



# THE UKRAINIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Challenges and Policy Responses

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## The largest displacement in Europe since WW II

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- By mid-September 2022, close to 5 million individual refugees from Ukraine had been recorded across the EU and other OECD countries.
  - About 4 million have registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe.
  - Possible further flows?
- OECD countries responded swiftly to the refugee crisis, granting immigration concessions and extending different types of support and assistance to the new arrivals to mitigate the risk of social and economic exclusion of refugees and to assist them in meeting basic needs.
  - Estimated to cost the European OECD countries about EUR 26.6 billion in 2022



# CEE countries are hosting disproportionately more arrivals

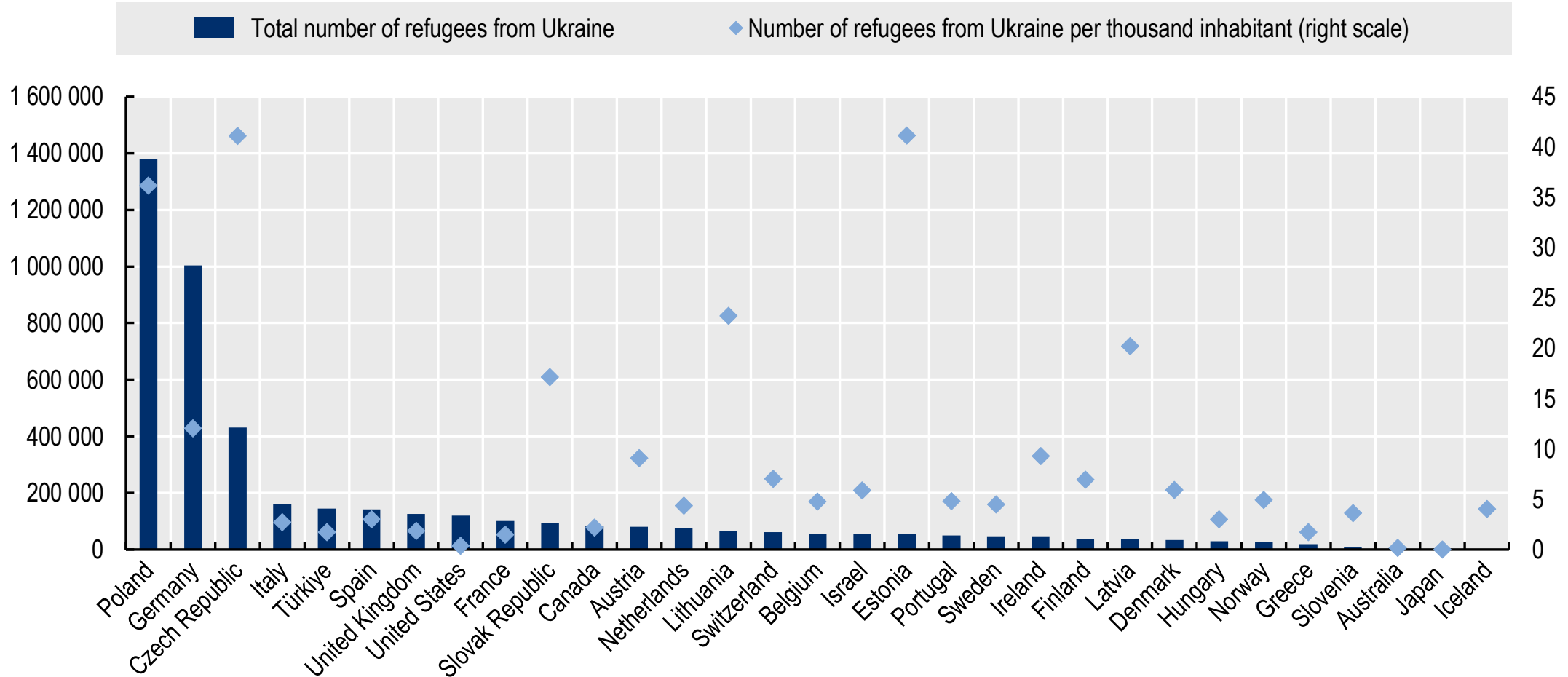
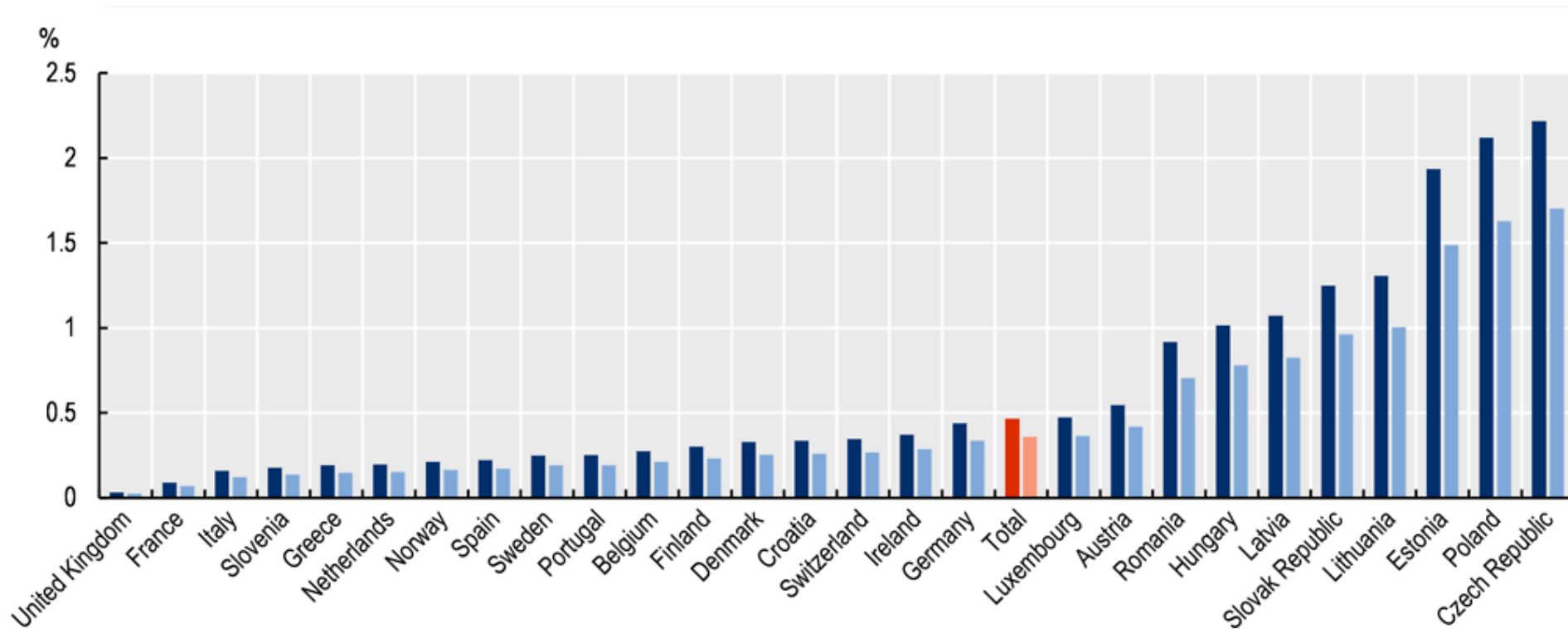


Figure 1. Number of refugees from Ukraine recorded in OECD countries, absolute numbers and per thousand of total population, mid-September 2022



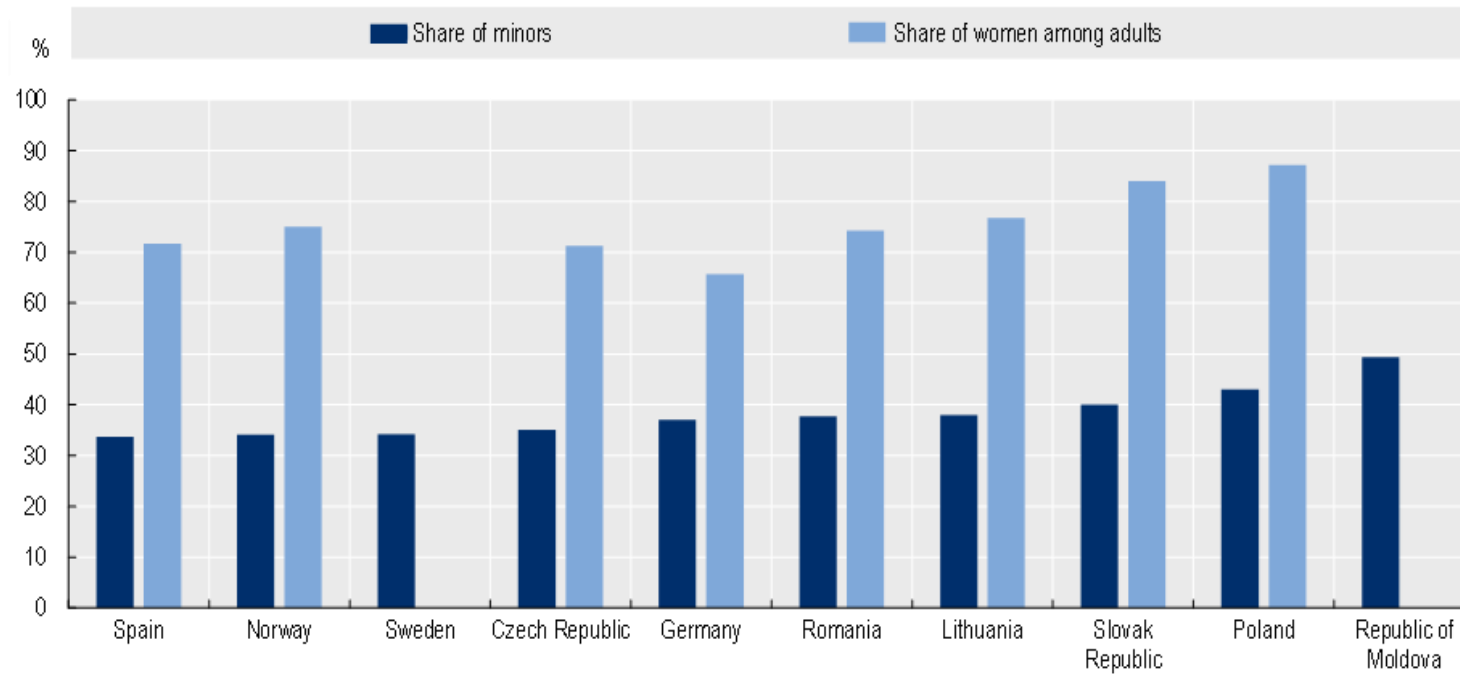
# The labour force in Europe is expected to increase by about 0.5% by the end of 2022 due to the refugee crisis



*Figure 2. Relative expected change in labour force due to inflows of Ukrainian refugees in selected European countries*



## Most arrivals are women and minors



*Figure 3. Share of minors and women among registered refugees in selected countries*



# Many arrivals are tertiary educated

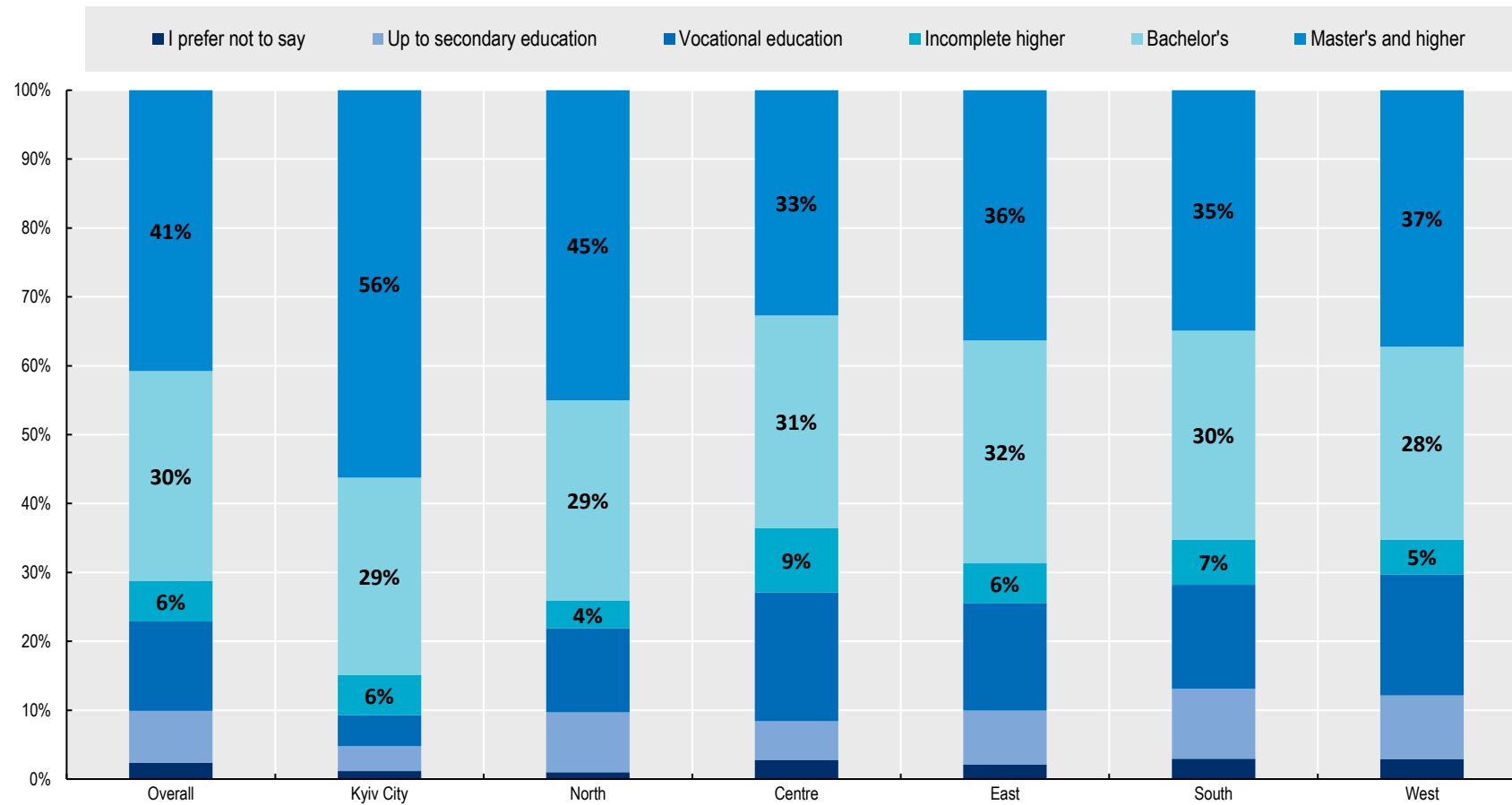


Figure 4. Highest qualification levels of respondents by region of origin. Source: SAM-UKR Survey



# TRANSITIONING TOWARDS MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM RESPONSES



## Host countries need to plan for the longer-term displacement of Ukrainian refugees

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- Experiences with past large-scale displacement show that many stay, even if return is possible.
- Research has shown that early integration is the best predictor of long-term outcomes.
- Host countries are beginning to expand access to different integration services:
  - Language courses for Ukrainian refugees available in most host countries
  - Most also offer labour market integration support





## Transition to long-term housing remains a challenge

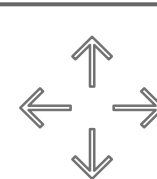
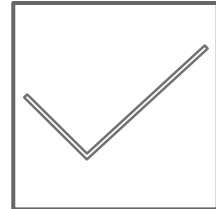
- Ensuring access to durable housing is a major challenge in many host countries.
- The rapid influx happened in the context of significant pre-existing housing challenges, such as insufficient housing supply and rising costs, limiting options.
- Countries have relied on a mix of accommodation options, but private hosts and households have played an unprecedented role.

Things to consider moving forward:



Addressing pre-existing housing shortages

Verifying safe and suitable housing



Dispersal



## A relatively small number of refugees has taken up employment, but the numbers are rising

- Ukrainian refugees have been granted the right to work in most host countries and many offer further help with finding a job.
- Until now, only small shares have been entering the labour force, but the situation is changing quickly and there are large differences across countries.
- Much of the early employment uptake, however, has occurred in low-skilled jobs.
- Important not to leave skills idle.

Things to consider moving forward:



Early skills  
assessments and  
recognition



Access to  
affordable  
dependent care



## Cooperation between Ukraine and host countries is essential

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- As host countries are considering the issue of integration, ‘dual intent’ policies prepare both for indefinite stay as well as for possible return
  - For instance, skills building and education
  - Yet little agreement on what such policies should entail

- Successful (labour market) integration can also support the future reconstruction of Ukraine:

Skills and know-how

Supports reintegration

Remittances

- Other issues to consider: transitioning from exceptional measures to mainstream approaches, preparing for changes in public opinion, remote work/cross-border mobility and the associated tax and benefit implications.



## FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Rights and support for Ukrainian refugees in receiving countries \(2022\)](#)

[The potential contribution of Ukrainian refugees to the labour force in European host countries \(2022\)](#)

[Housing support for Ukrainian refugees in receiving countries \(2022\)](#)

[How to communicate on the Ukrainian refugee crisis and build on the support of host communities? \(2022\)](#)

[Ready to help? Improving resilience of integration systems for refugees and other vulnerable migrants \(2019\)](#)