

Civic engagement of Ukrainian forced migrants abroad: Insights and implications

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Introduction

The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine has triggered unprecedented levels of forced migration. As the migration behavior of the Ukrainian population has significantly changed under the new conditions, there is a need to develop new approaches to migration policies in both destination countries and Ukraine. Forced migrants are often viewed through a lens of vulnerability, considering factors such as their departure circumstances, family status, dependents, health issues, and loss of home. In theoretical discussions on vulnerability, many sources highlight the concept of an opposite or contrasting state, often termed resilience¹, agency² or coping capacity³. The concept suggests that vulnerability is not a static condition but exists on a spectrum where people may fluctuate between vulnerable and resilient states based on various factors and circumstances. This duality is especially important in forced migration domain,

¹ *Integrating Science and Policy: Vulnerability and Resilience in Global Environmental Change*, eds. R.E. Kasperson, M. Berberian, Routledge, London – New York 2011.

² C. Schenk, *Migrant rights, agency, and vulnerability: Navigating contradictions in the Eurasian region*, "Nationalities Papers" 2020, vol. 48, no. 4, pp. 637–643, <https://doi.org/10.1017/nps.2019.92>.

³ *Living with risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives*, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Geneva 2004.

where policies and interventions often aim to minimize vulnerability by fostering resilience or supporting protective factors.

Forced displacement reshaping lives of displaced persons, including their civic engagement⁴. Displacement negatively impacts the socioeconomic conditions of people, however, it can enhance social cohesion and increase civic engagement⁵. Studies among the young population show that civic engagement participation rates may rise when people realise that a political issue directly impacts them⁶. The situation of the full-scale invasion significantly impacts every Ukrainian, as it has led to substantial changes in all areas of life and disrupted established forms of social connections. Under such conditions, it is natural to expect a high interest in the civic engagement of the Ukrainian population, both within the country and abroad. Civil society is not generally invited into formal policy conversations, thus there is a need for new partnership within policy dialog through the recognizing the role of civil society engagement⁷. Forced migrants can engage in policy dialogue through participation in activities organized by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These organizations are typically inclusive and open to new participants, without significant barriers to entry.

The aim of the article is to investigate the main features of the civic engagement of Ukrainian forced migrants in host countries and to reveal its role in the migration governance.

Methodology and data

The study draws on data collected through an online survey conducted by the Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IDSS)⁸ among Ukrainian forced migrants. The survey took place between

⁴ *Social Cohesion and Forced Displacement: A Synthesis of New Research*, World Bank Group, Washington, DC 2022, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099715001032324376/P17449409f62510590ae110952bfa1e0bed> [accessed: 19.11.2024].

⁵ JDC Literature Review: *Social Cohesion and Forced Displacement: A Synthesis of New Research*, Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, https://www.jointdatacenter.org/literature_review/social-cohesion-and-forced-displacement-a-synthesis-of-new-research/ [accessed: 11.09.2024].

⁶ O. Zabolotna, A. Pidhaietska, *Students' civic engagement in Ukraine and Canada: A comparative analysis*, "Multidisciplinary Journal for Education, Social and Technological Sciences" 2021, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 85–101, <https://doi.org/10.4995/muse.2021.14962>.

⁷ L. Connolly, A. Stanley, *More than an invitation: NGOs' new vision to deepen civil society engagement in UN peacebuilding review*, The Global Observatory, 19.03.2024, <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2024/03/more-than-an-invitation-ngos-new-vision-to-deepen-civil-society-engagement-in-un-peacebuilding-review/> [accessed: 18.11.2024].

⁸ On January 1st, 2024, the institute was reorganized and changed its name. It is now called the Institute for Demography and Life Quality Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

April and May 2023, engaging 429 respondents. To reach participants, the research team employed a multifaceted approach: leveraging Ukrainian academic networks, collaborating with international migration organizations serving Ukrainian migrants, and sharing invitations in Facebook groups dedicated to Ukrainians living in various countries and cities abroad.

The analysis presented in the third chapter is based on the survey question: “Do you participate in the activities of Ukrainian NGOs in the country where you currently reside?”. The fourth chapter focuses on analyzing responses to the question: “Please describe, in your own words, what these activities involve.” Finally, the fifth chapter examines responses to the question: “What do you think Ukraine can do to encourage its citizens to return home?”.

Socio-demographic profiles and civic engagement of forced Ukrainian migrants

The forced migration from Ukraine, triggered by the full-scale Russian invasion, has a distinctly female profile. This characteristic has been documented in numerous studies⁹ and was further confirmed by our survey, where women accounted for 94.4% of the sample. Consequently, the analysis of empirical data primarily focuses on the civic engagement of this gender group. The sample was also highly homogeneous in terms of education, with 80.5% of respondents holding university degrees.

Based on findings from the IDSS study, 18.2% of surveyed Ukrainian migrants regularly participate in the activities of Ukrainian public organizations and associations in their host countries. Moreover, 43.4% of respondents indicated occasional involvement in such initiatives. If to combine two types of positive answers it appears that almost two thirds (61.6%) of surveyed migrants were engaged in social activities abroad (table 1). Considering the wide dispersion of respondents across numerous (31) destination countries, the survey data from the IDSS allowed for a statistically significant distribution only for two destination countries: Germany and Poland. In these countries, the level of civic engagement among the surveyed forced migrants differed significantly. In Germany, more than half (57.7%) of respondents participated in the activities of Ukrainian NGOs. In contrast, the opposite trend was observed in Poland, where the majority (58.3%) gave negative responses regarding civic engagement through activities of Ukrainian NGOs. A deeper exploration of the country-specific situation required further research.

⁹ *Ukrainian refugees. Future abroad and plans for return. The third wave of the research*, Centre for Economic Strategy, 28.03.2024, https://ces.org.ua/ukrainian_refugees_third_wave_research/ [accessed: 11.12.2024]; І. Мисловський, *Як повертати українських біженців: думка українців і три корисні міжнародні кейси*, Інститут американістики, 2024, https://inam.org.ua/pdf/Institute_of_American_Studies_How_to_get_Ukrainians_back_in_Ukrainian.pdf [accessed: 11.03.2024].

Table 1. Distribution of respondents based on their answers to the question: "Do you participate in the activities of Ukrainian NGOs in the country where you currently reside?" and various socio-economic characteristics (%)

	Yes	No
Entire sample	61.6	38.4
Host country		
Germany	57.7	42.2
Poland	41.7	58.3
Having minor children		
have minor children	60.7	39.3
do not have minor children	60.8	39.2
Employment status		
work	64.3	35.7
do not work	57.6	42.2
Locality type in host country		
capital (including suburbs)	63.1	36.9
other big city	63.7	36.3
small town or rural area	57.8	42.2
Host country language proficiency		
fluency or the ability to express an opinion and understand the other person	60.4	39.6
know only certain phrases and understand almost nothing	62.2	37.8
Expressed return probability		
very high return probability	62.3	37.7
rather return than stay here	61.8	38.2
rather stay or high probability of stay	60.2	39.8
do not know	57.9	42.1
Current financial well-being		
not enough or barely enough money to cover basic expenses	59.7	40.3
enough to cover basic needs but cannot save	64.1	35.9
enough to cover my basic needs and can make savings	56.4	43.6
Change in financial well-being after going abroad		
worse financial well-being than before migration	63.4	36.6
the same	57.5	42.5
better financial well-being than before migration	60.0	40.0

Source: compiled by the author based on IDSS survey data.

In terms of age and education, migrants participating in the activities of Ukrainian NGOs abroad do not differ significantly from those who do not engage in such activities. The average age of individuals in these groups is 40.9 years and 40.0 years, respectively. The proportion of respondents with higher education is 83.1% among those who regularly participate in the activities of Ukrainian NGOs abroad, 80.9% among those who engage periodically, and 78.4% among those who do not cooperate with Ukrainian NGOs abroad.

International studies show that childcare demands a significant amount of parental time. In cases where access to educational institutions for children is limited, time requirements increase even further¹⁰. Despite this, the presence of minor children among surveyed forced migrants did not significantly reduce their time reserves to the extent of limiting their access to NGO participation. The proportions of respondents involved in the activities of Ukrainian NGOs in their host countries, as identified in the IDSS survey, did not vary depending on whether they had minor children. Potential differences may exist in the forms of civic engagement between different groups of respondents; however, our study did not collect such information.

Employed respondents were 6.7 percentage points more likely to report involvement in the activities of non-governmental organizations in the destination countries. This group of respondents included those who worked in the local labor market of the destination countries and those who worked remotely for the Ukrainian labor market. Unfortunately, the small sample size did not allow for a separate analysis of each employment subgroup. It was likely that factors enabling labor market participation (such as physical and mental health) also contributed to civic engagement to some extent. However, the small difference between employed and unemployed respondents did not allow for definitive conclusions on this issue. Nevertheless, scientific research showed that, in general employment and volunteering can serve complementary purposes. Unemployed individuals often use volunteering as a way to enhance skills, build networks, and improve employability, which can lead to higher involvement in NGOs compared to their employed counterparts. The team of American researchers found, that volunteering was associated with a 27% higher odds of employment, statistically significant at the 99.9% confidence level¹¹.

Forced migrants from Ukraine settle abroad in various types of localities. According to the IDSS study, nearly one-third (30.6%) of respondents were in capitals (including suburbs) of the destination countries, a slightly larger group (39.1%) in other big cities, one in five (21.4%) in small towns, and 8.9% in rural areas. The level of participation of respondents in NGO activities in capitals and other big cities of the destination countries was almost the same. However, in small towns and rural areas, this indicator was somewhat lower. This is probably because of the presence of NGOs in smaller towns and rural areas is significantly less robust compared to larger cities, due to various structural and contextual challenges¹².

¹⁰ *The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the care burden, but by how much?*, UN Women, 3.12.2020, <https://data.unwomen.org/features/covid-19-pandemic-has-increased-care-burden-how-much-0> [accessed: 16.12.2024].

¹¹ C. Spera *et al.*, *Volunteering as a Pathway to Employment: Does Volunteering Increase Odds of Finding a Job for the Out of Work?*, Corporation for National and Community Service, Office of Research and Evaluation, Washington, DC 2013.

¹² P. Purohit, *How digital presence is bridging the gap between urban and rural NGOs*, NGOFeed, 21.10.2024, <https://ngofeed.com/blog/how-digital-presence-is-bridging-the-gap-between-urban-and-rural-ngos> [accessed: 14.12.2024].

The proficiency in the host country's language does not impact respondents' participation in NGO activities. This is because the organizations in question were Ukrainian, allowing respondents to communicate easily in their native language. The issue of returning home for forced migrants from Ukraine draws significant attention from researchers. In this article, the focus is on the question of how the likelihood of returning affects the civic engagement of respondents abroad. The data obtained indicate an equal level of involvement in the activities of Ukrainian NGOs abroad, regardless of the respondents' expressed return probability. This situation may indirectly indicate a strong sense of Ukrainian identity and belonging, even despite the desire to remain outside Ukraine.

Despite the evidence from some studies that people with low-income, low-wealth families face substantial challenges to active civic engagement¹³, the financial well-being of IDSS respondents did not significantly affect their participation in the activities of non-governmental organizations in the destination countries. The survey employed two measures of financial well-being: 1) current financial status and 2) changes in financial well-being after moving abroad. Both approaches revealed minimal differences in the level of civic engagement. The poorest and the wealthiest respondents participated in the activities of Ukrainian NGOs abroad with equal frequency. The same similarity was observed among those whose financial situation either improved or worsened after moving abroad.

Patterns of civic engagement among forced migrants in host societies

Civic engagement manifests in various forms, and there are several approaches to its classification. Researchers identify from three categories¹⁴ to nine¹⁵. For this study, the categorization that include four main types have been chosen: political engagement, community engagement, civic skills engagement and social justice engagement¹⁶.

Political engagement refers to activities individuals undertake to influence public policies, government decisions, or political processes. This can include

¹³ A. Moore McBride, M.S. Sherraden, S. Pritzker, *Civic engagement among low-income and low-wealth families: In their words*, "Family Relations" 2006, vol. 55, no. 2, pp. 152–162, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3729.2006.00366.x>.

¹⁴ *Categories of civic engagement*, What Does It Mean to Be an American?, 2023, <https://www.whatdoesitmeantobeanamerican.com/students-cat-of-civic-engagement> [accessed: 10.12.2024].

¹⁵ *Types of civic engagement*, Center for Civic Engagement, Illinois State University, [n.d.], <https://civicengagement.illinoisstate.edu/faculty-staff/engagement-types> [accessed: 9.12.2024].

¹⁶ *Types of civic engagement*, Instant Input, [2023], <https://www.instantinput.com/blog/types-of-civic-engagement> [accessed: 16.11.2024].

voting, attending town hall meetings, advocating for causes, joining political parties, participating in protests, or running for office. It aims to shape governance and societal norms by enabling citizens to voice opinions and effect change. Voting is one of the most significant manifestations of political engagement. Certain sources even classify it as a distinct type of engagement – electoral¹⁷. However, for forced migrants from Ukraine, this form is currently inaccessible. They do not have voting rights in their destination countries, and elections are not being held in Ukraine during the state of martial law.

Political engagement among IDSS respondents primarily manifested through their participation in demonstrations, marches, and rallies in support of Ukraine. These events were often organized by local Ukrainian communities or volunteers. Specific examples from the respondents' responses include: "demonstrations in support of Ukraine", "marches and protests advocating for military support for Ukraine", "rallies near city halls to urge Germany to support Ukraine." This highlights a significant level of political activity among forced migrants, even though they lack voting rights in their host countries. The protests serve as a means to influence public opinion and maintain global awareness of Ukraine's plight.

Community engagement involves actively working to address community needs and foster a sense of shared responsibility. It can take various forms, such as volunteering, organizing events, participating in neighborhood improvement projects, or engaging in local decision-making processes. Community engagement aims to create partnerships, strengthen social bonds, and empower residents to contribute to the well-being of their community.

Community engagement of IDSS participants was evident through activities aimed at supporting other Ukrainians abroad and fostering solidarity. Respondents reported organizing events for children and adults, such as workshops, concerts as well as broader community initiatives. Notable examples from the questionnaire include: "organizing leisure activities for Ukrainian children, including creative workshops", "celebrating Ukrainian holidays, holding charity fairs, and events to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine", "helping newly arrived migrants through integration courses and group meetings", "meetings in a quiet place and assistance (paperwork, etc.)". These activities not only strengthened the sense of Ukrainian community but also created a platform for cultural exchange and mutual support within host societies.

Civic skills engagement focuses on cultivating and applying the abilities necessary for active involvement in public and civic matters. It emphasizes developing competencies like critical thinking, effective communication, and informed decision-making, which are essential for addressing civic challenges and contributing

¹⁷ *Categories of civic engagement, What Does It Mean to Be an American?*, 2023, *op. cit.*

to meaningful discussions. This form of engagement enables individuals to become proactive citizens, equipped with the skills to influence their communities and society constructively. Civic education which focuses on teaching individuals about their rights and responsibilities is an important part of civic skills engagement¹⁸. In the interviewed forced migrants, it focused on educational and cultural initiatives that enhance community capacity and foster individual development. Many responses in this area focused on providing opportunities for Ukrainian migrants to learn the languages of their host countries, such as Polish, English, and Spanish. The issue of psychological support was also frequently mentioned. Psychological resilience is fundamental to the development of other competencies necessary for adaptation to a new environment.

Social justice engagement involves actively working to address systemic inequalities and promote fairness and equity within society. This type of engagement often includes activities such as advocating for marginalized groups, participating in protests, raising awareness about social issues, and supporting policies or initiatives aimed at reducing injustice. It reflects a commitment to challenging discrimination and empowering underrepresented communities, fostering a more inclusive and equitable social environment.

Social justice engagement in the IDSS study was prominently reflected in efforts to address systemic inequalities, particularly those between individuals most affected by the war and others, as well as in the provision of humanitarian aid for different groups in need. Respondents actively participated in: charitable actions (“fundraising for the Armed Forces of Ukraine”, “sending humanitarian aid to Ukraine”); advocacy and awareness campaigns (“highlighting events in Ukraine”, “awareness-raising activities, so that people know about our war and do not forget what we are fighting for”; support for the military (“weaving camouflage nets and producing trench candles”, “charity events to raise funds to help the Ukrainian Armed Forces and residents of the newly liberated territories. More than a dozen equipped ambulances and several fire trucks were donated”).

Respondents’ experiences illustrate a multifaceted approach to civic engagement, combining active citizenship with adaptation to host societies. Through political actions, community initiatives, skill development, and justice-oriented activities, they not only uphold their Ukrainian identity but also contribute meaningfully to their new environments. Although the different types of civic engagement undertaken by forced migrants can be delineated, it is important to recognize that these activities are often interconnected and mutually reinforcing. This interconnectedness suggests that individuals’ involvement is multifaceted rather than singular, making rigid categorization problematic.

¹⁸ *Types of civic engagement*, Instant Input, [2023], *op. cit.*

Forced migrants' participation in NGO activities and its role in migration governance

Non-governmental organizations play a dual role in migration management by acting as both service providers and advocates for migrants' rights. As service providers, they offer crucial support to migrants, including access to housing, healthcare, legal assistance, and integration programs. These services aim to meet the immediate needs of migrants and help them navigate complex bureaucratic systems. The involvement of service providers in policy advocacy is rarely explored in academic research¹⁹. However, a number of studies have investigated this topic within specific national contexts, including research conducted in Italy²⁰, Poland²¹, Estonia²², and the United States²³. In their advocacy role, NGOs influence migration policy by engaging in activities such as lobbying, strategic litigation, and public campaigns. They push for reforms that address systemic issues and uphold human rights, often challenging xenophobic policies or societal attitudes. Advocacy efforts can include raising awareness about the conditions faced by migrants, submitting complaints to international human rights bodies, or working to enforce constitutional and international human rights laws.

Migrants' participation in NGO activities often empowers them to transition from being passive objects of migration policy to active contributors to governance processes. By engaging in advocacy, service delivery, and policy discussions, migrants gain opportunities to influence decisions directly affecting their lives. Despite its high importance, political participation is currently identified as one of the most challenging areas of migrant integration²⁴.

¹⁹ A. Zogata-Kusz, *Policy advocacy and NGOs assisting immigrants: Legitimacy, accountability and the perceived attitude of the majority*, "Social Sciences" 2022, vol. 11, no. 2: 77, <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11020077>.

²⁰ M. Ambrosini, *Fighting discrimination and exclusion: Civil society and immigration policies in Italy*, "Migration Letters" 2013, vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 313–323, <https://doi.org/10.59670/ml.v10i3.130>.

²¹ K. Follis, *Rejecting refugees in illiberal Poland: The response from civil society*, "Journal of Civil Society" 2019, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 307–325.

²² M. Trei, *The involvement of NGOs in asylum policy decision-making: The case of Estonia*, 5th International Conference on Public Policy, Barcelona, Spain, July 5–9, 2021, T20P02: *Bridging the gap between public policy and refugee studies: Tools, concepts and frameworks for the study of refugee policy*, <https://www.ippapublicpolicy.org/file/paper/60ddd9a17dd60.pdf> [accessed: 8.12.2024].

²³ M.A. Calderon, D.E. Chand, D.P. Hawes, *Final lines of defense: Explaining policy advocacy by immigrant-serving organizations*, "Nonprofit Policy Forum" 2021, vol. 12, no. 2, pp. 285–310, <https://doi.org/10.1515/npf-2020-0023>.

²⁴ E. Kašperová, M. Ram, *Promoting migrant inclusion and diversity in decision making*, MILE Policy Brief 5, 2023, https://mile-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Policy-Brief-5-MILE_NEW-1.pdf [accessed: 8.12.2024].

Migrants themselves have a deep understanding of the factors that drive and sustain migration. In many cases, they are able to conceptualize their personal experiences and the experiences of those around them, translating them into practical recommendations for migration management. The high educational level of forced migrants from Ukraine enables their involvement in expert discussions on pressing migration policy issues. One such issue currently is the challenge of encouraging forced migrants from Ukraine to return to their homeland. In IDSS study, the respondents were asked to propose their vision of the steps Ukraine should take to facilitate the return of its citizens. Respondents provided a range of recommendations, which, in terms of substance, are almost indistinguishable from expert discussions in this field. Notably, the recommendations did not differ based on respondents' level of involvement in the activities of Ukrainian NGOs abroad.

The key proposals provided by respondents can be grouped into four main areas. The most frequently raised issues were related to security and social protection in Ukraine. In this context, respondents associated security with Ukraine's definite victory in the ongoing war and the restoration of its internationally recognized borders. No compromise options were suggested, such as a temporary cessation of hostilities, a reduction in their intensity, or restoring control over territories along the pre-invasion contact lines. Among the security guarantees for Ukraine, in some cases respondents emphasized the necessity of joining NATO.

The expressed social protection issues included proposals for providing social benefits, access to quality healthcare and education, and the development of support programs for families with children, the elderly, and veterans. The issue of housing has always played an important role in the migration matters of the Ukrainian population. In particular, the lack of decent housing conditions has previously been one of the drivers for leaving the country, and migrant workers' earnings were often used to purchase or improve housing back home. The full-scale war introduced a new aspect to this issue, as many Ukrainians lost their homes as a result of Russian shelling. As a result, respondents emphasized the need for compensation for the destroyed housing for those affected.

The second group of recommendations focused on political and administrative changes. Respondents emphasized the importance of government transparency, reducing bureaucracy, reforming the judicial system, and implementing the rule of law. The issue of combating corruption was most frequently highlighted in this context. The third area of proposals concerned economic incentives for return. Respondents stressed the need to create jobs with competitive wages, support small and medium-sized businesses, ensure economic stability, and reduce the tax burden. Notably, some respondents used the standards of their host countries, particularly Germany, as a benchmark for determining an adequate level of wages.

Patriotic and cultural issues were part of the fourth group of recommendations. Some respondents considered it important to raise national awareness through the support of Ukrainian culture, language, and traditions. The need to improve the organization of Ukrainian language education in the countries hosting forced migrants was emphasized. Respondents also stressed the importance of uniting Ukrainian society, particularly by overcoming negative stereotypes about Ukrainians who left the country during the full-scale invasion.

Conclusions

While forced migrants face numerous challenges, including displacement and uncertainty, they also demonstrate a strong capacity for active citizenship and agency, leveraging their experiences to contribute meaningfully to both their host societies and Ukraine's future recovery. The civic engagement of forced Ukrainian migrants is multi-dimensional, reflecting a commitment to both their homeland and the communities of host countries. Through their participation in protests, cultural events, and humanitarian initiatives, forced migrants not only maintain a connection to Ukraine but also advocate for their rights and the rights of Ukrainians left behind, ensuring proper defense against Russian military aggression. This engagement points to an emerging role for migrants in shaping public discourse, even in the absence of formal political power, suggesting that their influence on migration policy and governance extends beyond traditional forms of participation such as voting.

A critical aspect of forced migrants' involvement in NGO activities is their transition from passive recipients of aid to active contributors in policy and community development. NGOs play a pivotal role in facilitating this shift by providing platforms for engagement, whether through advocacy, service provision, or capacity-building programs. These activities empower migrants to influence the policies that affect their lives, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. Furthermore, the involvement of forced migrants in NGOs enhances the responsiveness and effectiveness of migration governance by ensuring that the voices of those most affected are integrated into policy discussions. This underscores the value of migrant participation in shaping migration governance, not just as a tool for integration, but as a critical force in policy reform.

The study also highlights the significant overlap between the types of civic engagement and the practical recommendations provided by respondents regarding Ukraine's recovery and the return migration process. While the recommendations covered a broad range of issues, from security and social protection to economic incentives and cultural initiatives, they reflected a common theme of wanting to ensure that the conditions for return are both safe and sustainable. These findings reinforce the importance of engaging forced migrants in the policymaking process, as their

direct experience with the challenges of migration equips them with unique insights into the needs and aspirations of other migrants and their home country's recovery.

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Civic engagement of Ukrainian forced migrants abroad: Insights and implications **Abstract**

The article explores the civic engagement of Ukrainian forced migrants, focusing on their participation in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and its role in migration governance. Using data from an Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IDSS) survey of 429 respondents, the study analyzes socio-demographic factors and the nature of migrants' involvement in various civic activities. Results show that the majority of migrants engage in political, community, civic skills, and social justice activities. Political engagement includes protests supporting Ukraine, while community activities focus on organizing events and providing support for fellow migrants. Civic skills development involves language learning and psychological support, while social justice engagement includes fundraising and advocacy for the Ukrainian military. Respondents also propose recommendations to facilitate their return to Ukraine, emphasizing security guarantees, social protection, economic incentives, and political reforms.

Keywords: forced migration, Ukraine, civic engagement

