



# Ukrainian war refugees in Estonia

---

## The study was conducted by

Poliitikauuringute Keskus Praxis,  
Tartu Ülikooli Sotsiaalteaduslike rakendusuuringute  
keskus (RAKE),  
Eesti Rakendusuuringute Keskus CentAR

The study was funded by the  
Estonian Research Council through  
the European Regional  
Development Fund-supported  
program (RITA).



TARTU ÜLIKOOL  
RAKE

praxis | mõttekoda



EESTI RAKENDUSUURINGUTE  
KESKUS CENTAR

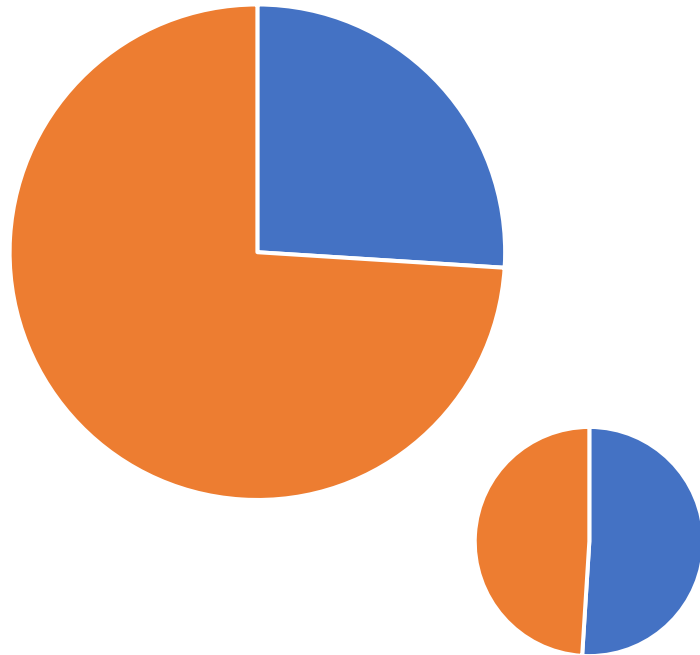


Euroopa Liit  
Euroopa  
Regionaalarengu Fond



Eesti  
tuleviku heaks

# Who is/was a Ukrainian war refugee?



**Primarily young, educated, and healthy women.**

- Gender: 74% of adult refugees are women.
- Age Distribution: Majority (55%) are aged between 18 and 39. Children comprise over one-third (37%) of the total refugee population
- Educational Background: 51% of adult refugees hold a university degree.

# Mostly from dangerous areas

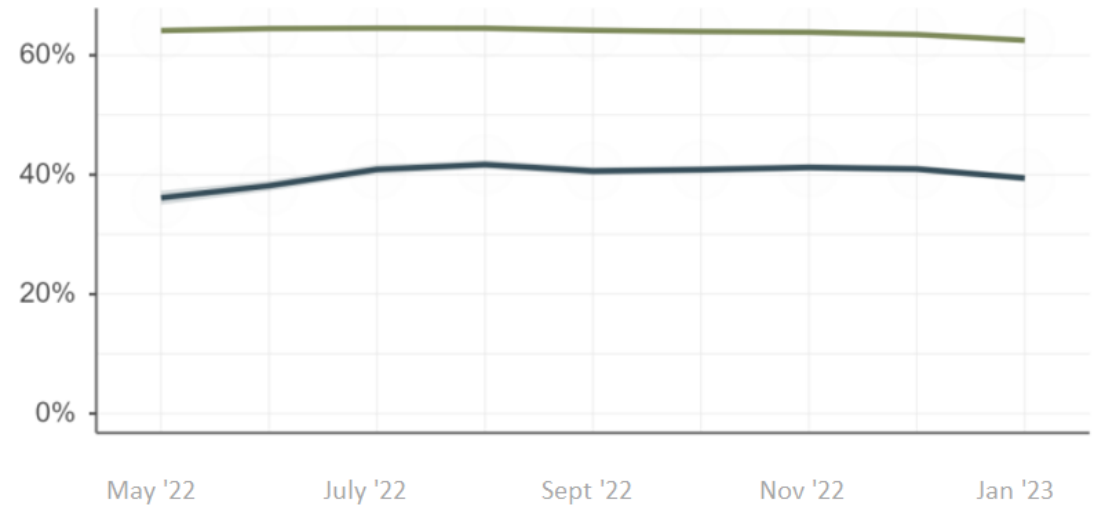
- 1/3 from very dangerous areas
- 1/3 from dangerous areas
- 57% from cities



# They are ...

---

- ... doing relatively well on the labour market
- Have put their children in Estonian schools
- Live mostly in separate apartments
- Mostly find their way around in Estonian public services



# Refugees want to work

- 85% of the unemployed refugees would accept work that requires lower level of education than they have
- Refugees mainly used social networks to find a job

What can we do better?

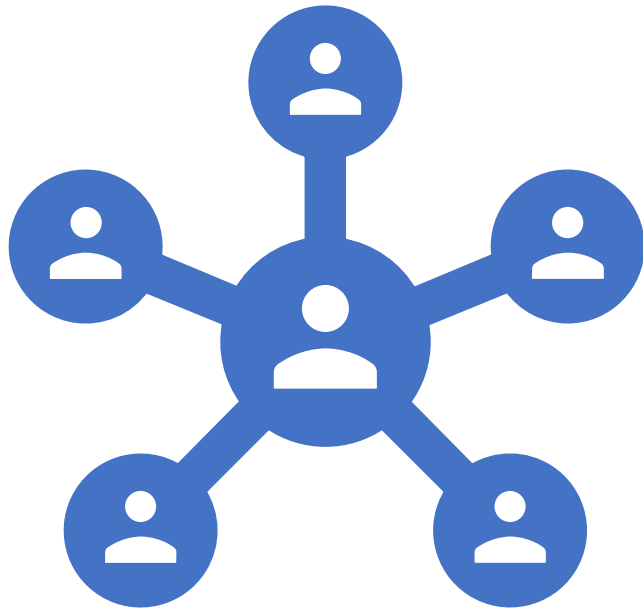
# Maximizing the Potential of Newcomers

The individuals granted temporary protection present an invaluable opportunity that must not be overlooked. Estonia has welcomed thousands of newcomers with diverse skills and expertise, which are not being fully utilized at present. We have some shortcomings in:

- first, the identification of these skills, and second,
- the effective pairing of employers and employees.

It is crucial to evaluate whether the Unemployment Insurance Fund's current resources are adequate in light of the ongoing crisis and, if needed, provide additional support.

# Networks must not become traps



While networks can help people under temporary protection to find work more quickly, they can also act as a kind of trap, directing them towards jobs that are familiar or available to network members.

In the long run, it is important that networks do not start to limit the choices of refugees and prevent them from moving to jobs that are a better match to their skills level.





# Adapting Educational Strategies Under Uncertainty

As it was not clear how many of the Ukrainian refugee children attending school in Estonia also participate in distance learning in Ukrainian schools, how consistently this is done and what is the weekly workload of these children, the situation of refugee children and young people, their learning workload and mental health require further examination.

---



# Balancing Estonian Language Proficiency with Cultural Preservation

It is crucial for the children of war refugees who plan to settle in Estonia to attain a high level of proficiency in the Estonian language, as it would enable them to thrive in the job market and integrate into society more effectively.

However, many war refugees do not have a clear intention of staying in Estonia permanently. Even for those who do intend to stay, it is vital to preserve their native language and maintain connections with the Ukrainian cultural sphere.

As a result, we should explore methods to offer students opportunities to enhance their native language skills within Estonian school lessons and the broader educational system.

---

# Addressing the Stress of Prolonged Temporary Accommodations for Refugees

Living in temporary accommodation for long periods of time is stressful, especially for those staying on ships and in hostels. Care should be taken to ensure that refugees do not stay for long periods in such places. Refugees should be offered counselling and support to find more permanent dwellings.

Thank You!