

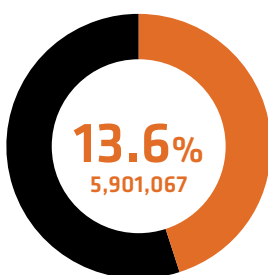


# Diaspora engagement mapping UKRAINE

## Facts & figures

### Emigration<sup>1</sup>

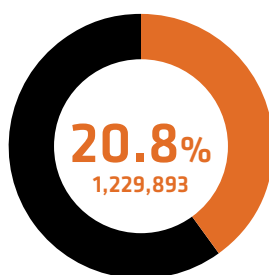
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 45.1%  
♀ 54.9%



% of which in the EU



♂ 39.1%  
♀ 60.9%



**Remittances as a share of GDP: 9.9%**  
**Remittances inflow (USD million): 15,054**



### Top countries of destination

Russia	3,269,248
USA	414,206
Kazakhstan	353,225
Italy	246,367
Germany	241,486



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>2</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>3</sup>



### Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates<sup>4</sup>



Terminology: Art 1 of the Law On Legal Status of Ukrainians abroad<sup>5</sup> 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.

1 According to the Statistics provided by MFA of Ukraine, the diaspora is slightly bigger (6 848 100 or 16% of the total population) <https://zakordonnaukrainci.mfa.gov.ua/ukrayinska-gromada/ukrayinska-gromada-v-krayinah-svitu> <https://italy.mfa.gov.ua/spivrobitnictvo/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-spivrobitnictvo/zakordonna-ukrayinci/ukrayinska-gromada-v-krayinah-svitu>

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

## Ukraine does not have a diaspora engagement policy.



### 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.<sup>6</sup>
- 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 and civil unrest 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 civil unrest and the military conflict 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.

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



### Achievements:

The Ukrainian government tries to improve the registration of Ukrainian diaspora members through the following means: the delivery of a special certification of Ukrainian living abroad that can be obtained by any foreign national or a stateless person of Ukrainian descent<sup>7</sup> and a smartphone application, the System for Voluntary Registration of Ukrainian Citizens while traveling and/ or residing abroad<sup>8</sup>, created in 2017 for the warning, search and provision of assistance to the citizens of Ukraine in emergencies abroad.

### 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.
- **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.<sup>9</sup>
- **Politics:** The Russian-Ukrainian military conflict and annexation of Crimea 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://mfa.gov.ua/en/about-ukraine/ukrainians-worldwide>

8 MFA (2017): Добровільної реєстрації українських громадян при подорожах за кордон, <https://friend.mfa.gov.ua/#/>

9 [https://www.president.gov.ua/storage/j-files-storage/00/35/66/91a596fbc7c677ebfaf5d2e33e7de19a\\_1476776807.pdf](https://www.president.gov.ua/storage/j-files-storage/00/35/66/91a596fbc7c677ebfaf5d2e33e7de19a_1476776807.pdf)



## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### 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).

### Global Ukraine Business Hub

#### DIGITAL + ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Global Ukraine Business Hub is a new social project aiming at promoting unique creative Ukrainian modern brands. The project includes the creation of an innovative on-line promotion and communication platform connecting Ukrainian businesses with you Ukrainian diaspora members. Through this project, the Ukrainian diaspora can buy Ukrainian goods and popularize new Ukrainian products as business ambassadors. Other key activities include organising meetings, trainings and workshops.

### 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.

## Annex:

# List of Actors

### 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.

#### **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.<sup>10</sup>

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

The ministry maintains the state policy in the field of labour migration<sup>11</sup>

#### **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.

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

<sup>11</sup> <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/459-2014-%D0%BF>

## Diaspora organisations in Europe



### 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 ]

### Christian Society of Ukrainians in Italy

The organisation provides support to Ukrainians working and residing in Italy

### 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.

### Ukrainian Association in Poland 2001

The association's activities promote Ukrainian culture and language; disseminating information related to any form of activities of Ukrainians living abroad and providing support to them.

### 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.

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March 2020

Updated October 2021



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