



Diaspora engagement mapping UKRAINE

Facts & figures

Terminology: Art 1 of the Law On Legal Status of Ukrainians abroad¹ defines two terms:

- A 'Ukrainian abroad' is a person who is a citizen of another State - or a stateless person - and who has Ukrainian ethnic origin or is of Ukrainian descent.
- 'Ukrainian ethnic origin' means that a person and/or his/her ancestors belongs to the Ukrainian nation and recognizes Ukraine as their home country.

Political rights



Dual citizenship²



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad³



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **8.37%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **14,967**

Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates⁴



Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the World Bank (2023).

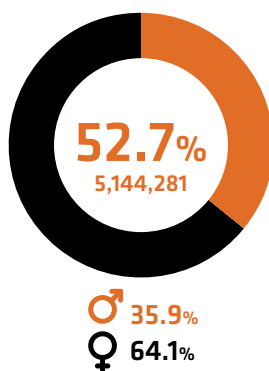
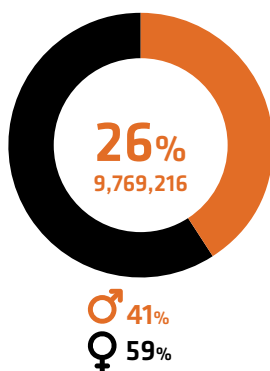
Emigration⁵



% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



Top countries of destination



Russian Federation	2,872,612
Germany	1,416,521
Poland	1,102,774
Czechia	515,214
United States of America	448,198

1 Art 1. Of the Law on the Legal Status of Ukrainians Abroad, <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1582-15>

2 The Constitution in conjunction with the Law on Citizenship stipulate unified national citizenship. If a citizen of Ukraine has acquired citizenship of another State or States, or if a foreign national or stateless person has acquired citizenship of Ukraine, (s)he is recognised only as a citizen of Ukraine in legal relations with Ukraine. Law on Citizenship № 2235-III of January 18, 2001. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2235-14>

3 A voter residing on the territory of a foreign country has the right to vote at the elections. However, the voter must be registered at the relevant polling station, indicating that such a voter receives a ballot paper only in the national constituency. See Law on the Elections of People's Deputies in Ukraine, Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, last amended in 2019 <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/en/4061-17>

4 Citizens of Ukraine residing abroad have the right to vote in presidential elections. See Law on Presidential Election of Ukraine, <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/474-14>

5 According to the Statistics provided by MFA of Ukraine, the diaspora is slightly bigger (6 848 100 or 16% of the total population) <https://zakordonniukrainci.mfa.gov.ua/ukrayinska-gromada/ukrayinska-gromada-v-krayinah-svitu> <https://italy.mfa.gov.ua/spivrobotnictvo/179-ukrajinci-v-italiji>; According to the Ukrainian MFA, the main countries of destination are also different: Russia (1 930 000), Canada (1 209 085), USA (892 992), Brazil (500 000) and Moldova (477 000) <https://mfa.gov.ua/dvostoronnye-spirovbitnictvo/zakordonni-ukrayinci/ukrayinska-gromada-v-krayinah-svitu>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2017** ● **The State Migration Policy Strategy of Ukraine for the Period up to 2025** includes 13 objectives, some of which apply to government-diaspora engagement. Objective 2 foresees protection of the rights of Ukrainian citizens working abroad and strengthening a constant dialogue with EU MS and other states on the protection of the rights of Ukrainian workers. Objective 3 proposes the creation of conditions and measures for the voluntary return and reintegration of Ukrainian migrants by introducing a state credit system for those wishing to start their own businesses and tax benefits for those who invest money earned abroad. Objective 4 stipulates the simplification of immigration and naturalisation procedures for Ukrainians abroad, as well as for representatives of traditional Ukrainian ethnic minorities living abroad.
- 2017** ● **Action Plan on Ensuring the Reintegration into Society of Labour Migrants and Members of their Families** facilitates the employment of migrant workers and their family members upon their return to Ukraine, taking into account their educational level, professional experience, qualifications and labour market needs. It is planned to strengthen the social and legal protection of Ukrainians working abroad by stepping up international cooperation and concluding agreements on issues related to the protection of migrants' rights.
- 2018** ● **The State Program for Cooperation with Ukrainians abroad for the period up to 2020** were adopted by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers № 344 of May 10, 2018. The Program aims at strengthening cooperation with Ukrainians living abroad, meeting their cultural and linguistic needs, attracting the potential of the Ukrainian diaspora and promoting a positive image of Ukraine in the world.⁶
- 2018** ● **Action plan for implementing the strategy of the state migration policy of Ukraine for the period up to 2018-2021** suggests the creation of an information portal for Ukrainians abroad who have expressed a desire to return to Ukraine; drafting a legal framework for keeping records of Ukrainians abroad by Ukrainian foreign diplomatic institutions.



Trends

The Ukrainian diaspora 'awoke' during the Euromaidan protests. Euromaidan was a mass protest, which led to the revolution movement in Ukraine that lasted three months between November 2013 and February 2014. It has engaged in the reconstruction of the country during and since the period of demonstrations and the military aggression in Eastern Ukraine. Nowadays the government of Ukraine is increasingly aware of the dividends of Ukraine's diaspora engagement and its soft power as a useful tool for the country in the international arena. As a result, Ukraine is now exploring ways to engage its diaspora community for reconciliation.

The escalation of the war in Ukraine on 24 February 2022 triggered a fresh surge of diasporic activities displaying new ways of engagement. Since the first weeks of the war, migrant-led organisations and diaspora members have reacted speedily in a myriad of ways, providing communication support, financial and in-kind aid.

⁶ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-derzhavnoyi-programi-spivpraci-iz-zakordonnimi-ukrayincyami-na-peri-od-do-2020-roku>



Achievements

In 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine introduced the term “Global Ukrainian Community” and established the position of Ambassador-at-Large for the Global Ukrainian Community. It seeks to unify all Ukrainians living abroad, encompassing both the historical diaspora and those temporarily displaced by the war. The strategic goal is to strengthen Ukrainian identity, enhance international advocacy for Ukraine, and mobilise the global Ukrainian community in support of the country’s recovery and reconstruction.

Obstacles



- **Insufficient policy framework:** There is no all-encompassing repatriation programme aimed at attracting the return of Ukrainians abroad. Creating conditions for their return is a goal in the State Migration Policy Strategy, but not yet elaborated in the programme documents nor the Law on External Labour Migration. However, the National recovery Plan⁷ of Ukraine released in mid-2022 entails a special National Programme that focuses on return and reintegration of talents and refugee diaspora.
- **Remittances infrastructure:** There is a lack of state programmes or money transfer services to facilitate remittances. Foreign transfer systems are expensive and occupy a large share of the Ukrainian financial market; Russian transfer systems are cheaper but prohibited by the Ukrainian government.⁸
- **Politics:** Russia’s aggression against Ukraine started with the annexation of Crimea, occupation of Donetsk and Lugansk regions followed by a full scale invasion in February 2022. These events have an impact on diaspora-state relations, having motivated many people of Ukrainian descent residing abroad to reconnect with their Ukrainian roots. Diaspora members attend relevant events and request their foreign governments to support Ukraine. On the other side, a huge community of Ukrainian diaspora in Russia have no intention of engaging with Ukraine.

⁷ https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiUtYetypX9AhWngf0HHXbQA_YQFnoECBEQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fuploads-ssl.webflow.com%2F621f88db25fbf24758792dd8%2F62c166751fcf41105380a733_NRC%2520Ukraine%2527s%2520Recovery%2520Plan%2520blueprint_ENG.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1LrSSesj3wTk5d_fYuadnn

⁸ https://www.president.gov.ua/storage/j-files-storage/00/35/66/91a596fbc7c677ebfaf5d2e33e7de19a_1476776807.pdf

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices

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Global Ukrainians Forum

NETWORK

The forum is run by 30 volunteers in Ukraine and abroad. They are constantly in contact with more than 400 young Ukrainian expatriates in 70 countries. The aim of the forum is the development of the Ukrainian public cultural and business diplomacy strategies by inviting Ukrainian expats, leaders of post-Maidan movements, who have shown their abilities in organising and achieving positive results by using various types of public diplomacy. Some of the activities include a Business Hub (see below) and the Global Ukrainians Club (a platform that brings together Ukrainians abroad in order to run social, humanitarian, cultural and other projects).

Step to Ukraine

EDUCATION

This educational portal supports teaching Ukrainian with modern interactive materials and methodologies. There are summer schools for foreign students, scientists and researchers also form part of the project; these focus on the study of the Ukrainian language and culture. Ten summer schools have been organised and held in Ukraine, Argentina and Kazakhstan.

Ukrainian Hub 2022

ADVOCACY

The Hub constitutes a focal point for Ukrainian civil society and diaspora communities in the EU. It was inaugurated at the Station Europe Building of the European Parliament in March 2022 as a platform to design and implement initiatives for Ukrainian victory and recovery. Promote Ukraine, a Ukrainian professional network active in the EU initiated the creation of the Hub. This Hub also offers a new form of technology-driven response of diaspora, targeting in-demand skills in the freelance job market. This includes initiatives such as support for Ukraine-based freelancers on the Upwork platform, Ukrainian business incubator, and the Jobs for Ukraine.

Platform for reconstruction for Ukraine 2023

NETWORKING + INFORMATION

It offers a space for information-sharing and networking for actors in Germany who are engaged in the reconstruction of Ukraine, including diaspora civil society actors. The platform is implemented with the support of German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Ukrainian Science Diaspora

SCIENCE + NETWORK

Launched by the Office of Scientist Support under the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (MES), the initiative aims to unite Ukrainian scientists abroad for collaboration and post-war recovery. Hosted on MES technical infrastructure, the platform facilitates connections between domestic and diaspora researchers. The Ministry actively supports this network by developing recommendations and promoting cooperation between Ukrainian institutions and global experts, reinforcing Ukraine's scientific capacity and international engagement.

Annex:

List of Actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 430+ institutions](#)

Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

National Commission for Matters Concerning Ukrainians Worldwide

Within the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the National Commission is in charge of granting the legal status of Ukrainians living abroad upon the receipt of the corresponding application submitted via diplomatic authorities of Ukraine or directly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The MFA maintains cooperation with Ukrainians abroad, helping them with their cultural, educational and linguistic needs. Within the MFA is the Department for Ukrainians Worldwide and Humanitarian Cooperation. In 2023, the Ministry instituted a dedicated position, Ambassador at large for Global Ukrainian Community, aimed at fostering stronger collaboration with the Ukrainian diaspora and civil society abroad. This strategic move is designed to secure steadfast international support for Ukraine. The establishment of this role signifies the government's acknowledgment of the substantial mobilization efforts undertaken by the Ukrainian diaspora and civil society, particularly in response to the Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine that commenced in 2022.

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

Charged with of creating and supporting contacts with Ukrainians abroad in order to search for cultural and linguistic unity, create conditions for their return to Ukraine.⁹

Ministry for the Development of the Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine

The ministry maintains the state policy in the field of labour migration¹⁰

Ministry of Education and Science

Regulates procedures and preconditions for the admission of Ukrainians residing abroad to the higher education institutions of Ukraine within the annually established state quotas.

- At sub-ministerial level

State Migration Service

The government agency of Ukraine that maintains policy in the areas of immigration, emigration, and citizenship, as well as regulates the resident registration system.

Ukrainian World Congress (UWC)

The congress is the international coordinating body for the diaspora with members in 60+ countries. The UWC has a special consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council and participatory status as an international non-governmental organisation with the Council of Europe.

9 <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/495-2014-%D0%BF#n8>
10 <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/459-2014-%D0%BF>

Diaspora organisations in Europe

Read more about diaspora organisations in [“Starting guide: What is a diaspora organisation”](#)



Association of Ukrainians in the Republic of Ireland (AURI)

2008

The organisation was created with the main objective of supporting the educational and cultural needs of Ukrainians living in the Republic of Ireland. It also strives to unify Ukrainians and facilitate their integration into the Irish society. The priority of the association is the upkeep of the Ukrainian School with the objective of preserving and developing the Ukrainian language, culture and the creation of a Ukrainian-speaking environment for children with Ukrainian roots. [f]

Associazione Cristiana degli Ucraini in Italia

The organisation provides cultural and social support to Ukrainians living in Italy. It promotes Ukrainian heritage through language courses, traditional celebrations, and religious activities, while also offering legal and social assistance to help community members integrate into Italian society. Additionally, the organisation actively advocates for Ukraine's interests, and coordinates humanitarian aid for those affected by the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Échanges Lorraine Ukraine (ELU)

☑ Development activities ☑ Integration activities

Échanges Lorraine Ukraine (ELU) was founded in 2004 by a group of Ukrainian students studying in France within the framework of the cooperation between the Universities of Chernivtsi and Lorraine. The association aims to enhance collaboration between the two universities, promote language and culture exchanges in Ukraine and France, provide humanitarian support in Ukraine, and increase cooperation with Ukrainian diaspora communities.

European Congress of Ukrainians (EKU)

☑ Integration activities

Founded in 1949 in London, the European Congress of Ukrainians (EKU) is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of Ukrainians in Europe.

Fundacja Ukraina (Foundation Ukraine)

☑ Integration activities

Foundation Ukraine is a non-governmental organisation founded in 2013 and operating in Lower Silesia. Initially, Foundation Ukraine started out as an organisation helping Ukrainians integrate with each other and the local Polish community. Now, the foundation provides all migrants with support, knowledge, connections, and opportunities to help them find themselves in the Polish environment.

Fundacja ZUSTRICZ

☑ Integration activities

Fundacja ZUSTRICZ is a registered foundation created in Krakow in 2016. The foundation encourages Polish-Ukrainian cooperation, supports the integration of Ukrainians living in Poland, and promotes culture, science, and sports.

Global Ukraine

- ☑ Development activities
- ☑ Integration activities

Global Ukraine Foundation is a non-governmental organisation based in Kyiv. The foundation was created to launch the Global Ukrainians Network – a community of highly education young Ukrainian diaspora leaders who have international experience and wish to contribute to development in Ukraine.

LUKraine Luxembourg

- ☑ Development activities

This organisation promotes Ukrainian culture, organises student exchange programmes and supports Ukrainians in Luxembourg. It also provides humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Nasz Wybór (Our Choice)

- ☑ Integration activities

Nasz Wybór (Our Choice) was founded by a group of Ukrainian and Polish friends in 2009 in Warsaw. The foundation aims to help integrate Ukrainian migrants with Polish society, support the development of cultural, educational, economic and political contacts between Poland and Ukraine, and to promote democratic values and civil society.

PROMOTE UKRAINE Belgium

- ☑ Advocacy activities
- ☑ Development activities

Promote Ukraine is a platform aimed to contribute to the recovery of Ukraine and sustainable development, through advocacy, fundraising, business and humanitarian aid.

Uniunea Ucrainenilor din România / Union of Ukrainians in Romania (UUR)

- ☑ Integration activities

The Union of Ukrainians in Romania (UUR) is an ethnic, non-governmental and non-profit organisation established in 1989 and assimilated to political parties and organisations. UUR aims to protect the rights to express and promote the ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious identity of persons belonging to the Ukrainian minority, to revive and form national unity and conscience, to protect the individual and collective rights of its members and to strengthen relations between Romania and Ukraine.

The Union of Ukrainians in Poland 1990

Representing the Ukrainian minority in Poland, the activities of the organisation encompass cultural preservation, education, and advocacy. ZUwP organises cultural events, publishes Ukrainian-language media, and monitors hate speech incidents. It also provides support to Ukraine through humanitarian aid and fosters Polish-Ukrainian dialogue.

Ukraine Leads Network

Advocacy and reconstruction

A unifying platform for Ukrainian civil society organisations based across Europe, dedicated to promoting and advocating for Ukraine's interests abroad. Its mission includes the development of a comprehensive mapping platform that identifies, connects, and highlights civil society organisations committed to supporting Ukraine on the international stage.

Ukrainian Institute London UK 1979

An affiliate of the Ukrainian Catholic University, the Ukrainian Institute London provides information and broadens knowledge in the UK about Ukraine and Ukrainians in the realms of arts, language, literature, history, religion, culture and heritage, traditions and current affairs.

Union of Ukrainians in Portugal 2003

The union's main objective is to help, assist and protect the rights and interests of Ukrainian immigrants and their descendants no matter their legal status in Portugal.

Shevchenko Scientific Society France 1873

This Ukrainian scientific society is devoted to the promotion of scholarly research and publication. Its Europe branch is headquartered in Paris.

SME SPOLU Ukraine Slovakia

-  **Development activities**
-  **Integration activities**

SME SPOLU Ukraine Slovakia consists of two interlinked organisations: Ukraine-Slovakia SOS (charity fund in Ukraine) and SME SPOLU (civil society organisation in Slovakia). Since 2014, these two organisations have been coordinating humanitarian aid from Slovakia to Ukraine. They further aim to provide community and integration support to Ukrainians in Slovakia, promote Ukrainian-Slovak cooperation in public/private sectors, and promote Ukrainian culture in Slovakia and the EU.

World Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organisations

-  **Development activities**

The World Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organizations is a coordination superstructure of Ukrainian youth organisations in the diaspora. Created in 2013 based on the youth commission at the World Congress of Ukrainians, which existed since 1967, the World Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organizations represents the interests of Ukrainian youth abroad.

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