

TEMPORARY PROTECTION HOLDERS IN SWEDEN

Intentions, Needs and Challenges
2nd edition

JULY 2024

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

EU	European Union
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
NACE	Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (<i>Nomenclature statistique des Activités économiques dans la Communauté Européenne</i>)
SFI	Swedish For Immigrants, <i>Svenska För Invandrare</i>
SMA	Swedish Migration Agency, <i>Migrationsverket</i>
TP(D)	Temporary Protection (Directive)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2023, IOM was commissioned by the Swedish Government to carry out a survey that offered an overview of the living conditions, intentions, needs, and integration challenges of displaced persons from Ukraine who were in Sweden at the beginning of the second year of implementation of the temporary protection (TP) directive in the country. (IOM Europe, 2023).¹ In 2024, a second study was commissioned to IOM with the same target population to focus more specifically on intentions for the future after 2.5 years since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The survey was conducted from 24 April 2024 to 15 May 2024.

Total respondents 3,451



The total sample is composed of **3,451 valid surveys (64% women, 35% men, 1% other)**. Of them, 99 per cent are Ukrainians nationals and 1 per cent are Third-Country Nationals (TCNs). Also, 1,352 (39%) declare to have participated in the first 2023 survey, while 41 per cent do not and 20 per cent are not sure.

The size and structure of the sample allow extrapolating main quantitative findings for the entire reference population, for women, men and by geographical areas of residence. Also, the analysis of the qualitative comments accompanying closed-ended questions provide context to numerical findings. The answers have systematically been compared with those obtained in the 2023 survey, making this report a unique source of data not only on the profiles and current intentions of TP holders, but also on changes compared to the 2023 results.

Intention to remain in Sweden



About 81 per cent of respondents have no intentions to move from their current place of residence. This is 9 percentage points higher than what observed in 2023. This indicates greater stability and suggests overall satisfaction of Ukrainian respondents with their stay in Sweden. A

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.

larger share of women than men intend to remain in their current locations (81% vs 79% in 2024). Also, the presence of children or the fact of not living alone is associated with a higher intention to remain than to move elsewhere or return. Eighty-five per cent of respondents with children in 2024 have no intention to move, compared to 77 per cent of respondents who live alone in Sweden.

Desires for the future



The increasing uncertainty related to the conditions in Ukraine and the end of the war seem to have an impact not only on the immediate plans of the respondents, but also on their desires and aspirations in the long-term. The proportion of Ukrainians hoping to return to Ukraine as soon as it will be safe to do so has decreased from 28 per cent in 2023 to 13 per cent in 2024. The share of the undecided decreased from 33 to 24 per cent, while the share of those affirming no desire to return to Ukraine grew from 37 to 58 per cent between 2023 and 2024. More than two thirds (68%) of respondents in 2024 declare that their intentions for the future changed during the last year, in the sense that they are currently more convinced of their desire to remain in Sweden in the long term than before. This is higher for men (72%) than for women (65%).

When considering the decision to return or remain in Sweden, the following aspects are primarily mentioned: safety and security concerns, the desire for family unity, considerations about the disruption of public services and overall governance in Ukraine against the opportunities offered in Sweden for both adults and children, as well as emotional and psychological factors. Regardless of the desired pathway — integration in Sweden, return to Ukraine, or resettlement elsewhere — respondents emphasize the importance of physical safety and of the desire “for an end to the war”, as an indispensable element for any long-term solution.

Self-selection



The demographic composition of displaced persons from Ukraine in Sweden includes more families with both men and women, fewer single or older individuals, and a higher proportion of graduates and professionals than the one

observed in other European countries. As observed in 2023, 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 economic and social conditions. Indeed, the decision to seek refuge in Sweden, which is geographically farther from Ukraine than the neighbouring Central and Eastern European countries, commonly involves families and individuals with enhanced resources and capabilities to undertake a longer journey and to adapt to new environments. The Sweden's labour market also plays a role in shaping the desires and decisions, as it can offer more opportunities and better conditions than other Eastern and Central European economies and hence can attract and retain highly-skilled workers and professionals. Additionally, the prospects of stable employment, higher wages, and better social benefits create a compelling incentive for Ukrainians to build a new life in Sweden rather than return to Ukraine, even when the war ends. While this general hope “for the war to end” is shared in all assessments conducted with Ukrainians displaced outside and inside Ukraine, respondents in Sweden appear to have a higher propensity to remain in Sweden in the long term than displaced from Ukraine who currently reside in Central and Eastern European countries.

High labour market participation, Increasing employment



Similar to 2023 findings, 88 per cent of respondents are active in the labour market in Sweden, either being employed or unemployed and looking for employment.²

The difference between men and women is significant, with relatively more men than women being active in the labour market (92% compared to 85%). Among the active population, the share of employed respondents (employed, self-employed, daily worker) is 66 per cent, which is 8 per cent points higher than in 2023.

Similarly to what was observed in the 2023 report, higher employment rates in Sweden are associated with a number of factors related to gender, age, family situations, language skills, and time spent in Sweden. Men of working age, persons aged 30-49, persons without children in the household (especially for women), persons knowing the Swedish and English languages, persons having arrived between January and March 2022

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

are more frequently employed than other respondents. Higher education levels are associated with higher participation to the labour market, but not with higher shares of employment. The education level though, together with gender, is associated with differences in the sector of occupation among those employed.

The distribution of unemployment for Ukrainians with TP across the country is similar to the one observed for the total resident population as reported by Eurostat. The three regions where the share of unemployed among Ukrainian respondents is the highest – Östra Norrland (44%), Norra Mellansverige (43%) and Sydsverige (42%) – are also those with the highest unemployment rates for the total resident population (around 9%). The lowest unemployment rates among Ukrainians with TP, instead, are found in the Övre Norrland and Stockholm (22% and 27%, respectively). When looking at differences by gender, Ukrainian women are more often unemployed than Ukrainian men in all areas of the country.

Life in Sweden



More than half of respondents (55%) perceive their financial situation to be sufficient to cover their living expenses (+5% compared to 2023). Income from work is the main source of money for 55 per cent of respondents (compared to 43% in 2023). Additionally, 17 per cent (compared to 24% in 2023) considers the support from the authorities as their main source of income, and 15 per cent (compared to 16% in 2023) mention to count mostly on the support from family or friends. About 44 per cent of the respondents live in an autonomous housing solution, either renting an apartment or owning one. This is three per cent more than in 2023 (41%).

Regional differences



As Ukrainians with TP in Sweden are not equally distributed across the country, survey data allow for deeper analyses at a lower administrative level especially for those län (regions) where most of them currently live. Thirty-eight per cent of the respondents are living in the Stockholm area. Among this group, the unemployment rate is the lowest (27%) and the intention to move is low (82% has no intention of moving). Also, most respondents living in the Stockholm area have their own accommodation (63%) and a good knowledge of the Swedish language.

Barriers to employment



In all domains of public life and economic activities – and confirming the main findings of 2023 and other studies (IOM Europe, 2023; EWSI, 2024) – respondents in this study reiterate that having the right to receive a personal identification number would facilitate their access to services and to more stable and professional employment contracts, among other things. After the Temporary Protection Directive was extended in June 2024, it is assumed that the majority of the group can be registered in the population register, which is expected to handle many of the bureaucratic and administrative obstacles. This was not known to respondents at the time of the survey.

Other challenges are also mentioned by respondents with regards to their employment prospects. The lack of recognition of diplomas and the time spent in looking for an occupation that matches with the level of education are identified as challenges especially for tertiary educated Ukrainians in the sample. Among those who are currently in paid occupations, almost half of them (49%) declare they are not fully using their experience or skills in their jobs. This measure of mismatch between skills and the current occupation is slightly higher in 2024 than in 2023 (47%). The mismatch varies greatly by occupational sector, and it is higher among those employed in Sweden than it used to be among those who were employed in Ukraine.

Almost half (47%) of respondents speak Swedish, almost doubling the share observed in 2023 (26%). Nevertheless, language remains by far the main barrier when looking for a job (reported by 76 per cent of respondents in search of employment), followed by the lack of suitable jobs in the area of residence, the lack of required qualifications or of recognition of them, discrimination, the lack of transportation to reach the workplace, the difficult reconciliation of care duties of close persons and available jobs, and personal health conditions. About 70 per cent of respondents in 2024 attended a Swedish language course (78% of women and 55% of men), which is 12 percentage points more than in 2023, and most (75%) were satisfied with it (+6% compared to 2023). Despite this, support with more and more tailored language courses is the top reported

need for 41 per cent of the sample. Most critical aspects of existing courses are the length (often too short), the schedule (which is not suitable for people who work), the communication skills of teachers, the availability of good learning materials, and courses' structure which do not match the labour market needs. Besides language courses, other main identified priorities are around employment support (40%), access to healthcare services (36%), learning or training opportunities for adults (33%), and financial support (29%).

Conclusions



Results in terms of financial stability, autonomous housing and employment are good and improving over time. The employment rate of Ukrainians with TP in Sweden is higher on average than what is found in other EU Member States (IOM Europe, 2024b). Additionally, although unemployment among the group remains high, their labour integration since arrival in Sweden is faster than what is observed among other migrant and refugee groups in Sweden and in Europe (Fasani et al., 2022).

The reported mismatch between occupations, skills and expertise is widely reported and one that could trap employed Ukrainians in sub-optimal employment conditions in terms of pay, contractual stability and recognition of qualifications. In this regard, both high academic and professional profiles of Ukrainians with TP could be better taken into considerations by the employment support services and the job market.

Finally, while the survey slightly under-represents the older segment of the Ukrainian population in Sweden, it is important not to disregard the specific conditions of the small share of Ukrainians with TP in the country who are – permanently or temporarily – unable to work for their age and health conditions. This group would continue to require adequate financial support and access to social services.

Overall, TP holders in Sweden continue to strive for more stability in Sweden and show limited interest in returning to Ukraine even when conditions will allow. This is because their social, economic and emotional investment in integrating into the Swedish society, for themselves and their children, is slowly but steadily bringing improved conditions of life and work.

1. INTRODUCTION

The implementation of TPD in Sweden

The Swedish Government has implemented the European Union (EU) Temporary Protection Directive (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.³ In December 2023, the Government of Sweden decided to expand the access to the TP scheme to all Ukrainian citizens, TCNs with refugees status or subsidiary protection in Ukraine and family members of the categories who were in Sweden legally on 22 December 2023 and who had lodged an asylum claim and whose status had not yet been determined by the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA).⁴

As the second year of the TP implementation ended on 4 March 2024, TP holders who wished to remain in Sweden were requested to apply for an extension of their residence permit. Extended and first-time TP permits granted after 4 March 2024 are valid until 4 March 2025.⁵

Important changes in terms of rights and entitlements for TP holders in Sweden have been introduced with the latest extension of the TPD in June 2024. Persons who have lived in Sweden with TP for at least two years and are likely to stay for at least three years from the date they were granted a TP residence permit, will be eligible to register in the Swedish Population Register, hence entitled to the same benefits as other registered residents in Sweden. Other amendments to the existing law have been proposed and shall enter into force in November 2024. These developments were not yet in place or known to TP holders who took part in the present study in April-May 2024.

Listening to the voices of displaced persons from Ukraine in Sweden

In 2023, IOM was commissioned by the Swedish Government to carry out a survey that offered an overview of the living conditions, intentions, needs, and integration challenges of displaced persons from Ukraine with a Temporary Protection (TP) status in Sweden (IOM Europe, 2023).

In 2024, the Swedish Government commissioned to IOM a second study with the same target population – adult individuals with a temporary protection status in Sweden – to focus more specifically on intentions for the future and pathways to durable solutions after 2.5 years since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Structure of the report

The report is structured as follows. [Chapter 2](#) presents the methodology of the study, from sampling to implementation and data analysis. [Chapter 3](#) shows the overall socio-demographic profile Ukrainians with TP status in Sweden. [Chapter 4](#) analyses the main findings with regards to the current intentions and future plans and perspectives of respondents, the factors that might facilitate return and the motivations for remaining in Sweden. [Chapter 5](#) is dedicated to the participation of Ukrainians with TP in the Swedish labour market, with an analysis of employment rates and types, and a comparison with the average levels for the foreign population in Sweden. [Chapter 6](#) presents the current life in Sweden beyond employment, focusing on the financial and housing situation, the learning of the Swedish language, and the main needs and further support sought from Swedish authorities. [Chapter 7](#) concludes with a discussion of the main findings of the study.

3. [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). IOM and humanitarian partners work to support the host governments in the regional refugee response since March 2022.

4. <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Protection-under-the-Temporary-Protection-Directive/Nyhetsarkiv/2023-12-22-Asylum-seekers-from-Ukraine-can-be-granted-temporary-protection-under-the-Temporary-Protection-Directive.html>

5. <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Protection-under-the-Temporary-Protection-Directive/Apply-for-protection-for-the-first-time.html>

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 April 2024.⁶ According to data from SMA, as of 21 April 2024 there were 38,431 individuals registered with a TP permit in Sweden. Of them, 44 per cent were adult women, 30 per cent were adult men and 26 per cent were children.

The sampling frame for this study considered only registered adults and their distribution by sex and by *län* (regions) as of 21 April 2024. Out of the total 24,579 adult TP holders in Sweden, 59 per cent were women and 41 per cent were men. Main *län* of residence were Stockholms *län* (38%), followed by Västra Götalands *län* (13%) and Skåne *län* (12%).

Questionnaire definition

The questionnaire for this study is based on previous surveys conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in more than 15 European countries where displaced persons from Ukraine and TCNs have been interviewed since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine,⁷ and on the first survey conducted in Sweden with individuals with TP status in Sweden between March and May 2023, with the contributions and input of the Swedish Government's Offices (IOM, 2023).

Starting from the tool adopted in 2023, the questionnaire in 2024 was developed with the same indicators and variable definitions to allow for comparability, and with a stronger focus on the intentions of respondents regarding return to Ukraine, further movement or stay in Sweden. The questionnaire, which contained mostly closed questions, also allowed respondents to share more qualitative insights and comments on various aspects, if they wished to do so.

Survey implementation

The survey was administered online between 24 April 2024 and 15 May 2024.

The SMA facilitated the outreach to the target population by sending an invitation to participate in the survey via email to all the registered TP beneficiaries with valid email accounts in their registries. A web page with instructions and a dedicated email address for questions and support were maintained by

IOM during the data collection period. The survey form was deployed with the Enketo web application and available in Ukrainian, Russian and English language.

Out of a total 3,558 surveys submitted to the IOM Kobo server, 3,451 (98%) were retained as valid after cleaning (adult respondents, consenting to participate, in Sweden and with TP). Of them, 1,352 (39%) declared to have participated also in the 2023 survey while 41 per cent did not and 20 per cent were not sure.

Sample structure and data analysis

The total number of valid surveys is about 12 per cent of the target population of adult TP holders. 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 *län* (38%), Skåne *län* (12%) and Västra Götalands *län* (12%).

Thirty-eight individuals (1.1% of total respondents) declared to be non-Ukrainian. As the number is small and their profile is not significantly different from that portrayed for TCNs in the 2023 study, findings from this specific group of respondents are not presented in this report.

The main body of the report focuses on the 3,413 surveys with Ukrainian nationals. Out of these, 65 per cent are women, and 34 per cent are men. About 1 per cent of respondents does not identify as either male or female, or prefer not to answer the question on gender (21 individuals).

In the next sections, descriptive findings are presented for the total sample of Ukrainians, for women and men, and by area of residence.⁸ Results from the 2024 survey are systematically compared to those of the survey conducted between March and May 2023 (IOM Europe, 2023), when possible. All presented correlations between variables and differences by population sub-groups are statistically significant.⁹ Multivariate analyses to test the relationship between intention to move, labour market outcomes and possible individual and contextual explanatory variables have been run to summarise main findings of the study. Content analysis with AI-powered software has also been run on qualitative comments provided by respondents alongside their replies to closed questions – which include their opinions, fears and hopes for the future. This provides context to the analysis of quantitative data. Anonymized citations are also included.

6. The terms 'displaced persons from Ukraine', 'TP residence permit's holders', 'respondents' are used interchangeably to refer to the target population of this study.

7. 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>

8. 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.

9. A chi-square test of independence is performed between pair of variables. Statistically significant correlations do not imply causality between the variables.

Limitations

Conducting an online survey comes with some limitations inherent to the means of deployment and collection of the data. Some selection bias arise because participants who choose to respond to online surveys are often those with regular internet access and higher levels of digital literacy, potentially skewing the results to reflect the views of a more tech-savvy population. Age disparities also present a challenge, as older individuals may be less inclined or able to participate due to unfamiliarity with digital tools or a preference for traditional survey methods. The digital divide further exacerbates these issues, as individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds or those living in areas with limited internet connectivity are less likely to be represented, which may lead to incomplete picture in terms of population’s attitudes and conditions derived from the sample.

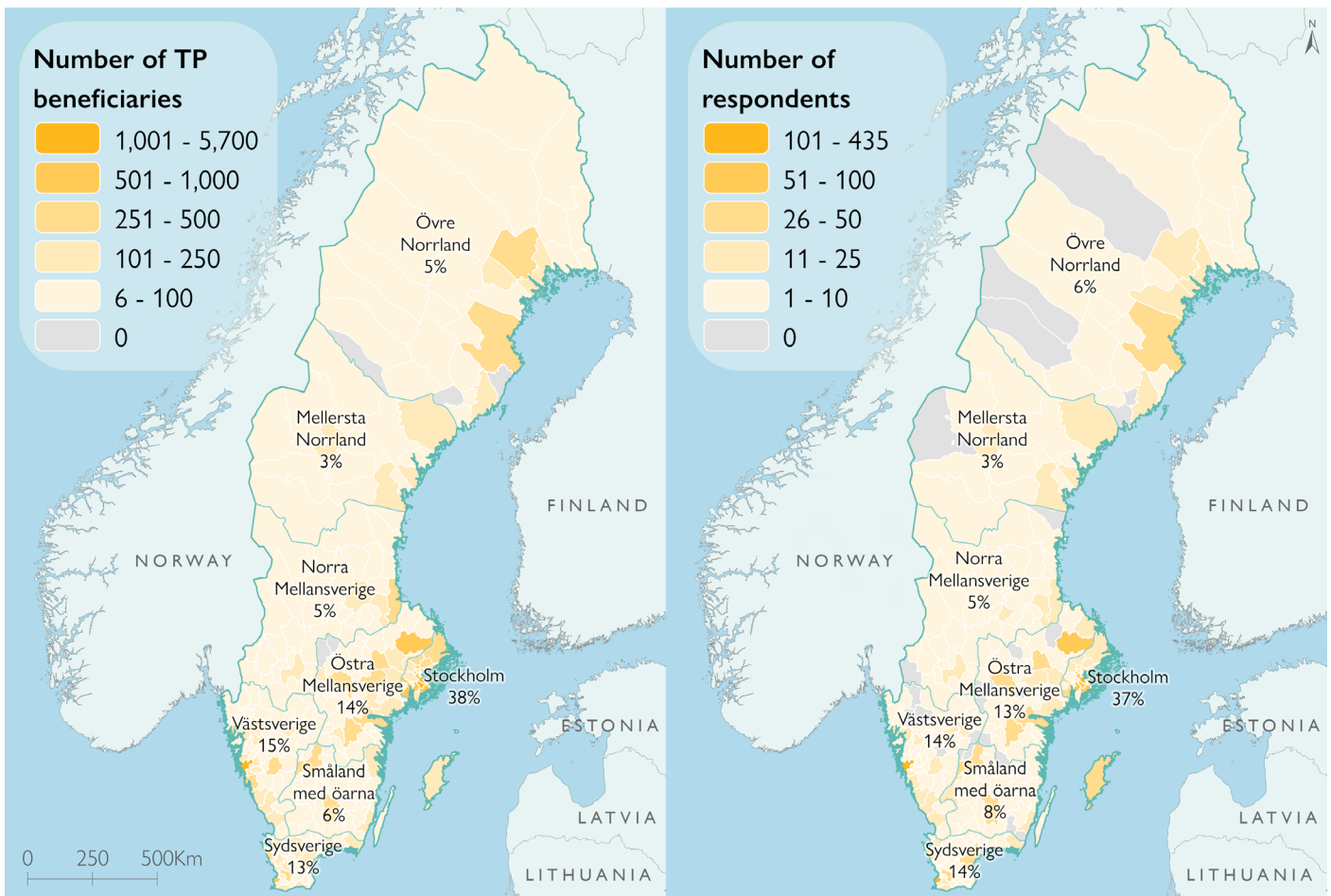
The survey was only targeting adult individuals and does not represent the direct views and realities of children and adolescents living in Sweden and with a TP permit. Also, the share of older persons (65 years old or older) in the sample is almost half (3.2%) of the share of older persons in the reference population (7%).

The survey was shared with all TP beneficiaries of adult age with a valid email contact stored by SMA: while the requirement for re-registration of TP beneficiaries still present in Sweden as of March 2024 may have helped to obtain a list of updated contacts, still it is possible that some potential respondents have not been reached.

Although anonymity was preserved and there is no possibility for either IOM or SMA to retrieve the personal details of respondents and non-respondents to the survey, receiving the invitation to participate to the survey from the same service that has the authority over the issuance and renewal of the TP permits shall be considered when interpreting the findings of the study.

The survey was available in Ukrainian, Russian and English. Qualitative comments in the open-ended questions were written in Ukrainian, Russian, English and Swedish. The dataset was translated entirely in English by use of automatic translation software and translations were further verified by the authors. Nevertheless, nuances in the use of language chosen by respondents may have been lost in this process.

Map 1: Number of TP holders (April 2024) and of survey respondents (April-May 2024), by region of residence in Sweden



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 2: Ukrainian survey respondents, by oblast of origin (%)



This map is 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.

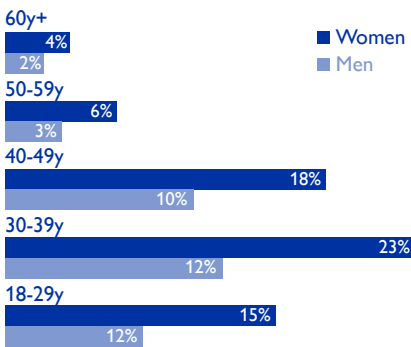
3. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Gender

3,451 surveys

64% Women **35%** Men **1%** Other

Age group



Average age

38
years old



Vulnerabilities in the group

47%
have at least one child



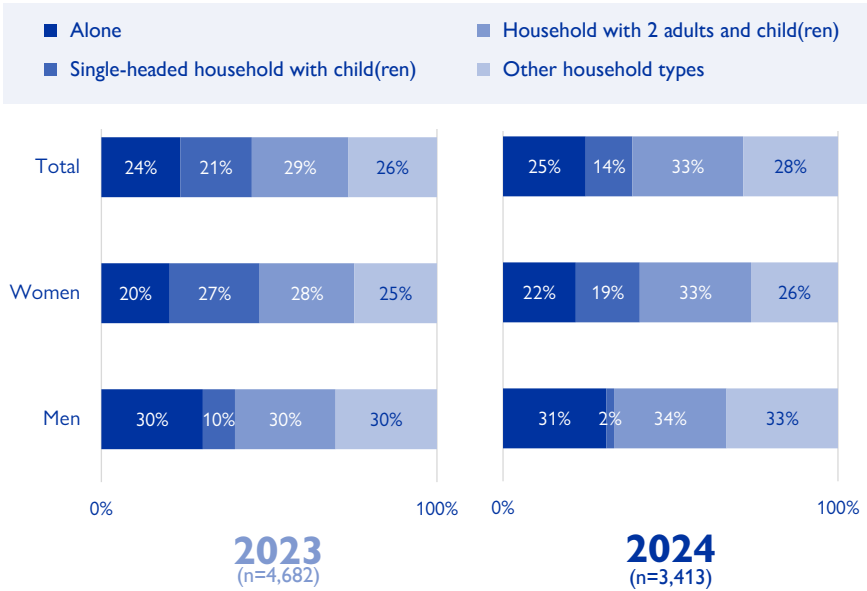
6%
are 60 years old or older



12%
have at least one person with a serious health condition in their household



Household composition in 2023 and 2024



Civil status

46%

of respondents are married, 19% single, 15% divorced or separated, 15% in a partnership, 4% unknown, 2% widowed

Time since displacement

68%

of respondents are out of Ukraine since March 2022, with 643 days on average spent in Sweden

Housing

44%

are living in autonomous housing (compared to 41% in 2023)

Education

63%

have tertiary education, 14% have post-secondary, non-tertiary education and 14% have upper secondary education (ISCED)

67%

of female respondents have achieved tertiary education, compared to about 55% of men

Leading fields of education

among those with upper secondary education and above:

Business administration and law (19%), Education (12%), Services (11%).

Engineering, manufacturing and construction (36%), Business administration and law (14%), Information and communication technology (9%).

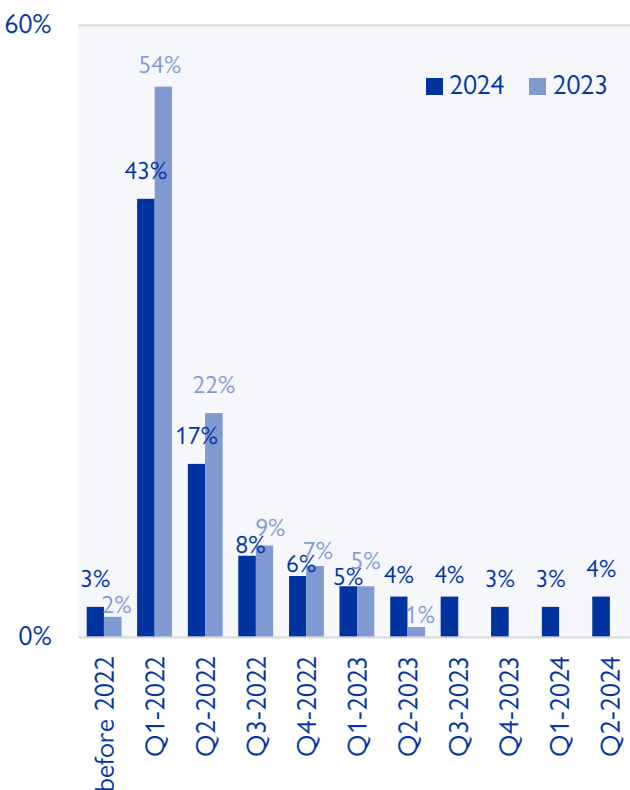
4. CURRENT INTENTIONS AND DESIRES FOR THE FUTURE

Time in Sweden and travels back to Ukraine

On average, in 2024, Ukrainian respondents spent 643 days in Sweden, with 68 per cent of them being displaced out of Ukraine since March 2022. During this displacement period, almost one fifth (19%) declared to have travelled back to Ukraine at least once. As observed also in 2023, the share of persons who visited Ukraine at least once is much higher among women (27%) than among men (6%), which is understandable given the travel restrictions for adult men in place in Ukraine.

Consistently to what has been found in 2023 and in other European countries, the main reasons to visit Ukraine, at least temporarily, remain related to some unmet needs whilst in Sweden: about 46 per cent of those who travelled back to Ukraine since their displacement in Sweden did so to receive healthcare (IOM Europe, 2024c), followed by others who travelled to renew or obtain new documents (passports, licenses, diplomas and birth certificates) (37%), to collect personal belongings that were left in Ukraine (36%), to check on one's property (20%), to meet with family members (30%), and to cater for persons in need of care (children, older persons, persons with disabilities) left behind (14%).

Figure 1: Share of respondents by time of arrival in Sweden, in 2023 and 2024, n=2,736 (2023), n=2,388 (2024)



Current plans

About 81 per cent of respondents have no intentions to move from their current place of residence, a share that is 9 percentage points higher than observed in 2023. This indicates greater stability and satisfaction of Ukrainian respondents with their life in Sweden. The share of those planning to move within Sweden decreased slightly from 8 to 7 per cent, and of those intending to move to another country remained constant and minimal at 1 per cent.

The share of those planning to return to their place of origin in Ukraine in the near future also declined from 2 to 1 per cent, while almost no respondents in either year planned to move to another location within Ukraine. The share of individuals who were uncertain about their plans or preferred not to reply also dropped from 17 per cent in 2023 to 11 per cent in 2024.

Figure 2: Movement intentions of respondents, by year of survey, n=2,736 (2023), n=2,388 (2024)



Over both years, women show a higher inclination than men towards stability, with a higher proportion of women intending to remain in their current place of residence (81% compared to 79% among men in 2024). The difference, even if small, is statistically significant. The presence of children or the fact of not living alone is associated with a higher intention to remain in current locations compared to other options: 85 per cent of respondents with children (in households with either one or two adults) in 2024 have no intention to move, compared to 77 per cent of respondents who live alone in Sweden.

The share of those not intending to move varies slightly also by area of residence: it is the highest among residents of the Östra Mellansverige (85%) and Stockholm (82%) areas, and it is the lowest among residents of the Norra Mellansverige (76%) and Småland med öarna (74%) areas.

Table 1: Movement intentions of respondents, by sex and total in 2024 (%), n=2,736 (2023), n=2,388 (2024)

Intention	2023			2024		
	♂	♀	Total	♂	♀	Total
No intentions to move from current location	71	72	72	79	81	81
Move within Sweden	10	7	8	8	6	7
Move to another country	2	1	1	1	1	1
Move to my place of origin in Ukraine	2	2	2	1	1	1
Move to another location in Ukraine	<1	<1	<1	0	<1	<1
I don't know	13	16	15	9	10	10
Prefer not to answer	2	2	2	1	1	1

Only about 1 per cent or 33 respondents in 2024 mention the intention to move to another country in the near future, mainly Germany, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Among those who intend to move either within Sweden or abroad, very few (4%) seem to have a concrete plan and to be ready to change country in less than a month, while most are either uncertain (27%) or see themselves still living in Sweden for at least the next year (36%).

Desires for the future

The increasing uncertainty related to situation in Ukraine and the end of the war are likely to have an impact not only on the immediate concrete plans, but also on the desires and aspirations of respondents in the long-term.

The proportion of Ukrainians hoping to return to Ukraine as soon as it is safe fell from 28 per cent in 2023 to 13 per cent in 2024, when combining those replying “Yes, I plan to return not matter what the situation” and “Yes, I plan to return as soon as conditions allow”. The share of undecided respondents decreased from 33 to 24 per cent of respondents over the two years.

At the same time, the share of those who do not want to return to Ukraine grew from 37 to 58 per cent between 2023 and 2024. More specifically, the share of those that “do not want”

to return to Ukraine increased more and is even higher than the share of those who “can’t go back” due to the conditions in their place of origin. The share of those unwilling or unable to return is even higher among the sub-group of respondents who also participated in the 2023 survey (66%).

Respondents from Luhanska (63%), Donetska (47%), and Khersonska (43%) are those who more frequently state they are not able to return to their places of origin, as these are in non-government-controlled areas (NGCA) of Ukraine. On the contrary, respondents originating from western oblasts which are less affected by the active military operations and those from the capital city of Kyiv are those more frequently reporting that they do not want to return (with shares higher than 40%).

Table 2: Desire to return to Ukraine one day, when conditions allow, by gender and total, by year of survey (%), n=2,736 (2023), n=2,388 (2024)

Desire to return	2023			2024		
	♂	♀	Total	♂	♀	Total
No, I don't want to	23	18	19	38	32	34
No, I can't go back home	16	19	18	24	24	24
Yes, no matter the situation	4	4	4	1	1	1
Yes, as soon as conditions allow	24	23	24	13	11	12
I don't know	28	33	31	20	26	24
Prefer not to answer	4	4	4	4	5	5

Factors facilitating return

Respondents in 2024 were also asked to specify the main factors they take into consideration when thinking about the possibility to return to Ukraine.¹⁰ The end of the invasion and war is selected by almost half of 2024 respondents (46%), followed by safety and security factors concerning the presence of military activities, shelling and the remains of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and mines in the place of origin (42%). The availability of jobs in the place of origin (23%) and considerations about public life and local tensions on humanitarian and social assistance (14%) also are chosen as relevant factors by many respondents.

10. The list of factors is derived from the IOM's [Durable Solutions framework](#) for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and allow to compare the conditions and considerations relative to local integration, return or resettlement of Ukrainians outside Ukraine with data collected by IOM with returnees and IDPs in Ukraine. See: https://ukraine.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11861/files/documents/2023-05/data-for-durable-solutions-symposium-report_ukraine-eng.pdf and the latest DTM Ukraine [Internal Displacement Report \(2024\)](#).

Table 3: Main factors when thinking about the possibility to return, by sex and total (%), multiple answers possible, n=3,413

Factors	♂	♀	Total
End of the invasion/war	42	48	46
Safety and security: military activities, strikes, shelling, presence of UXO or mines	34	47	42
Employment: availability of suitable jobs	18	25	23
Public life: intra-communal tensions related to displacement or social assistance	15	14	14
My area of origin is not under occupation	15	14	14
Residential destruction: rehabilitation and repair needed	11	11	11
Livelihoods: market activities are functioning/can recover	11	10	11
Utilities: utilities are functioning/restored	5	8	7
Services: government and public services are functioning/restored	6	5	5
No return (re-categorized from open comments when no factors can be considered for return)	5	4	4
Other, please specify	2	2	2
Prefer not to answer	23	19	20

Why Sweden? – Increasing intention to remain

Ukrainian respondents in 2024 acknowledge that their perspectives have changed over time, due to the growing uncertainty on how things evolve in Ukraine and to the prolonged displacement. More than two thirds (68%) of Ukrainian respondents in 2024 declare that their intentions for the future have changed during the last year, in the sense that they are now more convinced of their desire to remain in Sweden in the long term than before. This is higher for men (72%) than for women (65%).

About 15 per cent of respondents declare that their intentions did not change over the last year, while a small share affirms that they are now more convinced to either go back to Ukraine (3%) or move to another country (1%). The remaining 13 per cent does not know or prefer not to answer.

Respondents living in the Övre Norrland are those more frequently reporting they are now more convinced to stay in Sweden in the long term than they were one year ago (77%, 9 percentage point higher than the average). On the other side, the highest share of respondents who have changed their mind

in the sense of being more convinced to go back to Ukraine when possible is found in Mellersta Norrland area (6%, or twice the average).

Table 4: Intentions for the future have changed over the last year, by sex and total, n=3,413

Changes in intentions	♂	♀	Total
Yes, I am now more convinced I want to stay in Sweden long term	72	65	68
Yes, I am now more convinced I want to leave and go back to Ukraine when possible	2	4	3
Yes, I am now more convinced I want to leave for another country	1	1	1
No	15	15	15
I don't know	8	12	10
Prefer not to answer	2	3	3

The analysis of both the quantitative findings and the qualitative comments provided by respondents in the section on intentions and perspectives for the future offers valuable insights into how considerations about the host country (Sweden) and the conditions in the origin country (Ukraine) interact. Regardless of the desired pathway — integration in Sweden, return to Ukraine, or resettlement elsewhere — respondents emphasize the importance of physical safety and the desire for an end to the war, as an indispensable element for any long-term solution. While this general hope “for the war to end” is shared in all assessments conducted with Ukrainians displaced outside Ukraine and inside Ukraine (IOM Ukraine, 2024a), respondents in Sweden appear to have a higher propensity to remain in Sweden in the long term than refugees from Ukraine who are currently displaced in Eastern European countries.

After more than two years since the start of the full-scale invasion and with an increased level of uncertainty regarding the developments of the war in Ukraine, more respondents in 2024 than in 2023 show a strong inclination to remain in Sweden, with minimal interest in returning to Ukraine or moving to another country.

Ukrainians with TP living in neighbouring countries to Ukraine often report to have chosen their country and location of refuge for a mix of reasons: the openness and welcoming attitude of local communities and national authorities in those countries, the geographical proximity to Ukraine and the possibility to make visits to family members left behind, the difficulty of moving further due to family reasons (many single-headed households, many with older persons, persons with personal health

conditions or small children), the possibility to use Ukrainian or Russian language as a vehicular language in some countries, among other reasons (IOM Moldova 2024; IOM Europe 2024b; EUAA et al., 2024).

Regardless of their individual characteristics, TP holders in Sweden report instead more frequently reasons for choosing their place to stay which are linked to the overall conditions they have found in the host country, the comprehensive protection system and the perceived favourable conditions in terms of access to services and employment opportunities. Looking at their comments in open questions, considerations about the situation in Sweden emerge together with those about the uncertain developments in Ukraine. These country-level considerations are summarized in Table 5.¹¹



I have a good job here in Sweden, work contract, and good rental contract. The same is true for my wife. We are completely satisfied with our income and lifestyle here in Sweden. We also learn Swedish to be a part of the Swedish society, passed the SFI course together, and now we continue our education on the GRUV course. Also, after we get the personal number, we are planning to buy an apartment here.¹²

Ukrainian man, 35 years old, married, employed and with a post-graduate degree, residing in Skåne län



Table 5: Factors to consider when returning or staying

In Sweden	In Ukraine
<p>Family unity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire to stay with close family members, who are now already settled in Sweden 	<p>Safety and security concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear for personal safety and that of their children due to ongoing conflict and instability • Cities being frequently shelled and unsafe environments at origin
<p>Better opportunities abroad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher quality of life and better opportunities for adults and children in Sweden • Perception that Sweden offers better educational and professional opportunities • Better economic prospects in Sweden compared to the socio-economic conditions of Ukraine, as even after the war re-construction and recovery will take a lot of time 	<p>Disruption of public services and governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruptions in the education system Ukraine, making it difficult for children to continue their studies • High political instability and lack of trust in the authorities • Frustration with “economy of war” system and with perceived widespread corruption in Ukraine
<p>Emotional and psychological factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better mental health support and quality of life in Sweden • Desire for stability, to see the efforts done to live and work in Ukraine have effects for them and the children 	<p>Emotional and psychological factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma and psychological impact of the war making the thought of returning unbearable • Difficult to imagine reparations of traumas and tensions after war at the local and national level

11. For a recent study on how return intentions to Ukraine are affected by both individual (sex, age, marital status, education level, etc.) and country-level factors, please see van Tubergen et al (2024).

12. SFI (Swedish for immigrants) is a language course, while GRUV (*grundläggande vuxenutbildning*) is a basic adult education curriculum. For more information about the offer and attendance of language courses in Sweden, please refer to the Section "[Acquiring Swedish language proficiency](#)".

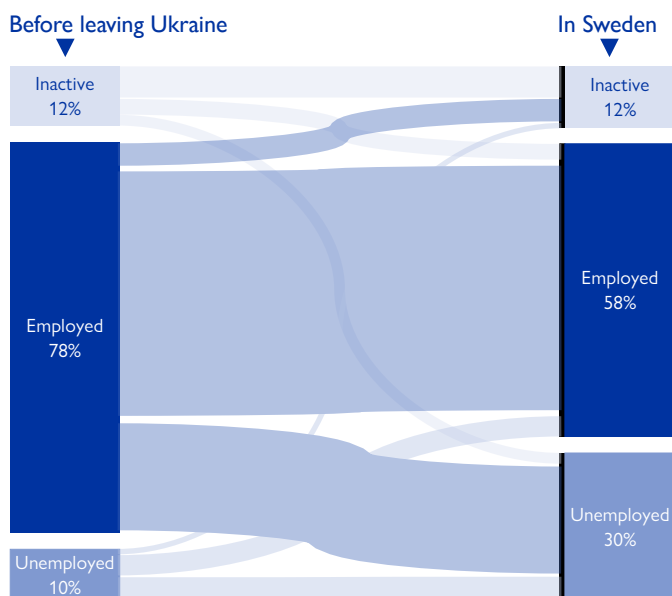
5. LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION AS FACTOR OF STABILITY

Participation in the labour market

About 88 per cent of respondents were active in the labour market before leaving Ukraine, while 12 per cent were either retired, students or unemployed and not looking or not available for work.¹³ No significant differences between men and women, or between respondents in 2024 and 2023 were found. The unemployment rate before leaving Ukraine – the share of unemployed and looking for a job among those active in the labour market – was 12 per cent, with no significant difference with what was found among respondents in 2023, but with women more likely to be unemployed than men (14% compared to 8%).

The level of participation in the labour market remains at the same level upon displacement: on average 88 per cent of respondents participate to the labour market in Sweden. In Sweden though, the difference between men and women is significant, with more men than women being active in the labour market (93% compared to 85%). Hence, even with caveats and limitations connected to the self-reporting of the employment status, the high level of participation in the labour market of displaced persons from Ukraine in the Swedish labour market seems in line with what has been found in other EU countries (EUAA, 2024; IOM Europe, 2024b).

Figure 3: Employment status before and after displacement in 2024, total (%), n=3,413



13. According to international labour market statistics “People are classified in three main categories as employed, unemployed or outside the labour force. The additional aggregated category “labour force” includes all employed and unemployed persons” (Eurostat). The labour force activity rate is the proportion of a country’s working-age population that participates actively in the labour market, either working or being unemployed but looking and available for work. See: <https://ilostat.ilo.org/resources/concepts-and-definitions/description-labour-force-statistics/>

Almost two thirds (58%) of all respondents are in employment (employed, self-employed, daily worker), while 30 per cent are unemployed but looking for a job. Among the inactive (12%), most are students (61%) and retirees (30%), while 9 per cent are not employed and not looking for a job. The main reasons for them to be out of the labour market is their own medical condition (27%), followed by having care duties for other family members (e.g. children, older persons and persons with a disability) (19%). Some 16 per cent indicate no need to work because others in their household are employed.

The high level of participation in the labour market remains similar to what has been observed in 2023, with similar significant differences between men and women. On the other side, a significant change compared to 2024 is observed in terms of employment-unemployment balance both among men and women, which is further investigated in the next section. Also, among those out of the labour force (inactive), the proportion of those who are not employed and not looking for a job decreased sensibly (from 25% in 2023 to 9% in 2024), while most are students or retirees.

Employment

Focusing on the active labour force, the share of those employed is 66 per cent, which is 8 per cent points higher than in 2023. The unemployment rate is 34 per cent.

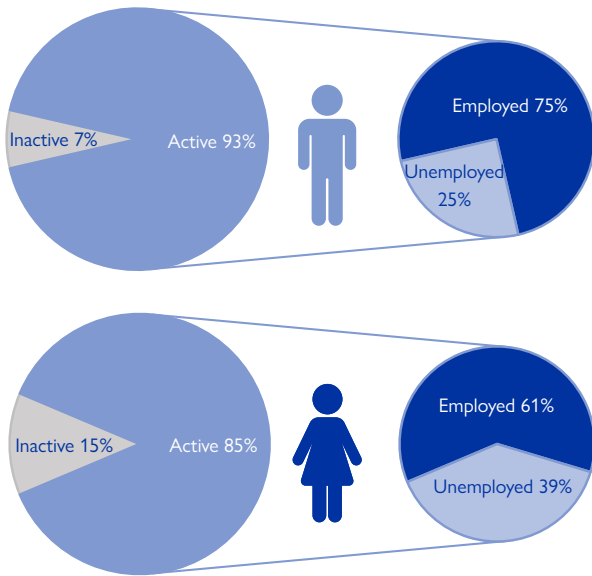
According to the data collected, higher employment rates in Sweden are associated with a number of factors related to gender, age, family situations and language skills.¹⁴ Although they represent a minority of the total population, a higher proportion of men are employed compared to women (75% compared to 61% on average). Also, working-age persons between 40 and 49 years have the highest share of employment (71%), followed by those between 30 and 39 years (68%), while persons of 60 years and more have the lowest share of employment (35%). Having children in the household, both for those alone and those living with other adults, is associated with lower shares of employment (64%) in comparison to those without children (68%). Especially among women, the presence of children can be associated with more care responsibilities that prevent them to be employed due to difficult reconciliation of care and work duties and schedules. In 2024, knowing the Swedish language is positively associated with employment (70%, compared to 64% among those who do not speak Swedish). Also knowing English is associated with a higher share of employed (69%) than among those who do not speak English (62%).

14. Statistically significant correlations between pairs of variables are presented here to describe the situation for specific groups of respondents. They do not imply causality between the variables.

Finally, more time spent in Sweden is associated with higher shares of employment: 72 per cent of those arrived between January and March 2022 are employed, compared to 65 per cent of those who arrived in the first quarter of 2023 and 47 per cent of those who arrived in the first quarter of 2024.

Hence, gender, age, the absence of children, the ability to speak Swedish and English, and time spent in Sweden are factors that – similarly to what was observed in 2023 – significantly correlate with the level of employment.

Figure 4: Employment status in Sweden, by gender (%), n=3,307 (in Sweden)



As observed in 2023, almost two thirds of the respondents declare to have tertiary education.¹⁵ In particular, 49 per cent of the sample in 2024 declared to have graduate or post-graduate education levels. Higher education levels are associated with higher participation in the labour market: 78 per cent of the respondents holding lower secondary education or below are active in the labour market, compared to 91 per cent of those with undergraduate tertiary education. However, having higher education does not necessarily lead to higher employment shares among those who are active in the labour market. At

the same time, the education level, together with gender, is associated with differences in the sector of occupation among those employed.¹⁶ Those with lower secondary education or below are working mostly in the construction sector (42%), in other services activities (20%)¹⁷ and in accommodation and food services (11%). Those with graduate or post-graduate education are working more in construction (14%), in other services (11%), in human health and social work (10%), in education (10%), and in information and communication technology (8%).

Almost half (49%) of those who are currently in paid positions, declare they are not fully using their experience or skills in their jobs. This is more frequent among women (57% of those who work), than among men (39%). Also, this measure of mismatch between skills and occupation is slightly but significantly higher in 2024 than in 2023 (47%).

The mismatch between the current job and the level of education and experience varies greatly depending on the sector of occupation: it is the lowest for those in professional, scientific and technical activities and information and communication technologies (12% and 9%, respectively), and it is the highest for those working in other services (70%), in human health and social work (65%) and in accommodation and food services (62%).

The level of mismatch reported by respondents is also in line with the difference between the main sectors of occupation of those in employment before leaving Ukraine, and the main reported sectors of occupation in Sweden.

Before displacement, the main sectors of occupation for those employed were construction (12%), wholesale and retail trade (10%), human health and social work (7%), manufacturing (9%), education (8%), information and communication (8%), with managers, engineers, teachers, accountants, IT specialists, administrative officers, doctors and other health professionals among them. In Sweden, those working are mainly employed in construction (21%), other services activities (14%), accommodation and food services (12%), human and health social work (8%), with cleaners, builders, IT specialists, teachers, carpenters, nursing assistants, waiters and waitresses, cooks and domestic workers being among the top occupations. As in 2023, these results show an overall decrease of managerial, professional, and technical occupations in favour of machine operators and elementary occupations.

15. Education levels are classified according to the [ISCED](#) international levels. Tertiary education comprises ISCED levels from 5 to 8: Short-cycle tertiary education, Bachelor's or equivalent level, Master's or equivalent level, Doctoral or equivalent level.

16. DTM surveys in Europe adopt the '[International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities](#)' (ISIC) by ILO, which in the European Union is reflected in the NACE classification: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace> and the [International Classification of Occupations](#) (ISCO) by ILO.

17. It includes washing and cleaning, hairdressing and other beauty treatment.

Figure 5: Most recurring occupations of respondents before and after displacement, total in 2024, n=2,166 (before leaving Ukraine), n=1,684 (in Sweden)

Before leaving Ukraine



In Sweden



Barriers to employment

Language is by far the main barrier when looking for a job, reported on average by 76 per cent of respondents in search of employment: not speaking Swedish fluently remains the main issue for those seeking employment. However, this value has decreased by 11 percentage points from 2023 (85%), a tangible sign of the overall improving level of Swedish proficiency among Ukrainians in the country.

Other barriers frequently mentioned are the lack of suitable jobs in the area of residence (31% compared to 22% in 2023) and the lack of required qualifications or of their recognition (mentioned by 17% of respondents in 2024, compared to 14% in 2023). Discrimination has increased by 10 per cent in 2023 to 16 per cent in 2024, followed by the lack of transportation to reach the workplace (14% compared to 12% in 2023), the difficult reconciliation of care duties (need to take care of children, older persons or persons with disabilities) and available working arrangements (11% compared to 12% in 2023), and personal health conditions (11% compared to 9% in 2023).

According to the respondents' qualitative accounts, the lack of recognition of diplomas and the time spent looking for an occupation that matches the level of education are two important factors in delaying the entry into employment of tertiary educated Ukrainians in the sample. This point to the need of a targeted action to improve the overall job-skill matching, in line with what was found by a recent Eurofound report (2024).

Table 6: Main barriers for the unemployed looking for a job, by gender and total (%), by year of survey, multiple answers possible

Barriers	2023			2024		
	♂	♀	Total	♂	♀	Total
Language barrier	83	86	85	75	77	76
No available job in the area	21	23	22	33	29	31
Lack of qualifications	14	14	14	17	17	17
Discrimination	13	9	10	17	16	16
No available transport	10	13	12	13	15	14
Care duties*	5	14	12	4	14	11
Personal health condition	7	9	9	11	11	11
	n=1,578			n=872		

* Taking care of children, older persons, persons with disabilities

Comparing employment of Ukrainians with TP, overall resident population and total foreigners

The official employment rate in Sweden in 2023 (Eurostat 2024) was at 77 per cent for the total resident population, at 78 per cent for Swedish citizens and at 68 per cent for the foreign population. Hence, the employment rate calculated on Ukrainians with TP in the sample is ten percentage points lower on average (58%) than that of the overall foreign population in Sweden, and in particular seven percentage point lower for men (69% compared to 76%), and six percentage points lower for women (52% compared to 58%).

Looking at the disaggregation by education level, the official employment rate for tertiary educated residents in Sweden (Eurostat, 2024) was 90 per cent in 2023 overall, 90 per cent for Swedish residents and 82 per cent for foreigners (90% for male foreigners, 74% for female foreigners). Data from the survey do not show a higher employment rate among tertiary educated Ukrainians compared to the average (both 58%). Also, the employment rate is 67 per cent for tertiary educated men and 54 per cent for tertiary educated women. This is lower than the average employment rate of the foreign population residing in Sweden and with tertiary education. At the same time, this is higher than what is found in other EU Member States such as Poland, Hungary or Romania (IOM Europe, 2024b).¹⁸ Additionally, even if unemployment among Ukrainian TP holders remains high compared to other migrant and refugee groups in Sweden, their labour integration since their arrival in Sweden is faster than what is usually observed among other migrant and refugee groups across Europe (Fasani et al., 2022).

18. Please refer to IOM's DTM interactive dashboard 'Ukraine Regional Response: Needs, Intentions, and Border Crossings' with data from surveys with Ukrainians and TCNs collected in 12 European countries between 2023 and 2024.

Also, the incidence of unemployment for Ukrainians with TP across the country is similar to the one observed for the total residence population. The official unemployment rate for the total resident population in Sweden in 2023 (Eurostat 2024) was at 7.7 per cent. This is higher than the average in Sydsverige and Östra Mellansverige areas (9.3% and 9%, respectively), while the lowest unemployment rate is found in the Övre Norrland area (5.7%).

Similarly, the three regions where the share of unemployed among Ukrainian respondents is the highest are: Östra Mellansverige (44%), Norra Mellansverige (43%) and Sydsverige (42%). At the same time, respondents residing in Övre Norrland and Stockholm areas are showing the lowest unemployment rates (22% and 27%, respectively).

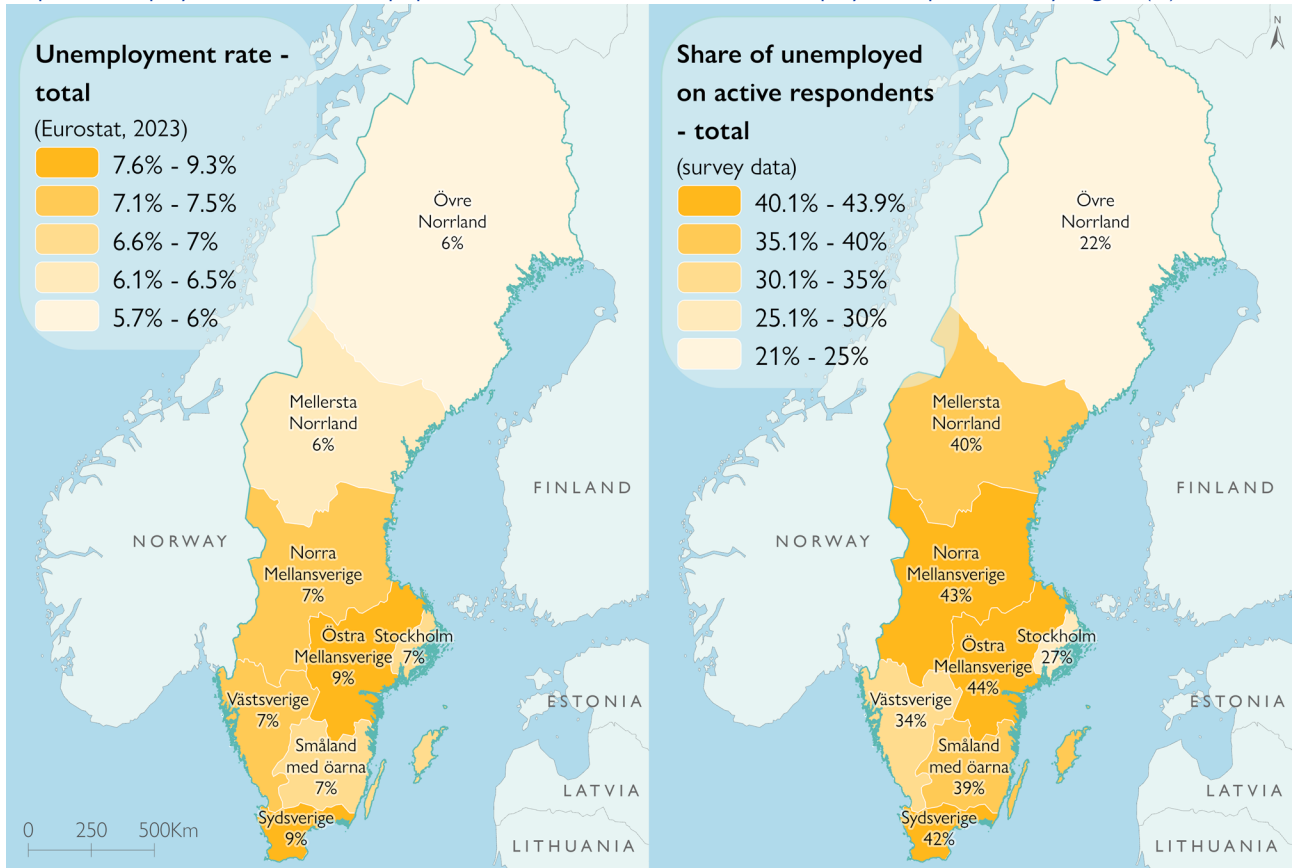
When looking at gender differences, Ukrainian women tend to be more unemployed than men in all areas of the country, but with wide variations. The highest female unemployment rate is found in Östra Mellansverige, where it is 19 percentage point higher than male unemployment (50% compared to 31%), followed by that of Ukrainian women residing in Norra Mellansverige and Sydsverige (both 45%). Among Ukrainian men, the highest level of unemployment is found in Norra Mellansverige and Småland med öarna areas (both 39%) and Sydsverige (37%).

Table 7: Comparison between official employment rate in Sweden (Eurostat) and employment rate of respondents to the survey, by nationality, gender and level of education (%)

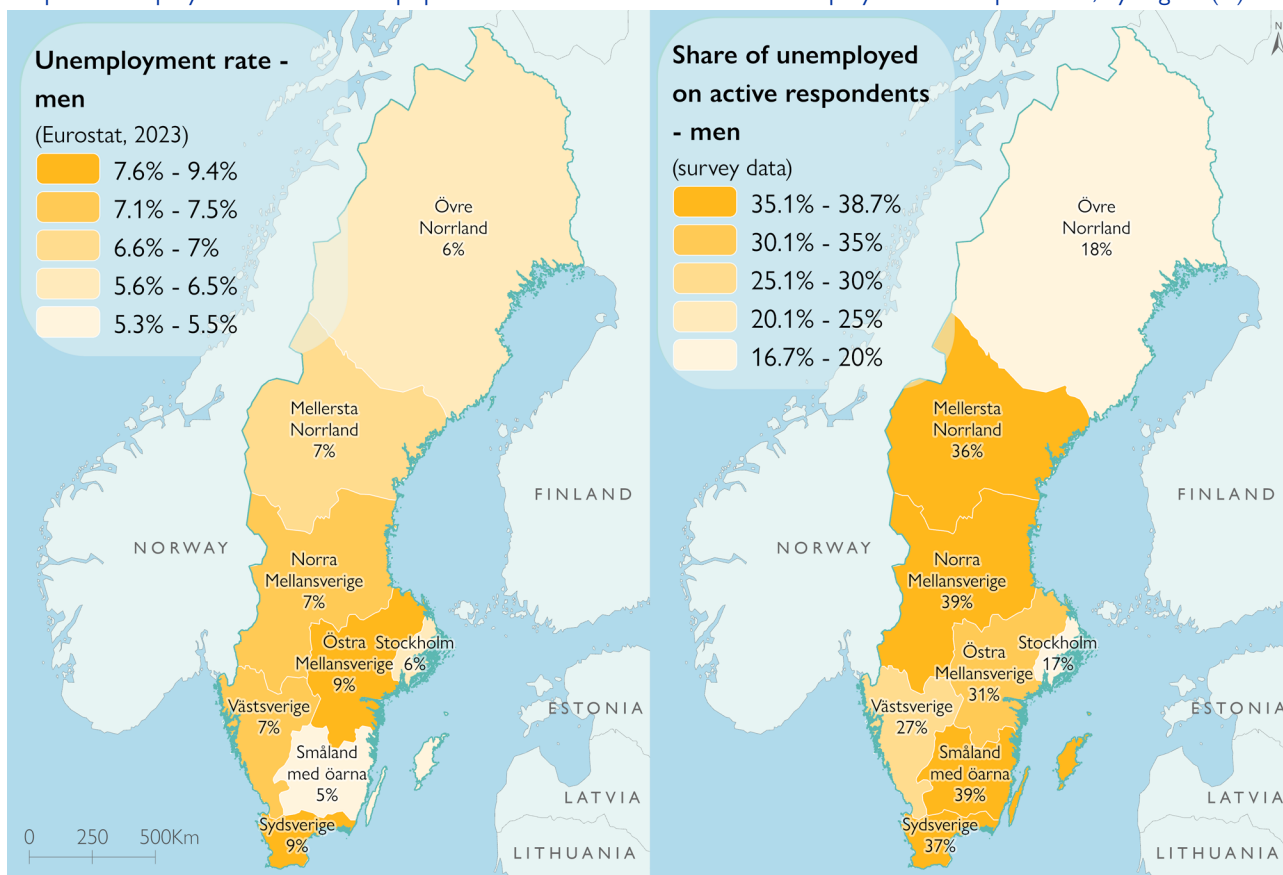
Education level	Nationality	Employment rate		
		♂	♀	Total
All levels	Foreign nationals	76	58	68
	Swedish nationals	80	77	78
	Total	79	76	77
Tertiary education	Foreign nationals	90	74	82
	Swedish nationals	91	90	90
	Total	91	89	90
All levels	Ukrainian respondents	69	52	58
Tertiary education	Ukrainian respondents	67	54	58

Note: Eurostat [employment rate](#) is calculated as the share of employed persons between 15 and 64 years old, on the total population between 15 and 64 years old, by sex, educational attainment level and citizenship [lfsa_ergaedn]. Employment rate among survey respondents is the share of employed respondents aged 18 and over on the total survey respondents, by sex and educational attainment.

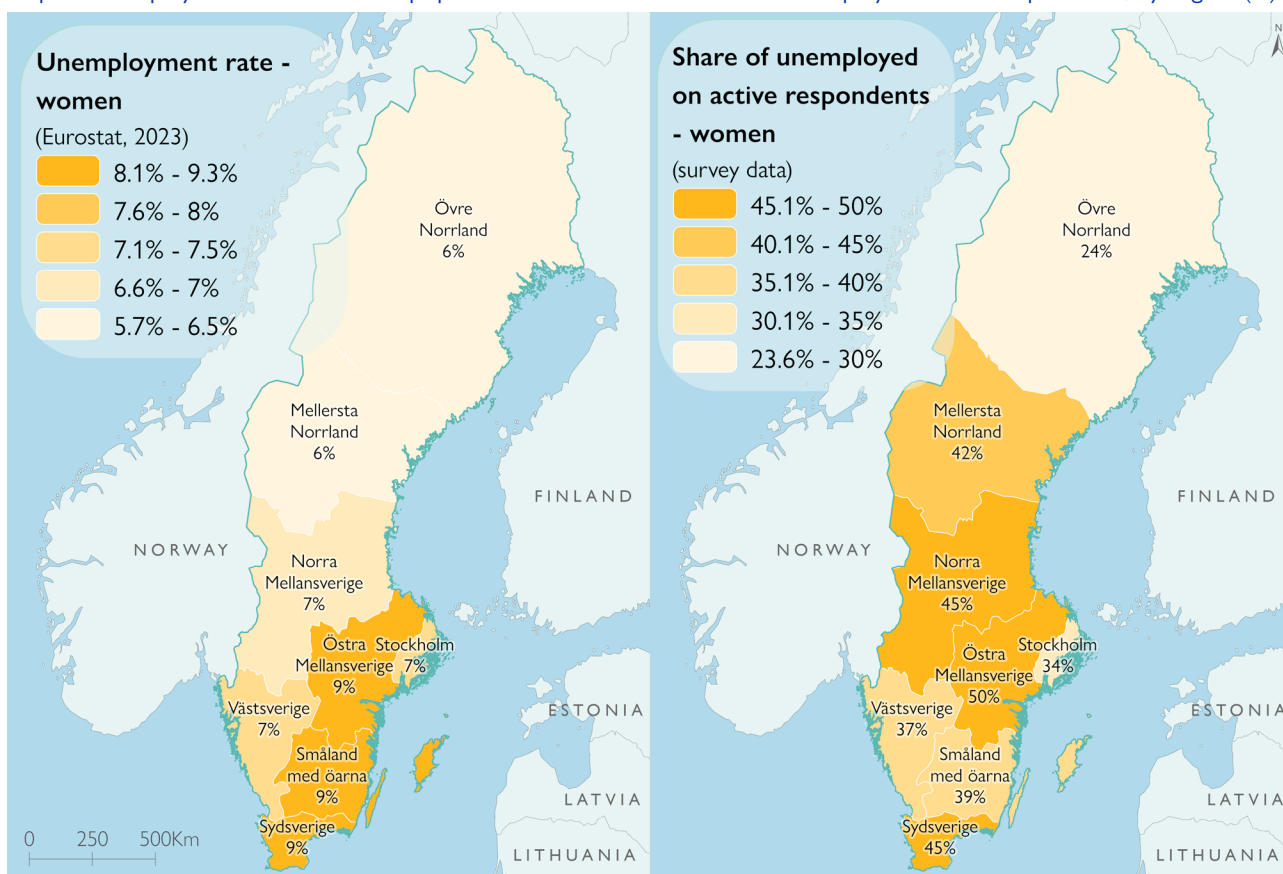
Map 3: Unemployment rate of total population of Sweden and share of unemployed respondents, by region (%)



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



Map 4: Unemployment rate of female population of Sweden 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.

6. LIFE IN SWEDEN BEYOND EMPLOYMENT

Financial situation

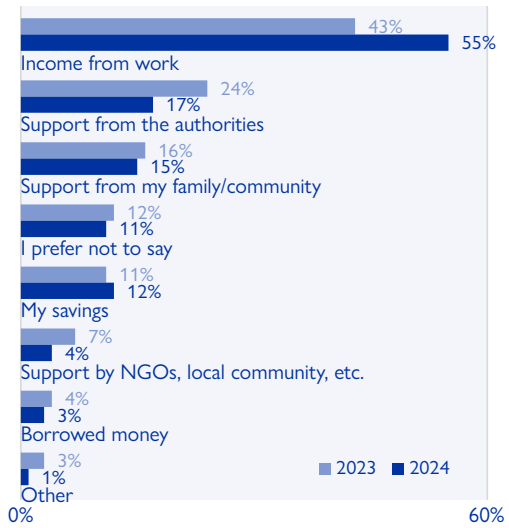


The perception about the financial situation of Ukrainians with TP in Sweden improved over the last year: 55 per cent of the sample in 2024 consider having the means or income sufficient to cover their living expenses, compared to 50 per cent in 2023. The share of those considering their income sufficient is much higher for men than for women (67% compared to 49%). However, 35 per cent (compared to 40% in 2023) report not having enough resources, and 10 (compared to 9% in 2023) per cent prefer not to answer.

This improvement is clearly connected with the observed improvement in the employment situation among respondents: income accrued from work is the main source of money to cover for everyday expenses for 55 per cent of respondents (compared to 43% in 2023), while less than a fifth (17% in 2024, compared to 24% in 2023) consider the support from the authorities as the main source of money. Some 15 per cent (compared to 16% in 2023) mention the support from family or friends.

Those generating income from work generally stop receiving the allowance from the SMA. This allowance is often reported to be fundamental but not sufficient to cover all living expenses and to afford an autonomous housing solution by those who are not currently in employment. About 29 per cent of the whole sample in 2024 do not consider income from work or the support from the Swedish authorities as the main source of money to cover the everyday expenses, and therefore mainly count on other sources including support from family and community, personal savings and others.

Figure 6: Main sources of money, total, by year of survey (%) – more than one answer possible, n=4,682 (2023), n=3,413 (2024)



Housing



About 44 per cent of the 2024 sample live in an autonomous housing solution, either renting an apartment or owning one. This is three per cent more than in 2023 (41%). The rest (56%) is either accommodated through SMA in the initial period upon arrival, or more often supported by the municipalities. Smaller shares report to receive support from civil society initiatives and friends.

In 2024 as in 2023, the share of those living in autonomous accommodation is much higher among respondents in the Stockholm area (63% in 2024 compared to 52% in 2023), than anywhere else in Sweden. The lowest share of autonomous housing solutions is registered among respondents residing in Övre Norrland (26% in 2024, 27% in 2023). The share of women living in autonomous solutions is much lower than among men (39% compared to 53%). The biggest difference between men and women in terms of housing solutions is observed in Östra Mellansverige where men are in autonomous solutions in 45 per cent of the cases compared to 26 per cent of women. Other big differences are also reported by respondents living in Stockholm area (72% of men compared to 56% of women living on their own) and Småland med öarna (40% compared to 27%).

Acquiring Swedish language proficiency



The majority (66%) of the sample declare Ukrainian as main language spoken at home, followed by those speaking Russian (31%) and English (2%) and a remaining 1 per cent other languages. More than half of the respondents (56%) speak also Russian and 33 per cent speak also Ukrainian, hence most respondents are able to speak and use both languages. English is also known by 61 per cent of respondents, although around one quarter of them report to know it “not well” (22%) or “not well at all” (2%).

Almost half (47%) of the 2024 sample declare to speak Swedish, almost doubling the share observed in 2023 (26%). More than half of those declaring to know Swedish, report to know it “well” or “very well” (55%), which is a big improvement since 2023 when most declared to know Swedish “not well” (52%) or “not well at all” (15%). Women report higher level of Swedish proficiency on average than men (59% of those who know the language, they know it “very well” or “well”, compared to 44% of men).


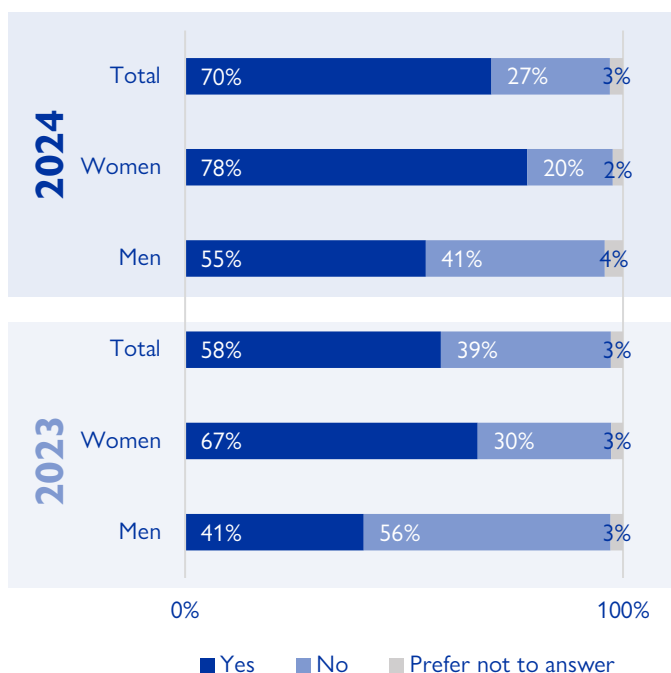
Hållå  **47% speak Swedish in 2024**
(compared to **26%** in 2023)

Table 8: Swedish proficiency among those who know the language, by gender and total, by year of survey (%)

Swedish proficiency	2023			2024		
	♂	♀	Total	♂	♀	Total
Not well at all	20	14	15	7	3	4
Not well	54	52	52	49	38	41
Well	23	30	28	39	54	50
Very well	3	4	4	5	5	5
	n=1,203			n=1,609		

Increasing Swedish proficiency over time is correlated with a very high attendance of Swedish language courses. About 70 per cent of respondents in 2024 attended a Swedish language course (78% of women and 55% of men), which is 12 percentage points more than in 2023. The share of those attending a Swedish language course is higher than the average in Övre Norrland region (83% in 2024, compared to 72% in 2023), while it is the lowest in the region and province of Stockholm (60% in 2024, compared to 47% in 2023).

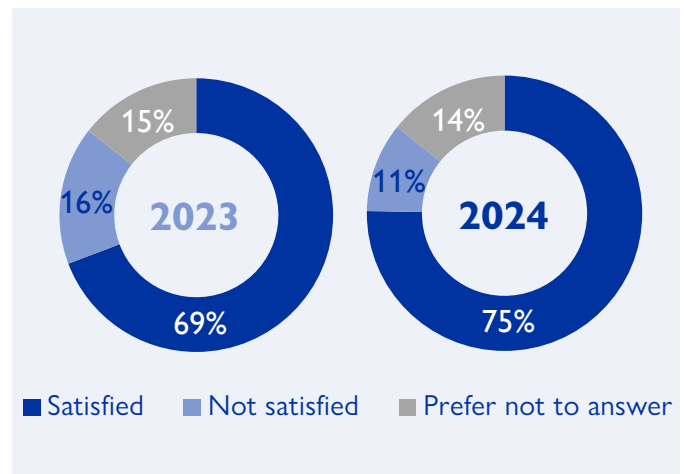
Figure 7: Swedish language course attendance, by gender and total, by year of survey (%), n=4,682 (2023), n=3,413 (2024)



In 2024, 78 per cent of those who have attended a Swedish language course (2,388) attended a Swedish for immigrants (SFI) course (compared to 31% in 2023), 10 per cent (compared to 22% in 2023) attended a *Svenska från dag ett* (“Swedish since day one”) course, and 12 per cent (compared to 47% in 2023) attended also other courses. Among them, many mentioned a mix of courses taken at Folkuniversitetet, organized by churches, NGOs and volunteering organizations, as well as individual and online practice (e.g. with Duolingo app).

In 2024, about 75 per cent of those who attended a course were satisfied with it (6% increase compared to compared to 2023). Those who attended a “Swedish since day one” were satisfied in 77 per cent of the cases, while those attending a SFI course were satisfied in 76 per cent of the cases. Also, higher shares of respondents satisfied for the Swedish courses are in Östra Mellansverige area (82%), while lower shares are reported by respondents in Övre Norrland and Sydsverige (72% each).

Figure 8: Satisfaction with the Swedish course, total and by year of survey (%), n=2,736 (2023), n=2,388 (2024)



In general, those dissatisfied with the language courses cited several issues: courses are too short, the schedule of existing courses is not suitable for people who are working, teachers are not able to communicate in Ukrainian or Russian, materials and overall structure are not satisfactory or not suited for labour market needs.

Main needs and support from Swedish authorities

Respondents were asked to select items from a list and to identify their most pressing needs. About 9 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.

The top five identified priorities are in the area of language courses (selected by 41% of respondents overall), of employment support (40%), of healthcare services (36%), of learning or training opportunities for adults (33%) and of financial support (29%).

There is an improvement in the average shares of needs reported in 2024, when compared with findings in 2023. Although still relevant, language courses, employment and financial support, food and non-food items were reported in lower shares in 2024 than in 2023. Among the items that got more attention in 2024 than in 2023 there are healthcare services (from 31% to 36%), education for adults (from 29% to 33%), assistance with documentation (from 18% to 23%), and support to start own business (from 9% to 12%).

Support in terms of language courses is more frequently reported by Ukrainians living in Västerbottens län, Gotlands län,

Figure 9: Main immediate needs (%) in 2023 and 2024, more than one answer possible, n=2,736 (2023), n=2,388 (2024)



Norrbottnens län, Stockholms län, Östergötlands län, Hallands län (between 42 and 47%), while it is less of an issue among respondents living in Blekinge län and Jämtlands län (27 and 23% of them, respectively). Support with employment was reported as a pressing need by more than half of the respondents living in Dalarnas län, Hallands län, Kronobergs län, Värmlands län (from 59 to 51%). A similar group of regions – Gävleborgs län, Hallands län, Kronobergs län, Östergötlands län, and Värmlands län – is also where respondents are more frequently reporting employment support as a pressing need (from 46% to 40%). Healthcare services are reported more frequently than the average by Ukrainians living in Kalmar län, Gotlands län, Västmanlands län, and Kronobergs län (from 50% to 45%). Finally, support with documentation and registration is most frequently reported in Blekinge län, Jämtlands län, Västmanlands län, Gävleborgs län, Kalmar län, and Östergötlands län (from 33% to 27%).

Most respondents (86%) know how to get in contact with the Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen), and almost half (49%) of them actually did. Qualitative comments by many respondents reiterate the importance of having a personal identification number in order to have full access to the available employment support programs:

- more flexible job search systems and support to enter in direct contact with potential employers
- support to find more permanent employment positions and contracts that are not subsidized or facilitated by the Arbetsförmedlingen
- access to tailored professional training courses to match labour market needs
- recognition of education certificates and qualifications acquired abroad and possibility to continue studying
- language courses tailored to proficiency requirements in certain sectors and professions, on one side, but also to the education level of participants

“ I have already found a job, but I will start working in the summer. In general, there is not enough permanent work. I talk to many Ukrainian women and many employers hire Ukrainians for a period of only 2 years and only from Arbetsförmedlingen specifically so that the state covers the salary costs, and then they look for other Ukrainians to arrange the same through Arbetsförmedlingen. Ukrainian woman, 30 years old, tertiary educated in engineering, living in Västervik, Kalmar län ”

7. CONCLUSIONS

This report presents the findings of a survey conducted by IOM to assess the current intentions, aspirations and living conditions of TP holders in Sweden. The sample size and structure enable the extrapolation of key quantitative findings for the entire reference population, for women, men and by geographical areas of residence. Additionally, the content analysis of the qualitative comments enriches the study by providing context to numerical findings. The possibility of systematically comparing results on main variables with those observed in a similar survey conducted between March and May 2023 (IOM Europe, 2023) renders this study a valuable source of data and information to understand how the profile and intentions of TP holders are changing over time.

TP holders in Sweden exhibit higher levels of education and of employment compared to those displaced in other European countries. In particular, Ukrainians with TP in Sweden represent a selected and distinct group compared to Ukrainians who have obtained a TP status in Central and Eastern European countries closer to Ukraine. On average, the demographic composition in Sweden includes more families with both men and women, fewer single or older individuals, and a higher proportion of graduates and professionals.

As observed in 2023, 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 the labour market and public services. This can be due to several factors at play. First, the decision to seek refuge in Sweden, which is geographically farther than neighbouring countries to Ukraine, involves families and individuals with the resources and capabilities to undertake a longer journey. These individuals are likely to have better educational backgrounds and higher skill levels, making them more adaptable to new environments and more competitive in the host labour market. The local labour market structure in Sweden also plays a role, offering more opportunities and better working conditions compared to other European economies. This environment can attract and retain skilled workers and professionals. The prospects of more stable employment, higher wages, and better social benefits provide a strong incentive for Ukrainians to build a new life in Sweden rather than to return to Ukraine, even after the war ends. This contrasts with the situation in other European countries closer to Ukraine, where the demographic composition of the Ukrainian population and the local labour market conditions might not offer the same opportunities for long-term settlement.

The combination of a self-selected, highly-skilled, and family-oriented demographic and of the advantageous labour market

conditions in Sweden contribute to explain why Ukrainians with TP in Sweden wish to remain in Sweden.

The employment rate of Ukrainians with TP is lower than that of the foreign population residing in Sweden, but higher than what is found in other EU Member States (IOM Europe, 2024b). Moreover, employment of TP holders in Sweden is increasing between 2023 and 2024 for women, men and in all regions of residence, with a positive and fast integration into the local labour market since their arrival in Sweden.

Employed Ukrainians with TP are more willing to remain in Sweden in the near future (85%) than the unemployed ones (73%). Employment is correlated with long-term aspirations too: the unemployed are more willing to return to Ukraine when the conditions will allow (14% compared to 10%), and less frequently reporting the willingness to remain (30% compared to 38%) than the employed. These findings are in line with other studies which underline the role of the employment status and the overall conditions in the host countries in determining intentions and aspirations when it comes to long-term solutions (UNHCR, 2024).

While respondents acknowledge the support provided by the Swedish society and its authorities within the TP framework, they also express views and suggestions with regards to policies and practices that could be improved to facilitate a fuller integration of TP holders in the local context.

In all domains of public life and economic activities – and confirming the main findings of the IOM's research conducted in 2023 and other studies (IOM Europe, 2023; EWSI, 2024) – respondents in this study reiterate that having the right to register in the Population Register and receive a personal identification number would facilitate necessary administrative procedures and their access to services and more stable employment. The recent legislative changes included in the extension of the TPD in June 2024 – which were not known to respondents at the time of the survey – are expected to address those bureaucratic and administrative hurdles for a consistent part of the population currently with TP status in Sweden.

At the same time, although results in terms of financial stability, autonomous housing and employment are good and improving over time, more can be done to sustain a more stable and high employment among TP holders in Sweden. Specifically, this could be achieved by a better-tailored employment support, leveraging existing occupational and educational experiences. Especially among the tertiary educated, the reported education-occupation mismatch could trap employed TP holders in sub-optimal employment conditions in terms of pay, contractual

stability and recognition of qualifications. In line with the Global Compact for Migration (Objective 18), ILO and EU standards, the recognition of relevant skills and qualifications acquired abroad is important for potential employers to better match potential new hires with the desired skills (IOM, 2023). In this regard, both high academic and professional profiles of Ukrainians with TP could be better taken into considerations by employment support services and the job market.

In parallel, the importance of mastering the Swedish language at a level that fits with the education level and professional needs of Ukrainians emerges once more from this second study with TP holders in Sweden. Language is one of the main tools for more autonomy and integration, together with the maintenance of the financial and housing support that accompanies Ukrainians in their paths towards autonomy until they enter the labour market.

Lastly, although the survey slightly under-represent the older segment of the Ukrainian population in Sweden, it remains crucial not to disregard the specific needs of the small share of Ukrainians with TP who are permanently or temporarily unable to work or seek employment., due to their age and health conditions. Adequate financial support and access to social services will continue to be needed for this group.

Overall, in 2024, TP holders express a stronger desire for more stability in Sweden, rather than for return to Ukraine when conditions will allow. Their social, economic and emotional investment in integrating into local societies for themselves and their children is slowly but steadily bringing improved conditions of life and work.

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Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility.

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, several IOM's DTM tools were deployed in Ukraine and in several countries in the region, providing crucial insights to inform evidence-based humanitarian actions and policy.

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