

The programs for the formation of an ecotourism network include the creation of bicycle and walking routes, arrangement of observation platforms, installation of information stands and the development of interactive routes. Organizations with such programs are: Interpark, the Center for Ecological Travel and Local-ID. Financing is usually provided by the state or NGOs. These initiatives contribute not only to the development of tourism, but also to the increase in the level of environmental responsibility among local residents and tourists.

In the Moscow region, various programs for the development of ecotourism are actively implemented. One of them is the «EcoTourism» program [3], which is aimed at popularizing ecological routes and a responsible attitude to nature. Various festivals, exhibitions and events aimed at environmental education are also held.

In conclusion, the development of ecotourism in the Moscow region has great prospects. The unique natural resources of the region, the desire of government agencies and private businesses to improve the infrastructure create favorable conditions for attracting tourists. The main thing is to ensure a balance between the development of tourism and the preservation of ecosystems, which will allow the Moscow region not only to attract tourists, but also to preserve its natural resources for future generations.

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THE PROBLEM OF PROTRACTED REFUGEE SITUATIONS AND WAYS TO ADDRESS IT

Проблема затяжных ситуаций, связанных с беженцами и пути ее решения

The aim of this research is to study international norms on this issue and to propose ways to improve the refugees' lives.

A refugee is a person who «owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political

opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or, who not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or unwilling to return to it» [1].

The current situation with refugees is far less favorable than at any time due to a number of factors that hinder effective international protection. These include hostile coverage of refugee issues in the media (which leads violence against them); the costs of hosting refugees; a return of refugees back to the country where they stay in danger because of instability [2].

In our opinion, the severest consequence of these factors is lasting situation, when refugees have been in the unknown for many years, in hazardous conditions and unable to achieve any decision. This status is granted for a person for a long time. Refugees live in a refugee camp or secretly in a foreign country. A lot of refugees remain in this situation for more than 5 years.

The rights and obligations of refugees are defined by fundamental agreements: the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention) and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Under the 1951 Convention, States are obliged to accord refugee treatment at least as favourable as that accorded to their nationals. Refugees must be granted special rights, such as the right to choose their place of residence and to move freely within the territory of the country of refuge. The 1951 Convention exempts refugees from punishment for illegal entry or presence within the territory of another state. The Convention prohibits expulsion of a refugee to a country where their lives are in danger. Refugees, in turn, are obliged to respect the laws of the host country [3].

Besides the country, in which a person seeks asylum, there are a number of organisations which protect refugees. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees is the only organisation with a specific mandate to protect refugees at the international level. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the International Organisation for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights etc. deal with refugee issues. Cooperation between states plays an important role in solving refugee problems as well.

There are three options for solving refugee problems: voluntary repatriation (return home), local integration (staying at host state) and resettlement (moving to a third country) [4]. There is an interesting realization that the third option is reflected in Australia's legislation. The state took measures for those who are exposed to substantial discrimination and gross violation of human rights in their home country, but are not covered by the 1951 Convention. Substantial discrimination may include arbitrary interference in private life, violation of the right to confidentiality of correspondence; deprivation of livelihoods or payment of unreasonably low wages. For such people, a special type of visa is available. The visa can be obtained due to the invitation of a citizen or organisation based in Australia, which is responsible for foreigner's staying in

the country (travel expenses, accommodation) [5]. The implementation of the programme allows to protect the rights of the individual, at the same time spreading the costs and responsibilities among the government and citizens. This programme can be implemented internationally as well.

Based on the above, it should be noted that in protecting the rights of refugees, it is necessary to strengthen the partnership between states, authorities, international organisations dealing with this issue and civil society.

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REGIONAL INVESTMENT POLICY AS A FACTOR OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Региональная инвестиционная политика как фактор социально-экономического развития

Currently, the sustainable development of the regions is closely linked to the intensification of the investment process. Investments are the most important factor determining the speed of socio-economic growth and development, since they are a means of ensuring conditions for improving economic and social indicators, increasing production volumes, updating the material and technical base, and developing new types