

UKRAINIANS ABROAD: NEWS AND VIEWS #167

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22 October 2025

1. Argentina. “La ciudad de Apóstoles y de la Región vivieron el 128° Aniversario de la llegada de los Primeros Inmigrantes; Polacos, Ucranianos e Italiano” [The City of Apóstoles and the Region Celebrated the 128th Anniversary of the Arrival of the First immigrants: Poles, Ukrainians, and Italian], *Limiteinformativo.com*, 28 August 2025.

2. Argentina. “La comunidad ucraniana celebró la Independencia y la llegada de los primeros inmigrantes” [The Ukrainian Community Celebrated Independence Day of Ukraine and the Arrival of the First Immigrants], *Meridiano55.com*, 26 August 2025.

3. Brazil. “Ucranianos fazem atos contra a invasão russa em São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro e Curitiba” [Ukrainians Stage Protests Against the Russian Invasion in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Curitiba], *Gazetadopovo.com.br*, 24 August 2025.

4. Canada. “‘All About Connection’: Calgary’s Ukrainians Put on First-Ever Business Expo,” *Calgary Herald*, 3 October 2025.

5. Canada. “Ukrainian National Federation in NL Expanding Reach, Resources,” *Vocm.com*, 2 September 2025.

6. Canada. “Ukrainian Heritage to Be Celebrated in Upcoming Event,” *PaNOW*, 1 September 2025.

7. France. “À Nancy, la communauté ukrainienne célèbre son indépendance malgré la guerre” [In Nancy, the Ukrainian Community Celebrates Ukraine’s Independence Despite the War], *Francebleu.fr*, 24 August 2025.

8. General. “Ukraine Migrant Flows After War May Prove Key to Central Europe’s Growth Prospects, S&P Says,” *Reuters News*, 19 September 2025.

9. General. “New Diaspora Platform Backed by IOM Aims to Boost Ukraine’s Reconstruction,” *Iom.int*, 17 July 2025.

10. General. “Interview: The Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Stated That Migration Movements Have Never Occurred Under Such Extreme Conditions as Today,” *En.interfax.com.ua*, 11 July 2025.

11. Hungary. “The First Official Ukrainian-Hungarian School Named After Shevchenko Opened in Budapest,” *112.ua*, 1 September 2025.

12. Italy. “Ukro-2025 in Trento: A Celebration of Ukrainian Culture in Italy,” *Odessa Journal*, 16 September 2025.
13. Norway. “Population Continues to Grow, But the Growth Slows as Fewer Ukrainian Citizens Move to Norway in Q2,” *Nordic Daily*, 21 August 2025.
14. Romania. “New Leadership Appointed for the Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate in Romania,” *Basilica.ro*, 6 October 2025.
15. Romania. “Romanian-Ukrainian Project ‘Tulcea - Micto/Misto, Where Borders Speak the Same Language’ to Take Place in End-September,” *AGERPRES*, 17 September 2025.
16. Spain “Ukrainian Cultural Center Opens in Valencia,” *Odessa Journal*, 17 September 2025.
17. Spain. “Torrevieja Celebrates Ukrainian Independence Day,” *Euro Weekly News*, 27 August 2025.
18. United Kingdom. “From Bagpipes to Borscht: Exploring Edinburgh’s Ukrainian Heritage on Foot,” *Guardian*, 4 September 2025.
19. USA. “The Ukrainian Festival Has Changed to a Celebration of Joy and Resistance,” *Minnesota Daily*, 18 September 2025.
20. USA. “How the Sacramento Ukrainian Community Celebrated Independence Day,” *Sacramento Bee*, 25 August 2025.
21. USA. “Ukrainians Celebrate 34th Independence Day at California’s Capitol as Peace Talks in War Loom,” *CBS Sacramento*, 24 August 2025.

1. Argentina. “La ciudad de Apóstoles y de la Región vivieron el 128° Aniversario de la llegada de los Primeros Inmigrantes; Polacos, Ucrainianos e Italiano” [The City of Apóstoles and the Region Celebrated the 128th Anniversary of the Arrival of the First immigrants: Poles, Ukrainians, and Italian], *Limiteinformativo.com*, 28 August 2025.

El día miércoles, 27 de Agosto, la comunidad de la ciudad misionera de Apóstoles y de la Región se reunió para conmemorar el 128° Aniversario – 1897-2025 – de la Llegada de los Primeros Inmigrantes a la ciudad.

Hubo un acto conmemorativo, seguido de un Desfile Cívico Militar, tuvo lugar en el tradicional Conjunto Escultórico a los Primeros Inmigrantes, ubicado en la intersección de las Avenidas; 9 de Julio y Polonia en la Ruta Provincial N° 1 y, obra del artista plástico Raúl Delavy.

La ceremonia fue encabezada por el Vicegobernador de la Provincia de Misiones, Lucas Romero Spinelli, y la Intendente María Eugenia Safrán.

También estuvieron presentes, el Intendente de la localidad de Concepción de la Sierra Hugo

Humeniuk, el Secretario de Estado de Cultura de Misiones Joselo Schuap, también el Cónsul Honorario de Ucrania para la provincia de Misiones Diego Muruniak y el Vicepresidente de la R.C.U., por Misiones Jorge Balanda entre otras autoridades de las Colectividades, a ellos se les sumaron autoridades militares, eclesiásticas, de Educación, delegaciones escolares, invitados especiales y vecinos de la región.

El mismo comenzó con la entonación de los Himnos Nacionales de Argentina, Italia, Polonia y Ucrania a cargo del Coro " Voces de Apóstoles ", dirigidos Lizzy Bernal y el Prof. Hector Vanzini.

Posteriormente se realizó una Ofrenda floral a cargo del Vicegobernador de la provincia de Misiones Lucas Romero Spinelli, la Intendente Municipal María Eugenia Safrán y los Presidentes de las Colectividades, seguidamente y luego del minuto de silencio se realizó una invocación religiosa a cargo de Párroco Alejandro Cañete y del Pastor Barreto Didolich.

Luego se escucharon las palabras centrales del Acto a cargo del Presidente de la Colectividad polaca Facundo Sniechowski, quien visiblemente emocionado destacó la importancia histórica de la fecha, además de expresar su solidaridad con los Ucranianos y pedir la finalización de la invasión rusa a Ucrania.

Seguidamente y dando cumplimiento y lectura a la Ordenanza Municipal N° 37-2025 se procedió a entregar Menciones Especiales a ciudadanos que se han destacado dentro del ámbito de las Colectividades y la Comunidad.

Las historias de vida, el recuerdo y las emociones estuvieron a flor de piel en éste momento del acto, especialmente cuando cada distinguido era nombrado y saludado por las autoridades y la comunidad toda. Este año los Distinguidos fueron por la Colectividad Italiana la Prof. Maria Ines Ganier, por la Colectividad Polaca la Sra. Silvia Ines Zubrzycki y el Sr. Julio Zuk, por parte de la Colectividad Ucraniana fueron Distinguidos la Sra. Martha Aida Zubrycki y el Sr. Pedro Juan Kruk.

Seguidamente y a modo de cierre del acto se procedió al despliegue de un muy colorido desfile Cívico – militar, contando el mismo con una numerosa cantidad de Delegaciones quienes se convirtieron en el broche de oro de una jornada por demás brillante para la Capital Nacional de la Yerba Mate, Ciudad de las Flores y cuna de la Inmigración en la provincia de Misiones.

A modo de acotación al margen es digno de señalar que esta fecha recuerda el comienzo de la inmigración ucraniana organizada a la Argentina, por lo tanto felicitamos a todos los descendientes de dicha comunidad, pues para todos ellos hoy es también un día muy especial.

Este año la organización y dirección del Acto estuvo a cargo de la Colectividad Polaca, en forma conjunta con la Dirección de Cultura Municipal.

Texto y foto de la publicación en las redes sociales de Colectividad Ucraniana de Apóstoles, Pueblos, Colonias, Norte de Corrientes

[Translation into English follows – S.C.]:

On Wednesday, 27 August, the community of the Misiones city of Apóstoles and the region gathered to commemorate the 128th anniversary – 1897–2025 – of the Arrival of the First Immigrants to the city.

A commemorative ceremony, followed by a civic-military parade, took place at the traditional Conjunto Escultórico a los Primeros Inmigrantes dedicated to the first immigrants, located at the intersection of 9 de Julio and Polonia Avenues on the Provincial Route 1 and being the work of artist Raúl Delavy.

The ceremony was led by Vice Governor of the Province of Misiones Lucas Romero Spinelli and Mayor María Eugenia Safrán.

Also present were Mayor of Concepción de la Sierra Hugo Humeniuk, Secretary of State for Culture of Misiones, Joselo Schuap, Honorary Consul of Ukraine for the Province of Misiones Diego Muruniak, and Vice President of the Ukrainian Central Representation for Misiones Jorge Balanda, alongside other representatives from various communities. They were joined by military, ecclesiastical, and educational representatives, school delegations, special guests, and residents of the region.

The event began with the singing of the national anthems of Argentina, Italy, Poland, and Ukraine by the “Voces de Apóstoles” Choir, conducted by Lizzy Bernal and Prof. Hector Vanzini.

A floral offering was then made by Vice Governor Lucas Romero Spinelli, Municipal Mayor María Eugenia Safrán, and the presidents of the local communities. Following a minute of silence, a religious invocation was given by parish priest Alejandro Cañete and pastor Barreto Didolich.

The keynote address was then given by the president of the Polish community, Facundo Sniechowski. Visibly moved, he emphasized the historical significance of the date, expressed his solidarity with the Ukrainians, and called for an end to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Following this, and in compliance with and reading of Municipal Ordinance No. 37-2025, special mentions were presented to citizens who have distinguished themselves within the communities and the general public.

Life stories, memories, and sentiments came to the fore at this point, especially when each distinguished person was named and greeted by the authorities and the entire community. This year, the honorees were Prof. María Inés Ganier from the Italian community; Ms. Silvia Inés Zubrzycki and Mr. Julio Zuk from the Polish community; and Ms. Martha Aida Zubrycki and Mr. Pedro Juan Kruk from the Ukrainian community.

The ceremony was followed by a colourful civic-military parade, attended by a large number of delegations, which provided the finishing touch to a truly brilliant day for the National Capital of Yerba Mate, the City of Flowers, and the birthplace of immigration in the province of Misiones.

As a side note, it is worth mentioning that this date commemorates the beginning of organized Ukrainian immigration to Argentina. Therefore, we congratulate all the descendants of this community, for today is also a very special day for all of them.

This year, the event was organized and directed by the Polish community, in conjunction with the Municipal Culture Department.

Text and photo from the social media post of the Colectividad Ucraniana de Apóstoles, Pueblos, Colonias, Norte de Corrientes.

2. Argentina. “La comunidad ucraniana celebró la Independencia y la llegada de los primeros inmigrantes” [The Ukrainian Community Celebrated Independence Day of Ukraine and the Arrival of the First Immigrants], *Meridiano55.com*, 26 August 2025.

Hijos, nietos, bisnietos de ucranianos e integrantes de la Colectividad Ucraniana de Oberá y Colonias, conmemoraron el 34° aniversario de la Independencia de este país y los 128 años de la llegada de los primeros inmigrantes ucranianos a Misiones.

La jornada del último domingo, inició con el izamiento de las banderas en el centro cívico de la ciudad. Los encargados de tal acto fueron, la Reina de la Colectividad, Melina Zapaya (Argentina); junto a Mauro Poliszczuk, en representación de la Comisión Directiva; Jorge Motta (Ucrania), Presidente de la Colectividad y los Reyes Mayores, Sandra Poplawski y Estanislao Kozij (Misiones).

Estuvieron acompañados de otros integrantes de la Comisión, efectivos de la Policía de Misiones y simpatizantes de la Colectividad.

El Presidente, fue el responsable de dar unas breves palabras respecto a la Independencia, a importancia de mantener vivas las tradiciones, costumbres y la cultura de Ucrania, en este momento tan particular; atravesado por la guerra.

Posteriormente, la comitiva, se trasladó a la plaza que lleva el nombre del País. Donde se sumaron otros integrantes de la Colectividad, del ballet Barvinok y Kalena, además de autoridades municipales.

En dicho lugar, tras el izamiento de las banderas, se cantaron los himnos de Argentina y Ucrania. Además, se realizó un minuto de Silencio en conmemoración de los inmigrantes fallecidos y por las víctimas de la guerra en Ucrania.

El primero de los discursos del acto, estuvo a cargo de la Reina, Melina Zapaya, quien se refirió a los 128 años de la llegada de los primeros inmigrantes ucranianos a la Argentina. En sus palabras, indicó “arribaron provenientes del Imperio Austrohúngaro, en busca de un nuevo comienzo, y se encontraron en la tierra colorada con grandes desafíos. En el marco de una

estrategia de colonización, se les otorgaron tierras para trabajar en la agricultura y la ganadería. Sin embargo, lo que recibieron no fueron campos listos para sembrar, sino monte cerrado, desafíos desconocidos y un clima muy distinto al de su Ucrania natal. Aun así, con esfuerzo, fe y esperanza, supieron transformar esa dificultad en oportunidad, y con sus manos y su valentía forjaron comunidades que hoy siguen vivas”.

Entre los pioneros, se encontraba el tatarabuelo de Melina, José Zapaya; “me emociona profundamente pensar en ese momento: en sus manos cargadas de trabajo, en su corazón lleno de fe, y en su mirada fija en un futuro que aún no podía ver, pero que soñaba para sus hijos, para sus nietos... y, sin saberlo, también para mí. El legado que nos dejaron no se mide solo en hectáreas trabajadas o en casas construidas. Se mide en valores: el coraje de empezar de cero, la fortaleza de sostener la identidad lejos de la tierra natal, y la esperanza de heredar a sus descendientes una vida mejor. Y junto con ello, nos dejaron algo inmenso: su cultura. Trajeron danzas, bordados, canciones, sabores, y, sobre todo, el espíritu de comunidad que todavía nos une. Ese es el legado que me toca llevar hoy en el corazón y en mi voz como Reina de la Colectividad Ucraniana. Porque lo que represento no es solo un título: represento la historia de mi familia, el sacrificio de mis antepasados y el orgullo de una comunidad que, con esfuerzo y unión, sembró raíces profundas en esta tierra colorada”.

Luego, las autoridades y representantes, realizaron la colocación de flores al pie del busto del escritor ucraniano Taras Schevchenko.

El encargado del discurso por la Independencia, fue Mauro Poliszczuk; quien destacó “Es en este día, en 1991, cuando el pueblo ucraniano decidió, con valentía y convicción, recuperar su soberanía y afirmar su derecho inalienable a ser una nación libre, tras largos años bajo dominio soviético. Este acto no fue un simple gesto político. Fue la culminación de siglos de lucha, resistencia y esperanza. La historia de Ucrania es, en muchos sentidos, la historia de un pueblo que nunca renunció a su identidad”.

Además, agregó “en los últimos años, la comunidad internacional ha sido testigo del heroísmo del pueblo ucraniano frente a situaciones extremas. La defensa de su territorio, de su cultura, de su gente, ha puesto de manifiesto que la independencia no es solo un acto fundacional, sino una tarea que se renueva cada día, con esfuerzo, con sacrificio y con amor por la patria”.

“El 24 de agosto es también un día para reconocer a quienes, más allá de las fronteras geográficas, siguen manteniendo viva la ucranianidad. En Argentina, y especialmente en la provincia de Misiones, la colectividad ucraniana ha sido y sigue siendo protagonista de una construcción cultural valiosísima”.

Y finalizó enfatizando, “Ucrania no es solo un país: es una identidad, una historia compartida, un ejemplo de lucha y resiliencia. Y porque la libertad, cuando se defiende con el alma, se convierte en eternidad”.

Como cierre, se dio la presentación de una parte del grupo infantil del ballet oficial de la Colectividad, los más pequeños del Barvinok bailaron una danza típica muy emotiva.

[Translation into English follows – S.C.]:

Children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of Ukrainians and members of the Colectividad Ucraniana de Oberá y Colonias commemorated the 34th anniversary of Ukraine's independence and the 128th anniversary of the arrival of the first Ukrainian immigrants to Misiones.

Last Sunday's event began with the raising of the flags in the city's civic centre. Those in charge of the event were the Queen of the [Ukrainian] Community, Melina Zapaya (Argentina), along with Mauro Poliszczuk, representing the Board of Directors, Jorge Motta (Ukraine), president of the community, and the Reyes Mayores, Sandra Poplawski and Estanislao Kozij (Misiones).

They were accompanied by other members of the commission, members of the Misiones police, and sympathizers of the Ukrainian community.

The president delivered a few brief remarks regarding Ukraine's independence and the importance of keeping Ukrainian traditions, customs, and culture alive at this very particular time in the midst of war.

The delegation then moved to the square that bears Ukraine's name. They were joined by other members of the Ukrainian community, the Barvinok and Kalena dance ensembles, and municipal representatives.

There, after the flags were raised, the Argentine and Ukrainian national anthems were sung. A minute of silence was also observed in commemoration of the deceased immigrants and the victims of the war in Ukraine.

The first speech at the 128th anniversary event was given by the Queen [of the Ukrainian Community], Melina Zapaya, who reflected on the topic of the arrival of the first Ukrainian immigrants to Argentina. She stated, "They arrived from the Austro-Hungarian Empire in search of a new beginning and found themselves on the red earth facing great challenges. As part of a colonization strategy, they were given land to work in agriculture and livestock. However, what they received was not fields ready for sowing, but rather dense forests, unknown challenges, and a climate very different from that of their native Ukraine. Even so, with effort, faith, and hope, they were able to transform that difficulty into opportunity, and, with their hands and their courage, they forged communities that are still alive today."

Among the pioneers was Melina's great-great-grandfather, José Zapaya; "I am deeply moved when I think of that moment: the hands heavy with work, the heart full of faith, and a gaze fixed on a future that couldn't yet be seen, but which dreamed for the children, for the grandchildren... and, unknowingly, for me as well. The legacy bequeathed to us is not measured only in hectares worked or houses built. It is measured in values: the courage to start from scratch, the strength to maintain one's identity far from one's homeland, and the hope of passing on a better life to descendants. And along with that, they left us something immense: their culture. They brought dances, embroidery, songs, tastes, and, above all, the community spirit that still unites us. That is the legacy I must carry today in my heart and in my voice as Queen of the Ukrainian Community. Because I represent not merely a title: I represent the history of my family, the

sacrifice of my ancestors, and the pride of a community that, with effort and unity, planted deep roots in this red soil.”

Afterward, the authorities and representatives laid flowers at the foot of the bust of Ukrainian writer Taras Shevchenko.

Mauro Poliszczuk delivered the speech about Ukrainian Independence Day. He asserted that, “It was on this day, in 1991, that the Ukrainian people decided, with bravery and conviction, to regain their sovereignty and affirm their inalienable right to be a free nation, after many years under Soviet rule. This act was not a mere political gesture. It was the culmination of centuries of struggle, resistance, and hope. The history of Ukraine is, in many ways, the history of a people who never renounced their identity.”

He added that, “In recent years, the international community has witnessed the heroism of the Ukrainian people in the face of extreme circumstances. The defence of their territory, their culture, and their people have demonstrated that independence is not only a founding act, but a task that is renewed every day, with effort, sacrifice, and love for the homeland.”

“August 24th is also a day to recognize those who, beyond geographical borders, continue to maintain their Ukrainian identity. In Argentina, and especially in the province of Misiones, the Ukrainian community has been and continues to be a protagonist of an invaluable cultural construction.”

And he concluded by emphasizing that “Ukraine is not just a country: it is an identity, a shared history, an example of struggle and resilience. And because freedom, when defended with the soul, becomes eternal.”

The event closed with a performance of a very moving traditional dance by a section of the children’s group from the community’s ensemble, Barvinok.

*** *Additional information about Melina Zapaya, who is from Campo Grande in the Department of Cainguás, Misiones, and her forebears can be found in the 11 September 2025 article “Melina Zapaya es la nueva reina Nacional de los Inmigrantes” [Melina Zapaya is the New National Queen of the Immigrants], at: <https://periodismomisionero.com.ar/melina-zapaya-es-la-nueva-reina-nacional-de-los-inmigrantes/> [S.C.].*

3. Brazil. “Ucranianos fazem atos contra a invasão russa em São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro e Curitiba” [Ukrainians Stage Protests Against the Russian Invasion in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Curitiba], *Gazetadopovo.com.br*, 24 August 2025.

Por Luis Kawaguti

Membros da comunidade ucraniana e manifestantes contrários à invasão da Rússia na Ucrânia fizeram atos neste domingo (24) em São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro e Curitiba. As manifestações marcam o dia da independência ucraniana e tentam mostrar aos brasileiros que a ditadura russa

está se recusando a negociar o fim da guerra mesmo com a pressão do presidente americano Donald Trump.

Na Avenida Paulista, em São Paulo, manifestantes marcharam com uma bandeira gigante e ramos de girassóis, que é um dos maiores itens de exportação do país, e atraíram a atenção de quem aproveitava o Domingo na Paulista, quando a avenida fica fechada para pedestres.

Membros da embaixada ucraniana e do consulado local fizeram discursos agradecendo o apoio e pedindo paz. O cônsul honorário de São Paulo, Jorge Rybka, fez críticas a empresas privadas brasileiras que estão comprando óleo diesel e outros produtos da Rússia sem se importar que o dinheiro está ajudando a financiar mais mortes na Ucrânia.

Cartazes traziam uma imagem do presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) dando um aperto de mão banhado de sangue com o ditador Vladimir Putin da Rússia. Lula tem sido um dos maiores apoiadores internacionais da ditadura russa desde que assumiu seu terceiro mandato. Ele vem sendo o porta-voz ideológico da Rússia e da China em uma luta global contra a hegemonia do dólar americano.

Manifestantes também se reuniram no Rio de Janeiro, na Avenida Atlântica, na praia de Copacabana, e em Curitiba, no memorial ucraniano no Parque Tingui. Também ocorreram celebrações religiosas em igrejas ucranianas no Paraná.

O dia 24 de agosto é a data em que a Ucrânia aprovou em seu Parlamento a independência da União Soviética em 1991 e é usada hoje como dia de protestos contra a invasão russa de larga escala iniciada em fevereiro de 2022. Nesta segunda-feira (25) haverá uma sessão especial na Câmara dos Deputados às 9h, em Brasília. O objetivo é celebrar os laços entre os dois países e prestar homenagem e apoio à Ucrânia.

Atualmente, a comunidade ucraniana no Brasil conta com cerca de 500 mil pessoas. A imigração de ucranianos para o Brasil começou há 134 anos, figurando entre os dez principais grupos imigrantes que vieram para o país.

[Translation into English follows – S.C.]:

By Luis Kawaguti

Members of the Ukrainian community and protesters against Russia's invasion of Ukraine held demonstrations this Sunday (24) in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Curitiba. The demonstrations mark Ukrainian Independence Day and endeavour to show Brazilians that the Russian dictatorship is refusing to negotiate an end to the war despite pressure from US President Donald Trump.

On Avenida Paulista in São Paulo, protesters marched with a giant flag and with sunflowers, one of the country's largest exports, attracting the attention of those enjoying the Sunday on the avenue, when it is closed for pedestrians.

Members of the Ukrainian embassy and the local consulate gave speeches thanking the demonstrators for their support and calling for peace. Ukraine's honorary consul in São Paulo, Jorge Rybka, criticized private Brazilian companies that are buying diesel and other products from Russia, disregarding the fact that the money is helping to finance more deaths in Ukraine.

Posters featured an image of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (Partido dos Trabalhadores) engaged in a blood-soaked handshake with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin. Lula has been one of the Russian dictatorship's strongest international supporters since taking office for his third term. He has been the ideological spokesperson for Russia and China in a global struggle against the hegemony of the US dollar.

Protesters also gathered in Rio de Janeiro, on Avenida Atlântica [that runs parallel to] Copacabana Beach, and in Curitiba, at the Ukrainian Memorial in Tingüi Park. In addition, religious services were held at Ukrainian churches in Paraná.

August 24th is the date on which Ukraine's Parliament approved its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and is now used as a day of protests against the large-scale Russian invasion that began in February 2022. This Monday (25), there will be a special session in the Chamber of Deputies at 9 a.m. in Brasília. The goal is to celebrate the ties between the two countries and pay tribute and express support to Ukraine.

Presently, the Ukrainian community in Brazil numbers approximately 500,000 people. The immigration of Ukrainians into Brazil began 134 years ago, ranking among the top ten immigrant groups who came to the country.

4. Canada. “‘All About Connection’: Calgary’s Ukrainians Put on First-Ever Business Expo,” *Calgary Herald*, 3 October 2025.

The expo will showcase businesses and start-ups run by those who moved to Calgary during the Russia-Ukrainian war

By Devika Desai

For those not too familiar with the Ukrainian community in Calgary, they may be reminded of borscht, varenyky and pierogies when thinking of the culture.

But there's so much more to the community, and they plan to showcase that in their first-ever expo, to be held Saturday for all Calgarians to attend.

The Toloka Expo will go on all day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 1133 7 Ave. S.W. and showcase a range of businesses sharing their products and services as well as food offerings, cultural performances, music and art. The day will end with a fashion show featuring models trained by Maliyah Abenir, a Canadian designer with works in Vogue, LEffronte, Moevir and others.

While the expo is the first of its kind, it's not the first event put on sharing Ukrainian culture and knowledge.

“We have a lot of events, but most are mainly for the Ukrainian community,” said spokesperson Tanya Kravchenko. “Ukrainian festivals (for example), when we bring together vendor and have some singers and dancers, but in most cases it’s not about the businesses ... of course they’re open for everyone, but not all of them are in the English language.”

The idea for the expo arose from community conversations, especially among those who migrated to Calgary after the war broke out in 2022.

“In most cases, it’s newcomers who came to Calgary .. and they were not fully prepared for the situation,” Kravchenko said. “But they brought the knowledge and expertise as most of these people, they ran their businesses back in Ukraine.”

This expo will focus particularly on those people, she added, and how they started their new life, their new businesses in the city.

“They want to develop and they are open to everyone and they want to stay here and make their contribution to the city’s development,” she said.

Fifty businesses are scheduled to participate in the event including those in “food service, cleaning, beauty, education, finance, home service, beverages and wellness,” Kravchenko said.

Calgarians visiting the event can also choose from a schedule of talks with business founders, workshops and one-on-one networking meets.

Those attending the talks will get to hear from experts speaking on health, finance and insurance and the legal aspects of business and personal life. For business experts anxious to learn more about the accounting side, “a hot topic,” Kravchenko added, there will be someone to deliver a lecture and answer any business-related questions.

On the side, families with children can enjoy a kids zone replete with activities like face painting, toys, crafts and sports activities. “Everyone can enjoy and find something,” she said.

At the end of the day, starting at 5 p.m. is the fashion show. Put on by multiple designers, it will show a range of clothing from traditional and cultural to lingerie, homewear and occasion wear.

Abenir, the designer who will coach the models and choreograph the runway, has her origins in Canada, graduating from George Brown College in Toronto, with a degree in Fashion Techniques and Design

“It’s a collaboration,” Kravchenko described. “We want everyone to (know) we’re not a separate community.”

The venture took months of planning, starting in March and entailing stages of planning, promoting, vendor and media partnerships.

Kravchenko nodded to the support received from the community, whether it be volunteers helping out with the event and feedback from others as more information about it was shared and promoted.

While this is the first of its kind, Kravchenko said there are conversations about making the event an annual feature.

“The response was so great,” she said, not just from other Ukrainians but from the city as well, such as the Canadian Calgary Business Association who helped spread the word of the event.

“The feeling that we are not alone and that we have a lot of people and organizations that support us ... it was very impressive and very helpful and motivational.

And that’s what she hopes Calgarians visiting the event take away from the experience.

“It’s about connection,” she said. “We want guests to have fun during the event ... where you can get a lot of useful information and just spend the day talking to business owners, asking questions. Find someone or something useful for your daily life or if you need to buy or repair something.”

5. Canada. “Ukrainian National Federation in NL Expanding Reach, Resources,” *Vocm.com*, 2 September 2025.

The local Ukrainian National Federation is branching out with chapters in the process of being set up in Gander and Corner Brook.

Thousands of Ukrainians now call Newfoundland and Labrador home after the province opened its doors to those who left the country seeking a safe place after the Russian invasion.

The province’s Ukrainian help desk, set up in Poland, offered an alternative for Ukrainians with nowhere to go. Approximately 6,000 Ukrainians landed in the province.

The creative director with the Ukrainian National Federation in Newfoundland and Labrador, Sofia Dubyk, says they’re now setting up offices in other parts of the province.

“We start(ed) here on the Avalon, and now we start a connection with the Ukrainian community in Corner Brook. The last couple of weeks we have started to make connections with those in Gander.” She says there are only 50 people, but they’re Ukrainian.

The provincial government is providing \$750,000 to establish a dedicated hub to support Ukrainians on the west coast.

The new hub, in Corner Brook, will offer integrated, bilingual services for Ukrainians living in the region.

6. Canada. “Ukrainian Heritage to Be Celebrated in Upcoming Event,” *PaNOW*, 1 September 2025.

By Logan Lehmann

The colours of Ukraine will be draped across Little Red River Park this coming weekend for the city’s Ukrainian Day in Prince Albert.

The event will run from 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 bringing together newly arrived Ukrainians, people of Ukrainian heritage, and the wider community to share and experience the country’s culture through music, dance, food, and traditional art, while also raising awareness of Ukraine’s unique identity and ongoing resilience.

Charlene Tebbutt is one of the organizers of the event and said it’s a fairly new tradition that began just a couple of years ago.

“September is the month that the first Ukrainian immigrants arrived in Canada in 1891. So, September 7th, to be exact, is when the first Ukrainian immigrants arrived in Canada. So, over the last couple of years, together with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Saskatchewan Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, different groups have been actively working to celebrate Ukrainian heritage and include that in recognition right across the province so that everyone can celebrate.”

Saturday’s celebration will feature vendors, a fashion show, Ukrainian food, a photo booth, family games and other activities for all ages, as well as live entertainment with performances from P.A.’s Veselka Choir, Barveenok Ukrainian Dancers, Saskatoon’s Yevshan Ukrainian Folk Ballet Ensemble, and Dean Bernier and his Band. The Ukrainian Museum of Canada will also be in attendance, hosting a special embroidery workshop, while some of the newcomers will be showcasing how to make a traditional Ukrainian doll.

For this year’s Ukrainian Day in Prince Albert, Veselka and Barveenok have been working together with the Ukrainian newcomers.

“It’s not only a chance to collaborate on something that’s going to be a really special and meaningful event in the community, but the chance to learn other ways of doing things, learn more about this culture that we are all part of, and also share our culture with people in the community who might not know or might be interested.”

Tebbutt, a Ukrainian-Canadian herself, added that the ongoing war in Ukraine has made things difficult for some of the newcomers settling in Prince Albert, explaining the event will also shed light on the nearly four-year-old war.

“It’s been a struggle for people coming here from Ukraine, and of course, they’re very far from home, [but] they have persisted. They continue to make the best out of this situation, and they’re really a part of our community here in Prince Albert. Together, we’re all hoping for peace and praying for peace. And so, this is a chance for us to recognize our cultures, celebrate our culture,

and also raise awareness at the same time.”

The Russo-Ukrainian War has been ongoing since February 2014, when Russia invaded and annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. Eight years later, in February 2022, Russia launched their full-scale invasion of Ukraine, where the two countries remain in conflict today.

Back in Prince Albert, Tebbutt said she’s still working out the final kinks of Saturday’s event and is already looking ahead for future celebrations.

“I’m already thinking about next year. It’s just so fun to do this type of activity.”

Ukrainian Day in Prince Albert is free for all ages to attend, and those coming to the celebration are told to bring their own chairs.

7. France. “À Nancy, la communauté ukrainienne célèbre son indépendance malgré la guerre” [In Nancy, the Ukrainian Community Celebrates Ukraine’s Independence Despite the War], *Francebleu.fr*, 24 August 2025.

Lisa Villy

Dimanche 24 août, les réfugiés ukrainiens installés en Lorraine ont fêté le 34^e anniversaire de l’indépendance de leur pays. À l’hôtel de ville de Nancy, ils se sont rassemblés pour rendre hommage à l’Ukraine.

Dans les grands salons de l’hôtel de ville de Nancy, l’hymne ukrainien résonne. Sur scène, le drapeau bleu et jaune rappelle la date symbolique. Le 24 août 1991, l’Ukraine proclamait son indépendance. Depuis février 2022, environ 1 600 Ukrainiens se sont réfugiés en Meurthe-et-Moselle. Ils sont encore 1 100 aujourd’hui, dont plus de 600 à Nancy.

Entre chants, poèmes et discours, l’instant était au plaisir d’être ensemble et de célébrer la culture ukrainienne. “Ça fait plaisir de voir les Ukrainiens qui se réunissent. C’est important d’entretenir ce lien entre nous”, souligne Nataliia. Un sentiment partagé par Ivan, qui a participé à l’organisation. “Nous nous unissons pour remonter le moral de ceux qui sont restés en Ukraine. Nous nous inquiétons pour eux, pour nos soldats, pour notre pays. On veut que la guerre se termine au plus vite, que la paix revienne, et que nous puissions rentrer chez nous.”

Les gens sont perdus

Mais dans la salle, l’horizon reste sombre. Les discussions autour d’un cessez-le-feu ne suscitent aucun espoir pour Doliana, étudiante en droit. “Ça représente juste l’essai de Trump de montrer que c’est lui qui va faire aboutir la paix, alors que Poutine a son jeu en tête depuis longtemps, c’est de restaurer l’Union soviétique dans ses frontières d’avant, il ne va pas lâcher.”

La guerre qui s’enlise est un drame pour les familles de réfugiés. Roman Filinyuk, président de l’association Les Lumières de l’Ukraine les accompagne. “Les gens qui sont venus pensaient rester un an maximum, là ça fait trois ans et demi. Les gens sont perdus. De plus en plus, ils pense rester pour la scolarité et les études de leurs enfants.”

Alors que le conflit s'éternise, Roman s'adresse aux Européens. De la fenêtre de la salle, il montre la statue de Stanislas, duc de Lorraine né à Lviv, dans l'actuelle Ukraine. *“On protège les frontières mais aidez-nous parce que si on tombe, après ça va être vous.”*

[Translation into English follows – S.C.]:

By Lisa Villy

On Sunday, 24 August, Ukrainian refugees who settled in Lorraine celebrated the 34th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. They gathered at Nancy City Hall to pay tribute to Ukraine.

The sound of the Ukrainian national anthem resonated through the grand *salons* of Nancy City Hall, and on the stage the blue-and-yellow flag commemorated the symbolic date—on 24 August 1991, Ukraine proclaimed its independence. Since February 2022, around 1,600 Ukrainians have taken refuge in the northeastern French department of Meurthe-et-Moselle [in the historical region of Lorraine]. 1,100 are still there today, including more than 600 in the prefecture of Meurthe-et-Moselle, Nancy.

With the songs, poems, and speeches, the moment was one of joy in gathering together and celebrating Ukrainian culture. “It's pleasing to see Ukrainians coming together. It is important to maintain this bond between us,” noted Nataliia. It was a sentiment that was shared by Ivan, who helped organize the event. “We are coming together to boost the morale of those who have remained in Ukraine. We are worried about them, about our soldiers, about our country. We want the war to end as quickly as possible, for peace to return, and for us to be able to return home.”

People are lost

Yet in the room, the outlook remains bleak. The discussions around a ceasefire do not suggest any hope for Doliana, a law student. “It is just Trump's attempt to demonstrate that he is the one who will bring peace, while Putin has had for a long time in his mind the restoration of the Soviet Union to its former borders, and will not let go of this goal.”

The ongoing war is devastating for refugee families. Roman Filinyuk, the president of the association “The Lights of Ukraine,” is accompanying them. “People who came thought they would stay for a year at most, but now it has been three and a half years. People are lost. Increasingly, they are thinking they will remain for their children's schooling and education.”

As the conflict drags on, Roman addresses the Europeans. From the window of the room, he points to the statue of Stanislas [Leszczynski], Duke of Lorraine, who was born in Lviv in present-day Ukraine. *“We protect the borders, but help us because if we fall, afterward it will be you.”*

8. General. “Ukraine Migrant Flows After War May Prove Key to Central Europe’s Growth Prospects, S&P Says,” *Reuters News*, 19 September 2025.

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WARSAW/BUDAPEST, Sept 19 (Reuters) - Ukrainian migrant flows in and out of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) after the war could prove key to the region’s growth prospects, S&P Global said in a report, with possible effects on economic output ranging from -6% to 3%.

Nearly half of Ukrainian refugees currently in the EU live in the 11 CEE countries of the bloc, providing a major boost to their labour markets. The CEE-11 account for less than a quarter of the EU’s total population.

“The direction of economic growth in Central and Eastern Europe could be determined by post-war Ukrainian migration, with the current boost from Ukrainian workers potentially accelerating or reversing,” S&P Global said in its report.

The economic growth impact of refugee flows in the region’s most exposed countries could range from -6% to 3%, it said.

As of June, the Czech Republic hosted the largest number of Ukrainians relative to its population size, at 3.5%, followed by 2.6% in Poland, the region’s biggest economy, 2.5% in Estonia and 2.4% in Slovakia, S&P Global said.

The longer the war drags on, the more likely it is that post-war Ukrainian net immigration will be net-positive, it added.

“Due to Ukraine’s martial law, the vast majority of migrants are women and children. In the event of a ceasefire, we expect families will re-unite in either Ukraine or a ‘host-country’,” the report said.

Once martial law is lifted, S&P Global said, the level of integration of women and children in a host country will be a key determinant of the direction of migration.

With the war now in its fourth year, however, some Ukrainian refugees have faced a backlash, with Poland’s nationalist President Karol Nawrocki recently vetoing a bill on extending benefits provided to the 1 million refugees in the country.

The CEE-11 are Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. (Reporting by Karol Badahal and Gergely Szakacs Editing by Gareth Jones)

[<https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/ukraine-migrant-flows-after-war-may-prove-key-central-europes-growth-prospects-2025-09-19/>]

9. General. “New Diaspora Platform Backed by IOM Aims to Boost Ukraine’s Reconstruction,” *Iom.int*, 17 July 2025.

Rome, 17 July 2025 – The Ukrainian diaspora is taking on a strategic role in national recovery through the launch of a Global Alliance for Diaspora Engagement in Ukraine’s Reconstruction, supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Introduced at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, the initiative aims to channel global solidarity into coordinated, long-term contributions that support the rebuilding of Ukraine’s institutions, economy, and communities.

Presented during the Lab “Diaspora-Driven Strategies for Empowering Ukraine’s Recovery and Fostering Cohesion,” a high-level session at the conference, the initiative brings together diaspora leaders, Ukrainian authorities, international organizations, and donors. The goal is to unlock the full potential of Ukrainians living abroad by fostering collaboration across sectors and borders.

“This is a crucial moment to move from goodwill to governance,” said Arthur Erken, IOM Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia. “Ukrainians living abroad are not just watching from afar. They want to shape the country’s future. With an estimated 20 million members, the Ukrainian diaspora, along with millions more displaced since 2022, brings essential expertise, networks, and determination to the effort of rebuilding a resilient and democratic Ukraine.”

The Alliance builds on consultations led by IOM with diaspora communities in Italy and beyond. These engagements highlighted strong interest in supporting recovery through more than financial remittances. Many participants expressed their readiness to contribute skills, experience, and knowledge to efforts that reconnect communities and restore essential services.

By offering a shared framework, the Alliance seeks to enhance coordination and ensure that diaspora-led efforts are impactful and aligned with Ukraine’s evolving priorities. It also supports continued grassroots initiatives while encouraging institutional cooperation. The platform will promote partnerships among civil society, municipalities, and national institutions to strengthen recovery efforts across sectors.

A dedicated Task Force is developing a roadmap that will define the Alliance’s structure and activities. This includes outlining roles for key actors, mechanisms for coordination, and areas of strategic focus. The roadmap will also cover tools for measuring results and sharing data transparently.

Although participation in the Alliance is voluntary, it is underpinned by a clear commitment to collective responsibility, mutual accountability, and practical collaboration. The design of the initiative draws on IOM’s data and research tools and reflects lessons learned from similar models of transnational engagement.

In parallel, the Alliance will work to deepen ties between diaspora groups and actors inside Ukraine, particularly in regions leading local recovery. These connections are essential to ensure that support from abroad is responsive to real needs on the ground and contributes meaningfully

to inclusive development.

The initiative is open to a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, development agencies, academic institutions, and private sector partners. As Ukraine moves forward, the active involvement of its global citizens will remain a key element in building long-term resilience and restoring public trust.

IOM will continue to provide technical and strategic support for the Alliance, helping to ensure that diaspora engagement contributes to a recovery process grounded in inclusion, dignity, and shared purpose.

10. General. “Interview: The Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Stated That Migration Movements Have Never Occurred under Such Extreme Conditions as Today,” *En.interfax.com.ua*, 11 July 2025.

In a brief interview with Interfax-Ukraine, Director General of the International Organization for Migration Amy Pope shared her outlook on the return of Ukrainian refugees from abroad.

Text: Hanna Levchenko

What are the main migration trends for Ukraine over the last 3-5 years (before and after the full-scale Russian invasion)?

Migration has traditionally played a significant role in the life of Ukrainian society. According to local studies, almost a third of the country’s population has either personal experience of labour migration abroad or that of their family members.

Migration movements have never taken place under such extreme conditions as they do today. Now in the fourth year of Russia’s full-scale invasion, Ukraine continues to grapple with one of the largest displacement crises in Europe’s history. Nearly four million people remain internally displaced, while another five million Ukrainian refugees continue to reside in countries across Europe.

Last year, I had the privilege to visit Ukraine, and I saw firsthand the devastation the war has wrought and the scale of the challenges ahead. But I was also profoundly inspired and humbled by the strength of the people I met – women who have traveled from regions that were under active attack, who left with very little but the clothes on their back and their children in their car.

How do you assess the impact of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine on migration processes in Europe and the world? What are the differences in the migration of Ukrainian refugees and that of other migrants?

The February 24, 2022, large-scale Russian invasion caused the largest wave of forced migration in Europe since World War II.

The profile of refugees from Ukraine is different from Ukrainian labour migrants before the full-scale war who were mostly male, and different from refugees from other countries staying in

Europe, who are mainly young singles. According to Eurostat data from 2024, over 40 per cent of Ukrainian citizens granted temporary protection in the European Union were women of working age, and 32 per cent were children and adolescents. It is also important to note that most of the refugees from Ukraine are highly educated people.

What share of Ukrainian refugees will return to Ukraine after the war ends, according to your estimates? To what extent do these estimates coincide or differ from migration processes in other countries suffering from hostilities?

Despite ongoing insecurity and economic pressure, millions have begun returning. IOM data shows that more than four million people have returned to their communities of origin, including over a million who came back from abroad – often with little or no support. That’s why creating conditions for safe, voluntary, and dignified return is essential. IOM is working closely with the Government of Ukraine to support reintegration through accurate information, housing support, access to jobs and services, and community-based recovery efforts. This work relies on humanitarian, development, and stabilization funding, including from the European Union and other key donors. But without increased and long-term financial support, many returnees will struggle to reintegrate, and the risk of further displacement will remain high.

What is the optimal strategy for refugees and migrants – to return them home or to work with host countries to help them adapt abroad, viewing refugees as a "cultural landing force"?

We must make it possible for internally displaced persons and Ukrainians living abroad to be able to return safely and with dignity. IOM is honoured to support the Government of Ukraine and partners in these efforts, by investing in local leadership and area-based approaches to make reintegration sustainable.

At the same time, IOM is grateful for the compassion, generosity and solidarity of countries across Europe who are taking in those seeking safety.

Considering the tremendous potential of the global Ukrainian community, on the sidelines of the Ukraine Recovery Conference, IOM and Ukraine’s Ministry of National Unity co-hosted a dedicated event to enhance cooperation with the more than 20 million Ukrainians living abroad and encourage their role in the country’s recovery efforts. Ukraine’s diaspora plays a vital role by contributing skills, knowledge, networks, and resources that can accelerate Ukraine’s recovery and strengthen international partnerships.

The event brought together stakeholders from the global Ukrainian diaspora, international organizations, the private sector, and academia. During the event, a participatory process was launched to establish an Alliance for Diaspora Engagement in Ukraine’s Recovery. Stakeholders were invited to join the process, which will lead to the co-design of the Alliance in the coming months.

11. Hungary. “The First Official Ukrainian-Hungarian School Named After Shevchenko Opened in Budapest,” *112.ua*, 1 September 2025.

By Oleksandr Shostal

The first official Ukrainian-Hungarian schools and gymnasiums have opened in Budapest. One of the institutions of the Ukrainian community has been named after Taras Shevchenko. Classes will be conducted in the native language here, just like in two other bilingual institutions that have emerged over the past one and a half years.

Educational Process for Ukrainian Children

According to the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Ukraine, the first official Ukrainian-Hungarian school and gymnasium already educates 360 children, and the new institution in Budapest will start with primary classes and plans to expand to secondary school.

Licensed Educational Institutions

According to the information from the MFA of Ukraine, this year another Ukrainian school received a state license based on a local educational complex.

“Until now, it existed as an educational center, and now there will be a full-fledged educational process in Ukrainian for about 300 Ukrainian children. The school will also have a kindergarten. The establishment and operation of this school became possible thanks to the cooperation of the Ukrainian organization ‘Unity’ and the Hungarian Autonomous Orthodox Jewish Community. Thus, the institution will become a center for dialogue among three cultures – Ukrainian, Hungarian, and Jewish,” – stated the MFA.

Network of Ukrainian Educational Institutions in Hungary

In Hungary, in addition to the three mentioned schools, a network of Ukrainian educational centers and Sunday schools operates, where children from Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Hungarian families study.

This news indicates the active development of the Ukrainian educational network in Hungary, which provides Ukrainian-language education for an increasing number of children. It also highlights the joint efforts of the Ukrainian and Hungarian communities in the field of education.

12. Italy. “Ukro-2025 in Trento: A Celebration of Ukrainian Culture in Italy,” *Odessa Journal*, 16 September 2025.

The Italian city of Trento will host Ukro 2025, a festival celebrating Ukrainian culture that brings together the diaspora and cultural enthusiasts. The event, supported by the Trento City Council, will take place at the Trentino Music Arena in San Vincenzo and coincide with Oktoberfest, creating a unique fusion of Central European and Ukrainian cultural traditions.

Ukro is a traveling cultural festival founded in Milan in 2015. Over the years, it has become a

platform for promoting Ukrainian culture, fostering intergenerational dialogue, and supporting the Ukrainian diaspora. This year marks the festival's seventh anniversary edition, following successful events in Milan, Bergamo, Brescia, Padua, Venice, and Bologna.

The festival will feature a diverse cultural program, including performances by singers, dance and theater groups, craft fairs, Ukrainian gastronomic specialties, charitable initiatives, and master classes.

Among the highlights is a collaborative art project, the collective painting DIM-UKRO, which will involve hundreds of participants. Ukro 2025 aims not only to celebrate culture but also to serve as a platform for mutual understanding and solidarity. Ukrainians and international guests will be able to participate in artistic and social initiatives, emphasizing the preservation of traditions, intergenerational learning, and civic engagement. Organizers expect over 2,000 participants, making Ukro 2025 a major cultural event of the year.

The festival is set to strengthen dialogue between cultures while promoting Ukrainian heritage abroad.

13. Norway. "Population Continues to Grow, But the Growth Slows as Fewer Ukrainian Citizens Move to Norway in Q2," *Nordic Daily*, 21 August 2025.

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Oslo, Norway: The population continued to grow, but the growth slowed as fewer Ukrainian citizens moved to Norway. Population growth was therefore lower than at the same time in recent years, largely due to fewer Ukrainians coming to the country. This is shown by figures from the Population statistics. "A population growth of 5,900 is the lowest in a second quarter since 2001, if we disregard 2020 and 2021, which were two years characterized by relatively few immigrations due to the corona pandemic and many post-registered emigrations," says Magnus Haug, senior advisor at the section for population statistics at Statistics Norway.

While the number of births and deaths varies little from year to year, migration figures - especially immigration - can fluctuate significantly in a short period of time. From the second quarter of 2022, Ukrainian immigrants have had a significant impact on population growth. But in the second quarter of the year, there were actually more Ukrainians emigrating than entering. At most, 14,700 Ukrainian citizens have arrived in Norway in one quarter. In the second quarter of 2025, the number was 1,700, says Haug. When there is less immigration, births and deaths become a more important part of growth. In the second quarter of this year, there were more births, but also more deaths, than at the same time in the two previous years.

14. Romania. "New Leadership Appointed for the Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate in Romania," *Basilica.ro*, 6 October 2025.

Aurelian Iftimiu

Patriarch Daniel of the Romanian Orthodox Church has approved the appointment of new leaders for the Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate in Romania. These leaders will continue existing

projects and launch new initiatives to preserve the faith and ethnic identity of Ukrainians living in the country.

Father Marius-Nicolae Lauruc, parish priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox community in Sighetu Marmatei, Maramures County, was appointed Vicar General. He was previously serving as an adviser within the vicariate.

The new leadership also includes Father Ioan Iurcea, adviser; Father Petru Rahovan, dean of the Ukrainian Orthodox Deanery of Sighetu Marmatei; and Father Petru Rosoca, dean of the Ukrainian Orthodox Deanery of Lugoj.

The former Vicar General, Father Nicolae Lauruc, who has held the position since 2021, was commended for his outstanding pastoral and administrative service.

Educated in theology at Sibiu and Prešov, Father Nicolae Lauruc served as parish priest in Ukrainian communities in Poienile de sub Munte and Sighetu Marmatei. Over the years, he oversaw church construction and restoration projects. He also organised symposia and cultural festivals, providing aid to Ukrainian refugees.

He is also the author of several theological works and has edited Ukrainian-language liturgical books. Thus, making significant contributions to preserving the spiritual and ethnic identity of his community.

For his service, he has received several distinctions, including the Cross of Transylvania, the Archbishop Justinian Cross, and the title of Honorary Citizen of both Poienile de sub Munte and Sighetu Marmatei.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate in Romania

The Ukrainian Orthodox Vicariate is a territorial-administrative structure under the canonical jurisdiction of the Romanian Patriarchate. It serves Orthodox Ukrainians residing in Romania. Its liturgical services are conducted in the Ukrainian language by Ukrainian or Ukrainian-speaking priests.

Headquartered in Sighetu Marmatei, Maramures County, the Vicariate currently ministers to approximately 30,000 Ukrainian Orthodox faithful across northern Romania. These include the regions of Maramures, Transylvania, Crişana, and Banat.

Re-established after the fall of communism by decision of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church (Decision No. 1432 of February 12, 1990), the Vicariate marks 35 years of continuous activity this year.

15. Romania. “Romanian-Ukrainian Project ‘Tulcea - Micto/Misto, Where Borders Speak the Same Language’ to Take Place in End-September,” *AGERPRES*, 17 September 2025.

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Bucharest, Sep 17 /Agerpres/ - The Kalina vocal group from Reni, Odessa region, Ukraine, and the founding vocal group Zadunaiska Sici, Tulcea county, Romania, have started rehearsals in a hybrid format for a show scheduled for the end of next month, as part of the project ‘Tulcea - Micto/Misto, Where Borders Speak the Same Language’.

The project is financed by the Tulcea City Hall, began in the first part of the year and was initiated by the Solidaritatea Ro-Ua association, with the aim of promoting the traditions of minorities, implicitly the integration into the community of people from Ukraine who left the country, due to the war triggered by Russia.

Several workshops were held as part of the project, during which children, members of several nationalities, met and talked about the customs they preserve.

‘There were workshops not only for Ukrainians. We had a gastronomic workshop, where we made vareniki, and children from different minorities came in their traditional costumes and studied their costumes,’ said Lilialana Gologan, president of the Solidaritatea Ro-Ua association.

During this period, as part of the project, online rehearsals are taking place for the show scheduled for the end of next month, at the end of the project, in Tulcea, during which the vocal groups Kalina from Reni, Odessa region, Ukraine, and Zadunaiska Sici, from Tulcea county, Romania, will be performing old songs.

‘We came into possession of an old book with songs that we lost, and we are now trying to restore those that we do know. We have more than 100 songs, but little by little we will manage to bring together the entire heritage,’ said Mirela Munteanu, member of the Tulcea branch of the Union of Ukrainians in Romania and of the founding vocal group Zadunaiska Sici.

A brochure about the traditions preserved by the Ukrainian community in the Tulcea county will also be launched at the end of the project.

AGERPRES (RO - writing by: Luisiana Bigea, EN - writing by: Cristina Zaharia)

16. Spain “Ukrainian Cultural Center Opens in Valencia,” *Odessa Journal*, 17 September 2025.

Valencia has officially welcomed its new Ukrainian Cultural Center, a milestone for the local Ukrainian community after more than two decades of collaboration with regional authorities. The announcement was made on Facebook by Mykhailo Petrunyak, head of the Federation of Ukrainian Associations in Spain and the Association of Ukrainians in the Valencian Autonomous Community, reports Ukrinform.

The center’s premises were secured last year, following over 20 years of work by the Association

of Ukrainians “Ukraine” and the Federation in cooperation with local government. The opening ceremony was attended by local officials, diplomats, representatives of Ukrainian associations from across Valencia, clergy from the Ukrainian Greek Catholic and Orthodox churches, activists, Ukrainian business representatives in Spain, and volunteers.

Messages of congratulations were read from the Ukrainian Ambassador to Spain, Serhiy Pohoreltsiv, as well as from the presidents of the World and European Congresses of Ukrainians, Pavlo Grod and Bohdan Riabchynets, among others.

“We hope this Center will become a true space of unity, strength, and cooperation—a place where Ukrainians in Spain can nurture their identity, preserve their cultural heritage, build friendships with Spanish society, and contribute to promoting a positive image of Ukraine internationally and advancing its victory,” said Pavlo Grod.

The Ukrainian cultural ensembles “Dyvotsvit” and “Ukraine” welcomed around 100 guests with traditional songs. The center is set to host its first consular reception for Ukrainian citizens on October 3, with consuls from the General Consulate in Barcelona.

17. Spain. “Torrevieja Celebrates Ukrainian Independence Day,” *Euro Weekly News*, 27 August 2025.

On Sunday, August 24, the Ukrainian community in Torrevieja took to the streets to celebrate their country’s Independence Day, highlighting the ongoing need for international support in the face of Russia’s invasion. More than three and a half years into the conflict, Ukrainians continue to assert their sovereignty and stress the resilience of their people.

Around 300 participants gathered at Plaza de la Constitución, waving yellow and blue flags and singing the Ukrainian national anthem. At Parque de las Naciones, the march concluded with a programme of cultural performances, speeches, and community activities. Throughout the day, participants shared messages promoting peace and expressing gratitude to Spain for welcoming refugees who have sought safety in the region.

Organised by the Ukrainian Association of Torrevieja, the celebrations were led by Natalia Zhezhnyavska and attended by local political authorities. The coming together of the city’s figures underscored Torrevieja’s support for the Ukrainian community.

Because of the war, many refugees have fled to Torrevieja. The Ukrainian population in Torrevieja has grown from 4,000 to 10,000 residents in the past four years, making Ukrainians the city’s largest foreign community. The Russian community is the second largest, with around 6,000 residents.

While isolated incidents have occurred between the two foreign communities, relations remain largely peaceful. Torrevieja also hosts Spain’s first “House of Ukraine.” This community centre, which provides cultural and administrative resources to residents and visitors alike, is located at the Social Security Treasury and managed by the Ukrainian government.

Building on this support, the recent celebrations reflect Torrevieja's commitment to being a model of solidarity and a pillar of hope for the Ukrainian community.

18. United Kingdom. "From Bagpipes to Borscht: Exploring Edinburgh's Ukrainian Heritage on Foot," *Guardian*, 4 September 2025.

By Zoey Goto

From bagpipes to borscht: exploring Edinburgh's Ukrainian heritage on foot
A new walking tour offers a chance to meet the city's Ukrainian community, with stops for hearty dumplings, castle views and shared histories

Before arriving in Edinburgh, Nataliya Bezborodova's impression of Scotland was shaped largely by Hollywood. "My knowledge of this country was pretty much based on the film *Braveheart*," she admits with a laugh, standing before the grand neoclassical columns of the National Galleries of Scotland. As if on cue, the castle's daily gun salute fires overhead, scattering pigeons and punctuating our conversation with a jolt.

Three years have passed since the 47-year-old anthropologist left her home in Kyiv for Edinburgh, after the Russian invasion. Celluloid warriors have long been replaced by the rhythms of life in a city she now knows like the back of her hand. So well, in fact, that she has launched a walking tour revealing a layer even locals might miss: the story of Edinburgh's vibrant Ukrainian community.

Bridges Across Borders: Tracing Ukrainian Roots in the Heart of Edinburgh started in June and is the latest in a growing portfolio of women-led immersive walks developed in partnership with Women in Travel CIC, the UK-based social enterprise that fosters gender inclusion in the tourism industry. It now offers seven tours celebrating multiculturalism in its many forms: from a Saudi-led deep dive into west London's Edgware Road to a sensory stroll along Ealing Road in Wembley, north-west London, with its Hindu temples and sizzling street food. All tour leaders are trained through Women in Travel's guiding academy, which aims to help women earn an income by sharing their stories with travellers seeking a deeper connection to a place.

The two-and-a-half-hour walking tour attracts a mix of locals and tourists, Nataliya tells me. "I've even had people from Ukraine join the group, who had no idea about our shared heritage with Scotland," she says, as we stroll along Princes Street, the city's main artery.

Scotland's Ukrainian population has grown since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine began in 2022, with about 5,000 refugees arriving via Edinburgh. But, as Nataliya points out, the ties go back centuries. Dominating the horizon, the crenellated outline of Edinburgh Castle looms large. It houses St Margaret's Chapel, built in the 12th century and named after a queen thought to be a quarter Ukrainian. Edinburgh and Kyiv were also formally twinned in 1989, Nataliya adds. We pass the Scott Monument, its blackened gothic spires piercing the sky. At its base, a kilted busker skirls a haunting tune on the bagpipes.

We are soon puffing our way up and down the leafy slopes of Calton Hill, pausing first at a

plaque to Saint Wolodymyr – who helped bring Christianity to Ukraine more than a thousand years ago – and then at the Holodomor memorial stone honouring the seven million Ukrainians who died in the forced famine of 1932-33. “It’s a reminder that these things must never happen again,” Nataliya reflects.

A short walk away lies Royal Terrace, on the eastern edge of New Town, a handsome Georgian sweep of sandstone townhouses by the Scottish architect William Henry Playfair. Tucked between swish boutique hotels and stately homes, blue-and-yellow flags flutter at the Ukrainian community centre.

The arrival of recent refugees has rekindled pride among Edinburgh’s older Ukrainian diaspora. Inside, a plate of homemade potato dumplings, cooked by the centre’s summer camp children and topped with a dollop of sour cream, awaits. As we tuck in, Nataliya explains how the arrival of recent refugees has rekindled pride among Edinburgh’s older Ukrainian diaspora, whose first major wave came in the 1940s: “The newcomers helped them reconnect with a culture that had gone underground.” Today, the centre hosts coffee mornings, cookery classes and language lessons for the Ukrainian community, alongside a rolling programme of concerts and film screenings open to all.

Back out on the street, trams rumble by as we head west, passing familiar landmarks, including a bronze Sherlock Holmes, keeping watch at Picardy Place in tribute to his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, born just around the corner. In the shadow of the redbrick Scottish National Portrait Gallery lies our final stop: the Square, a Ukrainian-owned cafe that opened in 2023.

This modest slip of a building, with its slate-grey facade and plant-fringed window, is easy enough to miss. Inside, though, it’s quietly pioneering: the first place in the city to serve both Scottish and Ukrainian staples (though not on the same plate). The full Scottish breakfast – haggis, tatties and all – sits alongside Ukrainian classics such as holubtsi (cabbage rolls stuffed with lightly spiced meat).

The owners, Ievgen and Valentyna Loievska, arrived in Edinburgh from the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv in 2022. “The cafe was our way of bridging cultures and bringing people together,” Ievgen tells me. Within minutes of sitting down, the table groans under bowls of steaming borscht, plates piled high with dumplings, and deruny (crisp golden potato pancakes drenched in parmesan sauce). Just as I think I can’t manage another bite, out comes the grand finale: syrnyky – sweet curd-cheese pancakes swimming in velvety berry juice – as Nataliya shares what creating the tour has meant to her personally.

“Putting the tour together made me realise just how many Ukrainian landmarks are hidden across this city,” Nataliya says. “It’s about finding connections between seemingly distant cultures.”

As we wrap up, I’m handed a doggy bag for the journey home, a gesture that feels more like leaving a favourite grandma’s kitchen than ending a walking tour. An experience that initially seemed a little leftfield now makes perfect sense within the context of this city, I realise. In a place steeped in storytelling, Nataliya’s tour adds a fresh chapter to Edinburgh’s ever-evolving narrative.

Women in Travel's Bridges Across Borders: Tracing Ukrainian Roots in the Heart of Edinburgh tour runs every Wednesday at midday and costs £58pp, including a taster plate at the Square cafe. Created with the support of Visit Scotland

19. USA. "The Ukrainian Festival Has Changed to a Celebration of Joy and Resistance," *Minnesota Daily*, 18 September 2025.

By Maya Bell

Ukrainian Americans use the festival to celebrate Ukrainian culture and as a form of resistance.

The 24th annual Ukrainian Festival of Minnesota is a free two-day festival at the Minneapolis Ukrainian American Community Center held Sept. 19-20 that celebrates Ukrainian culture and history.

For some members of the Ukrainian community, the Ukrainian Festival serves as a way to honor and preserve Ukrainian culture in wartime.

The festival originally started in the 1960s, when Ukrainians in Minnesota were divided into different churches. Then, the festival was originally called the Ukrainian Heritage Festival.

The festival died down in the 1970s and was later revamped in 2001 as the Ukrainian Festival, according to Kostiantyn Korchak, the vice president of operations at the Ukrainian American Community Center.

Hamline University professor Mykola Megits said the original festival was a way to bridge the gap between different generations of Ukrainian immigrants in America.

"Because the older generation of people had a different view on the independence of Ukraine. Those who came from the Soviet Union had to develop a trust in new immigrants," Megits said.

While the festival changed many times, one of the biggest changes was in 2022 after Russia invaded Ukraine. The Russia-Ukraine war is one of the biggest conflicts in Europe since World War II. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that 286 civilians have been killed and 1,388 injured this July.

Korchak said the Ukrainian Festival became a way for Ukrainian Americans here to help people in their home country after the war started.

Now, the festival raises money for the Protez Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps Ukrainian soldiers and citizens receive prosthetics, and Stand with Ukraine, a non-profit organization that sends medical supplies to hospitals in the country.

"Even as much sadness each one of us has in our hearts, because a lot of family members of our people are still back home in Ukraine," Korchak said. "The festival is one of our ways to express how strong we are."

Even with the heavier tone of the celebration, Korchak said the war caused more people to attend the festival. He added that he is glad the younger generation is getting involved.

For Sophia Milinchuk, a Ukrainian American student at the University, the festival gives her a sense of belonging.

Milinchuk said she was distraught when Russia invaded, because many of her family members were still in Ukraine. She added that while most of her family was able to leave, it was still hard for her to hear about the war.

“I think definitely it comes with a heavier heart, celebrating anything is harder when your home country is at war,” Milinchuk said.

Milinchuk, the president of the University’s Minnesota Ukrainian American Student Association, will be participating in the festival. She will be selling bracelets and volunteering at the Ukrainian American Community Center with ticket and food sales.

Megits, who originally moved with his wife and three children one year before the Soviet Union officially dissolved, said the festival is more important now than ever and serves as a form of resistance.

“The more impressions coming from Russia, the more resilience comes from Ukraine,” Megits said. “We will be celebrating, and even much stronger, and we will be showing our culture even on a higher level, in a higher capacity, with a more strong voice.”

After back-and-forth between the U.S. government, Ukraine and Russia, it is unclear when and if an official peace deal will be made. Ukraine-Russia peace talks appear to be faltering, according to CNN.

Milinchuk said even if a ceasefire is uncertain, she would continue to attend the Ukrainian Festival.

“It honestly fills me with pride when I go to the Ukrainian community. I see how many people come out, how many people come out and support,” Milinchuk said. “And I think during this time, it’s especially important because I think a lot of the time, the best way to fight oppression, aggression is through art, through culture.”

20. USA. “How the Sacramento Ukrainian Community Celebrated Independence Day,” *Sacramento Bee*, 25 August 2025.

By Jennah Pendleton

Three and a half years since Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine, the Sacramento community of Ukrainian immigrants and refugees gathered Sunday to celebrate their country’s declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

The Ukrainian community in Sacramento is a large one — more than 20,000 Ukrainians lived in Sacramento as of 2022, a number that has only grown since Russia's invasion in February 2022 as hundreds of thousands of people have sought refuge in the United States. The Ukrainian refugee population is concentrated on the West Coast and Sacramento holds the highest per-capita and third-largest total Ukrainian population.

A festival centered around Ukrainian music and food was held at the state Capitol in the evening.

But in the morning, Vlad Skots, a Ukrainian immigrant, Sacramento businessowner and nonprofit founder, hosted a brunch conference for California-based Ukrainian entrepreneurs and advocates for the country, highlighting the importance of business partnerships in supporting Ukrainians during the war and after it ends — whenever that may be.

“Because if no freedom, no business. No business, no freedom — they bring (each other) together,” Skots said in his opening remarks. “Business is not only about profit, it's about building nations. It's about family, send kids to the school, build roads, innovate medicine, education.”

Dmytro Kushneruk, consul general of Ukraine in San Francisco and a diplomat whose work involves building political connections and economic relations between Ukraine and California, also addressed the gathering. He said that state officials and private entities within the state have been instrumental in providing material support to Ukrainians since the Russian invasion.

“This gathering is not only about the economic opportunity, it's about people values, resilience and then partnership,” Skots said in his opening remarks. “And it's about business. It's how business can build the bridge between nations, cultures and communities, and a bridge that carries not only profit, but also a purpose.” Kushneruk also said that while he prefers not to refer to all Ukrainians who have come to the United States since the invasion as “refugees,” noting that some will likely only be temporarily displaced, many are integrating well with their local communities by starting businesses that create jobs in the local economy.

Skots' organization, Ukrainian American House, which hosted the brunch and the community festivities at the Capitol on Sunday evening, is a nonprofit that provides the Ukrainian and Slavic refugee communities with housing assistance, English classes and other services that help displaced people adjust to American life.

Skots said that he was happy to land in Sacramento where he has felt well-supported in building his business.

“I came to Sacramento 26 years ago, with zero English, 1,000 bucks in my pocket,” Skots said. “I build business in this country. I support others and many other people like me, not because we are not super smart, just because of the opportunity given in this country. So I'm proud to call myself American — Ukrainian American.”

Though the gathering reflected a spirit of optimism, hosts and panelists solemnly recognized the destruction caused by war, the loss of Ukrainian life and the continued hardship that people there are facing. “I pray the war would end any minute, or any second,” said Nikolay Skots, brother of Vlad Skots and a pastor at Bethany Slavic Church in Sacramento.

21. USA. “Ukrainians Celebrate 34th Independence Day at California’s Capitol as Peace Talks in War Loom,” *CBS Sacramento*, 24 August 2025.

By Tori Apodaca

Ukrainians gathered on the steps of California's Capitol on Sunday to celebrate their 34th Independence Day.

As the Trump administration pushes for peace talks between Ukraine and Russia, Ukrainians, even thousands of miles away, are holding onto hope.

“This reflects what I’ve done in my childhood,” said development coordinator for the Ukrainian American House, Olivia Babin.

It was a taste of Ukraine in Sacramento as people lifted their flags and voices in unity.

“My mom and dad were born in Ukraine and they came from Ukraine to America,” said one young Ukrainian boy.

His parents have been in the United States since 2011 and said there has been an opportunity here that they did not have in Ukraine.

Their children have been introduced to the American way of life, but have not lost the strong ties to their culture.

Although some recent Ukrainian immigrants said it has not all been easy and some are facing uncertainty.

“Almost overnight, we became illegal,” said Babin.

Babin said thousands of Ukrainians have legally come to the U.S. since the war broke out as humanitarian paroles, but the Trump administration temporarily paused the processing of their work documentation in January.

“Many of them struggle with anxiety,” said Babin.

The pause was lifted in June and groups like the nonprofit Parasolka have been helping Ukrainians in Sacramento navigate immigration services.

“We can talk to them,” said Svitlana Konopatska, who is a founder of Parasolka. “We can translate their documents.”

The 34th Independence Day celebration was a celebration that also served as a reminder of the community's resiliency.

Many of the Ukrainians in Sacramento still have loved ones living in Ukraine, and they are praying for their homeland's sovereignty.

"We are praying that justice will be completed," said Babin.

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