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ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IN UKRAINE: CHALLENGES OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IN THE CONTEXT OF WAR AND DISPLACEMENT

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Ukraine's economic development in the context of European integration faces unprecedented challenges due to the ongoing war and the massive displacement of populations. These factors not only disrupt economic growth but also have profound social and legal implications, particularly regarding the protection of human rights, access to employment, and equitable distribution of resources. European integration offers a framework for economic recovery, but it also requires alignment with EU standards, legal reforms, and mechanisms that ensure vulnerable populations are not left behind [1].

The relevance of this issue stems from the intersection of war-induced displacement, economic instability, and the country's strategic European ambitions. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) represent both a humanitarian and economic challenge: integrating them into local economies, providing social support, and ensuring access to essential services require coordinated policies that comply with human rights standards [2]. At the same time, globalization and EU integration create opportunities for economic diversification, technological modernization, and institutional strengthening, which are critical for long-term resilience [3].

One of the central challenges is the creation of an inclusive economic recovery plan that simultaneously addresses infrastructure rebuilding, labor market adaptation, and social protection. The war has destroyed critical industries, disrupted supply chains, and reduced production capacities, while displacement has altered labor availability and demand. Integrating displaced populations into local economies requires targeted policies, legal frameworks for social and economic rights, and compliance with international human rights standards [4]. The EU–Ukraine Association Agreement provides a legal and institutional framework for implementing reforms, promoting social protection, and supporting economic reconstruction [5].

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European integration plays a dual role in this context. On the one hand, it provides access to funding mechanisms, investment opportunities, and institutional guidance for post-war economic reconstruction. On the other hand, it imposes obligations for legal harmonization, transparency, and adherence to the rule of law, including social and economic rights protections. Achieving sustainable development thus requires balancing economic modernization with human rights protection, particularly for vulnerable groups affected by war and displacement [6].

Globalization further intensifies these challenges. The opening of markets and competition demands higher efficiency, innovation, and workforce adaptability. Strengthening human capital, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and fostering innovation are critical strategies to enhance competitiveness while respecting labor rights and equitable participation. Integration into EU research, trade, and financial programs provides tools for capacity-building but also requires careful governance and oversight to ensure that displaced persons and marginalized communities benefit from economic growth [7].

In conclusion, Ukraine's economic recovery and development in the context of European integration cannot be separated from human rights considerations. War and mass displacement create unique challenges that require integrated policies combining economic modernization, social protection, and legal harmonization. European integration offers both opportunities and obligations, making it a key driver of sustainable and inclusive development. The success of Ukraine's economic trajectory will depend on its ability to rebuild infrastructure, promote equitable access to economic resources, and uphold the rights of all citizens, including displaced and vulnerable populations [8].

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