



# JOINING FORCES FOR BETTER REFUGEE INTEGRATION

Results from a CoR – Eurochambres – OECD survey

**Margaux Tharaux, Junior Policy Analyst**

Regional Attractiveness and Migrant Integration Unit  
Regional Development and Multi-Level Governance Division  
Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE)

 [@OECD\\_local](https://twitter.com/OECD_local)  [www.linkedin.com/company/oecd-local](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oecd-local)  [www.oecd.org/cfe](http://www.oecd.org/cfe)



# Work on the local integration of migrants & refugees

## Past work \_ 2018

- 12-points Checklist for public action to migrant integration at the local level
- 10 case studies in EU metropolises
- 1 case study in a small town

## Recent work \_ 2022

- Report to identify *who* does *what* in key policy sectors
- Report to evaluate 6 policy instruments fostering coordination

## Current work

- Capacity building training for sub-national governments



# 2022 surveys: Motivation & Respondents



EUROCHAMBRES



## Motivation

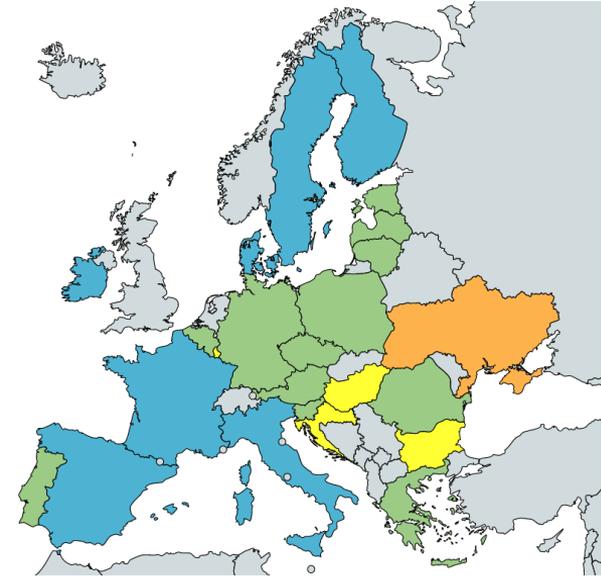
- The need for a territorial approach.
- Having a job is a top priority for many Ukrainians & gaps remain
- What role can the private sector and SNGs play ?

## Survey respondents

- 117 EU municipalities, counties and regions from 19 countries
- 24 national, regional and local EU Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Countries taking part in the survey

- Sub-National Governments (SNGs)
- Contribution from both CCIs and SNGs
- Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCIs)



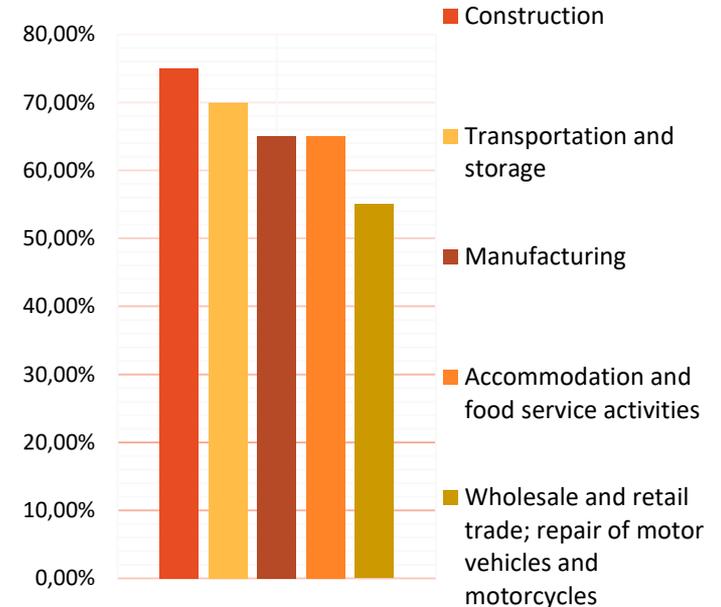


# Information gaps

## A potential win-win equation...

- Gaps remain in Ukrainians employment
- Businesses from all countries except Greece have had hiring needs in the past 6 months
- All activity sectors are concerned

## Top 5 sectors with hiring needs





## Information gaps

### ... curbed by information shortfalls

- Many SNGs do not collect data on local employers' labour needs usually (41% do not), and in relation to Ukrainians (56%).
- Even fewer collect data on skills need (52% usually do not, 68% for Ukrainians)
- SNGs are in contact with only a minority of businesses in their territory (<25%)

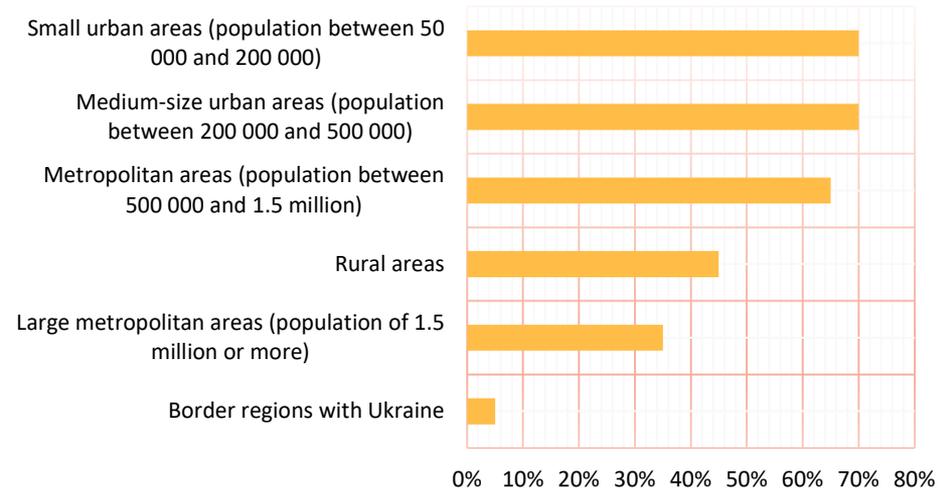


# The potential of small and medium-size cities

## A potential win-win equation...

- Refugee integration can be easier there
- Most hiring needs are there
- Positive perceptions of benefits refugee can bring

## Localisation of businesses with hiring needs





# The potential of small and medium-size cities

## .. held back by coordination gaps

- Less than 1 in 5 countries encourage refugees to move to these areas
- Observed changes in relation to Ukrainian refugees:
  - More incentives, in particular providing housing
  - More horizontal coordination
- Structural challenges remain: lack of transportation, services, etc.



# Refugee job integration

**Main obstacles** for businesses to hire refugees/providing training:

Uncertainty of duration of stay

Cultural / language barriers

Assessing diploma and skills

Lack of knowledge of how to do so

## Solutions exist

- SNGs and Chambers provide language training and support skills and diploma recognition mechanisms, but only a minority of them do.
- Must come with support in other areas key to integration: health, education, childcare, housing etc.



## Access to funding

### Observations in relation to Ukrainian refugees:

- More special grants from national governments (from 17% to 45%)
- Fewer applications to EU funds (AMIF, ESF, ERDF)
- More applications for grants from private sector organisations
- 0 loans from a public or private bank

### Obstacles to use of loans

- Administrative burden
- Limited scope

==> SNGs need financial & administrative support



## Way forward

- **Better coordination among SNGs, businesses and NGOs could have considerable positive effects on refugee integration and help local communities be best prepared for future population movements.**
  - Starting by better information-sharing
- **Funding actors must adopt a territorial and multi-sectorial approach**

# THANK YOU !



Twitter: @OECD\_local

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/oecd-local](http://www.linkedin.com/company/oecd-local)

Website: [www.oecd.org/cfe](http://www.oecd.org/cfe)

Blog: [oecdCogito.blog](http://oecdCogito.blog)

