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 (DELMI)
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?