a core question for securitization scholarship and EU migration governance: to what extent do national political-culture repertoires mediate differential reception across migrant categories and, through that reception, condition the selectivity and durability of securitization and desecuritization.

Our research focuses on Poland and Greece as an analytically revealing contrast under a shared geopolitical shock and a shared EU legal backdrop. Both cases institutionalised fast-track normalisation for Ukrainians under temporary protection while sustaining coercive postures towards other mixed flows. We conceptualise political culture not as a static national essence but as a repertoire of historically sedimented narratives, identity cues and institutionalised expectations that political elites activate in framing contests and that audiences, including media, bureaucracies and local communities, amplify, resist or translate into practice. We specify a culture-mediated mechanism linking repertoires to frames, frames to reception, and reception to feedback. Reception is operationalised through administrative tempos, including time-to-registration, time-to-status, time-to-work authorisation and time-to-services, as well as negative tempos such as routings to border procedures, detention and non-admission practices. Feedback effects are traced through incorporation outcomes, accountability shocks and legal scrutiny.

Empirically, the study covers 2022 to 2025 and employs a comparative process-tracing design. We triangulate elite speech and parliamentary debate, government communiqués and EU documents with national policy measures, media framing across ideologically diverse outlets, and selected civil-society and international-organisation reporting. Sequenced evidence allows us to assess how frames travel across audiences and institutions and to probe rival explanations, including party competition, EU rule-design effects and local capacity.

We find that both cases exhibit nested regimes of inclusion and exclusion rather than linear shifts. In Poland, proximity and kinship scripts supported durable normalisation for Ukrainians, while border-peril scripts sustained securitization at the Belarus frontier. In Greece, legality- and solidarity-centred temporary protection coexisted with a deterrence-first border repertoire, sharpened by route shifts and crisis-driven event ecologies. The main contribution is to specify and trace how political culture operates as a reception filter that enables selective desecuritization for some categories while sustaining securitization for others within the same polity and period.

Georgia Dimari, PhD, Adjunct Lecturer in Migration and Security Politics
Department of Political Science, University of Crete

Georgia Dimari is an Adjunct Lecturer in Migration and Security Politics in the Department of Political Science at the University of Crete, Greece. She is a scholar of migration, securitization, desecuritization, and European migration governance, whose research zooms in on the ways migration and asylum are framed, governed, and contested in Greece, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the wider European context. Her scholarship pays particular attention to the intersections of security, mobility, political culture, and public policy, while also examining the political and ethical challenges surrounding contemporary migration. Bridging academic research and policy analysis, her work engages with questions of human rights, social inclusion, border governance, labour market

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Paulina Polko

Sustainable approach to migration-security nexus: migration as a threat, as a referent object under threat. Migration as a security resource

Migration emerged as a security issue in the context of the geopolitical dislocation shaped by the end of the Cold War and by social and political shifts associated with globalisation. As such, the migration-security nexus tends to frame migration and migrants as a threat to destination or transit countries. However, the increasing number of people migrating for political, societal, economic, and environmental reasons, and their heterogeneity, requires a change in approach. Migration cannot be perceived primarily from the perspective of the potential threat it may pose. The paper proposes a broader and more sustainable approach to the migration-security nexus, based on the desecuritisation of migration processes and their participants. Using comparative and discourse analysis, it points to three levels of the migration-security nexus, considering the multiple perspectives of migration processes and their practical implications. The approach proposes a more balanced and diverse understanding of migration research in the context of security.

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Blanka Dżugaj

Climate in Motion.
Climate Migrations in South Asia: Adaptation and Compulsion.

This presentation examines climate-related migration in South Asia as a dynamic process situated between adaptive strategy and forced displacement. The region—particularly countries such as Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Nepal—has become one of the world's most climate-vulnerable areas, where rising sea levels, intensifying cyclones, glacial melt, heat waves, and irregular monsoon patterns increasingly reshape livelihoods and settlement patterns. As environmental pressures interact with social inequalities, economic precarity, and governance structures, mobility emerges both as a form of resilience and as a response to compulsion. Drawing on recent interdisciplinary research and policy reports, the paper explores how climate change contributes to internal and cross-border migration across South Asia. It highlights several key mobility patterns: rural-to-urban migration driven by agricultural instability, seasonal labor migration as an adaptive livelihood strategy, and permanent displacement from coastal and riverine zones affected by flooding, erosion, and salinization. The presentation also considers the blurred boundary between voluntary and forced migration, arguing that climate mobility often unfolds along a continuum rather than within clearly defined categories. Particular attention is given to the social differentiation of climate migration. Gender, class, caste, and access to resources significantly shape who moves, who remains trapped in vulnerable environments, and who benefits from mobility as adaptation. The paper further examines how state policies, urban planning, and regional governance frameworks respond to—or fail to address— climate-induced mobility.

By situating migration within broader debates on climate justice and adaptation, the presentation argues that mobility should be understood not solely as a humanitarian crisis but also as a structural feature of climate transformation. Recognizing climate migration as both adaptation and compulsion can contribute to more inclusive policies that support safe, dignified mobility while addressing the root causes of environmental vulnerability in South Asia.

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Piotr Gil

Migration at the junction of cognitive warfare and the Mental Security (Infrastructure)

The most proper way to fathom migration and its significance is to view it as a civilizational mega-trend that cuts across all dimensions (political, societal, cultural, economic, etc.) of the contemporary world. As such, it affects not only individuals but also local communities, society, the state, and more. Thus, it is unsurprising that it triggers anxiety, fear, (the feeling of) insecurity, and even hatred. Following an overview of migration processes and their outcomes in Europe and Poland, attention shifts to a description of migration as a security issue, notably vis-à-vis the societal sector, in accordance with the theory of securitization developed by the Copenhagen School. Selected instances of securitization of migration in Europe and Poland are discussed, especially with regard to the ontological securitzation of it, which involves Othering of migrants who are deemed an existential threat to national identities and thereby a source of ontological insecurity. Next, migration, discursively constructed as a security, is considered as an instrument of what is called cognitive warfare. It is explained how cognitive warfare, aiming to manipulate people's mindset and subvert their ability to recognize the truth and think critically, can tap into the commonplace fear and securitization of migration. Last but not least, it is argued that to combat securitization of migration (being used instrumentally for political and ideological ends) it is imperative to establish the Mental Security Infrastructure, i.e. a form of individual and collective psychological, cognitive, intellectual, moral, and cultural consciousness and resilience, which should be built in a bottom-up manner, through proper education, societal commitment, and individual willingness to foster a mindset that is less vulnerable and more capable of resisting cognitive warfare and other threats to mental security.

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Karol Kujawa

The Impact of Migration from Africa on Poland's Internal Security: Conditions, Challenges, and Implications

The aim of this presentation is to analyze the main migration routes from Africa to the European Union and to identify the factors influencing demographic growth in the countries of origin. The study indicates that migration from Africa to the European Union is a significant direction of contemporary population flows, determined by economic, political, social, and environmental factors, including armed conflicts, political instability, demographic pressure, poverty, and climate change. Particular attention was paid to the high fertility rate and young age structure in many African countries as key factors shaping migration potential. The analysis was based on qualitative and quantitative research conducted in Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, as well as in transit and destination countries such as Republic off Cyprus, Turkey and Qatar. The use of a mixed-methods approach enabled a multidimensional assessment of migration motivations, perceptions of the European Union as a destination, and demographic and socio-economic conditions influencing migration decisions.

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Laura Dryjanska

Migration and Human Trafficking: Underlying Psychological Mechanisms

In the scholarship on human trafficking or modern slavery, migration has been listed as one of the risk factors, often intersecting with other individual characteristics, such as economic vulnerability, race and ethnicity, and a lower social capital, often exacerbated by challenges due to language barriers and legal status (Dryjanska, 2024). Persons considering migration may become human trafficking victims lured by seemingly legitimate job offers, often incurring a significant debt in the process (Fabbri et al., 2023). Upon arriving at the destination, they can be forced into labor in different settings or commercially sexually exploited. In most Western European cities, there is an organized network of prostitution fueled by flows of migrants from various countries, including Nigeria (Oyefara et al., 2022), Moldova (Nazaria et al., 2023), Brazil (Nogueira Cunha et al., 2022), among others. Additional complexities might be identified in case of forced migration, where refugees (often women and children) flee from armed conflict or persecution (Dryjanska et al., 2022). Recent research with the refugees from Ukraine points out that they are not a homogenous category and an individual assessment of additional risk factors comprises (Cockbain & Sidebottom, 2025): "unaccompanied or separated minor, being elderly, belonging to a minority ethnicity group (e.g., Ukraine has a large Roma population), having a disability, being LGBTQ+, and lacking access to safe routes and settlement" (p. 264). From a psychological perspective, human trafficking is a crime that preys on the interplay of vulnerabilities and manipulation, with perpetrators often attempting to first build trust, and subsequently to coerce individuals using threats, grooming, isolation, and fostering lack of hope and agency. Effects of trauma include a myriad of possible consequences on mental health and various comorbid disorders (Pascale et al., 2024); trauma-informed care is strongly recommended for all professionals interacting with human trafficking survivors.

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Liudmyla Hanushchak-Yefimenko, Svitlana Arabuli

Features of forced migration of youth as a new type of educational loss

The peculiarities of youth forced migration, as a new form of educational loss, have become particularly acute and require a comprehensive approach to addressing it at the international, state and regional levels. Youth forced migration causes educational loss across countries worldwide and is a complex, long-term task that requires balanced management decisions. Managing this process requires systematic, long-term work focused on the specific educational environment of the country, the needs of youth and the characteristics of the work of the educational system. In global and domestic practice, experience has been gained in expanding educational loss, on the basis of which several effective response strategies are distinguished, namely: intensive training; additional classes or summer schools; tutoring and mentoring; and an inclusive approach. Management tools for implementing own initiatives to overcome educational loss include: SWOT analysis of the educational environment; and an information system for external assessment and self-assessment of educational and management processes in educational institutions. The problem of migration losses in Ukraine in war conditions is increasingly due to the critical scale of youth migration. This is also a loss of a significant knowledge resource, low motivational attitudes of the population regarding life and the use of their work in Ukraine, and, most importantly, the economic "devaluation" of intellectual and human resources and labour. The quality of human potential is experiencing a critical weakening due to the departure from the country of the largest creative layer of people and the loss of highly qualified personnel.

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Kalina Lubas

Enhancement of the state's economic safety with the involvement of foreigners

The aim of this paper is to present the role of foreign nationals in ensuring the economic security of Poland, including enhancement of its level through the foreigners' activity in the labor market. A systematic, considerable increase in the participation of foreign nationals in the area in question has been confirmed by data from the last 10 years. Starting from 2015 to 2025, a 600% increase was noted in the number of foreigners legally employed or registered in the social insurance company (from 184,000 in 2015 to 1.29 million in 2025). The indicated level of employment encompasses transport, logistics, gastronomy, services, as well as professions requiring high-level qualifications. The response to the existing needs has included: amendments in key laws, introduced notifications, determination of 329 shortage occupations as well as measures to simplify the employment of foreigners representing a broad scope of professional competence. A clearly positive outcome of the implemented solutions can be noticed in the year-by-year increase in GDP achieved, among others, through the increasing contribution of foreigners. This proves the rationale for continued efforts in favor of effective migration management in the context of the economic safety of the state.

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Svitlana Bebko, Olena Evseitseva

Forced migration in wartime: consequences for the labour market

The formation of a socially oriented labor market is a necessary prerequisite for the establishment of a socially oriented economic model capable of ensuring a balance between economic efficiency and social justice. Forced migration in wartime has been a decisive factor in the transformation of Ukraine's labor market. Russia's full-scale aggression has led to massive demographic losses, the mobilization of the economically active population, the destruction of infrastructure, and imbalances between labor supply and demand. At the same time, new areas of employment are emerging, and the need for digital skills and flexible forms of work is growing, indicating a change in the structure of labor relations. The paper proposes a comprehensive approach to analyzing the impact of forced migration on the labor market, emphasizing the need for scientifically sound forecasting and the formation of effective state employment policies to ensure the sustainable post-war recovery of Ukraine's economy.

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Ivan Skorokhodov

Skills pipelines amid war-driven internal displacement and cross-border migration: university–industry capability partnerships for value-added apparel manufacturing

The full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 triggered mass population displacement; at its peak, an estimated 6.7 million citizens were recorded abroad (UNHCR, 2024), with approximately 5.9 million remaining as of February 2026. Of those displaced, roughly 1.7 million had been economically active prior to departure, representing over 10% of the pre-war labour force (Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, cited in VoxUkraine, 2024). The textile, clothing, leather, and footwear (TCLF) sector has experienced acute workforce depletion driven by cross-border emigration, internal displacement, and military mobilisation (Fama Research Agency & Ukrlegprom, 2023). Concurrently, the state enterprise relocation programme relocated over 840 firms from combat zones to western regions between March 2022 and October 2023 (Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, 2023), redistributing labour demand without proportional skills transfer. At the national level, 74% of employers report staffing shortages concurrent with structural unemployment (European Business Association, 2024), indicating a systemic spatial mismatch between available and required competencies. This presentation employs a single embedded case study design to analyse how university–industry capability partnerships sustain skills formation in labour-intensive manufacturing under these conditions. The empirical basis is the Softorg–KNUTD training initiative, delivered within a UNIDO programme supported by the Government of Japan (2024–2025): five intensive cohorts enrolled 51 apparel production technologists, with enterprise-level productivity gains reaching 30% at selected sites. In February 2026, a trilateral memorandum between KNUTD, Vinnytsia National Technical University, and Softorg institutionalised this model within university curricula (KNUTD, 2026). The analysis identifies the role of an industry ecosystem orchestrator (Adner, 2017) as a necessary condition for translating sectoral labour demand into structured educational provision within conflict-affected economies.

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Artur Fabiś, Maciej Witkowski

Dilemmas of implementing support training for young war refugees from Ukraine

Sudden armed conflicts have a dramatic impact on the situation of large populations. In such situations, social services are expected to provide rapid and often improvised support. This is exactly what happened when Russia's aggression against Ukraine in February 2022 caused a massive influx of war refugees into countries across Europe. Thus, Poland became the country with the largest number of accepted refugees. As a consequence of these events, it was necessary to take swift action to support migrants from Ukraine in various areas of their lives. One of the main challenges was the dramatically deteriorating mental health of many refugees. Those dealing with the situation of migrants from Ukraine realised almost overnight that many of the new arrivals were in a difficult psychological situation, typical of people who had left their homes for fear of the consequences of war, and required both urgent and long-term support. In these unprecedented external circumstances, the Mentuwell educational project "PRESERVING YOUTH MENTAL WELLBEING IN WARTIME MIGRATION CRISIS" (see more: https://wsb.edu.pl/mentuwell) was implemented as part of the Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnerships in Youth program. The project was developing a methodology to support educators working with youth and young war migrants, as well as toolkits for educators, NGOs, volunteers, and others tasked with preserving the mental well-being of young people during the war-related migration crisis. The main objective of the presentation is to systematically reconstruct and analyze the ways in which expert knowledge, scientific research results and empirical data are used to solve a specific problem concerning the psychological well-being of young war refugees from Ukraine in Poland by an international and interdisciplinary team of scientists and social activists.

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Dominika Czerniak

IMMERSED: innovative citizen-centred solution that facilitates employment sustainability and financial resilience of Ukrainian refugees into local communities in Poland, Slovakia and Romania.
A case study of the ESF+ social innovation project

The IMMERSED project is founded on innovative, citizen-focused approaches aimed at enhancing employment stability and financial resilience among Ukrainian refugees. This goal is accomplished through a comprehensive, multi-layered model that promotes well-being and integration within local communities. The project specifically addresses the pressing social issue of limited support for employment sustainability among Ukrainian refugees in host countries—a gap that often leads to financial insecurity, low levels of well-being, and challenges in social integration. IMMERSED will draw upon effective practices from existing tools and frameworks, adapting them to the unique circumstances of Ukrainian refugees. It brings together partners from Slovakia, Poland, Romania, and Italy to co-create practical tools and training methodologies that promote inclusion, empowerment, and local collaboration within the Quadruple Helix framework. Learn more about the IMMERSED Project at www.immersed4work.org.

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