Abstract

In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Czech Republic became a key sanctuary for refugees seeking protection. The analysis, utilizing data from 76 districts of the Czech Republic (excluding Prague) from October 2021 to February 2024, examines how this influx of Ukrainian immigrants affects the local labor market.

The analysis, which employs Random Effects models and the Pooled OLS model, shows two impacts on the number of job seekers. One immediate, reducing unemployment, and the other occurring four months after the arrival of Ukrainians, which increases the relative number of job seekers.

Ukrainians do not have it easy in the Czech labor market, with frequent language barriers and the non-recognition of their work qualifications. The study also highlights the importance of regional demographic factors, such as the educational structure of the population and population density, which have a key influence on the dynamics of local labor markets.