

THE SENSE OF SOCIAL SECURITY OF UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN POLAND

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ABSTRACT

Social security is a relatively new area of research in security sciences¹. In a life-threatening situation, any of us would try to escape. The example of refugees from Ukraine allows us to indicate a number of threats resulting from forced migration caused by war. What does social security mean to of Ukrainian emigrants in Poland? Since security is defined as a state of peace, a state of certainty and a guarantee of one's behavior, the sense of security is a state of anxiety and lack of confidence. In order to better understand and assess this threat, it is necessary to explain what social security is. Social security is a concept that is viewed from many directions and there is no adopted definition that describes this social phenomenon. For the purposes of this article, the following definition has been adopted: Social security is associated with the probability of undesirable social phenomena (problems) and the limitation of risks related to survival and quality of life in the economic and cultural spheres². Moreover, the level of social security adjusts to social challenges and risks³ and such is the increased number of refugees in Poland.

¹ M. Leszczyński, Social security in the local dimension , <https://journals.pan.pl/Content/82799/mainfile.pdf> , [accessed on 23 June 2022] p. 176.

² J. Gierszewski, *Social security. A study in the field of national security theory*, Difin, Warsaw 2013, p. 153.

³ Idem, Social security as a field of national security , *History and politics*, No. 23 (30) / 2018, pp. 21-38 pp. 2, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.12775/HiP.2018.002> [accessed on 26 June 2022].

Aims: The aim of the article is to show the sense of security among Ukrainian refugees. The subject of the research are refugees, and the subject of the research is their sense of security in Poland.

Methods: The article uses theoretical research methods, such as analysis and inference method. A system analysis (which is a behavioural research method)⁴ as well as a microsystem analysis⁵ and interviews, which is a social research method, were also used.

Results: The state of research on the refugees' sense of security shows a clear need for its systematic monitoring. This is conditioned by the dynamic situation at the border, with a wide catalogue of threats affecting Ukrainian refugees in a short period of time.

Key words

social security, state policy, migration crisis, threats, refugees

INTRODUCTION⁶

This study aims to identify the sense of social security of refugees in Poland in relation to the growing scale of this phenomenon. Feeling is a kind of an experience. So to feel safe means to experience one's own safety in practice. It is no different in the case of forced immigrants sentenced to flee for fear of their own lives. The lack of a sense of security disorganises the cognitive processes of any person who experiences a mental threat, disturbs information processing and executive activities (...). This is a situation in which no one can function reliably and efficiently⁷. The refugee crisis is not a foreign phenomenon - especially for Poland, which is affected by

⁴ System analysis with methodological assumptions allows you to study the processes of change, states, and interactions of participants in international systems at all spatial-temporal levels, i.e. in the past, present and future. The studied phenomenon is perceived as a whole by analysing the interfaces that occur between its components. See W. Kitler, T. Kośmider, *Methodological and didactic aspects of national security*, Difin, Warsaw 2015, p. 225.

⁵ The subject of the study is an element of the microsystem (considered here with an indication of refugees).

⁶ The material was sent to the LXIII CICA - XVII Security Forum Krakow 2022 conference, which took place on May 26-27 at the Vanilla Aparthotel in Krakow.

⁷ Cf. *Security problems in social and military thought*, R. Rosa (ed.), Wyd. AON, Warsaw 1998; A. Wawrzusiszyn, *The sense of security of Border Guard officers*, Bulletin of the Central Border Guard Training Center Marshal of Poland Józef Piłsudski in Koszalin "2010, No. 3; A. Wawrzusiszyn, P. Wasilewski, *Personal security of the society's dispositional groups*, [in:] *Education for security in the 21st century. Man-security-state*, W. Horyń, L. Wełyczko (eds.), Wyd. WSOWL, Wrocław 2012.

this process due to its location. Europe faced the largest wave of refugees before 2022 in 2015. At that time, 1.8 million refugees crossed the borders of the European Union. Today's experience allows Poland to indicate new directions of development and social problems of refugees from beyond the eastern border and their sense of security, which is the main goal of the article.

The main research question is: do Ukrainian refugees feel safe in Poland? The main hypothesis boils down to the following statement: It can be assumed that Ukrainian refugees feel safe in Poland.

In order to better understand the presented topic, it is necessary to indicate who a refugee is. It is necessary to refer to the definition from the Geneva Convention of 1951, which is duplicated in Poland by the Act of 2003 on granting protection to foreigners within the territory of the Republic of Poland. According to this definition, a refugee is a person who has a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinions or belonging to a specific social group. It can be seen from the above definition that refugees flee from persecution, e.g. as a result of wars, revolutions or ethnic cleansing. who flee to safe countries because they are in danger of being persecuted in their homeland because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group⁸.

The research on refugees and migrants to date has been carried out in various paradigms: legal and sociological, anthropological, psychological, educational and cultural. Refugee life stories provide information on what forces people to flee, what refugee trajectories look like, and how refugees rebuild their lives in the country of refuge. The research focuses on the narratives of forced migrants, analysing the stories created about and for them, as well as the narratives of the institutions that shape migration⁹. The biographical narratives of refugees reflect the dynamic game between their life experience and its representation in strictly determined political, social and cultural conditions. A. Lewicki's theory of the regulation of behaviour used here, rightly justifies the specific behaviour of a man focused on achieving a goal as a component of the process of relations with

⁸ Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva on July 28, 1951 (Journal of Laws of December 20, 1991).

⁹ See: M. Pawlak, *Organizational Response to a New Phenomenon. Schools and aid institutions for refugees in Poland after 2004*, Warsaw, Institute of Social Prevention and Rehabilitation, 2013.

the environment, which T. Tomaszewski sees as a basic feature¹⁰. In addition, Leon Festinger's theory of dissonance (a social psychological concept) is also applicable here, which refers to any discrepancy perceived by an individual between his attitudes or between his attitude and his behaviour¹¹. Such a state of uncertainty about the rightness of the decision made (in the case of refugees – to run away and leave the fighting husband, family, property, country or to stay). Placed in a wider socio-political and cultural context, these life dilemmas and life stories provide a source for exploring the meanings that forced migrants individually and collectively give to their experiences¹². This narrative will comprehensively reveal the basis of social problems and the factors overlapping this state.

A brief historical and situational outline will allow us to better understand the situation of Ukrainian refugees and the reasons behind this state of affairs. It is worth mentioning that Ukraine gained independence in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union. However, Russian troops have been stationed in Ukraine (and also in Poland) for a long time. Especially many of them were in Crimea, where the Russian Black Sea Fleet had its base. This issue was regulated by a special agreement between Kiev and Moscow. However, in the spring of 2014, the Russians completely occupied Crimea and announced its accession to their country. This was to be confirmed by a referendum in which the peninsula's inhabitants – mostly Russians – voted for separation from Ukraine. The results of this referendum were not recognised by the international community as there were many indications that it was conducted in an undemocratic manner. Subsequently, an armed conflict broke out in eastern Ukraine, which was based on the alleged desire of local residents to join Russia. A certain part of society did want such a change, but it was mainly the result of secret Russian propaganda. In September 2014, a compromise was reached under which the Donetsk

¹⁰ W. Łukaszewski, *Personality: regulatory structure and functions*, Warsaw, Polish Scientific Publishers PWN, 1974 p. 36.

¹¹ *Encyclopedia of management, Cognitive Dysonans*, https://mfiles.pl/pl/index.php/Dysonans_poznawcze [accessed on June 17, 2022].

¹² D. Jaworska, A. Khedi, M. Boryczko, *Research among refugees and forced migrants – methodological and ethical considerations*, "Przegląd Socjologii Jakościowej", 2019, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 202–227, www.przegladsocjologiijakosciowej.org. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18778/1733-8069.15.2.11> [accessed 6 June, 2022].

and Luhansk oblasts were given a certain special status, which in practice meant their separation from Ukraine¹³.

It should be noted that Ukraine's willingness to join NATO has influenced Russia's aggressive attitude. The large number of armed invasions of Ukraine has had an impact on the growing wave of war refugees, which we have clearly been dealing with since February 2022. From that time until 6 June 2022, about 3.859 million people fleeing the war came to Poland. Border Guard statistics indicate a 175% increase in Ukrainian foreigners crossing the border with Poland, compared to 2021. The largest group are women, children and the elderly people, while men up to the age of 60 are required to perform military service according to the decree (No. 69/2022) of President W. Zelenski¹⁴.

Due to the difficult situation in which the Ukrainian refugees find themselves, they seek refuge and safety in another country. In most cases they apply for international protection. This situation is best presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1. APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION ACCEPTED BY BORDER GUARD AUTHORITIES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2022.

		1Q 2022	1st Quarter 2021	/
TOGETHER	Number of requests	1 918	234	+ 720%
	number of people	2 934	346	+ 748%
of which mainly				
PSG Warsaw	Number of requests	616		
	number of people	944		

¹³ Ibidem.

¹⁴ Data of the Border Guard from June 6, 2022.

		1Q 2022	1st Quarter 2021	/
PSG Warszawa-Okęcie	Number of requests	120	twenty	+ 500%
	number of people	192	twenty	+ 668%

Source: own study based on SG data; <https://strazgraniczna.pl/download/1/27999/InformacjastatystycznazaIkwartal2022r.pdf> [accessed June 6, 2022].

It is worth emphasising the enormous increase of 720% in the number of applications for international protection, i.e. 1,684 more in the first quarter of 2022 than in the first quarter of 2021, i.e. 2,588 people. The main place for submitting applications for international protection was the Border Guard Post in Warsaw. The same is true for the PSG in Okęcie (Warsaw), where the number of applications for international protection increased by 66%. As the war in Ukraine continues, with no end in sight, the need for long-term support is growing, and so is the need to deal with this subject. Poland is the closest country to the Ukrainians, both geographically and culturally, which gives them a sense of security.

METHODS

The research used in the work is based on various methods such as: analysis (which is the theoretical research method of the literature), statistics, inference, internet sources and based on publicly available resources contained on in the official websites of key institutions. These include: the Central Statistical Office, the Statistical Office of the European Union, data from the Office for Foreigners and Border Guards. The article is also based on scientific studies and research results. And actual media data on refugees complete the research problem.

RESULTS

Ukraine, a country not associated with either the EU or NATO, is doomed to a difficult struggle. The support of the countries of Central and Western Europe improves the comfort of functioning during the war. Europe's unity is expressed through military, economic, humanitarian and social aid. The main point of contact with a foreign country for Ukrainians is usually the Polish railway station in Przemyśl. This is where refugees arrive with

the baggage of difficult and dramatic experiences. They choose Poland because of its proximity and location. Ukrainians cannot flee to the north, because there is Belarus, to the east there is Russia, and to the south there is mainly the sea, so there is Poland, Hungary, Romania, Moldova and Slovakia, but with us there is the longest border of the EU. Because of its location, our country is a refuge for people¹⁵ fleeing war.

It should be noted that the border area on the border with Ukraine in the second quarter of 2020 exceeded 1,916.2 thousand people, while in 2021 the number of crossings of the Polish border in this section amounted to 193.3 million people. Compared to the previous year, the border traffic of foreigners increased by 3.2%, and that of Poles by 8.0%. In the fourth quarter of 2021, the number of crossings of the Polish border amounted to 51.6 million. In the total number of border crossings, foreigners (non-residents) accounted for 54.7% and Polish citizens (residents) – for 45.3%. Border traffic (from and to Poland) increased by 11.1 million crossings compared to the same period of the previous year¹⁶. This underlines the scale of the refugee problem and justifies the sense of security offered to them by Poland. Currently, almost 460,000 foreigners have valid residence permits. In 2021 this number was just over 34,000. Out of 457,000 foreigners who had valid residence permits as of 1 January 2021, the most numerous groups were the citizens of Ukraine - 244.2 thousand, Belarus - 28.8 thousand, Germany - 20.5 thousand, Russia - 12.7 thousand, Vietnam - 10.9 thousand, India - 9.9 thousand, Italy - 8.5 thousand, Georgia - 7.9 thousand, China - 7.1 thousand and Great Britain - 6.6 thousand. Currently it is 272.4 thousand. The group of foreigners who have the right of permanent residence in Poland is 102.1 thousand. People, in turn, 81.5 thousand. Citizens of the European Union are also registered.

The wave of refugees that reached Poland in 2022 is completely different than the one in 2014. The level of fear related to the war in Ukraine is very high. The vast majority of Poles (85%) believe that it poses a threat

¹⁵ B. Godusławski, *The wave of refugees from Ukraine will come to Poland. The expert explains what to expect* [INTERVIEW] of February 25, 2022, <https://businessinsider.com.pl/gospodarka/makroekonomia/fala-uchodzcow-z-ukrainy-przybedzie-do-polski-ekspert-tlumaczy-czy-mozna-sie-37hy19q> [accessed on 7 June 2022].

¹⁶ Central Statistical Office, Border traffic and expenses of foreigners in Poland and Poles abroad in the 4th quarter of 2021, <https://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/ceny-handel/handel/ruch-graniczny-oraz-wydatki-foreigners-in-Poland-and-polakow-abroad-in-the-4th-quarter-2021-year,13.34.html> [accessed on 7 June 2022].

to the security of our country, and almost half (47%) express this opinion explicitly. Basically the same number of people (84%) believe that the war in Ukraine threatens the security of Europe. Fewer - three-quarters of respondents (75%) - see a risk of it turning into a global conflict. Relatively few respondents do not notice the impact of this war on the security of Poland (11%), Europe (12%) and the world (19%)¹⁷. The outbreak of the war in the Donbass resulted in the arrival of mainly economic immigrants, now we are dealing with war refugees. Poland - a country with over 40 million inhabitants, of which (until February 2022) 1.5-2 million foreigners, 80% of them Ukrainians, is currently faced with 3.8 million people seeking safety and shelter. As far as the acceptance of refugees is concerned, it is worth noting that 94% (57% definitely yes and 37% rather yes) of the respondents are convinced that it is right to accept refugees¹⁸. It is worth noting that 88% of Poles are not only the fate of Ukraine closely, but are also expressing their support for material and financial support and help. Such a large number of refugees poses a number of challenges and problems for both Ukrainians and Poles. Both immigrants and refugees are particularly vulnerable groups in any society. Refugees as an extremely sensitive group and exposed to a number of threats from the host society (xenophobia, violation of the law by uniformed services, publication of sensitive data, etc.), as well as from other refugees or members of the group of origin¹⁹. Due to this fact, legal acts such as international conventions, such as the Geneva Convention (1951), the New York Protocol (1967), which provide for the possibility of support and assistance to forced immigrants, are of key importance. In Poland, these regulations are contained in legal acts, i.e:

- Constitution of the Republic of Poland of 2 April 1997;
- Act of 13 June 2003 on granting protection to foreigners on the territory of the Republic of Poland;
- Act of 12 December 2013 on Foreigners;
- Regulation of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration of 19 February 2016 on the amount of assistance for foreigners applying for international protection;

¹⁷ *Three quarters of Poles for help for refugees*, https://kosciol.wiara.pl/doc_pr/2549202.Trzy-czwarte-Polakow-za-pomoca-dla-uchodzcow [accessed on 7 June 2022].

¹⁸ Statement from CBOS research No. 38/2022, Poles in the face of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, ISSN 2353-5822, https://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2022/K_038_22.PDF [accessed on 17 June 2022] p. 3.

¹⁹ D. Jaworska, A. Khedi, M. Boryczko, *Research among refugees...*, op. cit., p. 204.

- Act of 12 March 2004 on social assistance;
- Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 14 July 2015 on the verified income criteria and the amount of cash benefits from social assistance.

The State's social security is shaped by its structures and depends on the effectiveness of the actions of the institutions established to counter social threats²⁰. In order to understand its nature, it is necessary to give the full definition. Social security is an intentional effort to provide people with living conditions that ensure at least the existing level of the existential situation of citizens, an adequate standard of living, and at the same time create an opportunity to increase and improve it²¹. On the other hand, in the publication by A. Skrabacz, social security was defined as "protection of the existential foundations of people's lives, ensuring the possibility of satisfying individual needs (material and spiritual) and fulfilling life aspirations by creating conditions for work and study, health protection and pension guarantees"²². The essence of social security is to counteract social threats and ensure the survival and free development of individuals and social groups in specific conditions, using available resources²³. The sense of security refers to the absence of threats, such as the absence of wars, so it is worth emphasising that, as a subjectively perceived phenomenon and conditioned by one's own experiences, it can therefore generate greater anxiety or distance²⁴.

It should be noted that refugees' first contact with their country of residence takes place at the state border. For refugees, it is the moment of crossing the border, of fleeing the country from threats, the beginning of a sense of security. Border Guard officers are the first to come into contact with refugees. In the course of their official duties, they help by indicating meeting points, carrying luggage, translating and providing support in these traumatic moments. Humanitarian aid, psychological support, food and accommodation are organised. Government websites, social media and

²⁰ J. Gierszewski, *Social security as a field of security...*, Op. cit., p. 83.

²¹ M. Lisiecki, *Diagnosis and forecast of system solutions in the field of organization and management of citizens' security*, [in:] *Security management - challenges of the 21st century*, Warsaw, 2008, p. 276.

²² A. Skrabacz, S. Sulowski (ed.), *Social security. Concepts. Conditions. Challenges*. Elipsa, Warsaw 2012, p. 53.

²³ J. Gierszewski, *Social security as a field of security...*, Op. cit., p. 77.

²⁴ See P. Szulich, *Culture of trust and social security*, [in:] P. Maciaszczyk, S. Mazur, *Security in the light of social policy determinants*, Tarnobrzeg, 2015, pp. 142-149.

at reception centres provide information on how to find accommodation, housing, material support, transport, medical care, legal assistance and work. Willing to achieve an acceptable state and level of social security, the state, which is the guarantor of order and internal and external security, should create the required and necessary conditions for the implementation of tasks in this field of national security²⁵. When analysing the formal side in this context, it is worth noting that entry to Poland for Ukrainian citizens is based on:

- visa-free and biometric traveler's passport (legal stay up to 90 days);
- national or Schengen visa (legal stay lasts up to 90 days);
- temporary permit, permanent or long-term EU residence permit and valid residence card;
- an application for international protection submitted at the Polish border crossing point;
- permission of the Border Guard Commander to cross the border (legal stay of 15 days).

Crossing the border is the first step in escaping the war, but what comes next?

This question is asked by every refugee who crosses the border. The uncertainty of tomorrow, the fear of one's fate, one's existence, one's health, and one's housing conditions create phobias and anxieties. Autobiographical memory is responsible for the insecurity of people in distress²⁶. Ukrainians are convinced that there will be something to come back to and when? Many websites dealing with the viral theme of refugees in the Ukraine episode present the fate of refugees from different perspectives. Digital diaries of people leaving their homes are an extremely valuable source of information about personal problems and experiences related to leaving their homeland as a result of the ongoing war. The biographical narratives of refugees reflect the dynamic play between their life experience and its representation in strictly defined political, social and cultural conditions. Viewed in a wider socio-political and cultural context, the life stories provide a source for exploring the meanings that forced migrants individually and collectively give to their experience²⁷. One of the refugees, Larysa Deszko, recalls this difficult moment as follows:

²⁵ A. Skrabacz, *Social security. Theoretical and practical foundations*, Elipsa, Warsaw 2012, p. 10.

²⁶ B. Hołyst, *Security of the individual of society and the human species – Security of the individual*, Warsaw, 2014, vol. 2, pp. 180-206.

²⁷ D. Jaworska, K. Alieva, M. Boryczko, *Research among refugees...*, op. cit., p. 205.

The border crossing was terrible. There were a lot of people, a crowd of people, and I stood for hours in the cold. We walked a few kilometers. I had a heart attack and passed out. I was able to cross the border with difficulty²⁸.

Crowds of people crossing the freezing cold, standing in lines at the border crossing with small children, sometimes babies in their arms, exhausted from the tiring journey with luggage in their hands.

Existential problems: will I survive, where will I sleep, will I have enough to eat, and are my friends who stayed in Ukraine alive? These are the main problems of forced migrants. Another refugee, Dmytro Łysicki, describes his fate as follows:

I'm 23 years old and currently live in Leipzig, Germany, but my home is Kyiv. I left Ukraine with my mother, grandmother, grandfather and girlfriend on February 20. We were not sure if a war would break out. There were two opinions on television: one said that the war was imminent, and the other said that it was propaganda, fake news. But my mother and grandmother were very nervous so we booked an apartment in Krakow for a week. We set off from the Kiev train station, stopped in Przemyśl at the border, and then drove to Krakow expecting to return on Sunday²⁹.

Refugees from Ukraine feel safe in Poland, as they mention in the interviews, but the mental discomfort and concern for the fate of the relatives they left behind is a source of worry.

19-year-old Anna, who escaped from Zaporizhia, says:

The journey was the most difficult for me. We spent 14 hours on the train without air conditioning, and then 12 hours on the street looking for transport to the Polish

²⁸ Listened to: E. Braun, *Refugee Diaries: What it's like to leave everything you know behind. The first instalment in a series of digital diaries following those displaced by the war in Ukraine*, <https://www.politico.eu/article/ukraine-refugee-diaries-war-russia/> [accessed on 11 June 2022 r.].

²⁹ Listened to by: S. Whale, *Refugee Diaries: What it is like to leave everything you know behind. The first instalment in a series of digital diaries following those displaced by the war in Ukraine*, <https://www.politico.eu/article/ukraine-refugee-diaries-war-russia/> [accessed on 11 June 2022].

border. It was very cold. The fact that our grandparents stayed at home, however, is what I am most excited about³⁰.

Iryna recalls her journey this way:

I have nothing but a small bag with me, and all members of my family are still in Kiev. I am very afraid of them³¹. (...) I am most afraid that if I call my sister one day, she will not answer my phone. I am also afraid if my house will still be standing when I return to Ukraine. I never thought that I would be a refugee one day, but this situation has shown that whether or not you are a refugee is only a matter of happiness, or rather the lack of it. I do not understand how in the 21st century one man can arrange such a hell for other people³².

Liana says:

We have been in Poland for two days and we are afraid all the time. We don't have friends, money or a place to stay here for longer. We do not know what will happen with us, but we decided to go further, to France, to my parents' friends. Although these days in Poland were not easy for us, we were surprised by the scale of help that ordinary people offer us. I remember that when I saw all these volunteers at the train station in Warsaw, I cried³³.

Such stories could be multiplied, but the denominator of each of them is safety, it is in its name that they flee, and the result of fate's favour or lack of it is the choice of escape route that determines further events.

Crossing the border is a substitute for safety, so it seems reasonable to indicate the course of the refugee process, as presented in Chart 1.

The refugee procedure begins with the submission an application for international protection to the Border Guard, then the foreigner goes to a reception centre, where he or she receives medical care, and at a later

³⁰ K. Tragarz, *Nigdy nie myślałam, że zostanę uchodźczynią. Pytamy Ukrainki o pierwsze dni w Polsce*, 15.03.2022, <https://noizz.pl/spoleczenstwo/uchodzczy-z-ukrainy-jak-czuja-sie-w-polsce-po-kilku-dniach/lfv6zrc>, [accessed on 15 June 2022].

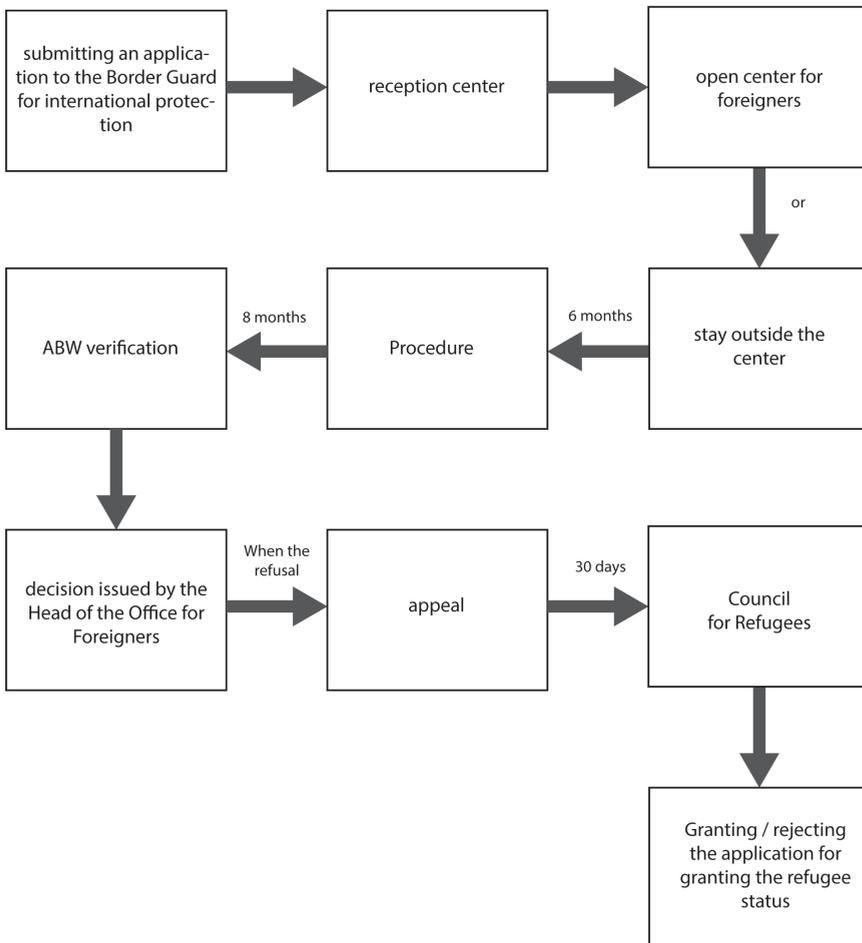
³¹ Ibidem.

³² Ibidem.

³³ K. Tragarz, *Ukrainki o pierwszych dniach w Polsce*, 15.03.2022, <https://noizz.pl/spoleczenstwo/uchodzczy-z-ukrainy-jak-czuja-sie-w-polsce-po-kilku-dniach/lfv6zrc> [accessed on 15 June 2022].

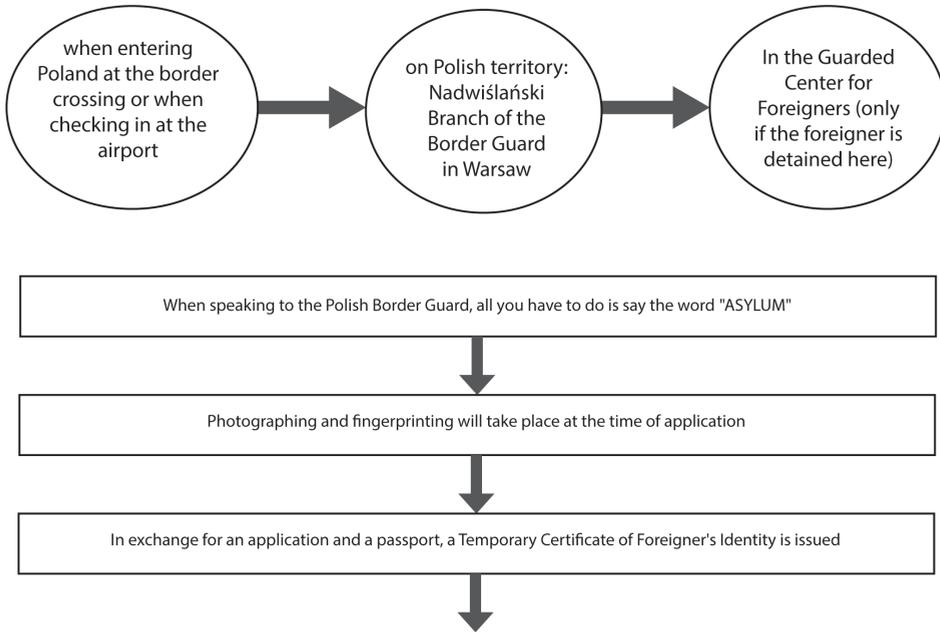
stage is transferred to an open centre for foreigners, where he or she receives food, financial aid, vouchers for clothing, and teaches also speak Polish), may also stay outside the center and then receive a maintenance allowance for one person. Then, after almost 6 months of proceedings and a total of 14 months for the decision to be made, the head of the Office for Foreigners decides on the granting of refugee status or international protection, after a prior check by the Internal Security Agency. In the event of a negative decision, it is possible to appeal to the Refugee Board within 30 days. Persons who have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection can apply for the Integration Programme (IPI). The programme lasts 12 months.

GRAPH 1. THE REFUGEE PROCESS:



Source: own study

FIGURE 2: GRANTING THE REFUGEE STATUS
(APPLICATION PROCESS)



Source: own study based on <http://uchodzczy.info/infos/procedura-uchodzcza/> [accessed June 8, 2022].

As the research shows, the largest groups of people from beyond the eastern border are in Warsaw, Wrocław, Poznań, the Tri-City, Lublin and Katowice. In Warsaw, Praga, Ursynów, Wesoła and the suburb of Sulejówek are of particular interest to Ukrainians. “There is also a large concentration of Ukrainian citizens in fruit-growing areas: in the Grójecko-Warki region, the largest of its kind in the country, and around of Radom”. It is these towns that offer comfort and a sense of security. The majority of refugees from Ukraine in Poland are men (56%). In cities up to 100 thousand, women make up 47% of the population, while in larger cities, the refugee trend is dominated by women³⁴. It should be noted that the level of feeling of social security depends on a number of factors, such as gender, age, state of health,

³⁴ *Where are the Ukrainians in Poland? Smartphones reveal, Data of the company Selectiv based on information collected about users of mobile phones of Ukrainian citizens from March 8, 2019, <https://www.bankier.pl/wiadomosc/Gdzie-sa-Ukraincy-w-Polsce-Smartfony-zdradzaja-7646502.html> [accessed on 16.06.2022].*

experiences related to fleeing the country of origin, financial situation or the possibility of receiving material support and social assistance.

In Poland, refugees are supported by numerous institutions³⁵, the Head of the Office for Foreigners, which is a government administration body responsible for the entry of foreigners into the territory of the Republic of Poland – under the supervision of the Minister of Internal Affairs. In addition, Poland is also a member of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

- GDISC (General Directors of Immigration Services Conference) - informal platform supporting practical cooperation between European immigration authorities.
- Poland has the status of a member state of the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) - Poland is represented by the Head of the Office for Foreigners. Since 2019, Poland has been chairing the Asylum Working Group within this forum.
- The Visegrad Group: the main topic of the cooperation mechanism in response to the migration crisis.

There is an Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the world - its job is to help refugees return to their countries. Foreigners get all kinds of help, including:

Social assistance: Foreigners can stay in the Centre for Foreigners or receive a cash grant to from the Office for Foreigners cover the costs of stay in Poland paid by. This assistance includes: accommodation, full board in accordance with the cultural standards of foreigners, language learning, permanent financial support (in accordance with the Act of 12 March 2022 on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with an armed conflict

³⁵ UNHCR National Office, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Polish Red Cross, Polish Humanitarian Organization, Refugee Aid Center, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Association for Legal Intervention, Caritas Polska - Migrant and Refugee Aid Center, Legal Aid Center. Halina Nieć, Foundation "Student Legal Aid Center at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw - University of Warsaw Law Clinic", Association for the Integration and Protection of Foreigners "Proxeni" Foundation "Ocrzenie", Association "One World", Migrant Center Fu Shenfu, Foundation Nobody's Children, Polish Association for Legal Education, Center for Human Rights of the Jagiellonian University, Polish Robert Schuman Foundation, "La Strada" Foundation, University Legal Clinic at the Catholic University of Lublin, Polish Migration Forum, Association Center for Intercultural Initiatives, Autokreacja Association, Association for the Earth, The Volunteer Center Association.

in the territory of that state, pursuant to Article 26, persons fleeing from Ukraine are entitled to:

- 1) family benefits
- 2) child benefit, i.e. the so-called 500+,
- 3) the Good Start benefit, i.e. 300+,
- 4) providing family care capital,
- 5) co-financing the reduction of the parent's fees for the child's stay in a nursery, children's day care centre, provided that the Ukrainian citizen lives in Poland with the child)³⁶. There are 10 centres for foreigners in Poland who apply for international protection. After submitting the application, they undergo diagnostic tests in reception centres as part of the epidemiological filtering procedure. This is a preliminary examination of the health status in the clinical, epidemiological and sanitary health status of people crossing the eastern border of Poland and applying for refugee status.

Education: Foreign minors covered by applications for protection attend public schools. The Office for Foreigners organises Polish language courses for children, including homework and remedial teaching. Children starting compulsory education in Polish may attend a course addressed to them.

Information support: At the beginning of their stay at the centre, foreigners attend an information course on the regulations, rules, customs and culture of Poland. UdSC has also prepared a special guide "First Steps in Poland" and an instructional video on the refugee procedure.

It should be emphasised that measures to increase the sense of security can be of various types: caring, educational, therapeutic (curative), preventive, and even punitive, consisting in isolating dangerous individuals from society. Such activities are carried out in the institutional dimension within the existing security system³⁷.

SUMMARY

The sense of security includes all its elements: systemic security, social order, personal security, public security, public order, of a national character, but

³⁶ Family benefits for refugees from Ukraine. What conditions must be met? What kind of help can you count on? <https://publicystyka.ngo.pl/skieta-rodzinne-dla-uchodzcow-z-ukrainy-jakie-warunki-arcie-spelnic-na-jaka-pomoc-mozna-liczyc> [accessed on 15. June .2022].

³⁷ J. Gierszewski, *Cultural security during social changes*, Difin, Warsaw 2020, p. 88.

taking into account the needs, possibilities and forms of action specific to a given local community³⁸.

The sense of security of refugees is mostly realised on the basis of interviews. The results of the research allow us to make a statement about the different levels of feeling safe. It is conditioned by many parameters, such as direct and indirect life experiences related to the flight, health condition, material and life situation. A critical analysis of the situation of refugees from Ukraine from the level of dynamic conditions in their country shows that the state of research in this matter is extremely insufficient and should be systematically monitored. This will contribute to the development of the field of social science discipline of security studies.

Refugees experience trauma and crisis, and the nightmarish memories left in their minds make them unable to cope with the consequences of the situation they were victims or witnesses of. It should be concluded that the concept of the sense of social security among Ukrainians in Poland indicates a number of problems that should be the subject of a broad scientific discourse. Among the most important problems that worried the respondents on the basis of the biographical interviews are the fear of not having a place to live, the lack of work, the overcrowding of means of transport, the lack of information about what to do after arriving in a foreign country, and the lack of contact with relatives.

The analysis of Internet sources, available literature and the state of research on the problem of refugees requires the identification of actions, institutional and legal changes that, in turn, will significantly improve their existential comfort, identifying needs and problems to be able to support them. There is no doubt that the diagnosis of security threats in a relative way will determine the directions of development, goals and activities, and will contribute to a polemic on the security system. Addressing the issue of the sense of security of Ukrainians in Poland is important from the point of view of the theory and practice of actions, as it will contribute to the improvement of security, it will indicate the behaviour that should be taken in the field of dynamically progressing changes in view of the growing number of refugees in Poland.

³⁸ D. Jurczak, *Security in social life on the Polish–Russian border*, Olsztyn, Wyd. WSiE University TWP, 2019, p. 133.

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TABLES AND CHARTS:**Tables:**

1. Table 1. Applications for international protection accepted by Border Guard authorities in the first quarter of 2022.

Diagrams:

2. Chart 1. The refugee process:
3. Chart 2: Granting the refugee status (application process).