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## Refugee reintegration policy in Ukraine: Advanced international experience, legal adaptation, and integration of sustainable development goals

**Mykhailo Moskaliuk**<sup>1,\*</sup>

*Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University*

**Volodymyr Matviienko**<sup>2</sup>

*Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv*

**Viktorija Lisnycha**<sup>3</sup>

*Interregional Academy of Personnel Management*

**Ruslan Frosiniak**<sup>4</sup>

*Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs*

**Anastasiia Sukhodolska**<sup>5</sup>

*State University "Kyiv Aviation Institute"*

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<sup>1</sup> PhD in Political Sciences, Associate Professor of Department of Political Sciences, Faculty of History, Political Science and International Relations, Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. ORCID: 0009-0009-5889-4637; E-mail: leonenkomaksym65@gmail.com (corresponding author).

<sup>2</sup> PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Economic and Social Geography, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine. ORCID: 0009-0002-9363-3757; E-mail: v\_matviienko@ukr.net.

<sup>3</sup> PhD in Public Administration, Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Kyiv, Ukraine. ORCID: 0009-0007-1374-3611; E-mail: lisnycha.vic@gmail.com.

<sup>4</sup> Doctor of Philosophy, Lecturer, Department of State and Legal Disciplines and Public Administration, Faculty No. 4, Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs, Kropyvnytskyi, Ukraine. ORCID: 0000-0002-5135-404X; E-mail: frosiniak.rus@gmail.com.

<sup>5</sup> PhD in Juridical Sciences, Associate Professor, Doctoral Student of the Department of Theory of State and Law and Constitutionalism, State University "Kyiv Aviation Institute", Kyiv, Ukraine. ORCID: 0000-0002-5794-9167; E-mail: a\_sukhodolska@gmail.com.

Transferability of international reintegration models. 4.4. Legal status and reintegration outcomes. 4.5. Institutional capacity and legal culture. 4.6. Compliance with international legal instruments. 5. Discussion. 5.1. Limitations. 5.2. Recommendations. 6. Conclusions. 7. References.

**Abstract:** This paper assesses the legal system of reintegration of refugees in Ukraine via a comparative legal and doctrinal approach that draws upon international refugee law and European legal norms. Reintegration is considered an obligation of states under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol and other human rights instruments; it is distinguished from the legal regime applicable to internally displaced persons. From a methodological perspective, the research uses a doctrinal legal methodology to determine the extent of normative obligations that exist in the Ukrainian legislation; the methodology also uses a comparative legal structure to compare Ukrainian legislation to international standards. In order to implement this comparison, a Normative Compliance Index was developed to measure how well Ukraine's legislation conforms to international standards across five legally defined dimensions of reintegration: legal status; access to rights; institutional obligations; procedural guarantees; and enforcement mechanisms. It is demonstrated in the study that there is a high level of formal compliance of Ukraine with international refugee law in three key aspects: legal assistance; housing; and employment guarantees. Despite this formal compliance with international standards, however, there are still large gaps in enforcement; institutional coordination; and the practical realization of rights. In addition, the study demonstrates that legal conformity of national laws with international standards is insufficient for ensuring successful reintegration of refugees; rather, a strong and effective mechanism of accountability and administrative capacity is necessary. Finally, the study contributes to the field of refugee law by developing a new model of reintegration governance that connects normative compliance with implementation; the study suggests a move away from mere declarative compliance with international standards towards legally binding compliance and effective reintegration mechanisms in post-conflict situations.

**Keywords:** Refugee Reintegration, International Refugee Law, Normative Compliance, Legal Harmonization, Post-Conflict Governance, Ukraine, Durable Solutions, Legal Implementation

## 1. Introduction

Large-scale forced displacement resulting from armed conflict creates complex legal obligations for states concerning the protection and reintegration of affected populations. In the case of Ukraine, the ongoing conflict has generated both cross-border displacement and internal displacement, thereby engaging distinct but related legal regimes. Refugees, as defined under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, benefit from a specific system of international protection grounded in the principles of non-refoulement, voluntary repatriation, and the pursuit of durable solutions<sup>6,7</sup>. In contrast, internally displaced

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<sup>6</sup> European Commission. "Entry into force of the legislation introducing an additional benefit for disabled and elderly single persons", 2021. Available at: [https://commission.europa.eu/projects/entry-force-legislation-introducing-additional-benefit-disabled-and-elderly-single-persons\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/projects/entry-force-legislation-introducing-additional-benefit-disabled-and-elderly-single-persons_en) (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania. 2020 metų veiklos ataskaita [2020 Annual Activity Report]. Vilnius: Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerija, 2021. Available

persons (IDPs) remain under the jurisdiction of their own state and are primarily protected by the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The failure to clearly distinguish between these categories risks undermining the precision of legal analysis and the coherence of reintegration policies<sup>8</sup>.

Reintegration, within the framework of international refugee law, constitutes one of the three recognized durable solutions, alongside local integration and resettlement. It is not merely a policy objective but a legally relevant process that requires states to ensure conditions of safety, dignity, and sustainability for returning individuals<sup>9</sup>. These obligations encompass access to legal status, housing, employment, healthcare, and effective remedies, and are reinforced by broader human rights instruments, including the European Convention on Human Rights. Consequently, reintegration must be understood as a normative legal construct that operates at the intersection of international obligations and domestic implementation<sup>10</sup>. While this approach highlights important governance dimensions, it has tended to overshadow the legal foundations of reintegration and the binding nature of state obligations under international law. As a result, existing analyses often emphasize institutional capacity and socio-economic outcomes without sufficiently examining the doctrinal content of legal norms, their internal coherence, and the extent of their implementation<sup>11</sup>. In Ukraine, reintegration has increasingly been framed within public policy discourse as part of post-conflict recovery and sustainable development, particularly in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)<sup>12</sup>.

The existing body of scholarship on reintegration in Ukraine is characterized by two principal limitations. First, it is predominantly interdisciplinary, drawing on public policy, sociology, and development studies, with comparatively limited engagement with doctrinal refugee law. Second, where legal analysis is present, it often lacks a systematic framework for assessing compliance with international obligations, particularly in terms of enforcement, accountability, and institutional effectiveness. This creates a gap between formal legal commitments and their practical realization, which remains insufficiently theorized in the literature<sup>13</sup>.

This article addresses these gaps by adopting a doctrinal and comparative legal approach to the study of refugee reintegration in Ukraine. It conceptualizes reintegration as a legally structured process and evaluates the extent to which Ukrainian law aligns with international refugee law and related human rights standards. In doing so, the article introduces a structured mechanism—the

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at:<https://socmin.lrv.lt/uploads/socmin/documents/files/ataskaitos/sadm/SADM%202020%20metu%20veiklos%20ataskaita%20-2021-03-18.pdf> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>8</sup> BANNIKOVA, K. B. "Phenomenon of social adaptation of forced Ukrainian migrants in Eastern European countries: Some models, regulatory mechanisms", *Migration Law*, v. 3, n. (1-2), 2023, p. 28-41. <https://doi.org/10.32752/2786-5185-2023-3-1-2-28-41>

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania. 2020 metų veiklos ataskaita [2020 annual activity report]. 2021. Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> KNYSH, S. "Anti-corruption policy of the European Union: Stages of formation, achievements and prospects", *Actual problems of law*, v. 1, 2024, p. 67-77. <https://doi.org/10.35774/app2024.01.067>

<sup>11</sup> SAMOILOV, O.; KRUPENYNA, N.; MUKHINA, G.; BYKOVA, V.; REMEKH, T. "Psychological and pedagogical aspects of adaptation of displaced Ukrainian children to the educational environment of another country", *International Electronic Journal of Elementary Education*, v. 16, n. 3, 2024, p. 391-400. <https://doi.org/10.26822/iejee.2024.339>

<sup>12</sup> United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. United Nations. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>13</sup> Lytvyn, N.; Andrushchenko, H.; Zozulya, Y. V.; Nikanorova, O. V.; Rusal, L. M. "Enforcement of court decisions as a social guarantee of protection of citizens rights and freedoms", *PRAWO I WIĘŹ*, v. 1, n. 39, 2022, p. 80-102. <https://doi.org/10.36128/prw.vi39.351>

Normative Compliance Index (NCI)—designed to assess the degree of conformity between national legal frameworks and international obligations across key dimensions of reintegration.

The study is guided by the following research questions:

RQ1: To what extent does the Ukrainian legal framework governing reintegration comply with international refugee law standards?

RQ2: What normative gaps exist between formal legal provisions and their implementation in practice?

RQ3: How can comparative legal models inform the development of a more effective and enforceable reintegration framework in Ukraine?

By addressing these questions, the article seeks to contribute to the development of refugee law scholarship in post-conflict contexts. It advances the argument that reintegration should be understood not only as a governance challenge but as a matter of legal obligation requiring enforceable norms, institutional accountability, and coherence between international standards and domestic legal systems. In this respect, the Ukrainian case provides a valuable example of the broader tension between legal harmonization and effective implementation in transitional legal orders.

## 2. Literature review

The reintegration of displaced populations has been widely examined across interdisciplinary fields, including public policy, sociology, development studies, and migration research<sup>14,15</sup>. Within these domains, reintegration is frequently conceptualized as a multidimensional process involving economic recovery, social inclusion, and institutional support, often aligned with the objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, and 16<sup>16</sup>. These approaches provide valuable insights into the socio-economic and psychological dimensions of reintegration; however, they only partially capture its legal nature as a process grounded in international obligations.

Existing scholarship emphasizes the importance of social and psychological recovery in post-conflict settings. For example, Okraku and Yohani<sup>17</sup> highlight the role of community-based support and resilience in facilitating reintegration and restoring individual agency among conflict-affected populations. Similarly, Mbazumutima<sup>18</sup> particularly in the absence of access to housing, employment, and security guarantees. These findings are highly relevant for Ukraine, where ongoing regional instability continues to affect reintegration outcomes.

From an institutional perspective, reintegration has been analyzed as a component of state-building and governance. Um<sup>19</sup> conceptualizes reintegration as a long-term political and institutional process closely linked to trust-building

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<sup>14</sup> OKRAKU, O. O.; YOHANI, S. "Resilience in the face of adversity: A focused ethnography of former girl child soldiers living in Ghana". *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, 2020, 22(3), 809–830. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-020-00769-y>

<sup>15</sup> UM, K. "Refugee return, reintegration, and sustainable futurity: Politics, pitfalls and possibilities of repatriation in post/conflict situations", *Geopolitics*, v. 28, n. 3, 2023, p. 1130–1160. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2023.2170787>

<sup>16</sup> LOSCHMANN, C.; MARCHAND, K. "The labor market reintegration of returned refugees in Afghanistan". *Small Business Economics*, 2020, 56(3), 1033–1045. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11187-019-00315-w>

<sup>17</sup> OKRAKU, O. O.; YOHANI, S. "Resilience in the face of adversity: A focused ethnography of former girl child soldiers living in Ghana". 2020. *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> MBAZUMUTIMA, T. "Staying in Tanzania or Returning to Burundi is all the Same": Re-Imagining the Reintegration of Burundian Returnees", *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, v. 42, n. 3, 2023, p. 336–360. <https://doi.org/10.1093/rsq/hdad011>

<sup>19</sup> UM, K. "Refugee return, reintegration, and sustainable futurity: Politics, pitfalls and possibilities of repatriation in post/conflict situations". 2023. *Ibid.*

between citizens and the state. Komakech and Orach<sup>20</sup> further demonstrate that weak institutional coordination and inadequate healthcare infrastructure significantly undermine reintegration efforts in post-conflict environments. These studies underscore the importance of institutional capacity; however, they tend to approach reintegration primarily from a governance or policy perspective, rather than as a system of legally defined obligations.

Economic dimensions of reintegration are also extensively documented. Loschmann and Marchand<sup>21</sup> show that access to labor markets, vocational training, and entrepreneurship support are key determinants of sustainable reintegration. Similarly, Owigo<sup>22</sup> emphasizes that without economic stability, reintegration processes remain cyclical and may lead to repeated displacement. While these contributions highlight critical practical factors, they do not sufficiently engage with the legal frameworks that regulate access to employment, social protection, and economic rights.

Additional strands of literature focus on gender and education as underexplored dimensions of reintegration. Opong et al.<sup>23</sup> demonstrate that refugee women face disproportionate barriers in accessing healthcare and social services, pointing to the necessity of gender-sensitive legal and policy frameworks. Güngör and Soysal<sup>24</sup> identify legal and bureaucratic obstacles to accessing higher education as a significant barrier to integration, emphasizing the need for regulatory reforms to ensure recognition of qualifications and continuity of education. These findings reveal important structural inequalities but remain largely detached from a systematic analysis of international legal standards governing such rights.

A smaller body of research addresses legal and institutional adaptation in the context of forced migration. Bannikova<sup>25</sup> emphasizes the importance of aligning national legislation with international legal standards and highlights the role of intermediary institutions in facilitating access to rights<sup>26</sup>. Similarly, Weine et al.<sup>27</sup> propose integrated reintegration approaches that combine legal protection with psychosocial and educational measures. However, even within this strand, legal analysis is often fragmented and lacks a coherent doctrinal framework grounded in international refugee law.

In international refugee law, reintegration is more precisely understood as part of the broader concept of “durable solutions,” which includes voluntary repatriation,

<sup>20</sup> KOMAKECH, H.; ORACH, C. G. “Repatriation of South Sudanese refugees from the West Nile districts, Uganda. What do we learn from the process?”, *African Health Sciences*, v. 22, n. 2, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v22i2.17s>

<sup>21</sup> LOSCHMANN, C.; MARCHAND, K. “The labor market reintegration of returned refugees in Afghanistan”, *Small Business Economics*. 2020. *Ibid*.

<sup>22</sup> OWIGO, J. “Returnees and the dilemmas of (un)sustainable return and reintegration in Somalia”, *Africal Human Mobility Review*, v. 8, n. 2, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.14426/ahmr.v8i2.1132>

<sup>23</sup> OPONG, G.; MANIPLE, E. B.; AGABIIRWE, C. N. “Lived experiences of refugee women with vaginal fistula in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements, Isingiro District, Uganda”, *BMC Women S Health*, v. 24, n. 1, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-024-02926-2>

<sup>24</sup> GÜNGÖR, H.; SOYSAL, T. “Türk yükseköğretiminde suriyeli mülteciler”, *Milli Eğitim Dergisi*, v. 50, n. 1, 2021, p. 1245–1264. <https://doi.org/10.37669/milliegitim.960083>

<sup>25</sup> BANNIKOVA, K. B. “Phenomenon of social adaptation of forced Ukrainian migrants in Eastern European countries: Some models, regulatory mechanisms”. 2023. *Ibid*.

<sup>26</sup> MASIULYTĖ, G. *Viešojo sektoriaus ir nevyriausybių organizacijų bendradarbiavimas valdant pabėgėlių krizę Lietuvoje ir Vokietijoje = Cooperation between public and non-governmental organisations in refugee crisis management in Lithuania and Germany (Master’s final project)*, Kaunas University of Technology, 2023. Available at: <https://epubl.ktu.edu/object/elaba:152333461/MAIN> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>27</sup> WEINE, S.; BRAHMBATT, Z.; CARDELI, E.; ELLIS, H. “Rapid review to inform the rehabilitation and reintegration of child returnees from the Islamic State”, *Annals of Global Health*, v. 86, n. 1, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.5334/aogh.2835>

local integration, and resettlement. These solutions are guided by core legal principles such as non-refoulement, voluntariness, safety, dignity, and sustainability. Despite the centrality of these principles, they are rarely systematically integrated into interdisciplinary reintegration studies, including those focused on Ukraine. As a result, the legal dimension of reintegration—particularly the scope of state obligations, enforcement mechanisms, and accountability structures—remains underdeveloped in the literature.

Furthermore, a critical conceptual gap persists in the frequent conflation of refugees and IDPs. While both groups experience displacement, they are governed by distinct legal regimes: refugees fall under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, whereas IDPs are protected under the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Failure to maintain this distinction leads to analytical ambiguity and weakens the precision of legal assessments.

Overall, the existing literature demonstrates a strong empirical and interdisciplinary understanding of reintegration processes but reveals significant limitations from a legal perspective. First, doctrinal analysis of international refugee law remains insufficiently developed in relation to reintegration. Second, there is a lack of systematic frameworks for assessing legal compliance and implementation at the national level. Third, the relationship between formal legal obligations and their practical enforcement is inadequately theorized, particularly in post-conflict contexts such as Ukraine.

This article addresses these gaps by developing a doctrinal and comparative legal framework for analyzing refugee reintegration. It contributes to the literature by systematizing the legal dimensions of reintegration, distinguishing clearly between different categories of displaced persons, and proposing a structured approach to evaluating compliance with international legal standards.

### **3. Methods**

This study employs a doctrinal and comparative legal research design, supplemented by structured socio-legal analysis, in order to evaluate the extent to which the Ukrainian legal framework governing refugee reintegration complies with international legal standards. The methodological approach is designed to ensure normative precision, analytical transparency, and reproducibility, addressing the gap between formal legal obligations and their implementation.

The research proceeds through five sequential stages: (1) identification and interpretation of applicable international and domestic legal norms; (2) systematization of reintegration-related obligations into analytically distinct legal dimensions; (3) comparative evaluation of selected jurisdictions based on functional equivalence; (4) construction and application of a NCI; and (5) validation of findings through triangulation of legal sources and institutional data.

#### **3.1. Doctrinal legal analysis**

The core methodology of this study is doctrinal legal analysis, which involves the systematic identification, interpretation, and structuring of legal norms governing refugee reintegration.

Primary legal sources include: the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; the European Convention on Human Rights; relevant national legislation of Ukraine regulating migration, social protection, and administrative procedures.

Secondary sources include academic literature, institutional reports, and interpretative instruments developed by international organizations such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and International Organization for Migration.

The doctrinal analysis is conducted through four analytical steps: (1) identification of applicable norms; (2) interpretation of their legal content and scope of obligations; (3) classification of norms according to functional areas of reintegration; and (4) assessment of their coherence, enforceability, and legal effect.

This approach ensures that reintegration is analyzed not as a policy construct, but as a system of legally binding obligations grounded in international refugee law.

### **3.2. Comparative legal method**

A comparative legal analysis was conducted to identify legal mechanisms relevant to refugee reintegration and to evaluate their potential transferability to the Ukrainian context. The study adopted a functional comparative approach, under which legal systems were compared according to the functions they perform in regulating reintegration rather than according to formal institutional similarity alone.

Twelve jurisdictions were selected on the basis of three criteria: (1) the existence of identifiable reintegration-related or return-related legal frameworks; (2) experience with displacement, including post-conflict return, migration governance, or reintegration policy; and (3) institutional or regional comparability to Ukraine.

Each jurisdiction was examined through specific legal instruments, including migration laws, social protection legislation, administrative procedures, and reintegration-related programs. The full list of instruments analyzed in each jurisdiction is provided in Annex I. This ensures transparency in source selection and reproducibility in the comparative assessment.

The selected jurisdictions were grouped into three analytical categories: liberal democracies (Canada, Germany, Sweden, Australia), post-conflict or transitional states (Rwanda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Colombia), and regional comparators (Poland, Moldova, Turkey, Croatia). This classification was used to capture functional diversity in legal design and institutional response.

The analysis did not assume identical historical or political conditions across jurisdictions. Instead, it examined how different legal systems structure rights, institutional duties, procedural guarantees, and enforcement mechanisms relevant to reintegration. On that basis, the study identified legal mechanisms that may be adapted to Ukraine's post-conflict legal order through functional integration rather than direct legal transplantation.

### **3.3. Selection of international legal standards**

The study is based on a structured selection of international legal instruments that define normative standards for reintegration. The selection criteria include: binding legal force (e.g., treaties); authoritative interpretative status (e.g., UNHCR guidelines); functional relevance to reintegration processes.

The core instruments include: the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol; the European Convention on Human Rights; the Global Compact on Refugees; the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement; the EU Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU; the IOM Reintegration Handbook.

The inclusion of the Kampala Convention is justified by its normative relevance to post-conflict reintegration, despite its regional scope, as it provides one of the most developed legal frameworks linking displacement, return, and reintegration.

Each instrument was analyzed to extract specific legal obligations, which were subsequently operationalized within the analytical framework.

### **3.4. Operationalization of reintegration dimensions**

To ensure methodological transparency, the five dimensions of reintegration were directly derived from international legal instruments.

These dimensions are: (1) Legal status and documentation (derived from the 1951 Convention; ECHR – legal identity and protection). (2) Access to housing (derived from human rights law; UNHCR standards; SDG 11). (3) Access to employment and economic activity (derived from the 1951 Convention; SDG 8). (4) Access to healthcare and social protection (derived from human rights instruments; SDGs 3 and 10). (5) Participation in social and civic life (derived from ECHR; SDG 16 principles).

The derivation of reintegration dimensions from specific international legal instruments is systematized in Table 1, which demonstrates the normative grounding of each analytical category.

**Table 1.** Legal derivation of reintegration dimensions from international instruments.

<b>Reintegration dimension</b>	<b>1951 refugee convention/1967 protocol</b>	<b>European convention on human rights (ECHR)</b>	<b>UNHCR/soft law instruments</b>	<b>EU law (reception conditions directive)</b>	<b>SDGs framework (UN 2030 agenda)</b>
<b>Legal status and documentation</b>	Legal identity, refugee status determination, protection against refoulement	Right to legal certainty; procedural safeguards (Art. 6, 13)	UNHCR standards on status determination and documentation	Registration and documentation obligations	SDG 16 (rule of law, legal identity)
<b>Access to housing</b>	Obligation of non-discriminatory access to housing (Art. 21)	Right to respect for private and family life (Art. 8)	UNHCR reintegration and return guidelines	Material reception conditions including housing	SDG 11 (sustainable cities), SDG 1
<b>Access to employment and economic activity</b>	Right to work and self-employment (Arts. 17–19)	Protection of economic rights through non-discrimination	UNHCR economic reintegration standards	Access to labour market under defined conditions	SDG 8 (decent work), SDG 10
<b>Access to healthcare and social protection</b>	Public relief and assistance (Art. 23)	Right to life and protection from inhuman treatment (Arts. 2, 3)	UNHCR and IOM reintegration assistance frameworks	Access to healthcare and social support	SDG 3 (health), SDG 10
<b>Participation in social and civic life</b>	Freedom of association (Art. 15), integration rights	Freedom of assembly and association (Art. 11)	UNHCR integration principles (dignity, inclusion)	Integration-related support measures	SDG 16 (inclusive institutions), SDG 4

Source: developed by the authors based on data from Rom et al.<sup>28</sup>, Central Intelligence Agency<sup>29</sup>, U.S. Department of Justice, National Security Division, Office of Justice for Victims

<sup>28</sup> ROM, M. C.; HIDAKA, M.; WALKER, R. B. "Types of legal systems around the world", In Introduction to Political Science. OpenStax, 2022. Available at: <https://openstax.org/books/introduction-political-science/pages/11-3-types-of-legal-systems-around-the-world> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>29</sup> Central Intelligence Agency. Spotlighting The World Factbook as We Bid a Fond Farewell, 2026. Available at: [https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) (accessed on 16 February 2026).

of Overseas Terrorism<sup>30</sup> UNHCR<sup>31,32,33,34</sup>, United Nations<sup>35</sup>, African Union<sup>36</sup>, Council of Europe<sup>37</sup>, European Parliament & Council of the EU<sup>38</sup>, International Organization for Migration<sup>39</sup>

This ensures that the analytical framework is normatively grounded rather than arbitrarily constructed.

### 3.5. Construction of the normative compliance index

The study introduces a NCI as a doctrinal tool for evaluating the degree of alignment between national legal frameworks and international reintegration standards. The NCI measures compliance rather than the mere existence of legal regulation. In this sense, the index distinguishes between formal legal recognition of a norm and the extent to which that norm is enforceable, operationalized, and institutionally supported.

Each reintegration dimension was evaluated using a four-point scale: 0 – absence of legal regulation; 1 – declarative or symbolic compliance, where a norm exists but lacks enforceability or institutional support; 2 – partial compliance, where a norm is operational but incomplete in scope, guarantees, or implementation design; 3 – full legal compliance, where a norm substantially aligns with

<sup>30</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, National Security Division, Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism. International legal systems – An introduction, n.d. Available at: <https://www.justice.gov/nsd-ovt/page/file/1019311/dl?inline> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>31</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). "Handbook: Voluntary repatriation: International protection", 1996. Available at: [https://www.unhcr.org/bg/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/12/Handbook\\_Voluntary-Repatriation\\_1996.pdf](https://www.unhcr.org/bg/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/12/Handbook_Voluntary-Repatriation_1996.pdf) (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>32</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Refugees and asylum seekers in the European Union: A statistical overview. UNHCR, 2009. Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/43ce1cff2.pdf> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>33</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Global compact on refugees, United Nations, 2018. Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/5c658aed4.pdf> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>34</sup> UNHCR. "The 1951 Refugee Convention. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", 2025. Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>35</sup> United Nations. "Protocol relating to the status of refugees", 1967. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-relating-status-refugees> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>36</sup> African Union. "African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa ("Kampala Convention"), 2009. Available at: <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-protection-and-assistance-internally-displaced-persons-africa> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>37</sup> Council of Europe. "European Convention on Human Rights, as amended by Protocols Nos. 11, 14, and 15", 1950. Available at: [https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/convention\\_ENG](https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/convention_ENG) (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>38</sup> European Parliament Council of the European Union. "Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast)", Official Journal of the European Union, v. L 180, 2013, p. 96–116. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013L0033&from=EN> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>39</sup> International Organization for Migration. Reintegration handbook: Practical guidance on the design, implementation, and monitoring of reintegration assistance, 2019. Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/reintegration-handbook-practical-guidance-design-implementation-and-monitoring-reintegration> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

international standards and is supported by enforcement mechanisms or procedural guarantees.

This distinction is methodologically necessary because legal regulation and legal compliance are not synonymous. A legal norm may formally exist in domestic legislation while still failing to satisfy the requirements of enforceability, accessibility of remedies, or institutional implementation that follow from international standards.

Unless a hierarchy of legal obligations required otherwise, all dimensions were weighted equally. The aggregate result was then normalized to a 0–100 scale in order to allow structured longitudinal comparison across the period under examination.

### **3.6. Data sources and validation**

The study relies on three categories of sources: (1) Normative legal texts (international and national legislation). (2) Institutional reports (European Commission, UNHCR, IOM). (3) Analytical datasets and expert assessments

To ensure methodological reliability, triangulation was applied by cross-verifying findings across these sources.

Where discrepancies arise between legal norms and implementation, the study maintains a doctrinal focus, while documenting implementation gaps as part of qualitative analysis. Each identified legal instrument was analyzed using a standardized doctrinal protocol, including assessment of (1) normative content, (2) scope of rights and obligations, (3) enforcement mechanisms, and (4) institutional implementation structure. This ensured consistent evaluation across jurisdictions.

### **3.7. Role of socio-legal and statistical elements**

Socio-legal analysis is used to assess the interaction between formal legal norms and their practical application, particularly in areas of weak enforcement.

Statistical tools (e.g., SPSS) are used only for descriptive visualization, such as tracking changes in compliance over time.

They do not constitute an independent methodological framework, thereby preserving the legal-doctrinal nature of the study.

## **4. Results**

All findings presented in this section are derived from the doctrinal and comparative methodology outlined in Section 3. The results reflect a **normative** legal assessment of compliance with international reintegration standards and do not constitute an empirical evaluation of policy effectiveness in practice. The legal sources underlying the comparative assessment are fully disclosed in Annex I, ensuring transparency and reproducibility of the analysis.

### **4.1. Comparative patterns of reintegration regulation**

The comparative findings presented in this section are based on the analysis of specific legal instruments for each jurisdiction, as detailed in Annex I. Each compliance score reflects the extent to which these instruments incorporate and operationalize international reintegration standards across the defined dimensions.

The comparative analysis reveals that reintegration is regulated across jurisdictions through heterogeneous legal architectures, which differ in terms of normative density, enforceability, and institutional structuring. These differences were assessed across the five reintegration dimensions defined in Section 3.4: legal status, housing, employment, healthcare, and civic participation.

*(1) Legal status and documentation.*

Across all analyzed jurisdictions, legal status constitutes the core entry point for reintegration, as it determines access to rights and institutional protection.

In liberal democracies (Canada, Germany, Sweden, Australia), legal status is governed by codified migration and administrative laws, which establish clear procedures for status determination, documentation, and access to remedies. These systems demonstrate high normative precision and procedural enforceability, corresponding to NCI scores in the upper range ( $S_i \approx 2.5-3.0$ ).

In post-conflict and transitional states (Rwanda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Colombia), legal status frameworks are often partially codified and supplemented by executive or programmatic instruments, resulting in moderate levels of normative clarity ( $S_i \approx 1.5-2.3$ ).

In regional comparator states (Poland, Moldova, Turkey, Croatia), legal status regulation reflects hybrid models, combining statutory provisions with administrative discretion, leading to variable compliance levels across jurisdictions.

*(2) Access to housing.*

Housing regulation demonstrates significant variation in terms of legal enforceability and institutional guarantees.

Liberal democracies provide legally enforceable access to housing or material reception conditions, often embedded in social welfare legislation. This produces high compliance scores ( $S_i \approx 2.5-3.0$ ).

Transitional states typically prioritize housing within reintegration policies; however, these provisions are frequently programmatic rather than legally enforceable, resulting in partial compliance ( $S_i \approx 1.5-2.2$ ).

Regional comparators exhibit fragmented regulation, where access to housing depends on local administrative capacity rather than uniform legal guarantees.

*(3) Access to employment and economic activity.*

Employment is consistently recognized as a central element of sustainable reintegration, but its legal regulation varies.

In liberal democracies, access to employment is explicitly regulated and supported by labor market integration mechanisms, ensuring high normative compliance.

In transitional states, employment rights are often formally recognized but lack institutional enforcement mechanisms, leading to declarative or partial compliance.

Regional comparators demonstrate selective barriers, with legal access to employment existing alongside administrative barriers.

*(4) Access to healthcare and social protection.*

Healthcare and social protection represent areas where formal legal guarantees frequently exceed implementation capacity.

Liberal democracies provide comprehensive legal entitlements, supported by institutionalized welfare systems.

Transitional and regional states often incorporate healthcare rights into legislation; however, these rights are not consistently enforceable, resulting in moderate compliance levels.

*(5) Participation in social and civic life.*

Participation rights are the least formally regulated dimension across jurisdictions.

In liberal democracies, these rights are protected through constitutional and human rights frameworks, though not always explicitly linked to reintegration.

In transitional and regional systems, civic participation is typically addressed through policy-level instruments rather than binding legal norms, resulting in lower compliance scores ( $S_i \approx 1.2-2.0$ ).

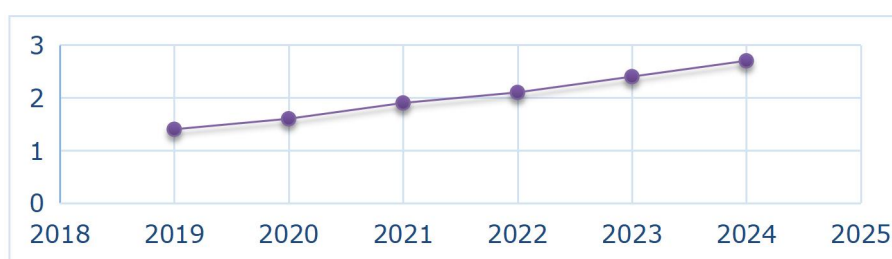
The comparative analysis demonstrates that higher levels of normative compliance are associated with: codified legal frameworks, clearly defined institutional responsibilities, availability of legal remedies.

Conversely, systems characterized by fragmented governance structures or reliance on policy instruments tend to produce declarative compliance, where legal norms exist but lack enforceability.

#### 4.2. Dynamics of Ukraine's normative compliance

Ukraine's compliance with international reintegration standards was evaluated using the NCI across the period 2019–2024. Figure 1 presents the longitudinal dynamics of Ukraine's NCI for the period 2019–2024. These figures were calculated using the methodology described in Section 3.5. Each annual value represents an aggregated score. This score is derived from five reintegration dimensions. These dimensions were evaluated on a 0–3 scale and then normalized to a 0–100 index.

The data are based on a doctrinal analysis. This analysis includes national legislation, international legal obligations, and supporting institutional reports. This approach ensures consistency between the normative evaluation and empirical observation.



**Figure 1.** Evolution of Ukraine's Normative Compliance with International Reintegration Standards (2019–2024). Source: Developed by the authors based on European Commission<sup>40</sup>, IBM Corp.<sup>41</sup>

**Table 4.** Annual NCI of Ukraine by reintegration dimension (2019–2024).

Year	Legal status	Housing	Employment	Healthcare & social protection	Civic participation	NCI total (0–100)
2019	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.0	38
2020	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.2	45
2021	2.4	2.0	2.0	1.6	1.4	52
2022	2.6	2.3	2.3	1.9	1.6	60
2023	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.2	1.8	66
2024	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.0	71

Source: Developed by the authors based on Global Disability Fund<sup>42</sup>, MAXQDA<sup>43</sup>. Note: Scores are assigned according to the 0–3 scale defined in Section 3.5 and normalized to a 0–100 index.

Table 4 provides the numerical representation of Ukraine's NCI scores across the analyzed period. These values are derived from the weighted aggregation of

<sup>40</sup> European Commission. Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations. Ukraine Report 2024 (SWD(2024) 699 final). Brussels: European Commission, 2024. Available at: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024SC0699&utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024SC0699&utm_source=chatgpt.com) (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>41</sup> IBM Corp. "IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows (Version 27.0) [Computer software]", 2020.

<sup>42</sup> Global Disability Fund. "Situational Analysis on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine. Country brief", 2025. Available at: <https://globaldisabilityfund.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Country-brief-Ukraine.pdf> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

<sup>43</sup> MAXQDA. "MAXQDA: The #1 qualitative data analysis software. VERBI Software. Consult. Sozialforschung GmbH", 2025. Available at: <https://www.maxqda.com> (accessed on 16 February 2026).

dimension-specific compliance scores, as defined in the NCI model. The table allows for a transparent verification of the trend presented in Figure 1 and demonstrates the incremental nature of legal alignment with international standards.

The results demonstrate a progressive increase in normative alignment, with Ukraine's NCI score rising from 38 in 2019 to 71 in 2024. This trajectory indicates a sustained expansion of formal legal compatibility with international reintegration standards.

Three phases may be distinguished. The first phase, covering 2019–2020, was characterized by limited normative alignment, fragmented legal provisions, and reliance on general social protection legislation rather than a structured reintegration framework. The second phase, covering 2021–2022, reflected gradual legal adaptation, including broader regulation of housing and employment-related guarantees and closer approximation to European legal standards. The third phase, covering 2023–2024, was marked by accelerated harmonization under conditions of intensified conflict, which prompted broader codification of reintegration-related rights and greater formal alignment with international obligations.

At the dimension-specific level, legal status and documentation showed the highest level of compliance, followed by employment and housing. Healthcare and social protection demonstrated more moderate compliance because legal guarantees were not always matched by clear implementation mechanisms. Civic participation remained the weakest dimension, reflecting limited explicit regulation and lower normative elaboration within the domestic framework.

These findings confirm substantial progress in formal legal harmonization. At the same time, they indicate that normative alignment does not in itself establish effective implementation. The results therefore point to a continuing divergence between declarative compliance and operational compliance, which is examined further in the Discussion section.

#### 4.3. Transferability of international reintegration models

The comparative analysis indicates that no single jurisdiction provides a directly transferable model for Ukraine. Instead, transferability operates at the level of specific legal mechanisms.

**Table 5. Comparative Legal Compliance by Jurisdiction (NCI-Based Assessment).**

Country	Legal Status	Housing	Employment	Healthcare	Civic Participation	Average Score (0–3)
Canada	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.82
Germany	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.74
Sweden	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.80
Australia	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.64
Rwanda	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.96
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2.1	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.00
Georgia	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.10
Colombia	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.20
Poland	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.32
Moldova	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.00
Turkey	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.10
Croatia	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.30

Source: developed by the authors based on data from the World Justice Project<sup>44</sup> (see Annex I). Note: Scores reflect normative legal compliance, not implementation effectiveness.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Global compact on refugees, United Nations, 2018. Ibid.

Table 5 presents the results of the functional analogy assessment, which evaluates the transferability of selected international reintegration mechanisms to the Ukrainian context. The most transferable elements include:

- (1) codified legal guarantees (from liberal democracies);
- (2) integrated institutional coordination frameworks (from post-conflict states);
- (3) adaptive administrative mechanisms (from regional comparators).

However, direct transplantation of legal models is limited by differences in institutional capacity, constitutional structure and scale and intensity of displacement. Therefore, effective legal adaptation requires functional integration rather than formal replication.

#### **4.4. Legal status and reintegration outcomes**

The analysis demonstrates that legal status functions as a foundational condition for reintegration because it enables access to rights, public services, and institutional protection. Without a secure legal status, other guarantees remain unstable or inaccessible in practice.

At the same time, legal status alone does not guarantee effective reintegration. Where it is not accompanied by enforceable rights, institutional coordination, and access to remedies, reintegration remains formally recognized but practically constrained. This finding confirms that legal status is a necessary but insufficient condition for sustainable reintegration and must be supported by broader implementation structures.

#### **4.5. Institutional capacity and legal culture**

The results indicate that **institutional capacity and legal culture** significantly influence the degree to which normative compliance is translated into practice.

Jurisdictions with centralized administrative coordination, clearly defined competencies and accountability mechanisms demonstrate more consistent alignment between legal norms and implementation.

#### **4.6. Compliance with international legal instruments**

The analysis confirms that Ukraine has achieved partial-to-substantial compliance with core international instruments, including the 1951 Refugee Convention, the European Convention on Human Rights and UNHCR and EU standards.

However, compliance remains uneven across dimensions, particularly in enforcement mechanisms, procedural guarantees and institutional coordination.

### **5. Discussion**

The findings of this research support the belief that reintegration of refugees in Ukraine, as such, is to be understood both as an administrative process/policy, and also as a legally obligatory process according to international refugee law and related human rights regulations. The findings show significant improvement of Ukraine's legal system towards meeting international standards; however, it shows a continued disparity between legal compliance and effective application of these norms.

Doctrinally, this discrepancy represents the systemic limitations of legal integration processes in post-conflict situations. In addition, Ukraine has implemented many of the internationally recognized aspects of refugee protection into its domestic legal system (i.e., legal assistance, housing, and employment). However, because there are no mechanisms to effectively enforce the rights and/or

monitor compliance of institutions within Ukraine, the ability to implement these rights practically remains limited<sup>45</sup>.

In general, the above findings support the larger point that legal compliance does not equal legal effectiveness in transitional legal systems.

The findings of this research support the literature regarding the multiple dimensions of reintegration. Um points out that reintegration is not simply a legal or administrative action, but involves, in fact, a variety of political, institutional, and social dimensions<sup>46,47,48</sup>. However, the current research adds to this literature by indicating that legal certainty serves as a necessary prerequisite for the other dimensions of reintegration, not just one dimension.

Without a clear legal status, individuals remain structurally incapable of accessing their rights, regardless of what measures have been taken on the policy level.

A key implication of this analysis is that State responsibility and accountability are critical to ensure compliance with international obligations. International refugee law creates not only substantive obligations (i.e. rights) and procedural obligations (to ensure the realization of those rights). The Ukrainian context shows that there is no systematic monitoring mechanism and limited access to effective remedies to guarantee the realization of reintegration related rights. Therefore, a deficit in accountability mechanisms and thus in enforcement of reintegration related rights occurs<sup>49</sup>.

Institutional capacity and decentralization appear to have an influence on how well the legal norms are implemented. For example, countries like Canada and Colombia show that local governance structures are important to implement reintegration policies, especially when direct contact with affected populations is necessary. The findings of this study confirm the findings of Loschmann and Marchand, who identified the importance of economic integration mechanisms for sustainable reintegration<sup>50</sup>. However, this study has added a legal component to show that decentralization, without clear legal competencies and accountability mechanisms, can increase regional disparities instead of solving them.

The comparative study also highlighted the limitations of applying international reintegration models in the Ukrainian context without adapting them to the specific circumstances. Although some foreign legal mechanisms show a functional analogy with the institutional structure of Ukraine, their effectiveness will depend on other factors, such as the legal culture, administrative capacity and available resources. This therefore confirms the necessity of accompanying legal transplants with institutional and procedural adaptations, and not to rely solely on the formal reproduction of foreign models.

Furthermore, the study points out that the social and psychological aspects of reintegration are insufficiently addressed within the current legal framework of

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<sup>45</sup> UM, K. "Refugee return, reintegration, and sustainable futurity: Politics, pitfalls and possibilities of repatriation in post/conflict situations". 2023. Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> LOSCHMANN, C.; MARCHAND, K. "The labor market reintegration of returned refugees in Afghanistan". 2020. Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> OPONG, G.; MANIPLE, E. B.; AGABIIRWE, C. N. "Lived experiences of refugee women with vaginal fistula in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements, Isingiro District, Uganda". 2024. Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Miežanskienė, R. "Immigrants in the legal system of the welcoming country: Considering the role of intermediaries", *Public Policy and Administration*, v. 22, n. 3, 2023, p. 252–267. <https://doi.org/10.5755/j01.paa.22.3.34890>

<sup>49</sup> OPONG, G.; MANIPLE, E. B.; AGABIIRWE, C. N. "Lived experiences of refugee women with vaginal fistula in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements, Isingiro District, Uganda". 2024. Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> LOSCHMANN, C.; MARCHAND, K. "The labor market reintegration of returned refugees in Afghanistan". 2020. Ibid.

Ukraine. Gender neutral approaches as described by Opong et al. do not take into account structural inequalities against women and vulnerable groups<sup>51</sup>. Moreover, the lack of legal guarantees of psychosocial support mechanisms increases the risk that reintegration results in outcomes that are formally compliant but socially unstable. The study therefore emphasizes the necessity to interpret reintegration obligations based on broader human rights principles, such as non-discrimination and substantive equality.

Research carried out before, including Miežanskienė, indicate that the successfulness of reintegration depends on the presence of functionally operating legal and institutional structures that support the long term inclusion<sup>52</sup>. The present study confirms that premature or unassisted return may endanger the rights of individuals and hamper the post conflict reconstruction process, specifically if the legal and administrative systems in the country remain underdeveloped.

Theoretically, this article contributes to the further development of refugee law by introducing a distinction between declarative compliance and operational compliance. Declarative compliance refers to the formal inclusion of international standards in domestic law, whereas operational compliance involves the establishment of enforceable mechanisms to realize the rights in practice. The Ukrainian case exemplifies that advancement in declarative compliance does not automatically result in achievement in operational compliance.

Lastly, the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 16, provide a suitable analytical framework to assess the coherence of reintegration policies. Nevertheless, the study also demonstrates that SDG-approaches need to be supplemented with strict legal analysis because policy coherence is not sufficient to replace legally binding obligations. The findings therefore emphasize the necessity to link governance-oriented frameworks with the doctrine-based requirements of international law.

### 5.1. Limitations

The study has several methodological and contextual limitations that should be considered when interpreting the results.

First, the study is based primarily on doctrinal legal analysis and secondary sources. These include legislative acts, international documents, official reports and expert assessments. This approach allows for an assessment of compliance with norms, but does not reflect the real-life experiences of individuals undergoing reintegration. It also does not provide direct empirical evidence on the application of norms at the local level. Therefore, the analysis may overestimate formal legal structures.

Second, the NCI is a structured assessment tool. However, it contains an element of subjectivity when determining the level of compliance. Even with clear criteria, the assessment may differ depending on the researcher's approach. This is a typical shortcoming of complex legal indices.

Third, the comparative law approach does not fully take into account differences between countries. Legal systems differ in institutional capacity, legal culture and economic conditions. The functional analogy method partially reduces these differences, but does not eliminate them completely.

Fourth, the study is conducted in an ongoing armed conflict. The legal environment is changing rapidly, which limits the stability of the results.

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<sup>51</sup> OPONG, G.; MANIPLE, E. B.; AGABIIRWE, C. N. "Lived experiences of refugee women with vaginal fistula in Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements, Isingiro District, Uganda". 2024. Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Miežanskienė, R. "Immigrants in the legal system of the welcoming country: Considering the role of intermediaries". 2023. Ibid.

Finally, the analysis is focused on the national level. Regional differences in the implementation of norms remain insufficiently explored.

## **5.2. Recommendations**

The results of the study show that improving the reintegration of refugees in Ukraine requires not only policy changes, but also systemic legal and institutional reforms. These should strengthen compliance with international refugee law.

First, a single legal framework for reintegration should be codified. It should clearly define the legal status, rights and procedural guarantees of returnees. Existing norms should be consolidated into a coherent system. This will reduce fragmentation and ensure legal certainty.

Second, mechanisms for protecting rights should be strengthened. This should include improving judicial and administrative remedies, monitoring compliance with international obligations and ensuring access to legal aid.

Third, Ukrainian legislation should be aligned with international law and European standards. Particular attention should be paid to procedural guarantees, non-discrimination and access to justice. It is important not only to formally align norms, but also to ensure their real application.

Fourth, there needs to be a clear demarcation of powers between central and local authorities. Decentralization should be accompanied by clear responsibilities, stable funding and coordination.

Fifth, legislation should take into account gender aspects and the vulnerability of certain groups. Additional protection should be provided for women, children and persons with disabilities.

Sixth, training of judges and officials in refugee law should be developed.

Finally, reintegration policies should be based on legal monitoring mechanisms. In particular, indicators linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 16, should be used. At the same time, such instruments should be enshrined in legislation and have an accountability function.

## **6. Conclusions**

This article examined the legal and institutional framework of refugee reintegration in Ukraine through a doctrinal and comparative legal analysis. The findings show that Ukraine has made substantial progress in aligning domestic legislation with international refugee law and relevant European standards, particularly in relation to legal status, housing, and employment. At the same time, the study demonstrates that formal legal alignment has not been matched by equally strong enforcement mechanisms, institutional coordination, or accountability structures. As a result, the existence of legal guarantees does not in itself ensure sustainable reintegration outcomes.

The article contributes to scholarship by distinguishing between declarative compliance and operational compliance. Declarative compliance refers to the formal incorporation of international standards into domestic law. Operational compliance refers to the existence of institutional, procedural, and remedial mechanisms capable of ensuring that these standards are applied in practice. The Ukrainian case shows that progress in the first dimension does not automatically produce progress in the second.

The comparative findings further indicate that successful reintegration depends not only on the recognition of rights, but also on the clarity of institutional mandates, the availability of remedies, and the administrative capacity to implement legal norms consistently across levels of governance. International models may therefore inform reform in Ukraine only through functional adaptation rather than direct transplantation.

Overall, the study confirms that refugee reintegration should be understood as a legally grounded public policy field in which state responsibility extends beyond policy design to the effective realization of rights. The broader implication is that post-conflict reintegration frameworks must move beyond formal legal harmonization toward implementation systems capable of delivering legally protected and institutionally sustainable outcomes.

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**Annex I. List of Legal Instruments by Jurisdiction (Transparency Annex)**

The instruments listed in this Annex were selected based on their direct relevance to reintegration-related rights and obligations and were used as the primary sources for assigning compliance scores within the NCI framework.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Legal Instrument</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Function in Reintegration Analysis</b>
Canada	Immigration and Refugee Protection Act	Law	2001	Legal status, employment access
Canada	Resettlement Assistance Program	Policy	Ongoing	Housing, social support
Germany	Asylum Act (Asylgesetz)	Law	1992/updated	Legal status determination
Germany	Social Code (SGB II, XII)	Law	Ongoing	Social protection, housing
Sweden	Aliens Act	Law	2005	Migration status and rights
Sweden	Establishment Programme	Policy	Ongoing	Labor market integration
Australia	Migration Act	Law	1958/updated	Legal status framework
Australia	Humanitarian Settlement Program	Policy	Ongoing	Reintegration support
Rwanda	National Reintegration Policy	Policy	2015	Post-conflict reintegration
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Law on Refugees and Displaced Persons	Law	2003	Return and reintegration
Georgia	Law on Internally Displaced Persons	Law	2014	Reintegration guarantees
Colombia	Victims and Land Restitution Law	Law	2011	Reintegration and compensation
Poland	Act on Providing Assistance to Foreigners	Law	2003	Social support, housing
Moldova	Law on Asylum	Law	2008	Refugee protection
Turkey	Law on Foreigners and International Protection	Law	2013	Migration governance
Croatia	Law on International and Temporary Protection	Law	2015	Legal status and integration
Ukraine	Law on Refugees and Persons in Need of Protection	Law	2011	Core legal framework
Ukraine	Law on Ensuring Rights and Freedoms of IDPs	Law	2014	Internal displacement regulation

Source: Compiled by the authors based on official national legislation and international legal frameworks.