

PROJECT PROFILE

Ukrainian Refugees in Germany



#UKRsurvey

Since the beginning of the Russian war of aggression, many Ukrainians have left their country and sought protection in surrounding countries. From February 24 to the end of July 2022, more than 950,000 refugees from Ukraine came to Germany and were registered in the Central Register of Foreigners, around 97 percent of whom have Ukrainian citizenship. Taking in so many people within a short period of time and creating paths for their integration poses challenges as well as opportunities for policy makers, government agencies, and society. Sound scientific data are a fundamental basis for meeting these challenges. Initial findings of the study were presented on December 15, 2022.

The research project “Ukrainian Refugees in Germany” is the **first comprehensive, representative longitudinal survey** of this group. The project is being undertaken by four partner organizations: the Institute for Employment Research (**IAB**) of the Federal Employment Agency (**BA**), the Federal Institute for Population Research (**BIB**) and the German Family Demography Panel Study (**FReDA**), the research center of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (**BAMF-FZ**), and the Socio-Economic Panel (**SOEP**) at the German Institute for Economic Research (**DIW Berlin**).

■ Objectives of the study

- To gain insight into the early integration processes and related needs of Ukrainian refugees.
- To better understand the implications of flight for those seeking protection, especially women and separated families.
- To document refugees’ possible return or onward migration.

■ Background and focus of the research project

In the wake of the Russian invasion, many Ukrainians have sought protection in neighboring countries and nearby EU member states. This is in part for reasons of geographical proximity, but also because EU countries offer refugees from Ukraine visa-free entry and temporary residency with no asylum procedures. The refugees currently arriving from Ukraine are mainly women, children, and the elderly, and many of these people have relatives or friends in Germany who they can turn to for help. For these reasons, findings on previously arriving refugees from other regions are only partly applicable to the present situation.

The current study „Ukrainian Refugees in Germany” addresses this research gap by creating the first representative database on the conditions that led these refugees to flee and on their process of integration into German society. Findings drawn from the data will lay the foundation for reliable policy research and political decision-making. The study examines the following topics:

- *Circumstances of flight*: timeline of flight and arrival in Germany, legal status
- *Sociodemographic aspects*: age, gender, regional origin, marital status
- *Housing situation*: place of residence and type of accommodation
- *Qualifications and employment*: educational, vocational, and academic qualifications, financial situation, employment, German language skills
- *Health*: psychological well-being, satisfaction, worries
- *Families and children*: childcare, day care and schooling, family constellation before and after flight
- *Social resources*: social networks, needs for counseling and support
- *Intentions for the future*: family reunification, remigration

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■ Methodology

The study is being conducted as a panel survey based on a random sample to provide robust, representative data on Ukrainian refugees in Germany. To generate the sample, 100 German municipalities with large numbers of Ukrainian refugees were identified using Germany's Central Register of Foreign Nationals. From these municipalities, refugees were selected randomly based on data from the population registers and contacted with an invitation to participate in the survey. The survey is being conducted online, but respondents also have the option of completing questionnaires on paper.

Interviews were conducted with 11,225 refugees of Ukrainian nationality aged 18-70 years from August to October 2022 (paper questionnaire and online). A second wave of interviews is planned for January/February 2023 (online only). The infas Institute for Applied Social Sciences is conducting the fieldwork for both waves of the survey.

■ Publication of initial findings

Initial findings of the study were presented by the four project partners at a federal press conference on December 15, 2022. The findings have also been published in the form of a short study. Detailed findings will be published in a research report in February 2023.

■ Outlook

The project partners plan to present the first scientific findings at the end of 2022. Researchers who are interested in analyzing the survey data will be able to obtain them from the SOEP Research Data Center (SOEP-FDZ), the IAB, and FReDA based at the BIB.

The current study ties in with the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees, which has been ongoing since 2016, and FReDA. After the first two waves of the survey are completed, the panel on Ukrainian refugees will continue within these existing social scientific data infrastructures. This second phase of the project will create the possibility to gain long-term knowledge about refugees from Ukraine - both about their integration experiences in Germany and about their possible return or onward migration.



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Bundesinstitut
für Bevölkerungsforschung



Bundesamt
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SOEP Das Sozio-
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