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### TOLERANCE AS A RESOURCE FOR SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ADAPTATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN CONDITIONS OF UNCERTAINTY

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Annotation: The article examines the issue of tolerance among forcibly displaced Ukrainians in the context of their socio-psychological adaptation abroad. An empirical study allowed made it possible to identify of various aspects of tolerance among Ukrainian refugees (across subscales of ethnic tolerance, social tolerance, and tolerance as a personality trait), as well as the significance of the personality tolerance index as an overall indicator. Based on the participants' self-assessment of their current stress levels, the degree of stress resistance as an indicator of personality adaptability was determined. The study revealed the levels of basic beliefs among forcibly displaced Ukrainians abroad, indicating their orientation toward successful socio-psychological adaptation and further self-realization.

Adnotare: Articolul examinează problema toleranței în rândul ucrainenilor strămutați forțat, în contextul adaptării lor socio-psihologice în străinătate. Studiul empiric a permis identificarea diferitelor dimensiuni ale toleranței la refugiații ucraineni (subscalele toleranței etnice, sociale și toleranței ca trăsătură de personalitate), precum și relevanța indicelui general al toleranței ca indicator integrat. Pe baza autoevaluării nivelului actual de stres, a fost determinat gradul de reziliență la stres ca indicator al adaptabilității personale. Cercetarea a evidențiat nivelurile credințelor de bază ale ucrainenilor strămutați în străinătate, reflectând orientarea lor spre o adaptare socio-psihologică reușită și o ulterioară autorealizare.

**Keywords:** socio-psychological adaptation, tolerance as a personality trait, ethnic and social tolerance, core beliefs, stress resilience, psychological well-being.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** adaptare socio-psihologică; toleranță ca trăsătură de personalitate; toleranță etnică și socială; credințe de bază; reziliență la stres; bunăstare psihologică.

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### Introduction

In the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the issue of forced displacement, acculturation, and psychological adaptation of Ukrainian refugees to new sociocultural environments in European countries has intensified. Ukrainian citizens faced with forced migration experience uncertainty and social isolation, leading to acculturative stress, "culture shock," helplessness, loss of control over their own lives, personal devaluation, and complicating their integration into host societies. Thus, further research is needed on tolerance as a resource for the socio-psychological adaptation of forcibly displaced persons abroad.

In humanitarian sciences, the phenomenon of tolerance is viewed as a moral imperative of the modern cultural existence of humanity, a foundation for realizing human rights and achievements in a multicultural world, a basic principle of social relationships, a critical social and personal value, an active moral stance, and psychological readiness for uncertainties and crisis situations (Allport, 1954; Frenkel-Brunswick, 1948; Furnham & Ribchester, 1995; Hallman, 1963; Papadopoulos, 2023; Ball, 2007; Kremen, 2011; Popovych, 2011).

In the axiological (value-related) paradigm, the problem of tolerance manifests itself in fundamental life principles and worldview positions of the personality, serving as instruments to counter existential anxiety among forced migrants. Emphasizing tolerance as an imperative in globalized society, V. Kremen (2011) points out the practical implementation of tolerance as a "long-term adaptation and genuine integration while preserving ethnic and cultural identity through mutual respect for each other's cultures and customs", (p. 9). G. Ball (2007) asserts tolerance as a form of moral behavior linked to stable value orientations of the personality, aimed at overcoming antagonism in interpersonal interactions. Philosopher M. Popovych (2011) shares consonant views regarding tolerance as a moral value and a fundamental aspect of personal worldview that enables individuals to join a globalized "We", yet preserve their own unique lifeworld, the feeling of national "I" (p. 16).

Declaration of Principles on Tolerance (1996) highlights that tolerance encompasses respect, acceptance, and a proper understanding of the world's cultural diversity, forms of expression, and manifestations of human individuality. Tolerance is a prerequisite for creating an environment where diversity of ideas, mentalities, traditions, lifestyles, and models of self-concept are perceived as enriching opportunities and contribute to strengthening relationships among individuals, helping each person assert themselves as a bearer of cultural and civilized qualities.

Thus, various scholarly approaches to the issue of tolerance emphasize a unified understanding of its essence as acceptance in modern conditions. Generally, tolerance is an interdisciplinary scientific category which includes not only respect for others in the absence of one's own values but also a position that implies expanding personal values through dialogue with individuals of differing cultures, views, orientations, and attitudes.

The adaptation problem of Ukrainian refugees to the new sociocultural environment in European countries pertains to psychosocial support for forced migrants, their mental health preservation, and enhancement of their subjective well-being. T. Tytarenko (2017) argues, "the traumatization experienced by a country's population as a result of direct or indirect involvement in modern hybrid warfare primarily manifests itself in the loss of subjective well-being, indicating a substantial decline in psychological health" (p. 8). Stress factors have the most destructive impact on identity-related, motivational, self-actualization, and communicative domains of individuals. For instance, T. Tytarenko identifies the following psychologically meaningful criteria for increasing communicative competence: a) enhancement of tolerance towards the otherness of people around us, their difference, values, and priorities; b) development of empathy and sensitivity toward others'

experiences; c) formation of adaptability and readiness for compromise for mutual understanding and cooperation (pp. 10-13).

In the context of our research, it is essential to consider tolerance as a psychological phenomenon, a system of fundamental core beliefs and value orientations, an integral personal quality associated with openness and freedom of thinking, psychological resilience, and flexibility in facing crisis situations and traumatic life events.

The American psychologist G. Allport (1954) established the methodological foundations for studying tolerance as a psychological phenomenon, emphasizing characteristics of a tolerant personality such as high mental flexibility, frustration tolerance, an affiliative worldview, liberal political attitudes, self-orientation, empathy, spirituality, self-awareness, responsibility, and a sense of humor (pp. 39–51).

Within epistemological perspectives on studying the experience of forced displacement, the conceptual model termed the "matrix of adversity" by R. Papadopoulos (2023) is of particular interest. Papadopoulos describes the phenomena of human suffering ("polymorphous helplessness", "ontological and ecological unsettlement", "nostalgic disorientation") as normal reactions to atypical circumstances. He highlights adaptive complexity, individuality, integrity, flexibility, and adaptive capacity as essential characteristics for effectively overcoming the "identity of victimhood" and restoring refugees' human dignity (pp. 353–385). Papadopoulos proposes a new eudaimonic perspective ("therapeutic synergistic complexity") for psychotherapeutic assistance to forcibly displaced persons, aimed at developing realistic awareness of personal resources after severe trials (pp. 400–411).

Researchers define tolerance as an integral personality trait, a complex formation of individual psychological characteristics, and identify tolerance components including psychological resilience, a system of positive attitudes, personal qualities (empathy, altruism, peacefulness, religious tolerance, cooperativeness, dialogical aspirations), and personal and group value orientations.

Researchers from the Institute of Social and Political Psychology of the NAES of Ukraine (Korobka, Vasyutynskyi et al., 2019) have described psychological adaptation strategies employed by communities in response to wartime conditions and consequences. They identified socio-psychological resources aimed at increasing individual and collective adaptability, as well as civic activation in addressing adaptation challenges. In an empirical study by A. Kovalenko et al. (2024), Ukrainian forced migrants were found to exhibit low levels of life satisfaction; their self-descriptions tend to focus on professional, educational, and family roles, while integration emerges as their prevailing acculturation strategy (pp. 19–27).

Research by Polish scholars E. Sygit-Kowalkowska, A. Piotrowski, I. Piotrowska, and M. Shultz (2023) assessed stress intensity, psychological resilience, and self-efficacy among Polish and Ukrainian women, revealing higher general stress levels and lower resilience and self-efficacy among Ukrainian women. Thus, such assessments are crucial for predicting adaptation and understanding personal coping resources (pp. 15–17).

T. Yablonska's study (Yablonska & Haivoronskyi, 2023) characterized specific adaptation patterns among displaced Ukrainian mothers to stress and new living conditions, identifying predictors of successful adaptation including personal characteristics, sense of coherence, psychoemotional state, and coping strategies (pp. 77-78). O. Tashkinova (2023) found that individuals without higher education, older than 50, directly impacted by hostilities, first-time abroad, and lacking family support face the greatest integration difficulties (pp. 78-80).

Empirical research on emotional state dynamics of Ukrainian refugees before and after Russia's full-scale invasion (Vasylkevych & Kikinezhdi, 2025) revealed decreased positive emotional components (mental peace, strength, energy) and increased negative ones (fear, anxiety, sadness), highlighting forced migration as a negative, demobilizing factor.

Consequently, investigating tolerance within social-psychological adaptation processes for forced migrants abroad is of particular relevance and importance. Priority directions for socio-psychological interventions include enhancing self-awareness, empathy, self-efficacy restoration, reflection improvement, reevaluation of values, and constructing new life orientations.

The purpose of the article is to study tolerance of the personality within the context of socio-psychological adaptation among forcibly displaced Ukrainians abroad.

### Materials and methods of research

The following methods were applied in the empirical study: the express questionnaire Tolerance Index; the Basic Beliefs Scale by R. Janoff-Bulman; and the method developed by Holmes and Rahe for evaluating an individual's stress resistance and adaptability (Zlyvkov et al., 2016; Rozov, 2024).

The express questionnaire *Tolerance Index* makes it possible to determine the general attitude toward the surrounding world and other people, as well as social attitudes across various domains of interaction in which an individual's tolerance or intolerance is manifested. This questionnaire contains three subscales designed to assess the following aspects of tolerance: ethnic tolerance, social tolerance, and tolerance as a personality trait. The methodology helps identify attitudes toward different social groups, communicative attitudes (respect for others' opinions and viewpoints, readiness for constructive conflict resolution, and willingness to engage in productive cooperation), and ethnic tolerance (attitudes toward people of other races or ethnic groups and assessment of cultural distance).

The *Holmes–Rahe Scale* for assessing stress resistance and social adaptation enables simple and rapid screening of an individual's current stress level over the past year. The scale includes a list of traumatic events ranked by assigned point values that reflect their potential stress impact. The self-report score provided by respondents indicates both their current stress level and their capacity for stress resistance as an indicator of personal adaptability.

The *Basic Beliefs Scale by R. Janoff-Bulman* is designed to identify fundamental beliefs regarding the perceived benevolence and meaningfulness (controllability and fairness) of the world, personal value, the ability to manage events, and luck. According to Janoff-Bulman (1989), a fundamental human feeling – the healthy sense of security – is based on three categories of basic beliefs forming the core of subjective personal reality: the belief that there is more goodness than evil in the world (general attitude toward the world and other people); the belief in the meaningfulness of the world (the conviction that events are not random but governed by principles of justice); and the belief in one's own value (self-esteem, sense of control, and perception of personal luck). These basic beliefs are diagnosed based on eight specific categories: 1) benevolence of the world; 2) benevolence of people; 3) justice of the world; 4) world controllability; 5) randomness as a principle underlying distribution of events; 6) self-worth; 7) the degree of self-control (control over occurring events); and 8) luck or personal fortune.

### **Results and considerations**

Empirical research on personality tolerance in the context of socio-psychological adaptation abroad was conducted in several European countries (Ireland, Germany, Poland, Romania, Lithuania) among forcibly displaced Ukrainians. The study involved 40 forced migrants of different ages, including 34 females and 6 males, aged 21 to 48.

The Tolerance Index express questionnaire, as a comprehensive methodological tool, made it possible to identify different aspects of tolerance (tolerance as a personality trait, ethnic tolerance, social tolerance), as well as the overall index of personality tolerance. The average values for the separate tolerance aspects and the overall index for the sample of forcibly displaced Ukrainians are presented in Table 1.

Table 2. Percentage distribution of tolerance levels for main aspects and the overall index
(according to the "Tolerance Index" questionnaire)

Types of Tolerance	Levels of Tolerance			
Types of Tolerance	Low level	Medium level	High level	
Ethnic tolerance	25	65	10	
Social tolerance	25	70	5	
Tolerance as a personality trait	15	15	70	
Tolerance index	25	55	20	

The ethnic tolerance subscale reflects attitudes toward individuals from different ethnic groups, intercultural interaction, and perceived cultural distance. The average score (25.4) corresponds to a medium level (20–31 points).

The social tolerance subscale assesses tolerant and intolerant attitudes toward various social groups (minorities, individuals with criminal background, the poor, etc.) and attitudes toward social processes. The average value (27.05) also indicates a medium level (23–36 points).

The tolerance as a personality trait subscale diagnoses the individual's personal characteristics, attitudes, and beliefs that shape their interaction with the surrounding world. With an average score of 32.15, this indicator corresponds to a high level (32 points and above), though situated near its lower boundary.

The overall tolerance index (84.6) corresponds to a medium level, indicating the coexistence of both tolerant and intolerant personal traits among participants.

The results of the analysis of tolerance levels among the respondents are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Percentage distribution of tolerance levels for main aspects and overall index (according to the "Tolerance Index" questionnaire)

Tymes of Telegones	Levels of Tolerance			
Types of Tolerance	Low level	Medium level	High level	
Ethnic tolerance	25	65	10	
Social tolerance	25	70	5	
Tolerance as a personality trait	15	15	70	
Tolerance index	25	55	20	

As shown in Table 2, medium-level scores dominate the "ethnic tolerance" and "social tolerance" subscales (65% and 70%, respectively). Twenty-five percent of respondents displayed low levels on these subscales, indicating pronounced intolerance in ethnic (attitudes toward individuals of other races or ethnic groups) and social (attitudes toward different social categories) domains. Only 10% of respondents scored high on ethnic tolerance, and just 5% demonstrated high social tolerance – reflecting openness and positive attitudes toward intercultural interaction.

Regarding the tolerance as a personality trait subscale, high-level tolerance clearly prevails (70%). This indicates a well-expressed tolerant orientation, especially in communicative aspects such as respect for others' opinions, readiness for constructive conflict resolution, and willingness for productive cooperation. Only 15% of participants exhibited low scores, reflecting marked communicative intolerance.

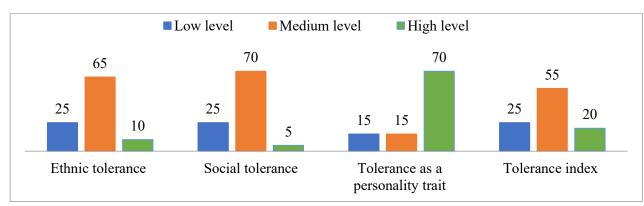


Figure 1. Indicators of levels of the main types and general tolerance index according to the express questionnaire "Tolerance Index" (in %).

The analysis of the tolerance index as a generalized indicator of personal tolerance revealed a predominance of medium levels (55%), characterized by the presence of both tolerant and intolerant traits depending on situational social contexts. A high tolerance index was found in 20% of respondents who demonstrated consistently tolerant attitudes across different spheres of life. A low tolerance index was observed in 25% of the sample, indicating significant intolerance and rigid negative attitudes toward the environment and other people.

This subgroup of forcibly displaced Ukrainians requires targeted psychological intervention to enhance personal tolerance and strengthen socio-psychological adaptation abroad. Increasing tolerance facilitates a more positive perception of new social conditions, thus improving readiness and capacity for social integration.

To analyze the impact of significant life changes on mental health, the Holmes and Rahe Social Readjustment Rating Scale method was used, revealing the stressful experiences that forcibly displaced Ukrainians abroad had encountered during the past year. Respondents' self-assessments of their current stress level made it possible to determine their degree of stress resistance as an indicator of personal adaptability. The distribution of stress-resistance levels among forcibly displaced Ukrainians abroad is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Distribution of levels of stress-resistance and personal adaptability according to the Holmes-Rahe scale (in %)

Level of Stress Resistance				
High Stress Resistance	Moderate Stress Resistance	Low Stress Resistance		
199 points or less	200-299(threshold)	300 points or more		
25	20	55		

High stress resistance was observed in 25% of respondents, characterized by low levels of stress load and high resilience, providing a basis for quite effective personal functioning. Moderate (threshold) level was displayed by 20% of respondents, characterized by medium stress levels; stress resistance in these individuals decreases if stressful situations continue, as they spend considerable energy and resources overcoming negative psychological states generated under stress. Low stress resistance was evident in 55% of respondents, characterized by high stress loads and low resilience. Such individuals are advised to avoid activities that might initiate or intensify stress.

A comparative analysis of stress-resistance level distribution among forcibly displaced individuals according to gender showed that the subgroup of women predominantly had low stress resistance (58.8%), while the subgroup of men predominantly displayed high levels (66.7%). Female respondents reported higher levels of stress and lower resilience. Women's higher reported stress level indicates their relatively poorer adaptability.

For analyzing basic beliefs within respondents, the Basic Beliefs Scale by R. Janoff-Bulman was used, determining individuals' beliefs about the benevolence and meaningfulness of the world and their self-worth, all underlying a fundamental human need – healthy feelings of safety and security. According to the cognitive concept of fundamental beliefs formulated by R. Janoff-Bulman (1989), beliefs can change due to traumatic events. Events such as war in Ukraine and the extreme conditions of forced displacement to other countries constitute traumatic experiences. Such experiences can disrupt customary perceptions of the world, life assumptions, and behavioral strategies, causing extended and serious psychological distress and issues. Negative extreme circumstances can result in feelings of helplessness and loss of control over one's life. Consequently, traumatic experiences significantly influence individuals' basic beliefs regarding both the outer world and self-perception.

According to R. Janoff-Bulman's Scale, basic beliefs are defined according to eight primary belief categories: 1) benevolence of the world, 2) kindness of people, 3) fairness (justice) of the world, 4) controllability of the world, 5) randomness (chance) as a principle of event distribution, 6) perceived self-worth ('value of own "Self"), 7) personal level of self-control (control over occurring events), and 8) luckiness or sense of luck.

The level indicators of basic beliefs among forced migrants from Ukraine abroad are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Levels of fundamental beliefs among forcibly displaced Ukrainians using R. Janoff-
Bulman's Scale (%)

Basic Beliefs	Levels of Basic Beliefs				
Basic Bellets	Low	Reduced	Medium	Increased	High
Benevolence of world	15	30	40	10	5
Kindness of people	5	25	40	25	5
Justice of world	5	15	35	35	10
Controllability of world	5	40	40	10	5
Randomness as principle	10	25	45	5	15
Value of one's own "Self"	15	35	30	5	15
Degree of self-control	15	45	30	5	5
Sense of luck	10	30	30	20	10

The primary belief categories "benevolence of the world" and "kindness of people" allow the evaluation of the first general attitude dimension – overall attitude toward world benevolence. As Table 4 suggests, Ukrainian refugees have more confidence in people than in the surrounding world. High and increased scores on "kindness of people" belief constitute 30% compared to just 15% for "benevolence of the world." Respectively, low and reduced scores for "kindness of people" also amount to 30%, whereas for "benevolence of the world," they are as high as 45%. Evidently, the traumatic experience of Ukrainian refugees diminished their belief that the world is generally benevolent, yet their faith in individuals' kindness remains stronger.

The second aggregated dimension – beliefs about the world's meaningfulness – includes three primary belief categories: "justice of the world", "controllability of the world", and "randomness as principle of event distribution". Ukrainian refugees maintain a belief that events follow principles of justice (high and increased scores – 45%; low and reduced – 20%) and that events do not occur randomly (high and increased level on "randomness of events" belief – 20%; low and reduced – 35%). However, their confidence in events' controllability by humans was notably reduced (high and increased level – 15%; low and reduced – 45%).

The third general dimension consists of beliefs regarding personal value, capability of eventmanaging, and luck. Forcibly displaced Ukrainians had the lowest scores on the belief category

"degree of self-control": high and increased levels constitute only 10%, while the low and reduced levels account for 60%. Therefore, most refugees showed low self-control and an inadequate sense of control over occurring events. Indicators for the "value of one's self" belief were similarly low (high and increased level -20%; low and reduced level -50%). Nevertheless, optimism regarding personal fortune slightly persisted (high and increased level on "sense of luck" at 30%, low and reduced level -40%).

According to the concept proposed by R. Janoff-Bulman (1989), a more optimistic and tolerant attitude of individuals towards the surrounding world, others, and themselves contributes to enhanced psychological stability, improved overall functionality in life, and greater subjective well-being.

Individuals with lower indicators of beliefs about world controllability and self-control require psychological support as well as assistance from the host community in integrating into a full-fledged life within their new sociocultural environment.

### **Conclusions**

Tolerance was examined as an integral personality characteristic that determines an individual's capacity for successful adaptation under conditions of uncertainty through active interaction with the external environment, restoration of neuropsychological balance, and the development of positive relationships with oneself and the surrounding world.

The empirical research made it possible to identify various aspects of tolerance, as well as the tolerance index as a generalized indicator of personality tolerance. The level-based analysis among forced migrants abroad showed that medium levels predominated on the "ethnic tolerance" and "social tolerance" subscales, whereas high levels dominated the "tolerance as a personality trait" subscale. The analysis of the generalized tolerance index indicated a predominance of medium levels, characterized by the presence of both tolerant and intolerant characteristics depending on specific social situations.

The degree of stress resilience, viewed as an indicator of personal adaptability, was also determined: among forced migrants abroad, low stress resilience prevailed, characterized by a high stress load and low tolerance to stress.

The basic beliefs of forcibly displaced Ukrainians abroad were found predominantly at medium and high levels, indicating a readiness for successful socio-psychological adaptation and further self-realization.

Effective forms of psychosocial support for Ukrainian refugees adapting to life in European countries include interventions that enhance subjective well-being in cross-cultural communication, promote harmonious relationships with members of the host community, encourage participation in cultural training programs, strengthen self-esteem, foster openness toward the host culture, facilitate assimilation of local practices and traditions, support psychological (mental) health, and help restore a coherent and holistic sense of identity.

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