

ANALYSIS OF THE FOOD INSECURITY GENERATED BY THE WAR IN UKRAINE

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Abstract: *The Russian invasion of Ukraine has economic consequences worldwide and is causing a food shortage. Russia and Ukraine are two key suppliers of agricultural products, and this conflict, which has driven two major players out of the market, has once again shown how fragile the global food supply chain is. A lasting global food crisis has become one of the most profound consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine, contributing to hunger and poverty. Moscow has blocked most supplies from Ukraine, one of the world's biggest wheat producers, and Russian military attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure are also disrupting the flow of food. The paper is an investigation into the disruption of the global agricultural supply chain, affecting food supplies and causing a rise in agricultural food prices worldwide.*

• Introduction

The fact that Ukraine has reached a long-term conflict, the products cannot be loaded and the world markets cannot be supplied. Large importers such as Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Saudi Arabia or Turkey need to ensure their domestic wheat needs. Unfortunately, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has repercussions that go far beyond Ukraine's borders, in unexpected ways. Maize and wheat are the most cultivated cereals in the world. If a major exporter, such as Ukraine, stops delivering, the consequences for global food security are dire.

• Material and method

The key research methods employed were analysis and synthesis, analogy, and graphics to resemble the results. The data provided by the World Bank and the European Council were analyzed.

• Results and discussions

Ukraine is a major exporter of grain to Africa and the Middle East. Before the Russian invasion, Ukraine exported up to six million tons of grain per month. The total volume includes 18.578 million tons of wheat, 22.4 million tons of corn and 5.7 million tons of barley. Before the Russian invasion, Ukraine was exporting up to six million tons of grain a month, but in recent months volumes have dropped to around one million tons. Grain exports in 2022 were 43.4% lower than in 2021 (2.49 million tons), which the authorities attributed to the blockade of Ukrainian seaports, which are a key element of the infrastructure of Ukrainian export.

• Conclusions

Large quantities of Ukrainian grain entered the market of the EU states both through its opening accepted by the European bloc to help Ukraine in the war with Russia, as well as due to logistical blockages that caused shipments of Ukrainian grain originally intended for third countries to remain on the markets of central and eastern European countries.

The manifestation of the food crisis does not necessarily manifest itself through a shortage of food, but can also be realized through very high prices, which make food products unaffordable for the disadvantaged categories of the population. Theoretically, an effective and clearly targeted intervention should consist in providing food aid to disadvantaged population categories through various distribution channels, supplied by the State Reserve. However, the dependence on wheat imports is noted, considering the practice wheat producers to export after investing a large part of it, so that wheat is imported for consumption. The only element that would stabilize, under such a crisis, the situation on the grain market, would be the state reserve.