REVIEW OF DIPLOMA THESIS

Review type: Supervisors' Review

Author of the diploma thesis: Aysu Melis Gündüz

Title: A Comparative Analysis of Labour Market Integration of Ukrainian Forced Migrants in the Czech Republic and Poland

Author of the review: PhDr. Marie Jelínková

The thesis focuses on one of the most important issues in Czech and Polish society today, namely the employment of Ukrainian war refugees. It documents the main problems faced by Ukrainian refugees in the labour market through questionnaires, interviews and secondary sources.

The main aim of the thesis is to identify the underlying factors hindering the integration of Ukrainian forced migrants into the labour market in Poland and the Czech Republic. The results are not very surprising; the thesis concludes that the main barriers are a lack of language skills and little support for programmes that would enhance the opportunities of Ukrainian displaced persons to perform skilled work. However, the results strongly suggest that, although similar barriers have been identified for other types of forced migration, neither the Czech Republic nor Poland has been able to build a more effective system to better manage the integration of Ukrainian refugees into the labour market. The results thus document a partial failure of public policy and the similarity of the problems in the Czech Republic and Poland.

Although the comparative analyses are more demanding in terms of coherence, the structure of the thesis is well designed. The thesis first presents the theoretical background, then compares the situations in the Czech Republic and Poland, and then, after presenting the methodology, presents the results.

The work is factually correct, using good and extensive sources. All arguments are logical, persuasive and supported by ample scholarly sources.

The thesis applies the concept of labour market integration and makes extensive use of Ager and Strang's (2004, 2008, 2010) conceptual framework on migrant integration. Thus, the thesis chooses an appropriate theoretical perspective and applies it very well.

In terms of methodology, it was difficult for the author to conduct interviews, especially with Ukrainian refugees in Poland, so her creativity and implementation of a second research method, namely an open-ended questionnaire, should be appreciated. The data collected in different ways can be somewhat problematic from the perspective of

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comparison and its meaningful value, but the author worked with it in a very satisfactory way. The author tried to make a comparative analysis, which she did very well in terms of describing the measures taken, but the analysis of the data does not show too many differences between the Czech Republic and Poland. It would have been good to have clarified any differences that may have existed in the interviews and the questionnaire survey during the oral defence.

The thesis uses appropriate and relevant literature. The author is faced with the disadvantage that there is almost no academic literature on the topic under study. The literature used is appropriate and relevant.

The thesis is stylistically well written with few errors. The thesis is also well referenced.

Possible questions for oral defense of thesis:

Where does the author see the biggest differences between Poland and the Czech Republic in access to the labour market for Ukrainian migrants? The data analysis suggests that access to the labour market and targeted support for Ukrainian refugees is slightly better in Poland. Is this true, or do the Czech Republic and Poland differ very little from one another?

For the above reasons, I recommend the diploma thesis for the defense.

My grading is "A".

Date: 2.6.2024   Signature: