

Final report, July 15, 2022 – short version

# Ukrainian Arrivals in Austria (UkrAiA):

## A Rapid-Response Survey on Sociodemographic Characteristics, Needs and Resources

# WU

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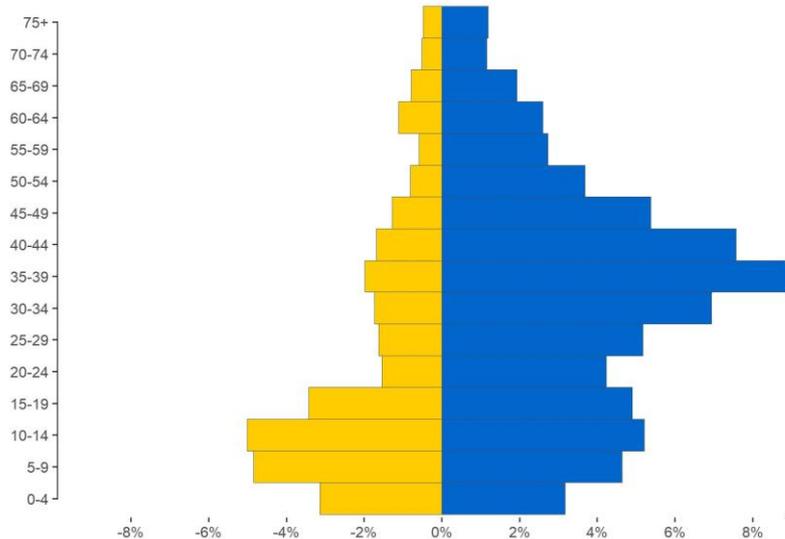


# Stadt Wien

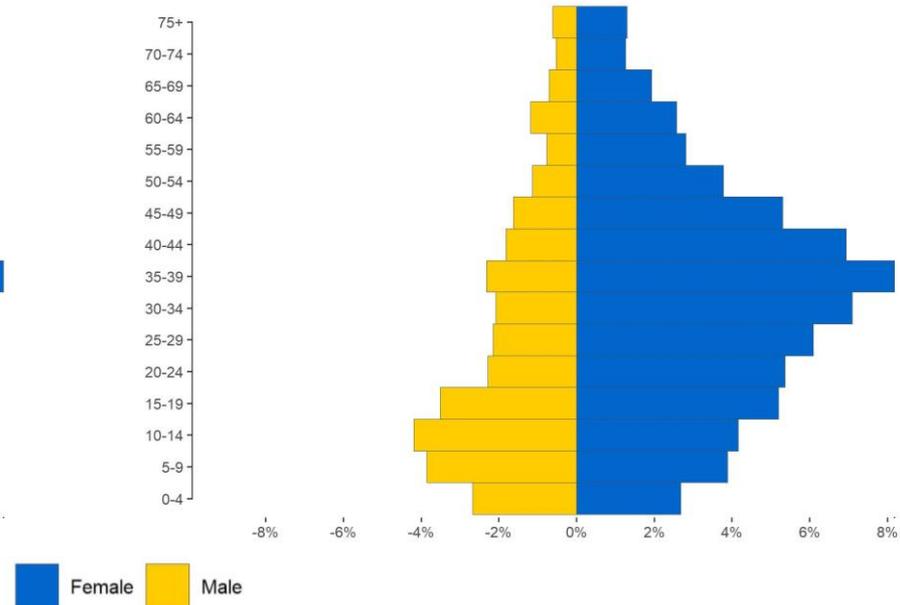


# Ukrainians in Vienna and in Austria

## Registered in Austria



## Registered in Vienna



As of 1.4.2022, around 55,000 persons born in Ukraine were registered in Austria. Around 22,400 of them live in Vienna.

Beginning of 2022: 16,500 in Austria, 9,000 of them in Vienna.  
Source: ZMR/Statistics Austria

# Ukrainian Arrivals in Austria (UkrAiA):

A Rapid-Response Survey on Sociodemographic Characteristics, Needs and Resources

*Goal:* Collection of **primary data on Ukrainian displaced persons** for academic purposes and evidence-based policy making in the areas of labor market, education, housing and integration

*Project duration:* March 2022 – June 2022

*Targeted sample size:* n=1,000 (adult respondents, i.e. 18 years and older)

Key research questions:

- Who are the Ukrainian refugees? → **Socio-demographic background**
- **Education, qualifications & skills** for (labor market) integration
- **Intentions to stay and return**, potential for family reunification

# Field phase

- Field phase at the **ACV arrival center**: April 11 – June 2, 2022
- Intensive pretest phase and several adaptations of the questionnaire
- Implementation as **PAPI** (paper & pencil) and **CAWI** (computer-assisted websurvey)
- Household survey design: information on direct respondents, partners and children
  
- Questionnaire in 3 languages: Ukrainian, Russian, English
  
- Interview team: Research team, student assistants, and Ukrainian- and Russian-speaking interpreters on site ("bi-cultural aides") → vital for building trust and rapport

# Questionnaire

- Questionnaire based on common social surveys, such as the *European Values Survey* (EVS), the *World Values Survey* (WVS) and the *Generations & Gender Survey* (GGP), as well as a social survey among Syrian and Afghan refugees arriving in Austria in 2015 (*Displaced Persons in Austria Survey, DIPAS*) (Buber-Ennser et al. 2016)
- Approval by the Ethics Committee of WU Vienna
- Duration: approximately 15 minutes (PAPI)
- A similar questionnaire was used in Kraków/Poland, which allows for comparative analyses

**Topics:** (1) socio-demographics, (2) education, (3) work and employment, general health and impairment, (5) housing situation, (6) future plans, (7) information on partner and children, (8) attitudes and values (democracy, gender equality), (9) contact information (phone number, email address, social media)

# Challenges and limitations

- **Representativeness:** no sampling frame available → convenience sampling (Faugier and Sergeant 1997), comparison with data from the central population register in Austria (ZMR)
- **Language** and intercultural aspects
- **Sensitive topics**, experiences of war and forced migration, trauma (MacDonald 2015; Bloch 2004, 2007; Polzer Ngwato 2015)
- Building **confidence & trust** to share sensitive data
- **Ethical aspects** (Ethical Guidelines of the Oxford Refugee Studies Centre, 2019)
- **Data security**

# Paper & pencil questionnaire

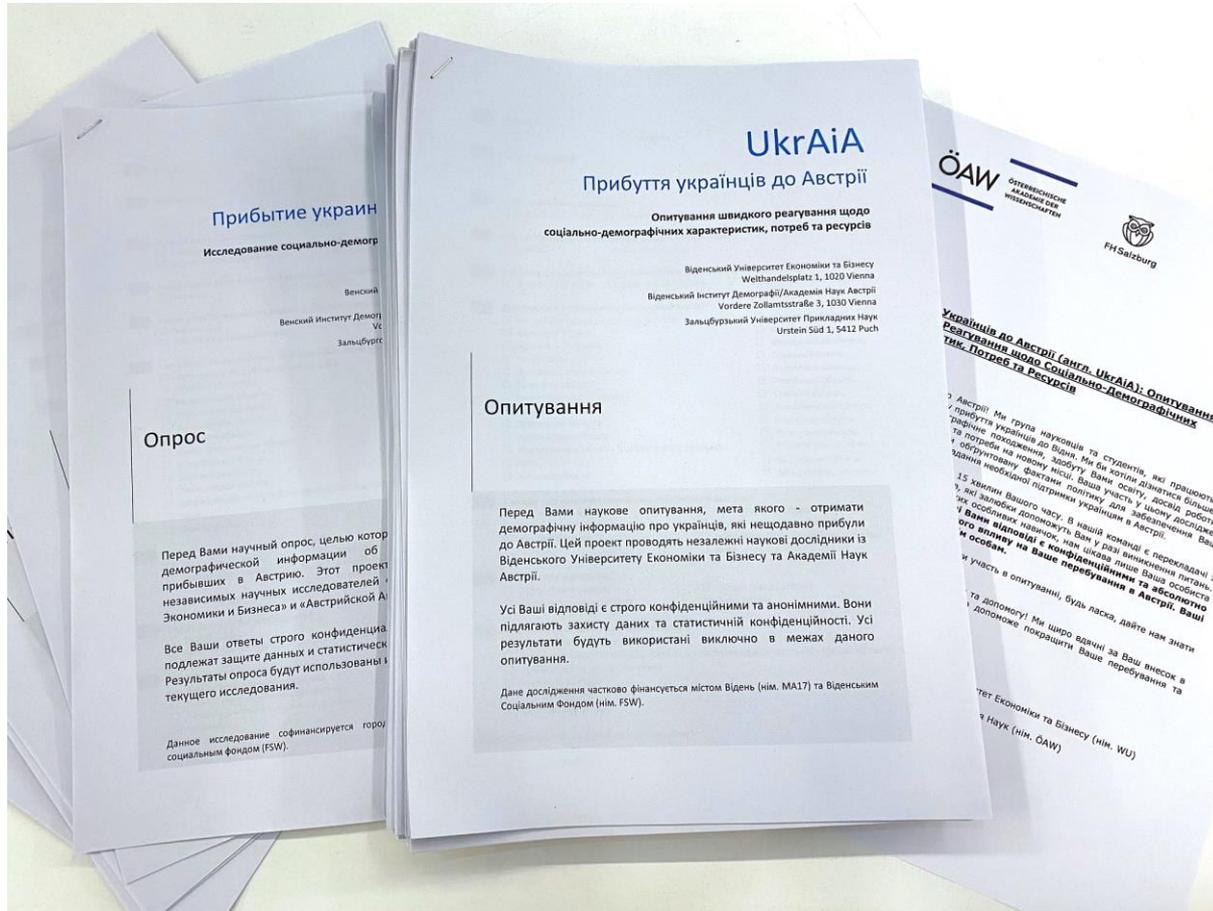
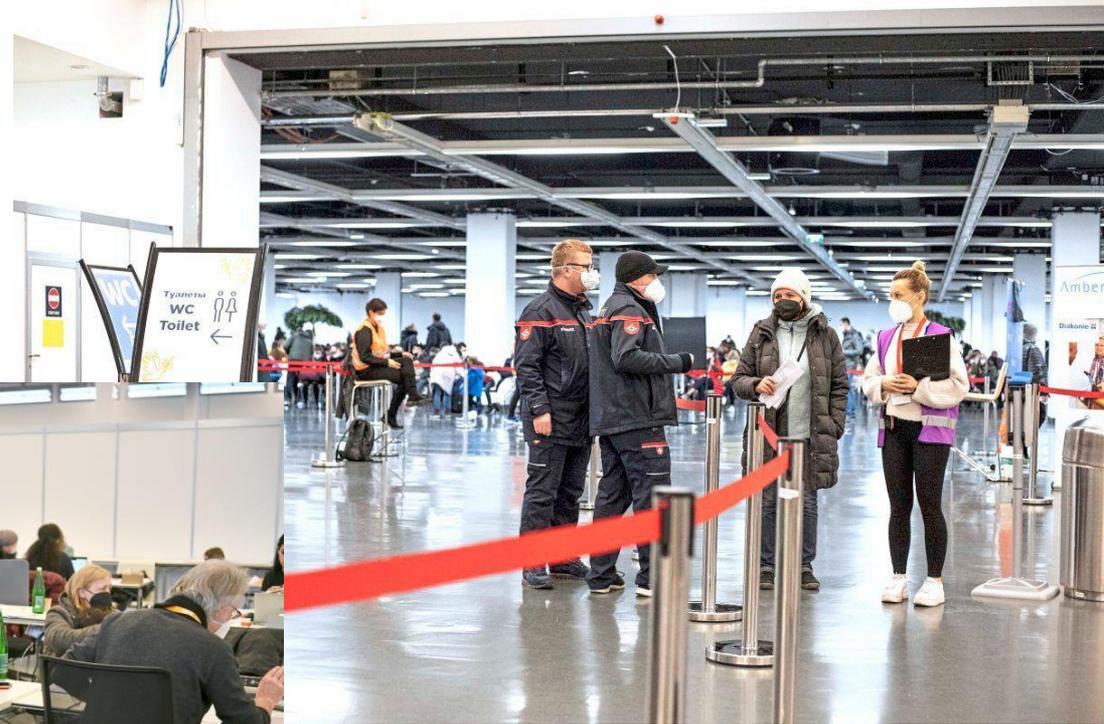


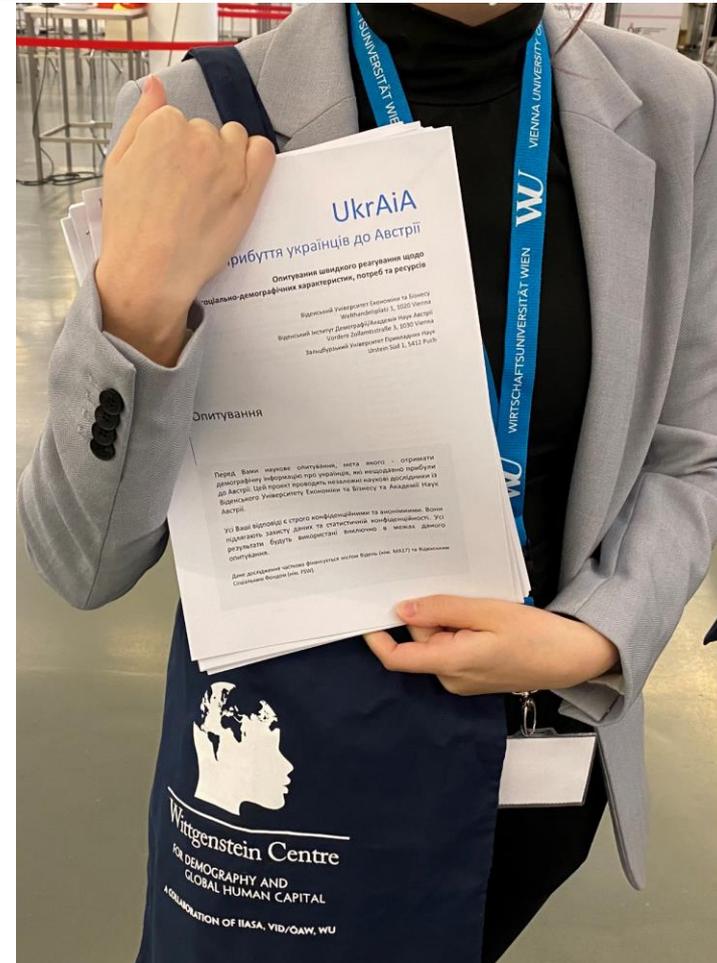
Photo: UkrAiA Team

# Field phase



Photos: APA; UkrAiA Team

# Field phase



Photos: UkrAiA Team

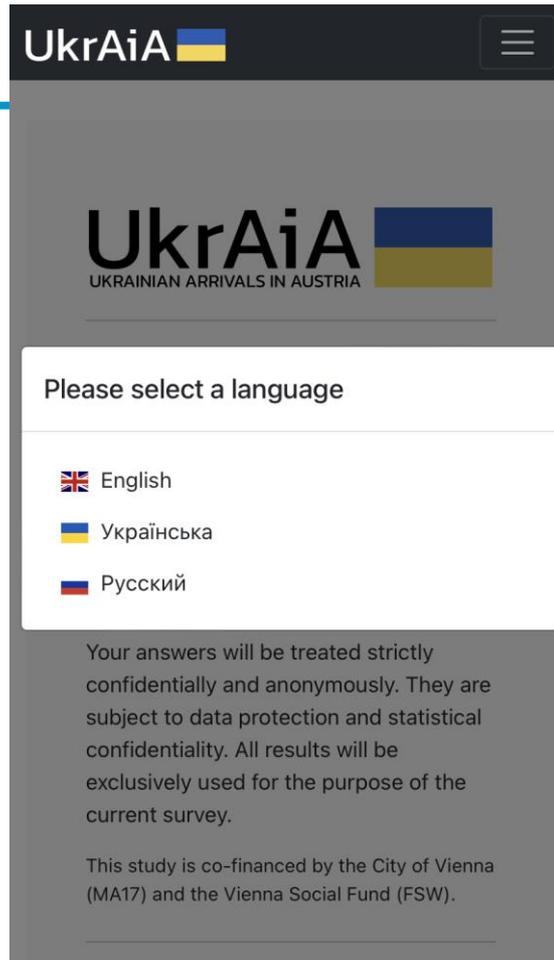
## **ukraia.at** → individual QR codes

- Each respondent receives an individual QR code, which cannot be passed on or used more than once
- Hence, multiple answers from the same person or several persons of one household can be prevented, as well as uncontrolled distribution or unintentional snowballing

## **Data security**

- All personal data was pseudonymized and processed over a secure connection
- All data access was monitored and recorded by the research team
- Server (data entry and processing) is located in Germany and is using the latest security patches

# Web survey



UkrAiA 

UkrAiA   
UKRAINIAN ARRIVALS IN AUSTRIA

Please select a language

 English

 Українська

 Русский

Your answers will be treated strictly confidentially and anonymously. They are subject to data protection and statistical confidentiality. All results will be exclusively used for the purpose of the current survey.

This study is co-financed by the City of Vienna (MA17) and the Vienna Social Fund (FSW).

# Impressions from the field phase

- A lot of spontaneous support from aid organizations on site; high flexibility required, numerous situations of stress and pressure
- **Highly variable field conditions** in terms of location (waiting rooms), on-site appointments, and stress level/patience of those waiting for appointments
- In the first 3 weeks, survey was conducted using PAPI only; in the last two weeks, PAPI & CAWI were used in combination (respondents had free choice)
- PAPI had a considerably higher acceptance rate than CAWI due to its formal and perceived obligatory character as well as higher (perceived) data security; digital literacy among older respondents may be relevant too (QR scanners often not pre-installed on smartphones)

## Participation

- PAPI: 76% of the distributed questionnaires were filled out. In total, 66% of the distributed PAPI questionnaires were completed to the end.
- CAWI: 58% of the distributed QR codes were accessed, but many did not fill out anything or completed only parts. In total, 19% of the distributed digital questionnaires were completed to the end.

# RESULTS

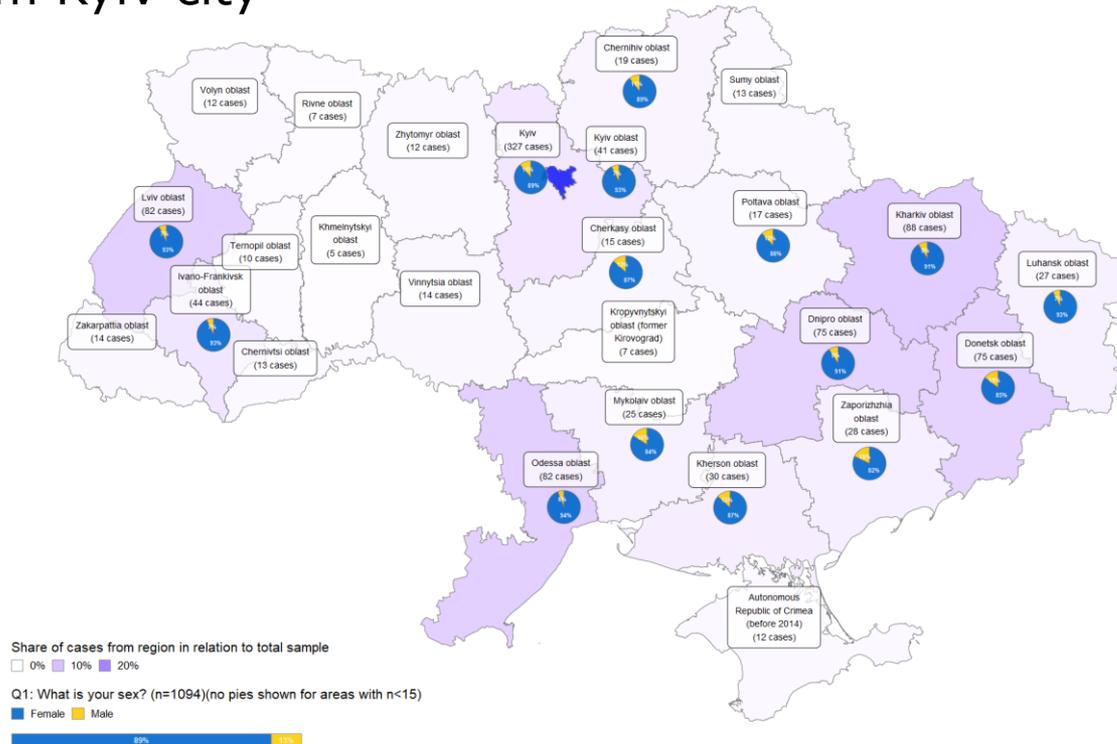
- Key information on sample and respondents
- Family background
- Fleeing to and arrival in Austria
- Current situation in Austria
- Housing situation and (social) support
- Employment in Ukraine and plans for Austria
- Intentions to stay and return
- Health
- Attitudes and values

# Key information on respondents

- Final sample: 1,094 respondents (of which 89% were women).
- Almost all with Ukrainian citizenship (99%), most (93%) born in Ukraine
- Respondents were on average 39 years old
- Nine in ten participated via PAPI; men more often completed online (CAWI)
- The majority lived in their own home in Ukraine (26% in house, 58% in apartment), relatively few lived in rented homes (12%)
- 68% Christian-Orthodox, 11% Greek-Catholic, 11% of no denomination
- Religiosity measured on a 0-10 scale: average 5.0; women rated themselves more religious than men (5.1 vs. 4.2)
- Social class: More than half of respondents categorized themselves as upper class or upper middle class (59%), with another 33% as lower middle class
- Income group: On a scale of 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest), 10% placed themselves in groups 8-10, two-thirds in groups 5-7

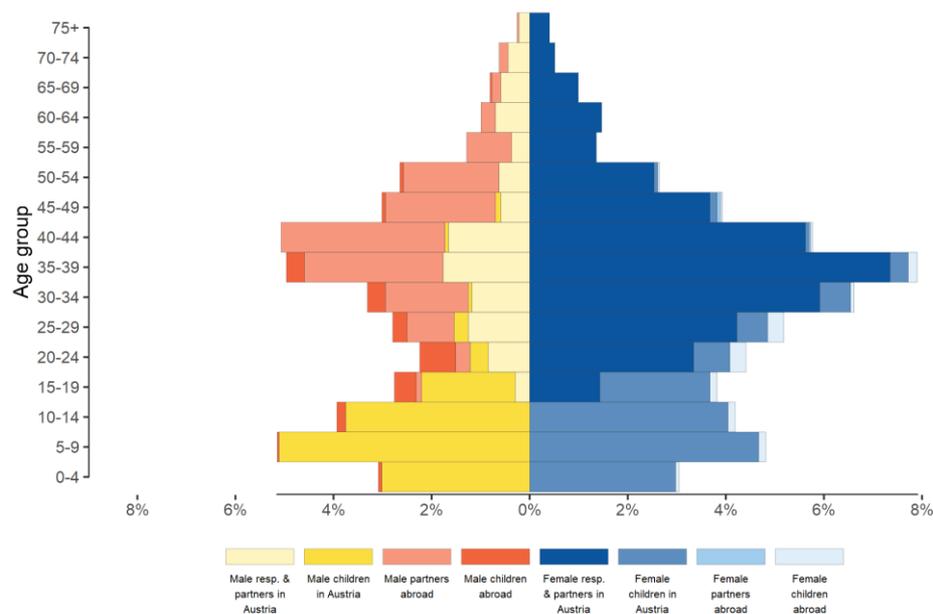
# Origin of respondents

- Respondents from all regions of Ukraine
- 30% from Kyiv city



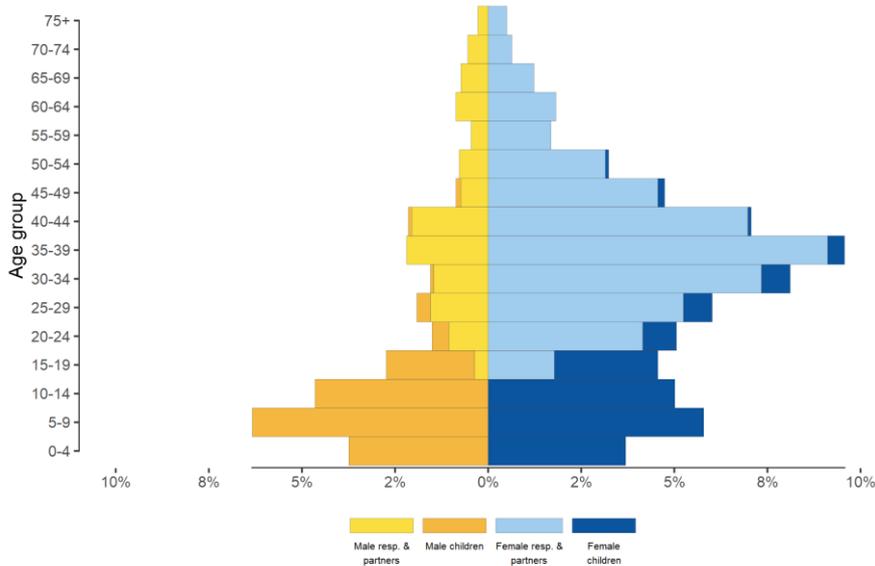
# UkrAiA sample (household survey)

- Additional information on 661 partners and 1,037 children
- Hence, information on a **total of 2,792 persons**
  - Of these, 2,194 in Austria, 524 abroad, 74 no information on location or unknown

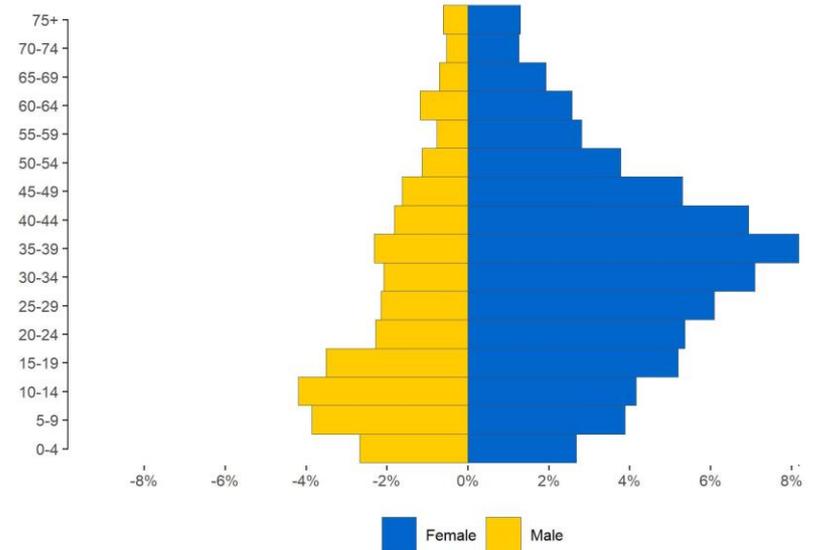


# UkrAiA sample and Ukrainians in Vienna

## UkrAiA sample



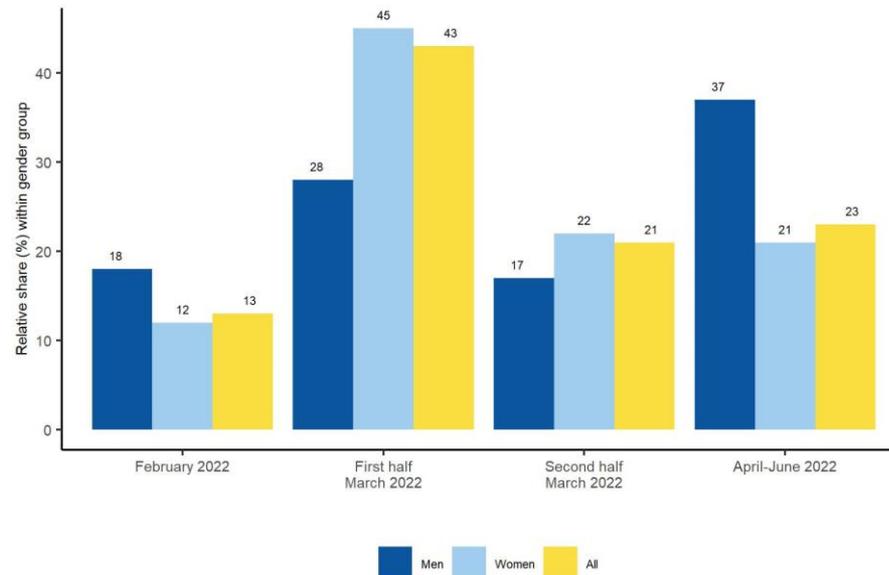
## Persons registered in Vienna who were born in Ukraine as of 1.4.2022



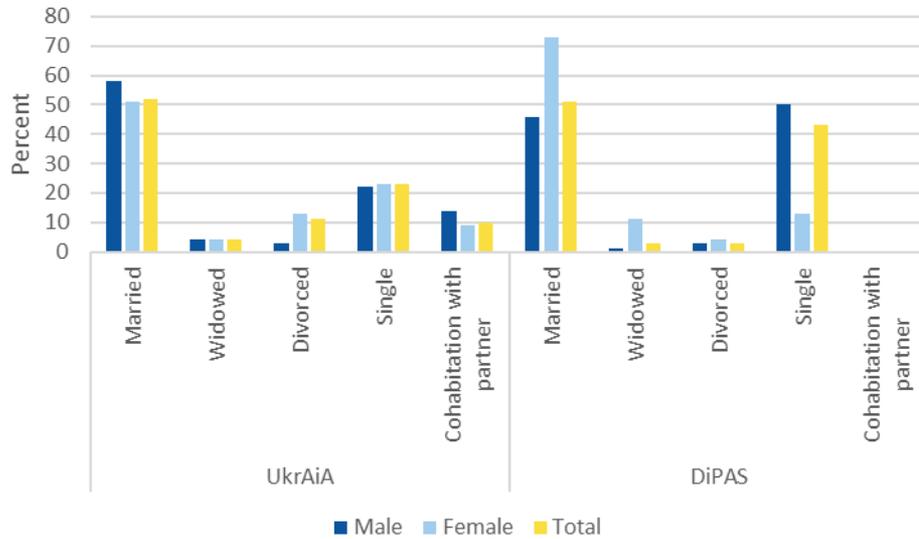
A comparison between the persons registered in Vienna in the UkrAiA sample and the persons registered in Vienna who were born in Ukraine as of April 1, 2022 shows a similar distribution. Only minor differences are apparent in terms of age and gender.

# Arrival in Vienna

- Sample consists of refugees who arrived at the beginning of the war
  - 13% arrived in February
  - 64% arrived in March (67% women and 45% men)

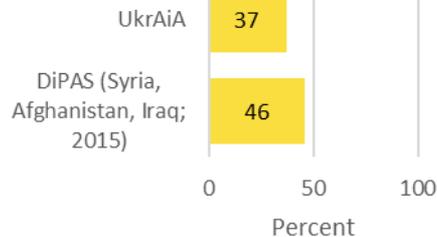


# Family background



About half of the respondents were married, about 10% divorced. Around 10% lived in a non-marital partnership, about a quarter were single, and a few were widowed.

Individuals had on average 1.1 children. One-third of respondents were childless. Parents had on average 1.7 children. 2% expected a child.



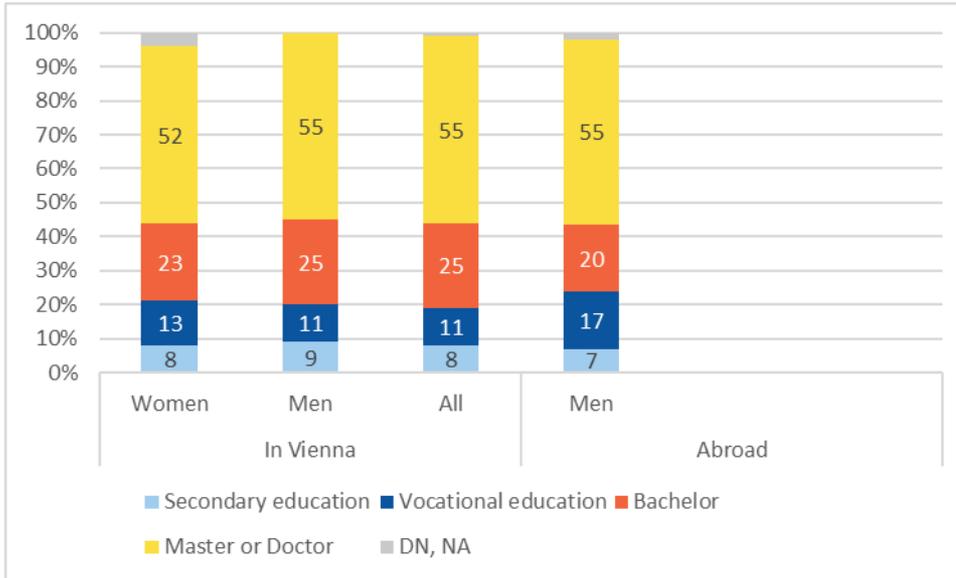
About 4 out of 10 married persons arrived in Austria with their partners.

In comparison with a survey conducted among refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq:

In 2015, far more unmarried men, women more often married. Couples arrived together more often (46% vs. 37%) (Buber-Ennsner et al., 2016)

# Education

Respondents and partners



Notes:  
DN, NA: Don't Know, no answer given  
No calculations for female partners abroad, due to low sample size.

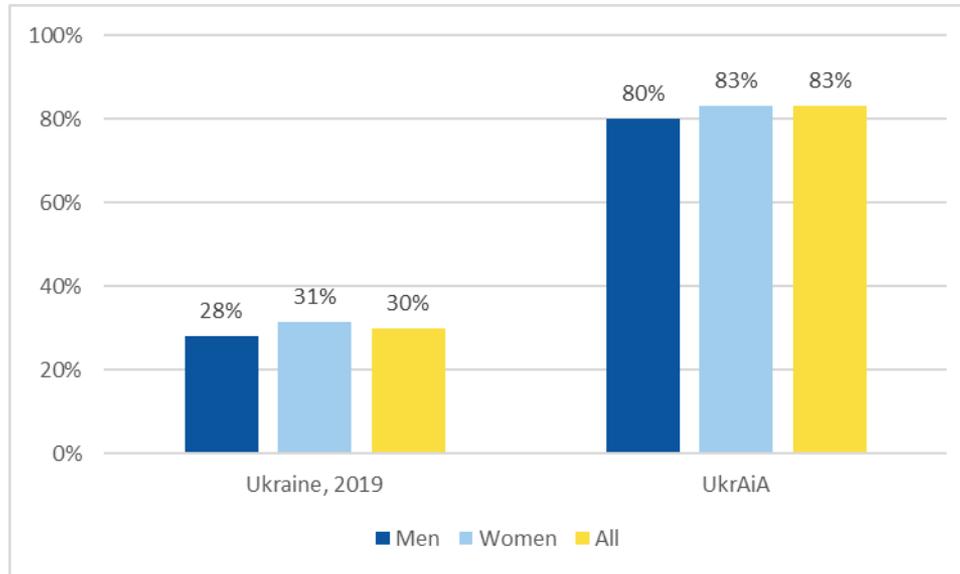
Highly selective group in terms of education: Among the respondents and their partners in Vienna, 55% had a master's degree or a doctoral degree. Another 25% had a bachelor's degree. Relatively few with vocational training (11%) or secondary education (8%).

Women are slightly more highly educated than men (80% vs. 75% with a bachelor's or higher degree).

Partners who remained abroad are similarly highly educated.

# Education - comparison with Ukraine 2019

Share of persons with bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees



Sources: UkrAiA; Social and Demographic Characteristics of Households of Ukraine

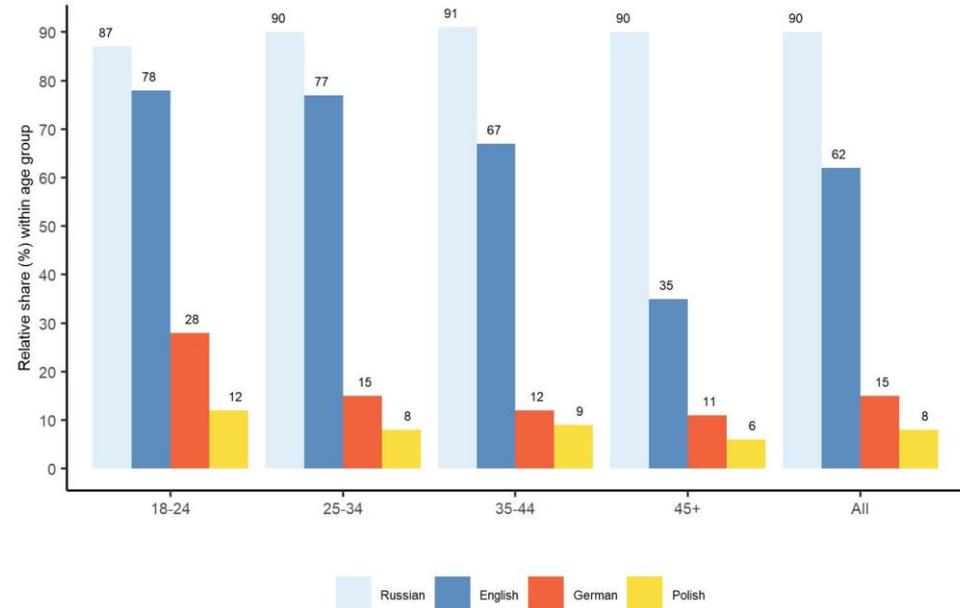
Population aged 25+

A comparison with the education of the population in Ukraine in 2019 shows that Ukrainians who fled to Vienna were far more highly educated than the average in their home country.

The share of persons with a bachelor's degree or even higher was 30% in Ukraine, compared to 82% among refugees in Vienna.

# Language skills

- Language competence
  - 90% Russian
  - 62% English
  - 15% German
  - 8% Polish
- 46% speak 3 languages
- 20% speak more than 4 languages
- Young refugees in particular have a higher level of language skills

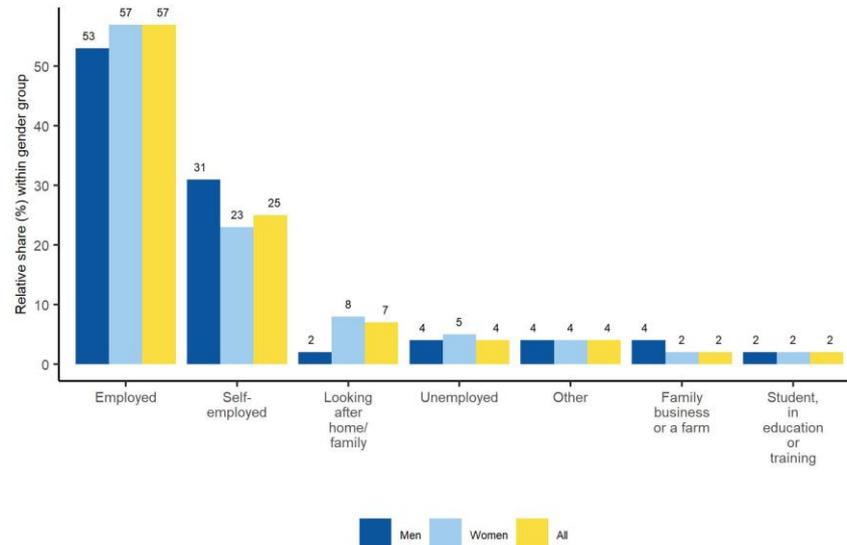


# Employment: Ukrainians in Austria

- Ukrainians in Austria **before/at** the outbreak of war:
- Young workforce
  - Concentrated in Vienna and its surroundings
  - Rather in low-skilled industries such as agriculture and forestry (13.7% vs. 0.7% of total employment) and hospitality (7.9% vs. 5%).
  - But also in higher-skilled industries such as information and communication technologies (6.0% vs. 3%) and in freelance services (9,2% vs. 5,2%)
- Potential mitigating effects of refugees on demographic trends in specific employment sectors (Bock-Schappelwein & Unger, 2022).

# Employment

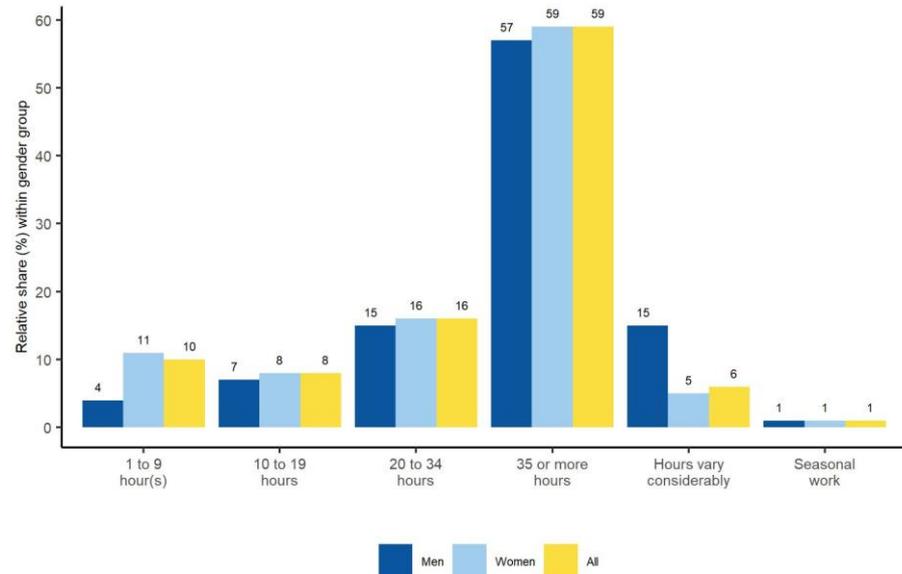
- 91% of the respondents and their partners in Austria had already actively participated in the labor market
- Specifically, 82% of them had been employed before the war: 57% employed and 25% self-employed



Note: Respondents and partners in Vienna, aged between 18 and 64.

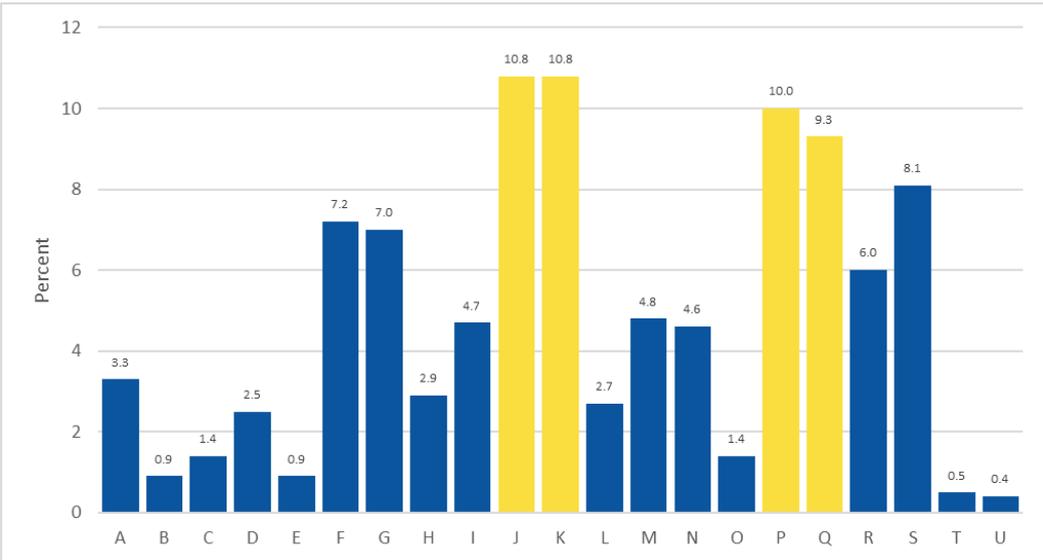
# Employment

- 59% of respondents had full-time employment (35 or more hours per week) before the war began
- 34% worked part-time
  - 16% 20-34 hours per week
  - 8% 10-19 hours per week
  - 10% 1-9 hours per week
- Hours per week varied considerably, especially among men (15%)



Note: Respondents and partners in Vienna, aged between 18 and 64.

# Industries

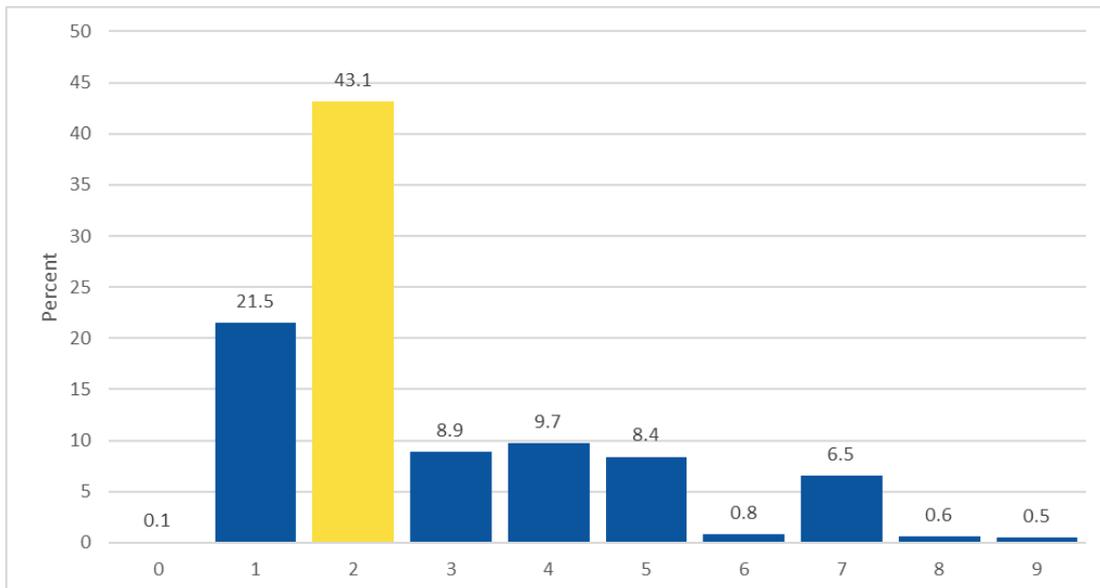


NACE-Codes	
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing
B	Mining and quarrying
C	Manufacturing
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
E	Water supply; sewerage; waste management and remediation activities
F	Construction
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
H	Transporting and storage
I	Accommodation and food service activities
J	Information and communication
K	Financial and insurance activities
L	Real estate activities
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities
N	Administrative and support service activities
O	Public administration and defense; compulsory social security
P	Education
Q	Human health and social work activities
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation
S	Other services activities
T	Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods - and services - producing activities of households for own use
U	Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies

The four most common sectors are "information and communication", "financial and insurance services", "education" and "health and social work".

Note: Respondents and partners in Vienna, aged between 18 and 64.

# Occupational groups



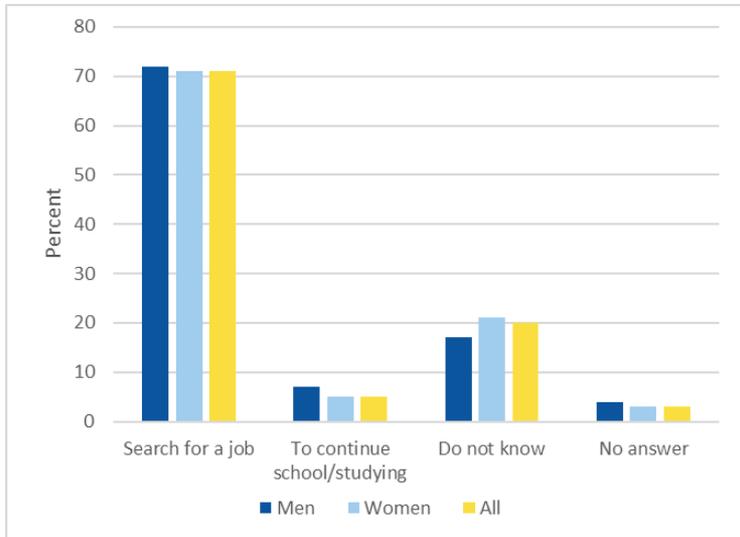
ISCO-Codes	
0	Armed forces occupations
1	Managers
2	Professionals
3	Technicians and associate professionals
4	Clerical support workers
5	Service and sales workers
6	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers
7	Craft and related trades workers
8	Plant and machine operators, and assemblers
9	Elementary occupations

Academic professions are the largest group (43%).

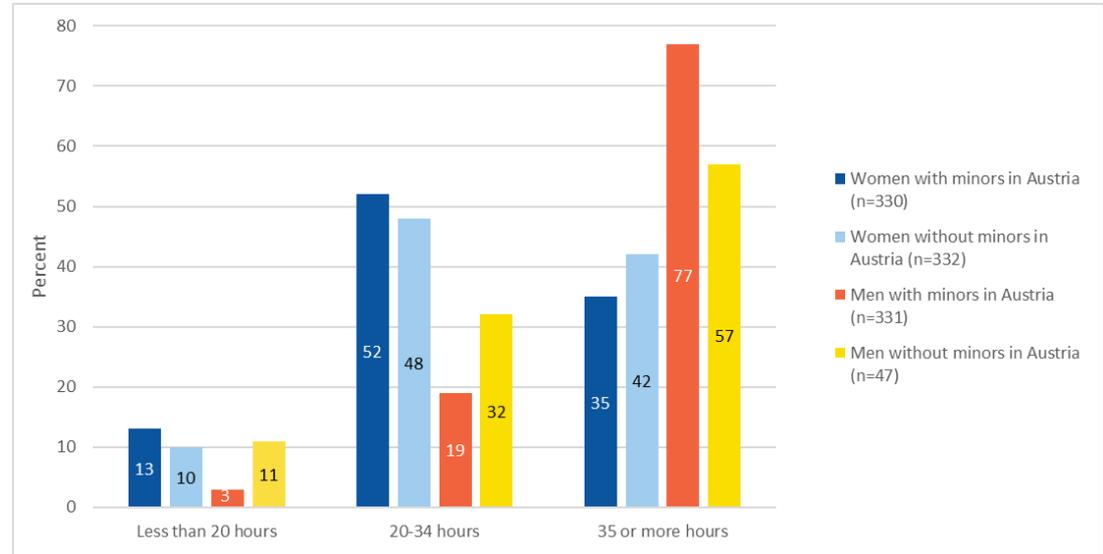
Within this group, teachers (25%), lawyers & social/cultural professions (20%) and health professions (18%) were most common.

Note: Respondents and partners in Vienna, aged between 18 and 64.

# Employment plans in Austria



- The majority want to look for a job in Austria (71%)
- Few (5%) want to continue education
- 20% do not know

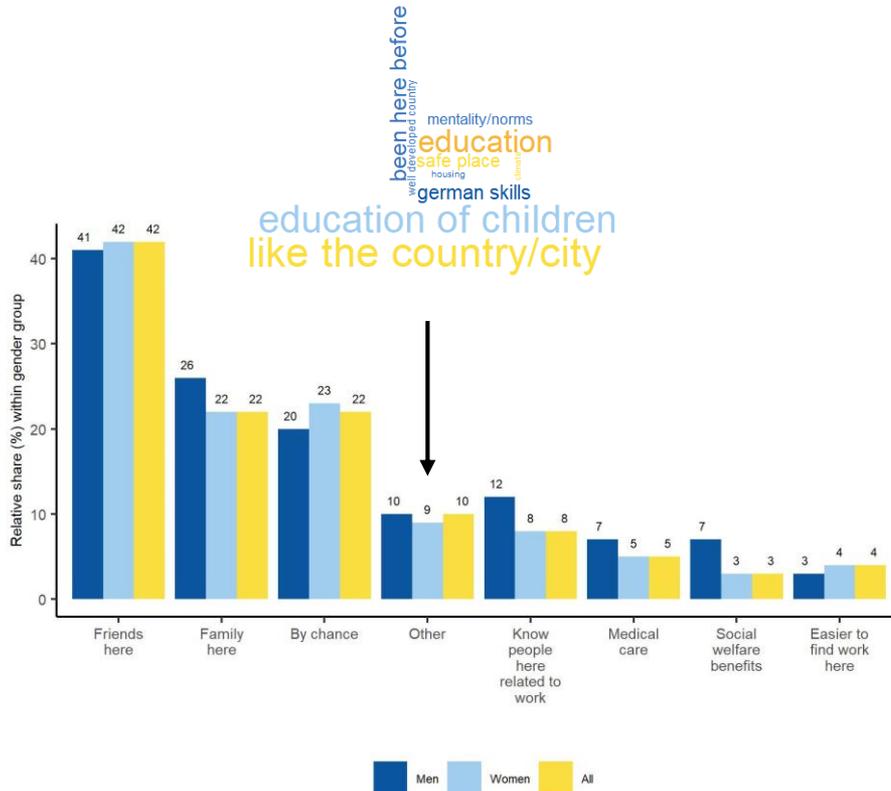


Among respondents who want to look for a job:

Half of the women want to seek part-time employment. As expected, the proportion is somewhat higher among mothers with minor children

Note: Respondents aged between 18 and 64.

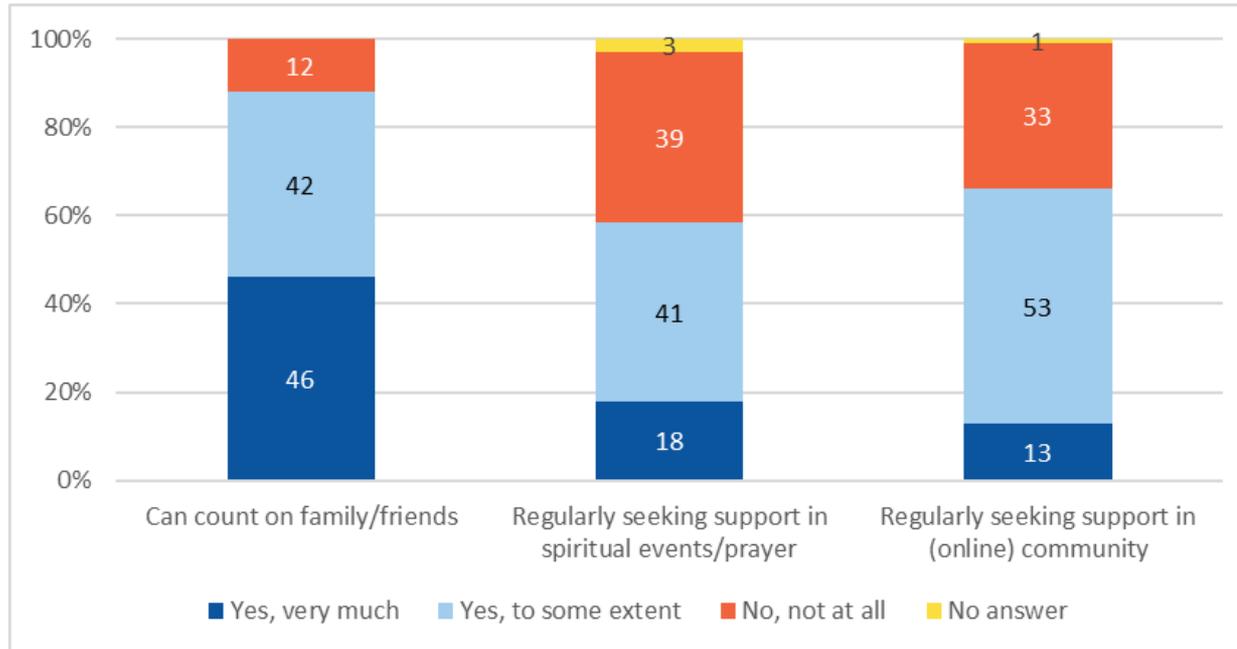
# Why Austria?



- Social capital, in particular friends and, to a lesser degree, family, were relevant for the decision to flee to Austria (in total 64%)
- 22% by chance in Austria
- Other reasons: (n=102)
  - Education, especially of children
  - I like Vienna/Austria
  - Previous travels
  - German language skills
  - etc.
- Medical care, welfare state and work-related reasons less relevant

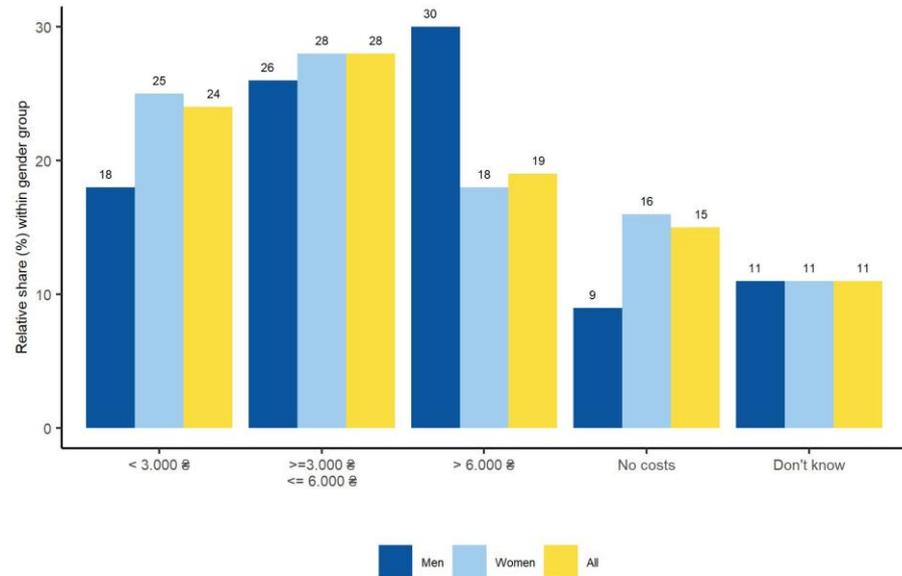
# Social support

- The majority can count on support from family and friends in times of trouble (88%). Regular support in (online) communities and in spiritual events (praying) not negligible



# Costs of forced migration

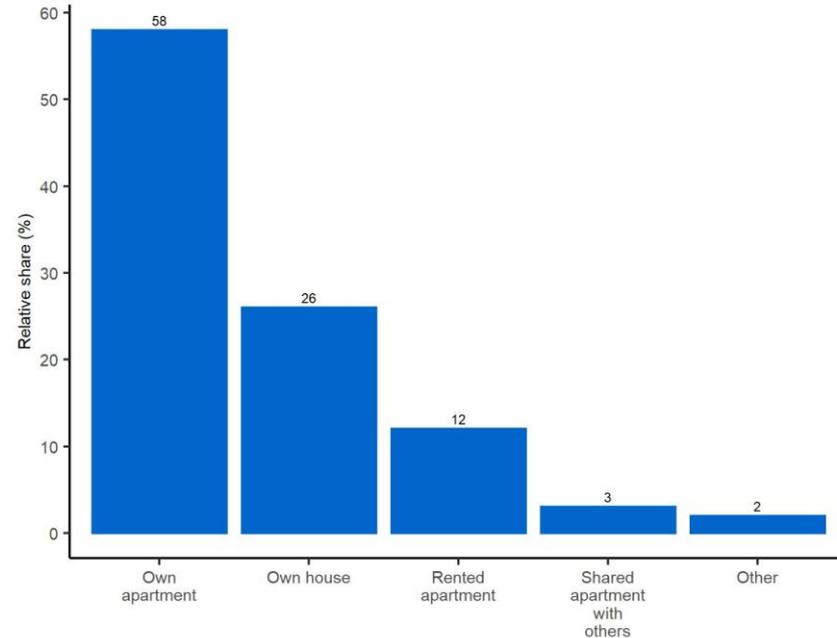
- Costs of fleeing per person
  - 52% of respondents paid less than 6.000 ₺ for fleeing
  - Women more often had no or low costs (< 3.000 ₺)
  - Men more often reported high costs (> 6.000 ₺)
  - 91% felt welcome upon arrival
  - Routes primarily through
    - 38% Poland
    - 31% Hungary



Note: 3.000 ₺ equals approximately 100 € and 6.000 ₺ equals approximately 200 €.

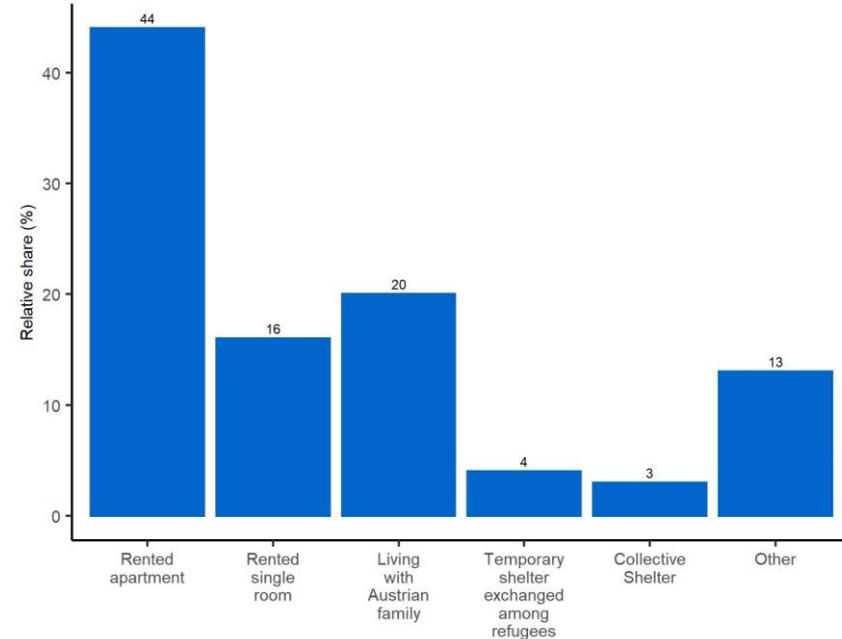
# Housing situation before fleeing

- 84% of respondents owned a home before the war began
  - 58% own apartment
  - 26% own house
- 15% lived in rent pre-war
  - 12% rented apartment
  - 3% shared apartment



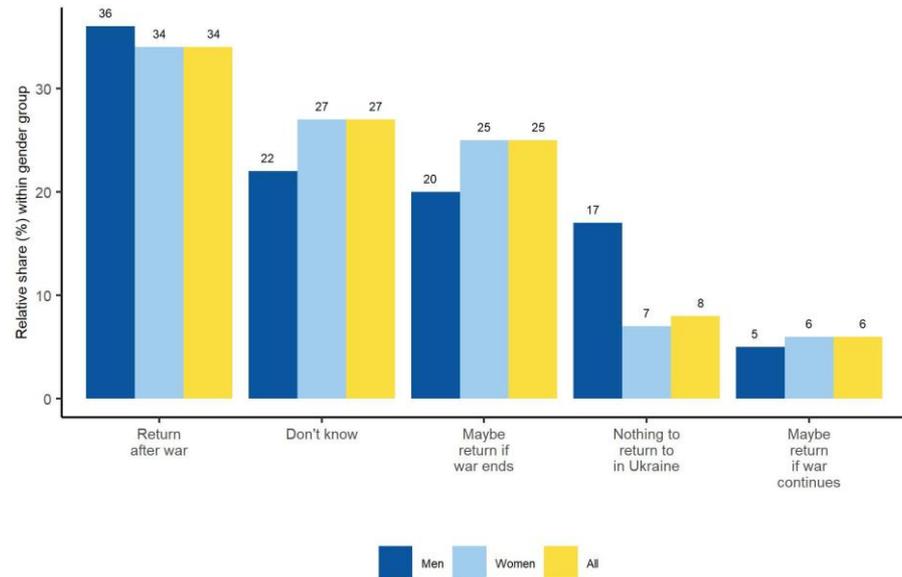
# Current situation

- 60% of respondents live in rented apartments/rooms
- 20% live with Austrian families
- Few live in temporary shelters (4%) and collective shelters (3%)
- Among all respondents, 95% feel safe in their current environment/neighborhood



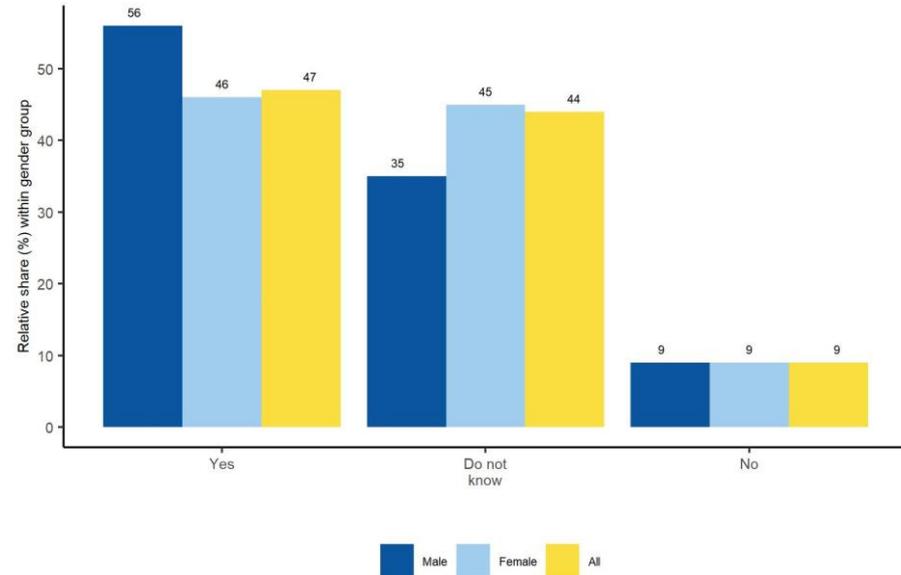
# Return intentions

- 34% of respondents have concrete intentions to return with end of war
- 31% can imagine returning (no concrete plan)
  - 25% possibly with the end of the war
  - 6% with continuation of the war
- 27% are completely unsure whether they want to return or not
- 17% of men completely rule out returning to Ukraine, compared to only 7% of women

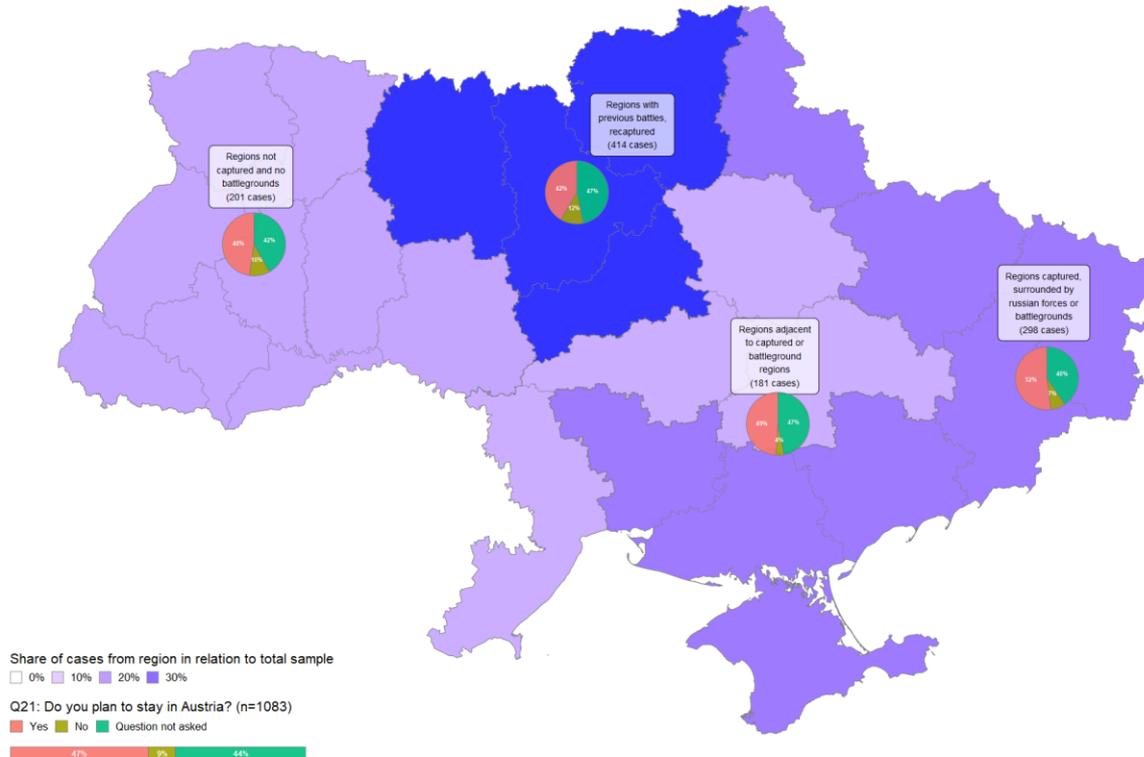


# Intentions to stay

- 47% of respondents plan to stay in Austria
  - Intentions to stay are higher among men (56%) than among women (46%)
- 44% are unsure whether they want to stay in Austria
  - Less uncertainty among men (35%) compared to women
- 9% plan to leave Austria
- Internationally, initial return intentions adjust: 90% of refugees want to stay in their host country, only 5% plan to return soon (IMPACT/OECD, 2022)



# Intention to stay by region



Division into four regions according to the extent of the impact of the war

- Relationship between regions and intentions to stay
- Kyiv: 42% want to stay
- Eastern and Southern regions: 49-52%

# Limitations and interpretation

For interpreting the results on education level, it should be noted that **higher educated respondents** are **more likely to participate** in social science surveys (see e.g. Groves, 2006; Nicoletti & Peracchi, 2005); similarly, participation also varies by age and gender.

Thus, a **positive educational bias** in the sample cannot be completely ruled out - the actual educational level of the entire Ukrainian displaced population in Austria might be slightly lower than the surveyed average.

# Limitations and interpretation

Limitations of the data that should be considered when interpreting the results:

- Non-representative data
- Information on partners and children are proxy information (household survey)
- Survey period (mid-April to early June 2022)
- Potential mode effects (PAPI vs. CAWI), especially for sensitive questions (e.g. values questions)

- **Age** of respondents higher than expected: average age 39, high proportion of senior respondents
- High proportion of women and children (89% women)
- Experiences with former refugee populations can only be applied to Ukrainian refugees to a limited extent due to the very different socio-demographic composition
- **Childcare** as a prerequisite for employment
- Part-time work/home office will be a priority

## Health:

- The majority of respondents are in (very) good health
- About 20% were limited in their daily lives in the last six months due to their health, 1% very limited
- Increased care and nursing needs for older refugees and people with impairments are emerging

- **Time of arrival:** Predominantly in the first half of March, i.e. those fleeing immediately at the outbreak of war. First cohort of refugees tends to have higher levels of education; lower levels of education observed among those fleeing later (OECD, 2022).
- Displaced persons from the **area of Kyiv** are overrepresented: **urban population** with house/apartment ownership, high education and from **(upper) middle class**.
- **Displacement constellation:** high proportion of women with partner in Vienna (29% of married women)
- **Costs of fleeing:** considerably higher for men than for women (possibly due to compulsory military service and difficult emigration, number of children, pre-existing illnesses/incapacity; elites of a country are more likely to be able to leave & travel further distances).
- **Return:** only 34% definitely want to return after the end of the war.
  - Intentions to stay and return seem to have adjusted rapidly
  - Men state much more frequently that they want to stay in Austria (56%).

# Why Austria?

Destination choice: More often network of friends (42%) than family in Vienna or Austria (22%); 22% came to Austria "by chance".

- Other reasons (unusual for refugee contexts) include previous education in Vienna (thus knowledge of German), visits as tourists, high quality of life and safety, as well as educational opportunities for children
- Vienna and Austria known and liked by Ukrainian refugees, in many cases not the first contact with the city or the country
- Security and legal situation (equal rights)

# Education and qualifications

- **High level of educational attainment**, especially among women; level of education is above the population average in Ukraine and above that of other refugee groups (Aksoy & Poutvaara, 2022)

But: educational qualifications must be accredited; assessment necessary for use of these qualifications in the Austrian labor market ("over-academization" in Ukraine since independence)

- High **language skills**, 3 languages are common (Ukrainian, Russian, English)
- **Education and health sectors** strongly represented (19.3%).  
In an OECD survey of refugees from Ukraine, about 20% also worked in one of the two sectors (OECD, 2022)
  - Majority of respondents & partners in Vienna were employed before (91%), the majority was in employment prior to fleeing Ukraine (82%)
  - Accreditation of qualifications in regulated professions crucial
  - If skills are not used in the host country, human capital erodes ("scar effect" of unemployment, Marbach et al. 2018)

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