



## „WAR REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE. A YEAR IN POLAND” A SURVEY

A report from the survey „War refugees from Ukraine. A Year in Poland,” conducted by EWL Migration Platform, the Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw and Foundation for the Support of Migrants on the Labour Market „EWL”, commissioned by the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland



**1.5 million**

refugees under temporary protection in Poland



**0.9 million**

refugees took up employment in Poland

**51%**

of refugees residing currently in Poland arrived in February - April 2022

**45%**

of refugees used to visit Poland before the outbreak of the war

**32%**

of refugees intend to return to Ukraine as soon as possible

**82%**

of refugees residing in Poland took up employment

**27%**

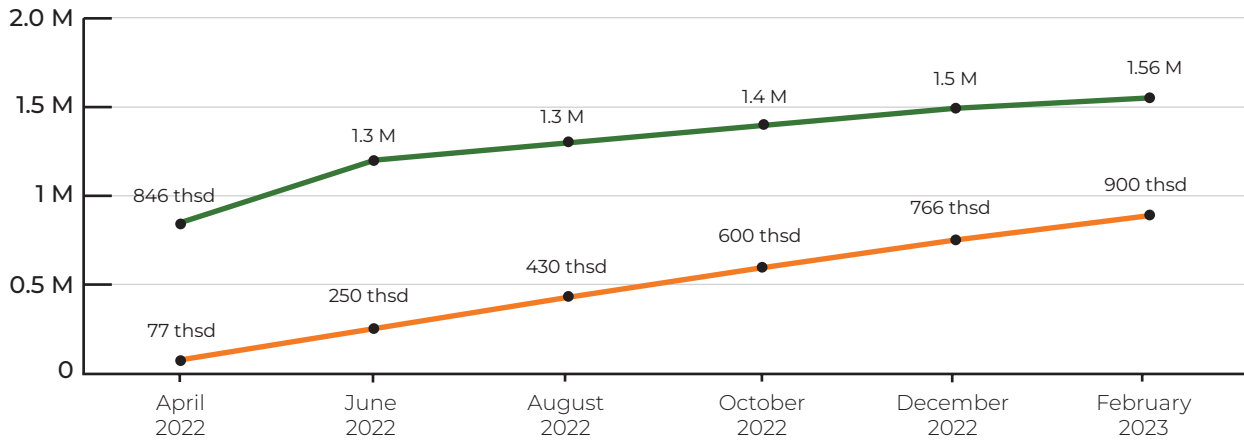
of employed refugees found work within a month after arrival in Poland

**89%**

of refugees believe that Polish-Ukrainian relations will be better after the war than before its outbreak

The survey of refugees from Ukraine who arrived in Poland after 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and are currently residing in Poland was carried out by means of online CAWI surveys and CATI telephone interviews.

The survey was conducted from February 10 to 16, 2023 on a sample of n=400 adult (18+) refugees from Ukraine. The interviews were conducted in various cities and regions of Poland, including Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, Gdansk, Zielona Gora, Tarnow, Przemysl, Andrychow, Janowiec Lubelski, Sulejow, Wisla and Ustron Morski.

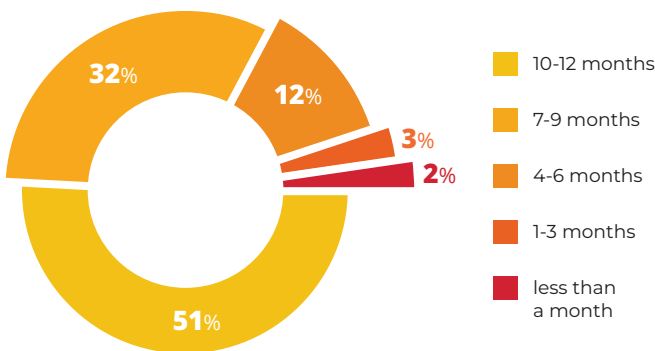


— The number of refugees from Ukraine under temporary protection in Poland (PESEL UKR).  
 Data: UNHCR as of February 17, 2023  
 — The number of refugees from Ukraine who have taken up employment in Poland.  
 Data: MRIPS as of February 17, 2023

Data from the Polish Border Guard shows that since February 24, 2022, the Polish-Ukrainian border has been crossed by approx. 10 million refugees. It is worth noting that 1.5 million of them stayed in Poland receiving temporary protection. This is nearly 1/3 of all the people fleeing Russian aggression to European countries (not including Russia and Belarus).

The vast majority of Ukrainian refugees have taken up work in Poland, about 900,000, compared to Germany, the Czech Republic and Romania, where the numbers at the beginning of February this year amounted to 140 thousand, 100 thousand and 5 thousand people, respectively.

How long have you been staying in Poland?



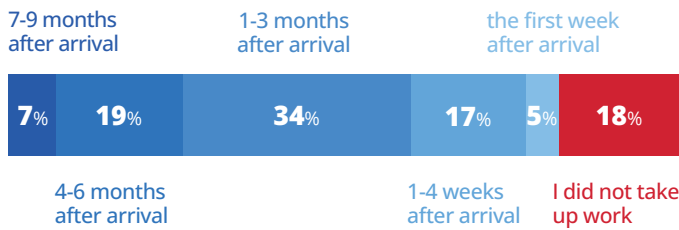
Most refugees from Ukraine (83%) have been in Poland for more than half a year. More than half of them (51%) arrived within the first three months after the outbreak of the war. In contrast, 1/3 of the refugees arrived between May and July last year. Only 5% decided to come to Poland in late 2022 and early 2023 during the intensification of Russian attacks on critical infrastructure and civilian facilities. Nearly half of the refugees from Ukraine in

Did you use to visit Poland before the war broke out?



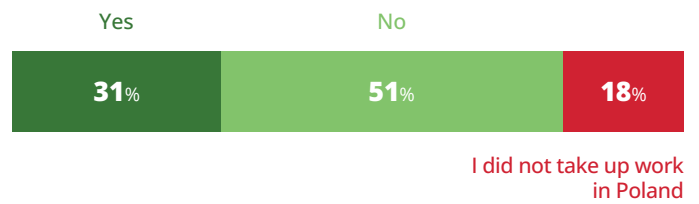
Poland (45%) used to visit Poland before the outbreak of the war. The main reason for their arrival, however, was not economic (8%), but they came as tourists (18%). This is also confirmed by the results of our earlier surveys according to which the vast majority of refugees employed in Poland had not worked in our country before the war broke out. Nearly one in ten refugees visited family or friends in Poland, and 9% were passing Poland through.

How soon did you take up employment in Poland after February 24, 2022?



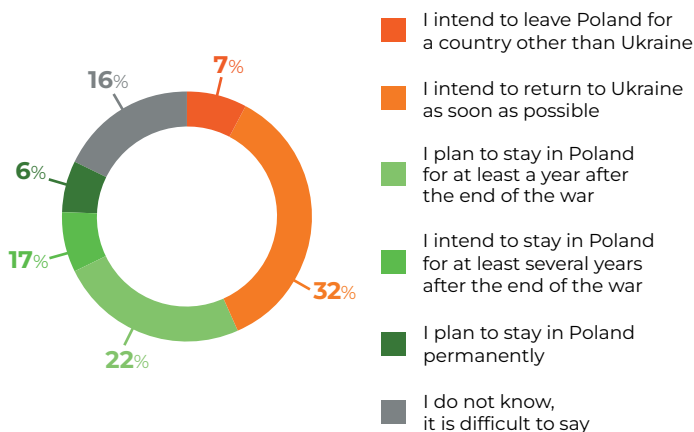
82% of adult refugees in Poland have taken up employment. It is worth adding that the employment rate among refugees of working age is 84%. Nearly 1/4 of them (27% of the employed) found a job within the first month of their stay in Poland, and 34% of those surveyed (41% of the employed) within 1 to 3 months after arriving in Poland. This demonstrates the high effectiveness of the implemented systemic solutions (e.g. the simplified employment procedure) and the readiness of Polish

Did you happen to change your job during your stay in Poland after February 24, 2022?



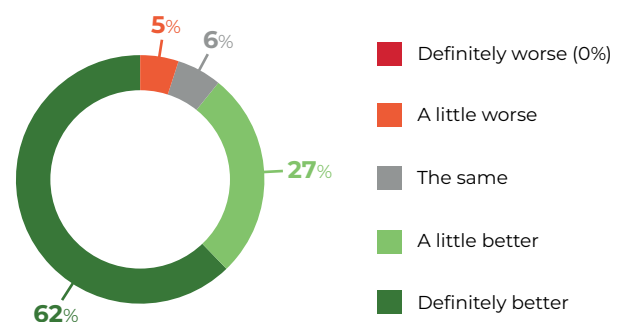
employers to hire refugees. Of the refugees who have taken up employment in Poland, one in three (38%) declares that they changed their place of employment during their stay in Poland after February 24, 2022. This fact indicates a growing sense of confidence among the refugees and a desire to develop on the Polish labour market, followed by a search for more suitable job offers. Through learning the language and vocational training they have the opportunity to develop their potential in Poland.

Are you planning to stay in Poland for a longer period?



The survey showed that almost half of the refugees (45%) intend to stay in Poland for a long period of time - namely, for at least a year after the war has ended. In March 2022, such a desire was prevalent among 31% of war refugees. This demonstrates a great success of the Polish society, employers as well as central and local authorities, which have managed to receive the refugees, meet their basic needs, adapt the legalisation process and activate them on the labour market. The percentage of refugees wishing to stay permanently has declined by 1 percentage point since the beginning of the war and currently stands at 6%.

What do you think Polish-Ukrainian relations will be like after the war ends?



Nearly a third of the respondents intend to return to Ukraine as soon as possible. Nearly 90% of the refugees have no doubt that after the end of the war Polish-Ukrainian relations will be better than before its outbreak. This is primarily due to the attitude of brotherhood and solidarity of the entire Polish society with Ukraine shown in the first days of the war, including aid measures on the part of central authorities, local governments, businesses and NGOs. Only 6% believe that the relations between Poland and Ukraine will not change.

# EXPERT OPINIONS



## ANDRZEJ KORKUS

*EWL Group CEO,  
Chairman of the EWL Foundation*

The close cooperation of the entire Polish society has made it possible to guarantee assistance to all Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war who were not only looking for a roof over their heads, but also for income opportunities that would give them a sense of stability and security. Since the beginning of the war we have offered employment to almost every refugee who expressed a desire to find work. This is a major success. The key issue now is to develop the potential of Ukrainian citizens and match their high competences to the needs of Polish employers. To achieve this, further **deregulation** is needed to simplify the process of nostrification of diplomas, along with the **digitalization** of legalisation procedures and **decentralization** to allow broader support for NGOs, companies and institutions that specialize in activities for integration or labour activation of migrants.



## JAN MALICKI, DR H.C.

*Director of the Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw*

The anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine is also the anniversary of the beginning of a unique, even surprising unification of the democratic world in defense of common values against the war unleashed by the Kremlin. It is also a moment to assess the historic mobilization of the Polish society: the central government, local governments, NGOs, entrepreneurs, and especially millions of citizens. The latest survey, conducted one year after the Russian invasion began, makes it clear that the vast majority of refugees believe that war aid and joint activities will result in a **deeper integration of the Polish and Ukrainian society**. The respondents believe, and we also hope so, that these relations will be based on mutual trust and deeper cooperation between the two countries and the peoples who defend and love their freedom.

## Reports of the EWL Migration Platform and the Centre for East European Studies (2018-2022)



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### SPECIAL REPORT

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