

# UKRAINIANS AND THIRD- COUNTRY NATIONALS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN SWEDEN

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Needs, Intentions, and Challenges

June 2023

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International Organization for Migration  
Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia  
Dampfschiffstrasse 4/10-11, 1030 Vienna, Austria  
+43 1 581 22 22  
Website: <https://rovienna.iom.int/>  
Contact: [ROViennaDataResearch-Newsletter@iom.int](mailto:ROViennaDataResearch-Newsletter@iom.int)

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

EU	European Union
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
SFI	Swedish For Immigrants, Svenska För Invandrare
SMA	Swedish Migration Agency, Migrationsverket
TP(D)	Temporary Protection (Directive)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is based on a survey developed by IOM to offer an overview of the living conditions, intentions, needs, and integration challenges of displaced persons from Ukraine<sup>1</sup> in Sweden at the beginning of the second year of implementation of the temporary protection (TP) directive in the country. Commissioned by the Swedish Government and coordinated by the Swedish Government's Offices, it was conducted between April and mid-May 2023 online and through phone interviews to overcome potential biases and increase the strengths inherent in these two data collection methods.

### TOTAL RESPONDENTS 4,746

The total sample is composed of **4,746 adult respondents**, which is about 19 per cent of the total reference population of adults with a TP permit in Sweden as of mid-March 2023. Of them, 4,682 are Ukrainian nationals and 64 are Third-Country Nationals (TCNs). The size of the sample as well as the depth of qualitative comments accompanying the replies to closed-ended questions make this study a unique source of data and information on the overall reception system in the country, provided by the direct beneficiaries.

### Listen directly to their voices

Most respondents acknowledge the **overall support received by Sweden** and its national and local authorities to cater for their needs within the framework of the TP directive (TPD). Several comments from respondents point to the opportunities granted to them over the past year and show appreciation for the decision to run the survey as an exercise to increase the accountability of the Swedish authorities and to listen directly to their voices in a structured manner.

### Most intend to remain in current location

**72%** have no intention to move TP is a temporary measure activated on 04 March 2022 to face the unprecedented number of people leaving Ukraine at the onset of the war, extended in Sweden as in the rest of the EU for a second year until 04 March 2024.



1. The terms 'displaced persons from Ukraine', 'TP residence permit's holders', 'respondents' are used interchangeably to refer to refugees fleeing from Ukraine, either Ukrainians or TCNs, who have been granted a TP status in Sweden, who are the target population of this study.

About 72 per cent of respondents have **no current intentions to move** from their place of residence in Sweden in the foreseeable future, another 8 per cent plan to move within Sweden, while the rest is either uncertain (17%), or intends to move soon to another country or back to Ukraine (3%). Moreover, the possibility to return to Ukraine when it will be safe to do so is not considered by many of them: only 28 per cent think they will return to Ukraine when possible, while others do not wish to (19%), they can't (18%) or are uncertain (35%).

### A highly-educated population

**63%** are tertiary educated



As it has been observed for other migrant and refugee populations in the past, Sweden seems to attract displaced persons from Ukraine with higher levels of education and employment profiles than other European countries on average. This could be due to a phenomenon of **self-selection of persons who** – given the possibility to move within Europe with no restrictions – **chose Sweden** as a place to stay, and build a more stable life counting on the overall comprehensive protection system, but also on the perceived favourable conditions in terms of access to services and employment opportunities. Compared to the profile of displaced persons from Ukraine that IOM has interviewed in countries neighbouring Ukraine (IOM Europe 2023b), respondents in Sweden – both Ukrainians and TCNs – have **a very high education level**. Among displaced Ukrainians in Sweden, women report to have achieved tertiary education (ISCED levels from 5 to 7) in 65 per cent of the cases, compared to about 48 per cent of men. Additionally, 3 per cent of both men and women have a postgraduate degree. About 70 per cent of TCNs respondents also completed tertiary education.

### High participation to the labour market

**56%** of active population are employed



The **participation in the labour market** in Sweden is high for displaced Ukrainians and TCNs in the sample, with only 12 per cent of all respondents being inactive<sup>2</sup>

2. Individuals are considered inactive when they are not part of the labour force: they are not employed and they are not available or looking for a job. This can include children of school age, students, retired persons, and caregivers

(either retired, student or unemployed not looking for a job). Among the active population, the share of those in employment (employed, self-employed, daily worker) is about 56 per cent, while the remaining 44 per cent are unemployed but looking for a job.

Employment is higher among Ukrainian male respondents than women (69% versus 50%), and slightly higher among TCNs than among Ukrainians (58% versus 56%). Employed respondents often report to have found occupations in sectors and jobs for which they are overqualified or where they do not fully use their skills and expertise.

About 41 per cent of respondents have an autonomous housing solution, either paying for a rented apartment or owning a flat, followed by about 39 per cent who are currently in short-term housing solutions provided by the Swedish Migration Agency (*Migrationsverket*, SMA) or in long-term accommodation programs run by the Swedish municipalities. The remaining 20 per cent are hosted for free by friends, the host communities, or the third sector (NGOs, churches, civic initiatives etc.).

### Unmet needs in Sweden

After almost one year since their arrival, on average, most respondents do not report difficulties in receiving support by public authorities and/or humanitarian organisations (61%). Nevertheless, **some needs are partially unmet or not addressed** in a satisfactory manner by the current system. For both women and men and with no differences across Sweden, the top 5 identified needs<sup>3</sup> at the moment of the interview are language courses (identified by 51% of respondents overall), employment support (43%), financial support (33%), healthcare services (31%) and training opportunities for adults (29%).

In line with previous studies conducted in Sweden and elsewhere in Europe (IOM Europe 2023b; UNHCR 2023b), the main challenges for ensuring a good level of inclusion into the Swedish society are represented by the language barrier, the lack of suitable jobs, financial issues and the partial access to services – including healthcare – which are directly linked to and/or limited by the documents possessed by TP residence permit’s holders. Additionally, about 14 per cent of respondents report to have experienced some form of **discrimination** based on gender, language, ethnicity, nationality, ability or age while in Sweden.

within the household (ILO). The active population, or labour force, is made of employed individuals and unemployed who are looking for a job.

3. Respondents could select as many needs as they wished out of a list of 22 items.

### Geographical distribution

Collected data allow a good representation of different conditions and experiences lived by displaced persons from Ukraine **across the Swedish territory**. While most services and rights are granted in a centralized manner, there are some regional differences in terms of profile of respondents, of their inclusion in the local labour market and of their living conditions.

Overall, respondents residing in the Stockholm area are more frequently employed than those living anywhere else in the country, they live more frequently in autonomous housing solutions, they experience less issues than anyone else in receiving humanitarian support when needed, and they speak less Swedish than anyone else as they may be relying on English more easily in their everyday life. Residents in Övre Norrland are also sharing quite high levels of satisfaction of their living conditions and good results in terms of employment. On the other side, respondents living in Norra Mellansverige, Småland med öarna and Sydsverige areas are those reporting more frequently issues in several spheres of life, from employment to access to services.

### Access to rights and services

From the quantitative and qualitative accounts collected, the following points emerge as more prominent to improve the current system and the overall access to rights and services for TP residence permit’s holders:

The **lack of personal identity number** prevents full access to several public and private services, including, but not limited to, full access to the Swedish for Immigrants (*Svenska För Invandrare*, SFI) type of language courses and integration courses available to other migrant populations, the possibility of converting the Ukrainian driving license into a EU-valid one, the smooth signing of job contracts, access to housing, and the full access to healthcare services for both adults and children. In particular, **among the main issues** that prevent full integration in the local context of the host communities, Ukrainian respondents highlight:

**Language:** the availability, coverage and quality across the territory of Swedish language courses is often not sufficiently tailored to the needs of those who want to work in Sweden. Not only “language courses” is mentioned as a primary need by more than half (51%) of all respondents, but it is also the main barrier for those who look for a job in Sweden: 80 per cent of unemployed respondents mention

language as the main barrier to effectively take part in the Swedish labour market. While there is room to improve the quality and coverage of SFI-language courses (Swedish Schools Inspectorate 2023), the proposed funds<sup>4</sup> by the Swedish Government to extend SFI-courses to beneficiaries of TP goes in the right direction. English language courses would also be needed to increase the possibility to get jobs that are in line with their education background and skills.

**Employment:** while the average level of employment among TP holders in Sweden is higher than that of other refugee populations in Europe and in Sweden, still many are looking for employment. Most of those in employment found their job through friends and via online platforms rather than through the Public Employment Service. More tailored support is needed to ease the difficulties inherent in understanding how the labour market works, what are the rules and conditions, how to find job posts and be successful in being recruited, besides the reliance on local, personal networks.

Access to the fast-track programme for placement into shortage occupations run by the Swedish Employment Service could ease the matching for a set of specific professions, with skills and expertise which are present in the pool of displaced persons from Ukraine. Moreover, given the prevalence of women among the displaced and their higher unemployment compared to men, more suitable jobs in terms of working hours and week schedule for those alone with children under 5 years of age would be needed.

**Financial support:** TP holders have the same right to a daily allowance as asylum-seekers in Sweden. This is deemed as low and not sufficient to cover living expenses or to afford an autonomous housing solution by many respondents to the survey. One third (33%) of them report financial support as a primary need.

**Healthcare needs** of adult TP holders beyond emergency care are not covered by the public health system. The need of ordinary health checks as well as of specialistic visits cannot be postponed indefinitely, as the displacement situation protracts: about 38 per cent of those who travelled back to Ukraine at least once since the start of the war (14% of the sample) did so to go visit a doctor (gynaecologists and dentists among the most frequently mentioned).

Healthcare services are reported as a primary need by 31 per cent of respondents, the provision of medicines by 14 per cent of them.

**Access to financial services:** the lack of a Swedish bank account and difficulties in accessing financial and insurance services are reported: 32 per cent of Ukrainians said to be not eligible to open a bank account. This is primarily due to the lack of a personal identity number which is used by banks for the customer identification.

### Integration challenges

Episodes of discrimination are reported by 14 per cent of respondents and are lived as a challenge to a full integration by 9 per cent of them. Among the most frequently mentioned experiences, there are records of discrimination mainly based on nationality, ethnicity, and language. Unequal assistance received compared to other refugee and migrant communities is mentioned, together with episodes of bullying in schools and of criticism from teachers, attacks from Russian-speaking communities against Ukrainian-speaking ones, and incidents where respondents were refused access to public transportation. Discrimination on the grounds of age, ability, sexual orientation and religion is also mentioned.

Overall, there seems to be the risk of diverging treatments and results in terms of inclusion for TP holders compared to other refugee and migrant populations in Sweden, and the sense of discrimination can be felt as coming from the institutional set up in addition to the one coming from individuals and/or population groups.

### Regional differences

The present analysis focuses on regions (administrative level 2) to analyse comparable sub-sample of reasonable size. Nevertheless, displaced persons from Ukraine are not equally distributed across the Swedish territory and a deeper analysis of collected data at a lower administrative level is possible for some region of residence (*län*) where most currently live.

This could provide more tailored insights on strengths and weaknesses of the local context for this new population of foreign professionals who, in most cases, intend to remain in Sweden in the long-term.

4. On April 2023, the Government of Sweden has presented its 2023 Spring Budget, which includes a measure to ensure [access to the SFI language courses](#) to TP holders, with a proposed 100 million Kronas to municipalities to increase their SFI offer to beneficiaries of TP. The Swedish Riksdag should take a decision on the proposed budget in June 2023 ([here](#)).

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### The implementation of TPD in Sweden

The Swedish Government has implemented the European Union (EU) TPD for displaced persons from Ukraine, activated on 4 March 2022. TP falls under the Swedish Act on the reception of asylum-seekers and was expanded on 7 April 2022 to include also those who travelled to Sweden between 30 October 2021 and 23 February 2022, and belong to specific categories mentioned in the EU Directive.<sup>5</sup> To manage the large number of TP applications, SMA established an e-service that can be used by Ukrainian citizens with a valid passport or other identity documents.

TP holders have similar rights as asylum-seekers: they are not registered in the Swedish Population Register and do not receive a personal identity number (*personnummer*).<sup>6</sup> Rather, they may ask for a coordination number (*samordningsnummer*) that can be used to interact with the Swedish public administration, although it takes certain time to be issued.<sup>7</sup> In terms of accommodation, they can be placed in short-term housing solutions provided by the SMA or long-term ones by local municipalities, or they can arrange their own accommodation without financial support. Introductory courses of SFI are available in some municipalities for TP holders, who are not in general eligible for the Swedish language courses and vocational education within municipal adult education though, for which a personal identity number is required. TP holders have the right to work immediately after being granted a residence permit and can register with the Swedish Public Employment Service for assistance finding a job, such as subsidised employment and wage subsidies. However, they are not eligible to join the Introductory Programme for newly arrived immigrants since this requires the registration as resident in the Swedish Population Register (Desiderio and Hooper 2023). Adult TP holders are entitled to emergency healthcare and treatment for illness, while children under 18 have access to regular healthcare. In terms of financial

5. TPD activation in the context of the Ukraine war applies to people residing in Ukraine on or before 24 February 2022 who are 1) Ukrainian nationals and their family members, 2) non-Ukrainian nationals and stateless persons benefiting from international protection in Ukraine and their family members, 3) non-Ukrainian nationals with permanent residence permit in Ukraine. It can also apply to Ukrainians who found themselves out of the country on 24 February 2022 and other non-Ukrainian nationals previously residing in Ukraine who cannot return to their origin country (European Council 2022). TP is “defined by the UNHCR as a pragmatic ‘tool’ of international protection, which is used at times as an emergency response to the large-scale movement of asylum-seekers, providing immediate protection from refoulement and basic minimum treatment” (UNHCR 2023a, 9). IOM and humanitarian partners work to support the host governments in the regional refugee response since March 2022

6. The personal identity number, issued by the Swedish Tax Agency, is the unique personal identifier for anyone who is registered in the Swedish Population Register, to deal with public services and with several private services as well. For more information see [here](#).

7. See [here](#).

support, they are entitled to the same level of allowance granted to asylum seekers, which varies for adults and children and depending on whether accommodation and/or food are provided by the authorities or not.<sup>8</sup> Children who are granted TP have the right to attend preschool and enrol in primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary education. Higher education is accessible if TP holders meet the entry requirements, and some universities have established tuition waivers for TP holders (Nordic Council of Ministers 2022).

### Assessing TP: listening to the voices of displaced persons from Ukraine in Sweden

As the first year of TP implementation ended on 4 March 2023, TP holders who wished to remain in Sweden were requested to apply for an extended residence permit. Extended and first-time TP permits released after 4 March 2023 are valid until 4 March 2024.<sup>9</sup>

At the same time, the Swedish Government assesses the measures currently implemented and to discuss possible adjustments for the second year of the TP implementation in the country. To do so, the Swedish Government commissioned IOM to conduct a survey among TP holders about their life in Sweden, to better understand their needs and plans and to learn about the main challenges they experienced since their arrival in Sweden.

### Structure of the report

The report is structured as follows. Section 2 explains the Methodology for this study and the sample composition. Section 3 presents the Socio-demographic profile of displaced persons from Ukraine residing in Sweden. Section 4 gives insights into respondents’ intentions to move. Section 5 is dedicated to the education and employment background before displacement compared to the current situation in Sweden, exploring their access to the labour market, barriers to employment, and their overall financial situation. Section 6 addresses the level of access to and satisfaction with some public and private services (employment, banks, schools, healthcare). Section 7 identifies the main needs and challenges of respondents, and the type of information and assistance they have received already. Section 8 presents examples of discrimination experienced by respondents in Sweden and Section 9 is dedicated to TCNs displaced from Ukraine and with a TP permit. Section 10 presents the main conclusions.

8. The amount of the allowance has not changed since it was determined in the Reception of Asylum Seekers and Others Ordinance in 1994 and it is lower than that for persons with a refugee status. See [here](#).

9. See [here](#).

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### Target and Sampling framework

The target population for this study is individuals displaced from Ukraine – both Ukrainians and other nationalities – holding a TP permit in Sweden as of March 2023.<sup>9</sup> According to data from SMA, as of 12 March 2023 there were 35,516 individuals registered with a TP permit in Sweden. Of them, 44 per cent were adult women, 25 per cent were adult men and 31 per cent were children below 18 years of age.<sup>10</sup>

The sampling frame for this study considered only registered adults and their distribution by sex and by *län* as of 12 March 2023. Out of the total 24,579 adult TP holders in Sweden, 64 per cent were adult women and 36 per cent were adult men.

Main *län* of residence were Stockholm (40%), followed by Västra Götalands *län* (13%) and Skåne *län* (12%).

### Questionnaire definition

The questionnaire developed for this study builds on surveys conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in more than 15 countries where displaced persons from Ukraine<sup>11</sup> and TCNs have been displaced since the onset of the war in Ukraine and was adapted for the Swedish context with the contribution and inputs of the Swedish Government's Offices.

The questionnaire was composed by several modules with the aim to collect data on: the respondents' socio-demographic profile, their region of origin in Ukraine and journey to Sweden, the current composition of the group/household, the current intentions in terms of stay or move, their economic and employment profile, their access to services, their main needs and assistance received, and their main challenges experienced in Sweden.

The questionnaire includes mostly closed-ended questions, and also allowed respondents to share more qualitative insights and comments on several aspects, if they wished to do so.

### Survey implementation

The survey was administered online and by phone to overcome potential biases (e.g. availability, social desirability, digital divide) and increase the strengths inherent in using these two data collection methods (cost and time efficiency, representativity, anonymity, geographical reach, access to direct experiences).

Phone surveys allow for the interviewer to clarify questions and provide additional context. They can be preferred by respondents who do not have access to an internet connection or who lack the technical literacy or familiarity with online tools to complete an online survey, and can lead to a high response rate. On the other side, phone numbers are not always available, it takes more time to conduct interviews, and there can be some degree of response bias, with respondents replying what it is believed to be a more acceptable or average opinion.

Online surveys are conducted via email or a web-based survey platform. They are most cost-effective and efficient than phone or in-person surveys, as they can be automated and sent to many contacts simultaneously. They allow respondents to complete the survey at their own pace, with greater sense of anonymity and privacy, which can encourage respondents to provide more honest responses. Online surveys are nevertheless selecting respondents among those who have access to internet and who are familiar with online resources. Also, respondents who are highly motivated to share their opinions may be more likely to participate in online surveys, leading to a sample that could over-represent some specific viewpoints.

### A dual approach

To mitigate the above-mentioned biases and to try to collect a significant number of surveys in a limited period, while keeping high representativity and high quality of the responses, IOM combined the two methods as follows:



*Online survey:* the link and instructions to participate in the survey were sent via email on 4 April 2023 by the SMA. The email was written in English, Ukrainian and Russian and was sent to over 24 thousand contacts stored by SMA among TP holders in Sweden as of mid-March 2023. A web page with instructions and a dedicated email address for questions and support was developed by IOM. The survey form was developed with Enketo web application and remained open for replies until 15 May 2023.

10. Figures refer to TP holders who presented the request for extension to SMA and were therefore signalling to be present in Sweden by the beginning of March 2023.

11. IOM has deployed its DTM tools to monitor the main displacement patterns, needs and intentions of refugees from Ukraine, and TCNs leaving Ukraine since March 2022 in main countries of displacement across Europe, the Western Balkans and Türkiye: <https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response>.

Out of a total 4,198 surveys submitted to the IOM Kobo server, 3,691 (78%) were retained as valid after cleaning (adult respondents, consenting to participate and not having participated before, in Sweden and with TP).



*Phone survey:* IOM was given access to an anonymized list of 15,452 telephone contacts of registered adult TP holders by the SMA, disaggregated by *län* of residence and sex.<sup>12</sup> Out of the total telephone list, a team of 5 IOM trained enumerators was given access to the list of randomly extracted contacts, with a total of about 4 thousand telephone numbers contacted. For each contact, enumerators tried a maximum of three times to dial the number in consecutive days. A total of 1,055 valid surveys were collected (26% of contacted numbers); the failed attempts were caused by numbers no longer being active, no replies, respondents not consenting to participate, respondents not falling into the target population, or respondents who had already participated in the online survey.

### Sample structure

The total number of valid surveys collected is 4,746, which is about 19 per cent of the target population of adult TP holders. About 78 per cent of the surveys were done online, directly by respondents, while the remaining 22 per cent were collected with phone surveys conducted

by trained IOM enumerators. For both the online and the telephone survey, the distribution of respondents by gender and by *län* of residence corresponds well to the overall distribution of TP holders as per SMA data. In particular, the top three *län* by number of respondents to the survey were Stockholm area (38%), Skåne *län* (12%) and Västra Götalands *län* (10%).

Some 64 individuals (1.3% of total respondents) declared to be non-Ukrainian nationals. As the number is low, they are considered as a separate group in the analysis. A short profile of TCNs in the sample is presented in Section 9.

The main body of the report focuses on the 4,682 surveys with Ukrainian nationals. Out of these, 68 per cent are women, and 32 per cent are men. Less than 1 per cent of respondents does not identify as either male or female (6 individuals, some specify to identify themselves as non-binary (3) and transgender (1) or prefer not to answer the question on gender (17)). In the following sections, the main results are presented for the total Ukrainian sample, for women and men and by area of residence.<sup>13</sup>

The qualitative comments provided by respondents alongside their replies to close-ended questions – which include their opinions, fears and hopes for the future – are added to provide context to the analysis of quantitative data. Anonymized citations are also included.

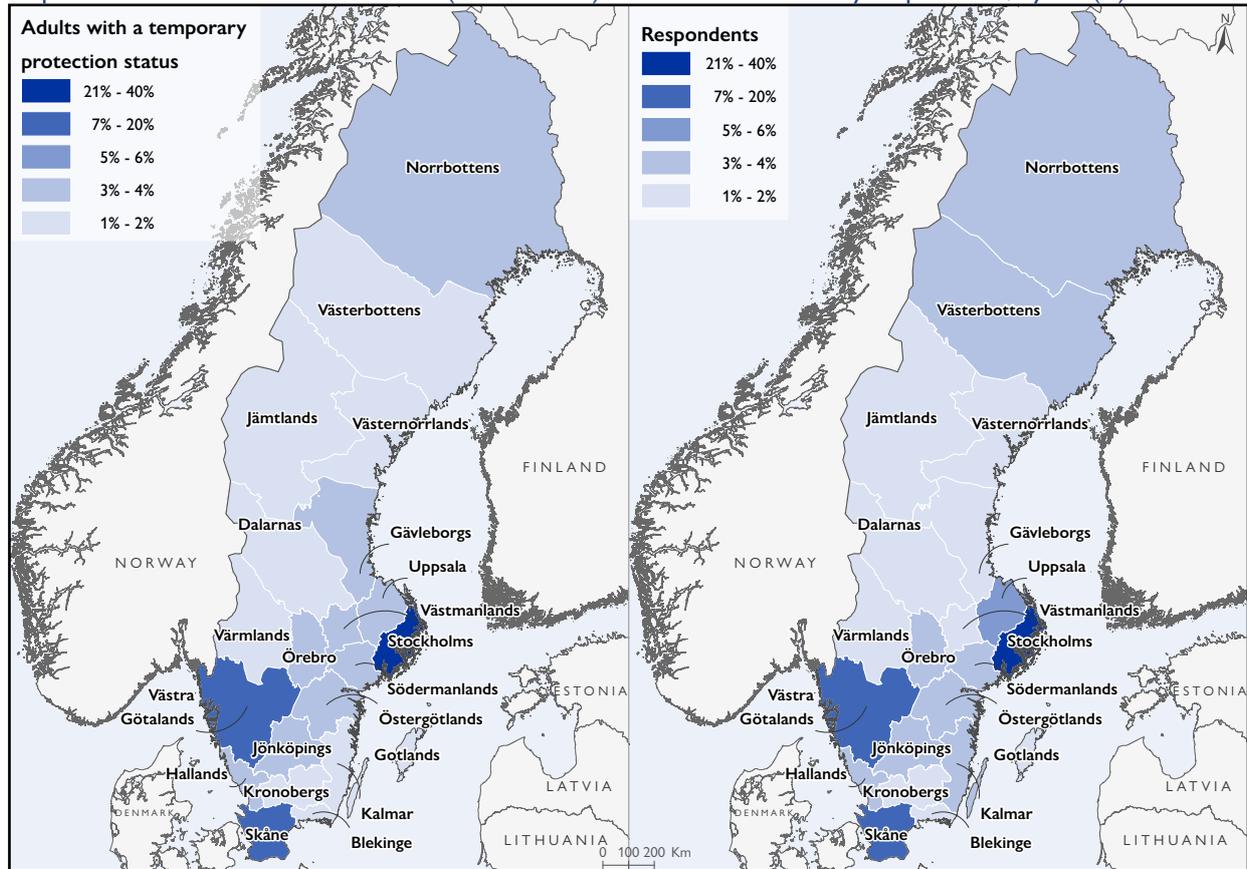
Table 1: Sample composition by survey mode

Survey mode	Start date	End date	Valid surveys	Surveys with Ukrainians	Surveys with TCNs	Share of total sample
Online	03 April 2023	15 May 2023	3,691	3,633	58	78%
Phone	13 April 2023	15 May 2023	1,055	1,049	6	22%
Total			4,746	4,682	64	100%

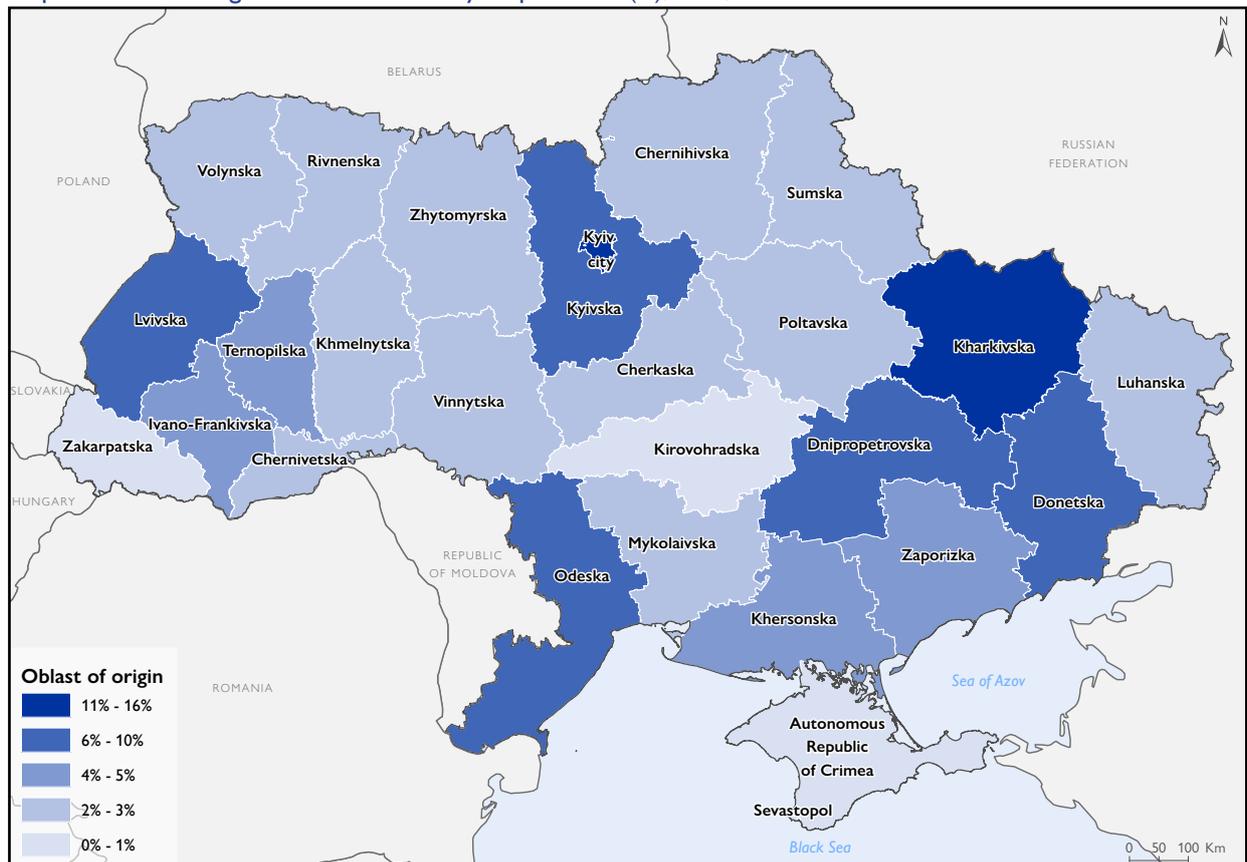
12. Female/male binary distinction as per registration records by SMA

13. These correspond to administrative [level NUT2](#) which is an aggregation of the *län* (administrative level 3): Mellersta Norrland, Norra Mellansverige, Östra Mellansverige, Övre Norrland, Småland med öarna, Stockholm, Sydsverige, Västsverige.

Map 1: Distribution of adult TP holders (source: SMA) and of Ukrainian survey respondents, by län (%)



Map 2: Oblast of origin of Ukrainian survey respondents (%), N=4,682



These maps are for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

### 3. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

#### Gender

**68%** **32%**  
women men

Figure 1: Age group

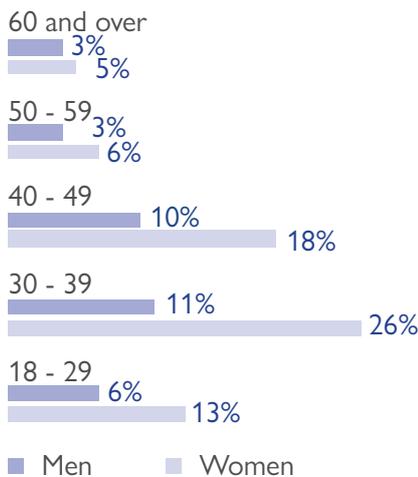


Table 2: Household composition, by gender and total

	Men (%)	Women (%)	Total (%)
Single	30	20	24
Single-headed household with child(ren)	10	27	21
Household with 2 adults and child(ren)	30	28	29
Other household types	30	25	26

#### Average age

**39.5**  
years old

#### Vulnerabilities in the group

**50%**   
have at least one child

**7%**   
are or live with someone who 60 years old or older

**19%**   
have at least one person with a serious health condition in their household

#### Civil status

**50%**  
of respondents are married, 19% single, 14% divorced or separated, 11% in a partnership, 3% widowed, 2% unknown

#### Time since displacement

**66%**  
of respondents are displaced out of Ukraine since March 2022, with 347 days on average spent in Sweden; newly arrived in 2023 are only 6% of the total

#### Housing

**41%**   
are living in autonomous housing solutions, while 59% in accommodation provided by SMA, municipalities or by civic initiatives

#### Intentions

**72%**  
intend to stay in their current locations, and another 8 per cent would move only within Sweden.

## 4. INTENTIONS: STAY IN SWEDEN OR MOVE?

### Travel back to Ukraine

About two thirds of the survey respondents left Ukraine by the end of March 2022. Another 15 per cent left in Q2 of 2022, followed by 9 per cent in Q3 of 2022, 6 per cent in Q4 of 2022 and only 3 per cent in the first months of 2023. The average time spent in Sweden is about 347 days.

Since their first displacement, about 14 per cent have travelled back to Ukraine at least once. This is more frequent among women than among men (18% versus 4%), given the travel restrictions for adult men in Ukraine. The main reasons to go back to Ukraine, at least temporarily, show some unmet needs whilst in Sweden: to get healthcare (39%),<sup>14</sup> to renew or obtain new documents (passports, licenses, diplomas and birth certificates) (27%) are mentioned together with the desire to meet with family members (30%), to check on one's property (18%) and to cater for persons in need of care (children, older persons, persons with disabilities) left behind (17%).

### Current plans and future intentions

On average, about 72 per cent of respondents have no intentions to move from their current place of residence, and 8 per cent plan to move only within Sweden. The share of those not intending to move varies slightly by area of residence: it is the highest among residents of the Västsverige and of the Stockholm areas (74% and 73% of them, respectively) and it is the lowest among residents of the Mellersta Norrland and Norra Mellansverige areas (66% and 67%, respectively). These two areas, together with Övre Norrland, are also those where relatively more respondents report the intention to move and change residence within Sweden (11% of them, compared to 8% of the total sample on average).

Only less than 2 per cent of respondents mention the intention to move to another country (mainly Canada, Germany, United Kingdom), 2 per cent have plans to go back to Ukraine soon, and 17 per cent are uncertain or preferred not to answer. Among those who intend to move, only 7 per cent seem to have a concrete plan to change country in less than a month, while the majority plan to move in more than 6 months (27%) or are uncertain about timing (33%).

Not only do 80 per cent of the sample not currently plan

to leave Sweden, many do not see return viable at all in the future. Similarly to what was observed in a similar study in Norway (Kjeøy and Tyldum 2022), when asked about their desire to return to Ukraine if/when safe to do so, only 28 per cent reply positively while more than one third do not wish to (19%) or they cannot (18%) go back, and another 35 per cent are not sure, with no significant differences between men and women. Respondents originating from the western oblasts of Luhanska and Donetska report much more frequently than the rest of the sample (41% of them compared to 18% of total respondents) that they will not be able to go back.

### Why Sweden?

The main reason for Ukrainians with TP living in neighbouring countries to Ukraine is associated to the proximity and their desire to return to Ukraine as soon as it is safe and possible (IOM Poland 2023; IOM Moldova 2023). For those who chose Sweden as a place to stay, it seems the reasons are more related to the overall comprehensive protection system and the perceived favourable conditions in terms of access to services and employment opportunities.

Among those who say they will not be going back to Ukraine even when the conditions will improve, the main reasons revolve around the appreciation of the overall support received by Sweden and for the country in general, and the desire to pursue more safety and stability for themselves and for the children who are starting a new life in Sweden. Moreover, respondents mention the better economic prospects in Sweden compared to the socio-economic conditions of Ukraine even after the war ends, with reconstruction and recovery that would need a lot of time. The following sections show to what extent this self-selection in terms of motivations, intentions and profiles translates into inclusion in the socio-economic life of the host communities in Sweden.

*"My children go to school and are very happy about it. My wife and I have found jobs and are studying Swedish. In Ukraine, the children had difficulties with school. My wife and I lost our jobs in Ukraine and we won't be able to find them quickly (...).*

*Food prices in Ukraine have increased significantly, while wages have decreased. There is a very large number of unregistered weapons in the hands of the population that can be used for violence, there are many mined areas and you cannot feel safe anywhere."*

*(Ukrainian man, 37 years old, married with 2 children)*

14. This is observed also among refugees from Ukraine displaced elsewhere in Europe. About 20 per cent of those crossing back to Ukraine for a short visit from neighbouring countries during the first months of 2023 (IOM Europe 2023a), stated they were going back to receive healthcare. Please Chapter 6 (p.26) for more details on access to healthcare for refugees from Ukraine.

## 5. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC PROFILES AND PROSPECTS

### Education level

Survey data show that the educational attainment of displaced persons from Ukraine is generally high and higher than the latest official available data on the whole Ukrainian labour force:<sup>15</sup> women in the sample report to have achieved tertiary education (ISCED levels from 5 to 7<sup>16</sup>) in 65 per cent of the cases, compared to about 48 per cent of men. Moreover 3 per cent of both men and women have a postgraduate degree.

Business administration and law (24%), education (14%), engineering, manufacturing and construction (11%), and health and welfare (11%) are the main fields of education among women with at least an upper secondary education level. Engineering, manufacturing and construction (43%) is the main field of education for men with at least a higher secondary education level, followed by business administration and law (14%), and information and communication technology (9%).

Table 3: Education level, by gender and total (%), N=4,682

Education level ISCED	Men (%)	Women (%)	Total (%)
Postgraduate - ISCED 8	3	3	3
Tertiary - ISCED 5-6-7	48	65	59
Post-secondary, non-tertiary - ISCED 4	16	11	13
Upper secondary - ISCED 3	23	15	17
Lower secondary - ISCED 2	9	4	6
Primary - ISCED level 1	1	1	1
Less than primary/ none	0	1	1

### Labour market integration

#### Participation in the labour market

About 88 per cent of respondents (88% among women, 87% among men) were active in the labour market before leaving Ukraine, while the remaining 12 per cent were either retired, students or unemployed and not looking/not available for work.<sup>17</sup>

15. The educational attainment of Ukrainians was higher than that of the EU average in 2020 (Ukraine LFS, 2020 in (OECD 2023)), with more than half of women at their working-age having a tertiary degree (56%) compared to about 43 per cent of Ukrainian working-age men.

16. UNESCO – ISCED 11 classification: [here](#).

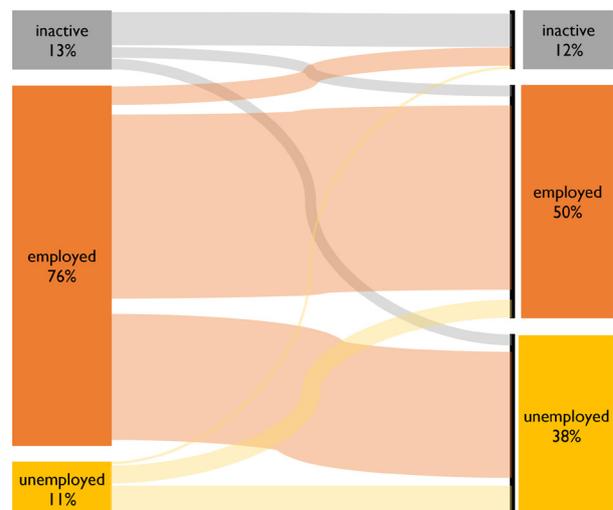
17. According to ILO international standards, the labour force participation rate is a measure of the proportion of a country’s working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work. See: [here](#).

The unemployment rate among the active labour force before leaving Ukraine was 15 per cent among women and 9 per cent among men.<sup>18</sup>

The participation in the labour market remains at similarly high levels after displacement: 86 per cent of women and 91 per cent of men are part of the labour force at the moment of the interview. Among those active, more than half (56%) are in employment (employed, self-employed, daily worker) while the remaining 44 per cent are unemployed but looking for a job. Hence, even with caveats and limitations connected with the self-reporting of the employment status, these findings seem in line with some previous evidence on the inclusion of displaced persons from Ukraine in the European labour markets, which appears to be faster on average than for other refugee populations (OECD 2023; Desiderio and Hooper 2023; IOM Europe 2023b).<sup>19</sup>

Among the inactive, besides retirees (41%) and students (34%), 25 per cent are not employed and not looking for a job: among them, the main reasons to be out of the labour market are having care duties for other members of the family (e.g. children, older persons and persons with a disability), having a medical condition on their own (20%), or having no need to work as others in their household are employed (15%).

Figure 2: Employment status before and after displacement, total (%), N=4,424



18. The unemployment rate is calculated by expressing the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the total number of persons in the labour force (ibid).

19. Other studies, based on more tailored sample of Ukrainian professionals present in online job portals, report higher shares of unemployed (Beredskapslyftet 2023).



This is more frequent among women (56% of those who work) than among men (34%) and it is also more frequent among tertiary educated (54%) than those with lower levels of education (36%). Indeed, before displacement, the main sectors of occupation for those employed were construction and education (10% each), wholesale and retail (9%), ICT (8%), human health and social work (8%), with managers, teachers, accountants, IT specialists, administrative officers, doctors and other health professionals among the most frequently mentioned occupations.

In Sweden, those working are mainly employed in construction (22%), in ICT (7%), in accommodation and food services (7%) and manufacturing (6%), with cleaners, builders, IT specialists, teachers, carpenters, waiters and waitresses, cooks and domestic workers being among the top occupations.

These results show an overall decrease of managerial, professional, and technical occupations in favour of machine operators and elementary occupations. At the same time, some have been able to retain their previous occupational level either by working remotely for Ukraine-based firms or moving to Swedish branches of the same firm they were working previously in Ukraine.

### Barriers to employment

Language is by far the main barrier when looking for a job, reported by 85 per cent of respondents in search of employment: not speaking Swedish fluently remains the main issue for those seeking employment. Other barriers frequently mentioned are the lack of suitable jobs in the area of residence (22%), lack of required qualifications or of recognition of them (14%), lack of transportation to reach the workplace (12%), the difficult reconciliation of care duties (need to take care of children, older

Table 4: Main barriers for the unemployed looking for a job, by gender and total (%) – more than one answer possible, N=1,578

	Men (%)	Women (%)	Total (%)
Language barriers	83	86	85
Not available jobs in the area	21	23	22
Lack of qualifications	14	14	14
Not available transportation	10	13	12
Care duties (taking care of children, older persons, persons with disabilities)	5	14	12
Discrimination	13	9	10
Personal health condition	7	9	9

persons or persons with disabilities) and available working arrangements (12%), discrimination (10%) and personal health conditions (9%). Moreover, many respondents acknowledge the lack of a local network as a limitation when looking for a job. The importance of having a network is confirmed also by the fact that more than half of those in employment (55%) declare to have found their job mainly through friends, while others found it on online job portals (13%) and social media in Sweden (11%). Only around 7 per cent of the employed found their job through an employment agency.

### Displaced persons from Ukraine and overall resident population: comparing unemployment across regions

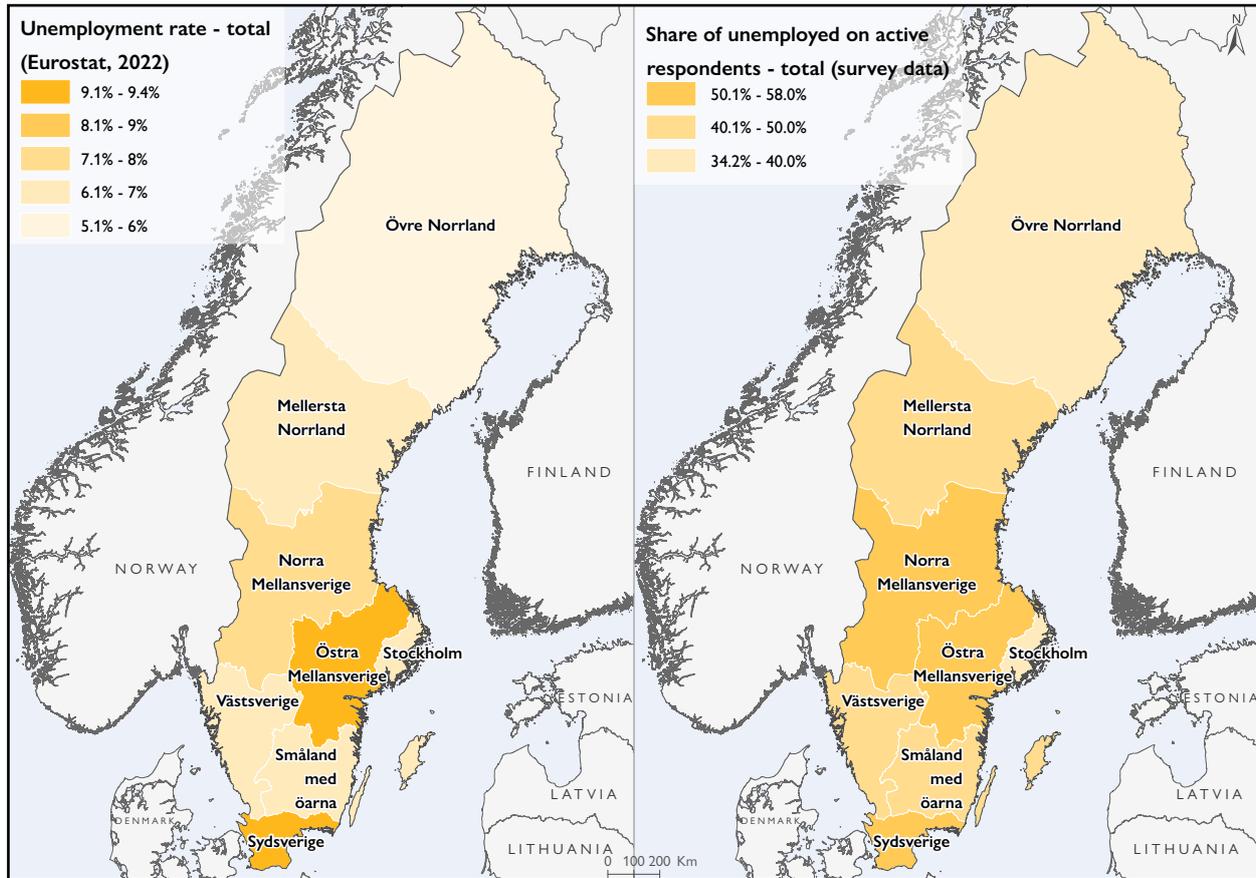
The official unemployment rate for the total resident population in Sweden in 2022 (Eurostat 2023) was at 7.5 per cent, compared to 44 per cent among Ukrainian respondents. Östra Mellansverige, Sydsverige and Norra Mellansverige areas reporting official unemployment rates higher than the average (9.4%, 9.2% and 7.6%, respectively), while the lowest unemployment rate is found in the Övre Norrland area (5.1%). The same three regions are also those where the share of unemployed among Ukrainian respondents participating in the labour market is the highest: Norra Mellansverige (58%), Östra Mellansverige (54%) and Sydsverige (51%). At the same time, respondents residing in Stockholm and in Övre Norrland area are showing the lowest levels of unemployment (34% and 37%, respectively).

When looking at differences by gender, Ukrainian women tend to be much less employed than men in all areas of the country, but with wide variations. The highest female unemployment level is found in Norra Mellansverige, where it is two times male unemployment (70% versus 35%), followed by Ukrainian women residing in Östra Mellansverige (59%) and Småland med öarna (57%). Among Ukrainian men, the highest level of unemployment is found in Väst sverige (42%), Östra Mellansverige (41%) and Sydsverige (39%) areas.

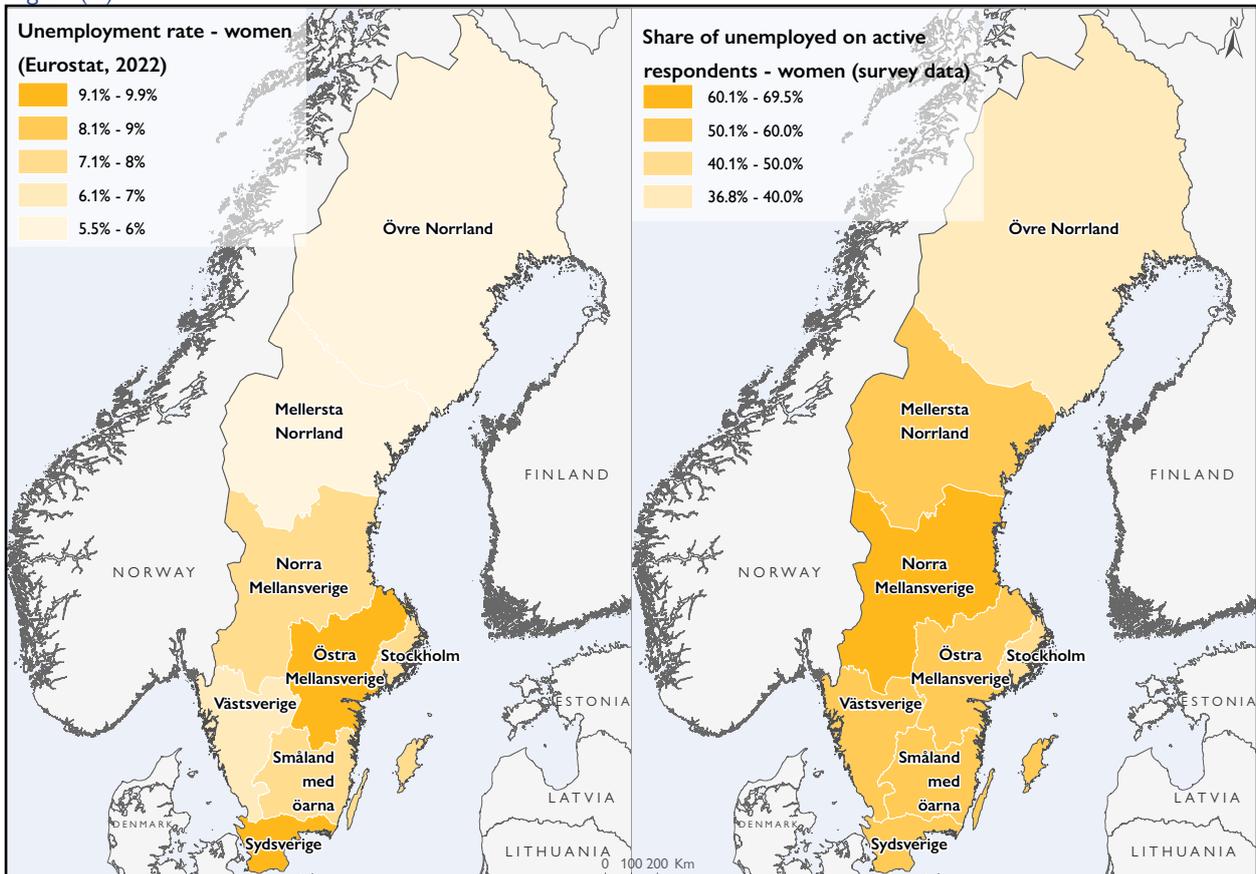
### Current financial situation

The employment status understandably is correlated to the perceptions about the financial situation in Sweden. Half (50%) of the Ukrainians in the sample consider themselves having the means or income sufficient to cover their living expenses, while 46 per cent do not and 9 per cent prefer not to answer. Income accrued from an economic activity is the main source of money to cover for everyday expenses for 43 per cent of respondents, followed by almost a quarter that receive support from the authorities and 16 per cent who are supported by families or friends.

Map 3: Unemployment rate of total population of Sweden (Eurostat) and share of unemployed respondents, by region (%)

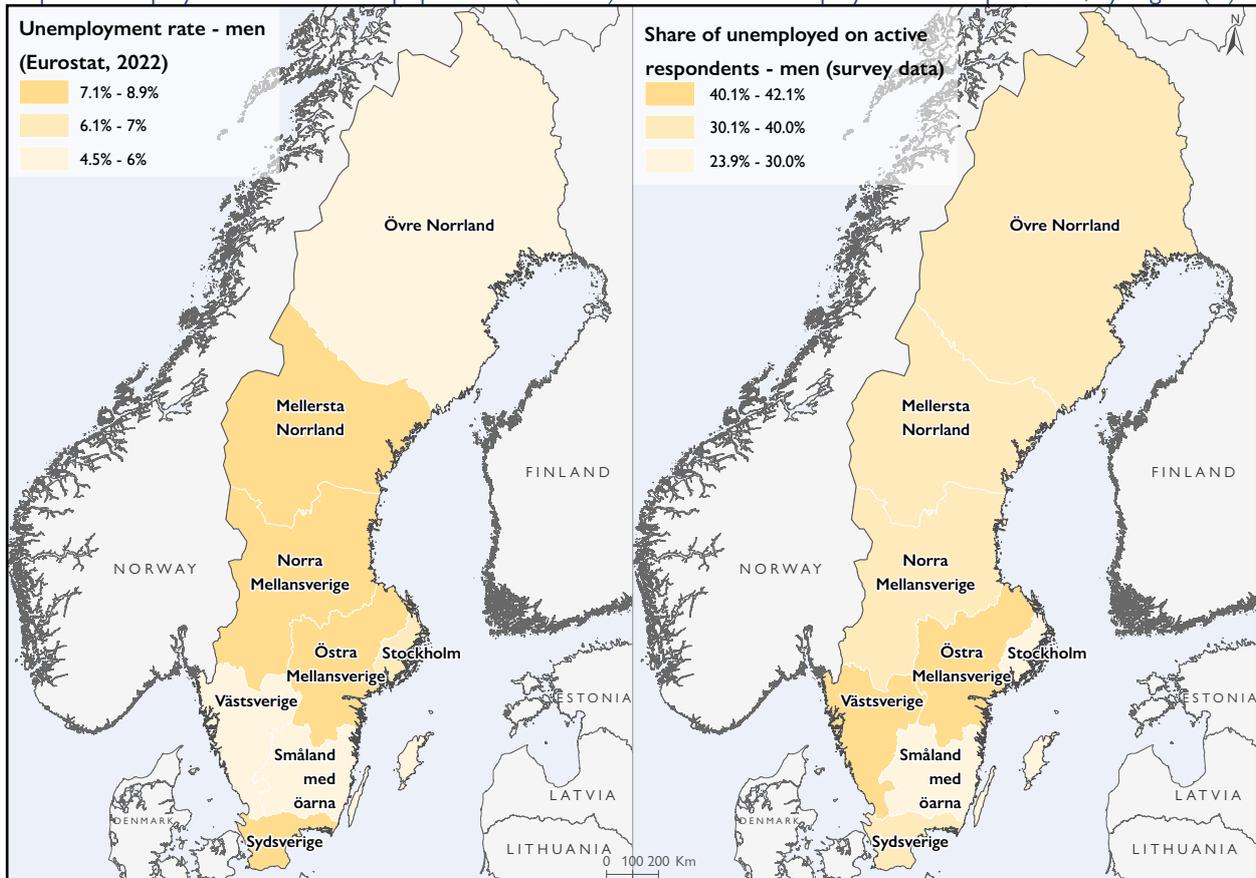


Map 4: Unemployment rate of female population of Sweden (Eurostat) and share of unemployed female respondents, by region (%)



These maps are for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

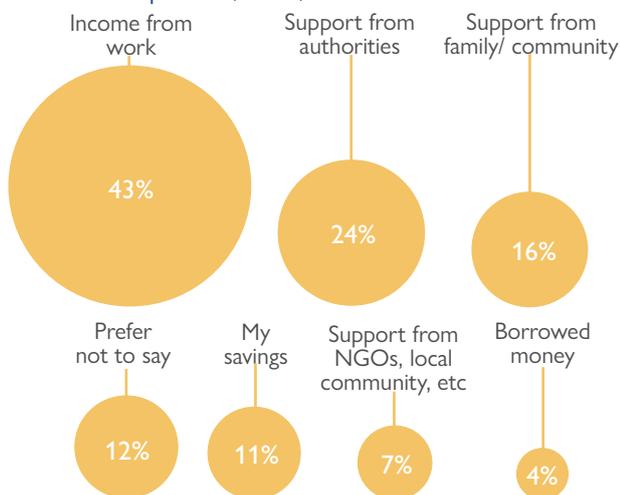
Map 5: Unemployment rate of male population (Eurostat) and share of unemployed male respondents, by region (%)



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.

Many report that the financial support provided by the authorities is not sufficient to cover living expenses or to afford an autonomous housing solution. Also, some report that they stopped receiving the allowance because they found a seasonal job over the summer, but were not able to get the allowance back once the short-term job was over.<sup>21</sup>

Figure 5: Main sources of money, total (%) – more than one answer possible, N=4,682



21. This is in line with findings from a recent report by the Nordic Council of Ministers (2022).

## Housing

About 41 per cent of the sample live in an autonomous housing solution (either renting an apartment or owning one), while the rest are in a solution either found through authorities (39%) or provided for free by other civil society initiatives, by friends or local residents (20%).<sup>22</sup>

The share of those living in autonomous accommodation is much higher among respondents in the Stockholm area (53%) than anywhere else in the country. The lowest share of autonomous housing solutions is among respondents residing in Övre Norrland (28%) and in Norra Mellansverige (31%). At the same time, the share of those placed in accommodation by authorities in Övre Norrland is much higher than the average (60% of respondents living in the area).

22. After the initial, short-term housing coordinated by SMA to newly arrived persons from Ukraine, the provision of is administered at the municipality level (EUAA 2023). The share of respondents reporting to be given housing by SMA is higher than actual data on short-term housing occupancy by SMA, with a perception of the role of the municipalities that is smaller than in reality.

## 6. ACCESS TO SERVICES

### Language skills and Swedish language courses

The majority (63%) of the sample declare Ukrainian as main language spoken at home, followed by those speaking Russian (35%) and English (1%), and a remaining 1 per cent other languages. However, among the other languages known, more than half of the respondents (55%) speak Russian and 35 per cent speak Ukrainian. English language is spoken by 56 per cent of respondents, although more than one quarter of them claim to know it “not well” (25%) or “not well at all” (5%).



About one quarter of the sample declare to speak Swedish. Of them, most report to know Swedish “not well” (52%) or “not well at all” (16%). Women report higher level of Swedish language knowledge on average than men (34% of those who know the language, they say they know it “very well” or “well”, compared to 26% of men).

Table 5: Knowledge of Swedish language, by gender and total (%), N=1,203

	Men (%)	Women (%)	Total (%)
Not well at all	20	14	16
Not well	54	52	52
Well	23	30	28
Very well	3	4	4

Table 6: Swedish language course attendance, by gender and total (%), N= 4,682

	Men (%)	Women (%)	Total (%)
Yes	40	67	58
No	57	30	39
Prefer not to answer	3	3	3

Overall, about 58 per cent of respondents attended a Swedish language course (67% of women and 40% of men). The share of those attending a Swedish language course varies from the almost three quarters (73%) of residents in the Övre Norrland area to 47 per cent of residents in the Stockholm area.

Introductory courses of SFI are available only in some municipalities for displaced persons from Ukraine. A community education course is available online and is offered by the SMA. At the same time, *Svenska från dag ett* (“Swedish since day one”), which is run by folk high schools<sup>23</sup>

and adult education organisations – such as Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund (ABF), Folkuniversitetet, and ‘TIA – early interventions for asylum-seekers’ run by civil society or municipalities, are available for TP holders although with some limitations in terms of time/depth and distribution across the country. Among the survey respondents who have attended a Swedish language course (2,736), 31 per cent attended SFI course, 22 per cent “Swedish since day one” course, but often respondents have attended more than one course during their permanence in Sweden.

Almost half (47%) of the total respondents mention to have attended a variety of other language courses such as those run by municipalities, by folk high schools, universities or adult education organisations (such as ABF, Folkuniversitetet, Sensus), or by not governmental organisations (e.g. Caritas, Red Cross, churches, NGOs and volunteering organizations). Many report to have hired private teachers, to attend individual language classes in private schools or to be learning autonomously the Swedish language with online courses.

Table 7: Satisfaction with the Swedish course, total (%), N=2,736

	Number of surveys	Share (%)
Satisfied	1,894	69
Not satisfied	447	16
Prefer not to answer	395	15

On average, about 69 per cent of those who attended a course are satisfied with it. Those who attended a SFI course were satisfied in 77 per cent of the cases, while those attending a “Swedish since day one” were satisfied in 70 per cent of the cases. Also, higher satisfaction levels for the Swedish courses are reported by respondents in Västsverige (74%) and Mellersta Norrland (71%) areas, while the share of satisfied attendants is lower among respondents in Småland med öarna (65%). In general, those who are unsatisfied with the language courses report problems linked to the short length of the course, the preparation level of teachers (often volunteers) and the general structure (i.e. absence of a clear programme, scarce materials, courses taught in English, programmes not tailored to labour market needs, new learners introduced often requiring the group to repeat several times the fundamentals for beginners).<sup>24</sup>

23. Please see [here](#) for more information.

24. A recent report by the Swedish School Inspectorate presents the results of a quality review of teaching in SFI schools, as the primary

### Access to the Swedish Employment Service

Although 84 per cent of respondents know how to contact the Swedish Public Employment Service, only half of these have requested support to it (46% of men, 51% of women), 46 per cent have not requested any support, and 4 per cent prefer not to answer.

Table 8: Contacted the Swedish Public Employment Service, by gender and total (%), N=3,936

	Men (%)	Women (%)	Total (%)
Contacted	46	51	50
Not contacted	50	44	46
Prefer not to answer	4	5	4

On average, the incidence of respondents who have contacted the Swedish Public Employment Service is higher in the Övre Norrland (63%) and in the Mellersta Norrland (58%) areas, while it is lower in the Stockholm area (43%).

When asked what help from the Swedish authorities they would need to find a job faster in Sweden, respondents suggest that a direct access to professional language courses (in particular to SFI) and to vocational courses would be needed the most. Additionally, to have more vacancies and jobs for not Swedish speakers, to be sponsored in job networks, to get the personal identification number and the diploma recognition would also clearly facilitate their chances to get a job, and a job that is more in line with their qualifications.

### Access to financial services

About 55 per cent of the respondents have a Swedish bank account under their name at the time of the survey. This share is lower among women (52%) than among men (60%). The share of those who have a bank account is higher than the average among respondents in the Stockholm area (59%) and in Övre Norrland (58%), while it is the lowest among respondents in Småland med öarn and Sydsverige (both 50%) areas.

Among the main reasons for not having a Swedish bank account, respondents list that they are not eligible (36%), they do not need it (31%) because others in their household have one, that they plan to open one (23%), that they don't know how to open it (9%). The lack of personal identity number, as well as of income or savings, are among the reasons for not being eligible to open a bank account.

*“More transparent hiring rules, support from documents, because many employers hesitate when they hear about a one-year permit instead of a residence permit with a more stable term, since refugees issued under the Directive cannot change their legal status to stay in the country, so employers hesitate to hire and this may be a reason for them not to send offers (I personally faced this)”*

*(Ukrainian woman, 27 years, ICT specialist, self-employed)*

Table 9: Reasons for not having a bank account, by gender and total (%), N=1,964

	Men (%)	Women (%)	Total (%)
I am not eligible	37	35	36
I do not need it	22	35	31
I plan to open one	31	20	23
I do not know how	9	9	9
Other	1	1	1

### Access to school

Almost half of respondents (49%) do not have children of pre-school and school age. Among those with children (2,393), on average, 73 per cent report having enrolled children of school or pre-school age to a local school in Sweden, while 7 per cent report having children following online classes from Ukrainian schools only. However, 13 per cent report having enrolled children to both local school in Sweden and online course in Ukraine. Moreover, about 7 per cent of respondents with children of pre-school or school age say that their children are not yet enrolled in any education program. Of them, 39 per cent are planning to enrol their children soon, 12 per cent have been refused or not have found place in local schools, 9 per cent do not know, 4 per cent plan to leave soon and 36 per cent report “other reasons”.

Table 10: Children enrolled to a school among respondents with children, by gender and total (%), N=2,393

	Men (%)	Women (%)	Total (%)
No, they are not enrolled	12	5	7
Yes, to a local school	67	76	73
Yes, to both local and online school in Ukraine	9	15	13
Yes, to online school in Ukraine	12	4	7

The highest share of respondents with children attending only an online school is found among those residing in Stockholm (10%) and Småland med öarna (9%), while in Östra Mellansverige is more frequent than the average that children attend local schools only (79%) and the highest share of the respondents whose children do a mix of

tool to learn Swedish for adult learners and develop a second functional language. Main highlighted issues in terms of quality are connected with the low possibility to practice speaking Swedish, scarce materials and courses not tailored to the students' needs (Swedish Schools Inspectorate 2023).

online and local school attendance (19%) is found in Övre Norrland. As found in other studies (UNHCR 2023b), parents say that attending both the local and online classes will allow children to keep up with the Ukrainian curriculum, which is deemed as more difficult or advanced than the Swedish one.

### Access to healthcare

While children displaced from Ukraine have the same rights as Swedish children in terms of healthcare coverage, adult TP holders have the same rights of asylum seekers in the country, which include access to emergency healthcare – (Asylrättscentrum 2022) . Access to healthcare in practice can vary to the extent is the caregiver who determines which intervention can or cannot wait.

On average more than half of respondents (52%) report obstacles in accessing healthcare services in Sweden and the situation appears more problematic for women (56% reporting obstacles) than for men (44%). Residents in Västsverige (59%) and Sydsverige (56%) report obstacles in accessing healthcare more than the average, while the situation is better in Övre Norrland and in Stockholm, where half or more of respondents do not report any obstacle (50% and 53%, respectively). Among the most frequently reported obstacles, there are language barriers (18%), cost of health services (16%) or the lack of eligibility (10%). Healthcare obstacles are reported more by those who have spent more time in Sweden than those who have recently arrived, which may indicate that some time is needed upon arrival before respondents develop health-related needs and approach the existing healthcare services.<sup>25</sup>

Figure 6: Obstacles in accessing healthcare services (%), more than one answer possible, N=4,682



25. This is also in line with needs expressed by Ukrainians surveyed by IOM while crossing back to Ukraine. See the section Travels back to Ukraine in Chapter 4 of this report.

Language seems to prevent access healthcare services more than the average in the Mellersta Norrland region (20%), while cost seems more frequently mentioned by residents in the Östra Mellansverige region (19%); not being eligible results more problematic in Västsverige (14%) and Norra Mellansverige (13%) regions.

Among other reported reasons (5%), there are the long waiting times to access healthcare services as the bureaucracy needed to access them. Some respondents comment on the difficult to get the right prescription for specific examination or to get a direct contact with doctors instead of nurses and other para-medical personnel. Dental and sexual and reproductive care seem to be the most recurring types of care with which respondents struggle the most.<sup>26</sup>

Table 11: Paid for healthcare services and/or for medicines, by gender and total (%), N=4,682

	Men (%)	Women (%)	Total (%)
Yes, paid for healthcare services and medicines	29	40	37
Yes, paid for healthcare services	10	10	10
Yes, paid for medicines	10	14	13
No	26	22	23
Not applicable - not used/ not needed	25	14	17

Access to healthcare is also connected with the cost of the needed services, control visits and prescribed medications. Overall, 60 per cent of respondents have paid for either health services and/or medicines: 37 per cent of respondents paid for both (29% men, 40% women), 13 per cent paid only for medicines (10% men, 14% women) and 10 per cent paid only for health services (10% respectively men and women). The remaining respondents either did not pay (23%: 26% men, 22% women) or they did not try or use health services (17%: 25% men, 14% women). Women result paying more often on average than men for health services and/or for medicines.

Excluding those who have not tried to access healthcare while in Sweden yet, the share of those who could access medicines and health services without pay is about 28 per cent overall, varying from slightly more than 30 per cent in Stockholm area to 22 per cent among residence in Övre Norrland. All others report to have paid to meet their medical needs in Sweden. The payment of medicines and health services is deterring respondents from going to the doctors and for some of them it constitutes a driver to go back to Ukraine and seek for medical assistance there.

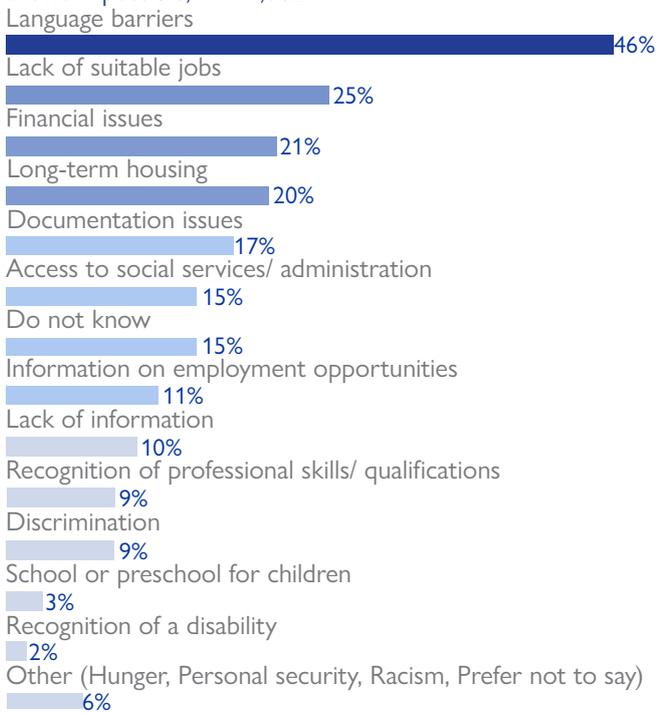
26. For a comprehensive account of access to sexual and reproductive healthcare for refugees in countries neighbouring Ukraine see (Center for Reproductive Rights 2023).

## 7. CHALLENGES, NEEDS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE RECEIVED

### Main inclusion challenges

The three main inclusion challenges encountered until now in Sweden are language, employment and funds: indeed, 46 per cent of respondents report language barriers, followed by 25 per cent reporting lack of suitable jobs and 21 per cent financial issues. The challenge related to find a long-term accommodation is reported by 20 per cent of respondents, followed by documentation issues (including challenges with visa, work permit, etc.) (17%) and access to social services and administration (15%).

Figure 7: Top inclusion challenges (%), more than one answer possible, N=4,682



Still, 15 per cent of respondents do not know what to answer, followed by 11 per cent who indicate the information on employment opportunities/options as a challenge and 10 per cent who report the lack of general information. The recognition of professional skills, diplomas or university credits regard is reported by 11 per cent of respondents, followed by 9 per cent who report the discrimination to services, accommodation, information as one of the main challenges. Residual shares also report to have issues with school or preschool for children (3%), recognition of disability (2%), hunger, racism/xenophobia, and personal security (all 1%). Three per cent prefer not to answer (3%).

The share of women reporting some inclusion challenge is higher than men's on average: they report more frequently language barriers (48% vs 43%), lack of suitable jobs (27% vs 20%) and financial issues (23% vs 18%).

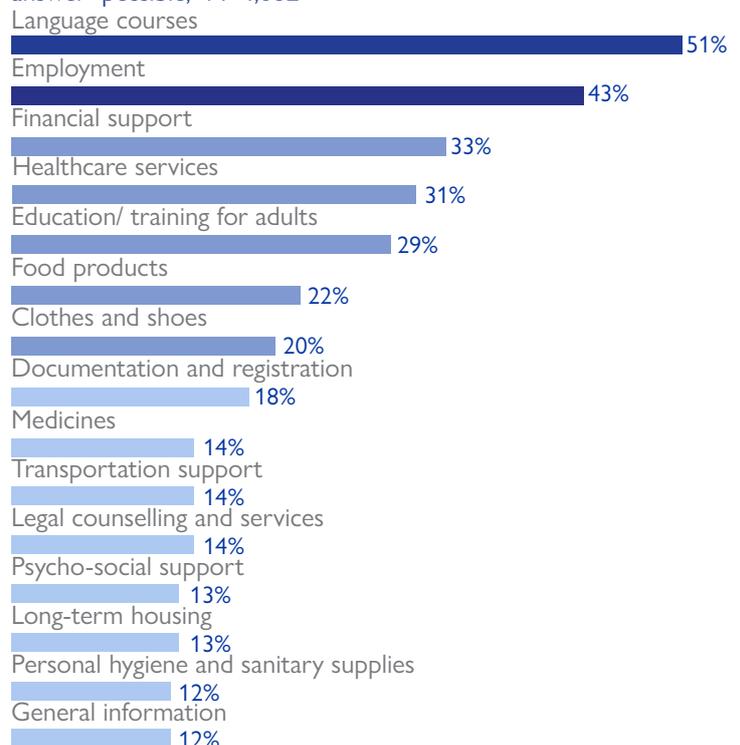
Language represents an inclusion challenge in particular for respondents in Norra Mellansverige (52%), Övre Norrland and Småland med öarna areas (51% each), while the share of respondents who face problems in finding suitable jobs is higher than the average in Norra Mellansverige area (32%), and financial issues represent a challenge for respondents in Småland med öarna (28%) and Sydsverige (25%) areas more than in the other areas.

### Main immediate needs

Respondents were asked to select among a list of 24 topics to identify their most pressing needs at the moment. About 11 per cent of them report to have no pressing needs at the moment, while most selected more than one area or topic on which they feel they need more support.

Similarly to what was discussed in the previous paragraph on inclusion challenges, for both women and men and with no differences across geographical area, the top five identified priorities are in the area of language courses (selected by 51% of respondents overall), of employment support (43%), of financial support (33%), of healthcare services (31%) and of learning or training opportunities for adults (29%).

Figure 8: Top 15 immediate needs (%),\* more than one answer possible, N=4,682



\* Other needs, mentioned by 10 per cent of the sample or less were: household good, support to start a business, communication with others, school enrolment, personal safety and security, family tracing, support to return home, short-term housing. Eleven per cent of the sample report to have no needs at the moment.

Geographical differences are more evident when looking at the full list of identified needs and at the average frequency they are reported by respondents residing in different parts of the country. Language courses are reported as a priority need by 58 per cent of respondents in the Norra Mellansverige area and by 53 per cent of respondents in the Stockholm area, while by only less than half of those in the Övre Norrland and the Mellersta Norrland areas (45% and 46%, respectively). Employment is reported to be a priority by more than half (56%) of respondents living in the Norra Mellansverige area, while by slightly more than one third (33%) of respondents in Stockholm area. Similarly, respondents living in Norra Mellansverige are reporting the need for financial support more frequently than the average (43%), while it is less so for residents in Övre Norrland (26%) and in the Stockholm area (27%). The share of those reporting healthcare services as a priority need is higher than the average in Östra Mellansverige (37%), in Övre Norrland (35%) and Småland med öarna (33%). Finally, education and training opportunities is mentioned as a priority need for more than one third of those living in the Norra Mellansverige area (37%), while by only about a quarter of those living in Övre Norrland (25%).

### Information and assistance received

Most respondents (61%) have not experienced difficulties in receiving support from public authorities and/or humanitarian organisations, while 18 per cent report difficulties, and the remaining respondents either do not know (14%) or prefer not to answer. Women tend to report no difficulties less than men (59% vs 65%). Looking at the regional differences, it is worth mentioning that the share of respondents who experience difficulties in receiving support is higher than the average in the Norra Mellansverige, Västsverige and Östra Mellansverige areas (22% each). When asked in which area they experienced difficulties in receiving support, more than half of the respondents report inefficiencies of the national agencies – such as the SMA, the Swedish Public Employment Service (*Arbetsförmedlingen*), the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (*Försäkringskassan*) or the Swedish Tax Agency (*Skatteverket*). Respondents identify the national agencies as not fully efficient in giving them support with regards to their TP status and hence to the necessary documents to fully access the public life in terms of accommodation, employment, access to financial and social security institutions. Some respondents report difficulties in receiving support beyond the daily allowance (e.g. for buying proper winter clothes), while some others in getting healthcare. Some significant experiences are reported by parents or relatives of persons with a disability, who struggle to get proper medical and financial assistance for their family members in need of care.

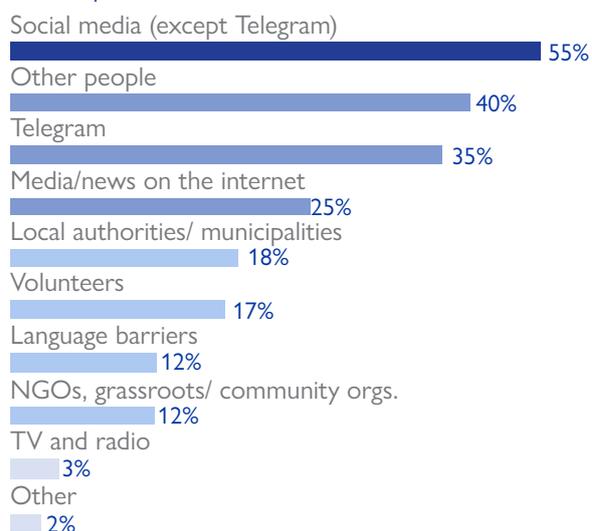
Table 12: Difficulties in receiving support needed from public authorities and/or humanitarian organisations, by gender and total (%), N=4,682

	Men (%)	Women (%)	Total (%)
Yes	14	19	18
No	65	59	61
Do not know	15	14	14
Prefer not to answer	6	8	7

More than half (55%) of respondents use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc.) as channel of information on the available support and services, followed by other people (40%), Telegram (35%) and media and news on the internet (25%). The official communication channels of local authorities are used by 18 per cent of respondents, followed by information from volunteers (17%), short message services (sms) and phone calls (12%), and NGOs, civic or humanitarian organisations (12%). Television (2%) and radio (1%) are residual, while some respondents report under “other” to have not received any communication for displaced persons from Ukraine.

With regards to gender differences, women report higher shares of use of social media (57% vs 52% men), of information received via contact with other people (42% vs 36% men), through volunteers (19% vs 14% men) and NGOs or humanitarian organisations (14% vs 8% men). Men instead report higher use of internet (28%) than women (24%) to get information. Looking to the geographical differences, it is worth mentioning that Småland med öarna area register 26 per cent of respondents who get information through local authorities and municipalities – eight percentage points higher than the average – followed by Övre Norrland and Mellersta Norrland areas (both 24%).

Figure 9: Main channels of information (%), more than one answer possible, N=4,682



## 8. DISCRIMINATION

Three quarters (75%) of respondents (79% among men and 72% among women) do not report to have experienced episodes of discrimination in Sweden so far. However, 13 per cent of respondents report they have experienced some form of discrimination in the country, with a slightly higher incidence among women than among men (15% versus 11%). The remaining 12 per cent of the sample either do not know or prefer not to answer.

The share of respondents reporting some form of discrimination is the highest among those living in the Östra Mellansverige and in the Sydsverige areas (17% and 16%, respectively), while it is the lowest among respondents living in Mellersta Norrland and Västsverige areas (both around 10%).

Respondents report different episodes of discrimination experiences perpetrated either by a person or group of people, or perceived as coming from the Swedish society as whole, that can be grouped into few main types.

Displaced persons from Ukraine report to suffer discrimination mainly based on nationality, ethnicity, and language grounds. Some report to face negative comments and unequal overall assistance compared to other migrant and refugee groups from other countries. Also, episodes of bullying are reported in schools towards Ukrainian pupils and some also experience criticism from teachers and difficulties communicating with them due to language barriers.

*“There is bullying on ethnic grounds by children, and teachers do not respond”*

*(Ukrainian woman, 37 years old, 3 children between 0-17 years)*

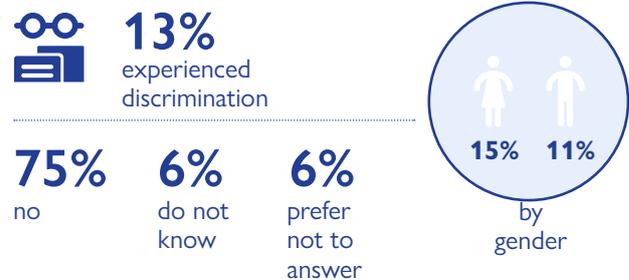
They also experience difficulties in finding employment, housing, and access to services and are treated unfairly in the workplace.

*“In my opinion, the attitude towards Ukrainians - towards us - is significantly different from the attitude towards representatives of Swedish society. Minimum wage, much more work, misinformation (or concealment of information) about the working conditions and contract. In essence, this is using a person who does not know Swedish laws. But since we have no other choice, we work.”*

*(Ukrainian woman, 54 years old, translator in Ukraine and now working as service assistant)*

Another critical point seems to be the discrimination in access to some services stemming from the lack of documentation: as TP holders do not receive a personal identification number, this often means a restricted access to language courses, to the transformation of the driving licence into an EU-valid one, to the Social Insurance

Figure 10: Experiences of discrimination, by gender and total (%), N=4,682



Institute, to open a full-fledged bank account or make online purchases.

*“I am 20 weeks pregnant with a Swedish citizen. We are planning our future in Sweden, and the Swedish Migration Agency cannot change my case from a temporary residence permit to civil partner status. Without a residence permit, I cannot get a personal number. Without it, I cannot use banking services in full, I cannot get insurance for my child, any kind of assistance, finish my studies and get a driver’s license, etc.”*

*(Ukrainian woman, 25 years old)*

Respondents report discrimination episodes in healthcare, such as being refused medical services because of ethnicity or not being able to afford treatment due to the limited insurance coverage. Dental care seems to be a critical point for many of respondents.

*“I needed urgent medical care and when my friend called the local clinic, I was refused medical care because my legal stay was about to expire in 8 days, due to the need to renew my documents issued by the Swedish Migration Agency.”*

*(Ukrainian man, 33 years old)*

Discrimination in transportation, such as being denied free transportation or being refused access to public transportation.

*“In public transport in Stockholm, some bus drivers are dismissive of Ukrainians who show a Ukrainian passport, waving them away.”*

*(Ukrainian woman, 57 years old)*

Other forms of discrimination are based on disability, gender, religion, and language barriers. Individuals with disabilities face rude or unhelpful behaviour from some public transport drivers, while some others report physical attacks and threats based on their sexual orientation or religion.

*“I am a person with a disability, so sometimes some drivers are rude and do not help to open the ramp, and also do not take two people with wheelchairs if I am traveling around the city with another disabled friend.”*

*(Ukrainian man, 30 years old)*

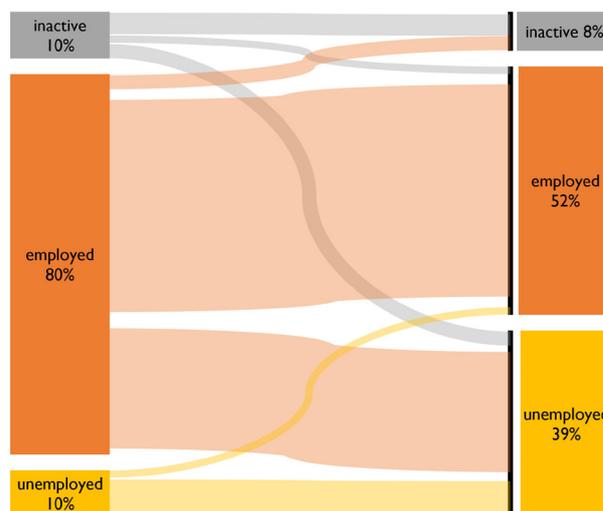
## 9. TCNS FROM UKRAINE

A total of 64 respondents to the survey are non-Ukrainian nationals, with thirty different nationalities. Main nationalities are Russian Federation (13), Belarus (6), Syrian Arab Republic (4), Georgia (3), Iraq (3), Lebanon (3), Nigeria (3) and others (29).

Most of them are men (80%), with an average age of 39 years. Almost three quarters (72%) report to be residing in Ukraine for more than 5 years before being displaced, and another 20 per cent spent in Ukraine between 2 and 5 years. More than one third (34%) speak the Swedish language, although “not very well” in most cases. Contrary to what was observed in other European countries where many among TCNs from Ukraine surveyed were students, 80 per cent TCNs now in Sweden were working in Ukraine.

Also, TCNs displaced in Sweden seem more similar to Ukrainians than in other countries: upon arrival in Sweden, also TCNs tend to show a very high activity rate (92%) with very few who are either retired, student or unemployed but not looking for a job. The share of the employed among the active population decreases from 89 per cent in Ukraine to 58 per cent in Sweden (2% higher than that of Ukrainians). Similarly to Ukrainians in the sample, most TCNs do not intend to move from Sweden at the moment (73%), with the rest not being sure about future plans (24%) and only 2 individuals planning to move to another country (3%).

Figure 11: Employment status before displacement and in Ukraine, TCNs (%) N=64



Overall, they seem to share a similar profile with Ukrainians also in terms of education and employment status in Sweden and in Ukraine before displacement. This self-selection among highly educated and professional profiles is also reflected in their most frequently mentioned needs, which are – as it is among Ukrainians – revolved around the language barriers (39%), the lack of suitable employment opportunities (30%) and financial issues (28%).

## 10. CONCLUSIONS

This report presents the findings of a survey conducted by IOM to assess the living conditions, needs, and integration challenges of displaced persons from Ukraine in Sweden. The size of the sample as well as the depth of qualitative comments accompanying the replies to closed-ended questions make this study a unique source of data and information on the overall reception system in the country, provided by the direct beneficiaries.

Displaced persons from Ukraine in Sweden – both Ukrainians and TCNs – exhibit higher levels of education and employment compared to those displaced in other European countries. This can be attributed to a sort of self-selection of individuals who chose Sweden due to the comprehensive protection system and the perceived favourable conditions for accessing services and employment opportunities. Nevertheless, unemployment is still high among those who wish and can participate in the labour market, while many among those who found employment report to be in positions for which they are overqualified or not fully using their skills and expertise.

Most respondents acknowledged and appreciate the support provided by Sweden and its authorities in catering to their needs within the TP system. The survey was seen as an opportunity for respondents to express their own views in a structured manner and increase the accountability of the Swedish authorities. The responses are structured along the key areas important for enhanced integration into the Swedish society, identifying best practices, but also challenges and areas that need further investment.

Among the main issues that prevent full integration in the local context of the host communities, the displaced persons from Ukraine highlight the importance of mastering the Swedish language at good level, the lack of jobs matching and scarce recognition of their skills and qualifications, and the lack of an adequate financial support to bridge the gap in their paths towards autonomy. Also, access to services, from healthcare to language services and others, is limited for TP residence permit's holders and with no personal identity number.

The present report focuses on Swedish regions but a deeper analysis of collected data at a lower administrative level is possible for some *län* where most displaced persons from Ukraine currently live. This could provide more tailored insights on strengths and weaknesses of the local context for this new population of foreign professionals who in the majority of cases intend to remain in Sweden in the long-term.

Indeed, although with a temporary status, Ukrainians and TCNs with TP residence permit participating in the survey do not plan to leave Sweden in the foreseeable future. Not only 80 per cent of the sample plan to remain as for now, but also only less than a third see the possibility to return to Ukraine in the future, when it will be safe. Hence, findings from this study could help national authorities inform the creation of new policies or the enhancement of existing policies and support measures at the national and *län* level.

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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.

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, several IOM's DTM tools were deployed in countries neighbouring Ukraine and in other countries particularly impacted by the new arrivals of migrants and refugees from Ukraine.

DTM is part of IOM's Global Data Institute

## DTM EUROPE

 <https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response>

 [roviennadataresearch-newsletter@iom.int](mailto:roviennadataresearch-newsletter@iom.int)

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