



Migration and demographics

Sociological Online Survey Report

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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Research Background

Methodology: An online survey using an interactive structured questionnaire; links to the survey were sent to potential respondents from the database (online research panel of the Kherson community). The sample was 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 included Kherson residents both currently residing within the community and those who left Kherson after February 24, 2022 to other regions of Ukraine or abroad. Currently, there is no official data on the migration of Kherson's residents, thus making it impossible to assess the given respondent sample's representativity. However, there are reasons to believe that the ratio of those reporting themselves still residing within the community presented is greater than the actual ratio, which may affect the research results.

Research objective: to find out the attitude of Kherson residents toward current demographic and migration challenges.

Sample size: 402 respondents.

Field stage period: September 1 – 10, 2024.

Research client: Community Foundation of Kherson “Zakhyst”.

Research prepared by:

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- Roman Rudenko (Kherson Regional Branch of the Sociological Association of Ukraine).

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>



Key Findings

Almost two-thirds of respondents (63%) believe that after the expiration of temporary refugee protection status (if the war ends by then), EU member states should create conditions for Ukrainian refugees to return to Ukraine. The second most popular option was ensuring conditions for migrants to obtain permanent residency (18%), and the third one – refugee status (9%). Kherson residents outside of the city choose the option of permanent residency (22% versus 16%) more often, while refugee status (5% versus 11%) is less popular.

If the war lasts, 36% of respondents believe that EU member states should create conditions for Ukrainians to obtain refugee status, while 34% would like the EU to grant them permanent residency. 21% claim that even given such a situation, the EU should also facilitate the return of Ukrainian citizens back to their country. Kherson residents outside of the city chose the option of granting refugee status more often than Kherson residents who have remained in the community (42% vs 33%).

The next question was about the ways to solve Ukraine's demographic issue. 77% of respondents believe that the best option is to make as many Ukrainians as possible return home by implementing positive (political) incentives. The next was the option of returning Ukrainians by any means, even by coercion (7%). Only 6% claimed that the best option would be to attract labor migrants from other countries around the world, and 4% chose the option of increasing the birth rate.

A similar trend in preference of the former population is also true for Kherson. That said, the respondents do not significantly differentiate between those who fled to other regions of Ukraine or abroad: 72% fully or rather agree with the option to make the first category return, and 69% – the second. A bit less general share of respondents were positive about internal migration, that is, people coming from other regions of Ukraine to Kherson (61% fully or rather support), and migration of people from rural parts of Kherson Oblast to the city (55%). Less than half (42%) responded favorably to the statement that it is pointless to return the former population, and only 17% agree that attracting migrants from other countries is necessary.

According to the respondents, the best political measures **to restore the Kherson population** are promoting entrepreneurial development (66%), reconstructing damaged buildings (60%), and improving conditions for young families with children (54%), given a peaceful future.

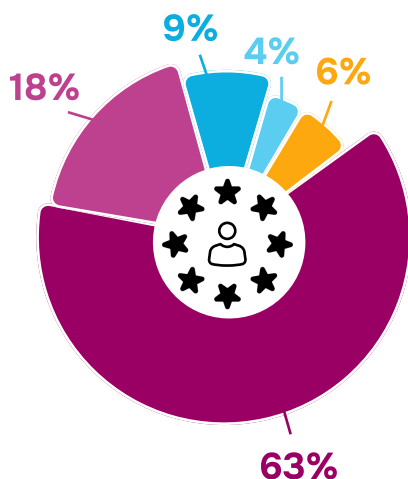
As for the scenario where most Ukrainians do not return from the EU and **labor migrants** are needed, approximately half (51%) believe that the latter's stay in Ukraine should be limited to the duration of their employment agreement (2-3 years). 31% of respondents answered that the state should create conditions for them to obtain permanent residency.

The last question was **about the countries and regions of origin of labor migrants to be attracted to Kherson, and about them living in the same communities as the respondents**. Europe was the most popular origin – 46% of respondents see its residents as labor migrants, and 62% as neighbors. The second most popular were those from Transcaucasia (19% and 21%, respectively). The third most popular country of origin was Belarus (14% and 17%), and the fourth were countries of central Asia (8% and 8%). As to citizens of the Russian Federation, 8% would agree to see them as labor migrants and only 2% would agree to live with them as neighbors.

Answer Breakdown

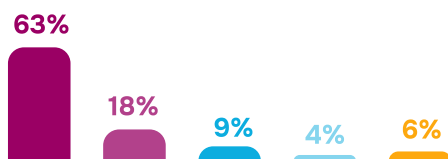
Ukrainian-related policy in EU member states (N=402), %

Q.: In your opinion, if the war ends before March 5, 2025, what should EU member states do after this date?



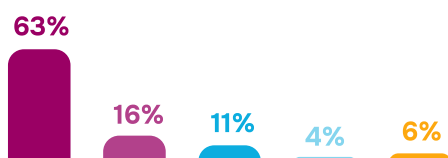
- Set conditions so that displaced persons return to Ukraine
- Set conditions so that Ukrainians can obtain long-term (permanent) residency status in the EU member state where they are currently residing
- Set conditions so that Ukrainians can obtain refugee status in the EU member state where they are currently residing
- Other
- Not sure

All respondents

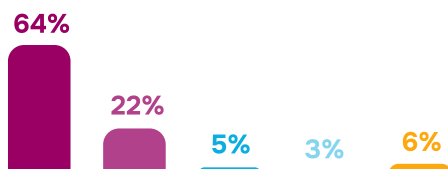


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- Set conditions so that Ukrainians can obtain refugee status in the EU member state where they are currently residing
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- Not sure

Residing in Kherson



Not residing in Kherson

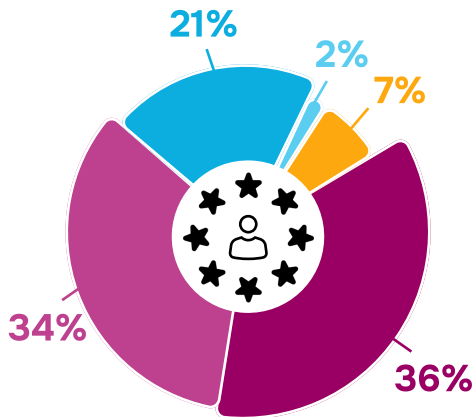


Other answers:

- simultaneous implementation of the said measures, depending on the decision of the displaced person/refugee;
- give Ukrainians full citizenship;
- EU member states owe us nothing / this is a problem to be solved by Ukrainian authorities;
- every person has the right to decide where to live;
- depends on what terms the war ends.

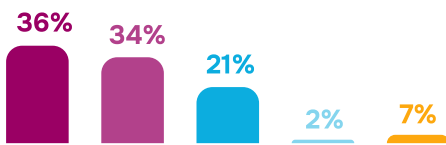
Ukrainian-related policy in EU member states (N=402), %

Q.: In your opinion, if the war does not end before March 5, 2025, what should EU member states do after this date?

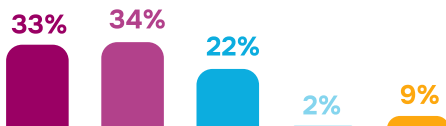


- Set conditions so that Ukrainians can obtain refugee status in the EU member state where they are currently residing
- Set conditions so that Ukrainians can obtain long-term (permanent) residency status in the EU member state where they are currently residing
- Set conditions so that displaced persons return to Ukraine
- Other
- Not sure

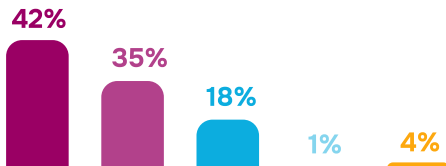
All respondents



Residing in Kherson



Not residing in Kherson



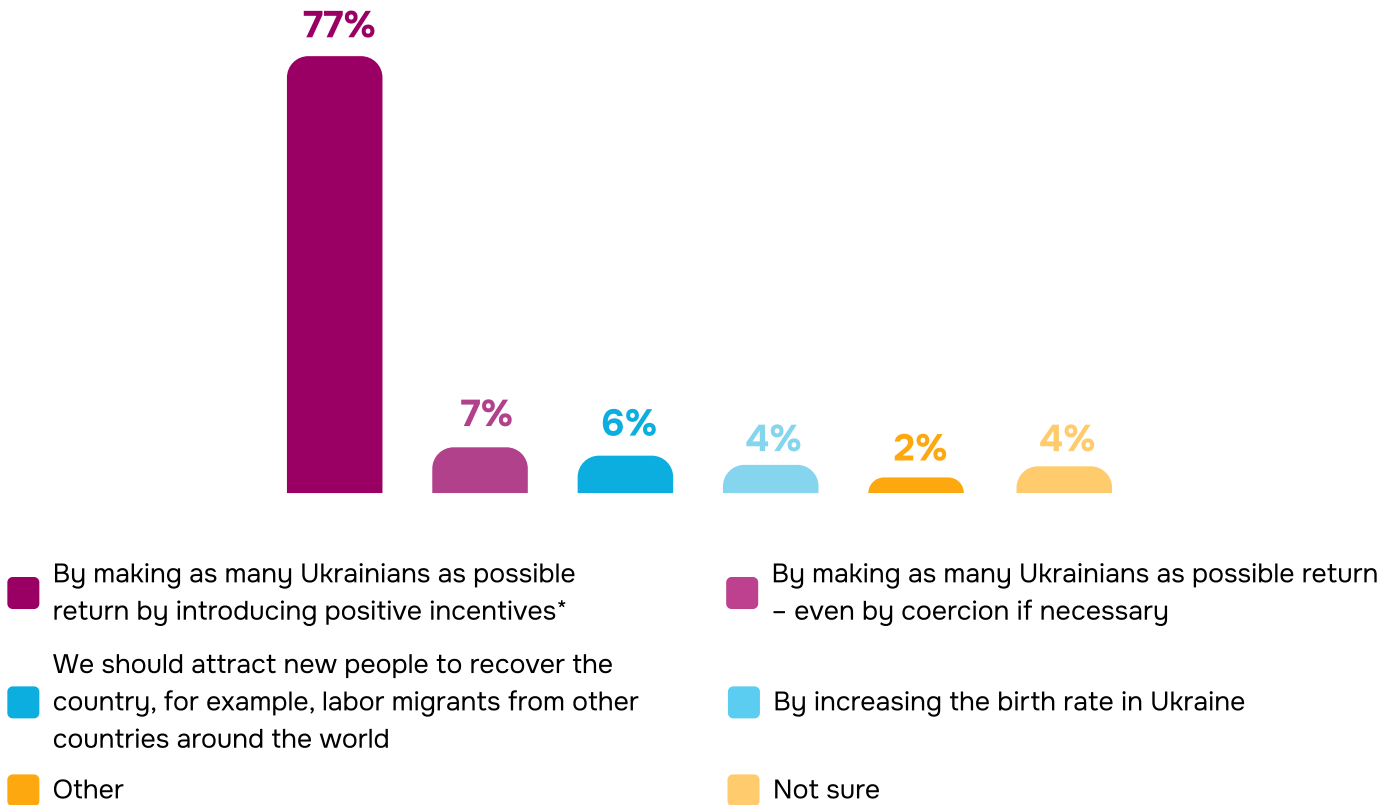
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- Set conditions so that Ukrainians can obtain long-term (permanent) residency status in the EU member state where they are currently residing
- Set conditions so that displaced persons return to Ukraine
- Other
- Not sure

Other answers:

- depends on the decision of a displaced person / any person in the world has the right to live where they wish, and EU member states should respect this right;
- EU member states should grant Ukrainians citizenship;
- EU member states should grant Ukrainian refugees migrant status;
- set conditions for Ukrainians to obtain refugee status in EU member states and set legal conditions so that Ukrainian citizens who are obliged (or able) to serve in the Armed Forces of Ukraine will return.

How to meet the demand for human resources in Ukraine (N=402), %

Q.: Survey results prove that approximately 75% of Ukrainians living abroad plan to return. This number is decreasing as the war drags on. In your opinion, what is the best way to satisfy Ukraine's demand for human resources?



* provision of housing in Ukraine, issuance of “resettlement benefits,” ensuring favorable lending conditions, etc.

Other answers:

- promote the return of Ukrainians and increase the birth rate in Ukraine at the same time;
- reform Ukraine by bringing it in line with EU legislation/fighting corruption in Ukraine;
- decent conditions should be ensured for Ukrainians who are residing in Ukraine, and the true ones will return by themselves;
- to return people originally from the regions not affected by the war to Ukraine;
- ensure conditions for people from other regions to return, provide housing, work with decent salaries, etc.

Demographic prospects of Kherson (N=402), %

Q.: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

■ Fully agree
 ■ Rather agree
 ■ Rather disagree
 ■ Fully disagree
 ■ Not sure

Kherson's population should be primarily renewed by making former city residents who are currently in the other regions of Ukraine return



Kherson's population should be primarily renewed by making former city residents who are currently abroad return



Kherson's population should be primarily renewed by ensuring conditions for migration from other regions of Ukraine to the city



Kherson's population should be primarily renewed by ensuring conditions for migration from other settlements of Kherson Oblast to the city



We should not waste efforts on returning Kherson residents who have fled, as most of them will never return. We should look for other options to renew the city's population



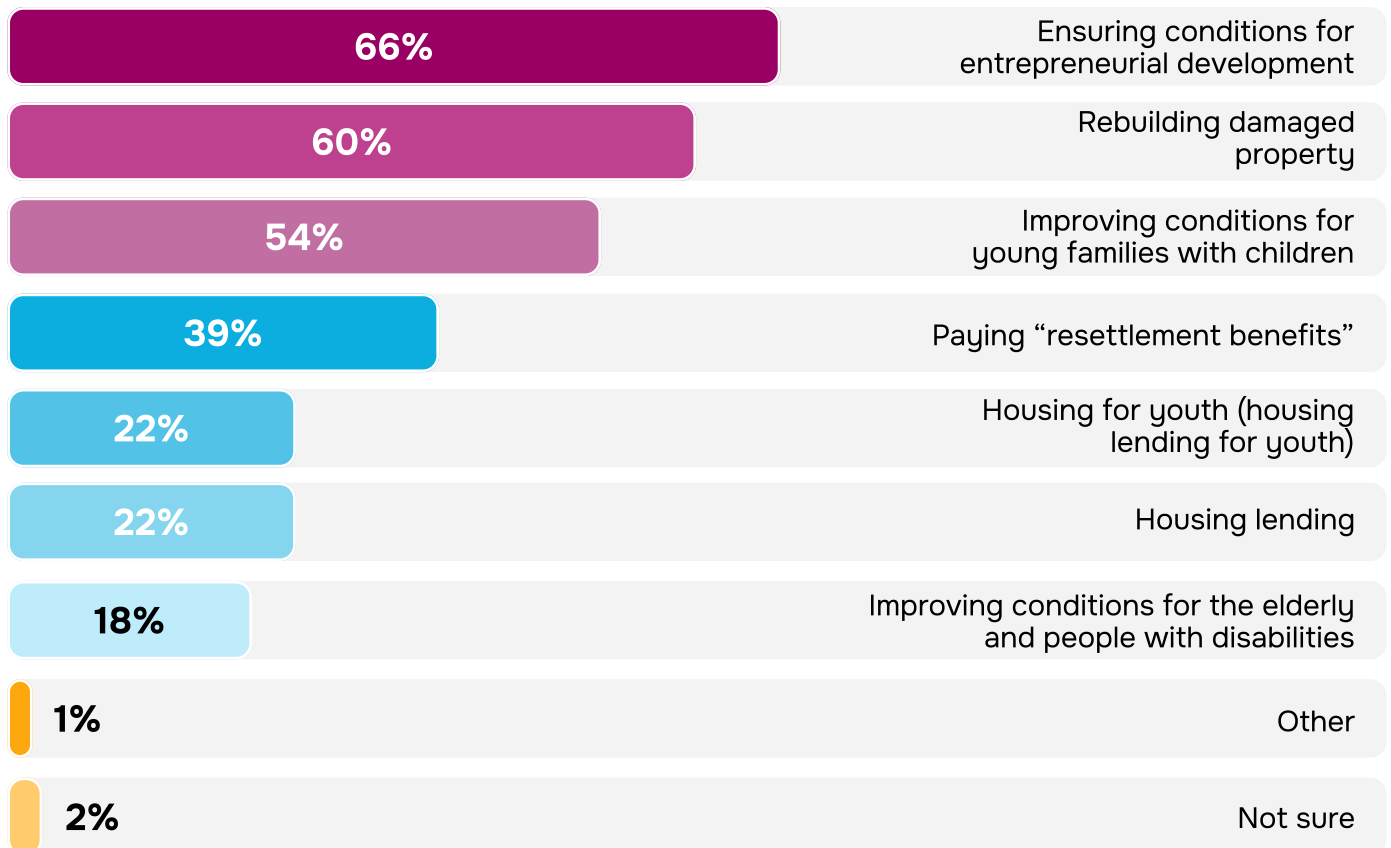
Kherson population should be renewed primarily with migrants from other countries around the world



Demographic policy (N=402), %

Q.: Choose a maximum of three measures, which in your opinion, are the most favorable to renew Kherson's population in a peaceful future.

Multiple choice

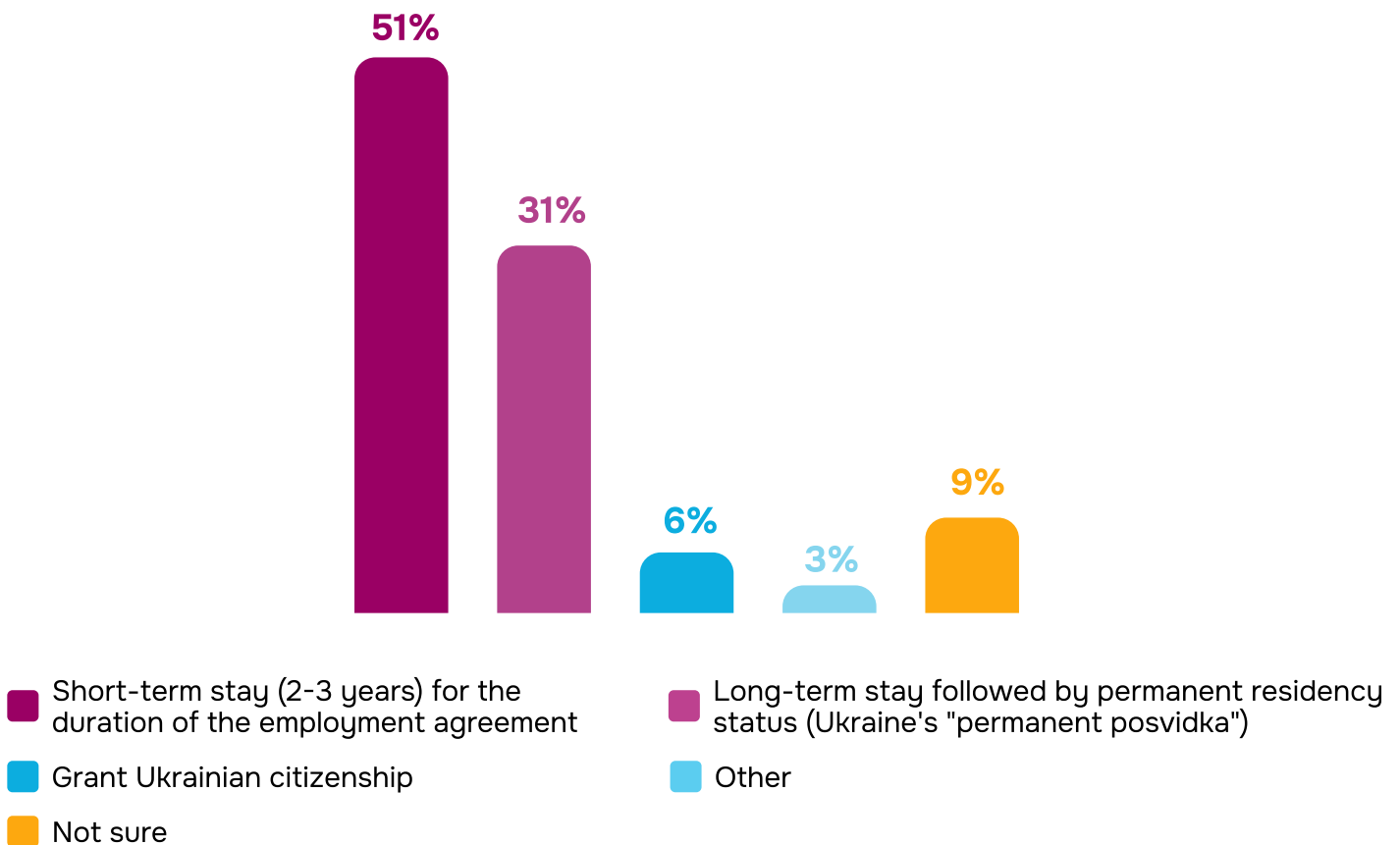


Other answers:

- anti-corruption measures;
- improved social protection of community residents;
- making the region attractive for investors; we need comprehensive approaches, therefore, all the given options should be applied, and more. Also, reconstruction of medical and educational institutions of all levels, daycares, sports facilities and recreation areas, nature protection and nature restoration activities, demining, etc.

Labor migrant policy (N=402), %

Q.: If assumed that most Ukrainians will not return, and Ukraine will need labor migrants from other countries, what conditions should the state ensure for them?



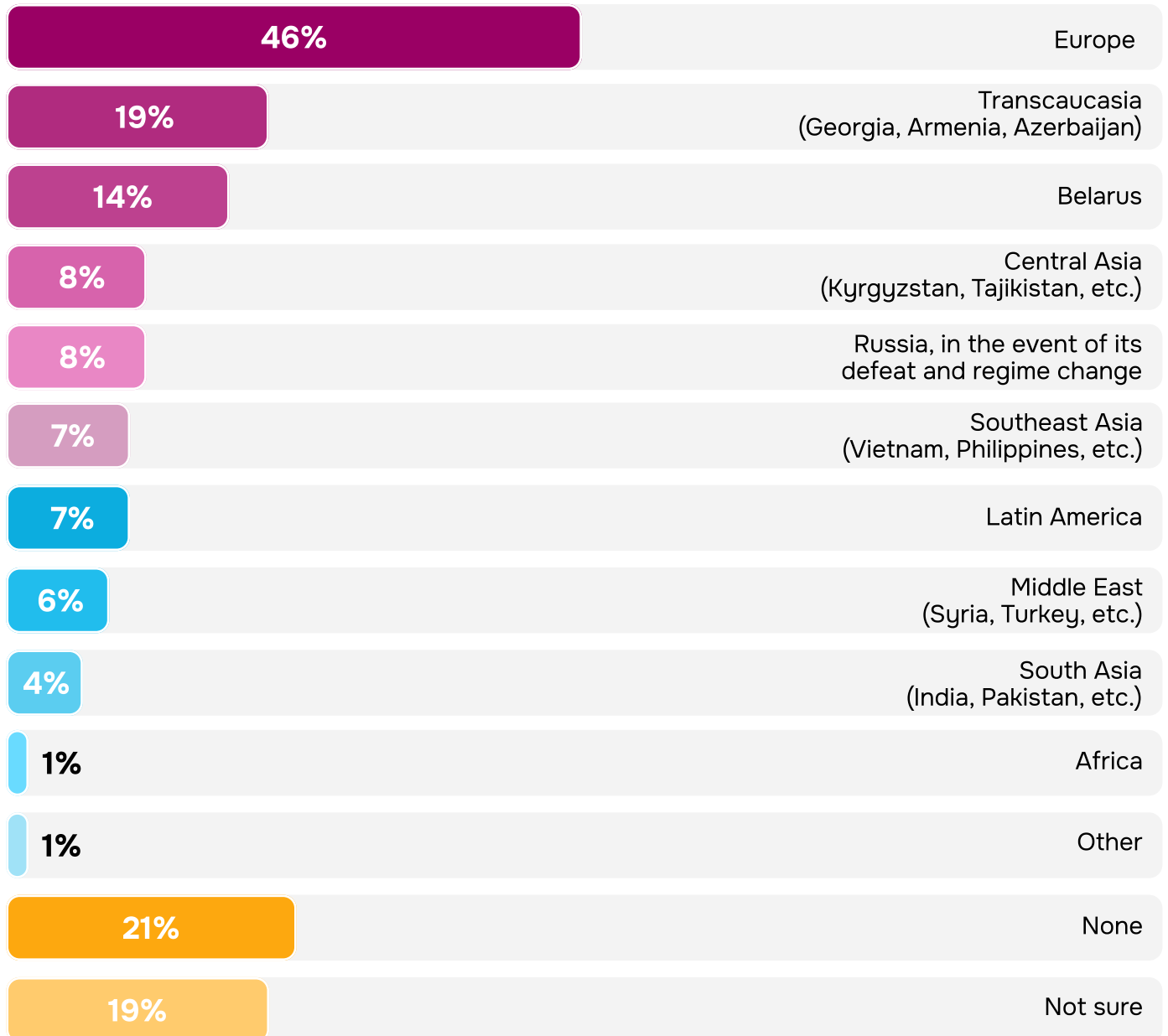
Other answers:

- it is better without any labor migrants at all;
- we do not need migrants from other countries as they will not work but rather receive allowance and then migrate further to the EU;
- we do not need people from other countries, we should motivate our own citizens to work;
- most Ukrainians will return if the state will ensure relevant humane conditions;
- attention should be directed to Ukrainians already staying in the country;
- it depends on the country the migrants are from; we should pay attention to the migrants' origin, building mosques is not an option for recovery!

Origin of labor migrants (N=402), %

Q.: Which countries (regions) do you see as sources of labor migrants in Kherson?

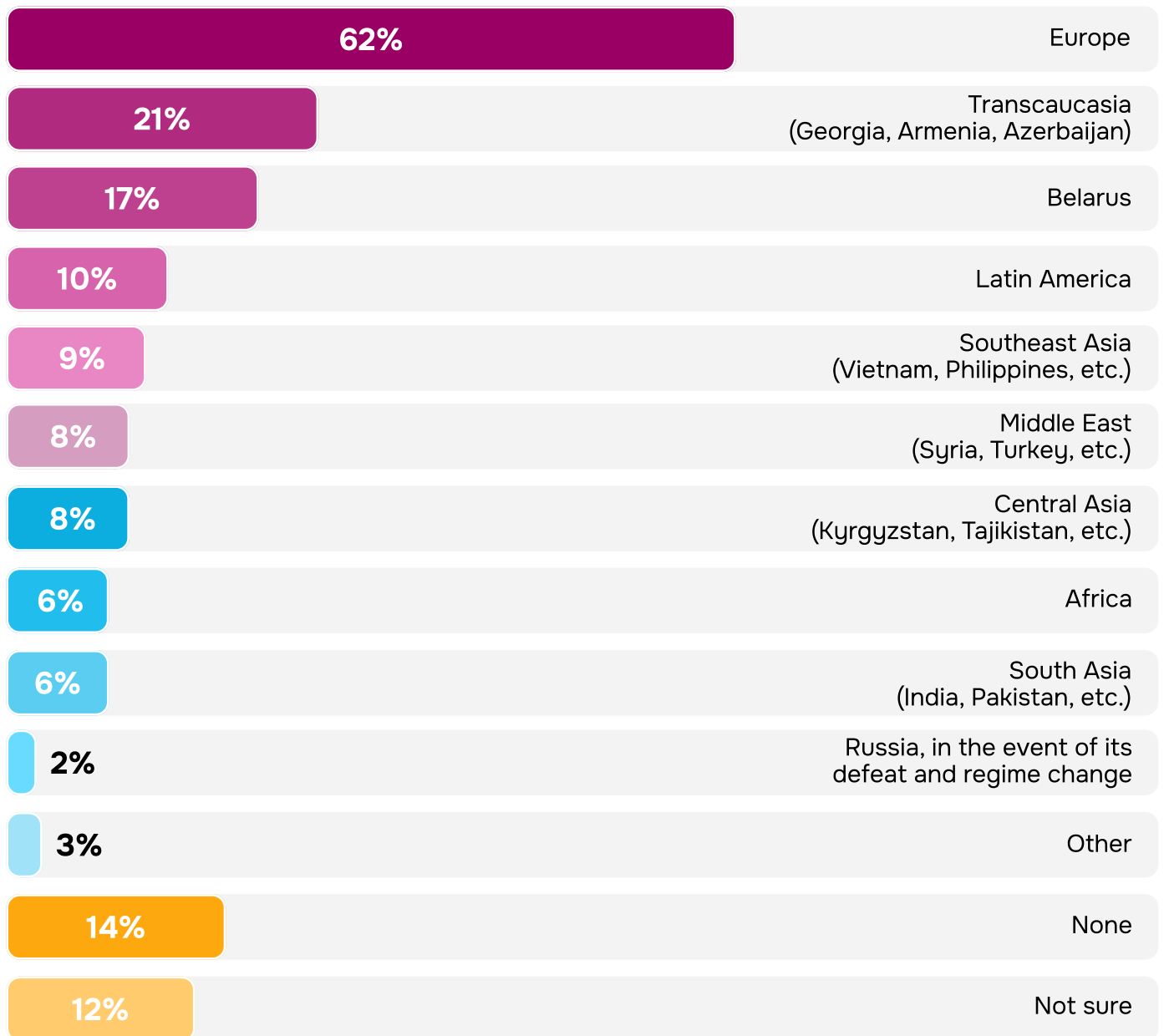
Multiple choice



Foreigners as neighbors (N=402), %

Q.: Which countries' citizens would you accept as your neighbors in Kherson?

Multiple choice



Other answers:

- anyone/doesn't matter;
- from civilized countries;
- from America;
- anyone but Palestinians, Syrians, etc.

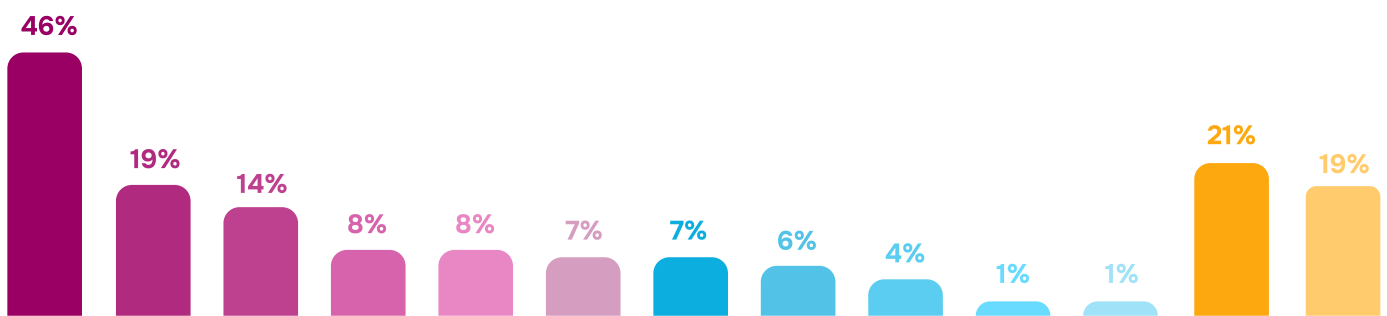
Comparison: labor migrants as possible neighbors (N=402), %

Q.: Which countries (regions) do you see as sources of labor migrants in Kherson?

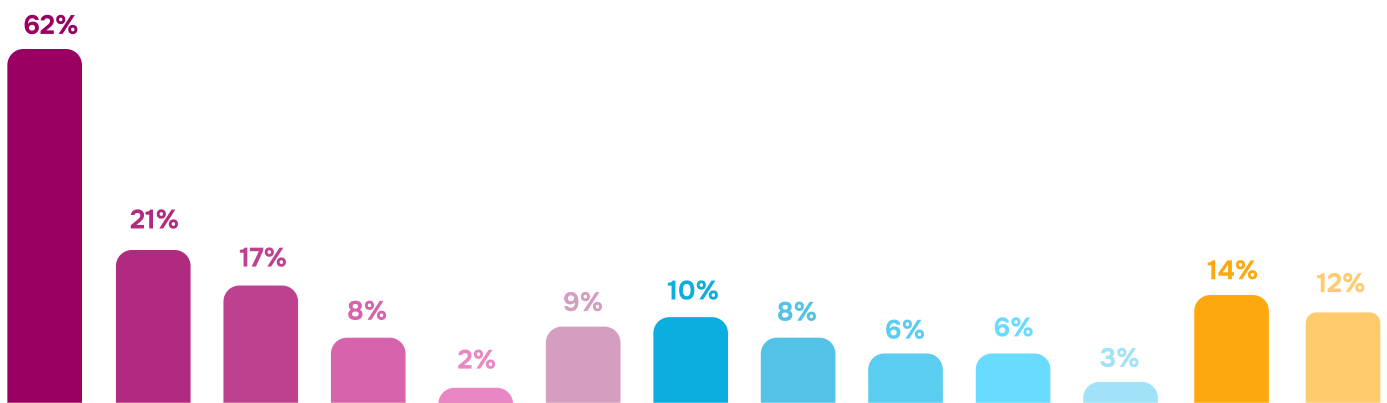
Q.: Which countries' citizens would you accept as your neighbors in Kherson?

Multiple choice

Possible labor migrants



Possible neighbors in Kherson



- Europe
- Transcaucasia (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan)
- Belarus
- Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, etc.)
- Russia, in the event of its defeat and regime change
- Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Philippines, etc.)
- Latin America
- Middle East (Syria, Turkey, etc.)
- South Asia (India, Pakistan, etc.)
- Africa
- Other
- None
- Not sure

Respondents' profile

Gender



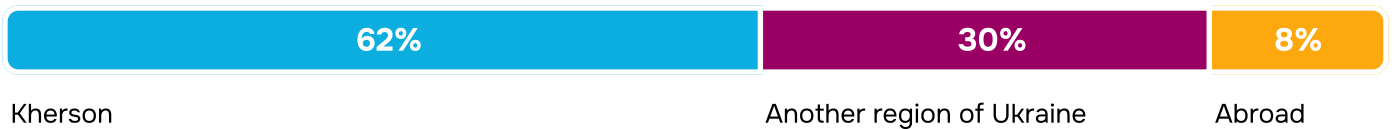
Age



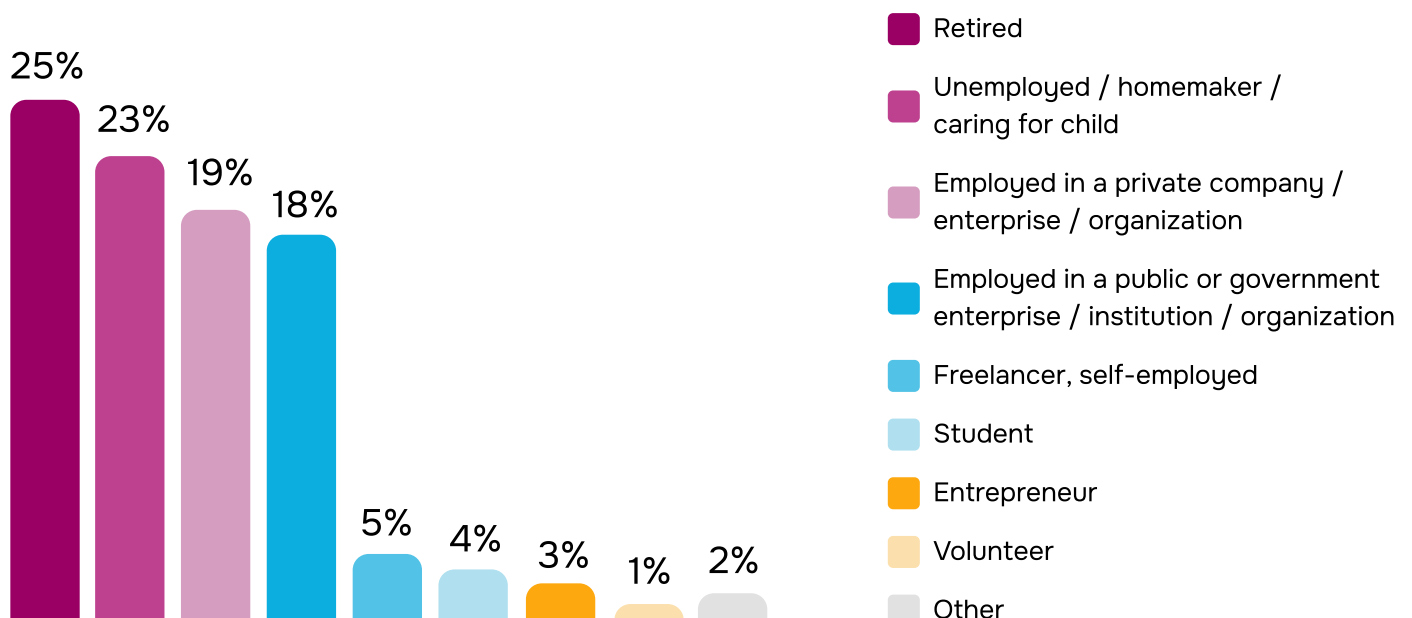
Place of residence before February 24, 2022



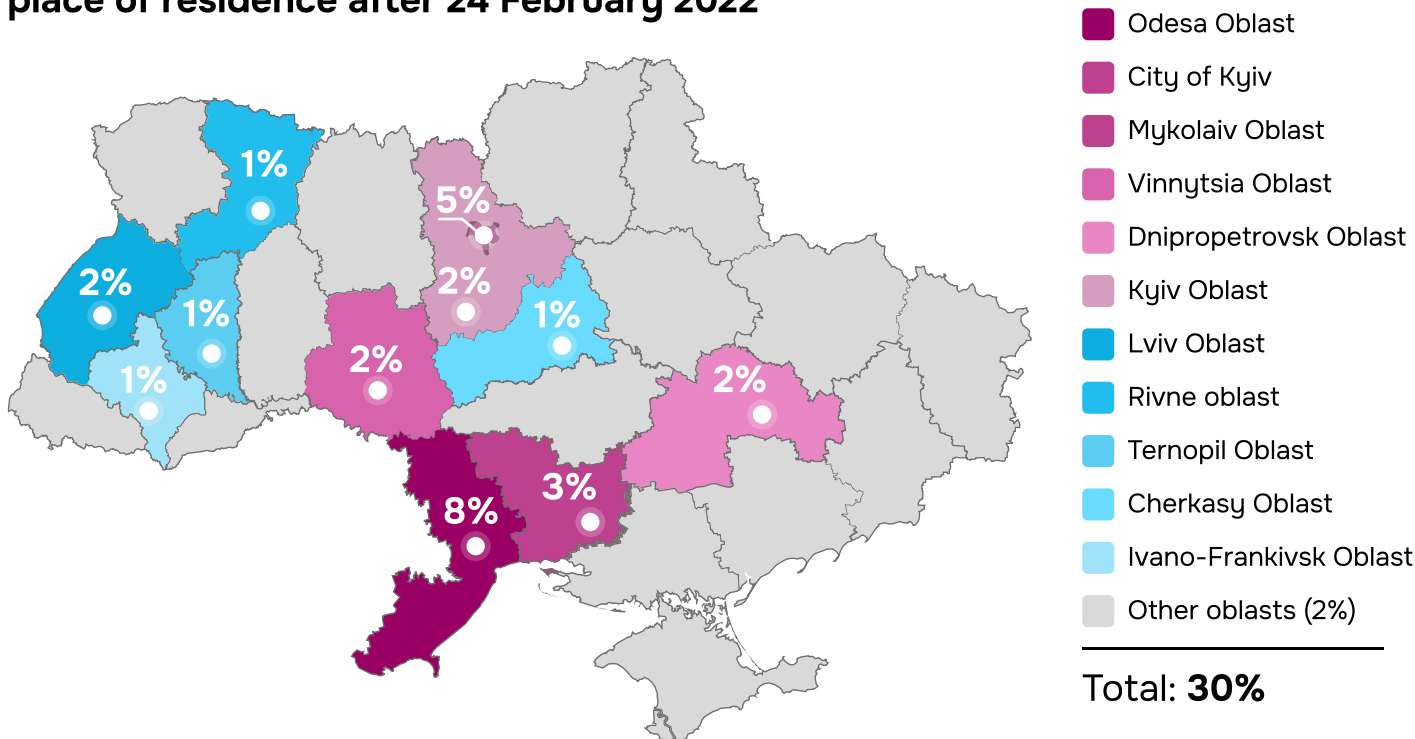
Current place of residence



Employment



Region of residence for people who changed their place of residence after 24 February 2022



Country of residence (people who changed their place of residence after 24 February 2022)

