

# Ukrainian Refugees: Perspectives of Returns & Onward Migration

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Report

Ukrainian Refugees, Six Months into the Crisis:  
Perspectives of Return and Onward Migration

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# References

- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (**UNHCR**)
- International Organization for Migration (**IOM**)
- Netherlands Institute of International Relations,  
**CLINGENDAEL**
- Swedish Migration Studies Delegation (**DELM**)

## References - Cont'd

- International Center for Migration Policy Development (**ICMPD**)
- European Union Agency for Asylum (**EUAA**)
- International Monetary Fund (**IMF**)
- Gallup World Poll (**GWP**): 2007-2021

# Numbers

- 7 million Ukrainians sought refuge across Europe since the recent Russian invasion. (Source: UNHCR)
- 4 million registered for the EU “Temporary Protection”. (Source: UNHCR)
- 25,000 applied for asylum in the EU. (Source: EUAA)

# Onward Migration: Beyond Neighboring Countries

- Ukrainians fled to neighboring countries but many moved on to settle across Europe.
- Of the 5.6 million who fled to Poland, only 1.3 applied for TP there. (Source: UNHCR)
- Ukrainians move onward to join family and friends and/or seek economic opportunities.

# No Permanent Return for now

Reasons:

- Ongoing hostilities.
- Russian control.
- Economy/Reconstruction.
- Reluctance of women to return.

# Pendular Returns to Ukraine

- UNHCR:  
Border crossings FROM Ukraine = 11.5 million  
TO Ukraine = 5 million
- Most returns are not *permanent* but *pendular*.
- IOM: Only 10% of Ukrainian refugees are returning.



# New Refugee Flows

- Additional refugee flows are to be expected.
- Men could decide to join their spouses.
- Family reunion likely to take place **out of (not in)** Ukraine.

# Desire to Migrate Before this Crisis

- The idea that all “Ukrainian refugees want to return home” is not supported by data on **migration intentions**.
- Gallup World Poll (2007-2021):
  - Even prior to the February 24 invasion, **25%** of the adult population in Ukraine wished to migrate.
  - This corresponds to about **12 million people**.

# Preferred Destinations *PRIOR* to February 24

- 47 % → EU country. (Source: Gallup World Poll)
- Favorite destinations: Russia, Poland, Germany & Italy
- Ukrainian Refugees NOW: Russia: 2.3 million, Poland: 1.3 million, Germany: 1 million, Italy: 160,000  
(Source: UNHCR)
- Favorite destinations outside Europe: U.S.: 15 % -  
Canada 6 % (Source: Gallup World Poll)

# Onward Migration out of Europe

- Europe's economy:  
    Serious post-Covid setback because of the war in Ukraine.
- Additional challenges:  
    Millions of Ukrainians & Rising energy prices.
- Integration capacity: Close to reaching its limits.  
→ Onward migration OUT of Europe, including U.S.

# Ukrainians in the U.S.

Admissions since the recent conflict:

**100,000** under “Uniting for Ukraine”: **Parolees**

**918** under “U.S. Refugee Resettlement”: **Refugees**

(Source: U.S. State Department)

- The newcomers add onto the existing immigrant community of **350,000** Ukrainians. (Source: MPI)

# Uniting for Ukraine: A “Private Sponsorship” Program

• **U.S.-based Sponsor**

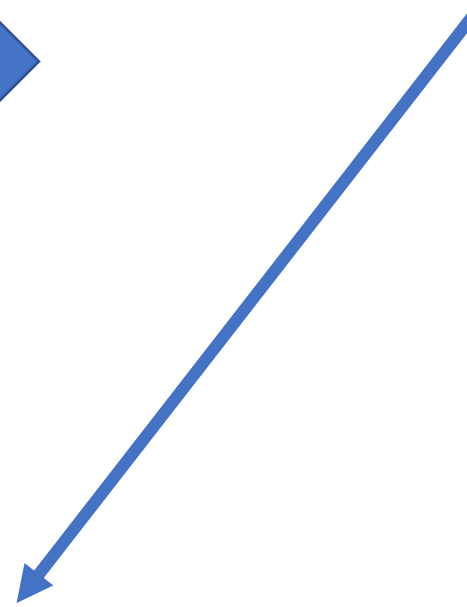
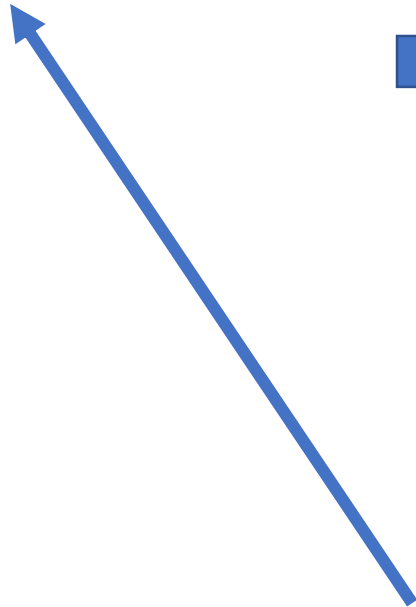
**Ukrainian Beneficiary**

Financial Support



Other Individuals  
Organizations

**Ukrainian Parolee**



## What to Expect?

- More Ukrainians joining their compatriots in the United States under “Uniting for Ukraine”?  
100k made it in just a few months.  
How many next year? 200-300k?
- Family Reunions in the U.S. with men joining in?

## Final thoughts: Russian Refugees

- New developments: Russian (men) are fleeing their country.
- Many European countries are closing their borders.
- Two Russians landed in Alaska.
- Are Russian flows towards the U.S likely?