

Central and Eastern Europe as a New Migration Destination for Economic and Forced Migrants

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Outline

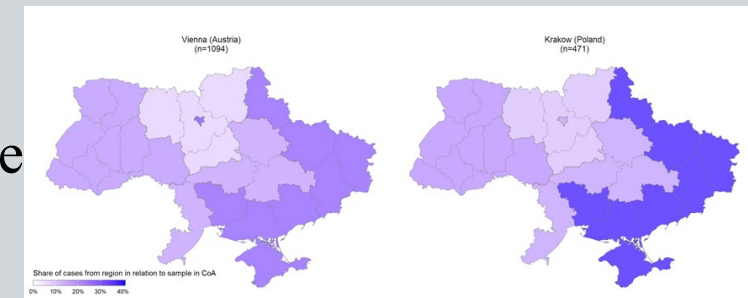
- *Migration transition and CEE as new migration destinations*
- *Selected research areas and methods*
- *Selected findings*
- *Conclusion*

CEE as a New Migration Destination

- The ongoing Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine significantly altered migration flows in Europe
- CEE which prior to 2022 experienced migration transition and became the new migration destination for economic migrants became particularly impacted by the inflow of forced migrants
- While up to 2022, Ukrainian migrants constituted one of the largest groups of migrants in the region, they rarely sought asylum, most commonly using migration pathways established to facilitate voluntary, economic migration
- Modified New Immigration Destination (NID) framework - the countries and regions referred to as NID are those that experience “accelerated immigration over a short period of time, reversing a longstanding tradition of emigration” (Macareavey & Argent, 2018) – useful in exploring migration flows in the region

Research and methods

- Qualitative research in Ukraine prior to February 2022
 - 30 in-depth interviews and a fieldwork conducted in Kyiv and its suburbs
 - Focus on internal migrants who came to Kyiv from various regions in Ukraine
- Quantitative research in Poland prior to February 2022
 - Sample size: 507 respondents in Malopolska region (65% from Ukraine)
 - Focus on economic migrants with short-term residence permits
- Quantitative research in Austria and Poland post February 2022
 - Sample sizes: 1,100 (Vienna) and 500 (Kraków)
 - Focus on forced migrants from Ukraine (mostly from occupied Eastern and Southern parts of the country) - Majority female (Vienna: 89%; Kraków: 97%)

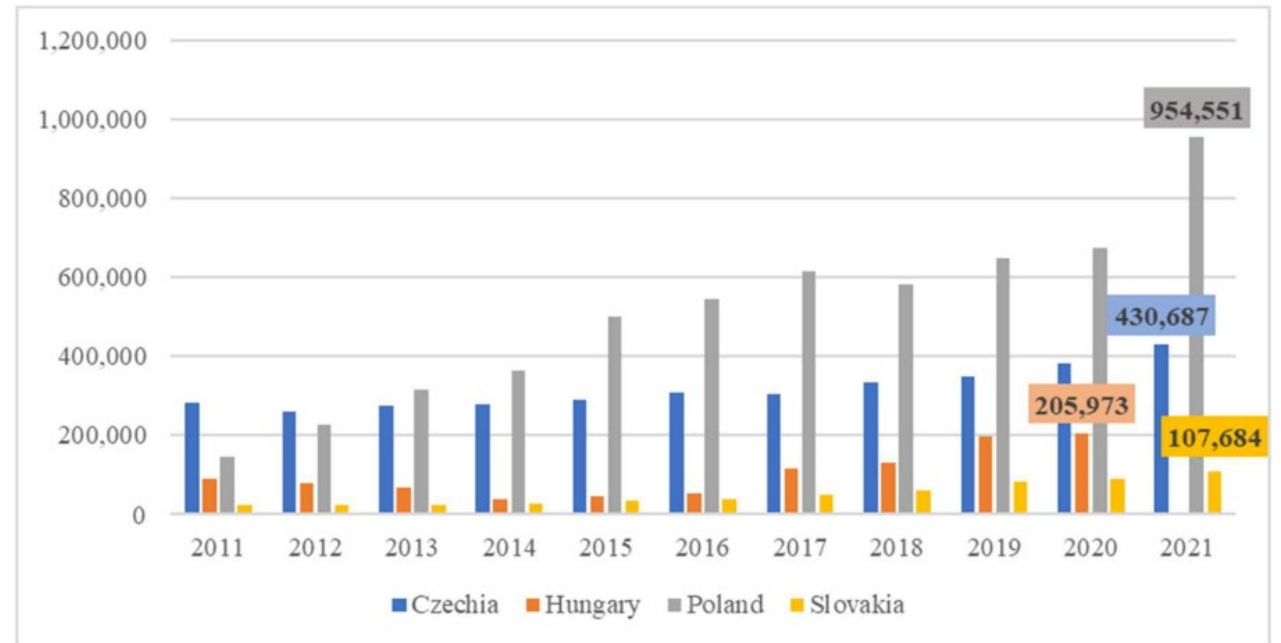


CEE as new migration destination for economic migrants

The share of immigrants in the populations of Visegrad (V4) countries

- Czechia - from 1% in 1993 to 5,5% in 2021
- Hungary – from 1,5% in 1998 to 6% in 2021
- Slovakia – from 1,6% in 2015 to 3% in 2021
- Poland – from 1% in 2014 to 2,5% in 2021

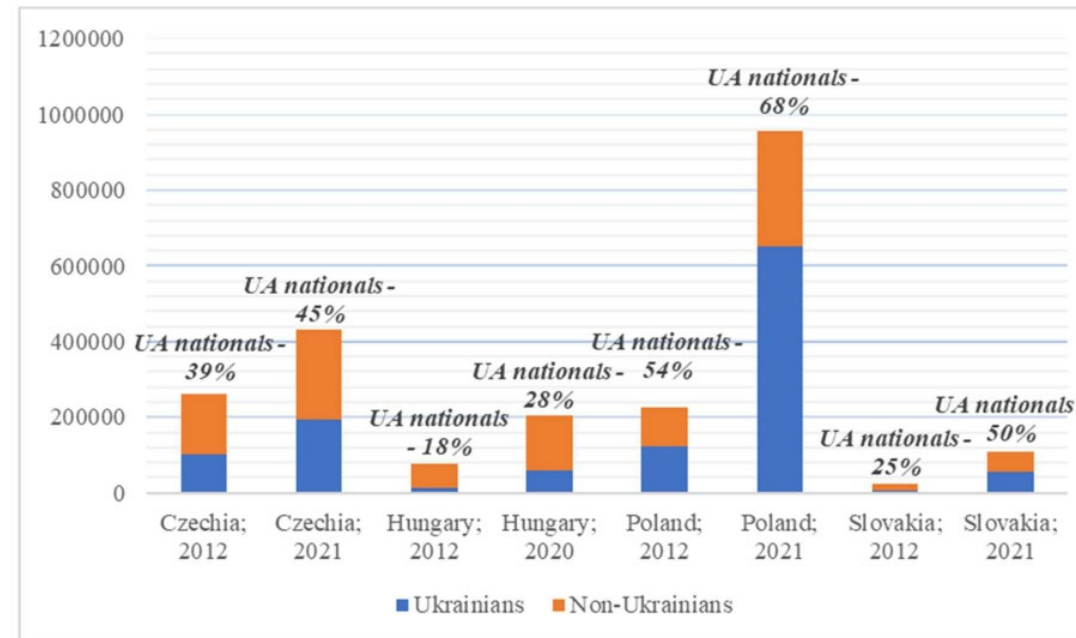
Chart 1: Number of valid residence permits (all types) held by foreigners residing in V4 countries, as of 31.12 each year (2011-2021)



Source: own elaboration based on the data from: Eurostat (2022a).

Growing importance of Ukrainian migrants in the region yet before 2022

Chart 3: Increasing share of Ukrainian nationals among valid residence permits' (all types) holders in V4 countries, as of 31.12 of each year (2012-2021)



Source: own elaboration based on the data from: Eurostat (2022b).

CEE as a mainly transit area for forced migrants up until 2022

Table 1: The number of applications for international protection filed in V4 countries between 2012 and 2021.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Czechia	740	695	1 145	1 515	1 475	1 445	1 690	1 915	1 160	1 405
Hungary	2 155	18 895	42 775	177 135	29 430	3 390	670	500	115	40
Poland	10 750	15 240	8020	12 190	12 305	5 045	4 110	4 070	2 785	7 795
Slovakia	730	440	330	330	145	160	175	230	280	370

Source: (annual aggregated data - Eurostat 2022 e).

CEE after February 2022

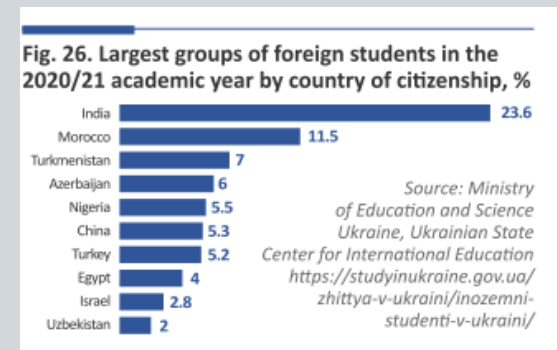
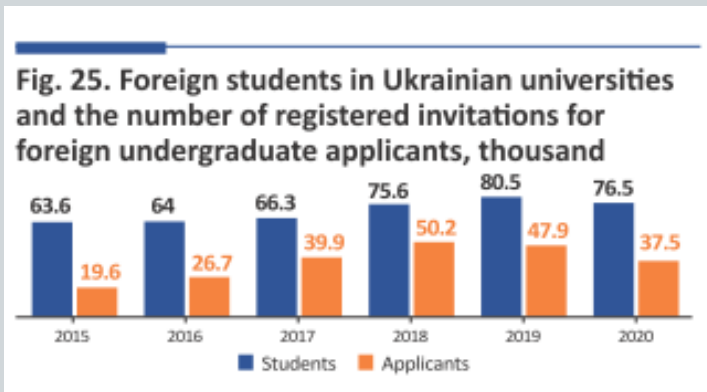
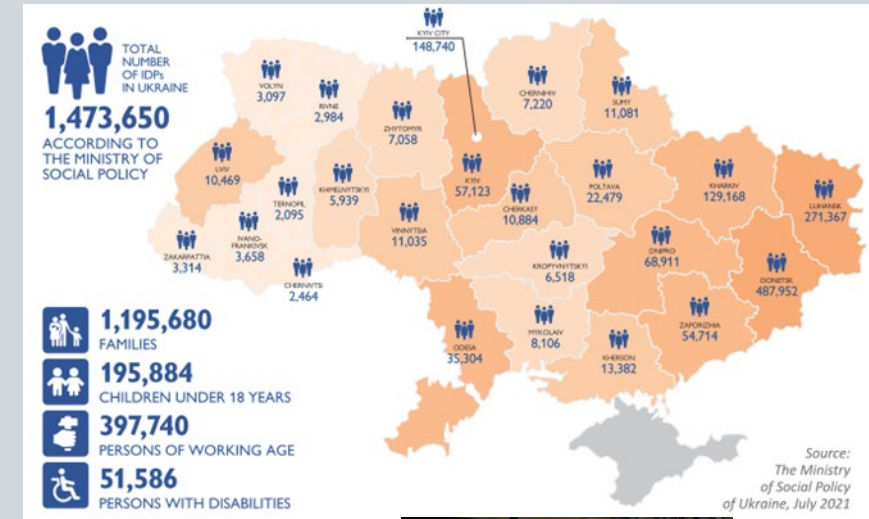
- The inflow of forced immigrants to the V4 countries increased exponentially in 2022 after the new phase of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine commenced.
- Out of 7,751 million people who fled Ukraine by October 2022, V4 countries accommodated almost 42% of the forced migrants who resided in one of the European countries except Russia (UNHCR, 2022b). At the same time - V4 populations together constitute 14,1% of the overall EU-27 population (Eurostat, 2022d).
- As of October 2022, close to 2 million refugees from Ukraine were registered in the Visegrad Group countries with temporary protection, 30,000 registered in Hungary (constituting 0.3% of the overall Hungarian population, referring to the Eurostat data for 2021), 96,000 in Slovakia (close to 2%), 442,000 in Czechia (4%) and 1 422 482 in Poland (3,6% of the overall population of the country) (UNHCR, 2022 b; Eurostat, 2022d).

Ukraine as country of emigration and immigration



Immigration to Ukraine (2021)

- 300 thousand permanent residency
- 150 thousand temporary residency
- 76,5 thousand foreign students



Future migration intentions among internal migrants in Ukraine in 2021

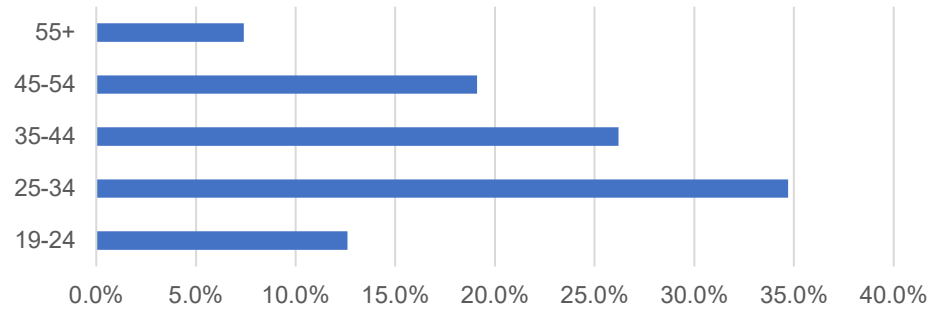
Major types of migration intentions among internal migrants in Kyiv

- To migrate further within the country or abroad (more popular option)
- Voluntary immobility - Intentional stayers
- To return to the places of origin
- “Being undecided”

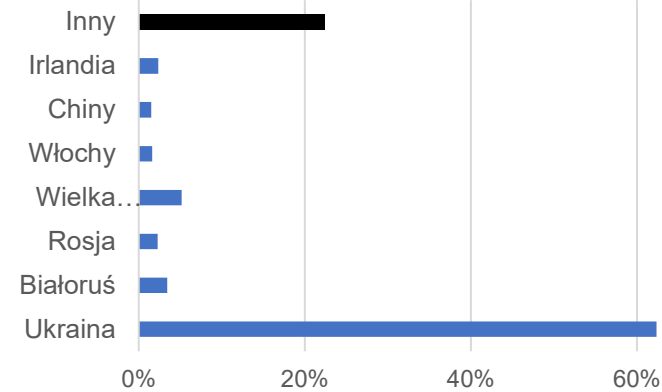


Research into integration patterns of economic migrants in Malopolska in 2021

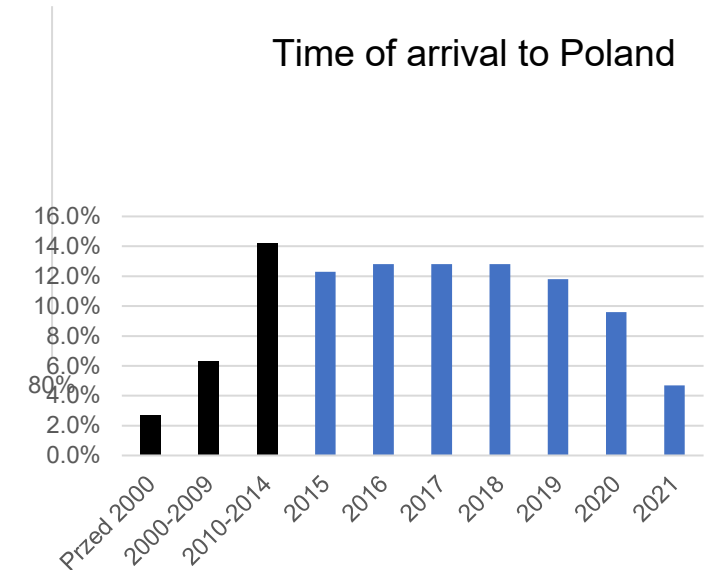
Age



Country of origin

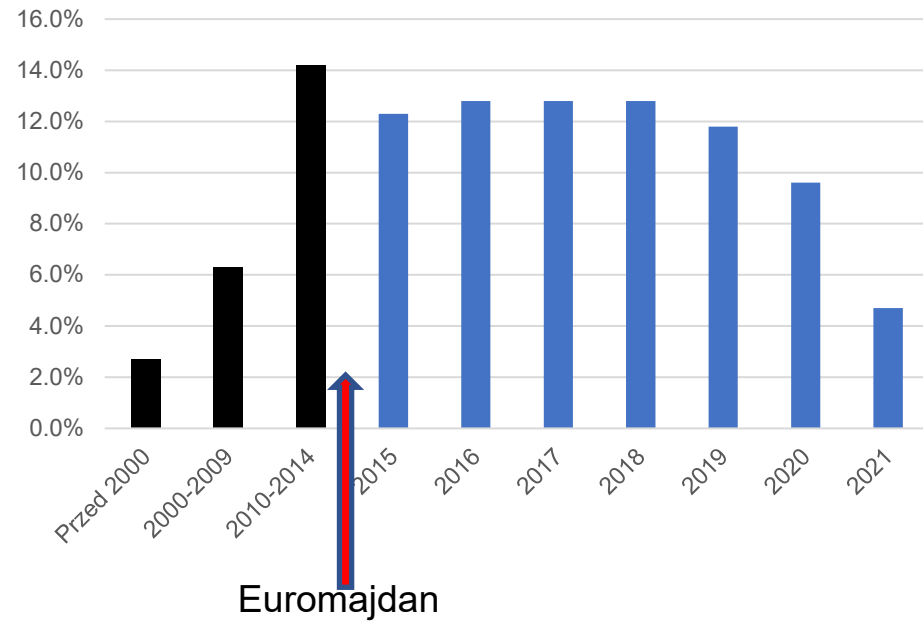


Time of arrival to Poland

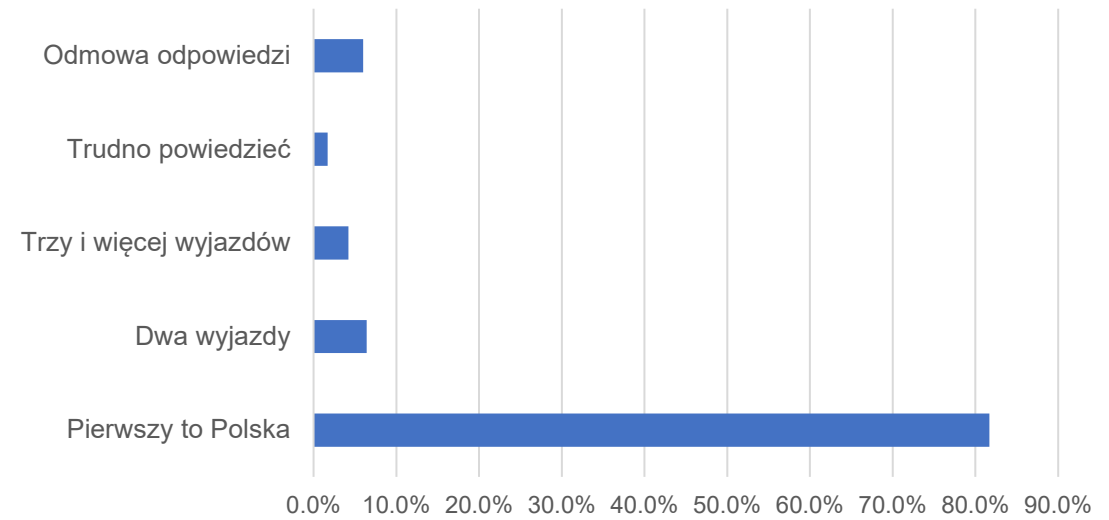


Migration history

Year of arrival to Poland

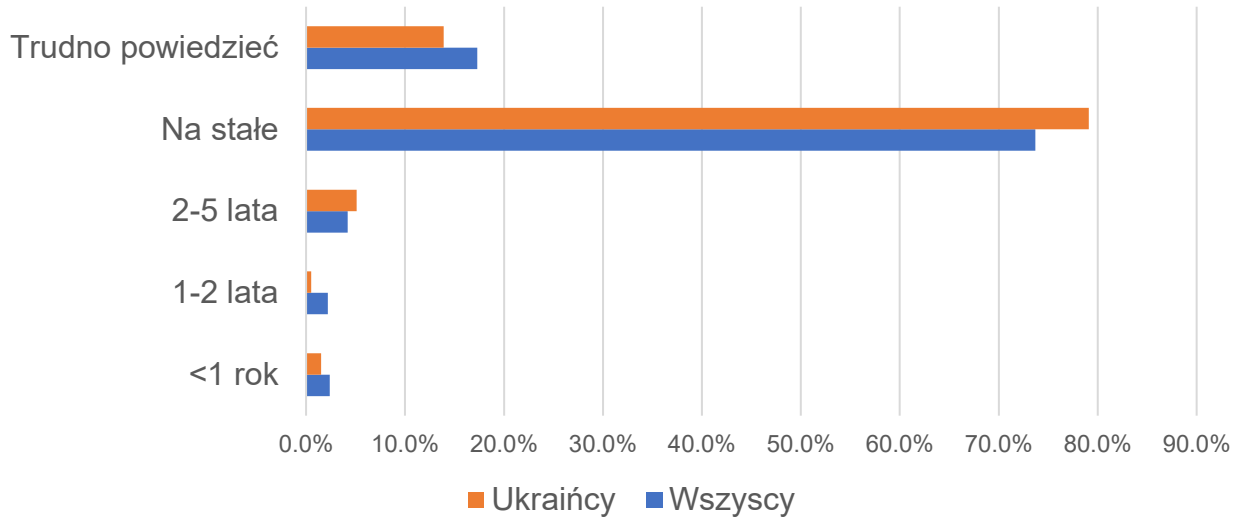


Number of migration episodes

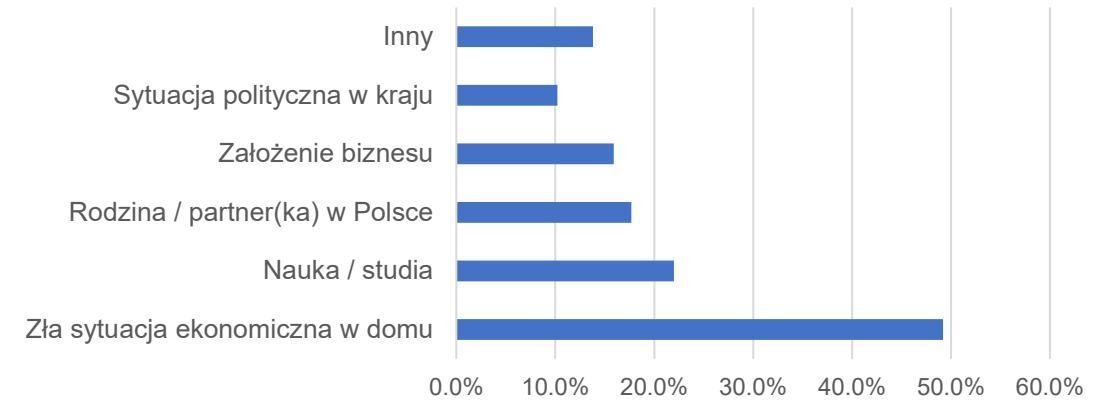


Reasons to come to Poland and plans for the future

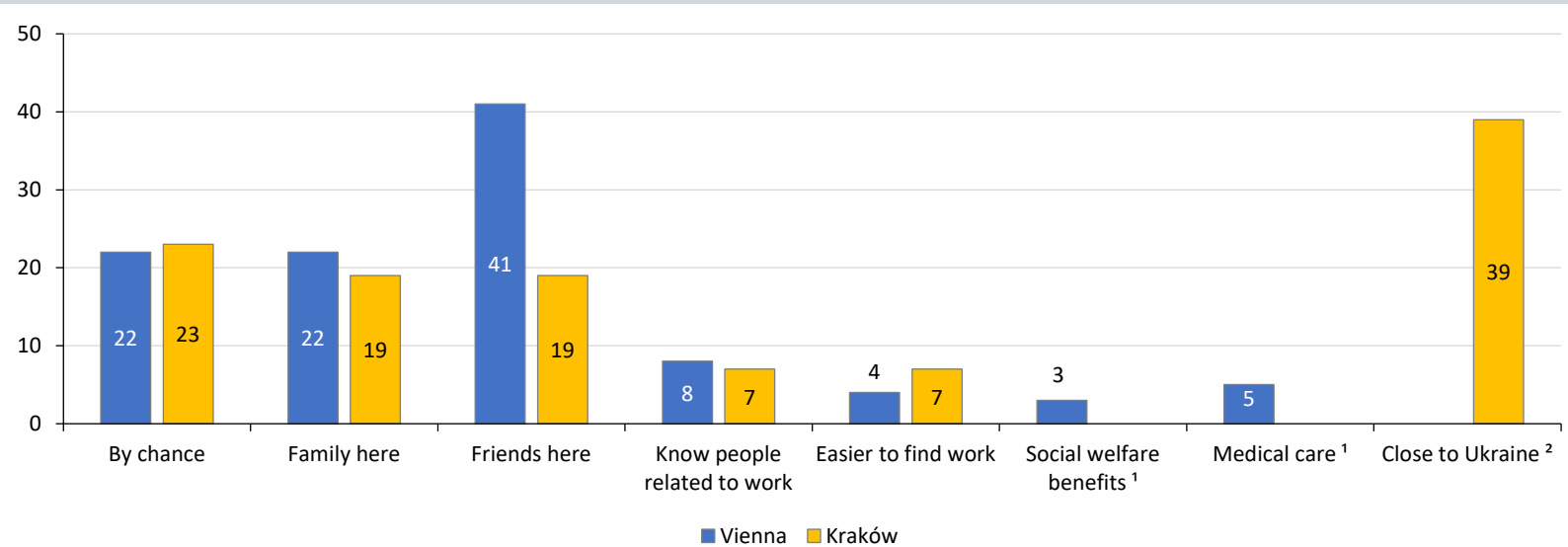
Planned stay in Poland



Reasons for coming to Poland

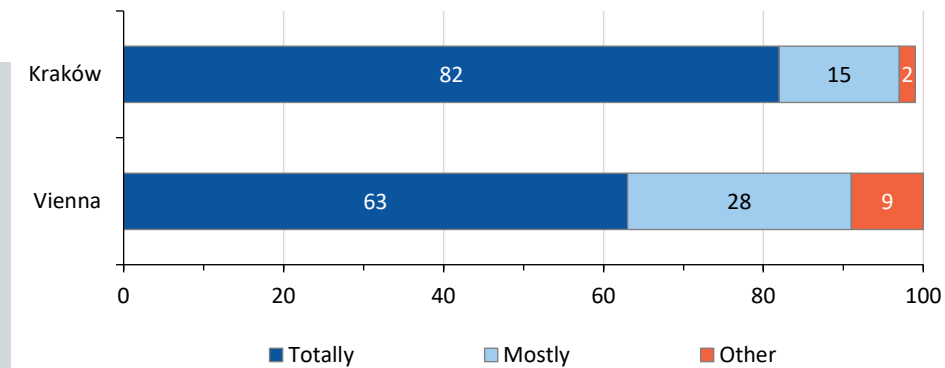


Understanding the migration journey of Ukrainian refugees (Why Poland? Why Austria?)

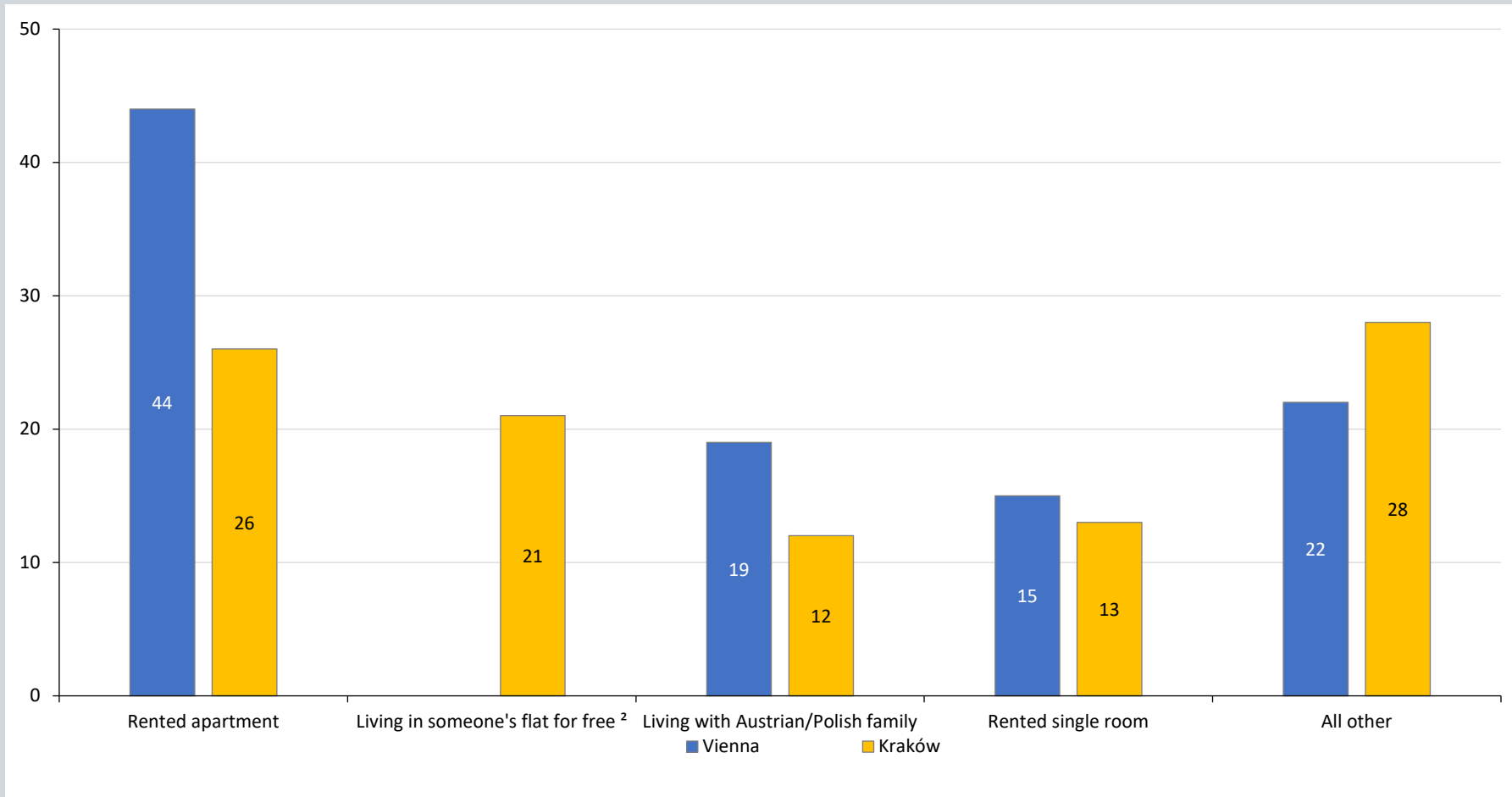


¹ option exclusive to Austrian survey
² option exclusive to Polish survey

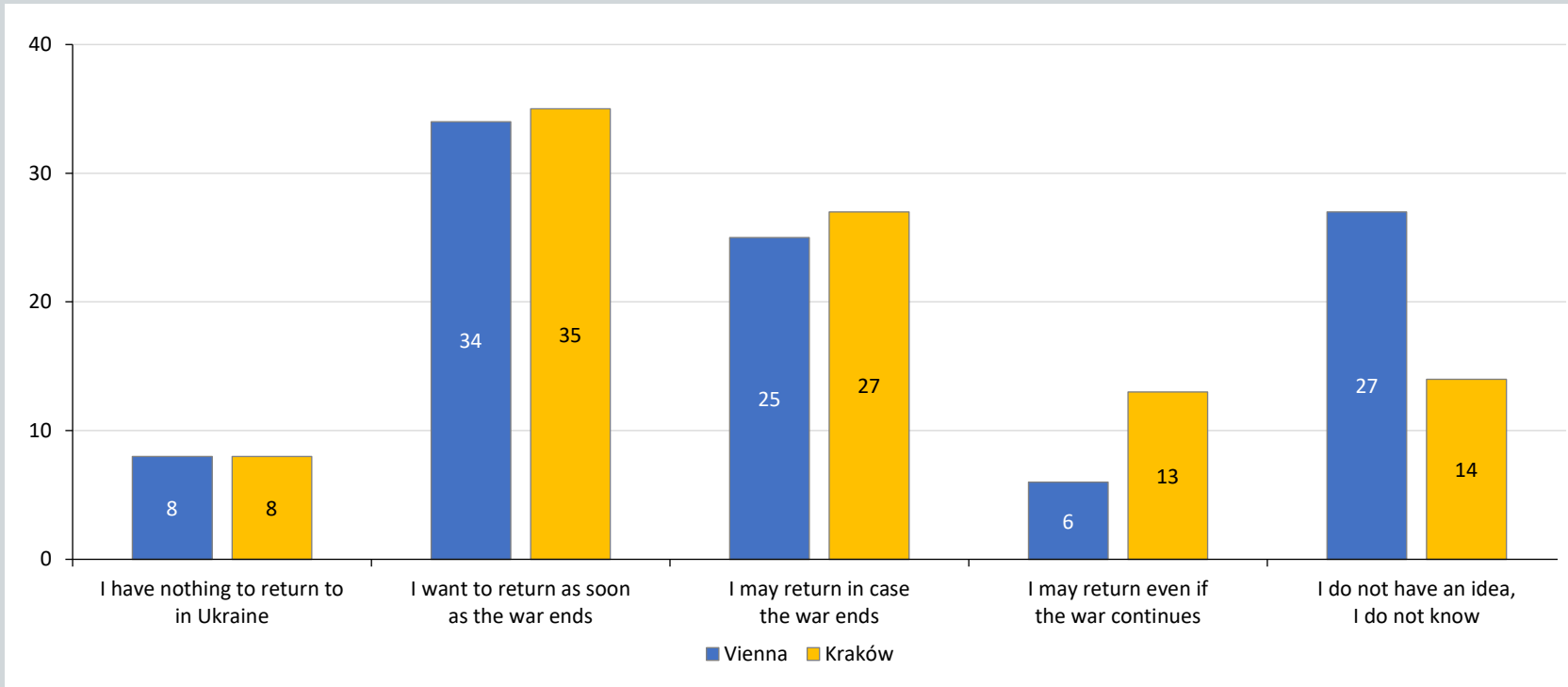
Feeling welcomed after the arrival



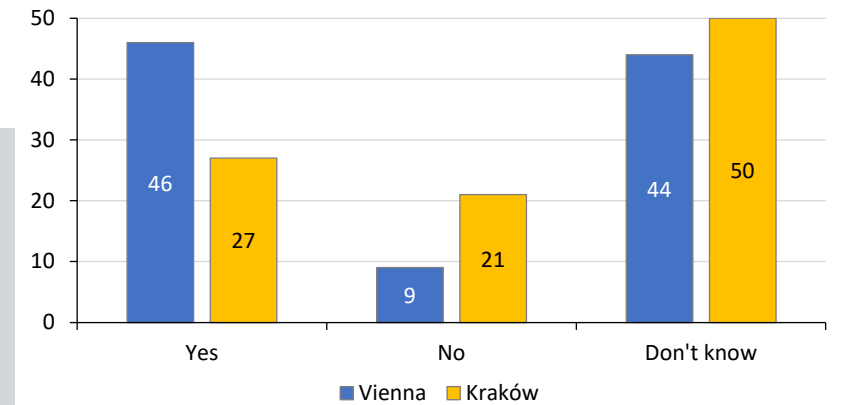
Current living situation of Ukrainian refugees



Return intentions



Plan to stay in Austria / Poland?



Key takeaways

Research in Ukraine

- Ukrainian capital city/region as an attractive destination for internal and external migrants
- Reluctance to leave the city/region even in spite of the brutal Russian invasion
- Willingness to return to the country/city in spite of ongoing war and Russian indiscriminate bombardment of Ukrainian cities

Research on economic migrants in Poland

- A very high percentage of respondents who declared that they had long-term life plans connected with Poland, or even intended to stay permanently
- Very high degree of economic integration of migrants
- The problem of economic marginalization or brain waste rather marginal

Research on forced migrants in Poland and Austria

- Ukrainian refugees in Austria and, to a lesser degree, in Poland are a **highly self-selected usually urban middle-class population**
- The **further refugees move from Ukraine**, the higher their socio-economic status & educational attainment and the **less pronounced their return intentions**

Thank you for the attention!



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