



# INTEGRATING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES INTO HOST SOCIETIES

Working towards dual intent integration

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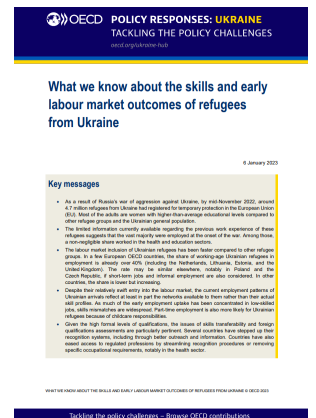
Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs - OECD



# ELS' recent and future work on the Ukrainian refugee crisis

- Rights and support for Ukrainian refugees in receiving countries
- Housing support for Ukrainian refugees in receiving countries
- The potential contribution of Ukrainian refugees to the labour force in European host countries
- How to communicate on the Ukrainian refugee crisis and build on the support of host communities?
- How vocational education and training (VET) systems can support Ukraine
- Responding to the Ukrainian refugee crisis
- Joint EUAA-OECD Survey « Tell us your story » (Joint EUAA, IOM, OECD report Forced displacement from and within Ukraine)
- What we know about the skills and early labour market outcomes of refugees from Ukraine
- What are the integration challenges of Ukrainian refugee women? (upcoming)

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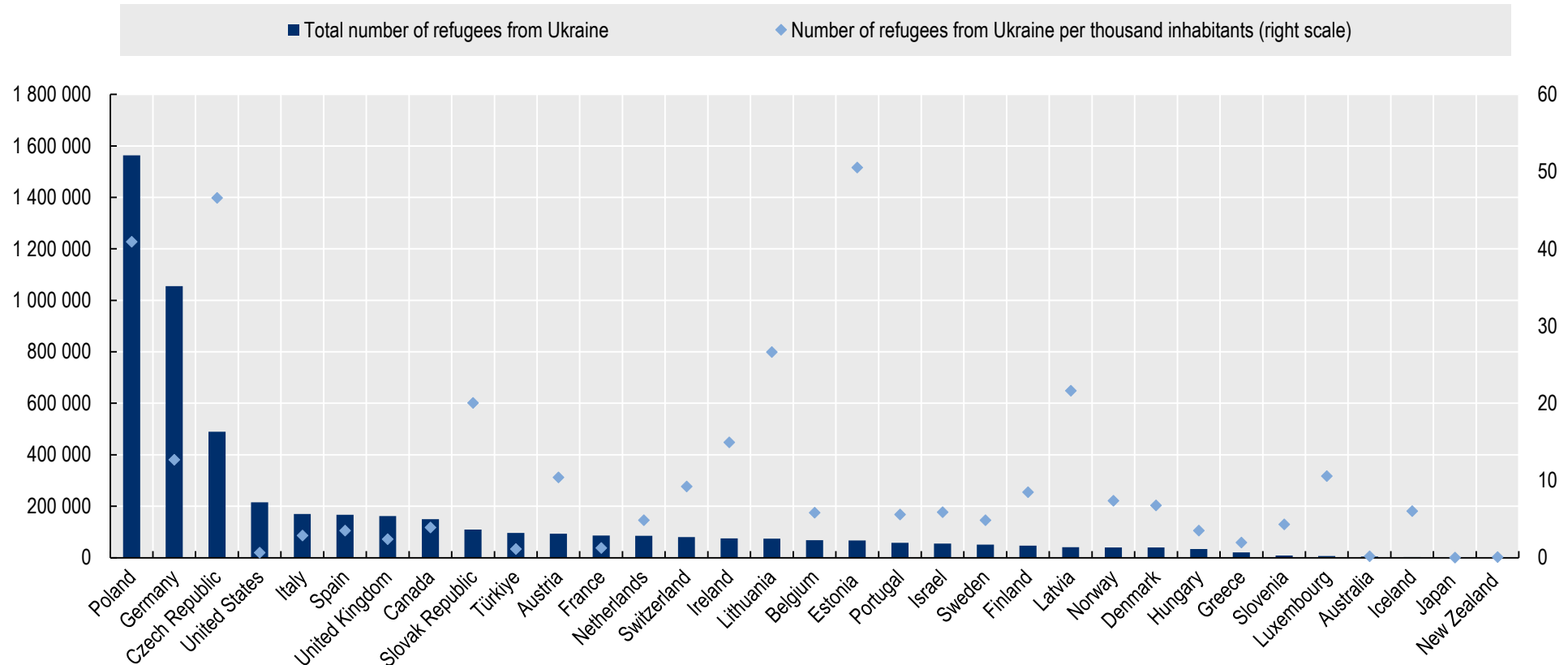
- **New project** on “Supporting the recovery and enhancing cooperation with Ukraine” (GRC, EDU and ELS)
- **New project** on “Improving the assessment, recognition and validation of skills and qualifications for refugees from Ukraine in France”
- Activities related to **supporting the reception and integration** of refugees from Ukraine in OECD countries, advancing **dual intent integration** approaches, **improving monitoring and data quality**, and starting to think about **return and reintegration assistance** for Ukrainian refugees.



# The largest displacement in Europe since WWII



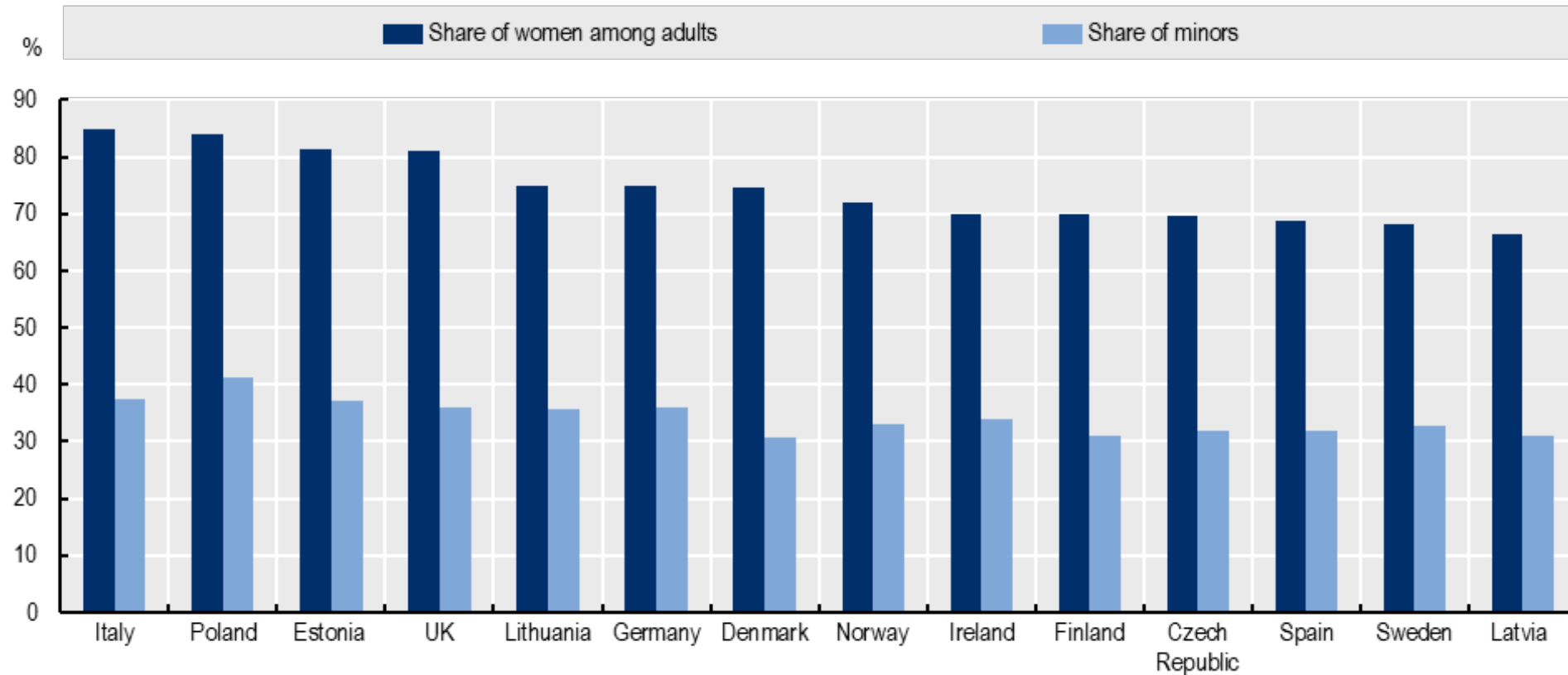
CEE countries have been disproportionately impacted by the Ukrainian refugee flows, but there are onward movements to other countries, including outside the EU (e.g. Canada and the United States).



*Number of recorded refugees from Ukraine in OECD countries, absolute numbers and per thousand of total population, mid-January 2023*



## Most arrivals are women and minors



*Share of minors and adult women among registered refugees in selected countries*



Adult refugees have relatively high levels of educational attainment





## Host countries need to plan for the longer-term displacement



‘Dual intent’ policies prepare both for indefinite stay as well as for possible return



- Overall, OECD countries have managed the early phase of the crisis well, drawing extensively from previous experiences, but we are entering the next phase of the Ukrainian refugee crisis. We need to ensure integration support without hampering a possible return to Ukraine.
- Continued fighting has dimmed prospects of an early return for most Ukrainian refugees.
  - Experiences with past large-scale displacement show that many stay, even if return is possible.
- Successful integration can also support the reconstruction of Ukraine:

Skills and know-how

Supports reintegration

Remittances



## Ensuring access to housing has been one of the main challenges in most receiving countries



OECD has estimated that the total cost of providing housing and direct financial assistance in Europe was EUR 17.2 billion in 2022. Total costs were highest for Poland at EUR 6.2 billion and for Germany at EUR 4.4 billion (IMO 2022).

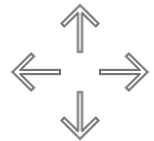


- The rapid influx of Ukrainian refugees to Europe happened in the context of significant pre-existing housing challenges, such as insufficient housing supply and rising costs.
- Countries have relied on a mix of accommodation options, but private hosts and households have played an unprecedented role.



Addressing pre-existing housing shortages

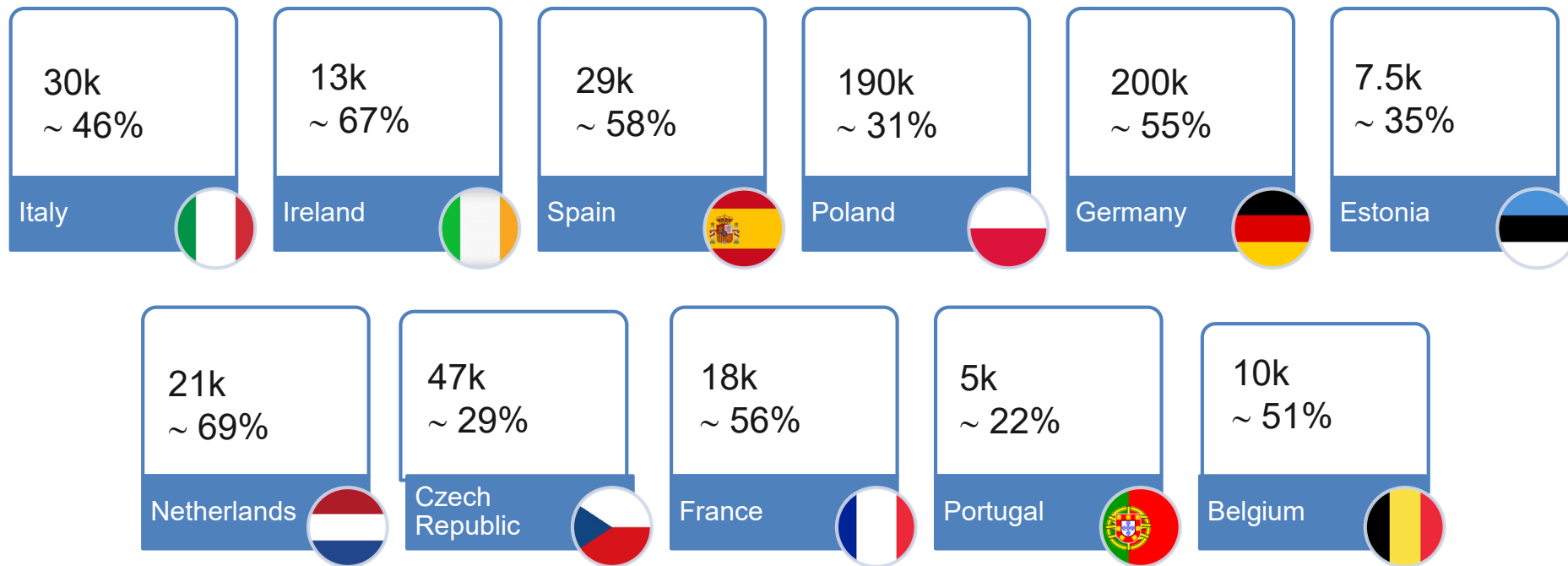
Dispersal





## Ensuring educational continuity essential for children and adults alike

- Access to public education for minor children is available in all OECD and EU countries, yet many students have continued to follow a Ukrainian curriculum online.
- Outside compulsory education, providing VET to Ukrainian refugees is often seen as a particularly promising pathway with high expected returns.

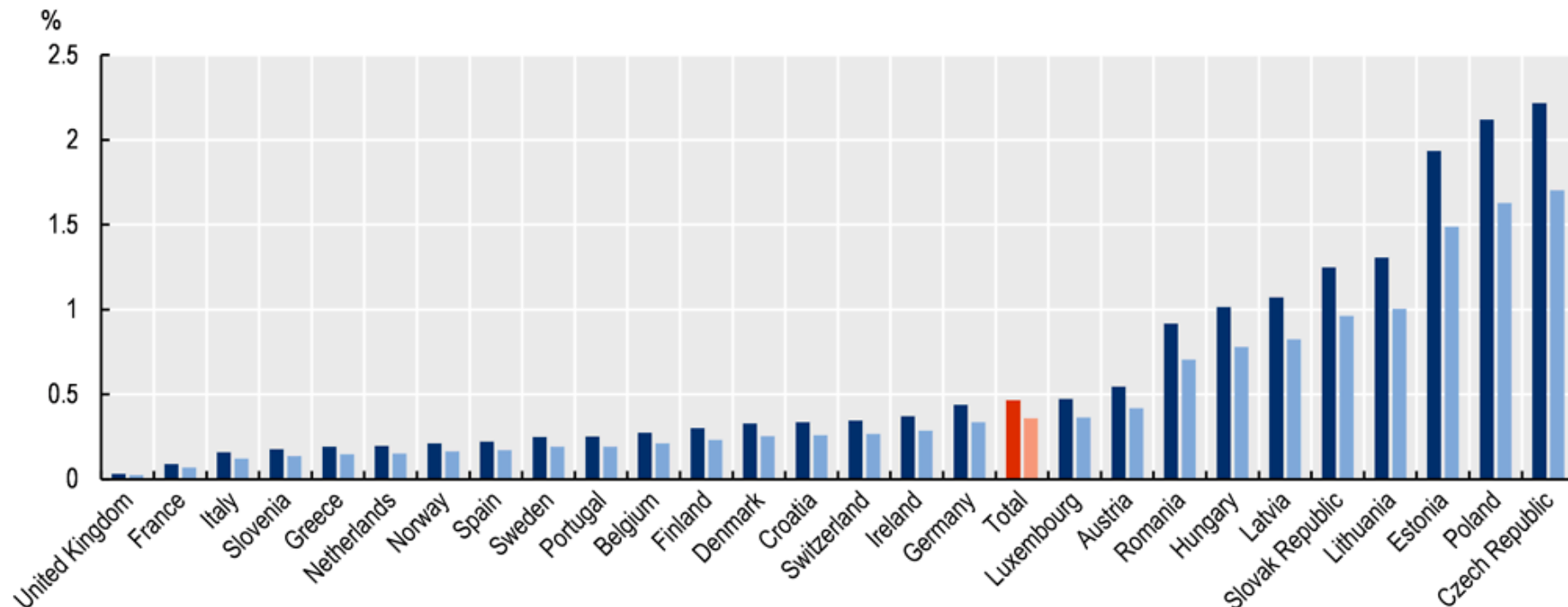


*Number of children of Ukrainian refugees recorded as enrolled in the school system and estimated share of all minors (November 2022)*



## The labour force in Europe increased by about 0.5% by the end of 2022 due to the refugee crisis

A swift labour market entry allows refugees to rebuild their livelihoods and potentially provides a space where they interact with the host society. It also saves money for the public purse and thereby contributes to a better acceptance in the host country.



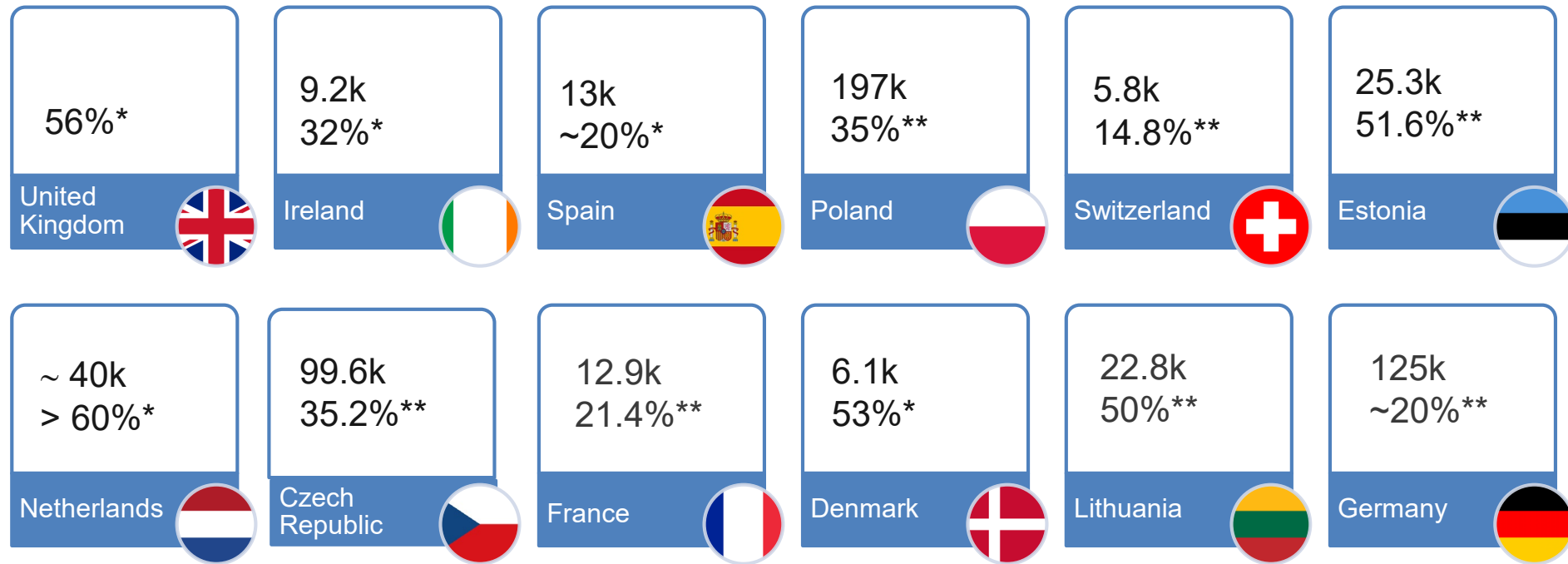
*Relative expected change in labour force due to inflows of Ukrainian refugees in selected European countries*





## Labour market entry of Ukrainians has been faster than with other refugee groups

- In a few European OECD countries, the share of working-age Ukrainian refugees in employment is already over 40%.
- This is notable as refugees generally enter labour markets at a slower pace.



*Number of adult Ukrainian refugees recorded as employed and share of the relevant working age population  
(November 2022\* or January 2023\*\*)*



## Further targeted support needed for skill-appropriate and inclusive integration

- However, short-term outcomes are not a clear indicator for successful long-term integration and early employment uptake in OECD countries has been concentrated in low-skilled jobs, making skills mismatches widespread.

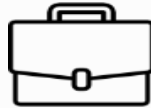
### Key challenges regarding the labour market integration of Ukrainian refugees:



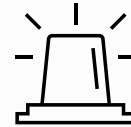
Child care



Part-time  
employment



Skills  
transferability and  
overqualification



Undeclared  
work and  
exploitation



Mobility and  
uncertain length of  
stay

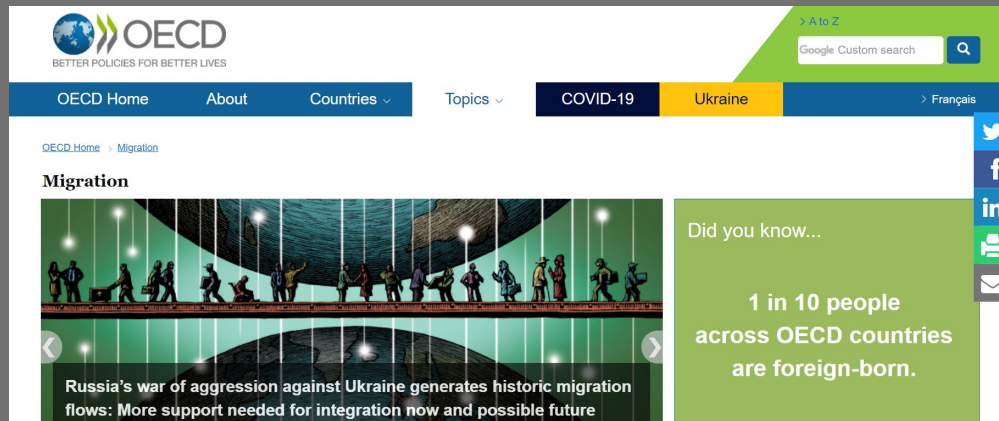


Women can be specifically impacted by these challenges

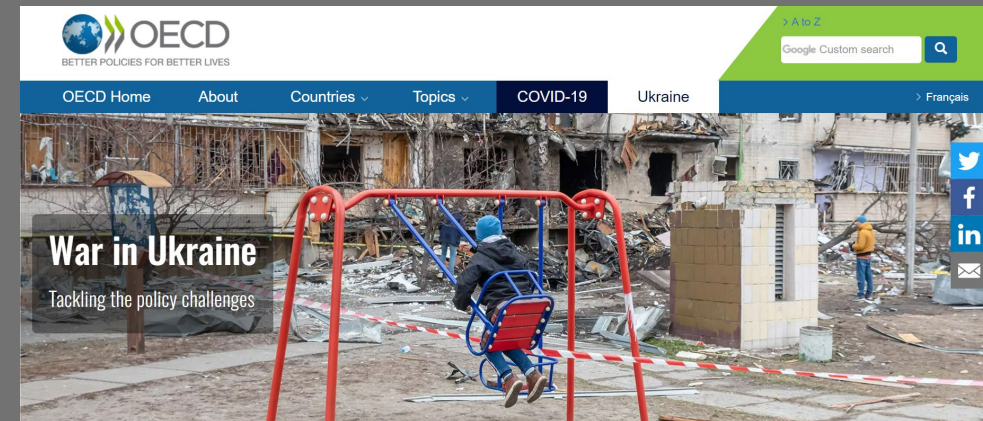




Find out more:



OECD's work on migration:  
<https://www.oecd.org/migration/>



OECD's work on Ukraine:  
<https://www.oecd.org/ukraine-hub/>

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