

INFLUENCE OF THE UKRAINIAN REFUGEES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOTEL AND RESTAURANT BUSINESS IN THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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ABSTRACT

The Russian aggression against Ukraine has had a significant negative impact on both socio-economic and humanitarian indicators within Ukraine and within Europe. Therefore, the study of the impact of Ukrainian refugees on the development of the economies of Central and Eastern Europe is an urgent problem. Scientific publications on the trends of migration flows of refugees from Ukraine reflect not only the negative impact of these processes, but also outline positive economic changes in the host countries. The purpose of the study is to examine the impact of Ukrainian refugee flows on the development of the hotel, restaurant and tourism business in Central and Eastern Europe in order to determine the role of refugees in the development of the housing market in the host countries. The article presents the results of using the methodology of a questionnaire survey of Ukrainian refugees and owners of hotels and hostels from host countries. The survey helped to identify the main items of expenditure of Ukrainian refugees, as well as the sources of their coverage. It was found that Ukrainians spent not only the aid allocated to them by the host government, but also their savings from their own bank cards. Thus, the study confirms the positive impact of the sudden increase in refugee flows on the development of the accommodation and catering industry.

Keywords: war, Ukrainian refugees, Central and Eastern Europe, crisis, economic development, hotel and restaurant business

1. INTRODUCTION

The full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine on February 24, 2022 intensified negative risks for the functioning of the economies of the European countries, which are connected not only with disruption of the established supply chains and the trade relations with Russia, but also with the influx of the Ukrainian refugees. Thus, the problems of economic research in the European countries drifted into the zone of assessment of the consequences of the war in Ukraine for the economy development of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which were exposed to a significant influx of the Ukrainian refugees, the number of which was about 9 million in the year of 2022.

One of the actual trends of study of the impact of Ukrainian refugees can be research on the development of the hotel and restaurant business in the countries of Central and Eastern European, especially considering the fact that before the war in Ukraine, this branch of the European economy suffered significant losses due to the quarantine restrictions related to the coronavirus disease pandemic. Therefore, one of the factors of the refugees influence on the economy of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe is temporary resettlement of the Ukrainians in hotels, hostels and rented housing, which in its turn contributed to the additional income of accommodation estab-

ishments at the expense of the refugees' savings as well as the expense of the material assistance provided by the governments of the host countries to pay for accommodation and board.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The analysis of the problem of the influence of the war in Ukraine and the flow of refugees on the European economy is increasingly appearing in scientific journals. Thus, in particular, the work (Caliendo, Opromolla, Parro, & Sforza, 2023) is worthy of attention, it is devoted to the analysis of the impact of Ukrainian refugees on the labor force, trade and internal accumulation of capital in the host countries. Using mathematical calculations, the authors prove the positive prospects of the influence of the labor force from Ukraine on the economy development of the European countries. An assessment of the influence of war between Ukraine and Russian Federation on the development of global trade is given in the work (Orhan, 2022), where the author proves the need to reduce import dependence on Russian energy sources and foodstuff, and also justifies the need to apply economic measures aimed at minimizing the negative consequences of energy price increase and food supply disruptions. He also pays attention to the need to expand the financial support for Ukraine in order to improve the logistics of supplying the Ukrainian foodstuff. In general, the author negatively assesses the impact of the war in Ukraine on the development of global trade and production. A similar opinion is held by Mr. Anatoliys Prohorovs (Prohorovs, 2022), who proves the negative impact of the war in Ukraine on the profitability of companies in Europe and the world due to disruption of logistics, prices increase for raw materials, demand decrease in many sectors of the economy, etc. The author makes a conclusion about the long-term negative impact of the war in Ukraine on the global economy, which increases the negative consequences of the coronavirus crisis, and therefore emphasizes the need to adapt the macroeconomic policies of the countries of the world to the realities of the war. The World Bank study (Guenette, Kenworthy, & Wheeler, 2022) somewhat expands the view of the negative consequences of the war in Ukraine, focusing not only on the economic crisis, but also on the humanitarian crisis, which is caused by the displacement of more than 12 million Ukrainians abroad. It is the humanitarian crisis of refugees that deepens the negative consequences of the war, because the flow of refugees increases the pressure on the development of basic services in the host countries. The authors make conclusions about the need for financial support of Ukraine during the war and after its end in order to minimize the consequences of the humanitarian and economic crisis. The authors pay special attention to the need to adapt the macroeconomic policy of the countries of the world to the war challenges.

In the scientific literature devoted to the Ukrainian-Russian war, more attention is paid to the economic consequences of the war, caused by the disruption of logistics, sanctions, changes in demand priorities and other factors (Bonatti & Tamborini, 2022), (Ciuriak, 2022), (Painoli, 2022), however little attention has been paid to the influence of Ukrainian refugees on the economies of the host countries, which, in our opinion, does not reveal the positive consequences of the war in European countries. Nevertheless, it is worth paying attention to the work (Jaroszewicz, Grzymiski, & Krępa, 2022), where the authors justify the need to expand the study of the problems of Ukrainian refugees, focusing on migration aspects related to the war. According to the authors, the positive impact of Ukrainian refugees on the economy of the host countries is possible in case of creation of the unique European model of migration management, based on mass activity and relatively free migration of war refugees from Ukraine. We have to agree with this, because unlike with other refugee crises, today we do not see any tent camp for the refugees from Ukraine in Europe. On the contrary, the refugees get the opportunity to rent housing, settle in a hotel or a hostel and, thus, to provide themselves and their families with relatively comfortable conditions of stay in the host country.

One of the first and few studies of the influence of the Ukrainian refugees on the housing market is the research of the authors (Trojanek & Gluszkak, 2022), who, by means of mathematical calculations, made an assessment of the short-term impact of the refugees from Ukraine on the cost of accommodation and the cost of accommodation renting in Poland. Considering the fact that as of April 1, 2022, the population of Warsaw and Krakow increased by 15% and 23%, respectively, the Ukrainian refugees positively influenced the cost of accommodation in the large cities in Poland and quite objectively significantly increased the demand for all types of housing, which led to prices in-

crease. The rental prices increase and slight increase in housing purchase, although creating inconveniences for the local population, had a positive impact on the development of the local economy. Study of the negative aspects of the Ukrainian refugees impact on the economies of the European countries and on the housing market was carried out in the work (Al Brizat, 2023), where much attention was paid to the problems of providing asylum to the refugees from Ukraine and the housing market in the countries that accepted the most refugees. Undoubtedly, the problem of the refugees influx carries a certain burden for the host countries, however, the majority of the refugees are working population with higher education, which will have a positive impact on the economy of the European countries due to the cheapening of labor and the added value creation, so the impact of the refugees should not be interpreted as negative.

While analyzing the influence of Ukrainian refugees on the economies of the host countries, it is worth paying attention to the issue of their influence on the development of the hotel, restaurant and tourism business, because as some scientists note (Trojanek & Gluszak, 2022), the rapid short-term increase of the big cities population leads to increase in the demand for rent housing, however, the limitation of statistical data does not allow to make a broad analysis of this problem.

In order to optimize tourist and migration flows, scientists are exploring new and interesting ways and objects of international tourism. In the article (Popović, 2017) value of sacred objects like a resource for development of cultural and religious tourism is being emphasized.

Study of the negative aspects of international migration affects an individual's educational choices in their home country was carried out in the work (Abdullov et al, 2020), where much attention was paid to the theory of forsaken schooling phenomenon. This phenomenon shows that low-skilled and skilled home country workers are willing to accept low-skilled positions in host countries. As time goes on, therefore, people who consider migrating abroad will have either lower years of schooling, or generally have not completed professional schools (technical-vocational or tertiary).

The issue of effective tourism destination planning from the perspective of harmonizing stakeholders' interests is researched in the work (Pjerotić et al, 2016), where the authors concluded that there is a strong positive correlation between the level of stakeholder cooperation and implementation of a tourism destination plans.

3. AIM OF THE RESEARCH

Therefore, the purpose of our research is to study the impact of the flows of the Ukrainian refugees on the development of the hotel, restaurant and tourism business in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in order to determine the role of the refugees from Ukraine in the development of the housing market in the host countries as a whole.

4. METHODS

Considering the limited and unstructured data regarding the influence of the Ukrainian refugees on the economies of the host countries or individual industries, our study is based on the use of the methodology of a questionnaire survey of the Ukrainian refugees and the owners of hotels and hostels from the host countries in order to determine the refugees impact on the financial and economic development of the housing and catering industry. The refugee questionnaires on a variety of topics are used in the scientific literature and are often the only source of data that help to investigate and trace certain trends in the refugees impact on the economies of the host countries.

The questionnaire survey was conducted for two categories of respondents. The first category of respondents included the Ukrainian refugees, who lived in the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany after February 24, 2022, and the second category of respondents included the owners of hotels and hostels in the aforesaid countries. As for the refugees, the questionnaire included 5 general questions aimed at identifying the facts of living at hotels, hostels and rented accommodation both immediately after crossing the border and living there for a long time. The first question concerned determining the place of residence of the refugees after crossing the border, the second question was aimed at determining the place of residence for a long period (more than 2 months); the third question was aimed at determining the place of the refugees catering; the fourth question revealed

how the refugees spent their own savings; the fifth question determined the ways of spending the obtained material assistance from the governments of the host countries by the refugees. The questions were put in the form of a questionnaire created using the Google Forms service. Based on the screening of social networks Facebook and Instagram, by the analogy with the methods proposed in the works of (Kolly-Shamne, 2022) and (Minora, et al., 2022), we found the refugees from Ukraine and determined the country of their residence. Then the formed questionnaire was sent through the social networks Facebook and Instagram to the respondents who resided in the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany. The questionnaires were sent until 200 fully completed questionnaires were collected. 284 questionnaires were sent out (84 questionnaires were incomplete or ignored) in the Czech Republic, 247 questionnaires (47 questionnaires were incomplete or ignored) – in Poland, and 261 questionnaires (61 questionnaires were incomplete or ignored) – in Germany. The study was conducted during the first quarter of the year 2022. The results of the study were grouped in the appropriate table.

Regarding the survey of the owners or the managers of hotels and hostels in the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany, a similar principle of creating a questionnaire via Google Forms was proposed. However, unlike the questionnaire for the refugee respondents, a three-question questionnaire was offered to the owners and the managers of hotels and hostels. The first question related to the fact that the refugees live in a hotel or a hostel; the second question revealed the opinion of the hotel and the hostel owners about the level of positive influence of the Ukrainian refugees on the development of their business; the third question was aimed at identifying the influence of the Ukrainian refugees on the development of the menu of restaurant or catering establishment. The questionnaires were sent via social networks Facebook and Instagram, as well as via e-mail. In the Czech Republic, 58 questionnaires were sent out, of which 30 questionnaires were fully answered; in Poland, 49 questionnaires were sent out, and 30 complete responses were received, and in Germany, 45 questionnaires were sent out, and 30 complete responses were received. The results of the survey were also grouped in the appropriate table.

The questionnaire survey of the respondents – the refugees from Ukraine and the respondents – the owners or the managers of hotels, hostels and catering establishments, was aimed at substantiating two hypotheses put forward in the study:

The first hypothesis. The Ukrainian refugees have a positive impact on the development of the hotel and restaurant business and tourism in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The second hypothesis. A significant economic effect of the presence of Ukrainian refugees is observed in those countries where the number of refugees occupies a high share in the population structure of the country or individual settlements.

5. RESULTS

Development of the hotel and restaurant business in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe is closely dependent on internal and external tourist flows. Being rich in remarkable historical and modern architectural monuments, natural monuments, resorts and other tourist locations, Central and Eastern Europe always attracted a large number of tourists, who were one of the sources of economic development in the region. However, the coronavirus disease pandemic, which led to restrictions on the cross-border movement of tourists and the internal movement of the population, caused a certain decline in the industry of hotel and restaurant business and tourism.

Before analyzing the main trends in the development of hotel and restaurant business and tourism in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, we note that we chose Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic as the main countries of this region, as the countries which accepted the largest number of the Ukrainian refugees, which probably, in its turn, had a significant impact on the trends of tourist flows.

Thus, according to Eurostat, the average monthly flow of tourists in the European Union as a whole and in the Czech Republic, Germany, and Poland in particular decreased by almost half in 2020, and according to the results of 2022, this indicator has not yet reached the level of 2019 (Table 1).

Table 1. Dynamics of the average monthly flow of tourists to some countries of Central and Eastern Europe in 2019-2022

European countries	2019	2020	Deviations 2019-2020	2021	Deviations 2020-2021	2022	Deviations 2021-2022
European Union (27 countries)	71 146 833,0	32 562 056,0	-54,23	41 060 450,0	26,10	64 433 925,0	56,92
Czech Republic	1 834 129	903 037	-50,76	948 633,42	5,05	1 619 185,1	70,69
Germany	15 426 754	7 925 226,9	-48,63	7 814 130,6	-1,40	13 211 665,0	69,07
Poland	2 972 340,9	1 489 830,8	-49,88	1 849 914,3	24,17	2 854 083,7	54,28

Source: Built by the author based on the Eurostat data ([Arrivals at tourist accommodation establishments – monthly data , 2022](#))

However, these Table data show that the complete elimination of restrictions regarding the cross-border movement of citizens and visiting tourist locations took place during 2021, which already in 2022 led to increase in tourist flows by 55-70% compared to 2021. Evaluating the dynamics of tourist flows in the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland in 2022, it is worth paying attention to the large number of the Ukrainian refugees, whose number actually makes up a half of the average monthly flow of tourists. Thus, according to the UN data, after February 24, 2022, the Czech Republic accepted 504,352 refugees, Germany – 1,056,628 refugees, and Poland – 1,581,148 refugees from Ukraine.

At the same time, despite such a large number of refugees, the available statistical data base of the European Union does not allow to estimate the number of refugees, whom the statistical authorities classified as tourists, and which of those are classified as refugees with a corresponding mark about registration of a person with refugee status. Therefore, aggregating the completeness of statistical data regarding the refugees impact on the development of the hotel and restaurant business and other sectors of the economy is a limitation for this kind of scientific research.

Table 2. The results of the survey of the Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland regarding the directions of spending financial funds in the host country

Questions	Answer options	Refugees in the Czech Republic, %	Refugees in Germany, %	Refugees in Poland, %
Select the accommodation option where you stayed after you arrived in the country?	Hotel or hostel	60	35	60
	Rented housing	30	55	20
	Housing offered by residents for free	10	10	20
Where do you live during your long stay in the country after emigration?	Hotel or hostel	55	25	45
	Rented housing	45	65	55
	Housing offered by residents for free	0	10	0
Where do you mostly have meals after emigration to the country?	Restaurants	25	35	25
	Other catering establishments	40	35	40
	At home (I cook myself)	35	30	35
What do you spend the most money on?	Housing	100	100	100
	Food	95	100	75
	Medicine and education	40	55	55
	Entertainment	20	15	20
	Transportation	25	35	20
For what purposes do you spend the financial assistance provided by the Government?	Housing	100	100	95
	Food	90	100	55
	Medicine and education	30	40	40
	Entertainment	0	0	0
	Transportation	15	15	5

Source: Built by the author based on the survey results of 200 Ukrainian refugees using the Google Forms service

Thus, one of the main research methods of the nature of the Ukrainian refugees influence on the development of the hotel-restaurant and tourism business is the method of surveying both the Ukrainian businesses and the hotel owners in the countries which accepted the refugees.

So, in the course of our study, a survey of 200 Ukrainian refugees, who emigrated to the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland after February 24, 2022, was conducted. The survey results are grouped in the Table 2.

Analyzing the results of the survey of the Ukrainian refugees who emigrated to the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland after February 24, 2022, we note that 60% of respondents in the Czech Republic and Poland noted that they settled in the hotels or the hostels after crossing the border. In Germany, the number of Ukrainian refugees, who settled in the hotels or the hostels is much smaller than in Poland and the Czech Republic and makes up 35% of the surveyed respondents. Most of the refugees from Ukraine, who left for Germany, rented housing, as mentioned about 55% of the respondents. As for the question about the place of long-term residence, 55% of respondents in Czech Republic said that they lived in the hotels and the hostels, and 45% of respondents in Poland and 25% of respondents in Germany, respectively. Thus, the survey of the Ukrainian refugees shows that the refugees had the greatest influence on the development of the hotel and restaurant business in the Czech Republic and in Poland.

Besides, the important result of the Ukrainian refugees survey in the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland is that in each of the countries, 70% of respondents noted that they eat at restaurants or other catering establishments. Thus, in the Czech Republic and Poland, 25% of refugees eat at restaurants, and 40% at other catering establishments; in Germany, 35% of respondents eat at restaurants, and 35% at other catering establishments. Such parameters shows the influence of the Ukrainian refugees on the development of the hotel, restaurant and tourism business in the countries under study. At the same time, it should be noted that the level of influence of the Ukrainian refugees on the development of the hotel and restaurant business in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe depends on the number of refugees in relation to the population of the host country. In particular, in the Czech Republic, the Ukrainian refugees make up 5% of the population, and a sudden increase in the country's population by 5% can have a positive impact on the development of those sectors of the economy, the consumers of products or services of which the refugees have become.

Studying the statistical information of the statistical authorities of the Czech Republic regarding the development of the hotel and restaurant business, we note the fact that the highest level of sales growth in the field of hotel and restaurant business is observed in the second quarter of the year 2022, which increased by 12.1% in annual terms compared to the same period in the year of 2021. Moreover, according to the data of the Statistics Office of the Czech Republic, the sales in the field of accommodation, public catering and hotel business increased by 54.5% in the second quarter of the year. In accommodation establishments, the sales increased by 146.5%, in catering and hotel business - by 37.3%. However, already in the third quarter of 2022, when the the refugee flows decreased, the Statistical Office of the Czech Republic provides the following data: in catering and hotel business, the volume of sales decreased by 10.8%, in accommodation facilities, on the contrary, it increased by 8.8%. That is, regardless of the holiday season, which usually begins in the third quarter of the year, the volume of sales in public catering and hotel business decreased in the Czech Republic.

Regarding the purposes, for which Ukrainian refugees spend the most money in the host country, 100% of the respondents from the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland answered that they spend the most money for accommodation. Food is somewhat less in the Czech Republic and Poland, followed by medicine and education, transport and entertainment. Evaluating the housing and food expenses of the Ukrainian refugees, it is worth paying attention to the amount and goals of aid to the refugees allocated by the governments of the host countries. For example, the legislation of the Czech Republic ([Novinky v legislativě upravující pomoc ukrajínským úplýníkům na trěliní ČR, 2022](#)) provides for the payment of humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian refugees in the amount of 5,000 crowns per calendar month for a period of six months. Considering the fact that, according to the results of the survey of the Ukrainian refugees, the main fields of spending the received humani-

tarian monetary aid in the Czech Republic are the payment for housing and food, it should be noted that such monetary aid has become one of the sources of stimulating the development of the hotel and restaurant business and tourism industry.

As for Poland and Germany, the governments of these countries also provided financial assistance to the Ukrainian refugees. Thus, the Government of Poland provided several types of financial assistance for the Ukrainian refugees: PLN 500 of aid per child; PLN 300 of one-time aid for those refugees, who crossed the border of Poland for the first time after February 24, 2022; PLN 400 aid for a child’s stay in a nursery; subsidies for families with many children in the amount of PLN 500-1000 ([Jaką pomoc finansową połączyć otrzymają Ukraińcy w Polsce?, 2023](#)). Financial assistance for the Ukrainian refugees in Poland is somewhat less than in the Czech Republic, but all allocated funds are actually returned to the Polish economy, including by paying for accommodation and board of the refugee families.

The German government provided financial assistance to the Ukrainian refugees under the Hartz IV program, according to which an adult receives EUR 449 of aid, and aid per child from EUR 285 to EUR 376, depending on the number of children and their age ([Sandig, 2022](#)). That is, the amount of assistance for the Ukrainian refugees in Germany is quite significant and allows covering the basic needs of the refugees in accommodation and board. At the same time, it should be noted that in Germany the majority of Ukrainian refugees live in rented apartments, which somewhat diverts the costs of paying for housing in the field of hotel and restaurant business.

So, in the course of our study, a survey of 30 hotel and hostel owners in the Czech Republic, Poland and in Germany as well (Table 3).

Table 3. The results of the survey of the hotel and hostel owners in the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany regarding the Ukrainian refugees living there

Questions	Answer options	Hotel owners or managers		
		Czech Republic %	Germany %	Poland %
Did Ukrainian refugees live at your hotel/hostel in 2022?	Yes, they lived	67,7	43,3	63,3
	No, they did not live	33,3	56,7	36,7
Did Ukrainian refugees have a positive impact on the revenue generation of your hotel and restaurant business?	Yes, they had a positive impact	53,3	26,7	43,3
	The impact of Ukrainian refugees on the dynamics of financial and economic indicators of the hotel and restaurant business was not decisive	13,3	20,0	20,0
	The Ukrainian refugees did not have a positive impact on the financial and economic indicators of the hotel and restaurant business	33,3	53,3	36,7
Did the Ukrainian refugees have a positive influence on the development of the menu of your restaurant/catering establishment?	Yes, they had. The Ukrainian dishes, which were in demand among visitors, appeared on the menu	40,0	20,0	33,3
	Yes, they had a minor impact that led to a minor increase in food service sales	26,7	26,7	30,0
	No, they didn't influence at all	33,3	53,3	36,7

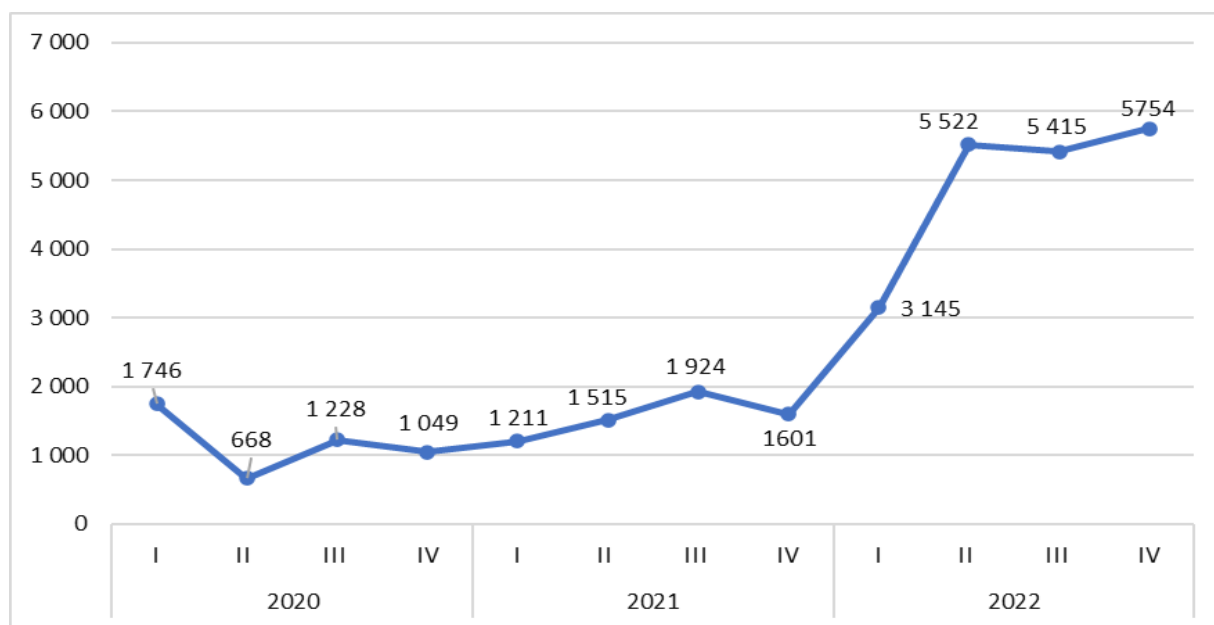
Source: Built by the author based on the survey results of 30 hotel and hostel owners in the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany using the Google Forms service

Data in the Table 3 show that the interviewed respondents – the owners of the hotels and the hostels in the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland evidence that the Ukrainian refugees temporarily lived in their hotels. However, 53.3% of the owners of hotels and hostels in the Czech Republic, 43.3% in Poland, and 26.7% in Germany, where the Ukrainians lived, answered about the positive impact of refugees on the financial indicators of their hotels and hostels. At the same time, 40% of respondents, the owners of hotels and hostels in the Czech Republic, noted that Ukrainian dishes appeared on the menu of restaurants and catering establishments at the hotels. A similar question was answered positively by 20% of respondents in Germany and 33.3% of respondents in Poland.

Thus, taking into account the results of the survey of the Ukrainian refugees and the owners of hotels and hostels in the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland, it is possible to conclude about the positive influence of the refugees from Ukraine on the development of the hotel, restaurant and tourism business in the host countries, because the main amount of material assistance provided is highly likely settled in the field of accommodation and catering.

Moreover, one should pay attention to the statistical data of the National Bank of Ukraine, which make it possible to evaluate the scale of spending costs by the Ukrainian refugees from their own card accounts abroad (Fig. 1).

Figure 1. Expenses dynamics of the Ukrainians abroad under the balance of payments item “travel” in the years of 2020-2022



Source: Built by the author according to the data of the National Bank of Ukraine ([External Sector Statistics, 2022](#))

Data in the Figure 1 indicate a significant increase of the costs spending by the Ukrainians abroad in 2022, because the services import under the balance of payments item “travel” indicates that in 2022 the Ukrainians spent about 20 billion US dollars from their own savings accumulated in Ukraine. As it is shown in the Figure, the highest rate of the expenses increase occurred in the Ist and the IInd quarter of the year 2022, that is, at the time when the largest number of people emigrated from Ukraine. If we count the number of Ukrainian refugees as a percentage for each country, then 9,5% of all refugees from Ukraine are concentrated in the Czech Republic, 20% – in Germany, and 30% – in Poland. Therefore, mathematically, the Ukrainian refugees probably spent 1.9 billion US dollars in the Czech Republic, 4 billion US dollars – in Germany, and 6 billion US dollars - in Poland. Taking into account the results of our survey of the Ukrainian refugees regarding the ways of spending their financial funds, we can come to the conclusion that the lion’s share of the refugees’ expenses was directed to the accomodation and food sectors, which became one of the drivers of the development of the hotel and restaurant business and tourism, as well as public catering establishments and retail trade.

6.DISCUSSION

Our study of influence of the Ukrainian refugees on the development of the hotel, restaurant and tourism industry in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and in particular in the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany, allowed us to refute the conclusions about the negative impact of the war in Ukraine on the economies of the European countries, which tried to substantiate such researchers as ([Guenette, Kenworthy, & Wheeler, 2022](#)) and ([Al Brizat, 2023](#)). Our study, based on the survey of Ukrainian refugees and the owners of hotels and hostels in the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland, made it possible to prove the positive short-term impact of the refugee flows on the

development of the hotel and restaurant business, because, according to the respondents, it was the payment for accommodation that became the largest expense item, both from the personal financial savings and from the material assistance provided by host governments. Thus, the results of our research partially confirm the conclusions made in the article (Trojanek & Gluszak, 2022) that the Ukrainian refugees have significantly increased the demand for rental housing in big Polish cities.

Besides, the attention should also be paid to the fact that due to the war prolongation, the Ukrainian refugees will stay for a longer period in the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany, which will lead to the keeping consistently high demand for rental housing, hotel and restaurant business services and public catering establishments in the places of the refugees concentration. At the same time, we should note that the Ukrainian refugees will have a positive impact on the development of Ukrainian cuisine in the host countries, because there are already known cases of opening the Ukrainian catering establishments in Poland (Restauracje w Polsce z kuchnią ukraińską, 2022) and the Czech Republic (Goldbergerová, 2022).

7. CONCLUSION

Conducted research of the Ukrainian refugees influence after February 24, 2022 on the development of the hotel and restaurant business and tourism in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe made it possible to make a conclusion about the positive impact of the sudden increase of the refugees flow on the development of hotels, hostels, restaurants and other public catering establishments in those countries, which accepted the largest number of the refugees from Ukraine. Survey of the Ukrainian refugees regarding the direction of spending of financial funds in the host countries, and interrogation of the hotel owners and the statistical data analysis of the National Bank of Ukraine concerning the level of the expenses of the Ukrainian refugees abroad allows us to confirm the first hypothesis put forward in the work, because the responses of the refugees indicate that after crossing the border, about 60 % of the respondents settled in hotels and hostels, and after some time about 50-55% of respondents in the Czech Republic and Poland rented apartments, in Germany this percentage is even higher. The survey confirms that the refugees from Ukraine mainly spent the aid provided to them by the governments of the host countries on accommodation and food, which in practice created the effect of indirect state stimulation of the development of the hotel and restaurant business after the crisis of the coronavirus disease. Significant expenses of the refugees' own savings accumulated in Ukraine were also mainly directed to paying for housing, food and retail trade, which definitely had a positive impact on the development of both the hotel and restaurant business and rental housing.

As for the second hypothesis, the experience of the Czech Republic makes it possible to confirm it, because the number of the refugees equivalent to 5% of the country's population arrived in this country, which caused their primary settlement in hotels and hostels. In its turn, significant financial assistance from the Government of the Czech Republic and significant amounts of expenses of the refugees' own savings had a positive impact on the development of the hotel and restaurant business in this country. In addition, it is worth noting that positive influence of the Ukrainian refugees on the development of the hotel and restaurant business in the Czech Republic and Poland is also characterized by the fact that Ukrainian cuisine appeared in local restaurants and public catering establishments, which contributed to the expansion of the menu and the increase of the customers from Ukraine, and therefore, it has a certain positive impact on the financial performance of hotels, restaurants and catering establishments.

At the same time, it should be mentioned that work limitation is the lack of formed series of statistical data concerning the direction of the costs spending by the refugees, the refugees participation in tourist flows, the employment directions (including in the field of hotel and restaurant business) and creation of added value in the host countries. Therefore, promising areas of the research regarding the influence of the Ukrainian refugees on the development of hotel, restaurant and tourism business in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are the study of behavioral patterns of the refugees, the evaluation of the prospects of a long stay in the host countries, as well as contribution of the refugees to the development of the local economy.

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