

UKRAINIANS ABROAD: NEWS AND VIEWS #159

Compiled by Serge Cipko, Coordinator, Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Initiative, CIUS (Email: scipko@ualberta.ca).

13 November 2022

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22. USA. "'Ukraine's Very Survival Is at Stake': How Ukrainian-Americans Could Influence the U.S. Midterms," *Globalnews.ca*, 2 November 2022.
23. USA. "New York's Ukrainian Museum: Repository for a Culture under Threat," *EFE News Service*, 7 October 2022.
24. USA. "Annual Ukrainian Festival in Washington DC 'Honours Ukrainians and Prays for Peace,'" *Kyiv Post*, 21 September 2022.

1. Conference on Post-1991 Ukrainian Immigration to Canada: Call for Papers.

From the website of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies:

Conference Call for Papers
Ukrainian Immigration to Canada: From Post Independence to Post War

University of Alberta - Edmonton, Canada

Conference dates: 21 & 22 April 2023

Call for papers: October 2022

Deadline for individual papers and panels/roundtable proposals: 11 January 2023

Notification of acceptance: 25 January 2023

Conference language: English

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union and Ukraine's declaration of independence in 1991, immigration from Ukraine to Canada has steadily risen, to a point that some have labeled it the "Fourth Wave". Yet, despite comprising more than 69,000 arrivals, the post-1991 wave of Ukrainians in Canada has been little-understood and certainly understudied. Nonetheless, a closer analysis of the household make-up, labour market participation, and patterns of social mobility of this group has in recent years become seen as imperative to understanding a meaningful faction of Canadian society, and there continues to be research conducted on this topic (Isajiw, Satzewich, & Duvalko, 2002; Lynn, 2014; Khanenko-Friesen, Satzewich, & Hwang, 2021).

The renewed full scale attack of the Russian Federation on Ukraine launched 24 February 2022 unleashed unprecedented migratory flows from Ukraine. More than eleven million in total have been displaced and millions have left Ukraine for safety. Already tens of thousands have arrived in Canada as Canada opened up its border to fleeing Ukrainians. Yet, the unprecedented *Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel* (CUAET) and the unknowns of its Ukrainian issues' long-term residency status has only underlined the importance of comprehending past Ukrainian migration and settlement trends.

As the organizing committee of **Ukrainian Immigration to Canada: From Post Independence to Post War**, we invite scholars working in various disciplines, including but not limited to Ukrainian studies, Canadian studies, sociology, history, anthropology, and political and cultural studies to address the following topics:

- What are the scope and parameters of post-1991 Ukrainian immigration overall?
- In what ways has post-1991 Ukrainian immigration to Canada contributed to Canadian society in general?
- What is the impact of post-1991 Ukrainian arrivals on Canada's pre-existing Ukrainian communities, as well as these Ukrainian Canadians' relationship with Ukraine? What level of integration is achieved between pre-existing Ukrainian Canadian networks and organizations and the post-1991 immigration cohort(s)?
- How have relationships between various segments of the Ukrainian Canadian community and post-1991 immigrants in Canada evolved in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine over the last eight years (2014 to present day)?
- What relationships have formed between community NGOs, local and national Ukrainian Canadian ethnocultural organizations, and Ukrainian immigrants to Canada after 1991, and in what ways have we seen these groups mobilized since February 2022?
- How have Canadians and Ukrainian Canadians responded to the arrival of Ukrainians fleeing the war and entering Canada under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET)?
- What data sources can be used for the study of recent immigration and CUAET arrivals?
- How can research on current and recent Ukrainian Canadian immigration inform policymakers and community leaders when considering the performance and impact of immigration programs?

We invite you to submit your presentation proposal on the above and related questions.

Proposals from senior scholars and early career researchers are invited for individual papers of twenty minutes duration (abstracts of approximately 250 words), or fully organized panels of three papers with indication of the panel chair (a panel proposal should include abstracts of approximately 250 words for each paper and a brief description of the panel topic). Each potential participant is to provide a short biography (50-75 words), including academic affiliation. Proposals on interdisciplinary research are welcome.

All proposals are to be sent to: jfedun@ualberta.ca

The Institute is applying for funding to cover partial expenditures of the symposium participants. More information will become available at a later date. The conference organizers will be putting together a collection of essays following the symposium based on best presentations at the conference.

Conference Organizing Committee

Natalia Khanenko-Friesen (Chair), Jenn Fedun, Oleksandr Pankieiev, Jars Balan

[<https://www.ualberta.ca/canadian-institute-of-ukrainian-studies/news-and-events/news-at-the-cius/2022/cfp-post-1991-conference.html>]:

2. Australia. “Uncertainty Haunts Ukrainians on Humanitarian Visas,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 October 2022.

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By Jordan Baker | Chief reporter

During the day, Ivan Borodin attends a Sydney primary school. He gets home at 3.30pm and has a snack. Then, from 4.30pm he does Ukrainian school online with his former classmates, who are scattered all over the world.

His teachers run the classes from different places. Sometimes it's from their homes. Sometimes, if the bomb alarms are ringing, they'll run them from a hiding place. Ivan knows when the bombs are falling because school is cancelled.

They cannot run lessons from the school itself because it has been damaged. Of Ivan's 36 classmates, none remain in their home city of Mykolaiv in southern Ukraine.

Ivan's mother, Natalia Borodina (which is the female version of Borodin), wishes he did not have to work so hard. “It's not easy,” she said. But their temporary humanitarian visa, 786, only lasts three years and under the present terms they have no option of staying longer or applying for another one.

Ukrainian school is harder than Australian school, his mother said, so if Ivan does not keep up she worries he will struggle if he goes back. “For example, part of the curriculum taught here in year 7 is taught in Ukraine in year 5,” said Borodina, who is a teacher.

The 4421 Ukrainian holders of 786 visas are also unable to return to the country if they leave, a rule causing significant distress for women who left their husbands, sons and brothers fighting in the war, and have elderly parents still in Ukraine.

Marta Artemenko from the Ukrainian Council of NSW said the vast majority of those who had fled to Australia were women and children, because most men aged between 18 and 60 were not allowed to leave the country.

The anxiety deepened this month, when Russia launched missiles at several cities in Ukraine, including the capital Kyiv, and amid increasing talk about nuclear weapons. “Ukraine is without electricity, without heating and it’s winter coming,” said Artemenko. “We are now disconnected from our families.”

Those holding a 786 visa cannot go back to visit their parents or sons, unless they seek permission from the Home Affairs Department, which, said Artemenko, only grants it in the most serious circumstances, such as a death.

Those with jobs in Australia cannot travel overseas for work.

The temporary humanitarian concern visa was created more than 20 years ago to deal with the urgent need to evacuate people amid violence from pro-Indonesian militia in East Timor, and to find homes for Albanian refugees who fled from violence in Kosovo during the Balkans war. Those who are in Australia on a temporary humanitarian visa cannot apply for a protection visa as they are not technically refugees. However, Russians leaving their country for fear of being conscripted and hoping for asylum in Australia can do so.

The Ukrainian community is calling on the federal government to use the discretion it has under the visa rules to lift some of the restrictions, such as the ban on applying for a further visa, or the ban on travelling.

“There’s uncertainty and ambiguity,” said Artemenko. “People are grateful that they have a safe place to stay for three years, they’re grateful that they’re alive and Australia has given them many opportunities. But if people make the effort to start their lives here from scratch, they want to know what comes next.”

Borodina’s husband was able to come with her, as men who have three children or more, as he does, are exempt, as are men who have a child with a disability or are a single parent. But they are worried about friends and relatives back home.

A Home Affairs spokesperson said, “the Australian government is committed to ensuring that Ukrainians can continue to reside in the Australian community with access to work, health, education and visa support services.”

3. Australia. “A United Nation Shows Their True Colours,” *Courier Mail*, 15 October 2022.

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By Georgia Clelland

AMID the horror of the war in their home country, Brisbane’s Ukrainian community will come together for a special humanitarian event today.

The Ukrainian Festival will showcase the country’s vibrant culture through costumes, food, dance, music and song at the Ukrainian Community Centre at Holland Park West from 11am.

Ukrainian Community of Queensland’s president, Peter Bongiorno, hopes the festival will raise \$25,000 to help support the resettlement of the 700 Ukrainians who fled to Queensland since the escalation of war.

“Coming along to our Ukrainian Festival will be a tremendous support,” he said. “It will not only help raise money, but it will also help lift the spirits of our community who have endured the unimaginable and are now trying to pick up the pieces of their life and find somewhere to live and somewhere to work. “The transition to a new country after the atrocities they’ve been through is phenomenal,” he said.

4. Canada. “Armstrong-Homeniuk Named Secretary for Ukrainian Refugee Settlement,” *Sherwood Park News*, 3 November 2022.

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By Travis Dosser

A local MLA who has been a strong voice during the invasion of Ukraine has been given a new role.

Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk has been chosen as Secretary for Ukrainian Refugee Settlement.

“I am very pleased to be given this role, as it allows me to continue my work on the Ukraine file, and to do more to help support Ukrainian refugees,” Armstrong-Homeniuk said.

The MLA, who is of Ukrainian descent, has served on the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations for three and a half years and she believes the work she has already done on the situation, along with her heritage, makes her ideal for the role.

“I will be meeting with stakeholders and the Ukrainian community, liaising to the Government of Alberta,” Armstrong-Homeniuk said. “I am committed to listening to their concerns, thoughts, and inputs into how we can best support Ukrainian refugees coming to Alberta.”

The Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville MLA said the role comes with a number of new responsibilities.

“I am tasked with finding gaps in existing supports for these refugees, and reporting this information directly to the premier,” she said. “I will be working in whatever way possible to ensure Ukrainian refugees face a smooth and welcoming resettlement process.”

Armstrong-Homeniuk said her role on the Advisory Council has kept her very active in the situation in Ukraine.

“Being of Ukrainian descent, and having deep roots in the constituency, I have the advantage of understanding the needs of the Ukrainian community,” she said.

The MLA expects Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville and Strathcona County will see more refugees resettling in the area.

“Like many Albertans, I have deep sympathy for those fleeing Ukraine as a result of Russia’s brutal invasion of that country,” she said. “My first task will be to perform a needs assessment to find out where we need to fill gaps in our support of these refugees, and I will be reporting to the premier with these findings, so we can proceed to ensure that Ukrainian refugees get the support they need and deserve.”

Armstrong-Homeniuk previously served as the Associate Minister of Status of Women, a position and portfolio no longer in the Alberta government.

“I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all those with whom I have had the pleasure of working with in the Ministry for the Status of Women. We have worked hard and have seen some amazing projects come to fruition,” Armstrong-Homeniuk said in a statement.

Premier Danielle Smith defended removing the Ministry for the Status of Women saying she is a woman and has four other women as senior cabinet ministers.

“If people think there's any danger that women are not going to be represented then I would ask that they just look at the composition that we have, Smith said.

With files from Jennifer Hamilton.

5. Canada. “Saskatoon Catholic School Division Breaks Enrolment Record as Ukrainian Bilingual School Adapts to Influx of Students,” *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*, 18 October 2022.

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By Phil Tank

Saskatoon's Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School has almost doubled its enrolment due to an influx of Ukrainian families fleeing the war in their country.

The school, which is part of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, had about 140 students last January. Since the war in Ukraine started in February, more than 100 new students have enrolled. Bishop Filevich superintendent Francois Rivard said it's been difficult to make all the necessary adjustments at the start of its 43rd year providing Ukrainian bilingual education.

"We had to hire a bunch of new teachers and support staff. It has been a big challenge upscaling this small, specialized 140-student school to a 240- going towards 300-student school. It is the largest growth in such a small amount of time we have ever seen for the school."

A report presented to the school board on Tuesday says 273 students are enrolled in Kindergarten to Grade 8 at the school.

"The student population is currently comprised of a nearly-even mix of students new to Canada and Canadian students," the report says. The overall number of enrolments in the division's Ukrainian Bilingual program has increased by 132, from 163 to 295.

The increase at Bishop Filevich has contributed to the division's total enrolment exceeding 20,000 students for the first time. Since June, more than 570 students who are new to Canada have been introduced to the division's schools.

As of Sept. 30, enrolment for pre-kindergarten to Grade 12 students is 20,513 - an increase of 943 from last year, and 540 more than projected. Those numbers are pending Ministry of Education approval.

Rivard said it's hard to fit the students into a specific profile.

"The new students are coming from all over Ukraine and have a variety of backgrounds. The vast majority are in that kindergarten to Grade 8 range that the Bishop Filevich school teaches. We also had some older students and we have guided them towards our Catholic high schools."

During the day, the students at Bishop Filevich are taught 50 per cent in Ukrainian and 50 per cent in English. The aim is to provide a high quality bilingual program that not only focuses on language but also educates students about Ukrainian culture.

A lot of the Ukrainians coming to Saskatchewan have pre-established connections within the strong Ukrainian community, but the change hasn't been easy. Most families had to leave in a hurry and arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs. Many husbands and fathers had to be left behind to fight in the war.

Rivard said the community has been an extraordinary help.

“Some people have gone beyond above-and-beyond to help the Ukrainian newcomers. I saw the community come together to provide clothes, shoes, water bottles, school supplies and so much more.”

Many of the students have experienced the war directly. Rivard said the school is making an extra effort to pay attention to these possible traumatic experiences.

“We have made sure to hire extra psychological counselling so we can help and monitor our students. This is not an issue we can ignore, and we will not.”

It’s unclear whether the new families will stay or return to Ukraine, where the situation is too unpredictable to make a decision.

Rivard said some have expressed interest in settling in Saskatchewan permanently, while others have said they want to go back as soon as possible. Many still have family in Ukraine and probably want to reunite with them somehow, Rivard noted.

“However long they plan to stay, we are happy to have been able to welcome all new and old Ukrainian students to our schools.”

- With files from Amanda Short

6. Canada. “Art Examines Immigration,” *Maple Ridge News*, 16 September 2022.

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By Colleen Flanagan

Ukrainian diaspora is focus of new show

An exhibit at the ACT Arts Centre examines Ukrainian migration to Canada.

Three artists – Ayla Dmyterko, Sonya Iwasiuk, and Darlene Kalynka – dove into their archival and family records to reflect on their individual ties to Ukrainian migration.

The exhibition, called Labour and Memory –Ukrainian-Canadian Contexts, combines the mediums of sculpture, installation, printmaking books, and moving image, to layer the past and present of Ukrainian-Canadian realities and examine how migration has impacted Ukrainian culture in Canada.

Dmyterko will combine performance, dance, poetry, and moving image to weave together threads of cultural knowledge and folk practices. Her moving image works choreograph snippets of memory into new imaginings of inherited stories.

Iwasiuk's art includes painting, sculpture, and installation. Iwasiuk has worked with archival photographs of Ukrainians arriving at Pier 21 in Halifax. Her work also reflects her lived experience on prairie landscapes.

Kalynka uses printmaking and bookmaking to explore themes of labour, sacrifice, and women's work. She travelled to her grandfather's village in Western Ukraine, and through her work, shared the journey of her return to her homeland.

"Through sustained effort, the Ukrainian diaspora maintained many aspects of their traditions, yet all cultures change through time and circumstance. Raised in Ukrainian farming families on the Prairies, the artists now perform the labour of research and reflection to learn more about themselves and generations past," according to the gallery.

Labour and Memory runs until Saturday, Oct. 29 at 11944 Haney Place.

Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10-3 p.m. Admission is free. Last weekend's opening reception featured artist talks by Kalynka and Iwasiuk.

7. Canada. "Pride on Display during Southwestern Manitoba Ukrainian Independence Day Celebration," *CBC News/Manitoba*, 28 August 2022.

Chelsea Kemp · CBC News

Southwestern Manitoba community members gathered together with pride Saturday to honour Ukrainian Independence Day.

The Discover Ukraine 3: Independence Day concert served as an opportunity to introduce people to Ukraine, said Julia Krykavska of the Brandon-based Canadian Ukrainian Association group Tryzub. Ukrainian Independence Day is officially marked on Aug. 24.

"This year's celebration is definitely different than ever because now we know what price we pay for independence and now we know what our ancestors were telling us back in the days when they're fighting for our land ... This is a tribute to Ukraine, to Ukrainian people who are fighting right now." Krykavska said. "We definitely pray each day for the freedom, for independence, for this war to be over, for the peace ... But, there is a lot of work to be done."

There was a drive to celebrate Independence Day even though it is a difficult time because it shows the world Ukraine is free and values its independence, Krykavska said.

The celebration was especially powerful, she added, as the majority of the concert performers were newcomer refugee youth from Ukraine.

The lead-up to the event was exciting for them because it helped build community bonds in Brandon, while also offering a taste of home for those displaced by the war.

“They had this opportunity to practice together ... to make friends here to become a good part of the community and they now feel like they are home,” Krykavska said.

The UN Refugee Agency has declared Ukraine a Level 3 emergency, the highest possible level. The ongoing humanitarian crisis has seen more than 5.6 million individual refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe since the start of the Russian invasion on Feb. 24. More than 8.7 million border crossings from Ukraine have been recorded and more than 7.1 million people are estimated to be displaced in the country.

Between Jan. 1 and Aug. 21 more than 77,000 Ukrainians arrived in Canada.

Independence Day shows ‘united front’

Tryzub member Vartan Davtian travelled to Ukraine soon after the war began as a volunteer.

When he arrived it was a time of chaos as soldiers and civilians adapted to a life of war.

“It’s my people,” he said. “I think it’s very important. Lots of people just looking on TV in this world, just like movie. It’s not movie, it’s real life.”

For him, it is essential to remember that Ukrainians affected by the invasion were people who had never experienced war — Now their lives are filled with uncertainty and the constant threat of violence.

During the Independence Day concert, Davtian auctioned off T-shirts created by youth in Ukraine as a fundraiser. He also shared his experiences of being in Ukraine to help people understand how Tryzub donations are put to use.

For now, he is hopeful for the future, he said, but understands that if they hope to celebrate a future independence day they must win the war against Russia to keep their freedoms.

His focus now is on fundraising in Brandon. One of Davtian’s new goals is encouraging Ukrainians to donate 10 per cent of their salary to help rebuild the country and aid refugees.

“Today feels much better because it all people [who] came together, it feels united,” Davtian said.

Tryzub volunteer and member Olga Boiko helped organize the event marking Ukraine’s 31st anniversary of independence.

“Even though ... war is in Ukraine and everything we feel that we Ukrainian diaspora, we need to do our best to celebrate loud,” Boiko said. “We know the goal, we know why we’re doing this. We know that we need to earn money to help them.”

Tryzub members in Brandon have been rallying to raise money for both Ukrainian refugees arriving in Canada and those who have remained behind in her besieged homeland.

Boiko has been in Brandon since 2010 hailing from a region north of Kyiv. The town is located near the Belarus border and her parents are still in the area.

“Those villages who are close to the border, they still hear some shootings day-to-day,” Boiko said. “[They] do not relax.”

Her parents have an emergency bag packed with key documents in case they are forced to evacuate.

It is hard for parents to plan for the future because things are so uncertain, said Boiko. She feels like each donation raised by Tryzub is playing an important part in bringing victory day closer to Ukraine and hope that Independence in the country will be secured.

“We are not going to give up and we are continuing what we do,” Boiko said. “Ukraine needs everybody’s help, and I believe that when we all together, we will win.”

[<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/pride-on-display-during-southwestern-manitoba-ukrainian-independence-day-celebration-1.6564716>]

8. Croatia. “Croatian-Ukrainian Society for Naming a Zagreb Street after Mariupol,” HINA, 25 October 2022.

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ZAGREB, 25 Oct (Hina) - The Croatian-Ukrainian Society has submitted a proposal to Zagreb’s city authorities to name “an appropriate street” in Zagreb Mariupol Street.

The proposal to name a street after the Ukrainian city of Mariupol was sent to the committee for naming suburbs, streets and squares in the Zagreb City Assembly at the end of September and it was signed by the president of the Croatian-Ukrainian Association Đuro Vidmarović. The committee has received the proposal but has not yet added it to its agenda.

“Due to the Russian aggression against Ukraine, we are witnessing the destruction of Ukrainian cities and villages and their infrastructure, and the Ukrainian city of Mariupol has become a byword of the horrors that Ukraine and the Ukrainian people are currently going through. Today’s Mariupol, almost destroyed but unconquered, has become a symbol of suffering, suffering and resistance to Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, just as the Croatian Vukovar became a symbol of Croatia during the Homeland War,” the proposal underscored.

Vidmarović confirmed that the proposal came from the Ukrainian ethnic community in Croatia and that it was accepted and forwarded by the Croatian-Ukrainian Society.

The chairwoman of the above-mentioned committee, Rada Borić, confirmed that the proposal has been received.

“We will talk with the Croatian-Ukrainian Society. But, unfortunately, suburbs are no longer being systematically built in the city for us to have a new street to name. We are left with green areas and parks. We will talk and see what can be done. Renaming, any street, unfortunately, is not an option,” said Borić.

She also assessed how controversial it is to rename a street, adding that that means that all citizens in that street have to change their identity cards at their own expense, and in addition, documents and information in the registers must also be changed by all companies registered there.

The Ukrainian community in Zagreb has also requested that the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra should not perform the works of Russian composers as long as Russia’s war of aggression is raging.

9. General. “For Ukrainian Refugees, E.U. Promise Falls Short,” *Washington Post*, 28 October 2022.

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By Rick Noack, Meg Kelly, Dan Rosenzweig-Ziff, Ladka Bauerova

As Ukrainians lined up outside the Prague employment office one morning, relief and frustration were only meters apart.

Zoya Valentinovna Vakulenko, 70, said she’d arrived in the Czech Republic in March and considered herself lucky to have found stable housing in a refugee center and paid work as a night receptionist there.

But waiting in a separate line designated for people with young children, Katya, 34, said her family was encountering growing hostility in a country that only months earlier welcomed Ukrainians enthusiastically.

“Our children are often chased from the playground by Czech kids because they speak Ukrainian,” she said.

Katya, Zoya and the millions of other Ukrainians who fled to the European Union have received the same promise through the Temporary Protection Directive: You can live, work, receive health care and send your children to school in whichever E.U. country you want to settle in for up to three years.

Seven months on, the 27 E.U. countries have accommodated these refugees to an extent they claimed was impossible during the Syrian migrant crisis of 2015 and 2016. But temporary protection has been far from a golden ticket. Many refugees have had to move from place to place and have yet to secure employment. Within a refugee population consisting primarily of women and children, mothers with young kids say it’s been especially hard to find time to seek

job interviews or enroll in language lessons. In some cases, success at registering their children in school and otherwise building new lives has depended on the country, city or even street they chose - or were sent to.

As many as 3 million Ukrainians have gone back - because it seemed safe enough, because they wanted to be near home and family or, for some, because life as a refugee was frustratingly hard. But as of mid-October, 4.5 million Ukrainians had registered for temporary protection - more than double the number of people who sought sanctuary in 2015 and 2016.

“Many Ukrainians are going to stay here for a long time. Maybe months, maybe years, maybe forever,” said Helena Krajewska, a spokeswoman for Polish Humanitarian Action, one of the country’s largest aid groups. “We need to help them be able to provide for themselves.”

As the war drags on and the ripple effects are felt throughout the continent, the transition from temporary relief to longer-term support is putting the bloc’s commitments to the test.

Looking for work

For all the distress involved in fleeing a homeland that has become a war zone, this wave of Ukrainian refugees began arriving in the European Union at a somewhat fortuitous time: E.U. countries have been facing labor shortages and are desperate for motivated workers.

Governments and business groups moved quickly to court the newcomers with sponsorship programs and job fairs.

And yet finding employment has been hard for Ukrainians who can’t yet meet language requirements, or who have had to get their children settled in a new country, or who ended up in places without prior experience incorporating new arrivals.

About one-third of Ukrainian refugees 16 and older who fled to the E.U. were employed, according to recent surveys conducted by Kantar Public. That’s slightly higher than in a survey by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) conducted in 43 host nations, most of which are in Europe. The UNHCR found that 28 percent of refugees were employed or self-employed, compared with 63 percent before leaving Ukraine, and that 47 percent of households were relying on social benefits as their main source of income. In E.U. countries, lack of child care and language limitations were cited far more widely than the absence of employment opportunities as reasons people couldn’t get jobs.

Alla Borodan, a 47-year-old educator who arrived in Germany with her teenage daughter in early March, was among those who landed work quickly. Within days, she was cleaning and babysitting for Berlin families. Then, after posting her résumé on job sites, she was offered a teaching and speech therapy position at a local preschool that had taken in some Ukrainian children. The job did not require her to speak German. She started in early April.

“If there is a desire, then work can be found,” she said.

Tetiana Laricheva, a 32-year-old tech worker, insists it's not about desire.

The Larichevs, originally from Donetsk, moved to Kharkiv in 2014 after Russian-backed separatists initiated an armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. Eight years later, they fled again, this time for the German capital, hoping the language classes Laricheva took in college would help. She spent much of the initial weeks filling out paperwork and getting her two children, Dasha, 9, and Dima, 6, into school. It was tough to carve out time to rewrite her résumé in German. And then, when she was able to actively look for a job, she found most employers didn't consider her fluent enough for a position in IT. For months, she couldn't even get an interview.

Jean-Christophe Dumont, a migration expert at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), said the employment level among Ukrainian refugees "is already not bad when you look at other refugee groups" who have taken longer to be integrated.

But employment rates for Ukrainian refugees in the E.U. vary greatly from country to country. On the high end is Poland, where more than half of working-age refugees are employed. It helped that Ukrainian expat communities in Poland mobilized to help connect newcomers with potential employers.

At the low end of the spectrum is France, where language barriers and the lack of a preexisting diaspora has hampered labor-market integration, so that only about 15 percent of working-age Ukrainian refugees may have found jobs.

Among those who are working in the E.U., government data and surveys suggest that many are either precariously employed or overqualified for what they're doing. Ukrainian refugees in Poland, for instance, are primarily working in lower-wage sectors - logistics, manufacturing, agriculture, construction, hospitality - even though many have higher qualifications.

Tetyana Panchenko, a migration specialist at the German Ifo Institute for Economic Research, interviewed a wide range of Ukrainian refugees this summer. She said many who found work in Germany aren't filling labor shortages in the broader economy, but are helping with Germany's response to the refugee influx in positions that often require no or little German skills.

Searching for a home

For some Ukrainian refugees, the housing situation, too, has kept them from feeling settled. Many people are still living in temporary accommodations - in refugee centers, in hotels, with host families.

In the recent UNHCR survey, only a quarter of respondents said they were renting a place of their own.

Now some of those temporary arrangements are expiring. Aid organizations say they are seeing waning interest among private citizens willing to host refugees. It was one thing for people to offer a spare room for a few months. It's a different proposition when the war has no end in

sight. Meanwhile, some countries and municipalities are pulling back support for accommodation.

In Latvia, several cities that enthusiastically welcomed Ukrainians earlier this year have warned them to stay away, saying they have run out of money to help put people up.

Polish authorities have begun closing or downsizing some refugee centers, and have tightened access to a program that pays families to host refugees.

In the UNHCR survey, 27 percent of respondents said they would need to find new accommodations in the subsequent six months.

“Countries did a very good job in the first phase,” Dumont said. But “shifting from these initial reception centers to the regular housing market is a big challenge.”

The situation is especially tense in Prague, which already had one of the world’s hottest housing markets before the Czech Republic took in 450,000 refugees - more relative to its population than any other country in Europe. The arrival of refugees grew the capital, Prague, by 7 percent, overwhelming public housing and further straining the rental market.

“At the beginning people were relatively open to renting to Ukrainians, but their attitude has changed,” said Petra Vybiralova, a local real estate agent. “Even though the Ukrainians are willing to pay, many landlords have developed aversion to them. A lot of people now feel that the Ukrainians are getting preferential treatment. They are also afraid that they will suddenly leave after a few months.”

Analyst Martina Kavanova, from PAQ Research, found that more than half of all Ukrainians in the country live in cramped conditions. Some lack the privacy of having their own bathroom or the security of having their own key.

The housing situation for Ukrainian refugees in the E.U. is far superior to what many other asylum seekers have faced - like the notorious camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, where a garbage-strewn tent city has been replaced with a complex fenced with razor wire and conditions are regularly declared inhumane.

At the same time, the places where Ukrainian refugees are staying often fall short of the “suitable” housing the E.U. promised as a right for anyone receiving temporary protection. Refugees who arrived after April, and members of minorities such as Ukraine’s Roma community, have had the greatest difficulty securing housing.

Lilia Rusenko and Olha Petrenko were part of a small group of Roma refugees who were initially placed in a dormitory on the outskirts of Prague.

“We didn’t even have a key to lock our door,” said Rusenko, 43.

“It was full of bugs that were biting us during the night,” said Petrenko. “We slept with the light on because we were afraid to turn it off.”

When they complained, officials inspected the facility, acknowledged the infestation and promised help. The women were asked to hand over all of their clothing - including, humiliatingly, what they were wearing. Officials promised to wash, disinfect and return the clothes, Rusenko said, but never did. The group eventually moved to a dormitory run by a nongovernmental organization for Roma.

An hour’s drive from Prague, in Germany, spare rooms offered to refugees sit unused. States and cities in Germany are in some cases refusing to accept more than their official allocation of refugees, saying they have reached their capacity, said Georgia Homann of Accommodation Ukraine, which connects refugees with private hosts.

In theory, refugees are free to move anywhere in Germany. But in practice, they only receive state support if they accept being distributed to one of the country’s 16 federal states based on a quota system. If they settle in a place that has blocked new arrivals, they won’t be able to access state funds.

Seeking a school

Also among the E.U.’s promises to Ukrainian refugees: access to education.

More than 671,000 Ukrainian children had been integrated into E.U. school systems by mid-October. That’s more than the entire student population in primary and secondary schools in Finland.

But the bloc hasn’t said how many children are still not enrolled. Some estimates put it in the hundreds of thousands.

Lack of space in local schools is the most widely cited reason that refugee families haven’t enrolled their children, according to the UNHCR.

School systems in some of the countries that have accepted the most refugees, including the Czech Republic and Poland, were under pressure even before the war in Ukraine. “There were not many teachers, not enough resources, not enough space,” said Lucie Cerna, an OECD education analyst.

In Prague, some refugees report having had to go from school to school to find spots for their children.

“It’s like: Are you lucky or not lucky?,” said Tatiyana B., 44, who spoke to The Washington Post on the condition that only her last initial would be used, out of concern for her safety. She had searched anxiously for schools for her 10-year-old daughter, who has a hearing disability. It was only with the help of aid workers that she found a school that could support her daughter’s needs.

Other refugees say they were hesitant to register their children in schools knowing that their housing situation was only temporary - and not knowing where they'd be relocated next. Requirements for enrollment can be cumbersome and difficult to navigate, too. "Schools in some countries request medical reports, proof of vaccination and authenticated translation of academic records written in Ukrainian as a precondition to enroll children, which refugees often struggle to provide," the UNHCR reported.

Once students are enrolled, countries have taken different approaches to their education. In Poland, the vast majority of Ukrainian students have been mainstreamed into regular classrooms, a form of teaching that can help integrate newcomers but can be challenging for students who don't yet speak the language.

Germany relies on a different model of separate "welcoming classes" that provide language instruction and support (and don't slow German students down in their studies). Although the goal is to integrate students as soon as possible, many expect to remain in separate classes for months or even years.

The possibility of virtual school presents a further option. About 20 percent of parents told the UNHCR that they would prefer to keep their children in remote learning, following the Ukrainian curriculum.

"Often for older kids, it's harder for them to learn new languages, join a new school," said Hugh Reilly, a spokesman for UNICEF's emergency response office in Poland.

Initial reluctance, though, may be fading. Whereas many Ukrainian families "were expecting that they could return home," some are now prepared for a longer stay, said the OECD's Cerna.

But as Europe's welcome for Ukrainian refugees enters a new stage, some worry about what's next. From Berlin to Prague, protesters have demonstrated against E.U. sanctions on Russia, with some arguing that their government is prioritizing support for Ukraine over its own citizens. Government aid for Ukrainian refugees has so far "been buttressed by really tremendous public solidarity," Reilly said. "But for that to continue, it's going to need sustained and significant support."

Noack and Rosenzweig-Ziff reported from Berlin, Bauerova and Kelly from Prague. Florian Neuhof in Berlin, Darima Batorova in Prague, Annabelle Chapman in Paris, Julia Alekseeva in Warsaw and Rennie Svirnovskiy in Washington contributed to this report.

10. General. "Ukrainian Refugees: Challenges in a Welcoming Europe," *Brookings*, 14 October 2022.

Omer Karasapan
Partner - Strategies for Stability

In October 2022 the U.N. listed 7.6 million Ukrainian refugees across Europe, including 2.85 million in Russia—many of the latter were sent there by Russian occupiers and were subjected to a "filtration" process with credible reports of war crimes emerging, including evidence of

executions and torture. Some 4.2 million Ukrainian refugees have registered for the EU's temporary protection scheme or other national programs. A further 3.1 million had returned to Ukraine as of June 2022 when the U.N. also noted 6.9 million internally displaced peoples.[1] In all, nearly one-third of Ukrainians have been displaced. A further 13 million are stranded within Ukraine due to fighting, impassable routes, or lack of resources to move.

Most refugees are now in wealthier EU countries after first crossing into neighboring Poland (5.4 million), Hungary (1.2 million), Romania (1 million), Slovakia (690,000), and Moldova (573,000). Table 1 shows the top ten hosting countries.

Table 1. Top ten countries hosting Ukrainian refugees (excluding Russia)

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Ukrainian Refugees</i>
Poland	1,422,482
Germany	997,895
Czechia	442,443
Italy	170,646
Spain	145,838
Turkey	145,000
United Kingdom	134,200
France	105,000
Austria	83,081
Netherlands	79,250

Source: UNHCR, October 4, 2022

Greatly facilitating this influx was the EU's Temporary Protection regime for Ukrainians that ensures the right to work, health, education, shelter, and financial support for up to three years. Also helpful were the EU's Ukrainian diaspora, including 1.4 million in Poland, 250,000 in Italy, and more elsewhere.

The magnitude and rapidity of the influx and the large numbers returning are unprecedented even if global experience shows that “refugees do not fully cease returning at any time”. The numerousness of returnees is due to a peaceful border area, the large number of separated families as men 18-60 years old are prohibited from leaving Ukraine, and trust in re-entering the EU. Ukrainian resistance and Russian withdrawals from around cities like Kyiv and elsewhere also mattered.

The EU has been much more welcoming to Ukrainians than to asylum seekers from the Middle East, Africa, and Afghanistan who have been met with violent pushbacks from Poland to Italy to Greece and beyond—often with the participation of the EU border agency Frontex. Still, it has been challenging as refugee fatigue slowly emerges in Poland, Germany, the U.K. and elsewhere—not at a crisis stage yet but a cautionary sign as a tough winter on the economic and energy fronts looms. Alarmed, Google is launching a campaign against disinformation about Ukrainian refugees.

Relative to other refugees, the OECD says Ukrainian refugees' educational profile, existing social networks, and immediate access to employment facilitate integration. But with women and children comprising up to 90 percent of Ukrainian refugees, there are specific challenges, e.g., schooling for children, child care and jobs for caretakers, and emotional and psychological support, especially for children. Other challenges range from missing documents to housing to human trafficking abound.

Unsurprisingly, schooling for the 2 million Ukrainian children in Europe is something that the EU and member countries can deploy when they want to. The programs range from individualized learning plans in Sweden and Finland to the European Commission's multilingual tools to teach local languages. Portugal has bilingual material in Portuguese and Ukrainian as do Lithuania and Spain. Both France and the U.K. have immersion programs with language support. Romania's existing 55 schools teaching in Ukrainian will now accommodate refugee children where possible. Summer camps have been organized with Ukrainian organizations in the EU, Moldova, and Turkey.

For children especially, the trauma of the violence accompanying war and the disorienting separation from loved ones requires emotional and psychological support. Austria has a mobile intercultural teams program for refugee children and parents with access to psychologists. Netherlands' Pharos program provides social-emotional support while adaptation classes in Belgium, Denmark, France, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain also provide psychological support.

Underlining that each country has its own challenges, Poland had 300,000 slots ready for the coming school year but placement is problematic, especially in big cities. This year, more Polish children are attending secondary school as reforms increased those eligible and there are record numbers of teaching vacancies. The latter is also an issue in Germany with 150,000 enrolled Ukrainian children. There are also "welcoming" classes assisted by refugee Ukrainian teachers—modeled on the mostly Syrian influx of 2015. It has also facilitated enrollment in universities while trying to juggle mandates on compulsory education and online schooling as Ukrainian children link to schools back home—some attending both at a cost. Psychologists are available in schools.

Germany and Poland also provide insights on employment. In Germany, 350,000 Ukrainian refugees are registered as looking for employment. With 900,000 job vacancies, surveys suggest that up to 50 percent of Ukrainians have found a job but the Federal Employment Agency cites a 10 percent figure. Also, the fit between skill levels and jobs remains problematic—threatening de-skilling and depression. The main barrier is German language skills. Employers also look for long-term commitments. Most jobs are in transport and logistics, sales, services, and health care. However, many of these jobs still demand professional certification. Elder care is a readily available option but pay is low and working conditions demanding.

Poland's unemployment rate of 2.7 percent means Ukrainians are welcomed given the aging population and a labor shortage—common across the EU. With \$3.4 billion in government funds and \$2.1 billion from private sources, much aid is going to Ukrainians from language classes to childcare and more. Some 1.2 million Ukrainians have received social security numbers and

around half have found a job. The World Bank expects a medium-term impact of 1.5 percent on economic growth. Here again, however, language can be a challenge as can matching skills to jobs. As of August 2022, a further 100,000 were employed in Czechia and 20,000 in Italy. The OECD says that 1.2 million Ukrainian refugees will eventually be added to the European workforce, mainly in service jobs.

Also significant has been the exodus from Europe of mostly male, working Ukrainians who headed home to fight and/or help families, including 150,000 who left Poland. They mostly held blue collar jobs, not immediately replaceable by Ukrainian refugees, who are mostly women and many with higher education and facing EU legislation limiting women's physical work.

The welcome afforded Ukrainian refugees is impressive but doesn't presage a similar engagement with refugees from elsewhere. EU members, including Poland, Hungary and others who welcomed Ukrainians continue pushing back other asylum seekers. Also facing harsh discrimination are Ukraine's Roma refugees. The Center for Global Development notes lessons from the Rohingya displacements, including local engagement, listening to refugees and host communities, skills training and the right to work, sustained international support to host countries, etc. All lessons are spot-on, but they are not new. Europe knows how best to support refugees, but the support seems to depend on who they are. Until that changes, the tragedy of forced displacement is likely to be compounded with each new refugee crisis.

[1] As of September 2022, there were 11.9 million cross-border movements (not individuals, including non-Ukrainians and those with multiple crossings) from Ukraine to neighboring countries as of February 24, 2022, and 6.1 million similar border crossings into Ukraine since February 28, 2022.

11. General. "Possibilities of Engaging the Ukrainian Diaspora in Reconstruction and Development Explored at ODIHR Event," *OSCE.org*, 7 October 2022.

Opportunities and challenges of engaging the Ukrainian diaspora in post-conflict reconstruction and development, including examples of good practices from other countries' diasporas, were discussed at an event organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) on 6 October 2022 during the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference.

"Diasporas play a vital role that remains under-appreciated in the post-conflict process," said Maria Koinova, Professor of International Relations at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom. "The Ukrainian diaspora provides financial support from afar for the reconstruction of buildings, houses, and family businesses. But beyond financing projects to assist the recovering economy, they can bring institutional change and expertise from abroad. From a human rights perspective, they can also play a major role in transitional justice processes to confront, understand, and find ways of compensating the human rights violations that have taken place."

The 31 participants included authorities from OSCE participating States, experts and practitioners from civil society, including Ukrainian diaspora organizations, and academia from across the OSCE region. Speakers and participants reflected on specific characteristics of the Ukrainian diaspora, discussed key mobilizing drivers and possibilities for diaspora engagement.

The participants concluded that all those involved in reconstruction efforts, including the Ukrainian authorities and those in countries hosting the Ukrainian diaspora, should already consider strategies for enabling future engagement and ensuring the voice of the diaspora is heard and their contribution is fully recognised. In this regard, the focus on democratic institutions and human rights will be of key importance. Participants also learned more about ODIHR's plans to bring diaspora scholars and Ukrainian diaspora organizations together to produce a set of related policy recommendations.

[<https://www.osce.org/odihr/528231>]

12. Germany. "Ukrainians in Germany Fear Russian Deserters," *DW News*, 27 September 2022.

Oliver Pieper

A growing number of Russian men are trying to leave their country to avoid being drafted into the army. Many in Germany are willing to grant them asylum. But the Ukrainian community is more than skeptical.

When Ukrainian national Kateryna Rietz-Rakul first heard that Germany wants to take in Russian deserters, she thought it was a bad joke. "I thought this can't possibly be true, I couldn't believe it at first. Until I watched the evening news," says the interpreter, who has lived and worked in Germany for 20 years.

There, she was amazed to see German politicians from all three ruling parties literally falling over themselves with offers of help for the Russian conscientious objectors who are seeking to leave the country since President Vladimir Putin announced the partial mobilization last week.

"Those who hate Putin's policies and love liberal democracy are welcome to join us in Germany," said German Justice Minister Marco Buschmann from the neoliberal Free Democrats (FDP).

"To support such people, to give refuge to such people, I really think that is natural reaction," said Lower Saxony's Premier Stephan Weil from Chancellor Olaf Scholz's center-left Social Democrats (SPD).

And the parliamentary secretary of the Green Party, Irene Mihalic, demanded: "Anyone who does not want to take part in Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine, which is contrary to international law and murderous, and therefore flees Russia, must be granted asylum in Germany."

Rietz-Rakul, who works with Ukrainian fellows at the Humboldt Forum, cannot understand this attitude. Giving asylum to Russian deserters is a clear political mistake, she says. "These are not opposition figures or dissidents. These are men who just don't want to risk their own lives. They had no problem with Russian policy until just a few days ago, and now they have woken up. But it's not the West's job to protect these people."

The Ukrainian recalls videos that have gone viral these past few days. They show the situation at Russia's border with Georgia. An estimated 50,000 Russians have already fled to the neighboring country in recent days, partly because Poland and the Baltic states have virtually closed their borders to Russians, fearing infiltration by spies.

“That's where we see Russians getting upset because they're being turned away because they either have a Z sticker on their car or Z tattoos on their body,” Rietz-Rakul says. She is referring to the letter “Z” which has come to symbolize support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

“And then you hear comments like, ‘Georgians, you better remember the tanks of 2008’ [when Russia invaded Georgia — the ed.]. In Germany, people always say, if only we had listened to the Eastern Europeans earlier. But now they're not listening to the Eastern Europeans again,” Rietz-Rakul complains.

But can Germany really turn away people who don't want to join the Russian war of aggression?

One argument often repeated by German politicians is that every soldier who receives asylum in this country is one less soldier for Putin's army. But that's a naive fallacy, according to Kateryna Rietz-Rakul. “Russia will get its 300,000 or one million reservists together one way or another. Letting some deserters into Germany won't change that fact — it will just mean that we will have a big security problem here.”

Major challenge: security screening

The Federal Interior Ministry has stressed that asylum is granted on a case-by-case basis that includes a security check. Especially with applicants who are members of the Russian military, it is necessary to know who they actually are. Friedrich Merz, the chairman of the largest opposition party, the center-right Christian Democrats (CDU) has said in an interview with private broadcaster Bild TV that he is “strictly against providing access to Germany for all conscientious objectors to military service, and the mobilization in Russia.” And Rietz-Rakul also wonders how the German authorities will cope with a possible flood of applications in the current situation.

“We are already overwhelmed here in Germany with the reception of Ukrainian women and children, with providing housing and checking documents. Now, many federal states are saying we are overcrowded and cannot take in any more refugees. So where are these men from Russia going to go? How will this security check take place? And how will their social networks be vetted?” the Ukrainian asks.

More than a million people from Ukraine are already registered in Germany, mostly women and children. Many of them fled Russian soldiers, Kateryna Rietz-Rakul points out. Now they could face Russian soldiers again in their new homeland if Germany grants them asylum as deserters.

Ana* came to Germany from Ukraine as a child and is now an activist for the Ukrainian diaspora association “Vitsche,” which is also leading the pro-Ukraine protests in the German capital.

“Of course, we activists are afraid, because already now we often face provocations at demonstrations, where people with a Russian background try to provoke participants. Germany is not aware of the looming security threat here,” she says.

A week ago, Vitsche demonstrated in front of the German Defense Ministry in favor of deliveries of infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine. In October, they are planning to draw attention to how intellectuals in Germany are allegedly falling for Russian propaganda. The nongovernmental organization’s work also includes scouring Russia’s social media.

“In Russian Z-groups, many people cheered quite loudly when any war crimes happened,” Ana recalls. “After mobilization, the same people suddenly fled or want to flee. They should not be allowed to enter this country. Because the Russian army is suffering a lot of losses right now, they would rather watch the war comfortably from a distance. But you don’t know if they are really distancing themselves from this war as well.”

Ukrainians criticize German ‘naivety’

Ana also does not believe that security checks can sufficiently scrutinize Russian deserters; chat histories, after all, are easy to delete.

She says it is the apolitical, privileged middle class from the larger cities who wants to leave the country now. “They have good connections and the money to afford these expensive flights. And certainly, the means to disguise what their position has been the last few months.”

The Ukrainians in Germany feel that Germany’s stance on the Russian deserters reflects the general attitude: Still many in this country believe in the myth of the good, mysterious Russian soul, says Ana.

“This naivety has brought us to where we are today,” she warns. “We used to open our arms in Western Europe and say, see our values, we accept you, we tolerate you and you can do what you want. But this naivety is not going to get us anywhere. It will only further jeopardize our security and also the security of Ukrainian refugees here in Germany.”

This article was originally written in German.

*Ana did not want to reveal her real name for security reasons.

[<https://www.dw.com/en/ukrainians-in-germany-oppose-asylum-for-russian-deserters/a-63251172>]

13. Italy. “For Ukrainians Abroad, War Has Also Meant a Flowering of Identity,” *New York Times*, 9 August 2022.

By Emma Bubola

Italy already had the biggest Ukrainian community in Western Europe before the war, but in recent months the diaspora has taken on new prominence and visibility.

PADOVA, Italy — The Ukrainian gymnastics star leaped and pirouetted across the floor of a sports hall in northern Italy to the rhythm of a popular Ukrainian war song, as dozens of young Italian girls in chignons watched in awe.

Evelina Toffoletti, a gymnastics coach who had accompanied her students to the master class, a fund-raiser for Ukraine, joined the thunderous applause.

“We did not know there was this technical primacy in Ukrainian gymnastics,” she said. “Now we see it.” She added, “They are here.”

Italy had the largest Ukrainian community in Western Europe even before the war, but the Russian invasion ordered by President Vladimir V. Putin, and the fierce Ukrainian resistance have turned the spotlight on the country and led to the emergence of a stronger Ukrainian expatriate community and a national identity that had been invisible to many.

“Our people were rediscovered,” said Olena Samoylenko, the organizer of the gymnastics master class, who was born in Ukraine but has lived in Italy for the past 22 years.

The war has brought global attention to Ukraine’s often little-known history, politics, culture and even pop music, but in Italy, many Ukrainians said the war also changed their relationship to their roots, and sometimes, to the country they live in.

Some Ukrainians said that in the past, they often found themselves explaining to Italians that they were not Russians, or that they were not Muslim. Now, Milanese gather to watch documentaries about Ukrainian independence heroes, waiters serve zucchini flowers to Romans at a restaurant whose walls are decorated with the paintings of a Ukrainian artist, and even a small village in the Ligurian Alps resonates with the music of a Ukrainian violinist.

As Ukrainians in Italy fought back worries, a sense of powerlessness and sometimes of guilt, the patriotism that has bolstered the fighting spirit in Ukraine was spilling over into the country’s diaspora, bringing a sense of pride to many here and a desire to engage with charities and other groups that aid Ukrainians in Italy and back home.

“Now I realized that there are many Ukrainians,” said Marina Sorina, who has been living in the northern Italian city of Verona, for 27 years and has been relentlessly organizing in her community since the war began. “People who had put aside their Ukrainian identity stepped up.”

Her Ukrainian association, Ukrainian Mallows, has tripled its membership since the war started. For the first time the community has its own Ukrainian Orthodox parish church, with a refugee priest, in the crypt of a Catholic church by the city’s Roman arena.

For those who, like Ms. Sorina, have always proudly embraced their roots, the war has strengthened their national allegiance and made it more vocal. For others, it brought a new awareness.

“If there is something I learned from this situation it is to be proud of my origins,” said Antonina Bekysh, 18, who was born in Italy to Ukrainian parents. “Unfortunately it took me this period to realize that.”

Ms. Bekysh, who also lives in Verona, said that previously she would say that she was of Ukrainian origin to only close friends or when it was essential, but was reluctant to disclose her roots in large groups or with people she did not know.

“It was this fear of being judged,” she said. “Ukrainians were seen as someone from a lower class.”

Ukrainians began moving to Italy in the late 1990s to escape post-Soviet unemployment and inflation, but the influx increased steeply in the 2000s following regularization programs in Italy that legalized migrant workers, helping to meet the growing demand for personal care workers in that country’s aging society. Since the war began in late February, Italy has welcomed 150,000 Ukrainian refugees, many joining relatives who already lived there.

Even before the invasion, most of the 230,000 Ukrainians in Italy were women; though more educated than the average immigrant from outside the European Union, most work with families, caring for older people and children, according to Italy’s labor ministry.

Ms. Bekysh’s grandmother came to Italy to work as a caregiver in the 1990s because her husband was sick and they needed money. A few years later, Ms. Bekysh’s parents moved here to build a better future. Her father started working as a salesman in a shop, then opened his own business selling food products from Eastern Europe.

Unlike her parents, Ms. Bekysh speaks in a northern Italian accent with no trace of Ukrainian inflection, which, when she feared being stereotyped, allowed her to avoid mentioning of her foreign roots. “It felt like they would see me in a different manner,” she said of non-Ukrainians.

The war, and Ukraine’s resistance, did away with any hesitancy. She started organizing, volunteering, speaking to crowds and to reporters, the colors of Ukraine wrapped around her neck. “Didn’t really plan on becoming an antiwar activist, but here we are,” reads her Instagram bio, followed by a gold and blue flag.

Serena Parekh, a professor of philosophy at Northeastern University in Boston, saw the dynamic Ms. Bekysh described as part of a wider pattern. While Ukrainians have been spared from much of the racism and discrimination Black migrants endure in Europe, she said they face many stereotypes that other economic migrants are subjected to.

“Whiteness is a social construct,” she said. “It means a social privileged group. There’s a way in which Ukrainians were kind of on the outside of that.”

The war, she said, changed that. “Many around the world started to admire the courage of Ukrainians who stayed and fought. This in a way changed people’s perception of them from outsiders to Europe to ‘one of us.’”

Ms. Samoylenko said she had always prided herself of being a Ukrainian “success story,” with her own gymnastics club and job as an instructor. She had invited Ukrainian gymnasts to give lessons in Italy even before the war, but now interest has grown, she said, and the perspective has generally shifted.

“Now when you say Ukrainian, one does not necessarily think ‘caregiver,’ but of a people who are defending themselves with their own hands,” she said. “The image has changed.”

Maryna Shutyuk, 25, who was born in Ukraine but has lived in Italy for more than 10 years, feels a stronger desire to exhibit her national pride. Now, she finds herself wearing her embroidered Ukrainian shirts at her family’s hotel, where she works as a receptionist. Before the war, she would do so only rarely, usually, for religious holidays she celebrated with other Ukrainians.

The shirts, she said, are “starting to become fashionable.”

Ms. Shutyuk also joined the Ukrainian association in Verona set up by Ms. Sorina, who said the increase in the Ukrainian population was contributing to a growing number of cultural centers, services and events focused on that community.

Perceptions from those outside the Ukrainian community are also changing, she said.

“Before when you said you were Ukrainian they would tell you, ‘My grandma’s helper is also Ukrainian,’” Ms. Sorina said. “Now they look at you with respect.”

A version of this article appears in print on Aug. 10, 2022, Section A, Page 8 of the New York edition with the headline: Italy’s Ukrainian Diaspora Finds Pride and Patriotism.

14. Japan. “Despite Uncertain Future, Ukrainian Children Slowly Adapt to Japanese Schools,” *Japan Times*, 1 November 2022.

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By Kanako Takahara

One Friday afternoon at a public elementary school in central Tokyo, a Japanese-language teacher was explaining how to say the time of day to a Ukrainian girl who came to Japan after she and her family fled her country following Russia’s invasion.

When the teacher asked what time she woke up that morning, Olivia Zhuravel, 13, wrote down the answer — that she woke up at 6:45 a.m. — in hiragana.

“You see that it always comes with a ni after the time?” said Isuzu Yagi, the teacher. Olivia, a sixth grader, nodded but then tilted her head as if she was not entirely sure.

Olivia’s mixture of progress and confusion in many ways speaks to the state that many Ukrainians in Japan now find themselves in.

It has been nearly eight months since the first batch of Ukrainians arrived in March. To date, about 2,000 have traveled to Japan, settling in a country which for most was completely foreign to them — in terms of both the language and the culture.

For children, going to a Japanese school has been a big part of the adaptation process, and it has come with struggles and challenges.

The Zhuravels — Olivia, her younger brother and her mother — arrived in Japan from Kyiv in early March, and since April the children have been attending Izumi Elementary School, having settled in a nearby apartment complex. Like many, the language barrier is the biggest struggle for the two children.

As part of its support for Ukrainians who fled their country, the government has provided schools with funds for Japanese-language teachers and Russian-speaking translators to help the refugees settle in Japan. At Izumi Elementary School, Olivia and Jan receive Japanese lessons twice a week, and a lesson with a Russian-speaking translator present once a week.

“Ideally, they should take Japanese lessons every day,” Yagi said. “Twice a week is not enough.” It’s especially hard for children from Western countries, as hiragana, katakana and kanji characters are entirely new to them, she said, adding that it normally takes about two years for a student to reach a level with the language where they no longer require Japanese lessons.

Science is the most challenging subject for Olivia, while her favorites are arts and crafts, and home economics, in which she makes sports bags.

Everything was new for Olivia’s mother, Olha, too. In Japan, there are six years of grade school followed by three years each for junior high and high school, whereas in Ukraine the system is divided into four, five and two years.

Small things also surprised Olha, from randoseru (backpacks for grade school students) and the large handkerchiefs placed on desks during lunch, to cushions for chairs that can be used in the event of an earthquake or fire called bōsai zokin.

“So it’s very little but a lot of difference,” she said with a laugh.

School principal Etsuko Murata says teachers are trying to make the new students feel included by focusing on things that don’t require Japanese, such as arts and crafts, music or just having them play with classmates.

She has also allowed Olha to bring in snacks and sweets for the entire class on Olivia’s and Jan’s birthdays — a tradition in Ukraine — as a way for other students to understand Ukrainian culture.

Easier for younger children

The language barrier is less of a problem if the child is younger, since what they learn at school is not as difficult.

Nataliia Mulyavka fled Ukraine with her two daughters, age 6 and 3, arriving in Yokohama, where her relative lives. Her older daughter attends a nearby public school, while her younger sister goes to kindergarten.

“Everything is good. I have a girlfriend, Ryo-chan,” said Myroslava Mulyavka, a first grader.

When Myroslava learns a new hiragana, katakana or kanji character, she teaches it to her mother and younger sister when she comes back home. Myroslava also receives Japanese-language lessons, while a Ukrainian-speaking volunteer teacher joins classes to help her understand things she doesn’t understand in Japanese.

But given these barriers, Nataliia’s focus is less on grades.

“From the very beginning of our evacuation to Japan, I tell my daughters that we have adventures. And going to school is another adventure,” Nataliia said. “My mood, my attitude to the process of life sets the tone of the child’s mood.”

When she communicates with the school, she uses every tool she can — from facial expressions and gestures, to tablet computers and Google Translate.

But what has helped her most is a Japanese woman who lives nearby and has a daughter who goes to the same school. She helped Nataliia understand the Japanese school system and how it works, and has helped her communicate with her children's teachers.

“Always talk about what worries you. Do not be silent and do not accumulate thoughts,” she said. “Because the quality of our life in a new country depends on how long I stay with a clear head.”

International schools

Japanese public schools are not the only options Ukrainian children have, with international schools offering an alternative. There are 43 such schools in Tokyo alone, and these are an attractive option for children who speak English.

But with international schools being outside the public system, the cost, which typically is around ¥1 million (\$6,750) to ¥2 million a year, can be a major hurdle. Public elementary and junior high schools, on the other hand, are free of charge.

Sapporo-based Hokkaido International School accepted a 16-year-old Ukrainian girl earlier this year, granting her a scholarship for young female leaders, which covers most of her school fees until she graduates high school.

High school students with a household income below a certain threshold get government funds to cover tuition. But those benefits are only available to students at international schools designated by the education ministry.

Tim Schlosser, head of Hokkaido International School, pointed out that more international schools would be able to accept Ukrainian evacuees if they had more government funding to do so.

“Many of these students may be coming with English skills already,” he said. “International schools are also equipped to prepare kids for life in Japan, just in a different way, on a different track.”

Uncertain future

What is most troubling for Ukrainian children and their parents is the uncertainty surrounding their future in Japan — whether they are staying for the long term or just for a year or so. This makes it difficult for them to decide whether they should be serious about learning Japanese and pursue an education in Japan, or just learn enough to get by day-to-day until they return to Ukraine.

Believing at first that the war in Ukraine would end in a matter of months, some simply took online classes in their home country instead of going to school locally. But during the summer holidays, when it became apparent that the war would likely drag on, some municipalities started receiving inquiries from parents who were thinking of enrolling their children in their local school.

“This is an opportunity for them to study Japanese and take in Japanese culture, even just for a short term,” said Natalya Kovalova, who runs the Dzhereltse Sunday school for Ukrainian children in Tokyo.

One key way to help children become more proactive in studying Japanese is for parents to become a role model by learning Japanese culture and language themselves, said Kovalova, who also heads Kraiany, a Ukrainian community group in Japan.

“They need to decide for themselves what they want to do, not to live like a tourist here,” she said.

And to help those who want to learn about Japan and language, they need more language lessons, from entry level to more advanced study, Kovalova said, urging the government to provide more classes for free, ideally every day.

Olivia’s mother, Olha, is also unsure what to do about her children’s education. In Ukraine, there is a key test that students need to take to go on to the next grade early next year, Olha said. But she’s not sure if they need to take the test online from Japan.

At the same time, Olivia will be entering junior high school next April if she continues with her education in Japan.

“I don’t know how long we will stay in Japan ... because you don’t know when this war will stop,” Olha said. “And I don’t know (if) I must push them to study Japanese more or not.”

Adding to the frustration is the fact that they can only stay at the current apartment complex until next March, which means the children may need to go to a new school if they move outside of the school district.

But for now, the main thing is that the children are safe in Japan.

“Because I know that you could study at any age,” Olha said.

Staff writer Will Fee contributed to this report.

15. New Zealand. “Outrage as Russian Embassy Calls Ukrainians in NZ ‘Nazis,’” *Stuff.co.nz*, 7 October 2022.

An official Russian social media account has struck out at the Ukrainian community in Aotearoa – calling them “Nazis”.

On Tuesday, the Russian Embassy in New Zealand’s official Twitter account posted a tweet labelling members of the Ukrainian community “Nazis” and “Russophobic”.

The tweet features a picture of a Facebook post by the Ukrainian Association of New Zealand, with a red banner over the top that says “100% Russophobic”.

The caption reads: “Warning! Russophobia in NZ! It might be interesting to Russians and Kiwis ... everywhere to learn what Ukro-Nazis living in New Zealand think of Russian people in general.”

The Embassy’s post has added fuel to increasingly fraught divisions amongst the Russian community in New Zealand and reignited calls for the expulsion of Aotearoa’s Russian Ambassador, Georgy Zuev.

Yuriy Gladun – the chairperson for the Ukrainian Association of New Zealand (Northern Regions) and author of the Facebook post used in the tweet – said the Embassy’s messaging was “hugely offensive and derogatory”.

“The Russian Embassy is a pro-Kremlin propaganda machine embedded in New Zealand that the Government need to stop,” he said.

Gladun’s Facebook post was written as a response to calls from Russian-Kiwis to open New Zealand’s borders to those who fled Ukraine after Russian President Vladimir Putin’s announcement of a “partial mobilisation” of 300,000 reservist soldiers on September 22.

It condemned the invasion of Ukraine and those who only left Russia after the partial mobilisation, a full six months after the invasion of Ukraine began, he said.

In the week following Putin's announcement, it's estimated more than 194,000 Russian nationals fled to neighbouring Georgia, Kazakhstan and Finland.

"Where were these people six months ago? And why – now they're in countries where they're allowed to speak freely – are they not speaking out against the Russian regime?" Gladun said.

Kate Turska, the spokesperson for Ukrainian-run organisation Mahi for Ukraine, said the reference to Ukrainian Nazis was "designed to ... distract from the obviously fascist tendencies of the Russian state".

Although Mahi for Ukraine had previously campaigned for the expulsion of the Russian Ambassador, the Embassy's tweet had prompted the group to increase its calls for Zuev to be sent back to Russia.

Turska said she was particularly concerned the Embassy was echoing the kind of terminology originally used by Putin to justify the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February.

Speaking on behalf of the Russian-Speaking Integrity Alliance in New Zealand, Elena Nikiforova called the Embassy's tweet a "blatant lie".

"We would like to express our full solidarity with the Ukrainian community.

"We, the members of the diverse Russian-speaking community of New Zealand, have not experienced any hostility or 'Russophobia' in this country and are very grateful for the peaceful, free, and democratic way of life that we all enjoy here," Nikiforova said.

When asked for comment, a spokesperson for Minister of Immigration Nanaia Mahuta referred Stuff to a statement released on October 1, condemning Russia's attempt to illegally annex regions of Ukraine – three days before the Tweet went live.

"I have instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to call in the Russian Embassy, to convey New Zealand's strong opposition to the actions taken by Russia in recent days and to call on Russia to cease its attempts to illegally annex Ukrainian territory," Mahuta said in the statement.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said that while they "reject the harmful, inaccurate narratives that Putin's regime has been communicating", retaining diplomatic relations with Russia "remains key to our ability to express our strong condemnation directly to Russia".

The Russian Embassy in New Zealand did not respond to requests for comment.

[<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300706045/outrage-as-russian-embassy-in-new-zealand-calls-ukrainian-community-nazis>]

16. Poland. “The Ukrainian Exodus: On the Border, War Leads to Reconciliation,”
***National Journal*, 25 October 2022.**

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By Cristina Maza

PRZEMYŚL, Poland—In just seven months, decades of tensions between Poles and Ukrainians are fading away.

Lila Kalinowska, a 42-year-old Polish resident of Przemyśl, a city in southeastern Poland with a population of around 60,000, remembers the summer of 2016 when Polish nationalists attacked a Ukrainian Catholic procession in her hometown.

“Przemyśl is known as a xenophobic town with an anti-Ukrainian atmosphere,” Kalinowska told *National Journal* from Przemyśl’s Ukrainian House, which organizes events and assistance for refugees. “Ukrainians were discriminated against here.”

Now, under 10 miles from Ukraine’s border, Russian President Vladimir Putin’s war is transforming the once-strained relationship between neighboring countries.

Przemyśl has long been home to a population of at least a few thousand Ukrainians. Members of the Ukrainian minority lived in Poland for generations, where they continued to speak Ukrainian and maintain their cultural traditions. But they were also the object of deep animosity.

Poles often pointed to an infamous massacre at the end of World War II when Ukrainians killed thousands of Poles in Nazi-occupied regions of eastern Poland and western Ukraine. Polish and Ukrainian officials could never agree on how many people were killed, and the dispute fueled anti-Ukrainian sentiment in Poland for years. In 2016, Poland’s parliament debated whether to label the massacres a genocide.

But the atmosphere began to change after Russia launched a vicious invasion of its smaller neighbor in February, sending around 50,000 Ukrainians a day fleeing across the border into Przemyśl. What was once a sleepy provincial city suddenly became a hub for international humanitarian organizations. U.S. soldiers left their base in the nearby city of Rzeszów and began wandering the city streets while military helicopters flew overhead. Residents were afraid that Putin’s army would reach their border in weeks. They started to receive calls from friends in other parts of Poland, offering them a place to stay.

Amidst the chaos, Poles began to relate to their Ukrainian neighbors. They also began opening their homes, ensuring that the new refugees had food, information, and a place to sleep.

“There wasn’t a lot of chance to build dialogue before. Now Przemyśl has changed a lot. The war created something amazing because people have opened their hearts,” said Kalinowska, who now works at Przemyśl’s Ukrainian House. “There were so many hurt people, and everyone was

trying to help somehow. It's amazing that I can say that something good happened because of this war."

Most of the Ukrainians who passed through the city eventually continued to larger cities like Warsaw or Krakow. But Przemyśl's central train station is still bustling with Ukrainians and ethnic Roma families who fled Ukraine. Volunteers roam the station translating for people and giving advice on which trains to take. In Medyka, a small village near Przemyśl where people cross the border into Ukraine by foot, some Ukrainians travel daily across the border to buy groceries or sell small items like cigarettes.

Sławomir Rohan, a Przemyśl resident, said he is happy to see Ukrainian women and children in his city. Before the war, the city's population was shrinking as young people left for parts of the country with more job opportunities. Now small children run through the city streets, playing and laughing. Rohan's children attend school with some Ukrainian students. He says the only thing that worries him is that his children might now have to attend larger classes.

"Przemyśl, my hometown, was always multicultural. Between the First and Second World Wars, the community was Jewish, Ukrainian, and Polish," Rohan said. "Obviously, there are tensions like in any community. But they haven't increased since the war began in February. In fact, I think they have significantly diminished. All the Poles understand the situation. We aren't raising the old issues we had before."

Marcin Piotrowski, a local councilor for the Lubaczów region, which has two border crossings, has long been an advocate for multiculturalism in eastern Poland. Before the war, he ran a cultural organization in the village of Gorajec, about one hour from Przemyśl. Each year they hosted Ukrainian and Belarussian artists and musicians for a festival.

Before World War II, Gorajec had a thriving Ukrainian population, and the nearby city of Cieszanów was home to a Jewish shtetl. But most Ukrainians and Jews either left or were killed during the war, and today both places have only a tiny Polish population.

"We were always trying to tell people about the multicultural history of this area, but right now, the region is very homogenous. It's mainly Polish, and until recently, there was a huge problem of hate between the Polish and Ukrainian population," Piotrowski said.

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine this year, Piotrowski worried that the Polish government wouldn't welcome refugees. He remembered how Polish border guards forced Iraqi and Syrian asylum seekers back to Belarus when dictator Aleksandr Lukashenko tried to use them as a cudgel against the European Union the year prior.

He and a small group of volunteers began traveling across the border into Ukraine with tents, generators, and other items they had from organizing festivals. They assisted the people waiting for hours in the cold to cross the border into Poland, handing out hot drinks and sandwiches.

Throughout the long, arduous days traveling back and forth between Ukraine and Poland, Piotrowski was surprised to witness that his community showed up for their Ukrainian neighbors.

“The locals helped, and they gave everything. In the first week of the war, we sent trucks into Ukraine with assistance,” he said. “It’s changing a bit now. People are tired. You hear more people ask why we are giving so much to Ukrainians. But that’s still a small percentage. Most people are still helping.”

Diana, an 18-year-old Ukrainian woman from the southern city of Mykolaiv, was traveling with her parents to the border when she met Piotrowski. Her father wasn’t allowed to leave Ukraine because the country’s martial law obliges men of fighting age to stay behind. Her mother refused to leave her father’s side. But the couple wanted to ensure their young daughter made it safely to Poland. They were worried she could fall into the hands of human traffickers. When they met Piotrowski, Diana’s mother decided to entrust her daughter into his care.

“She thought he was a good person and had good eyes,” said Diana, who asked to be identified by her first name only.

Diana is now living in Gorajec and working for Piotrowski’s cultural organization. The staff fixed up an old pharmacy and set up bedrooms inside to house volunteers. Diana made one of the rooms her home. While she was initially afraid to move to Poland, she’s glad she decided to cross the border. She feels welcomed even though there are few other Ukrainians in the village.

While relations between Ukrainians and Poles have improved markedly since the start of the war, there are signs that the longstanding tensions haven’t been snuffed out entirely.

The city’s populist right-wing mayor, Wojciech Bakun, gained some attention after Przemyśl became the frontline for welcoming Ukrainian refugees. He famously mocked Italian politician Matteo Salvini for his close ties to Putin when the high-profile Italian visited Przemyśl at the onset of the war. Left-leaning Poles, who usually professed disdain for Bakun’s politics, praised his response to the refugee crisis.

But in recent months, Bakun has taken to social media to complain that some Ukrainians are taking advantage of the Polish welfare system or traveling into Poland only to collect money before returning home to Ukraine. His statements have sparked some skepticism about refugees among his constituents. Long lines of Ukrainians at ATMs—many are using multiple bank cards to retrieve cash they immediately exchange to dollars to offset the effects of the flailing Ukrainian hryvnya—have also frustrated some Poles in Przemyśl and Medyka.

Gana Churkina, a 47-year-old activist from the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, fled to Przemyśl at the start of the war with her mother, daughter, and their dog, Pirate. She soon got a job as a social worker helping other Ukrainian refugees in the region. She enjoys her job and gets along with her neighbors, whom she described as “friendly.” But sometimes, when she passes a group of young Polish men, she feels nervous because she doesn’t know what to expect. On one occasion,

a Polish woman assaulted Churkina's 16-year-old daughter and told her to speak Polish or go back to Ukraine.

"This town is quite difficult for the Polish-Ukrainian relationship because of the history," Churkina said. "There were a lot of Polish nationalists here."

For the most part, however, Ukrainians and Poles interact without incident. Vlad, a 32-year-old Ukrainian from the Russian-occupied city of Kherson who asked to be identified by his first name only, was in Poland for a weeklong job when the war broke out. He decided to stay in Poland rather than go back to fight. He is now living in Przemyśl, and he's surprised by the support from his new Polish neighbors.

"Nobody could imagine that Polish people would do so much for Ukrainians," he said. "It's really great."

This is the third story in National Journal's series "The Ukrainian exodus," which explores how refugees are settling into Poland over half a year after Russia's brutal invasion of their country. This series is supported by a Transatlantic Media Fellowship from the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Washington D.C.

17. Poland. "How Displaced Ukrainians in Poland Find Work While Benefiting Its Economy," *Voice of America*, 1 October 2022.

By Tatiana Vorozhko

Poland, far from being overwhelmed by the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians seeking refuge from Russia's invasion of their country, is seeing its economy grow, according to economists.

The latest available figures from early August show about half of the working-age people who fled Ukraine for Poland are now employed.

In an interview with VOA, World Bank economist Reena Badiani-Magnusson, who specializes in the region, called the employment statistics for the temporarily displaced people, or TDPs, released by the Polish government "impressive."

Badiani-Magnusson quotes a National Bank of Poland study that found between 2013 and 2018, during the first wave of Ukrainian migration, the presence of Ukrainian migrants in the country had a .5% positive impact on growth.

"On top of that, we've done some analysis of the current crisis, and we find that should 500,000 Ukrainian displaced people be integrated into the labor market successfully, we anticipate a medium-term impact on the growth of 1.5%," she said.

Experts interviewed by VOA said there are three main reasons why the "refugee crisis" quickly filled the Polish market with needed labor. First, Ukrainians who arrived in Poland, including many mothers with children, had high professional qualifications and wanted to work. Second, Polish authorities quickly removed most barriers to Ukrainian TDP employment. And third, the

sizeable Ukrainian diaspora facilitated the adjustment and labor engagement of the newly arrived compatriots fleeing the war.

Ukrainians working below their qualifications

For many newly arrived Ukrainian women, says Ludmila Dymitrow, a coordinator at the Information Center for Foreigners in Krakow, low-skilled work is only the first step.

“We explain that even if you had a good job and a high status in your homeland, you could find it here, too, but start with something simpler. A good start can begin in different ways, even from the checkout in a store. Learn the language, and life will give you other opportunities.”

One of many Ukrainian TDPs in Krakow, Olena Kurta, a mother of two, cleans hotel rooms. She used to teach law in the city of Horlivka, in the Russia-supported so-called Donetsk People’s Republic in 2014, and later opened and ran a daycare in Kryvyi Rih.

“I want to learn the language and find another job. I haven’t decided what I want to do. I have to start everything from the beginning,” said Kurta.

Tatyana Potapova, another Ukrainian woman, came to Krakow from the village of Lyptsi near Kharkiv, captured by Russians in the early days of the invasion. In her 60s and a chemist by education and employment, she enrolled in Polish-language classes as soon as she arrived.

“I imagine that I can work as a concierge in some institution. It is my dream. I am willing even to work in a store, but preferably not in a grocery store,” said Potapova in an interview with VOA.

Polish authorities provide immediate job assistance

On March 12, 2022, the Polish parliament passed a law on assistance to Ukrainian citizens, which gave the TDPs from Ukraine the right to stay legally in Poland for 18 months and access its health care system, education, social services and labor market.

The government and local authorities assist Ukrainian TDPs in finding employment. For example, the provincial Employment Administration helps connect job seekers with employers. It also began some programs, available only to Polish citizens and Ukrainian TDPs, that included financing 85% of the cost of job training, said its director.

The administration sent their representative to the Center for Foreigners, located in the Krakow shopping mall, to help job seekers find opportunities and apply for vacancies.

Badiani-Magnusson points to a comprehensive approach to facilitating access of Ukrainian women to the labor market.

“The Polish government and society need to be recognized and commended for their generous and open-armed support to the populations arriving, the speed and rapidity at which populations

that wanted to work were able to have registered temporary protection” that provided services that allowed to integrate them into the labor market, said the economist.

Ukrainian diaspora helps new arrivals find jobs

Maciej Bukowski, president of the Warsaw-based research institute Wise-Europa, draws attention to another aspect -- before the arrival of a new wave of TDPs after February 24, Ukrainians were already in Poland, arriving especially after 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea, and instigated and supported aggression in Donbas.

The presence of Ukrainians helped absorb the sudden and significant wave of new refugees from Ukraine.

Barriers for Ukrainians in the Polish labor market

Still, obstacles to the employment of the Ukrainian TDPs remain. The language barrier is one of them. Even though Ukrainian and Polish are linguistically close, it still takes time and effort to be able to speak Polish fluently.

The Zustricz Foundation, an organization of Ukrainians in Krakow, offers classes for Polish-language learners, one of the popular ways to assist Ukrainian TDPs.

A second barrier is the need to care for children. Almost half of those who arrived from Ukraine after February 24 and remained in Poland (600,000) are children.

Badiani-Magnusson of the World Bank points to the need to find employment that matches the qualifications of the Ukrainian job seekers. Zustricz Foundation founder Aleksandra Zapolska agrees -- there is still a need to connect employers and job seekers, especially among the most qualified.

“In the medical field, there is a great need for nurses and doctors; for example, there is a shortage of psychiatrists. On the other hand, doctors do not fully know where to turn because not every hospital is interested at that moment; there is no such path for them to meet,” she explained.

The World Bank also says that Ukrainian entrepreneurs need help with adaptation to Polish legislation and access to finance. “You can imagine that you can have a very successful business in Ukraine, and you'd like to be able to bring those same skills into the Polish labor market,” says Badiani-Magnusson.

An uncertain outcome

Zapolska points to another problem -- uncertainty about the future.

Will these people return to Ukraine? Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said Ukrainians will return with the liberation of Ukrainian territories;

the critical moment here will be the liberation of Kherson. That is why, he said, it is essential to end the war in such a way that Russia cannot continue posing a threat to Ukrainian territories.

“Many Ukrainians do not know whether they will return, and their decision often changes,” said Zapolska.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), more than 7 million Ukrainian TDPs remain in European countries -- 1.3 million in Poland. Since the start of the full-scale offensive, more than 6 million people have crossed the border from Ukraine to Poland.

VOA’s Georgian Service contributed to this report.

[<https://www.voanews.com/a/how-displaced-ukrainians-in-poland-find-work-while-benefiting-its-economy/6771810.html>]

18. South Africa. “Ukrainians in South Africa Slam ANC Youth League for Endorsing Russian Referendums,” *AllAfrica*, 30 September 2022.

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By Vicky Stark

The youth league of South Africa’s ruling ANC party has endorsed Russia’s referendums in occupied parts of Ukraine, which are designed to pave the way for Moscow to annex the territories.

The endorsement came after members of the group accepted invitations from Moscow to act as international observers of the Kremlin-orchestrated votes. The Ukrainian Association of South Africa says it is disappointed in the youth league’s stance while the ANC itself is remaining silent on the issue.

The head of the ANC Youth League's Subcommittee on International Relations, Khulekani Skosana, has commended Russian President Vladimir Putin on Twitter.

Skosana posted a clip of his interview with the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

“We stand in solidarity with all the oppressed people of the world,” Skosana said. “It’s not just Donbas, we stand with people of Palestine, Western Sahara. We will always stand with those who are oppressed and those who don’t have anyone to defend them. The revolution will not be televised, that’s why we went to see for ourselves as young people of the liberation movement of President Nelson Mandela.”

The president of the Ukrainian Association of South Africa, Dzvinika Kachur, said the youth league members are simply being used by Russia to try to legitimize a process that falls far, far short of international laws on referendums.

Moscow has released vote tallies showing support in all four regions where the referendums were held for five days beginning September 23.

But Kachur said that was a lie because Russia doesn't control all of these areas.

"Yes, they may be controlling almost completely the territory of one region, of Luhansk but they don't control Donetsk, they don't control Zaporizhzhia and they definitely don't control Kherson," she said.

Kachur said they've heard the international media reports of Russian soldiers going door-to-door to get people to vote at gun point.

"A lot of our community members have had their relatives still in the occupied territories," she said. "We understand people being tortured and how people are hiding."

Kachur added that the Ukrainian Association is disappointed in the ANC government for not reacting to the Youth League's statements. The government has repeatedly said it is neutral in this conflict but the Ukrainian Association says Skosana's comments are anything but.

"As the ANC Youth League is connected to the government, if the government is supporting that silently I think it's a big challenge for South African democracy and all South Africans living in this country because it says that the ruling party does not understand what democracy is," Kachur said.

Requests for comment from the ANC's main body went unanswered. The party's spokesperson, Pule Mabe, simply sent two text messages saying: "May I please revert back."

Political analyst Ralph Mathekga said he was perplexed.

"It is strange that the ANC Youth League could actually send observers to Russia on a very controversial referendum actually," he said. "A referendum that has been referred to as a sham referendum by the global community. So, for the ANC Youth League to be sending members there, it is very strange. I don't know what exactly does the youth league aim to achieve. I don't know whether this will give them traction in South Africa's politics."

Mathekga said he wonders who paid for the trip and whether the decision to go was taken within the ANC and where the decision was taken.

Reuters reports that the United States is preparing a new round of sanctions to punish Russia for any annexation move and a new \$1.1 billion arms package for Ukraine that will be announced soon.

19. United Kingdom. "Funds Doubled to £200K to Help Support Ukrainian Refugees in Nottinghamshire," *East Midlands Business Link*, 19 October 2022.

A Nottinghamshire County Council-led funding pot to support community groups which are tirelessly helping Ukrainian people settle into the county has been doubled to £200k.

This support, which launched earlier this summer, is being funded by the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

With an estimated 1,200 Ukrainian people due to arrive in the county under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, eligible groups are able to apply for funds of up to £5,000 to continue to help provide advice and support. This includes hosting special community events, providing access to translation services and language classes and promoting health and well-being.

The first batch of projects have now been awarded funds, including three projects run by Nottingham's Ukrainian Cultural Centre which has warmly welcomed the funding.

This Nottingham Branch of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain is also the Council chairman's, Cllr Roger Jackson, community cause this year, so he has been busy championing the work they do.

At the recent 'Defenders of the Flag' commemorations, Cllr Jackson presented the Centre with a cheque, having raised £5,000 in donations so far.

Cllr John Cottey, Nottinghamshire County Council's cabinet member for communities, said: "We recognise the huge contribution that voluntary groups are already making to the lives of those who have fled Ukraine and endured unimaginable suffering, with people arriving in the county every week of course.

"We've had a great response to these funds which is why we decided to double this funding to help as many of these groups as possible. The response from local communities has been incredible, particularly those who have opened up their homes to guests, with new hosts coming forward all the time.

"As a county council we have been working closely with partners to help the Home for Ukraine scheme run as smoothly as possible. We are helping with access to benefits, healthcare, employment, language and other support."

Nottingham's Ukrainian Cultural Centre is providing support for guests across the county with three separate projects receiving funding:

*The Centre's popular Chai Club receives £5,000 towards volunteer travel costs, equipment, and premises costs. The Chai Club provides access to health, financial information and support as well as providing volunteering and befriending opportunities for Ukrainian guests in a safe space which promotes Ukrainian culture.

*£4,480 will go towards volunteer expenses, tutor fees, costs towards equipment and venue hire to support creative artist programmes aimed at encouraging young people to focus on the links between Ukrainian cultural heritage and living in Nottinghamshire. This is supported by

architects and aims to equip young Ukrainians with ideas, knowledge, and skills to help rebuild their homeland in the future.

*£4,760 toward tutor fees and volunteer expenses to provide five sessions of ESOL at different levels of ability weekly over a period of 33 weeks, delivered by qualified tutors.

Council chairman, Cllr Jackson said: “I’m delighted that Nottingham’s Ukrainian Centre has had this level of support from both the donations raised and via the council’s Local Community Fund.

“This centre has done so much to help to welcome guests arriving into Nottinghamshire and acted as first point of contact for many of the hosts. It is very much at the heart of the community providing information, guidance, practical advice and help to those Ukrainians who have been displaced.”

Lina Maksymuk from the Ukrainian Cultural Centre thanked Nottinghamshire County Council for the funding. She said: “We are confident that these grants will not only help different groups of new arrivals but will also help all our volunteers who have been working tirelessly all these months and will make functioning of the Ukrainian centre as a facility and as a hub more sustainable.”

The other projects to receive funding from the first round are:

1st/2nd West Bridgford Scout Group – £2,000 will help fund towards volunteer expenses, community events and refreshments. The Group provides Ukrainian guests and their families with a safe space to meet with the wider community to access support and information. This includes access to English language classes, and a range of social activities.

The Homes for Ukraine Bassetlaw Support Group – £3,700 will go towards volunteer travel costs, equipment, and premises costs to support a local group specifically set up to support Ukrainian guests. The Group deliver a full range of support services such as ESOL, employment support and social events.

Newark & Sherwood Community & Voluntary Service will receive £4,975 to help fund additional staff who will encourage Ukrainian guests to access opportunities to improve their language skills and help them access support, advice and guidance and increase chances of future employment.

Nottingham-based Refugee Roots will receive £5,000 which will contribute towards volunteer travel costs, equipment, and premises costs. Building on existing expertise to support refugees and asylum seekers, this group provide a safe space in the community for Ukraine guests across Notts to access English languages classes, requalification, employment support, volunteering opportunities, gardening and health and wellbeing activities.

St Johns Church, Worksop – £5,000 will contribute towards volunteer travel costs, equipment, and premises costs. The Church provides a safe space for guests to enable them to make friends

and access local employment opportunities, health care and professional trauma support if needed.

Beeston-based Transform Training will receive £4,980 to help fund additional staffing capacity, volunteer expenses and room hire to provide specialist employability support for Homes for Ukraine guests, providing translation services for CVs, supporting job search and interview preparation.

The LCF scheme is supporting eligible local community projects and activities to welcome and integrate refugees arriving in Nottinghamshire. This will include:

- Costs associated with supporting English language classes
- Costs associated with running job clubs
- Advice and support on financial matters
- Tackling loneliness and isolation through for example befriending schemes and support networks
- Promoting health and well-being
- Organising community events
- Supporting and encouraging volunteering.

The scheme will work in the similar way as the Local Community Fund,

- A rolling programme of applications throughout the year
- A maximum of £5,000 can be applied for per project/activity
- A simple application and assessment process
- A member-led approach with the approval of grants made by the Cabinet Member for Communities

Eligible groups can apply here: [The Local Communities Fund \(LCF\) | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

20. United Kingdom. “New Book on Soviet-Era Famine Brings to Life Past Ghosts That Haunt Zelensky’s Ukraine,” *Kyiv Post*, 15 September 2022.

By Tony Leliw.

A surprise guest at a book launch on the famine in 1930s Ukraine nearly stole the show in London on Wednesday, Sep. 7. British investigative journalist John Sweeney had just returned from Ukraine, having been in Kyiv during the first days of the Russian invasion.

He is known globally for confronting Vladimir Putin about his role in the fatal downing of a Malaysian plane in the summer of 2014, and Sweeney vented his anger in uncertain terms.

Standing up from his seat to answer my question as to what he would say to Putin if their paths crossed again, he pulled no punches. In a packed hall with an emotionally-charged audience made up of diaspora Ukrainians, recently displaced Ukrainians, Welsh supporters of the book

launch, and the general public, he recounted his first encounter with the Russian leader, where they stared at each other and, according to Sweeney, it was Putin who blinked first.

Sweeney said he had visited the crash site in July 2014 and seen the carnage with his own eyes. He recalled noticing the passenger debris – the plane's broken wheels, paperback books, peoples' hats, and small Trunki suitcases that children pull along, which he sees at airports – making him cry.

“He needs to be in The Hague (International Criminal Court),” said Sweeney passionately. “No question about it. He is a serial killer. All we need to do is provide Ukraine with heavy metal. In answer to your question, ‘I’d try to kill him,’” Sweeney said to rapturous applause.

Launching his book, author Martin Shipton, of *Mr. Jones, The Man Who Knew Too Much*, based on the life and times of Gareth Jones, one of the first journalists to expose the Ukrainian famine of 1932-33 (known as Holodomor to the broader world), said his take on the Russian leader was that if he had interview questions readied for Putin, he wouldn't answer them and would walk out.

Also on the panel was Mick Antoniwi, a Senedd – Welsh Parliament member, Counsel General for Wales, and Minister for the Constitution. He had spoken earlier at the launch and said that as a child, he and his contemporaries had grown up in Britain with people who had survived the Holodomor. They had not talked much about it due to the experiences they'd lived through, and he regretted that he and others had never asked enough questions.

Concerning my question, Antoniwi mentioned the recent case of a Russian journalist, Ivan Safronov, who was sentenced to 22 years in prison on trumped-up treason charges. Antoniwi said the prosecutor had offered to reduce that sentence to 12 years on the condition he confessed, which Safronov refused.

Scrolling back to before the question and answer session, Petro Rewko, chairman of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB), introduced author Martin Shipton to those present at the Ukrainian Social Club in Holland Park and said: “This has been a hidden part of our history. It is only in the last 10-15 years that Holodomor has come to light.”

Rewko said that in the last few years, the AUGB has been running an essay prize for 17-18 year olds, and surprisingly this pebble in the pond had rippled out. Many schools around the country now include the Holodomor as part of their history curriculum.

Passing on the baton, author Martin Shipton said that what happened in Ukraine this year has confirmed in a horrific way the importance of the Gareth Jones story and what he stands for.

Jones had worked for the Western Mail newspaper in the Welsh capital of Cardiff, where Shipton is currently a political editor at large.

He said: “The journalism may have been written 90 years ago, but its relevance is enduring and undeniable. He exposed a man-made famine in which an estimated four million Ukrainians died.

“They died not simply because of a hostile ideology which pretended that the collectivization of farms was a more efficient way of producing food. They died because Stalin had a visceral hatred of Ukraine and wanted to destroy it as a nation.

“For Stalin, the peasants were the people’s enemies – the enemies of the state who wanted to undo the [October 1917] Revolution. Such language resonates today, with Putin claiming that he had to invade Ukraine to ‘de-Nazify’ it.”

Shipton explained that since Putin had come to power in December 1999, 25 journalists have been murdered in Russia, according to a tally kept by the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists. Meanwhile, following the invasion of Ukraine, independent news outlets in Russia have been shut down, forcing citizens of Russia to rely more on state media, strongly supportive of the invasion, effectively fake news.

Ashley Drake, Managing Director of Welsh Academic Press, manned the stall selling the books Martin Shipton signed.

Before I left, I spoke to Olena Tertyshnyk, who arrived in London two months ago from a village called Mohyliv, Dnipropetrovsk Region. She told Shipton how her family had refused to join the collective during Stalin’s times. Their farm and animals were confiscated, and the family was sent to a concentration camp.

Tertyshnyk’s family is still trying to find answers to exactly where they were sent and what happened to them. Shipton responded that the same fate would face Ukrainians following this war as many had been taken away to Russia and that something would be needed to deal with this.

Behind the seated panel of Messrs Sweeney, Shipton and Antoniow were photographs of Gareth Jones screened on the wall.

I wondered what he would have been thinking while looking down. Perhaps he would have felt vindicated by what he had exposed all those years ago.

21. USA. “Ukrainian Artists’ Monumental Projection Takes Over Chicago Riverfront,” *Art Newspaper*, 9 November 2022.

By Sophia Kishkovsky

Ukrainian artists’ monumental projection takes over Chicago riverfront
A projection by Kyiv-based studio PHOTINUS and based on composer Mykola Leontovych’s work is taking over a building in Chicago, which is home to a large Ukrainian diaspora community

The story of *Shchedryk*, a folkloric, hypnotically melodic early-20th century arrangement by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych that became known internationally as Carol of the

Bells, is being shown as a projection at Chicago's Art on theMART (AOTM) public art site twice nightly for the next week (10-17 November).

The production was created by PHOTINUS, a studio of Kyiv light and sound installation artists and musicians who have been working in extreme wartime conditions and fighting on the front. Before Russia's 24 February invasion of Ukraine, studio co-founders had participated in the Venice Biennale, Transmediale's Vorspiel festival in Berlin, Ars Electronica in Linz, Austria and Ukraine's Linoleum Contemporary Animation and Media Art Festival, which took place this year despite the war.

Shchedryk - Carol of The Bells: Unwrap the Holiday Magic was already in the works before the Russian invasion. It was initially planned as a celebration of Ukrainian identity and cultural diplomacy, projected during last year's Christmas holiday season onto the facade of the Diplomatic Academy in Kyiv, with the idea to present adaptations elsewhere, primarily in the US and Canada. At first the war put the project on hold, but then made it even more important.

"We really recognised the artistic and technological capabilities of the PHOTINUS Studio," says Cynthia Noble, AOTM's executive director. "We had seen images of what they had done in Kyiv and previous work, and just really appreciated how they can help us maximise the potential of this platform from a video mapping sense and of course artistic sense. And it also made sense for Chicago in terms of content because Chicago has such a large Ukrainian and Ukrainian-American community. We do typically a winter holiday program anyway, and it just made perfect sense for our platform. And then of course the world changed greatly in this year with the war and so the idea of amplifying Ukrainian cultural expression took on a whole other dimension."

AOTM, launched in 2018, is the world's largest permanent digital art projection, at theMART building, a two-city-block, 25-storey centre on Chicago's riverfront. Chicago has one of the largest Ukrainian diaspora communities in the US, with over 200,000 in Illinois now joined by 25,000 refugees from the war, Yevgeniy Drobot, Ukraine's vice-consul in the city tells *The Art Newspaper*. Chicago's Ukrainian Village features the Ukrainian National Museum and Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art.

"We understood that at a time when the Russian occupying forces destroy museums and art galleries, universities and historical monuments, take away the works of Ukrainian artists from the temporarily occupied territories or simply destroy them, the war on the 'cultural front' is especially important," Drobot says. "With this project, we can help Ukrainian culture to 'come out of the shadow'; of the invasive imperialism planted by Russian propaganda and support Ukraine on the 'cultural front', draw the attention of the international community to Ukraine and its contribution to the world cultural heritage."

The song, adapted by Leontovych from folk motifs as *The Little Swallow* that brings luck as harbinger of a bountiful harvest, was a cornerstone of cultural diplomacy under Symon Petliura, who led an independent Ukrainian state from 1918-1921, before it was subjugated by Bolshevik Russia. Shchedryk had its American debut at Carnegie Hall in 1922, which ultimately led to

Carol of the Bells, the English-language adaptation by Peter Wilhousky, an American composer of Ukrainian-Rusyn origin.

Leontovych was killed in 1921, at age 43, by an agent of the Cheka, a secret police forerunner of the KGB.

Max Robotov, the PHOTINUS Studio lead artist on the project, has been serving on the front with the Armed Forces of Ukraine since the beginning of the war. In comments emailed to *The Art Newspaper*, he describes *Shchedryk*, created by Leontovych from “ancient sample of Ukrainian folklore”, as “one of the transversal images of our culture”, with pre-Christian roots that transformed over the centuries after Ukraine’s conversion in 988 into a Christmas song and ultimately into “a universal cultural treasure.”

“We wanted, by means of *Shchedryk*, to tell both the history of Ukraine and the modern world of global culture,” Robotov says. “We cannot say that this year’s full-scale war had a big influence on our vision. But we wanted to emphasise important aspects—Ukraine is an independent country with a very long and rich history, but also Ukraine is an important part of world culture.”

Leontovych’s fate is also “typical for most (however terrible it may sound) representatives of Ukrainian culture of the 20th century” and “shows as clearly as possible that the destruction of Ukrainian creators, whose *Shchedryks* were not written, were not heard—is a loss not only of the Ukrainian, but also world culture”, Robotov says.

The December 2021 version of *Shchedryk* was funded by the British and US embassies in Kyiv and the Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF).

The use of blue and yellow in the projection is, of course, “a reference to the Ukrainian flag, but these are expressive colours, and important for many cultures”, Robotov adds, and “the very combination of horizontal blue and yellow stripes is a rather universal and easy-to-read symbol of the sky and the flowering field, that is, a symbol of peace and prosperity”.

[<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/11/09/ukrainian-artists-projection-chicago-art-on-themart>]

22. USA. “‘Ukraine’s Very Survival Is at Stake’: How Ukrainian-Americans Could Influence the U.S. Midterms,” *Globalnews.ca*, 2 November 2022.

By Jeff Semple Global News

Peter Fedynsky typically votes Republican, but in the U.S. midterm election on Nov. 8th, he’ll be casting his ballot for the Democrats.

And, he says, many members of his Ukrainian-American community are doing the same.

“They never voted for Democrats but they see that they must in this case, because Ukraine’s very survival is at stake,” Fedynsky said.

Fedynsky lives in the city of Parma, Ohio, nicknamed the ‘Perogi Pocket’ of America. The Cleveland suburb is home to the state’s largest Ukrainian community — around half of its 80,000 residents have Ukrainian heritage. In the heart of the city, called ‘Ukrainian Village,’ businesses fly Ukrainian flags, parishioners sing Ukrainian hymns and restaurants serve Ukrainian borscht.

While weighing a bag of deli meat at the local butcher shop, Lyuba Molotkovskiy’s smile dropped as she explained that her sister lives with a newborn near Kyiv. Their neighbourhood has been left badly damaged after it was hit by a Russian rocket.

“There’s no electricity there now. I don’t know how they’ll survive through the long wintertime,” Molotkovskiy said.

“It’s so dangerous. But what we can do?”

One thing she plans to do is vote in the upcoming midterm elections. Ohio’s Republican Senate seat is up for grabs — one of a handful of states that could determine the balance of power in Washington.

Parma’s Ukrainian community was founded in the early 1900s and has traditionally voted Republican. But during this campaign, the Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate in Ohio, J.D. Vance, has suggested the U.S. should stop spending tax dollars supporting Ukraine.

“I gotta be honest with you, I don’t really care what happens to Ukraine one way or another,” Vance told Steve Bannon during an interview in February, while stressing the importance of focusing on Ohio’s fentanyl crisis.

During a campaign event in Canton, Ohio, last week, Global News asked Vance to clarify his position.

“Look, I don’t think that we can continue funding the Ukrainian war indefinitely. I think the Biden administration should be pushing to de-escalate the conflict, not effectively commit the United States to supporting a long-term war of attrition between Russia and Ukraine,” Vance said.

“I would like us to de-escalate and spend American dollars on American priorities.”

Vance is not alone. Since Russia invaded in February, the U.S. has approved more than \$60 billion in military, economic and humanitarian aid to Ukraine — far more than any other country. Ukrainian President Volodmyr Zelensky has said that continued U.S. support is essential for his war-torn country to defend itself.

The Democrats are pushing forward with another major aid package for Ukraine. But in the face of growing inflation and fears of a recession, the push to reduce or end U.S. military aid to Ukraine is backed by a growing number of Republican lawmakers, including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

“I think if the Republicans take control of Congress, as it looks like they will, I see very little likelihood of funding continuing, at least at the level that it has,” explained Justin Buchler, a professor in the political science department at Cleveland’s Case Western Reserve University. The pushback against more funding for Ukraine is largely driven by Republican candidates endorsed by Donald Trump.

“Opposition to Russia really carried through in the Republican Party until Donald Trump (became president), who aligned himself very strongly with Vladimir Putin,” and promoted “a more isolationist foreign policy,” Buchler said.

Ohio voted solidly for Trump in 2016 and in 2020, so this race was never supposed to be as close as it has been. After former Republican Senator Rob Portman retired, the party nominated Vance, a venture capitalist known for his best-selling 2016 memoir and subsequent Netflix film *Hillbilly Elegy*. His opponent is Tim Ryan, a veteran lawmaker in the House of Representatives and 2020 presidential candidate. Opinion polls suggest the race is too close to call.

Now, Ohio’s Ukrainian community is hoping to play spoiler.

“Vance is a nonstarter, full stop, because of the Ukraine issue,” Fedynsky told Global News.

The retired journalist has been working to document America’s Ukrainian diaspora. He’s compiling a large album — 700 pages — containing the names and birth dates of some of the 45,000 Ukrainian-Americans who live in Ohio.

“There are a lot of Ukrainian Republicans who have been members of the party lifelong, who say that they will not vote for (Vance). They’ll vote Democrat the first time in their lives,” he told Global News.

Ohio is also home to more 1.3 million residents of Eastern European heritage.

“We have good alliances with the Baltic Republics, Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, the Poles, the Jewish community. There’s a force multiplier. So we have many, many allies in the community. It’s not just Ukrainian-Americans that we’re looking at here,” said George Jaskiw, vice-president of the United Ukrainian Organisations of Ohio.

“Let’s face it: Ukraine is fighting on because the Western world is providing aid and economic support.”

The future of U.S. support for Ukraine, and perhaps even the war itself, could hinge on the results of the midterm elections.

[<https://globalnews.ca/news/9242958/ukrainian-americans-us-midterm-elections/>]

23. USA. “New York’s Ukrainian Museum: Repository for a Culture under Threat,” *EFE News Service*, 7 October 2022.

By Nora Quintanilla New York, Oct 7 (EFE).

- Located in a modest red-brick building in New York City's East Village neighborhood, The Ukrainian Museum is the largest institution of its kind located outside that Eastern European country and the repository of a cultural legacy now under threat from foreign invasion. The museum's director, Peter Doroshenko, a second-generation immigrant born in Chicago, told Efe he feels a "great responsibility" to represent "what's happening at museums in Ukraine." To that end, he led Efe on a tour of the museum's most recent exhibition, "Impact Damage," a dark, silent space in which just a few paintings, sculptures and artifacts can be made out in the light from documentary videos on the ongoing war triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The images filmed by Babylon'13, a collective of cinematographers and activists, include those of refugees fleeing the war and soldiers in the trenches.

In the faint light, visitors can perceive objects such as the traditional embroidery of a 19th-century dress or a Soviet-era political poster. Doroshenko said the exhibit aims to convey the fact that 99 percent of Ukraine's museums are currently closed. He said he is in contact with many museum directors in Ukraine and is promoting a rotating exhibition to tell their stories and the work they are doing to safeguard their collections. That New York museum also is paying tribute to Maks Levin, a photojournalist who was killed by Russian troops near Kyiv during the first month of hostilities, according to Reporters Without Borders. An exhibition is showcasing around 50 of his final photos, accompanied by an explanatory map of the conflict. Although politics is very much front and center at the Ukrainian Museum, that institution also is home to a second-floor gallery with surrealist paintings by 91-year-old Ukrainian poet and artist Emma Andijewska and an underground gallery with ceramics by artist Slava Gerulak that were inspired by feminine figures from Ukrainian folklore. If possible, the museum will be further enhanced in 2024 by a new exhibition of the work of Maria Prymachenko (1909-1997), a Ukrainian folk art painter who worked in the naive art style. An icon of Ukrainian identity, she was in the news after 30 of her works were burned in a Russian bombing raid near Kyiv that damaged the museum housing them. That bombardment is evidence of Russian attempts to destroy Ukrainian culture, according to Doroshenko, who said his institution is promoting a program to enable threatened museums in Ukraine to receive computers, access cloud services and electronically register their collections. After 11 years at the helm of the Dallas Contemporary art museum, Doroshenko said his challenge now is to expand the Ukrainian Museum's offering by highlighting Ukrainian graphic design, architecture, fashion and cinema. Above all, he added that the goal is to create a multi-disciplinary organization that is unafraid to show the best of what Ukrainians and the Ukrainian diaspora have to offer.

24. USA. "Annual Ukrainian Festival in Washington DC 'Honours Ukrainians and Prays for Peace,'" *Kyiv Post*, 21 September 2022.

By Jason Jay Smart.

This year's annual Washington DC Ukrainian Festival gave a glimpse into a community that is suffering the mixed emotions of tremendous pride in their culture, while maintaining a burning

concern for their loved ones and homeland that has been under siege since Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24.

Though the festival, hosted at St Andrew's Orthodox Cathedral, was similar to many held in past years, Yaromyr Oryshkevych, who served for a total of thirty years as an active Guard and reservist in the United States military, said: "It's war time. Ukraine is being attacked by bloodthirsty Russians. The Ukrainian community in not just DC, but in other cities, and other non-Ukrainians, have come to support Ukraine.

"People are coming knowing that this is also a fundraiser that will help humanitarian and medical needs of Ukrainians driven out of their homeland."

Oryshkevych said that "seeing the crowds yesterday, I was amazed by the turnout. The non-Ukrainian turnout has been huge to support the Ukrainian cause."

The war's effect could be felt on every corner: Whether it was the items being sold to support war-orphans, the icon of the Virgin with the request to "Pray for Ukraine," or the photos of the vast human suffering that were displayed in the sanctuary, the painful scars of the war lingered on the event.

"Most people want to help Ukraine. Ukraine's an underdog against the Russians," said Askold D Mosijczuk, a retired US Army Colonel.

Mosijczuk acknowledged that the war will "ultimately, make the US safer. It's prophylactic action to fight off Russian aggression," underlined Mosijczuk.

The crowds attending were as ethnically diverse as the Washington DC area, and cars were parked in the neighbouring Muslim Community Center and the adjacent Lutheran Church. Despite the warm weather, people well into their 90s, as well as newborns, were present.

An ethnic Russian who had emigrated to the US said to the Kyiv Post that he felt that it was important to attend, stating that he strongly opposed the war and Putin, and wanted to show his support for Ukraine.

Wives of Ukrainian Prisoners of War from the Azov Battalion gave an emotional plea for greater support to bring their husbands home.

The role of the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States has been a critical element of supporting Ukraine's freedom and development for decades."

Nodding to this, famed Ukrainian singer Oksana Bilozir, who began her US tour by giving a free concert at the festival, said to the Kyiv Post that "We see that the influence of the Ukrainian international organization and diaspora and to be one front together, and war made us need to unite.

The event, despite the clear undercurrent of the war, was by no means sombre. Along with the traditional youth ensembles dancing, and related activities, the 2004 Eurovision winner, Ruslana, led the crowd in an emotional singing of Ukraine's national anthem before launching into a wide number of her hit pop songs.

Fr Volodymyr Steliac, speaking to the Kyiv Post, said that this year was "of course" more significant than previous years.

"We started this festival 20 years ago to showcase Ukraine culture," he said. "Ukrainians are peace loving and you can see the beauty. And by all of things here – the clothes, food, etc., for 20 years we wanted to cover it. Now due to the war, people are much more curious, and the people are very sympathetic. The attempts to take away our identity. However, Ukrainians will fight to preserve their culture. Look here, we have beauty, and we want to support," said the priest.

The Ukrainian diaspora in America has been running a wide number of initiatives to support Ukraine. Even the Cathedral hosting the festival's website begins with a landing page for a fundraiser to purchase four ambulances at a cost of \$80,000, of which the parish has already achieved 71% of their goal.

Attendees to the event, many wearing veshyvankas or pro-Ukrainian t-shirts, were given Ukrainian flags upon entering. The brochure given to everyone entering perhaps though best summarized this year's event, with the welcoming headline, in highlighted text, stating: "Amidst the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine, we honour the heroic Ukrainians, pray for peace, and welcome you to enjoy our beautiful Ukrainian culture."

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Serge Cipko
Coordinator
Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Initiative
Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre
Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies
4-30 Pembina Hall
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta,
CANADA T6G 2H8
Email: scipko@ualberta.ca

To subscribe to “Ukrainians Abroad: News and Views” or to unsubscribe, send an email message to scipko@ualberta.ca.