

DTM REGIONAL ANALYSIS

**DISPLACEMENT AND CROSS-BORDER
MOVEMENTS OF
THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS
FROM UKRAINE TO NEIGHBOURING
COUNTRIES AND IN EUROPE**



Data collection period: March – December 2022

Ukraine, Belarus, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Czechia,
Latvia and Lithuania, Belgium, Germany and France

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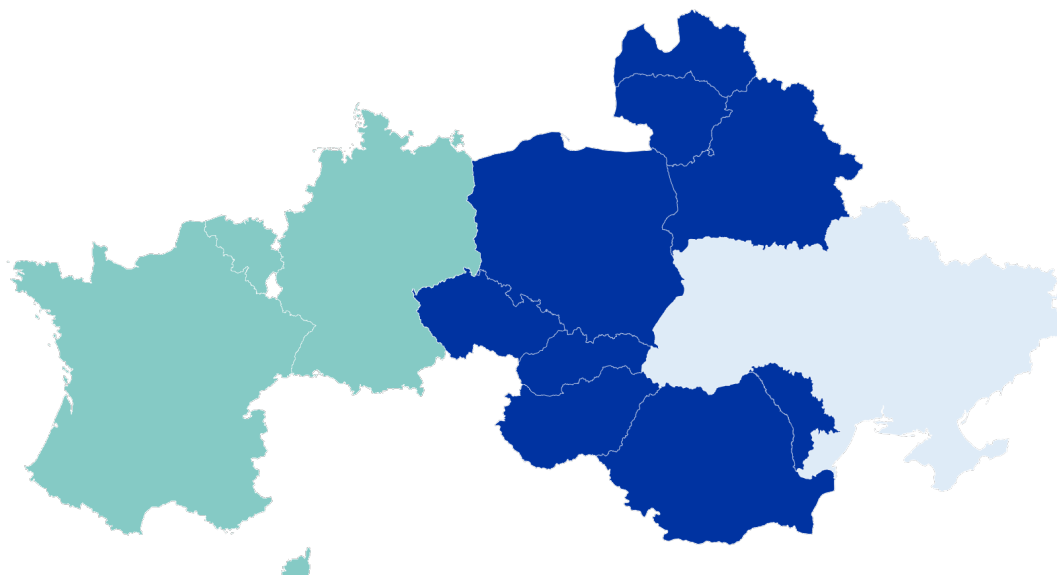
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Population and Migration data from **Ukraine**
 Border crossing data from **5 countries neighbouring Ukraine**
 Survey data from **12 countries in Europe**

INTRODUCTION AND LIMITATIONS

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, refugees from Ukraine and Third-Country Nationals¹ (TCNs) have been fleeing into neighbouring countries in high numbers. According to UNHCR, over 17 million (17,408,643) border crossings from Ukraine have been registered by national authorities of six neighbouring countries between 24 February 2022 and 10 January 2023. Additionally, over the same period, 7.9 million refugees from Ukraine have been registered across Europe, in total. At the same time, more than 9 million (9,376,677) border crossings to Ukraine were registered from neighbouring countries.

This report focuses on TCNs' border crossing movements in and out of Ukraine, as well as on their registered presence across European countries and on their profiles, needs and intentions.

Arrival and departure statistics are compiled from a variety of sources, mainly provided by national border authorities of countries neighbouring Ukraine to IOM. Registration and/or presence of TCNs from Ukraine across Europe is sourced from official statistics by national authorities and Eurostat. Data for Belarus does not allow for any trend analysis, data for Hungary was not provided to IOM after 25 April 2022. The information from national authorities is continuously verified and cross-checked to ensure consistency across countries and over time. Nevertheless, readers should be aware of the possible break in time series and that – as the war prolongs over an extended period – the same individual can cross the border from/to Ukraine multiple times for various reasons. Hence, total values for the entire period refer to border crossings rather than individuals.

The TCNs profile in terms of socio-demographic characteristics, main needs upon displacement and intentions is based on IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) survey data collected in 2022 in 12 European countries.

1. In this report, Third-Country Nationals is used to define individuals who fled Ukraine but are neither citizens of Ukraine nor citizens of the receiving country.

TCNs' BORDER CROSSINGS FROM UKRAINE IN 2022

By 31 December 2022, there have been 602,337 border crossings of TCNs from Ukraine into one of its neighbouring countries, since the start of the war.

More than half (53%) of all crossings of TCNs into neighbouring countries were reported by Poland, followed by Romania (22%), the Republic of Moldova (12%), Slovakia (9%), Hungary (4%) and Belarus (less than 1%).²

About 60 per cent (362,984) of total border crossings reported are from

OECD³ countries, while 40 per cent (239,353) are from non-OECD ones.

Main nationalities vary to a great deal by country of registration, possibly due to the geographical distribution of the residence of these persons before leaving Ukraine, and to the proximity and availability of travel connections to different countries of origin in Europe, North America, Central Asia and the Middle East.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN UKRAINE

According to the latest UN DESA international migrant stock estimates, almost 5 million foreign nationals were present in Ukraine in 2020.⁴ Of these, two thirds were Russian nationals followed by nationals of countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Data from Ukraine national authorities show a more fine-grained picture for specific types of residence status of foreign nationals in the country. According to the latest released data, about 293,600 foreigners had a permanent residence status in Ukraine at the end of 2020 and 151,300 had a temporary permit to stay mostly for study or temporary work reason (Ukraine State Migration Service).

More than half of permanent foreign residents were Russian citizens, followed by other countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. According to the Ukraine Ministry of Education data, among university students with temporary permits (about 76,500 in 2020), main nationalities of those enrolled in the academic year 2020/2021 were India (24%), Morocco (12%), and Turkmenistan (7%). Moreover, according to the State Employment Service, out of the 17 thousand foreigners with an employment permit at the end of 2020, the majority were nationals from Türkiye, India, Russian Federation, Belarus and China.⁵

Table I. Number and share of international migrant stock in Ukraine at mid-year 2020, top 10 countries of nationality

Total	4 997 387	100%
Russian Federation	3,330,586	66.6%
Belarus	249,641	5.0%
Kazakhstan	225,962	4.5%
Uzbekistan	223,491	4.5%
Rep. of Moldova	152,249	3.0%
Azerbaijan	83,674	1.7%
Georgia	65,475	1.3%
Armenia	48,097	1.0%
Tajikistan	29,857	0.6%
Kyrgyzstan	27,175	0.5%
Other	561,180	11.2%

2. The share and relative importance of each country is calculated on available data. The share of TCNs border crossings from Ukraine to Hungary and Belarus may be higher.

3. OECD members: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States. Russian Federation and Belarus were [suspended](#) on 8 March 2022.

4. Source: UN DESA, Population Division (2020). International Migrant Stock 2020.

5. For more detailed data and reference to the original source, kindly check the IOM report "Migration in Ukraine: Facts and Figures, 2021" released in December 2021: <https://ukraine.iom.int/resources/migration-ukraine-facts-and-figures-2021>

Table 2. Border crossings of TCNs (all nationalities) from Ukraine between 24 Feb and 31 Dec 2022

Country	TCNs	Last update	Source and notes
Belarus	244	31 December 2022	UNHCR (Ukraine Refugee Situation).
Hungary	21,249	25 April 2022	IO M from Hungarian Border Police. Data is incomplete as information for April 20, 21 and 23 is not available. No data is available after 25 April 2022.
Poland	318,098	31 December 2022	IO M from Ministry of Interior Poland & Polish Border Guard
Republic of Moldova	75,621	01 January 2023	IO M from Ministry of Interior of Republic of Moldova - Moldovan Border Police. The number of TCNs fleeing Ukraine and still present in the country is 6,053.
Romania	132,740	31 December 2022	UNHCR from Romanian Border Police. Total number of TCNs arrival in Romania, including those who arrived through the Republic of Moldova but excluding Moldavian citizens, is 311,333 (16 October 2022 12:00 Romanian Border Police)*.
Slovakia	54,385	31 December 2022	IO M from Slovak Republic Border Guards
Russian Federation	N/A		
Total	602,337		

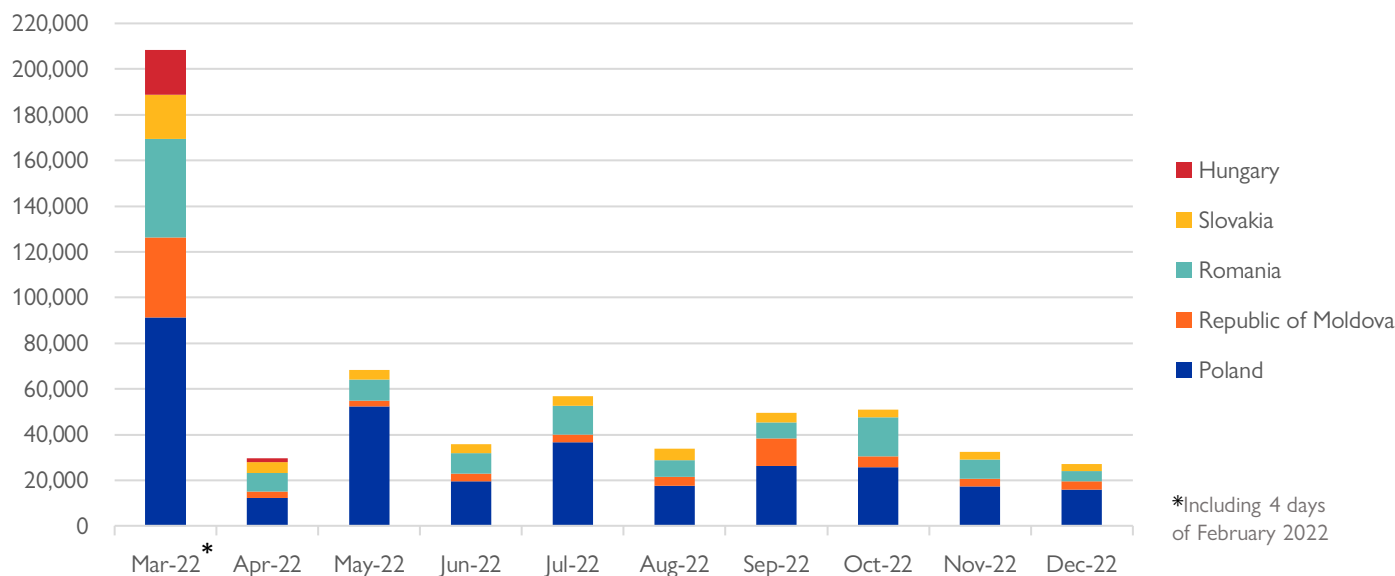
Map 1. Border crossings of TCNs (all nationalities) from Ukraine to neighbouring countries in the period 24 February – 31 December 2022



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

TCNs ARRIVAL: TRENDS IN THE REGION IN 2022

Figure 1. Border crossings of TCNs (all nationalities) from Ukraine in the period 24 February – 31 December 2022, by country and month



In **Poland**, more than half of the 318 thousand crossings of TCNs were registered between February and May 2022, with the highest peak in March. Since then, the weekly number of crossings varied between 3 and 7 thousand. Focusing on non-OECD⁶ nationalities (40% of border crossings reported), the main nationalities among TCNs were the Russian Federation (12 thousand), Georgia (9.8 thousand), Romania (9.4 thousand), Belarus (8.5 thousand), Uzbekistan (8.4 thousand), followed by other nationals of countries in Europe, Asia and African. The same nationalities were also the most represented ones among the crossing registered at the beginning of the war (February and March).

In **Romania**, slightly less than half of the 132 thousand crossings of TCNs registered in total entered by the end of May 2022. Since then, the weekly trend has remained quite stable

with the exception of September which saw an increase in registration (about 9 thousand persons in the week of 25 September compared to weekly values ranging between 2 and 3 thousand during the summer and more recently). The top five nationalities among TCNs from non-OECD countries (33% of the total) registered at entry were Bulgaria (8.4 thousand), India (6.8 thousand), Republic of Moldova (6.5 thousand), Turkmenistan (3 thousand) and Azerbaijan (2.6 thousand).

In the **Republic of Moldova**, 53 per cent of the 76 thousand crossings of TCNs recorded while entering the country from Ukraine were registered by the end of May. The trend has been quite stable since then, with registration always below 1 thousand persons per week since a new peak the first week of October with about 9.5 thousand new entries.

6. See footnote 3.

The top nationalities among TCNs from non-OECD countries (57% of the total) registered at entry from Ukraine have been Azerbaijan (8 thousand), Russian Federation (7.5 thousand), Romania (6.2 thousand), China (3.7 thousand) and Georgia (2.4 thousand). At the beginning of the war, most border crossings were of nationals from Azerbaijan, China, Russian Federation. In particular, almost all Chinese nationals reported exited Ukraine between February and March 2022.

In **Slovakia**, more than half (51%) of 54 thousand crossings of TCNs were registered at

entry from Ukraine by the end of May. The trend continued with quite stable numbers per week, with a downward move to less than 1 thousand TCNs per week since September. About 28 per cent of all TCNs border crossings were from non-OECD countries. Among these, the top nationalities reported by Slovak authorities at entry from Ukraine were Morocco (2.5 thousand), Russian Federation (1.5 thousand), India (1.4 thousand), Nigeria (1.2 thousand) and Romania (0.7 thousand).

TCNs' BORDER CROSSINGS INTO UKRAINE IN 2022

Data from national authorities of the same countries on border crossings into Ukraine is more discontinuous and available only for Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia.

Data on exits towards Ukraine may include TCNs previously living in Ukraine and returning, even when temporarily, to their country of residence, but also other TCNs who are entering Ukraine for other reasons including for work, trade and humanitarian reasons.

Overall, almost 440 thousand crossings of TCNs have been registered at exit from neighbouring countries and entering Ukraine between February and December 2022. About 30 per cent of them are from non-OECD countries.

Most TCNs crossing into Ukraine have been reported from Poland: 266 thousand (61% of the total) were registered by Polish authorities. About 31 per cent of them were citizens of non-OECD countries: Republic of Moldova,

Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Azerbaijan. The nationality breakdown of border crossings to Ukraine has remained quite constant over time.

In Romania, data available show about 96 thousand crossings of TCNs. Among the 24 per cent of them being from non-OECD country, the main nationalities were Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan.

In Slovakia, about 44 thousand crossings of TCNs exiting Slovakia to Ukraine were reported by the end of 2022. Out of the 8.5 per cent from non-OECD countries, the main nationalities were Romania, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Georgia and Croatia.

Out of the almost 34 thousand TCNs going to Ukraine from the Republic of Moldova in 2022, more than two-thirds (67%) were from non-OECD countries, mainly citizens of Azerbaijan, India, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan and Armenia.

TCNs BENEFICIARIES OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN EUROPE

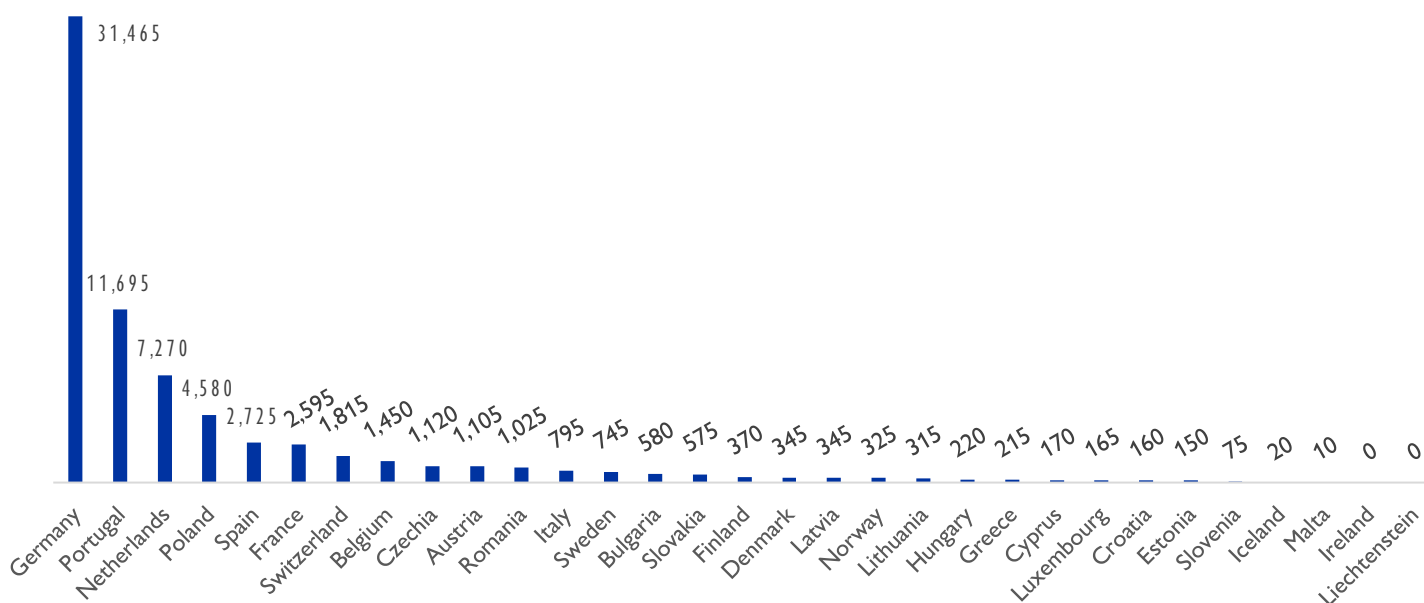
The European Union (EU) decided to apply the Temporary Protection (TP) Directive 2001/55/EC through the Council's Implementing Decision 2022/382 of 4 March 2022, which is now set to last until March 2024. TP applies to Ukrainian nationals residing in Ukraine displaced on or after 24 February 2022, but also to stateless persons and TCNs under the conditions established by EU member states.

Out of almost 4 million persons who were registered as beneficiary of TP in EU+⁵ as of 31 December 2022, 73,995 were TCNs.⁶ About 43 per cent were registered in Germany, followed by Portugal (16%), Netherlands (10%), Poland (6%), Spain (4%), France (4%) and others (17%). Russian Federation (15%), Nigeria (10%), Morocco (7%), Azerbaijan (5%), Georgia (4%) were the top 5 nationalities of TCNs beneficiaries of TP by the end of December 2022.

Table 3. Top nationalities of TCNs beneficiaries of TP, cumulative as of 31 December 2022 (Eurostat)

Nationalities	Beneficiaries
Russian Federation	11,160
Nigeria	7,000
Morocco	4,835
Unknown	3,965
Azerbaijan	3,600
Georgia	3,055
Rep. of Moldova	3,005
Armenia	2,975
Belarus	2,745
Viet Nam	2,345
Iraq	1,995
Türkiye	1,980
India	1,745
Turkmenistan	1,735
Algeria	1,665
Syrian Arab Republic	1,440
Pakistan	1,410
Afghanistan	1,375
Uzbekistan	1,380
Ghana	1,055

Figure 2. Number of TCNs beneficiaries of TP by country, cumulative as of 31 December 2022 (Eurostat)



5. 27 Member States, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

6. Eurostat [Beneficiaries of temporary protection at the end of the month by citizenship, age and sex – monthly data \[MIGR_ASYTPSM\]](#), last access 14 Feb 2023.

SURVEY DATA ON TCNs DISPLACED FROM UKRAINE

1. Intentions and needs surveys in countries neighbouring Ukraine and other European countries

IOM's DTM surveys with refugees from Ukraine and TCNs in countries neighbouring Ukraine and other European countries provide some insight on the main profile and intention of TCNs who fled from Ukraine after 24 February 2022.

Overall, 1,340 TCNs who previously resided in Ukraine were surveyed by DTM enumerators between March and November 2022 in six neighbouring countries – Belarus, Hungary, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia – as well as in Czechia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The share of TCNs on total respondents in each country-level sample is around 3 per cent overall, but varied across countries from almost zero in Latvia, to 1.4 per cent in Romania, 3 per cent in the Republic of Moldova and 28 per cent in Hungary. This is due several factors and limitation that need to be considered:

- The highest number of exits from Ukraine and of arrivals of TCNs in the respective countries was registered in the first weeks after the start of the war. In some countries, the data collection started later during 2022, when many TCNs were likely to have already transited through. Hence, TCNs surveyed are more likely to be, among those who were previously residing in Ukraine, those who were not willing or not able to return to their origin country soon after their exit from Ukraine;
- Sampling strategy and locations covered by enumerators, most of which were more explicitly open to refugees from Ukraine;
- Language barriers between enumerators and TCNs, of various origins and speaking various languages, in locations where most enumerators were Ukrainian and Russian speakers.

Socio-demographic profile

Overall, TCNs from at least 85 different origin countries were surveyed. The top five countries of nationality of TCNs surveyed were Azerbaijan (14%), Russian Federation (11%), Turkmenistan (7%), Nigeria (7%), Türkiye (5%), and India (5%). These were also among the main nationalities of TCNs registered by national authorities while crossing from Ukraine.

Figure 3. Share of TCNs respondents by gender



Table 4. Top 10 countries of nationality by number of TCNs – DTM surveys with refugees from Ukraine and TCNs in European countries (March-November 2022)

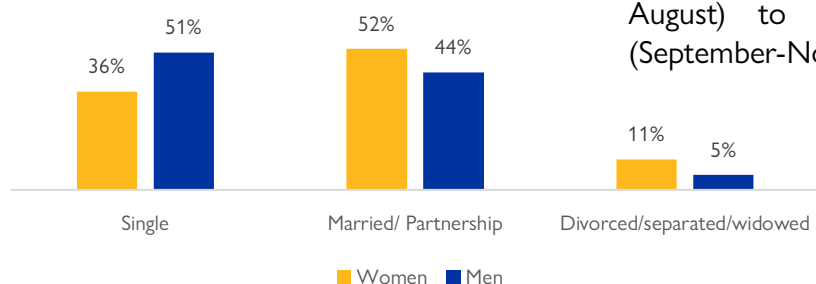
Nationality	Surveys with TCNs	Share (%)
Azerbaijan	162	12.1%
Russian Federation	143	10.7%
Nigeria	98	7.4%
Turkmenistan	88	6.6%
Türkiye	70	5.2%
India	70	5.2%
Armenia	43	3.2%
Georgia	41	3.1%
Belarus	38	2.8%
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	33	2.6%
Other	548	50.1%

Contrary to what is observed among refugees from Ukraine, and consistent with the structure of foreign populations residing in Ukraine before February 2022, men are the majority representing about two thirds of the entire TCNs sample (67%), while women are 33 per cent of the total.

The gender breakdown among TCNs varies across countries, with more women among TCNs surveyed in Czechia (52%), Lithuania (75%), Poland (42%), and the Republic of Moldova (42%), than in Belarus (37%), Hungary (22%) and Slovakia (35%).

Moreover, the share of women among TCNs decreases over time - from about 40 per cent of those surveyed in the first period (March-May), to 36 per cent in the second (June-August) to 26 per cent in the third (September-November).

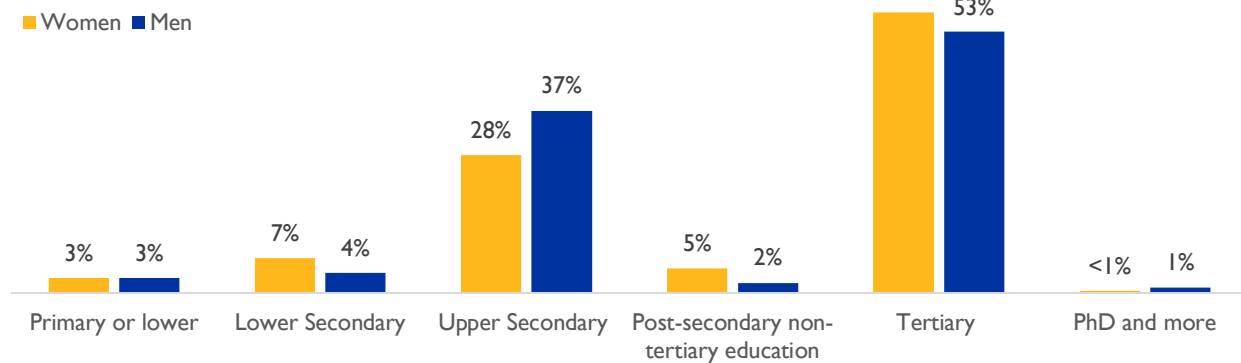
Figure 4. TCNs' Marital status by gender (%) – DTM surveys with refugees from Ukraine and TCNs in European countries (March-November 2022)



Of the overall TCNs sample, women were twice more likely than men to be divorced, separated or widowed (11% vs 5%). Similarly, women had a higher rate of being married or

in a partnership (52%) than their male counterparts. Consistently, men were more frequently single at the time of the survey than women (51% vs 36% of them).

Figure 5. TCNs' education level, by gender (%) – DTM surveys with refugees from Ukraine and TCNs in European countries (March-November 2022)



More than half of TCNs surveyed said to have completed tertiary education: 57 per cent of women and 53 per cent of men had achieved either a bachelor's or a master's degree. Upper secondary education was achieved by

another 28 per cent of women and 37% of men, while only a minority of the sample reported to have lower secondary, primary or no education at all.

Travel mode, habitual residence in Ukraine and destination

More than one third (36%) of TCNs reported to have left Ukraine alone, with the majority (64%) travelling in a group of either friends or family members. This is consistent across countries, as persons travelling alone are the minority in all samples. At the same time, TCNs surveyed more recently were more likely to be travelling alone than those met by enumerators in the first months of the war (42% surveyed in Sep-Nov, versus 32% in Mar-May 2022).

Figure 6. TCNs' travel mode, by period (%)

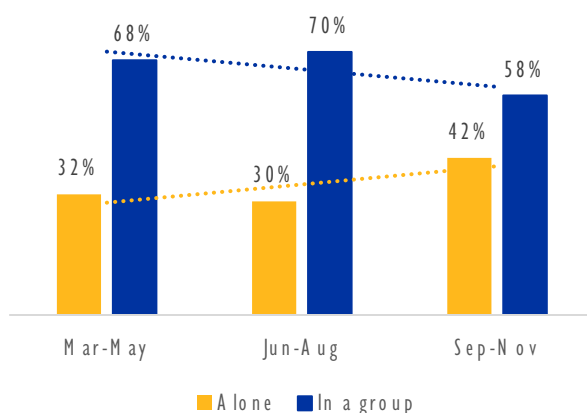
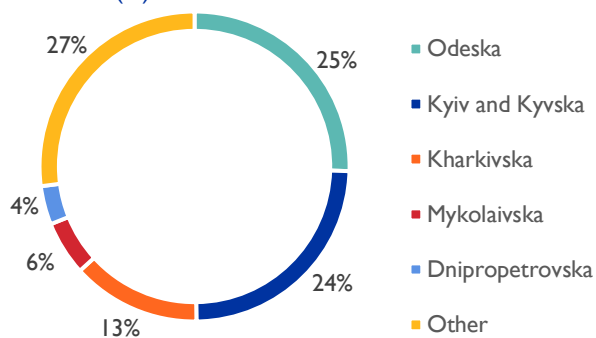


Table 5. Number of surveys with TCNs by country, and travel mode – DTM surveys with refugees from Ukraine and TCNs in European countries (March-November 2022)

	Belarus	Czechia	Hungary	Latvia	Lithuania	Poland	Rep. of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Total TCNs	
TCNs	122	25	540	2	12	26	479	115	19	1,340	100%
Alone	44%	12%	38%	0%	17%	31%	32%	35%	42%	476	36%
In a group	56%	88%	62%	100%	83%	69%	68%	64%	58%	863	64%

Figure 7. TCNs' region of habitual residence in Ukraine (%)



Nearly three-fourths (73%) of the TCN population were residing in only five oblasts/regions before leaving Ukraine. Specifically, 25 per cent were living in Odeska, followed by 24 per cent living in Kyiv city and Kyvska. Other 13 per cent said to be previously residing in Kharkivska, followed by six per cent in Mykolaivska, and four per cent in Dnipropetrovska. The remaining part of respondents (27%) were living in other oblasts in Ukraine before leaving the country.

About 29 per cent of TCNs declared the intention to remain in the country where they were surveyed. The share of those not intending to move for the time being varied across countries, from 65 per cent of TCNs met in Poland and 48 per cent of those in Belarus to the much lower 16 and 12 per cent, respectively, for TCNs met in Slovakia and Hungary.

Germany (21%), Azerbaijan (5%), Romania, Austria, Türkiye and Poland (3% each) were among the most frequent intended destinations, out of the almost 70 different countries mentioned. Other six per cent did not know what was their intended destination at the time of the interview.

Immediate needs

Overall, support with transportation, with accommodation, financial support, support with clothes and shoes and with food are the most frequently reported priority needs for surveyed TCNs. Nevertheless, levels and rankings of needs varied by a great deal depending on the country of the survey. Financial support was the first need mentioned by TCNs in Belarus (91%), in Czechia (56%),

Latvia (100%) and Lithuania (83%). Support with transportation was instead the top priority need for TCNs surveyed in Hungary (42%), the Republic of Moldova (30%), Romania (52%) and Slovakia (79%). In Poland, support with employment is the first among the needs mentioned by TCNs surveyed (35%).

Figure 8a. TCNs' overall top five needs, by country of interview (% of positive responses)
*Multiple answers possible

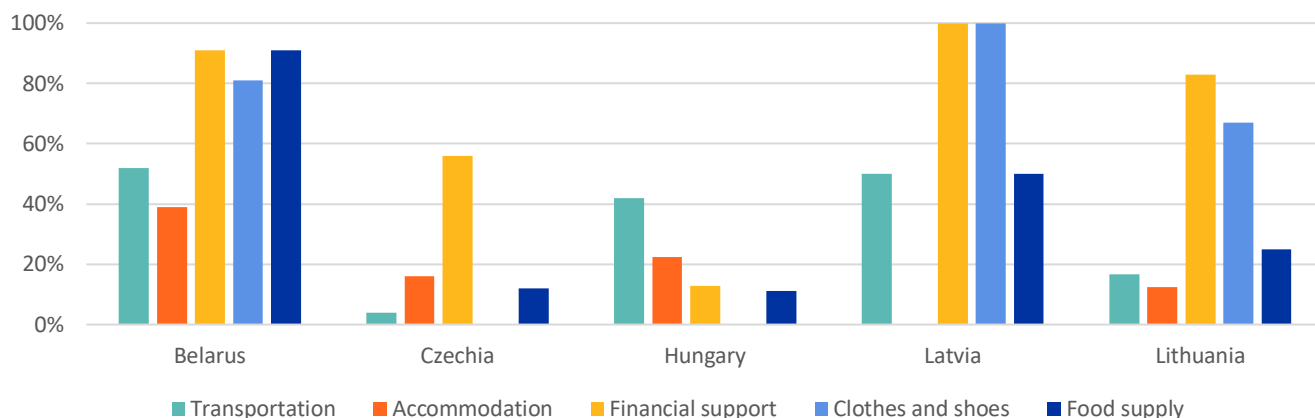
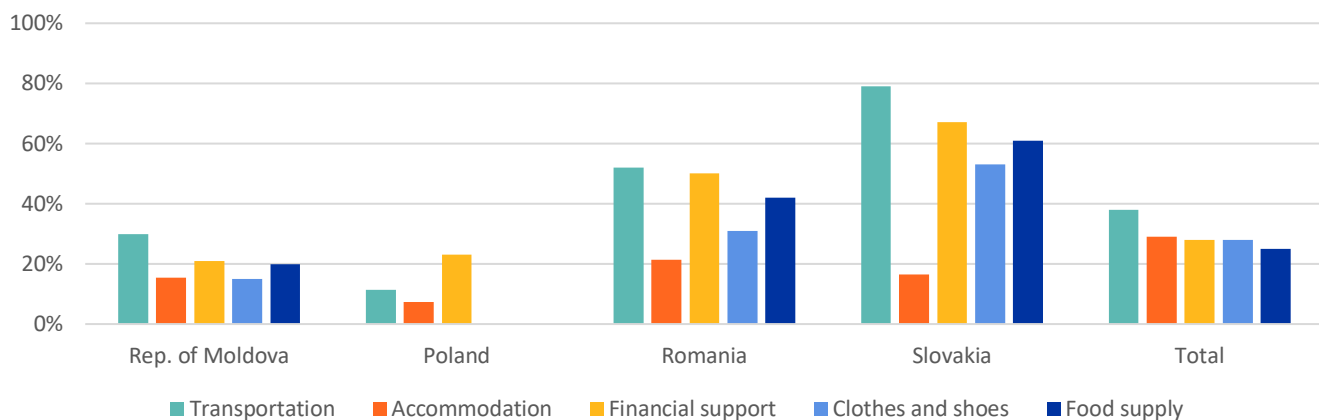


Figure 8b. TCNs' top five needs, by country of interview (% of positive responses)
*Multiple answers possible



2. TCNs from Ukraine – SNAPSHOT from Belgium

Between 22 March and 25 April 2022, IOM conducted a [rapid assessment](#) with TCNs displaced from Ukraine in Belgium. Seventy-two individuals accepted to be interviewed during this period. The top nationalities were Morocco (21%), Congo (14%), and Cameroon (10%). The respondents interviewed were ten times more likely to be male than female (90% vs 9%). The other 1% preferred not to answer. For 70 per cent of respondents, it was the first time they left Ukraine since their arrival there, and 30 per cent travelled alone. Thirty-one per cent indicated the desire to return to Ukraine,

Table 6. Top 5 nationalities – TCNs from Ukraine in Belgium (March-April 2022)

Nationality	TCNs surveys
Morocco	15
Congo (Democratic Republic of)	10
Cameroon	7
Nigeria	6
Palestinian territories	6
Others	28

while 50 per cent of the respondents left Ukraine without an intended final destination.

3. TCNs from Ukraine – SNAPSHOT from Germany

Between 14 May and 5 June 2022, IOM Germany conducted an online [rapid assessment](#) amongst TCNs who fled the war in Ukraine to Germany. One-hundred-fourteen TCNs were interviewed during this period. More than half (56%) were from Nigeria. About 71 per cent were men, while 28 per cent were women. Most respondents were young (average age of 26 years old), single (83%) and enrolled in higher education paths in Ukraine (65%). Respondents spent varying amounts of time in Ukraine before being displaced, some less than a year, others 5 years or more. Most left Ukraine without a clear destination (54%), but stated the intention to remain in Germany long-term (70%).

Table 7. Top 5 nationalities – TCNs from Ukraine in Germany (May-June 2022)

Nationality	TCNs surveys
Nigeria	64
Ghana	11
Cameroon	5
Morocco	4
Pakistan	4
Others	26

Two thirds faced issues *en route* (of those, 56% discrimination and racism) and almost half (48%) did not have a sustainable accommodation or a place to sleep at the time of the interview.

4. TCNs from Ukraine – SNAPSHOT from France

Table 8. Top 5 nationalities – TCNs from Ukraine in France (August-December 2022)

Nationality	TCNs surveys
Cameroon	14
Algeria	9
Côte d'Ivoire	8
Guinea	6
Armenia	5
Other	10

Between August and December 2022, IOM France conducted a rapid assessment amongst TCNs from Ukraine in the country, with a total of 52 interviews conducted. Most TCNs were from countries in Africa with a prevalence of francophones. About 71 per cent of TCNs were men, 29 were women. The average age was 30 years old and 79 per cent of them reported to be studying in Ukraine before February 2022.

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. The survey form was designed to capture the main displacement patterns – origin country and region – for refugees of any nationality fleeing from Ukraine because of the war. It captures the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relative to the intended final destination and prospects of permanence in the country of the survey/first reception; it gathers information regarding a set of main needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview.

DTM is part of IOM's Global Data Institute.

For more information, please consult: <https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response> and country-pages:

- [Belarus | DTM \(iom.int\)](#)
- [Hungary | DTM \(iom.int\)](#)
- [Poland | DTM \(iom.int\)](#)
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