



# Kherson summer cottages

## Report on Sociological Online Survey

This research was conducted by the Charitable organization “Community Foundation of Kherson “Zakhyst” as a part of it’s project implemented under the USAID/ENGAGE activity, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Pact. The contents of this research are the sole responsibility of Pact and it’s implementing partners and do not necessary reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government

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May

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# Research background

**Methodology:** an online survey using an interactive structured questionnaire, a relevant link was sent to potential respondents from the database (online research panel of Kherson community). The sample is based on demographic indicators as of January 1, 2022. Given the indicators, the research margin of error does not exceed 5%, with a probability of 0.95. The sample includes Kherson residents both currently residing within the community, those who left Kherson after February 24, 2022 to other regions of Ukraine or abroad. Currently, there is no official data on Kherson's residents' migration, so it is not possible to assess the given respondent sample representativity. However, there are reasons to believe that the ratio of respondents still residing within the community presented is greater than the de facto one, which may affect the research results.

**Research objective:** to assess the damage caused to summer cottages and learn the prospects of cottages and cottage cooperatives in Kherson.

**Sample scope:** 402 respondents.

**Field stage period:** April 18 – 30, 2024.

**Research client:** Community Foundation of Kherson «Zakhyst».

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The research group carries on activities on increasing and improving the online panel of Kherson city community to align it with the general population indicators and invites all Kherson residents to join the panel. This can be done at: <https://lemur.ua/sign-up>



It is impossible to imagine the Kherson community without summer cottages. A **summer cottage**, by the water, is a kind of Kherson religion. More than half (**58%**) of Kherson households owned summer cottages before the full-scale invasion started. For most Kherson residents, summer cottages are both a land plot providing with vegetables and fruits and a place of rest. However, the traditional status of summer cottages, which developed back in Soviet times, has begun to change. For **19%** of respondents, a summer cottage was a place of long-term residence, and **4%** of the owners provided services or ran business there.

Unfortunately, only **7%** of respondents claimed their summer cottages suffered no changes. In 2022-2024, most summer cottages were flooded, destroyed, damaged, robbed, or rigged with explosives. Another **24%** noted they had no idea about their summer cottages' condition. **84%** of respondents have no opportunity to go to their summer cottages. Thus, the issue of summer cottages added another dimension to the Kherson tragedy.

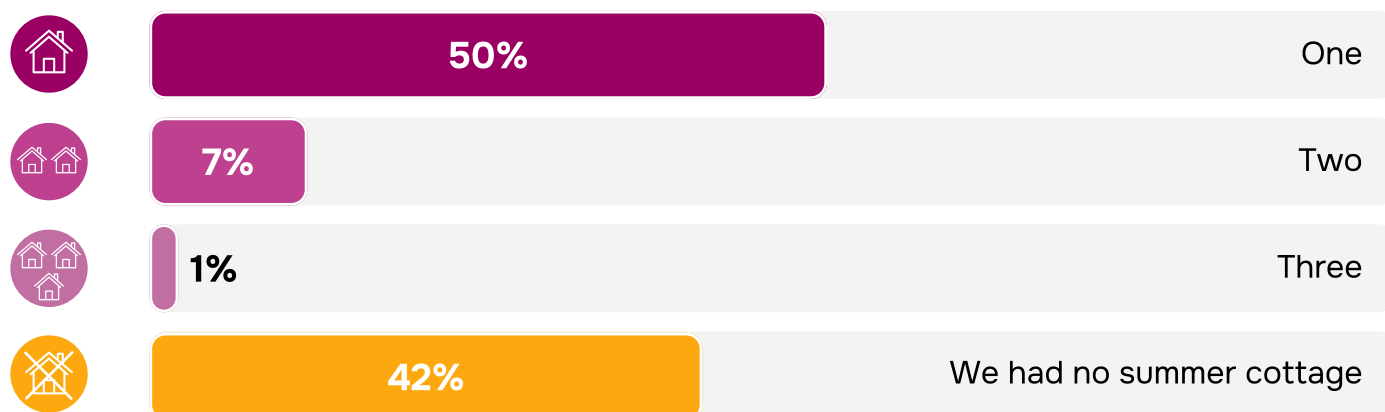
However, **80%** of Kherson residents (owners of summer cottages) plan to rebuild and return to the cottage lifestyle. **26%** of all respondents deem it worthwhile to make use of the situation and limit the reconstruction of destroyed cottages located near the Nyzniodniprovsky National Park followed by reimbursement to their owners. **5%** believe that the mined territories where summer cottages are located can be transferred to the nature reserve fund. Still, generally speaking, **51%** of respondents believe that the number and area of nature reserve objects in hazardous territories (rigged with mines or affected by flooding) throughout the Kherson region should be increased.

There was an important change as to the future of the Kakhovka reservoir. According to the survey, the number of those who believe that the Kakhovka HPP should be rebuilt in its original state has decreased by **4.25 times** compared to October 2023. The latest indicators may show a certain ecological shift in the respondents' perception: for a significant part of Kherson residents, recovery and reconstruction is not only about “making everything the way it used to be”, but also an opportunity to rethink the community.

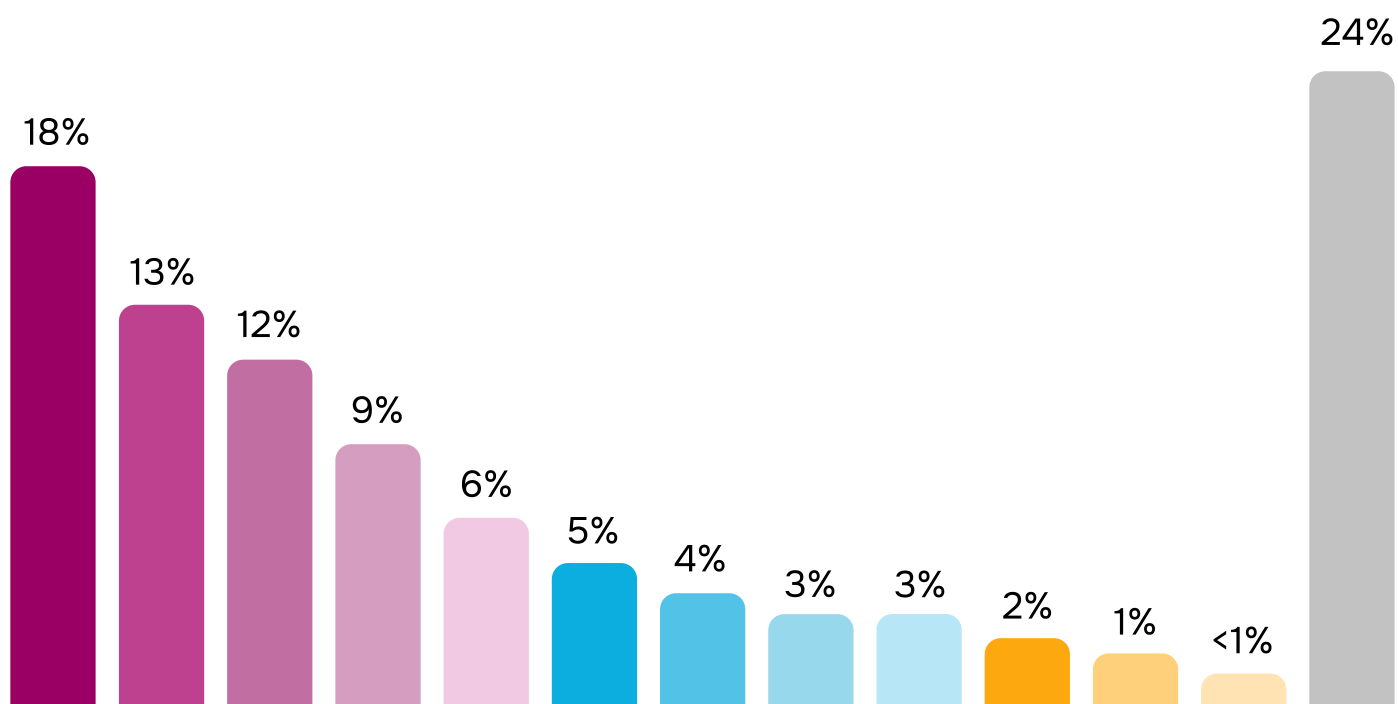
# Answer Breakdown

## Share of cottage owners among Kherson residents (N=402), %

Q.: Did your household own a summer cottage in the Kherson region before the war?



## Location of cottages owned by Kherson residents (N=402), %

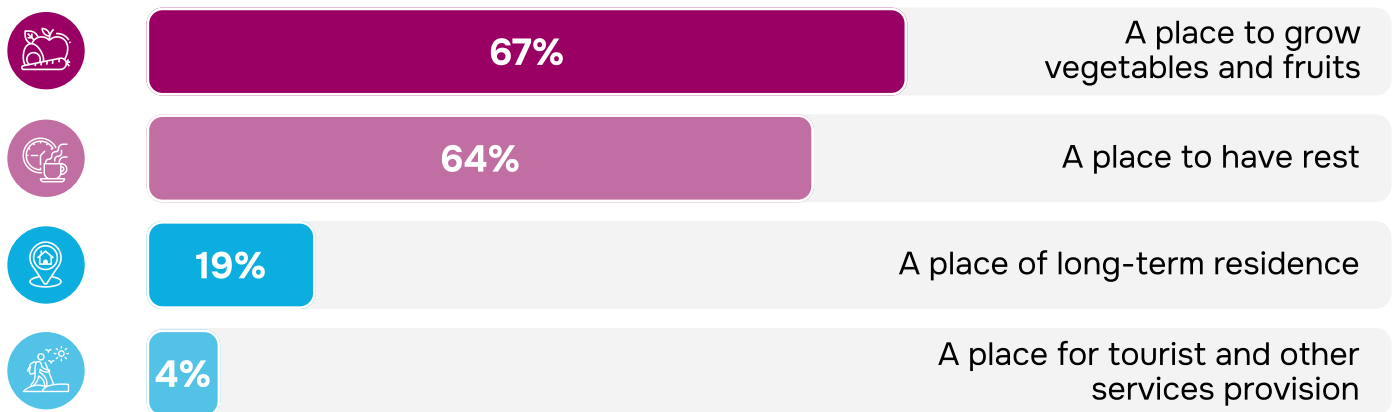


- By Kardashynka
- Floodplains of the Left Bank
- Velykyi Potomkin Island
- By Sadove
- By the Inhulets
- By Antonivka Bridge
- By Radensk
- Bilohrudyi Island
- Krynky
- Quarantine Island
- By Solontsi
- By Ivanovka
- Other

**The way Kherson residents used their summer cottages  
(N = 236 – owners of a cottage/cottages before the war), %**

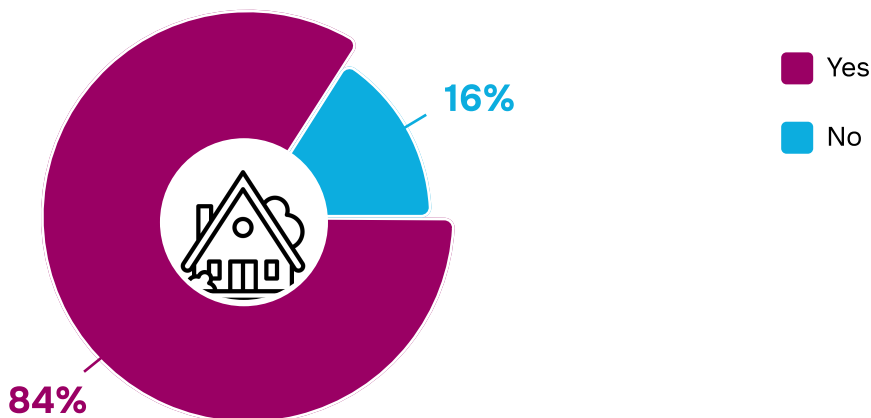
**Q.:** What was the summer cottage for your household?

Multiple answer



**The value of a summer cottage in a food chain for Kherson residents,  
N = 236 (owners of a cottage/cottages before the war), %**

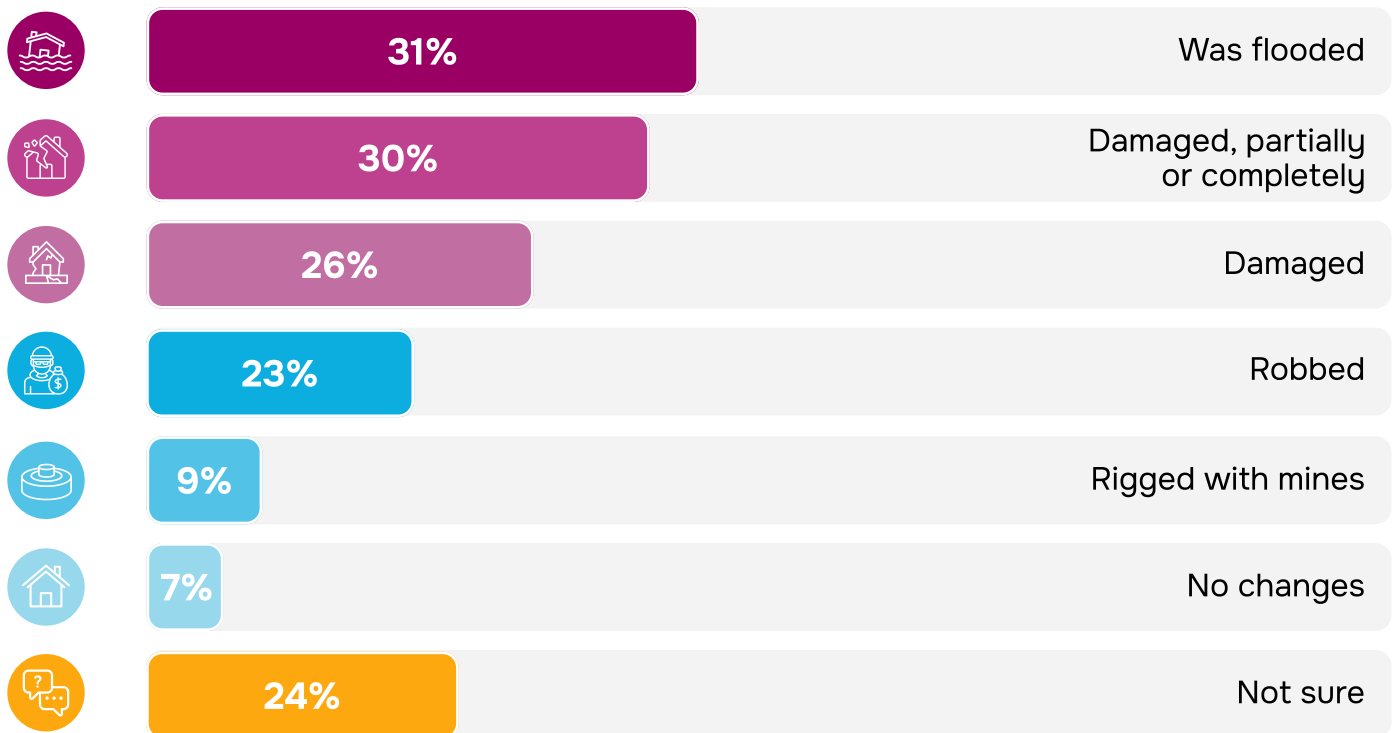
**Q.:** Was the summer cottage an asset for food provision?



**Condition of summer cottages owned by Kherson residents (N = 275 – total number of cottages owned by respondents), %**

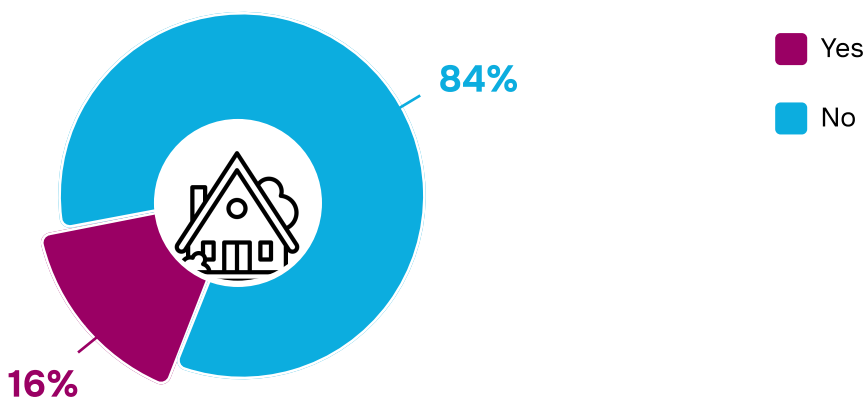
**Q.:** What is the condition of your summer cottage nowadays?

Multiple answer



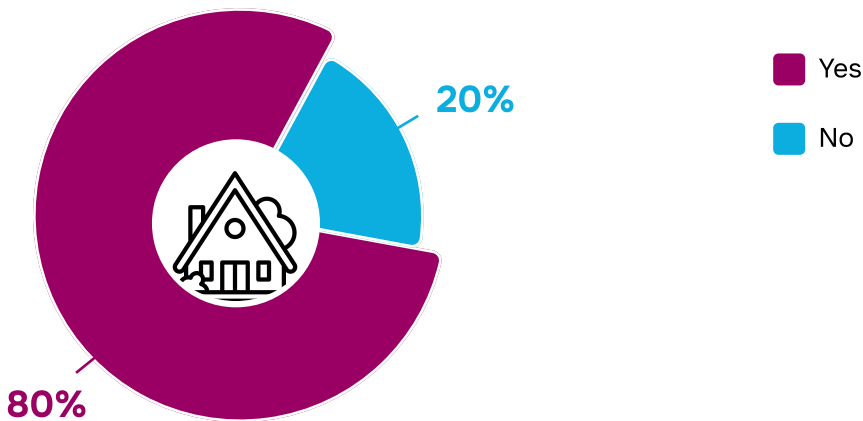
**Accessibility of summer cottages (N = 275 – total number of cottages owned by respondents), %**

**Q.:** Can you get there nowadays?



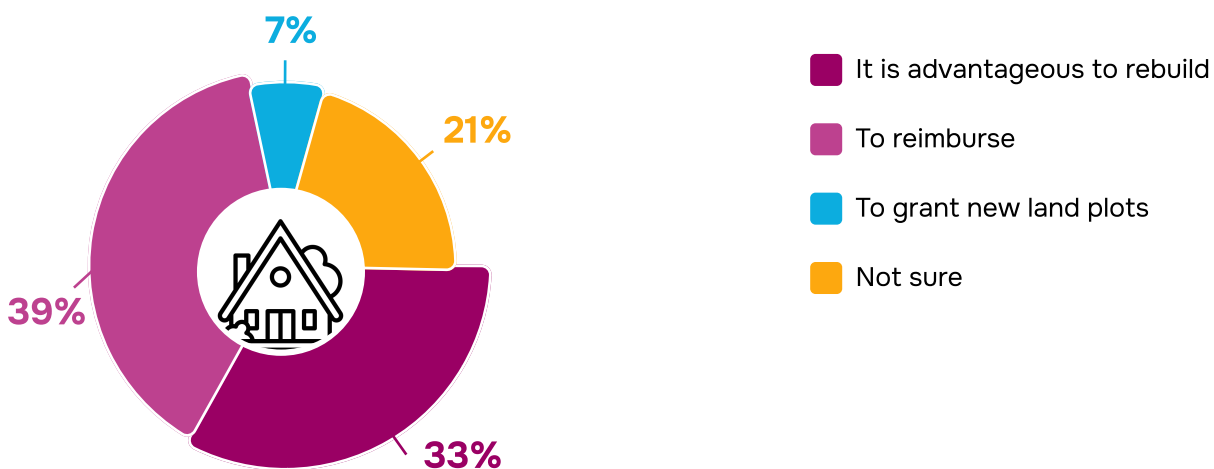
**Plans to rebuild cottages (N = 189 – respondents whose cottages were destroyed/damaged), %**

**Q.:** Are you going to rebuild the summer cottage?



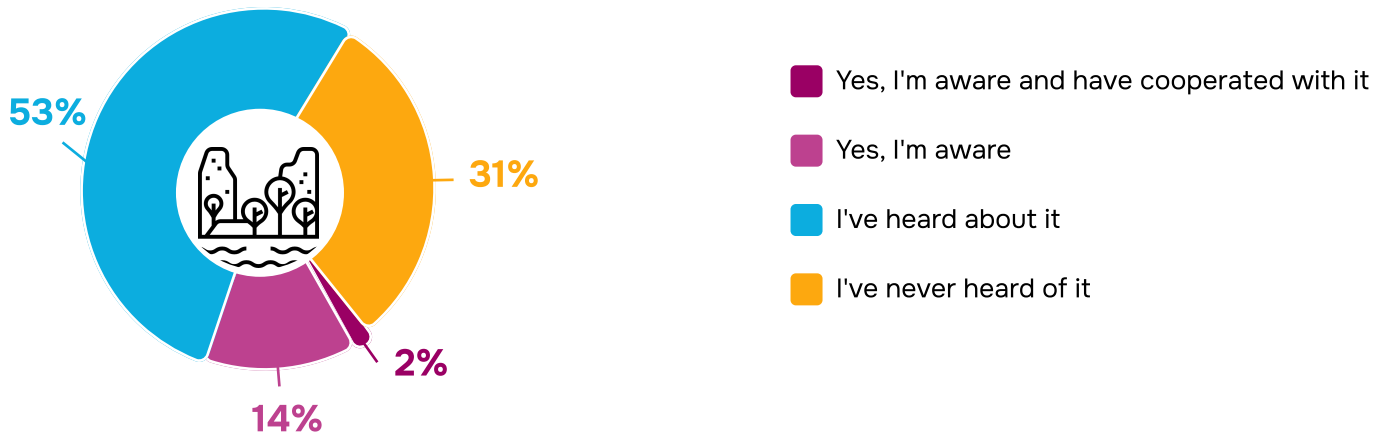
**General feasibility evaluation of cooperatives reconstruction (N=402), %**

**Q.:** In your opinion, which is more advantageous: to rebuild cottage cooperatives that were destroyed, to reimburse for the destroyed property, or to grant new land plots to the owners?



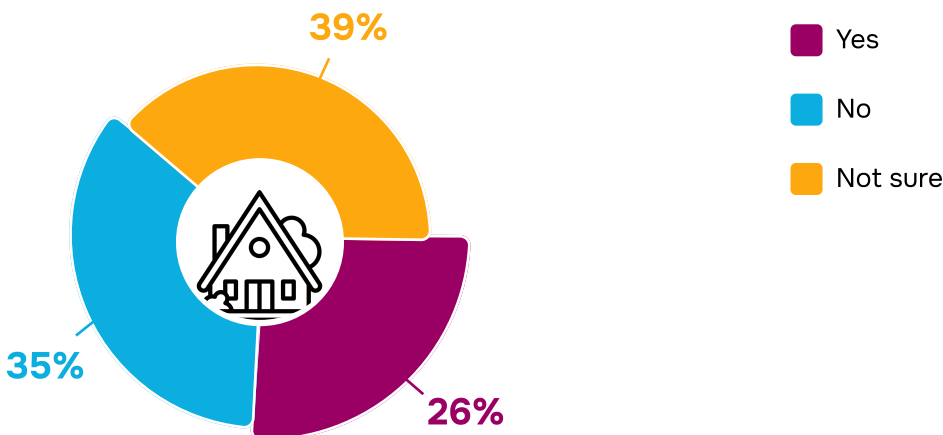
### Awareness of the Nyzniodniprovsky National Park activities (N=402), %

Q.: Are you aware of the Nyzniodniprovsky National Park activities?



### Feasibility of limiting the cottage reconstruction in the territories of the Nyzniodniprovsky National Park, N=402, %

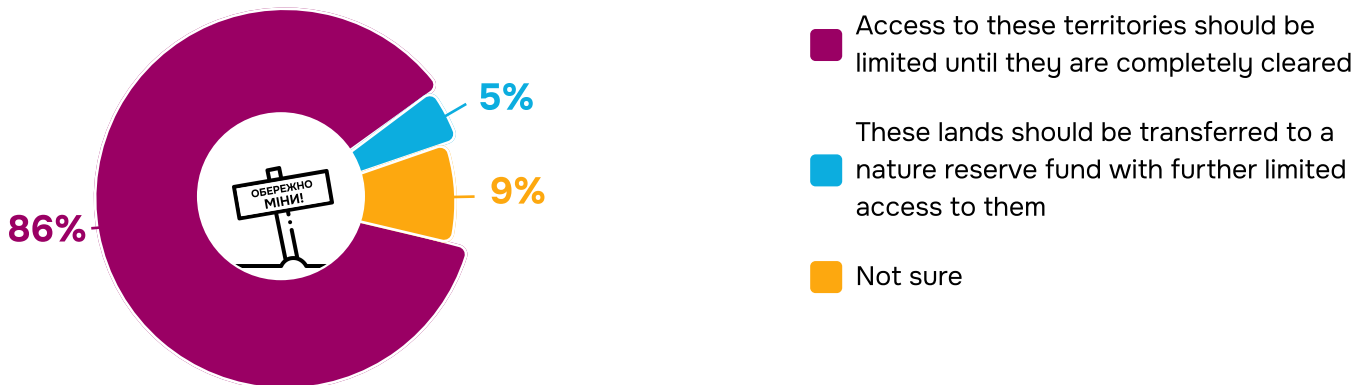
Q.: Some flooded cottages are located in the territory of the Nyzniodniprovsky National Park (along the Dnipro River and its tributaries). In your opinion, is it necessary to limit the cottage reconstruction in these territories?





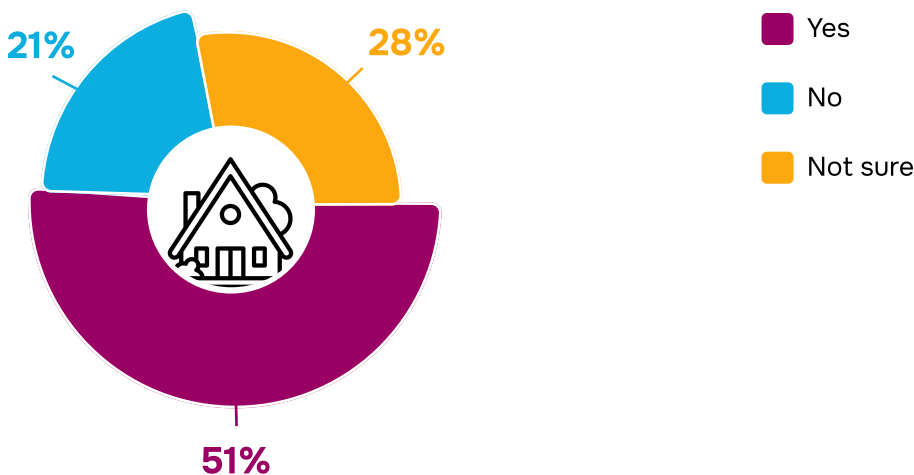
### Attitude to mined cottage territories (N=402), %

**Q.:** Some summer cottage cooperatives are located in areas rigged with mines. In your opinion, what should be done there (of the listed options)?



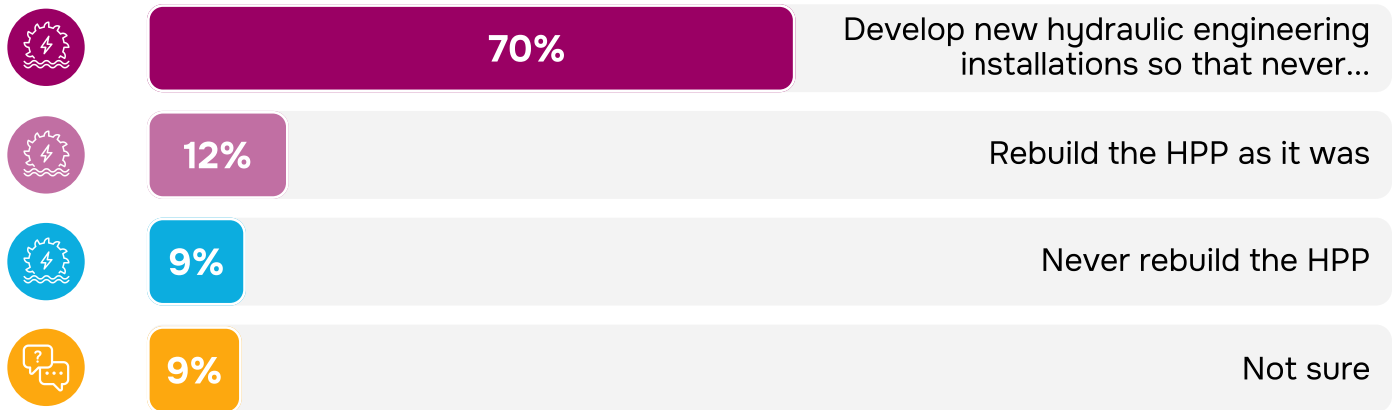
### Attitude to the increase in the number and area of nature reserve objects in hazardous territories (rigged with mines or affected by flooding, N=402, %) throughout the Kherson region

**Q.:** In your opinion, should the number and area of nature reserve objects in hazardous territories (rigged with mines or affected by flooding) throughout the Kherson region be increased?



## Attitudes to various prospects of the Kakhovka HPP (N=402), %

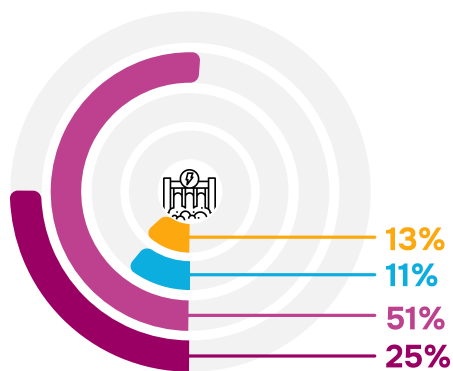
**Q.:** In your opinion, what prospect option for the Kakhovka HPP is the most relevant?



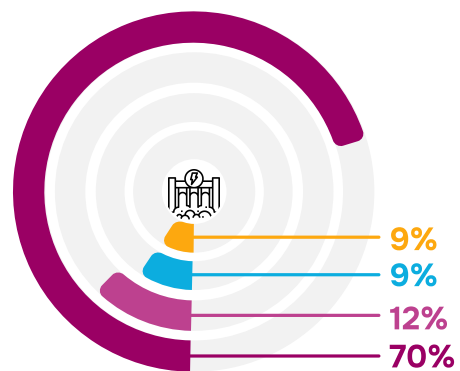
## Dynamics of attitudes to the Kakhovka HPP rebuilding

■ Develop new hydraulic engineering installations    
 ■ Rebuild the HPP as it was    
 ■ Never rebuild the HPP    
 ■ Not sure

**October 2023**



**April 2024**



### New hydraulic engineering installations

a lower dam and a smaller reservoir; a dam and a reservoir but no HPP operations resume

### New hydraulic engineering installations

new installations so that never flood such a large area again

# Respondents' profile

## Gender, %



♀ Female    ♂ Male

## Age, %



18-29    30-44    45-59    60+

## Residing before 24.02.2022, %



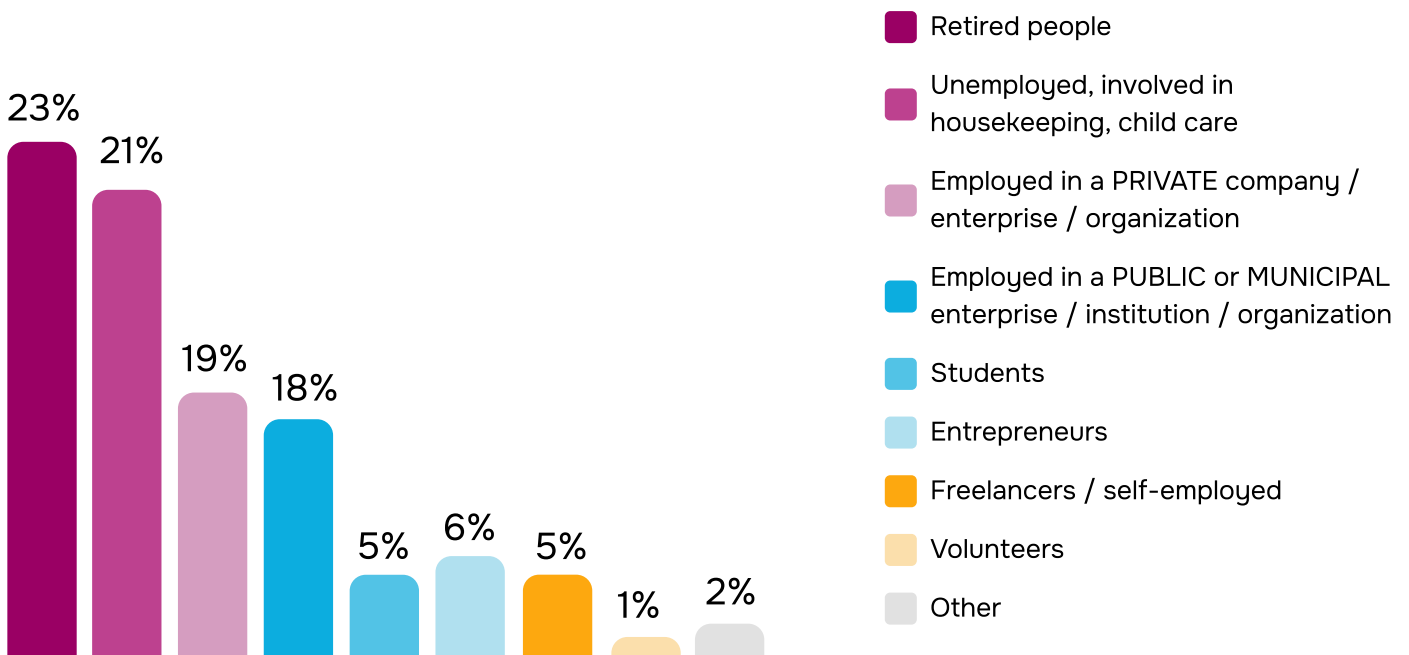
City of Kherson    Other settlements of the Kherson city community

## Currently residing, %

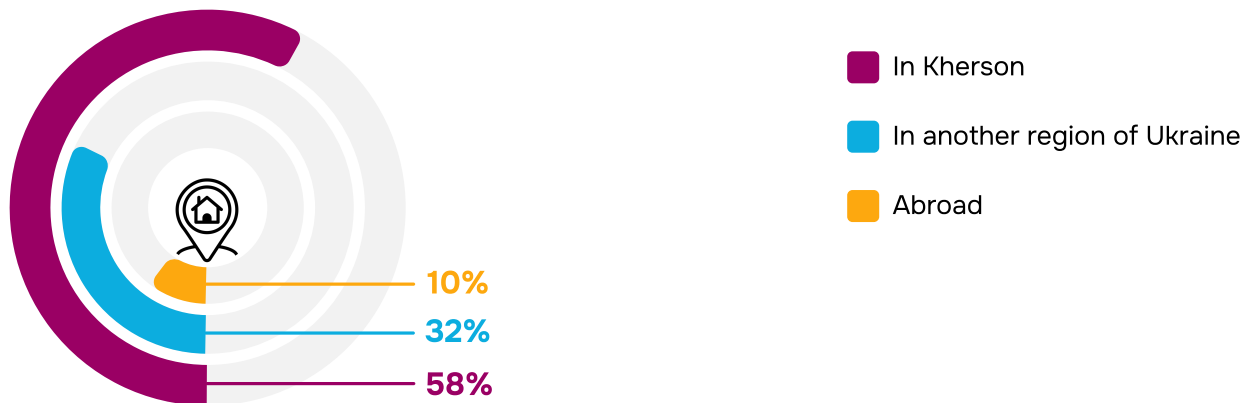


In Kherson    In another oblast of Ukraine    Abroad

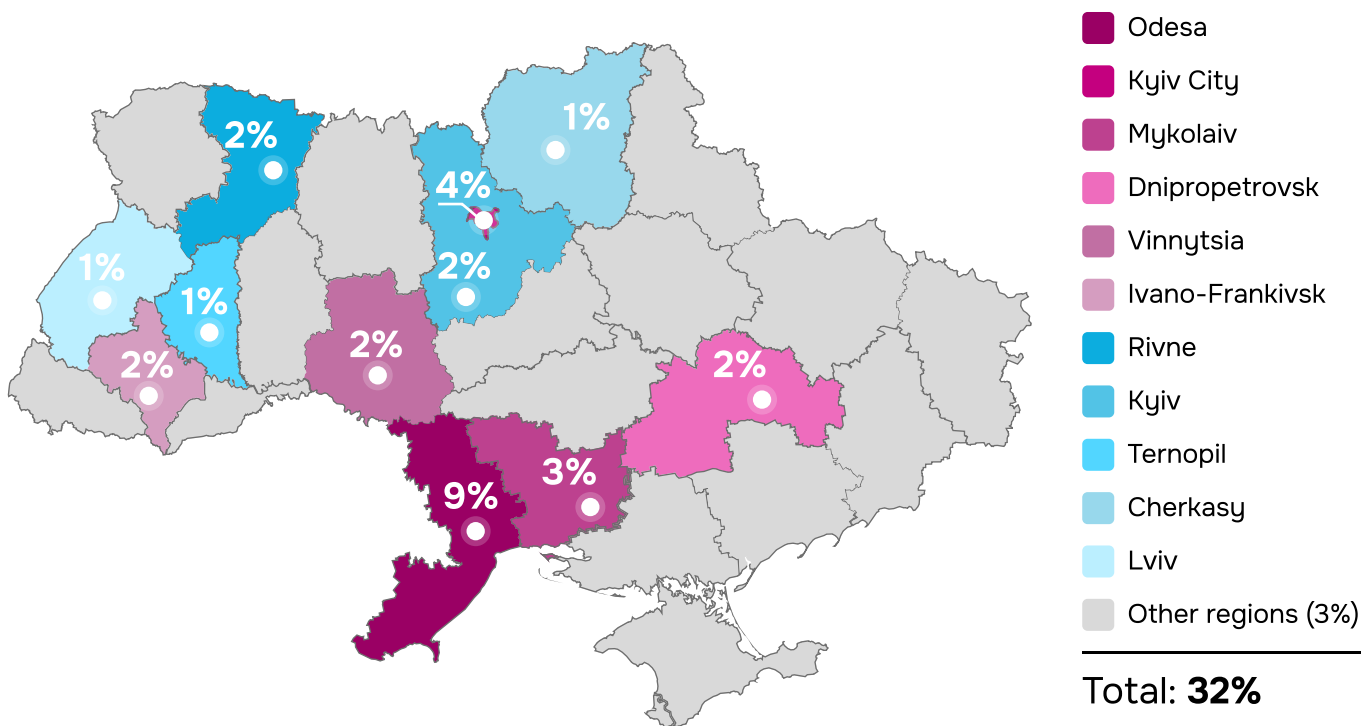
## Current type of employment, %



### Current place of residence



### Region of residence (people who changed their place of residence after 24.02.2022)



### Country of residence (people who changed their place of residence after 24.02.2022)

