

THE EVOLUTION OF NORWEGIAN MIGRATION POLICY (THE SECOND HALF OF THE XX CENTURY – CONTEMPORANEITY): FEATURES AND FACTORS

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Abstract:

The article shows the evolution of Norwegian immigration policy in the second half of the 20th century and its current state. Norway has extensive experience in implementing the integration policy. Special attention is paid to the specifics of the country's immigration policy at the current stage, due to the rapid growth in the number of new migrants, as well as the socio-economic, political and cultural consequences of this phenomenon for Norwegian society. This is of particular importance for Norway, which adheres to the policy of multiculturalism.

Keywords: *immigration policy, migration crisis, migrants, integration, multiculturalism, Norway.*

Introduction

The growth of Norway's population in the first quarter of the 21st century is largely due to the constant influx of migrants from all over the world, which entails a change not only in the ethnic composition of the population of Norwegian society, but also an increase in economic inequality, cultural and confessional pluralism. This is due to the fact that over the past 35 years, Norway has been viewed by migrants from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and post-Soviet countries as a socially, economically prosperous and secure European state, which, although not part of the European Union, is ready to provide assistance to migrants from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and post-Soviet countries. people on a permanent basis. asylum seekers. Norway recognizes international asylum obligations, and the country's Government and Parliament adhere to the basic principles of humanitarianism towards refugees, including fulfilling international obligations, especially under the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. At the same time, Norway has not always actively supported this process. However, in the first quarter of the 21st century, this became more noticeable in the European arena, which was reflected in the country's migration statistics.

A high standard of living, a well-developed social security system, and an inclusive approach to integrating immigrants into a new society have made modern Norway extremely attractive to all categories of newcomers. At the same time, the rapid increase in the country's population due to immigrants has begun to put additional strain on the Norwegian national budget, especially in terms of social spending. In addition, the number of internal problems faced by neighboring European countries in relation to attempts to integrate foreign-speaking immigrants with low levels of education and qualifications into the domestic labor market and society as a whole increases in proportion to the number of immigrants arriving. As a result, over the past few years, the rhetoric of representatives of the Norwegian official authorities has begun to change in the direction of reviewing social support measures and integration policies for immigrants arriving in the country in search of a "better life" with the possibility of reducing government funding in these areas.

The purpose of this scientific article is to study the evolution of Norwegian immigration policy in the second half of the 20th century and its current state through an analysis of historical and current

trends in this area, as well as an analysis of innovations in the migration policy of modern Norway over the past few years caused by a sharp increase in the number of immigrants.

The research methodology included: official statistics on migrants, a quantitative analysis of historical data on migration in Norway, a qualitative analysis of government documents from Norwegian authorities, and scientific literature on the subject in order to comprehensively and in-depth study the problem.

The study examined several stages in changing Norway's state migration policy, their rationale and impact on the subsequent integration of immigrants in modern conditions, including socio-economic and cultural aspects.

The immigration policy of any country is one of the activities of the state, which is carried out in relation to an individual or group of persons who have arrived from a foreign country, regulating the processes of his (or their) relocation, placement and integration in the territory of the host State.

Norway has a long history of immigration: people from different countries and continents, belonging to different nationalities and classes, have come here for various reasons and have contributed to the development of Norwegian society over the centuries. But, perhaps, migration processes in the country have never been as active as in the first quarter of the 21st century. Let's look at how Norway's migration policy developed in the second half of the twentieth century, what changes are taking place in it at the present time and what contributed to the transformation of a small northern country with a harsh climate into a sought-after "oasis of well-being" among migrants from different regions of the world.

At the end of the 19th century, Norway was a peripheral country in northern Europe, focused on Britain as a trading partner, and specialized mainly in fishing and exporting fish and shipping (for example, at the beginning of the 20th century, Norway had the third largest marine cargo fleet). At the same time, industry was developing in the country, from shipbuilding to the production of woodworking equipment. After gaining independence from Sweden in 1905, Norway was initially known as a country whose population tends to emigrate. This was due to a number of reasons, primarily of an economic nature. Thus, the per capita gross domestic product in Norway at the beginning of the twentieth century was one third less than the average in the countries of continental Europe, which did not contribute to the influx of population into the country. In addition, major businesses, especially highly profitable ones, were bought out by foreign companies, as a result, there was an increase in unemployment in the country. It is estimated that almost a third of Norway's population (mostly the poorest strata) left the country in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As a rule, the country's population emigrated to the United States in search of socio-economic well-being.

The socio-economic situation in the country began to change in the 1930s, when Norway embarked on the formation of a welfare state and for this purpose the Government adopted a number of important laws. In particular, in 1936, Norway introduced pension provision for working citizens, in 1938 - unemployment insurance, in the period from 1946 to 1964, a system of lending and financing the purchase of housing began to be used, payments for children were introduced (for example, in the second half of the 1940s. Increased allowances for the second and third child in families, as well as allowances for single-parent families, and health insurance were introduced. In 1967, the Norwegian Government Pension Fund was established, which was a tool for financing concessional loans.

Let's consider several stages of migration processes in Norway in the second half of the twentieth century and the first quarter of the twenty-first century, which led to a change in the policy and legislative framework regarding migrants in the country.

The first stage of the change in Norwegian migration policy (1945-1960-ies)

Despite the fact that Norway suffered from the German occupation (1940-1945) during World War II, it was able to recover its economy quickly enough with the help of the Allies and was least affected by post-war immigration compared to other European countries. At the same time, the country's reconstruction, economic diversification and the development of a welfare state in Norway in the 1940s and 1950s became possible, among other things, thanks to labor migrants from neighboring European countries (Sweden, Denmark, Great Britain), and, to a lesser extent, from Asia and Central America. It is worth noting that historically, most immigrants to Norway came from neighboring Scandinavian

countries, Germany and other European countries. They were often representatives of the upper and middle strata of society, had a high level of education and professional skills, which was extremely beneficial for Norway, since the country received "ready-made" specialists.

First of all, it is worth noting that active immigration to Norway from neighboring Scandinavian countries was facilitated by the creation of the Northern Council of the Common Labor Market in 1954, which allowed citizens of Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Sweden and Finland to live and work freely within the area of this market. In the first decade after the war, the Norwegian economy was based primarily on the export of marine, forestry and mining raw materials, as well as industries using hydropower. However, in the 1960s, the first Norwegian oil field, Ecofisk, was discovered, which required an increase in the number of workers in the country. Therefore, in 1957, Norway passed a law concerning foreigners ("Fremmedloven"), which actually established an extremely liberal immigration regime, which assumed that a foreigner could come to the country without having a work permit and obtain it on the spot; there were no requirements for the skills of a labor immigrant. Moreover, after two years of stay in Norway, the immigrant received a permanent residence permit. As a result, men from Poland, Turkey, Morocco, Pakistan, and India actively went to Norway to work, including as illegal immigrants, which made significant adjustments to the ethnic and religious composition of Norwegian society. At the same time, Norway maintained a relatively homogeneous society until 1970, mostly consisting of a white Christian population. It was only in 1971 that the law was amended to require an immigrant to obtain a work permit and find a place of residence before entering Norway. As noted by the Norwegian historian F. According to Sedgersted, "migration has become a threat to the stability of the social policy of the Scandinavian states," since living and working in developed countries, migrants remained poor, which contributed to their gradual lumpenization and an increase in crime [1].

It can be concluded that in the period 1945-1960, the influx of migrants into the country was a response to the Norwegian economy's need for labor for the sake of the future development and prosperity of the state in the post-war period. It was expected that over time, migrant workers would return to their country and would not apply for Norwegian citizenship. Therefore, at first, no integration policy was provided for them.

The second stage of the change in Norwegian migration policy (1970s-1980s)

Modern immigration in Norway is a fairly new phenomenon and began in the late 1960s and early 1970s with migrant workers from Asia and North Africa (for example, Morocco), Pakistan, the Middle East and the Global South, who were native speakers of a different culture, religion, language and mentality. Therefore, in the 1970s, in Scandinavian social democratic societies with developed social policies, such as Norway, the concept of a threat to the foundations of these societies from migrants became relevant in political discourse due to the difficulty of their adaptation and integration into European society. "Generations of Norwegians have been trying to get rid of people's poverty and inequality. We sought to break the social framework and build a society based on justice and equality. We have achieved a lot in this regard. But if we do not want to infect our society with a new disease, slums with an untouchable caste, then we cannot afford to let the problem of migration and migrants take its course," said deputies of the Norwegian Parliament in 1974 [2]. The emergence of this problem in the country's political discourse was caused by the negative experience and mistakes of European countries, including Scandinavian ones, in migration policy, combined with the threat of an uncontrolled increase in the flow of immigrants from developing countries.

As a result, an immigration law was passed in Norway in 1975 to prevent the influx of low-skilled foreign labor, while at the same time creating conditions for attracting highly qualified specialists to the country's growing oil sector and generally restricting migrants' access to those sectors of the economy where there was low demand for labor. In fact, it was the first law that officially restricted the entry of immigrants to Norway and was similar to the laws that other European countries adopted at the time, transferring migrants' applications to other categories such as asylum and family reunification. Since 1977, the issuance of residence permits to illegal immigrants has been prohibited in Norway. It is worth noting that the ban applied only to labor immigration (with the exception of neighboring Scandinavian countries), leaving only two legal ways for immigrants from other countries

to enter Norway: through family reunification or as refugees, which made these areas a priority in the 1970s [3]. These two categories of immigrants could not be regulated by the 1975 law, as they were allocated to special categories based on human rights laws. Such measures by the Norwegian government were explained by the need to ensure the most favorable conditions for indigenous people and foreigners already living in the country. In general, in the 1970s, the placement of refugees was viewed by Norway as fulfilling its political obligations and fulfilling an important humanitarian mission.

Thus, we can conclude that Norwegian politicians have chosen a course towards integration and genuine equality between indigenous people and immigrants. The Norwegian authorities decided, on the one hand, to limit immigration, and on the other, to pursue a social policy that guaranteed a decent standard of living for migrants who were already in the country.

Despite all the efforts of the authorities, the migration control and refugee placement system in Norway did not work well enough, which led to a large wave of immigration in 1985, which peaked in 1987, for which the Norwegian authorities and society were not ready. As a result, in the second half of the 1980s, the mood in Norwegian society began to change towards a pronounced opposition to the uncontrolled influx of immigrants by the authorities, which found expression in protest actions and electoral preferences of Norwegians. For example, in the parliamentary elections in 1989. The Norwegian Progress Party, which opposed the immigration policy pursued by the current government, received 13% of the votes of Norwegian voters and became the third most representative in the country's parliament, although in previous years it barely gained 2-3% of the vote [4]. It is worth noting that in 1993, the Progress Party became the first party in Norway to use the concept of "integration policy" in its program.

In general, in the 1980s, the Norwegian authorities, recognizing the fact of the loss of homogeneity in the ethnic and religious composition of the country, began to actively declare the idea of forming a multicultural tolerant society. In 1980, the Norwegian government issued the so-called "White Paper" (this is the name of draft official documents of government structures, which are submitted to the Norwegian Parliament in the form of information and analytical reports and reports in specific areas for subsequent discussion and lawmaking), which emphasized the need to adapt immigrants to the living conditions in Norway. including language courses, countering discrimination based on national and religious principles. At the same time, the principle of "freedom of choice" was replaced by "respect for the culture and language of immigrants," and the "assimilation" of migrants was replaced by "adaptation." Moreover, it was emphasized that the culture of immigrants must be respected, but they can no longer remain outside Norwegian society without making any efforts to integrate.

In 1988, Norway passed a new immigration law, according to which foreigners had to have a visa to enter Norway. In addition, this law regulated the procedure for filing complaints based on the results of consideration of applications, temporary expulsion from the country and deportation; established a quota for 1,000 refugees annually, without quantifying immigration through family reunification; provided the opportunity to obtain a residence permit issued to persons who have been living in the country for at least three years.

Therefore, we can conclude that the official formulation of the concept of "integration" by the Norwegian authorities has changed depending on the situation in the country: from proposals to counteract forced assimilation to recognition of the obligation and right of an immigrant to actively participate in society, to be a law-abiding citizen who recognizes and complies with the laws of Norway.

The third stage of the change in Norway's migration policy (1990-2010)

In the 1990s, Norway saw two large "surges" of immigration: in 1993, refugees from Yugoslavia and in 1999, refugees from Kosovo and Iraq. During the rest of the period, the quota for refugees in Norway was 5,000 or less annually, including the UN quota.

Although Norway is not directly a member of the European Union, it has been a member of the European Economic Area since 1994 and the Schengen Area since 2001. Therefore, in the 2000s, the country received a new stream of immigrants from Eastern European countries (primarily Poland and the Baltic States), for whom the open European borders allowed them to move freely in search of more

financially advantageous working and living conditions. In addition, in recent years, Norway itself has been actively pursuing a policy of attracting labor to the northern regions of the country, which from a climatic point of view are unfavorable for living and are not yet popular among migrants. At the same time, there is a noticeable tendency among migrants to settle in economically developed cities of the country, where there are more opportunities for comfortable living, education, leisure and employment.

The 1996 White Paper emphasized the commitment of immigrants to enter the country's labor market as soon as possible in order to achieve financial independence and equality, which initiated the regulation of entry into the country for all categories of migrants.

According to Norwegian government statistics, for the period 1990-2016, 33% of immigrants entered the country on a work visa, 36% on the right to family reunification, and 10% for the purpose of higher education. Currently, immigrants mainly from Europe (49%), Asia (32%) and Africa (9%) live here. A significant group of new arrivals are forced migrants and refugees. So, for the period 2015-2017, Norway accepted about 23.8 thousand refugees and humanitarian migrants (primarily from Africa and the Middle East), half of whom accounted for the peak of the European migration crisis in 2016 [5].

It is worth noting that although Norway is not a member of the European Union, its migration legislation regarding European borders and the management of migration flows is similar to the migration legislation of the EU member states. At the same time, there are differences between programs whose specific purpose is to attract migrants to a country for a specific period of time for a specific sector of the economy, and migration policies regarding temporary immigration. These programs can be narrowly focused and are accepted either unilaterally, without any negotiations and/or discussions with the government of another country (especially regarding the procedure for issuing visas and their types), or multilaterally. This also applies to European countries that are not formally part of the European Union. The International Labour Organization report notes that "mobility partnerships that fall under the EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility are mainly concluded with neighboring EU countries and cover short- and long-term mobility, sometimes including forms of cycling. Temporary labor migration can also take place within the framework of regional economic integration schemes and, thus, is based on a multilateral solution" [6].

However, the migration problem during this period became aggravated by the fact that the policy of multiculturalism and equality of cultures officially declared by the Norwegian authorities did not find support from migrants from the Middle East and Africa, but on the contrary provoked protests on their part against a number of traditions of the host country under the pretext of insulting the religious feelings of immigrants (for example, the demand for the abolition of Christmas trees, permission of polygamy, etc.). As before, they strive not for integration into Norwegian society, but for segregation, unification according to ethnic and religious principles in diasporas. As practice shows, people from European countries tend to adapt more easily to the living conditions in Norway due to the identity of basic ideological values, behavioral patterns, and legal norms.

his trend is especially noticeable among immigrants who practice Islam, since this religion regulates all spheres of human life. Whereas the Western way of life presupposes the separation of secular life and religion. It is worth noting that in recent years in Norway there has been an increase in the number of Islamic organizations among Moroccans, Iraqis, Iranians, Bosnians, Turks. Overall, Norway's Muslim community currently accounts for approximately 5.7% of the country's 5.6 million population, and in some municipalities in the Greater Oslo Metropolitan area, the proportion of Muslims exceeds 10% of the population. At the same time, the policy of equality of cultures and religions officially declared by the Norwegian authorities is not always implemented in practice. Moreover, in recent years, Muslim immigrants have periodically protested in the country against a number of norms of the host country under the pretext of insulting their religious feelings (for example, demanding the abolition of Christmas trees, allowing polygamy, etc.). This causes just indignation and discontent on the part of the indigenous Norwegians. As a result, almost 40% of Norwegians support the idea that Muslims pose a threat to Norwegian culture, and 47% of respondents believe that Muslims themselves are largely to blame for the rise of anti-Islamic sentiment in the country [7].

In response to this public reaction, the Norwegian government published a new White Paper on Integration Policy in 2016, "From the reception center to the Labor Market – an effective Integration Policy." It emphasized that immigrants should adapt to their new living conditions, language, cultural

and legal norms of Norway as soon as possible, as well as commit themselves to organizing their lives, which requires significant personal efforts on their part. An important circumstance is that the largest age group of immigrants who arrived during this period were people between the ages of 20 and 35, i.e. young people of working age. Norway recognizes that the country's aging population will affect the size of the workforce. In the coming years, the country may face a demographic situation where there will be a decrease in the proportion of people of working age compared to the non-working age group of the population. Therefore, Norwegian society is likely to need immigrants to replace workers in professions where older people currently work, and to maintain labor density in low-skilled professions, especially if employment prospects in these areas continue to increase (for example, working as a courier, maid). Therefore, it is likely that modern Norway will need to adjust its labor migration policy in order to ensure the necessary replacement of labor.

Non-governmental organizations provide assistance to the Norwegian Government in the integration of immigrants. In particular, one of the most active is the Norwegian Organization for the Protection of Refugee Rights (Norsk organisasjon for asylsøkere, NOAS), which has been operating since 1984. The main areas of its activity are information and legal assistance to asylum seekers, as well as protection of the interests of these persons in relations with the Norwegian authorities. In addition, this organization regularly informs applicants about the asylum process in the country, about the rights and obligations of asylum seekers; provides recommendations on the preparation of documents, as well as free legal assistance in asylum cases. By having contacts with politicians, this organization is also trying to influence the practice of regulating and granting asylum in order to comply with UN recommendations on this issue.

At the same time, the integration of immigrants into Norwegian society remained an urgent but unresolved problem. The integration process involves active, as well as constructive and mutually beneficial interaction between immigrants and members of the host society. The effectiveness of this process directly depends not only on the host state, but also, importantly, on the initiative and activity of the immigrants themselves, their desire to adapt to the new socio-cultural environment with all its rules, principles, and norms, while preserving their own cultural, confessional, and national identity.

The fourth stage of the change in Norway's migration policy (from 2020 to the present)

Since 2020, the main influx of immigrants to Norway has been in Ukraine, Poland, Sweden, Lithuania, Germany, Somalia, Denmark, Iraq, the Philippines, and Pakistan [8]. In addition, Norway's labor market remains fairly stable, and the Norwegian government's commitment to humanitarian protection and multiculturalism policies make the country even more attractive to immigrants.

In 2022-2023, Norway faced a new influx of migrants from Ukraine. At the end of 2023, the Norwegian Immigration Department made statements that never before had so many refugees been accommodated in the country in such a short time. Thus, in October-November 2023, Norway received 50% more Ukrainians than all the Scandinavian countries combined. In November 2023, the number of arrivals began to grow sharply, with about 1,000 people arriving every week. About two thirds of them came directly from Ukraine, and the rest came in transit through other European countries. According to the UN, more than 60 thousand Ukrainian refugees arrived in Norway by December 2023 [9].

In general, starting in 2022, Norway has accepted more than 73,000 Ukrainian refugees and their number continues to grow. The Office of the Norwegian Immigration Service (UDI) predicts that Norway will receive about 100,000 more refugees from Ukraine during 2024 [10]. This trend increases the burden on the healthcare system, education, housing infrastructure and the Norwegian state budget as a whole, as hundreds of thousands of kronor are spent annually on providing housing and other benefits for newcomers. Therefore, in September 2024, the Norwegian authorities decided to stop automatically granting asylum to Ukrainians arriving from regions that are considered relatively safe (Lviv, Volyn, Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil and Rivne regions). In December 2024, the Norwegian Immigration Department decided to suspend the consideration of asylum applications for refugees from Syria [11].

Due to another uncontrolled influx of migrants, the Norwegian authorities have decided to tighten control over incoming refugees so that "the number of arrivals in Norway is at a cost-effective and controlled level," as stated by Norwegian Minister of Justice and Public Safety Emilie Enger Mel

[12]. According to the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees, Norway is obliged to provide refugees with access to the National Insurance System and to provide them with the right to benefits and subsidies. However, the package of benefits that Norway provides to refugees goes beyond the scope of this convention.

Therefore, the Norwegian Government plans to review social security benefits for migrants and special programs for people with refugee status in order to prevent an economic downturn within the country. The growing flow of asylum seekers is forcing us to review and reduce the benefits provided to refugees and immigrants (for example, benefits related to employment based on temporary work permits (the right to unemployment benefits, daily sickness benefits, disability benefits). In the near future, the government also plans to review issues related to access to the Norwegian National Insurance System, as well as to change the requirements related to the period of residence and the right to receive benefits at the place of residence. It is also possible to restrict the economic rights of immigrants in accordance with the legislation of the municipality. This is important both to save the state budget and to avoid a situation in which Norway accepts a large number of refugees just because its social security system is more generous than in neighboring countries.

In 2024, the Norwegian authorities tightened the conditions for the reception and stay of refugees. The new restrictions and rules include:

- hotels will no longer be used as refugee accommodation. They will be placed in specialized detention facilities — refugee centers. If refugees want to live privately during the reception phase, they must pay for their accommodation and search for it themselves.;

- the state will no longer organize the maintenance of pets at the reception point for refugees. This will comply with the general rules for newly arrived migrants, whereas previously an exception was made for Ukrainians.;

- cancellation of payments for a child after receiving refugee status for the previous year;
- it is proposed to reduce economic assistance to spouses and cohabitants without children;
- refugees are required to complete an integration course, which includes courses in Norwegian (250 hours) and social studies (50 hours). You can only participate in the training during the first 3 years of living in Norway. Immigrants aged 56-67 have the right, but are not required to take this course of study. As a rule, such training programs are created for each participant individually, taking into account his educational and professional needs and capabilities. It is possible to suspend participation in the program due to new circumstances, for example, a job offer has been received. The resumption of participation in the educational program of such persons is not necessary if they document their knowledge of the language;

- refugees are required to apply for help at the National Reception Center in the municipality of Rode. No support will be provided to those who have arrived in other regions of the country;

- in order to receive payments for additional medical expenses incurred due to a chronic illness or disability, you must permanently reside in Norway for at least a year;

- the state will no longer organize the maintenance of pets at the reception point for refugees. This will comply with the general rules for newly arrived migrants, whereas previously an exception was made for Ukrainians.

All of the above measures are aimed at strengthening state control over immigration, especially in order to prevent attempts of illegal immigration into the country. "As a society, we expect that those who arrive in Norway will soon go to work and provide for themselves," said Tunje Brenna, head of the Norwegian Ministry of Labor [13]. The Norwegian authorities themselves admit that the conditions for immigrants have been too lenient in their country so far. But in the near future, they plan to rectify the situation and thereby solve the migration crisis in the country. Thus, due to the increasing flow of refugees and the number of asylum seekers, more and more amendments are being made to Norwegian legislation in order to limit the flow of migrants and reduce social costs for their maintenance. Those migrants who have been given permission to stay in the country will face strict requirements that should facilitate their integration into Norwegian society.

At the same time, modern models of migration policy in European countries (primarily Western and Northern Europe) are designed to solve the tasks of regularly replenishing demographic and labor potential, rational redistribution of labor resources between different sectors of the economy, as well as create conditions for the integration of migrants into a new cultural environment for them in order to

introduce them to the value system of indigenous Europeans. It is worth noting that in the last few years, scientists from Scandinavian countries have begun to pay great attention to the problems of adaptation and integration of migrants with racial and national overtones, since they are faced by children from interethnic or interracial marriages living in these countries. Scientists also focus on the problems of migrants caused by the difference in everyday customs, language and culture in general [14].

Therefore, one of the directions of the Norwegian Government's integration program has become the need to provide immigrants with basic knowledge of the Norwegian language and an understanding of the peculiarities of Norwegian society, followed by preparation for further education and employment. This program is designed for immigrants between the ages of 18 and 55. Immigrants are required to attend a course in Norwegian (250 hours) and social studies (50 hours). You can only participate in the training during the first 3 years of living in Norway. Immigrants aged 56-67 have the right, but are not required to take this course of study. As a rule, such training programs are created for each participant individually, taking into account his educational and professional needs and capabilities. It is possible to suspend participation in the program due to new circumstances, for example, a job offer has been received. The resumption of participation in the educational program of such persons is not necessary if they document their knowledge of the language. At the same time, 50 hours are allocated for courses of so-called social orientation, conducted in a language that the immigrant understands absolutely. Since 2014, the requirement has been introduced that upon completion of the 50-hour program, an immigrant must take a mandatory test. Those who need more time to study can receive up to 2,400 additional educational hours, depending on individual needs. At the same time, for labor immigrants from third countries, these courses are paid and compulsory in the amount of 300 hours. To obtain a permanent residence permit or Norwegian citizenship, you must successfully complete language courses or demonstrate language proficiency at the required level.

Thus, as we have seen, Norway is contributing to the international community by helping a large number of refugees. The Norwegian Government plans to continue to protect the institution of asylum in the country by pursuing a clear and predictable policy for the protection and repatriation of immigrants. However, the Norwegian authorities believe that the placement and amount of benefits for an asylum seeker should correspond to the benefits that are provided to them in other countries, since differences can affect the flow of immigrants. The large influx of migrants to the country over the past three decades has transformed an ethnically homogeneous Norwegian society into a multicultural, multiethnic and multi-confessional one, not devoid of internal contradictions and conflicts directly related to the poor receptivity of immigrants to the Norwegian mentality, the country's established legal and cultural norms, labor discipline and ethics. The Government of the country, aimed at solving the migration crisis in the coming years, is amending migration legislation to strengthen control over migration flows, while maintaining a focus on supporting multiculturalism and tolerance policies.

Conclusion

Thus, summarizing all the above, we can draw the following conclusions.

There have been a number of significant changes in Norwegian migration policy and legislation governing these issues since the second half of the twentieth century to the present, due to a sharp increase in the influx of immigrants from different regions of the world, based on which we have identified 4 stages. The first stage, the post-war period (1945-1960), was characterized primarily by the attraction of labor migrants from neighboring countries in order to accelerate the country's recovery. The second stage, the 1970s and 1980s, was marked by a gradual loss of homogeneity in Norwegian society due to the growing number of migrants from the Middle East, North Africa, India, and Pakistan with a different cultural paradigm and, as a response, the tightening of Norwegian migration legislation. The third stage was in the 1990s and 2010s, when Norway experienced several migration "surges", which served as the basis for updating the issue of the need for accelerated integration of migrants in the country and state control over the number of migrants. The fourth stage, from 2020 to the present, is associated with the growing pan-European migration crisis, the consequences of which Norway will have to cope with in the coming years.

In modern conditions, the migration policy of modern Norway is facing new challenges. On the one hand, immigration is currently the main factor of social change in Norway, gradually turning the

country into a society that is heterogeneous in terms of ethnicity, language, culture, and religion, changing the value basis of its existence and, as a result, the way of life of Norwegians. As a result, there has been a demand and at the same time increasing pressure from society and individual politicians to tighten migration policy, especially with regard to non-cultural migrants, who have become perceived as a threat to traditional Scandinavian identity. On the other hand, Norway wants to remain in the pan-European liberal course declared by the EU countries, aimed at further simplifying migration procedures in the context of current socio-economic crises and new geopolitical conflicts, which could pose a real threat to its national security and political stability.

At the same time, in modern conditions, Norwegian politicians tend to view immigration as a complex process and a new challenge facing the country. Norway needs migrants to replenish staff in the domestic labor market, but they are also an additional burden on the national social security system, since many migrants of working age do not plan to find work, despite the opportunities provided for them and plan to continue living on state benefits. The need to reduce government spending on social needs has become an urgent problem in Norway over the past decade amid declining oil revenues and an aging Norwegian population. As a result, there is a dilemma – how to maintain the current social security system in the country and at the same time limit access to benefits for some newly arrived immigrants in order to prevent the growth of social dependency. The situation may be aggravated by the fact that a multicultural policy without the prior integration of migrants can cause the emergence and development of an identity crisis, since it does not create incentives to adapt to a new society. Therefore, in the near future, representatives of the Norwegian authorities will have to pay more attention not only to controlling the number of immigrants, but also to their qualitative characteristics, including the level of Norwegian language proficiency, education, profession, etc., in order to ensure the sustainability of the national social security system, protect the labor market, and at the same time create conditions for their socio-cultural integration without disruption. the value foundations of Norwegian society.

At the present stage, the main goal of the integration component of the Norwegian state immigration policy should be to ensure the integrity, social order, and security in society. The need to achieve this goal determines the multilevel nature of immigration policy aimed at implementing an integration strategy embedded in a set of measures implemented in the educational, cultural and other spheres of Norwegian society.

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