

MIGRATION IN MEDITERRANEAN: “HUMAN SECURITY”

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Theoretical Approach to the Concept of “Human Security”:

Introduction

The concept of human security became of special importance at the end of the 20th century, when the more traditional concepts of security, oriented toward state interests and territorial integrity, began to lose their exclusive relevance. The world has changed, and new challenges – from environmental disasters and armed conflicts to terrorism, social inequality, and economic crises – have swept the international community into reconsidering its approach toward security. Human security is a concept that brings forth the protection of an individual's rights and well-being by centralizing the human personality as the driving philosophy within international relations.

The Commission on Human Security defines human security as “...to protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfilment. Human security means protecting fundamental freedoms – freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity” (Sen, Ogata, & Ginwala, 2003, p. 4).

The main principle of a human security is respect for human rights. This is the key concept and most radically different, for the military, from the classic use of military force.

While human security differs from conventional national security concepts – the latter genuinely intend to provide protection to a state against the power of some other; former concerns men with issues such as economic, food,

environment, personal, political, and communal security. A very narrow definition of human security can be the vulnerability of individuals to injury, death, or the destruction of livelihood. It sees that an individual's vulnerability can be the cause of not only military conflict but also poverty, discrimination, lack of access to basic social services, or repression.

Migration processes are among the major challenges to human security. Very often, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrant workers fall victims to a large number of threats to their personal safety, well-being, and rights. These threats include economic vulnerability, social isolation, legal and political challenges, and physical insecurity. This should, however, be taken into consideration: most of the people who move did not make a decision to relocate out of their own free will; they were forced to. This includes all those who have been forcibly displaced by war, violent conflict, exile, or discrimination.

Such challenges also serve as opportunities for the international community to play its part in human security through migrants by creating legal mechanisms of protecting rights, facilitating integration policies, and providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups. They also comprise international organizations, such as the UN and the International Organization for Migration, and nongovernmental organizations that are making attempts to better conditions for migrants and protect their rights (Human Security in Theory and Practice, 2009).

The very concept of human security enables new dimensions in interpretation and solving modern migration process challenges. It fixes the requirements for protecting the rights of each individual and providing a decent level of life to all without distinction by status or place of residence. Given the background of globalization and growing migration flows, ensuring human security becomes one of the key tasks the international community faces, which needs to be coordinated at the national, regional, and global levels.

The result of the complex transformation of the concept of “security” in the modern world was the addition of the concept of “human security” to the security discourse, which marks the shift of focus in international relations from the state to

individual individuals and communities. The state-centric concept of “national security” is being replaced by a more humanistic, micro-oriented concept of “human security”. The fact that this concept is successfully incorporated into the foreign policy strategies of many countries and becomes a common term in the security narrative of the UN and its agencies, the EU, other international organizations and states is an important indicator of its value and timeliness (Воротнюк, 2010).

The concept of “human security” was first conceptualized in the Report of the United Nations Development Program in 1994, which identified seven main elements of human security: 1) economic security, 2) food security, 3) medical security, 4) environmental security, 5) human security, 6) security of communities, 7) political security (Human Development Report, 1994).

In the countries of the European Union, human security comes to the forefront of the security discourse. The signing of the Maastricht Agreement, which established the European Union, marked a significant step toward a unified migration policy among European countries. This agreement introduced new approaches to the residence and employment of European citizens, allowing them to live and move freely within the EU. For external migrants, the agreement emphasized that immigration policy should consider the interests of all EU member states. This means that the employment, border crossing, movement, and residence conditions for foreigners should be determined and approved at an intergovernmental level. Additionally, the Maastricht Agreement allowed EU member states to implement their own independent migration policies.

In September 2004, a group of experts presented the report “The Doctrine of Human Security for Europe” to the EU High Commissioner for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana. The report proposed the concept of human security as a strategic narrative, a security strategy for Europe. According to his definition, human security is “the freedom of individuals from the main dangers associated with serious violations of human rights” (*European Parliament*, 2004).

The main postulates of the EU security doctrine were the principles of conducting operations, such as the supremacy of human rights, strong political power, multilateralism, a bottom-up approach with the involvement of the public, a regional focus of operations, the use of legal instruments and the proper use of force; in addition, the creation of a 15,000-strong human security response force (Human Security Response Force) and the development of a new legal basis for the implementation of interventions and operations. Four years later, this strategy was supplemented by the Madrid Report, in which experts argued for the need for a “European way of security” based on the principles of human security. “Human security – the report noted – should provide a new operational framework for the European Union's foreign policy”.

It should be noted that in the European discourse, human security is often equated with the “duty to protect”, shifting the focus from human security within the Union to ensuring it externally (as part of the Common Security and Defence Policy/European Security and Defence Policy). Both concepts, according to the resolution of the European Parliament, have practical consequences and significant political motivation for the strategic orientation of European security policy. However, there is neither an automatic obligation nor the means at the disposal of the EU to deploy ESDP missions, civilian or military, in all crisis situations. This indicates the limited resources of the EU and the understanding of human security as something that the Union does outside its borders in crisis regions of the world, not inside. Obviously, the problems of human security in their critical form have been overcome within the EU (European Parliament Resolution, 2010).

Migration in the EU’s Foreign Policy

Following the Barcelona Report, the Study Group on Security published the Madrid Report in 2007, further developing the human security approach for the EU and the envisaged methods of its institutionalization in the context of the ESDP. The Madrid Report emphasizes that human security concerns the basic needs of individuals and communities in times of danger. It's about feeling safe on the

street, as well as material survival and freedom of will (A European way of security, 2007).

The main guidelines of the Lisbon Treaty reflect a broader approach to security, which means that they clearly depart from more traditional understandings and thus increasingly turn their attention to the security of people. Although the Treaty does not explicitly mention human security, the importance of this concept is recognized in the text on the strategic objectives of CSDP and in the relevant general guidelines. The first test for such an EU policy was the crisis in Libya, which began in 2011. The European Union planned a military operation in 2011, but never conducted it. After that, there was strong criticism for the lack of decisiveness during the Libyan crisis and the reluctance to take the initiative to solve the Libyan issue. When France, as one of the EU states, took the initiative along with Great Britain, which was included in the process from the beginning, NATO intervention officially began. It includes fourteen NATO member states, ten of which are also EU members. Thus, despite the constant advocacy of a common foreign policy and the need to reconcile it with the doctrine of human security high military politics and the resolution of international problems by force as well as the neglect of basic principles of human rights prevailed (Council Conclusions on the Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crises, 2018).

Two years after this failure, in 2013, a decision was made to deploy a civilian mission to support the Libyan authorities and build capacity to improve the security of the Libyan border in the short term, as well as to help develop broader strategic integration for long-term border management. This mission, known as EUBAM Libya, is still active and costs €26 million per year. This mission, along with the EUBAM mission in Moldova and Ukraine, is an example of how EU civilian missions adhere to the prescriptions of the Madrid Report (Human rights in Libya, 2023).

In 2016, the EU adopted the “European Framework for a Strategic Approach to Support Security Sector Reform”, which applies to all relevant EU tools and

instruments, including political dialogue, civil and military CSDP, development cooperation, technical assistance, training and provision of equipment.

When the EU takes or plans actions in support of the security sector, it can use the Security Sector Management Tool for analytical support. Since 2018, the SSG (security sector governance and reform) Facility has developed more than 30 assessments, including in Mali, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, The Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Somalia and Haiti (Council Conclusions on the Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crises, 2018).

The EU is one of the most important participants in supporting the Security Sector Reform in the world. In 2021, it provided €70.2 billion to support reform and good governance initiatives in partner countries. Most CSDP mission mandates directly mention or relate to security sector reform and/or governance (Council Conclusions on the Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crises, 2018).

African States' Approaches to the Migration

However, the situation is different in the countries of North Africa. Political instability remains a key factor affecting human security in the region. Libya, for example, after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi's regime in 2011, faces a constant struggle for power between competing factions, which has led to a significant deterioration in the living conditions of the population. The lack of a centralized government makes access to basic services difficult and increases the level of violence (Abbott, & Marsden, 2009).

Egypt, after the 2011 revolution and political changes, is also experiencing tensions, although the situation has stabilized under the rule of Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi. However, repression against the political opposition and restrictions on freedoms create a tense atmosphere that can negatively affect the personal and political security of citizens. Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria are relatively more stable, but Tunisia, as the only country that survived the Arab Spring with

democratic changes, faces economic challenges that undermine citizens' trust in government (Tazoacha, Antem, Rhianne, & Kinkoh, 2023).

Economic difficulties are a common problem for all five countries. High levels of unemployment, especially among young people, and limited access to quality education and health care create an environment where economic security is at risk. In Libya, in particular, the on-going conflict is destroying economic infrastructure, making economic recovery difficult.

Algeria and Egypt also face economic development challenges due to their dependence on the energy sector and the need to diversify their economies. At the same time, Morocco and Tunisia are working on reforms to stimulate economic growth, but the reforms will take time to achieve positive results.

The region is an important transit point for migrants from African countries on their way to Europe. This creates additional challenges for state institutions in the field of managing migration flows, ensuring the rights of migrants and preventing human trafficking. Libya, in particular, is known as a major route for illegal migrants, and the human rights situation in refugee camps often remains critical (Tazoacha, Antem, Rhianne, & Kinkoh, 2023).

Human security in African Mediterranean countries remains at risk due to a complex of political, economic, environmental and social factors. While some countries, such as Morocco and Tunisia, are taking steps to improve the situation, others, notably Libya, face deep structural problems that require international support to overcome them. Achieving sustainable human security requires a comprehensive approach that includes political stability, economic reforms, environmental protection and effective management of migration processes.

Legal Framework of “Human Security”

After the Second World War, legal and regulatory frameworks for regulating international migration began to form. The main documents that regulate this process are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights

and Fundamental Freedoms, as well as several key international agreements that play an important role in protecting the rights of migrants and refugees:

1. The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) defines the rights of refugees and the obligations of states to protect them. It establishes the basic principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits the forced return of refugees to countries where they are in danger. It also defines the rights of refugees to work, education, housing and freedom of movement, thereby promoting their integration into the society of the host countries.

2. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965) aims to eliminate racial discrimination in all its manifestations, including access to work, education, health care and other social services. For migrants, this means protection against discrimination on ethnic, racial or national grounds, which promotes their equal participation in the public life of the host countries.

3. The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984) prohibits torture and other forms of ill-treatment, regardless of the circumstances. For migrants and asylum seekers, the Convention is an important protection tool against ill-treatment in countries through which they travel or in countries to which they may be deported.

In turn, the Organization of African Unity adopted the Convention on Specific Aspects of the Refugee Problem in Africa, which expanded the definition of a refugee and included additional important provisions on their protection. In addition to the protection of persons fleeing persecution, this regional treaty covers those who are forced to leave their place of permanent residence due to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in any part or throughout the country of origin or citizenship, seeking asylum outside their country (Convention on Specific Aspects of the Refugee Problem in Africa, 1969).

At the international level, active measures are taken to combat human trafficking. Trafficking in persons is defined as the recruitment, transportation,

transfer, harbouring or obtaining of persons through threats, violence or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or position of vulnerability, as well as by giving or receiving payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person who controls another for the purpose of exploiting it. Several international documents were adopted to combat this phenomenon:

1. The Protocol on Preventing, Suppressing and Punishing Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which is part of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and defines the basic principles for protecting victims, punishing criminals and preventing trafficking in persons.

2. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, which aims to combat the smuggling of migrants, which is often accompanied by exploitation and dangerous conditions, etc.

At the current stage, the division of states into countries of origin and countries of destination of migrants is becoming less and less clear. Modern migration is increasingly characterized by a phenomenon known as the “migration transition”, which involves the transformation of migrant-supplier countries into recipient countries. Previously, the country with one of the largest foreign diasporas due to long emigration has now become a destination for hundreds of thousands of foreign workers, mostly from Ukraine (Bojarczuk, 2023; Guarnizo, Chaudhary, & Sørensen, 2017).

The need for foreign labour is increasing due to the insufficient number of local workers. Also, Spain and Italy, which were previously the main destinations for migrants from Latin America and North Africa, are now becoming centres for the arrival of migrants from EU countries, in particular from Romania and Bulgaria, reflecting a change in migration flows on the European continent (European Parliament, 2022).

Migration processes in the Mediterranean and Europe remain one of the most urgent problems of international politics and security. In recent years, the flow of migrants to Europe has increased due to conflicts, economic difficulties, climate change and other factors. This led to a significant impact on the political,

social and economic landscape of the region. EU migration policy is built on a balance between the protection of human rights and border control. The main elements are protecting the external borders and working to strengthen the protection of our external borders through the joint efforts of agencies such as Frontex. Strengthening border control includes increased patrols, use of technology to monitor and cooperation with countries of origin and transit of migrants (Fotou, 2021).

Many European countries have tightened their migration laws, reducing opportunities for asylum and tightening the requirements for migrants. Some countries have also established fast-track procedures for refusing asylum and deporting people's ineligible for international protection (Fotou, 2021).

The strengthening of international migration movements and changes in their characteristics are the result of globalization. The elimination of trade barriers, the growth of political and economic interdependence between states, as well as the development of international business, science, education and communications contributed to this process. International migration is both a cause and a consequence of global change. In addition, the demographic imbalance also plays an important role – the shrinking and aging population in developed countries increases the demand for foreign workers, while the young population in developing countries provides this demand. Despite the rapid development in developing countries, the number of new jobs is not keeping up with the growth of the working age population – only 7 new jobs are created for every 10 people reaching working age.

Main Migration Routes to the Mediterranean

Migrants arriving in the EU mostly use sea routes through the Mediterranean Sea. Approximately 97% of migrants reach Europe through these routes. Migration corridors can be conditionally divided into three main ones: the Western Mediterranean corridor (through Algeria and Morocco to Spain), the Central

Mediterranean corridor (from Eritrea, Nigeria, Somalia, Libya to Italy), and the Eastern Mediterranean corridor (from Turkey to Greece).

The Western Mediterranean Corridor, which includes a sea route from North Africa to Spain and an overland route to the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla in Morocco, is less popular with migrants. This is because this route is often less safe due to difficult weather conditions and less assistance at sea compared to other corridors, leading to a high probability of death. Moreover, using this corridor requires traveling considerable distances overland through Morocco, as well as passing through border checks and checkpoints in Spanish enclaves, complicating the process. Spain, as the end point of this route, has a strict migration policy, which includes restrictions and controls at the borders, which can reduce the attractiveness of this corridor for migrants (Migration flows on the Western routes, 2024).

The Central Mediterranean Sea Route, which runs from North Africa to Italy, is much longer and more dangerous than other routes. This is the most popular route among migrants heading to the EU. The growth of illegal migration to Europe by sea began in the 1990s, when Spain and Italy tightened their visa regimes. Libya has become a key departure point for boats carrying migrants to Europe, as it is located on the coast of North Africa and has a shorter sea route to Europe. In addition, the fall of Muammar Gaddafi's regime, which led to further political and economic instability, made it difficult to control sea routes and facilitated the activities of smugglers (West and Central Mediterranean situation, 2024).

Because of this, Libya has become an important transit hub for migrants from other Arab and African countries who use it as a starting point to travel to Europe, thanks to its geographical location and Portuguese structure. And the tightening of visa regimes and border controls in other European countries, such as Spain, has pushed migrants to look for alternative routes.

The safest and easiest route is the Eastern Mediterranean corridor, which can be crossed by sea and land routes. It is used by Iraqis and Syrians fleeing armed

conflicts in their homeland. Most of those arriving via Greece go overland via the Western Balkans to Sweden and Germany. Their route runs through Hungary or Austria, Serbia or Croatia and Macedonia, passing Romania and Bulgaria (Migration flows on the Eastern Mediterranean route, 2024). All these corridors are dangerous and the state of region must protect human security.

In the context of the current migration crisis, Greece has a radically different experience compared to Germany and Hungary in managing the influx of migrants. As the largest gateway to Europe, Greece has experienced a huge influx of illegal immigrants in recent years. Like Italy, Greece is overwhelmed by the rapid influx of migrants. These countries (Greece and Italy) have come under intense criticism from other EU member states; firstly, because of the impossibility of controlling immigrants at their borders, and secondly, because of significant EU aid. Like other southern member states, Greece has called for a system of resettlement quotas to support asylum for migrants. Due to its geographical location and long coastline, Greece is an easy destination for illegal migrants. According to IOM statistics, in 2016, almost 90 per cent of illegal migrants entered the EU through Greece. Over time, Greece has been forced to manage illegal migrants on the Aegean Sea and the Turkish border (Governance of migrant integration in Greece, 2024; Guarnizo, Chaudhary, & Sørensen, 2017).

In March 2016, the leaders of the EU and Turkey agreed on joint actions in the fight against illegal migration, as a significant flow of migrants passes through the territory of Turkey. Two main principles of interaction were defined:

- 1) All new illegal migrants arriving on the Greek islands will be returned to Turkey if they do not apply for asylum or if their application is rejected;
- 2) For every illegal immigrant deported from Greece to Turkey, one of the Turkish refugee camps was resettled in the EU. The EU was supposed to provide funding to the Turkish side.

Thus, there is a significant difference between EU member states regarding the management of migration processes. Some member states, especially the northern ones (Germany, France and the Scandinavian countries) want to manage

the crisis by distributing immigrants across Europe, while some southern European states (Greece and Italy) are focusing on restrictive security measures for national interests. They were badly shaken by the huge influx of immigrants, which drained economic resources and caused financial instability. Along with these two groups, there is a third group consisting of Eastern European states (Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic), which have also suffered from a huge wave of internal displacement of migrants, have openly opposed resettlement and redistribution of migrants among EU states, and have declared that it is a personal responsibility states to protect national interests (Green, & Pécoud, 2023).

The New Pact on Migration and Asylum was adopted by EU in 2024. The Pact aims to “rebuild trust” inside of the EU and bring about “a change of paradigm” in cooperation with non-EU countries. The main priorities of the Pact are the following three areas: 1. the external dimension, in other words relations with countries of origin and transit; 2. the management of external borders; 3. fair internal rules and solidarity (Ahmetasevic, 2024, p. 6).

In 2023, millions of people have been forced to flee their homes by deteriorating security and conflict in countries stretching from West Africa to East Africa and the Horn of Africa. Climate change has further exacerbated forced displacement. The number of refugees in the region reached 6.9 million, a 15% increase compared to 2022, while the number of internally displaced persons increased by 41% to 27.4 million (Green, & Pécoud, 2023).

The main reason for the new displacements was the conflict in Sudan, which began in April 2023. This conflict led to large-scale hostilities, an increase in crime, and the destruction of the banking system, the health care system, telecommunications and other critical services. More than 6.5 million Sudanese have been internally displaced, while around 1.3 million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries such as Chad, Egypt and South Sudan. In addition, 506,000 refugees from South Sudan were forced to return home under adverse conditions. This has greatly increased the already great humanitarian needs in the region,

forcing many to seek refuge in other countries within more complex migration flows.

In 2023, 234,000 refugees were registered in North African countries, an increase of 277% compared to 2022. Of these, 171,500 were Sudanese nationals, with 150,012 (87%) registered in Egypt. The total number of people in need of international protection in North Africa was likely much higher, with some 409,000 Sudanese arriving in Egypt and over 20,000 in Libya due to the conflict in Sudan alone (Green, & Pécoud, 2023).

In 2023, 281,924 people embarked on dangerous and unregulated sea journeys from North Africa to Europe, a 58% increase over 2022. More than a quarter (26.5%) was landed back in North African countries after being rescued or intercepted at sea. In total, 3,311 people died or went missing at sea, up from 2,674 in 2022 (Green, & Pécoud, 2023).

Italy, Malta and Spain registered 207,723 irregular arrivals by sea, a 77% increase on the previous year. Almost half of those who arrived were citizens of Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. UNHCR provided training and technical assistance to the governments of Italy, Malta and Spain to improve monitoring and reception conditions, as well as to improve refugee status determination procedures.

Arrivals to Italy increased by 73%, with migrants from Tunisia doubling compared to 2022, but arrivals from Libya falling by 12%. The largest numbers of arrivals were citizens of Guinea, Tunisia, Côte d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, and Egypt, but the number of persons from Burkina Faso increased twenty-fold, and the number of migrants from Mali and Sudan increased five-fold. UNHCR carried out 79 monitoring visits to migrant reception sites in Italy and conducted more than 1,000 advocacy activities aimed at protecting the rights of displaced persons (West and Central Mediterranean situation, 2024).

In addition, UNHCR collaborated with the municipalities of Bari, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Rome and Turin to implement the Integration Charter (Carta per l'integrazione), which provides for the promotion of integration measures. Among

these measures is the creation of local multifunctional integration centres (Spazi Comuni) that provide services to refugees.

In 2023, only 380 people arrived in Malta, while the Greek island of Crete received 817 migrants who travelled from eastern Libya. UNHCR carried out 63 visits to reception sites for displaced people in Malta to identify their needs, provide information and refer them to the necessary services, especially for the most vulnerable groups. In addition, UNHCR provided support for the recruitment and integration of refugees and asylum seekers, including assistance in obtaining transport cards, opening bank accounts, preparing resumes, finding jobs, obtaining employment licenses and enrolling in language courses (Green, & Pécoud, 2023).

In 2023, 74,371 people were landed in North African countries, including Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. In all these countries, the number of people landed has increased sharply, except for Libya, where the number of such cases has decreased by a third.

Numerous economic and other problems of migrants often lead to the fact that they are classified as “socially vulnerable” in the receiving countries. Against the general backdrop of increasing ethnic diversity, the strong politicization of migration, and the excessive vulnerability of mobile individuals to social risks, the access of migrants and their descendants to social security has become a key area of concern in all European democracies. Local residents fear that the influx of migrants will lower wages, increase unemployment among the country’s citizens, and increase the cost of housing and consumer goods. Migrants are often considered to be a burden on the welfare systems of receiving countries. The main reason for this approach is the belief that immigrants are not part of “Europe”, so they should not fully enjoy the benefits of the social security system (Alhash, & Pittel, 2019).

Economic security threats rank second in society’s perception, after socio-cultural threats. First of all, economic threats include:

- 1) The expansion of the shadow economy, which causes huge tax losses for EU member states;

- 2) The growth of uncontrolled markets for counterfeit goods and services in the EU;
- 3) Increasing the level of smuggling, primarily of resources and various values;
- 4) Entrenchment of negative shadow practices and stereotypes in the economy.

The next area threatened by migration is political. Stability in this area is undermined by the large number of migrants who create their own organizations, often radical, designed to defend their interests and fight for equal rights. Such a situation shakes the political system in European states, which also undermines the security of Europe. It follows from this that the territorial integrity of the EU states is under threat of rupture due to the inevitable change in the ethnic composition of the population with the help of migrants. The newly formed ethnic groups fight not only for equal rights, but also for the opportunity to live as a separate ethnic group, which provokes separatist sentiments and inter-ethnic conflicts that take place on their basis. The political activity of migrants gives rise to the growing popularity of far-right political parties, which act as active antagonists of the further migration process, defending the identity of their state (Dunne, 2024).

The political threats of migration bring acute social tension to the EU countries and cause them to want to rid the state of a huge flow of migrants who destabilize the internal situation in the country. In turn, political instability is another cause of social tension, as the local population of Europe, fearing such active political activity of migrants, opposes the further process of accepting migrants in Europe. Xenophobic attitudes and antagonism between the European population and migrants are growing, which in turn has its consequences in the form of fierce protests and even armed clashes (Alhash, & Pittel, 2019).

And of course, the main problem arising from the migration factor is the spread and growth of terrorism positions. Migrants are one of the main tools not only for transporting contraband, but even more frighteningly, for spreading the influence of terrorist organizations. Supporters and loyal followers of terrorist organizations infiltrate the territory of Europe together with migrants and carry out terrorist actions there, which certainly undermine all spheres of life in European

society. The events of recent years clearly demonstrate the connection with the huge migration flow that poured into European states and the significant increase in terrorist acts that took place on the territory of Europe and took the lives of a large number of civilians (Cusumano, & Riddervold, 2023).

The EU has developed mechanisms to distribute refugees among EU member states, although this approach faces resistance from some member states. The quota system, which was supposed to evenly distribute the burden of migration, turned out to be ambiguous due to the different interests and capabilities of countries. In addition, cooperation is developing with countries such as Turkey and Libya to stop the flow of migrants before they reach Europe. This includes financial assistance, training and support in strengthening border control of these countries. Nevertheless, the EU remains committed to the principles of human rights protection, providing humanitarian aid to refugees and supporting programs for the integration of migrants into European societies (Cusumano, & Riddervold, 2023).

At the same time, Europe is trying to prevent illegal immigration. Yes, in Spain it is proposed to involve even the army and the navy in order not to allow the boats of criminals to reach their shores. Here, the Canary Islands, where boats from West Africa arrive, and the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla in North Africa suffer the most (Dunne, 2024).

The representative of the opposition People's Party, Miguel Tegliado, in his address asked the Spanish government to do its job and put an end once and for all to this mass arrival of immigrants to our borders illegally and with the assistance of the mafia, who are endangering the lives of these people. Instead, Spanish Defence Minister Margarita Robles said it was impossible because the army did not have the power to do so under the Constitution.

The leader of the People's Party, Alberto Núñez Feijó, called on the European Union to get more involved in protecting Europe's southern borders. And he accused the Spanish government of incompetence in "solving the migration crisis that affects the Canary Islands, in particular, every summer." In his opinion,

the authorities are unable to cope with logistical challenges as well – they cannot accommodate new arrivals and satisfy their requests for asylum (The Mediterranean migrant crisis: a call for immediate action – World, 2023).

Germany, Sweden and other countries are actively investing in the integration of migrants through educational programs, language courses and employment opportunities. The goal is to ensure the social and economic integration of migrants, which allows reducing tensions in society. European countries conclude readmission agreements with countries of origin of migrants to simplify the process of returning persons who do not have the right to asylum. This approach aims to reduce the number of illegal migrants in the EU (Fotou, 2021).

Conclusion

Migration processes will remain a key challenge for Europe in the near future. Instability in the regions of North Africa and the Middle East is expected to continue to stimulate migration flows. The EU and its member states will continue to work on strengthening border control, expanding cooperation with third countries and developing integration programs. However, to effectively solve the problem of migration, coordinated efforts at the global level are needed, as well as the strengthening of the international legal framework to protect the rights of migrants and refugees.

A significant prospect is the development of new technologies for managing migration processes, including the use of artificial intelligence to analyse migration trends and improve asylum procedures. Europe can also strengthen its efforts to tackle the root causes of migration through active involvement in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in conflict regions. Migration processes in the Mediterranean and Europe remain a complex and multifaceted challenge. The EU's migrant policy includes both border protection and humanitarian assistance, but needs constant improvement and adaptation to new challenges. The future depends on Europe's ability to develop flexible and effective solutions that meet the needs of both European societies and migrants themselves.

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