

The Housing Situation of Ukrainian Refugees in Estonia

Kadi Kalm

University of Tartu

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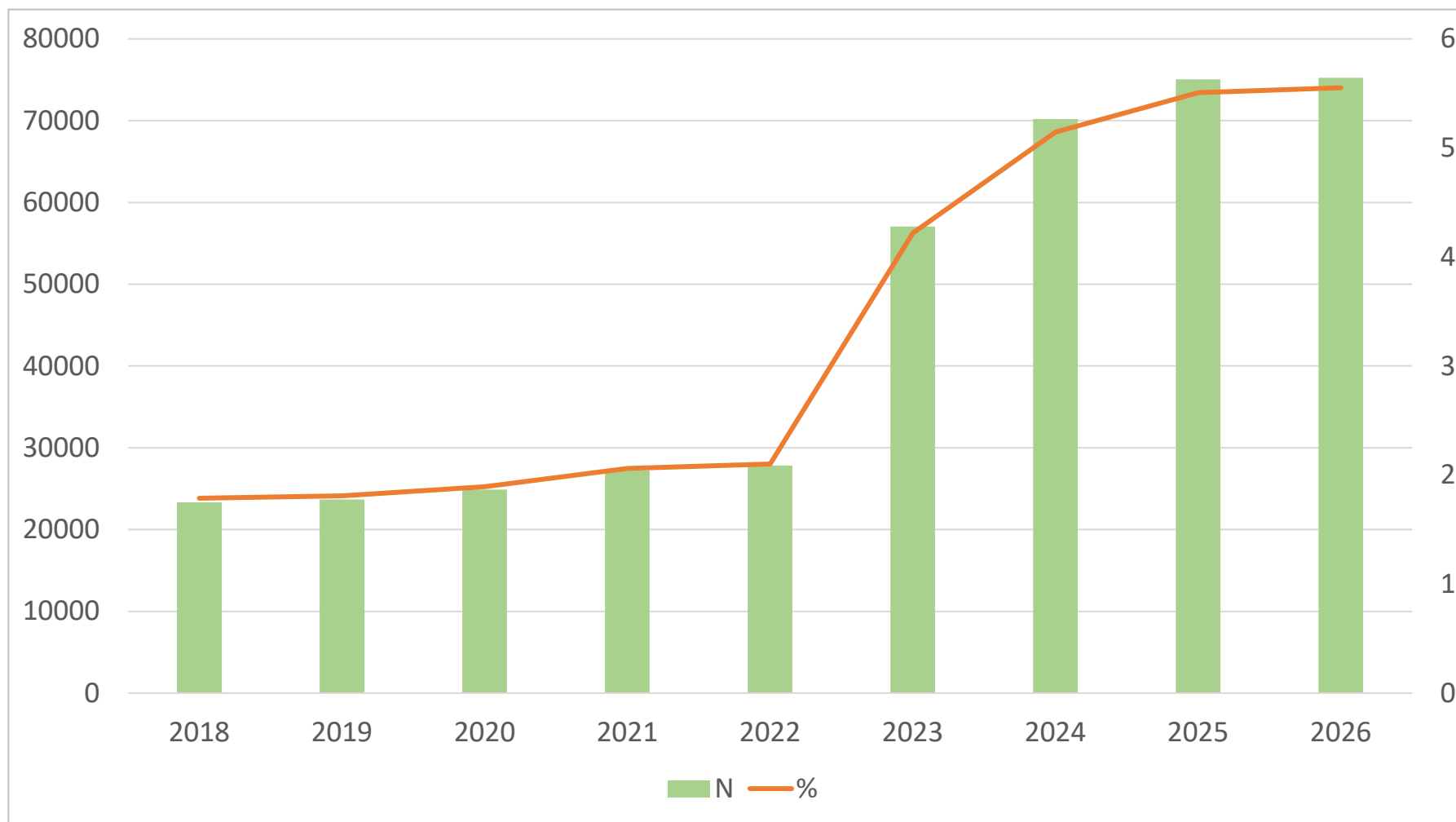


Introduction

- Estonia was among the European countries receiving the highest number of Ukrainian refugees relative to its population.
- Estonia had a sizeable Ukrainian community before the war, but the arrival of refugees after 2022 fundamentally changed its size and composition.
- Housing is a key dimension of refugee integration and well-being.

Introduction

Ukrainians in Estonia: Number and share of the population

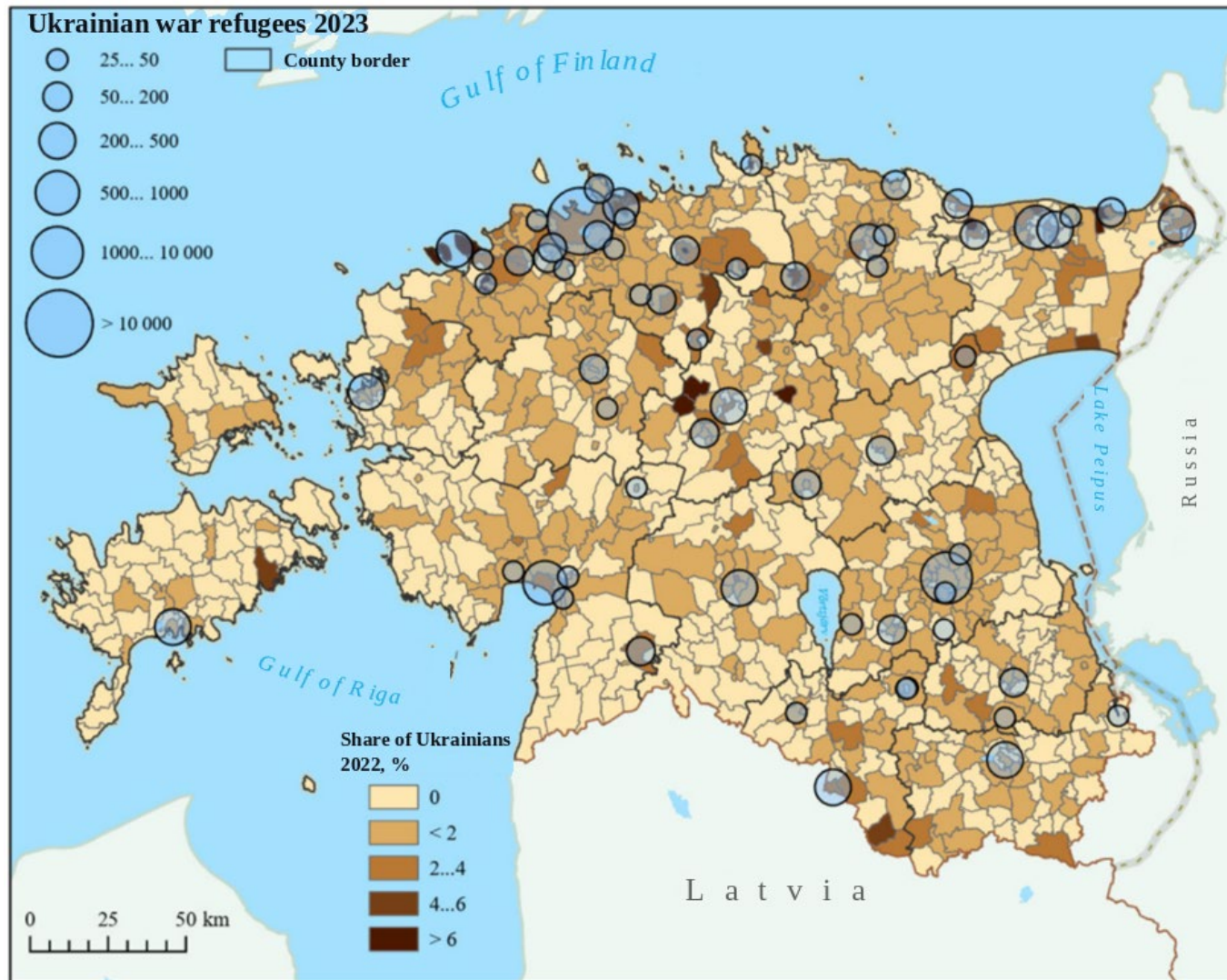


Source: Statistics Estonia 2026

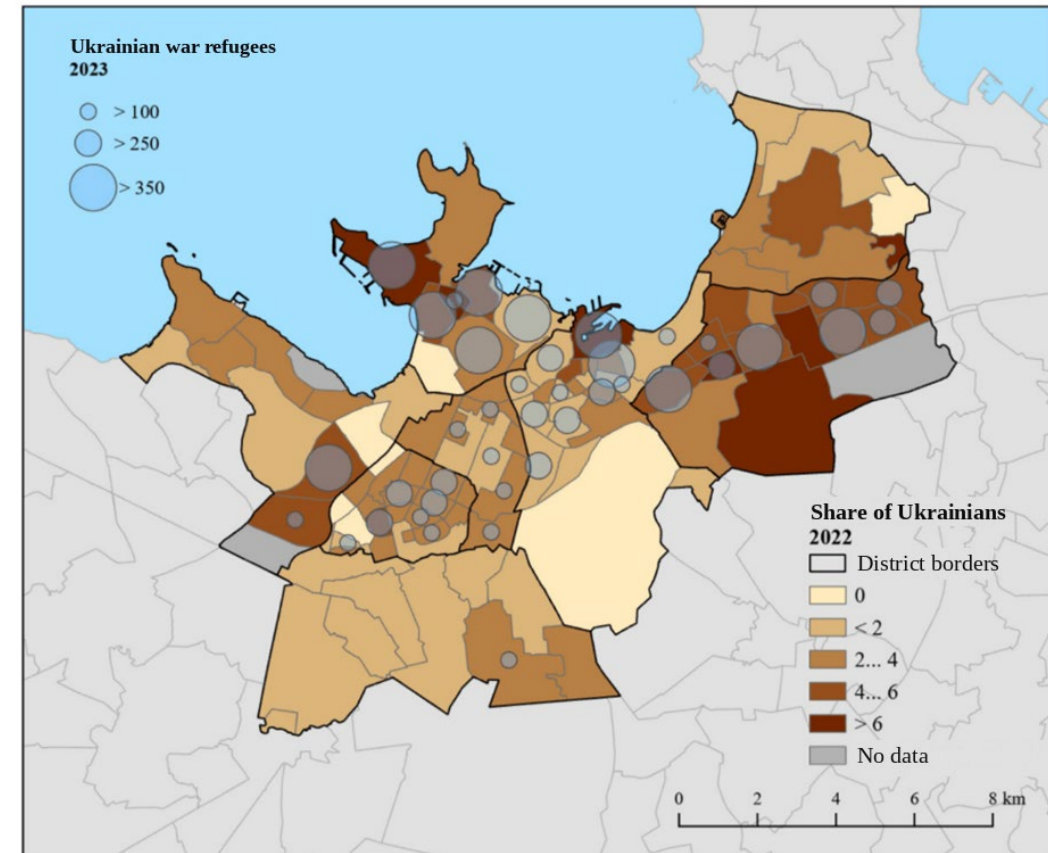
Introduction

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The destinations of Ukrainian refugees in Estonia and Tallinn



47% settled in Tallinn



Source: Liiva 2026

Segregation indices: war refugees are the least segregated from Estonians

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Arrived before 1990*		15	19	9	46	17	17
2 Arrived in 1990–2021*	15		16	11	42	26	10
3 War refugees*	19	16		19	31	26	16
4 Estonian-born**	9	11	19		45	20	11
5 Estonians	46	42	31	45		54	42
6 Russians / Belarusians	17	26	26	20	54		25
7 Other	17	10	16	11	42	25	

Index of dissimilarity

0 = identical distribution across settlements, 100 = complete separation. Darker cells mean stronger spatial separation.

War refugees stand apart from Estonians at 31 — far below the 42–46 of earlier Ukrainian waves.

* Ukrainians who arrived in Estonia with different migration waves.

** Estonian-born: mainly second- and third-generation Ukrainians born to families who arrived before 1990.

Change between 2023 and 2025: Modest reconcentration after initial dispersal

Residential mobility 2023-2025:

- Estonia: 9% moved
- Tallinn: 17% moved

Settlements hosting Ukrainians

405 → 380

–25 settlements (–6%)

Share living in the 10 largest settlements

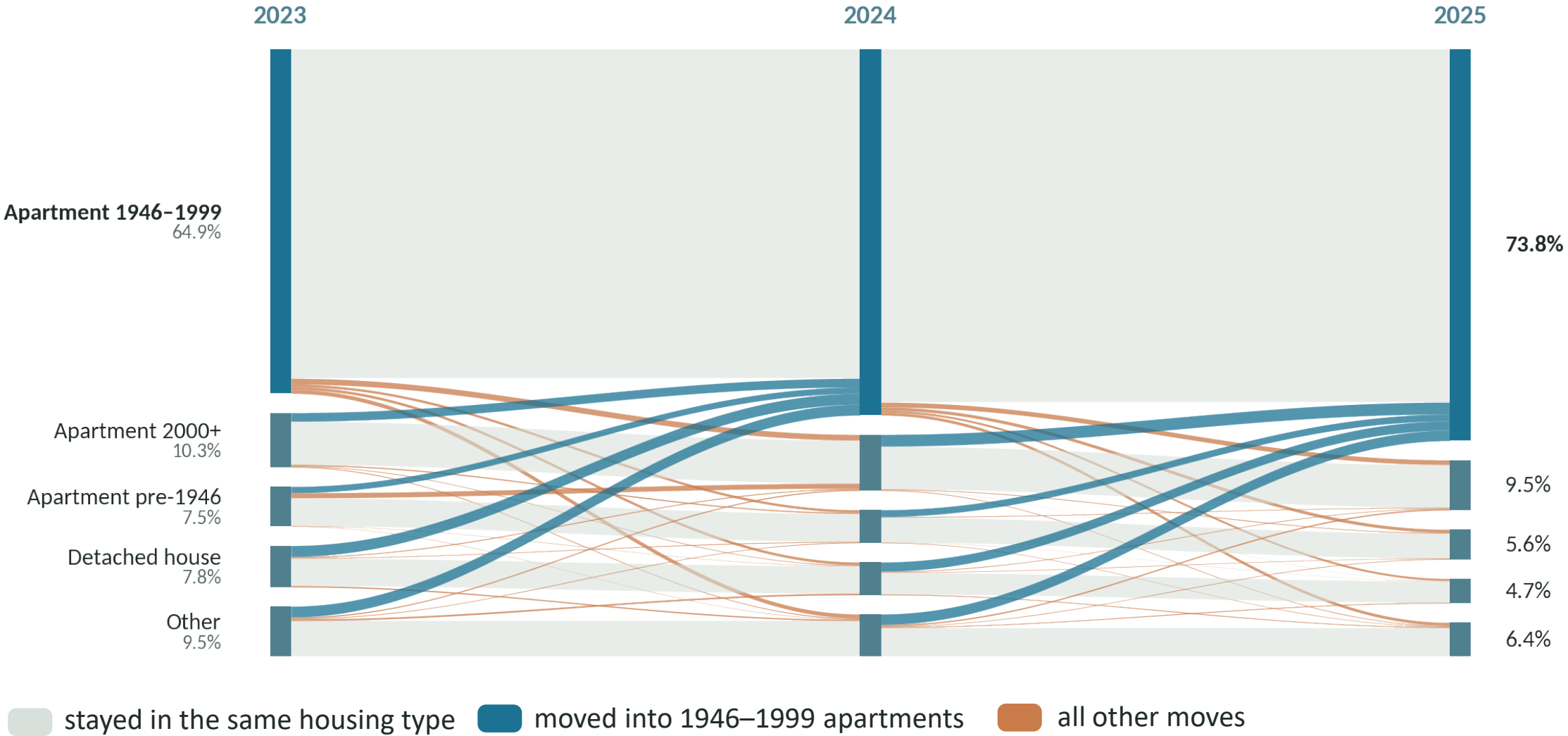
72.8% → 74.5%

+1.7 percentage points

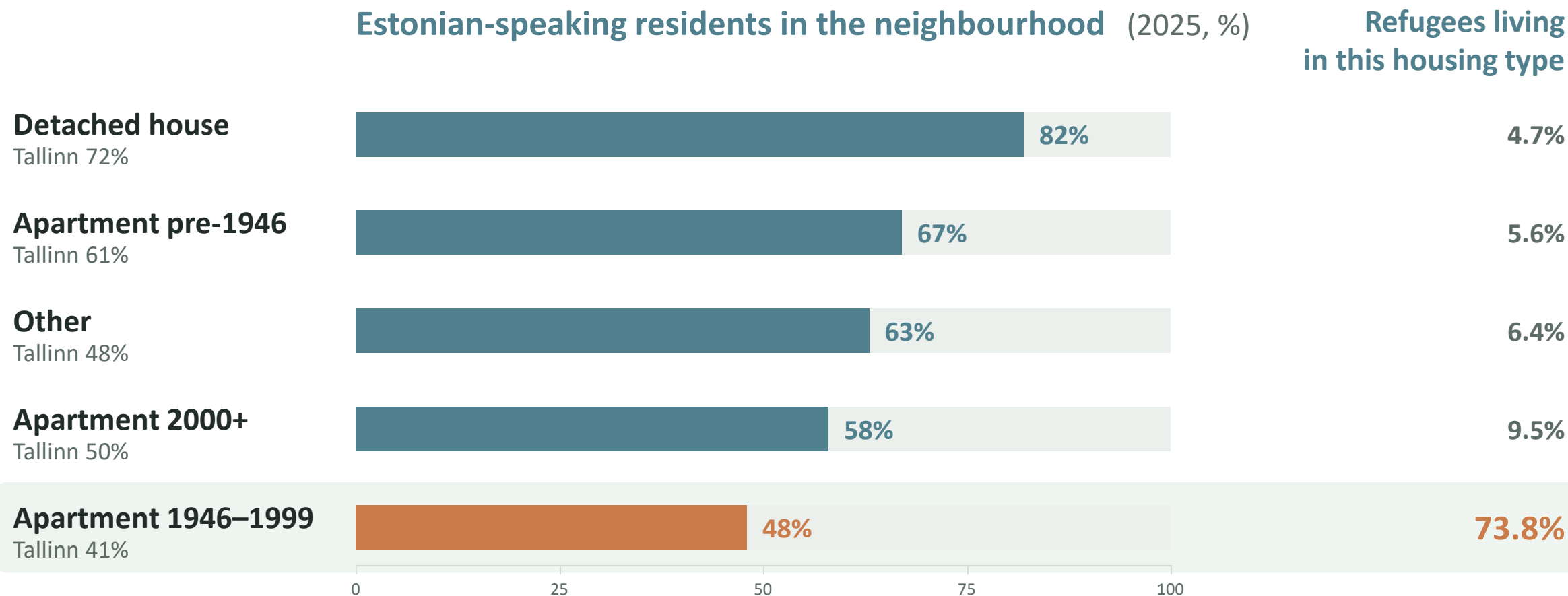
Tallinn's share of all Ukrainians in Estonia: **47% → 48%**

The initial dispersal largely persisted, although secondary migration increasingly favoured larger urban destinations.

Flows between housing types, 2023–2025



Different housing types provide access to different neighbourhood environments



Three-quarters of refugees live in the one housing type whose neighbourhoods are **least** Estonian-speaking.

Key takeaways

1

Ukrainian refugees arrived with an unusually dispersed settlement pattern.

2

Refugees were mobile, but mobility resulted in only modest reconcentration.

3

Housing trajectories are also integration trajectories.

Thank you!

kadi.kalm@ut.ee

