

Media consumption of Ukrainian audiences in Germany

A survey

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October 20, 2023
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Preliminary remarks

After Russia's attack on Ukraine, around a million Ukrainians fled to Germany. For the Ukrainian media both inside and outside the country it is of the utmost importance to reach these people to inform them about the conditions in their country, the progression of the war, the state of cities, villages, infrastructure and political developments.

The European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF) in collaboration with the JX Fund has commissioned forsa Gesellschaft für Sozialforschung und statistische Analysen mbH to conduct a survey among Ukrainian refugees in Germany to collect empirical data on their media use. The survey was realized with the support of the Minister of State for Culture and the Media.

In addition to the topic of media, the refugees from Ukraine were asked about their personal living situation, their experiences in Germany so far and their trust in various institutions. The questionnaire was developed in close consultation with the JX Fund and the ECPMF.

In the study a total of 508 people aged 18 and over who had fled from Ukraine to Germany were selected and interviewed. The survey was conducted from April 1 to July 17 2023, using online interviews. Participants had the opportunity to answer the questions in Ukrainian or Russian.

Ukrainians who have fled to Germany are a highly mobile, difficult to reach target group and thus difficult to access for social research. In order to achieve a cross-section of refugees as representative as possible under these circumstances, the following procedure was chosen: Using the online panel forsa.omninet, which is representative of the German speaking population and includes over 100,000 active participants, forsa firstly identified people who had or still have contact with refugees from Ukraine in the previous months. These people were then asked to pass on a one-time access code for the forsa survey system to a refugee they knew. This was done digitally via a single-use access link or via a printout with an individual access code. In this way, people with different social relationships could be invited to participate in the survey.

The main findings are presented in the following report.

1 Media Usage

1.1 Use of Various Media Services

The participants were asked to state which media services they had used in the four weeks prior to being surveyed.

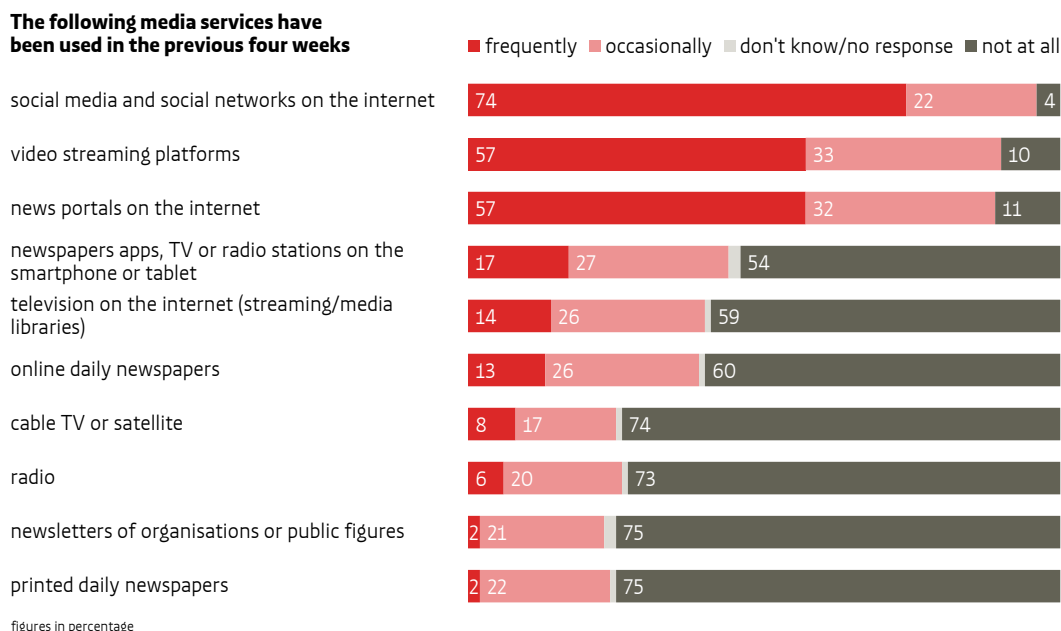
Social media and social networks on the internet, e.g. Facebook, Instagram, X, Telegram, etc., were used at least occasionally (96 %) by respondents. Three quarters (74 %) of those surveyed state they used them “frequently”.

Video platforms, e.g. YouTube, TikTok, (90 %) and news portals on the internet (89 %) were used at least occasionally by a similar number of respondents.

In comparison, significantly fewer respondents used digital platforms in terms of “classic” media: 44 percent used newspaper apps, television or radio stations on their smartphone or tablet, 40 percent accessed television online via streaming platforms or media libraries, and 39 percent viewed daily newspapers online, at least occasionally.

Around a quarter of those surveyed have watched television via cable or satellite (25 %), listened to the radio (26 %), read newsletters from organisations or public figures (23 %), or read printed daily newspapers (24 %) in the four weeks prior to being surveyed. Around three quarters did not use these media offerings at all during this period.

Figure 1: Media use within the previous four weeks



85 percent of those surveyed only use free media offerings.

4 percent pay from time to time for individual articles that particularly interest them and 5 percent have at least one paid media subscription.

Figure 2: Use of chargeable media platforms

Share of respondents who ...



figures in percentage
missing figures to add up to 100 % = „don't know"/no response

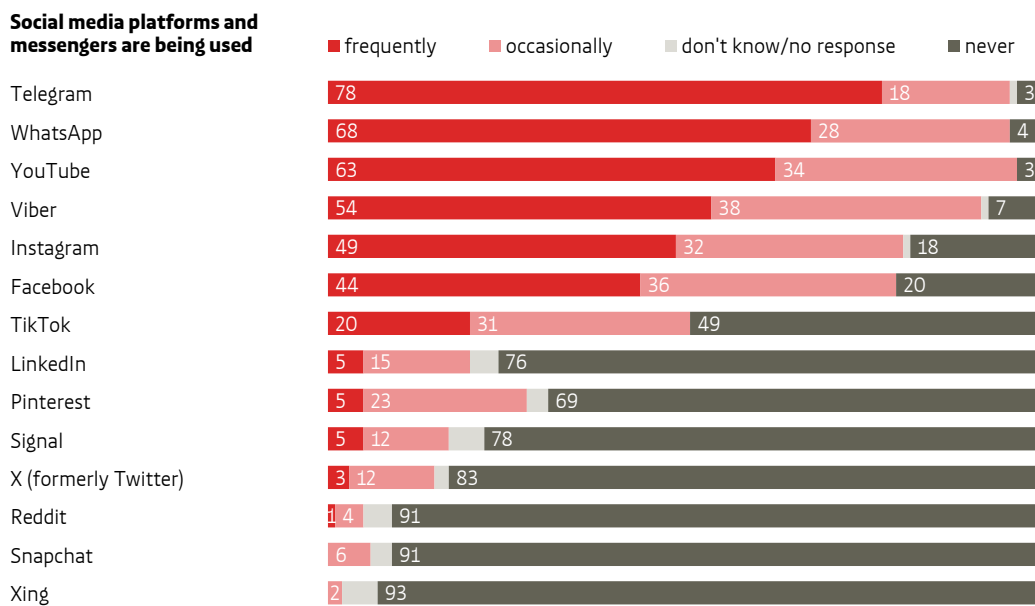
1.2 Social Media Platforms and Messengers

Almost all respondents generally use Telegram (96 %), WhatsApp (96 %), YouTube (97 %) and Viber (92 %). According to their own statements, more than three quarters of those surveyed use Telegram “frequently”.

Eight out of ten use Instagram (81 %) and Facebook (80 %) at least occasionally. Half (51 %) of those surveyed generally also use TikTok.

The remaining digital communication channels are never used by a large majority of participants: LinkedIn (76 %), Pinterest (69 %), Signal (78 %), X (formerly Twitter) (83 %), Reddit, Snapchat (91 % each) and Xing (93 %) belong to these comparatively rarely used communication channels.

Figure 3: Use of social media platforms and messengers



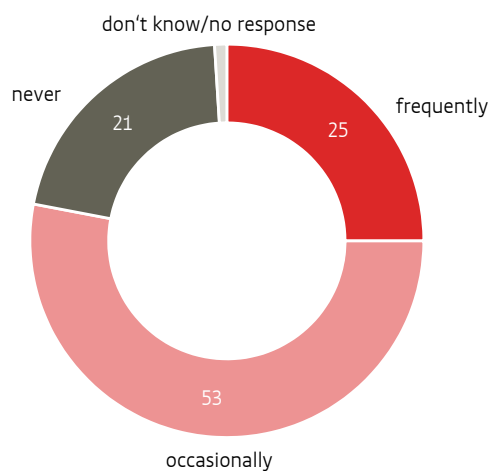
figures in percentage

More than three quarters (78 %) of Ukrainians surveyed share news articles or posts about political events with others via social media or messenger services.

A quarter (25 %) state they do this frequently, 53 percent say they do it sporadically.

Figure 4: Sharing political news via social media or messenger services

Sharing news articles or posts about political events with others via social media or messenger services



figures in percentage

1.3 Media Use Regarding Different Subjects and Languages

In addition, respondents were asked to recount what topics they had informed themselves about in the media in the four weeks prior to being surveyed.

When asked this question, respondents most often mention the war in Ukraine: 86 percent sought out information frequently and 11 percent searched every now and then.

Two thirds (68 %) frequently gathered information about current political events in Ukraine while a quarter (26 %) did this occasionally.

Almost all respondents (95 %) obtained information regarding their stay in Germany from media in the four weeks prior to being surveyed – 55 percent did this frequently.

Current political events in the world (89 %) and in Germany (81 %) were also topics that a large majority of people read up on, although most did so only occasionally.

Around three quarters of those surveyed used different media offers for economic topics (78 %), e.g. inflation or energy supply, social issues (75 %), such as equality and environmental protection, and cultural topics (71 %), for instance music, film or art. Those who were interested in these topics sought these out occasionally.

Almost two thirds (64 %) of those surveyed state they retrieved information about in-depth analysis of global political developments – and most of them did so from time to time (47 %).

Well-known personalities and celebrities were a focus of media interest for 57 percent and current events in sports for 38 percent.

Figure 5: Topics of interest

Media coverage of respective topics was retrieved in the previous four weeks

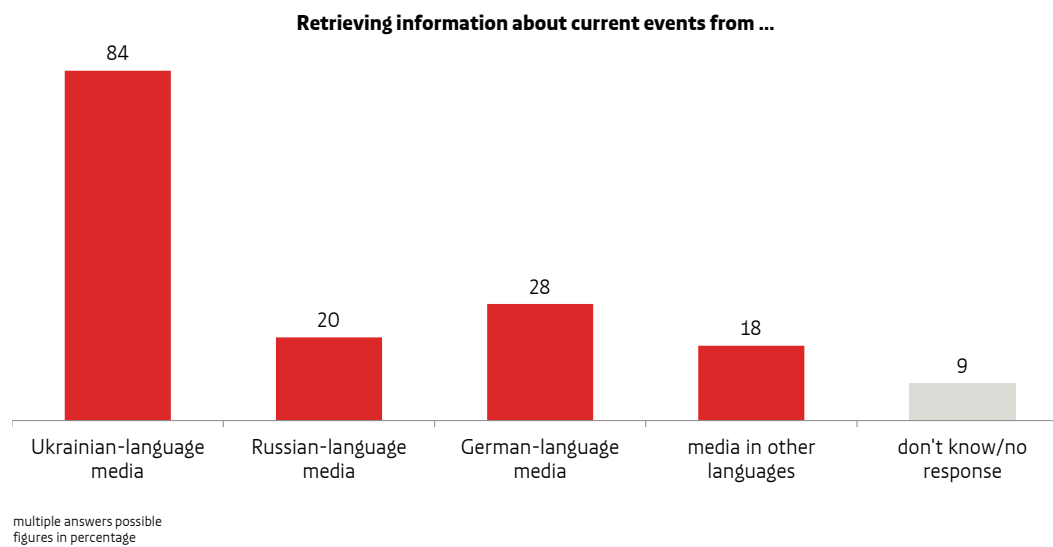


figures in percentage

The vast majority (84 %) of interviewees learn about current events through media in Ukrainian language.

A fifth (20 %) (also) uses media in Russian and 28 percent use media in German to inform themselves. 18 percent use media in other languages.

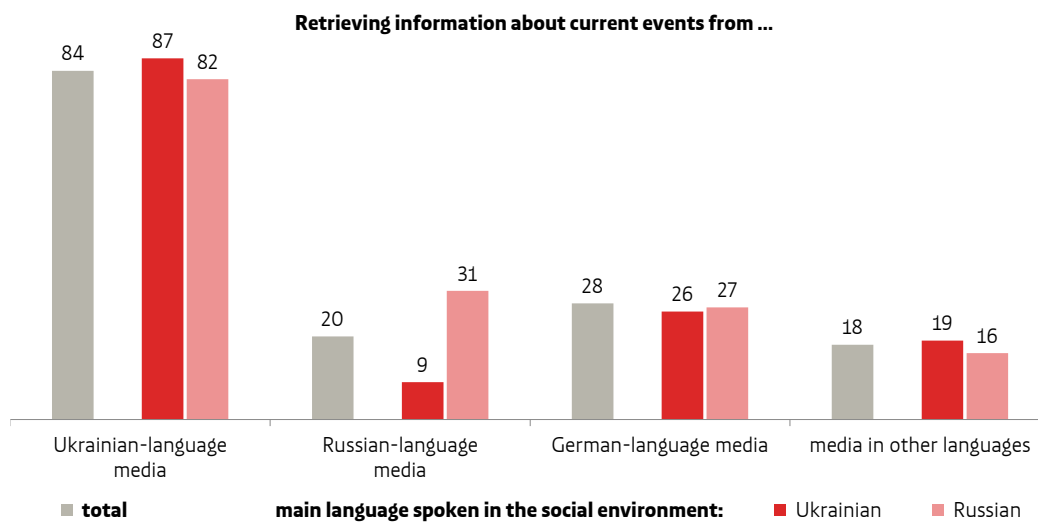
Figure 6: Media use by language



Those who primarily speak Russian in their social environment (31 %) are more likely to (also) use media in Russian than those whose primary language is Ukrainian (9 %).

Moreover, respondents with a good knowledge of German are more likely to (also) inform themselves about current events through media in German (42 %) and those with a good knowledge of English (also) through media in languages other than Ukrainian, Russian or German (27 %).

Figure 7: Media use by language according to main language spoken in the social environment



multiple answers possible

1.4 Use of Media in Ukrainian

Those respondents using news media in Ukrainian were asked, open and with no predefined answer options, what kind of news media in Ukrainian (TV stations, radio stations, newspapers, online portals, apps) they use for the sole purpose of news-gathering.

Their answers contain a wide range of different media channels and services.

Around a third refer to the messenger service Telegram. 17 percent name Telegram in general as the most frequently used medium. Additionally, some specific bloggers or channels such as Trukha Ukraine (3 %), "Lachen wrote" ("Лачен пише") (2 %), Serhij Sternenko, Serhij Prytula, Ukraine NOW und Kharkov Life/ Kahrkiv (1 % each) are mentioned.

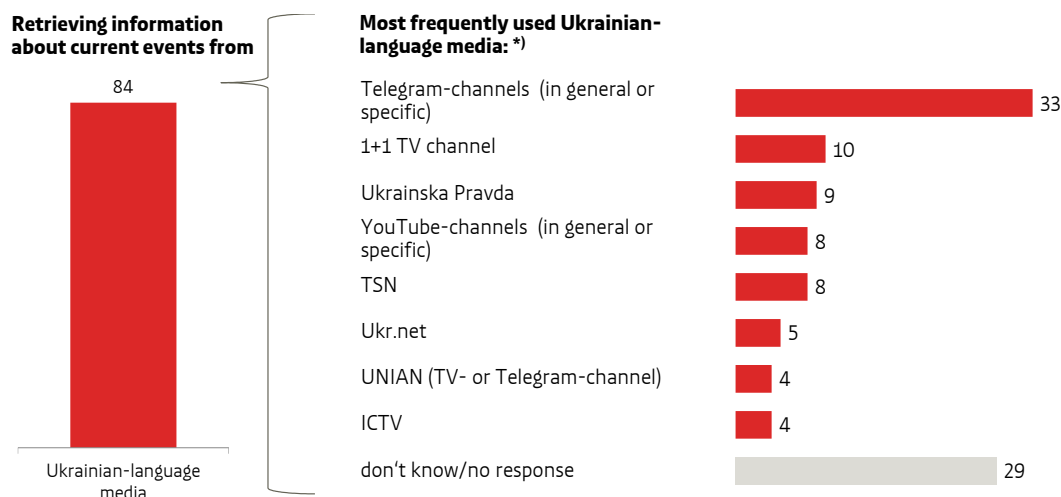
YouTube in general (3 %) and specific YouTube channels (5 %) account for a total of 8 percent of named media channels with high relevance to Ukrainians in Germany.

The TV channels 1+1 (10 %), UNIAN (4 %), ICTV (4 %) and the news programme TSN (8 %) are also mentioned comparatively frequently.

The same applies to the online newspaper Ukrainska Pravda (9 %) and the website Ukr.net (5 %).

A total of 29 percent of those surveyed did not provide any information on this question.

Figure 8: Use of media in Ukrainian



* open query, multiple answers possible; mentions over 4 percent are shown; figures in percentage

1.5 Use of Media in Russian

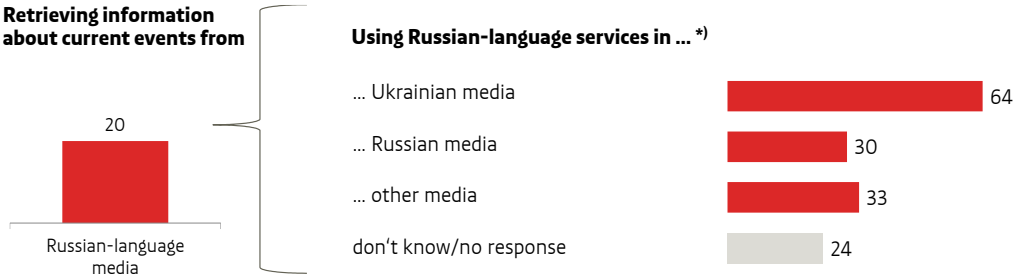
Those Ukrainian refugees surveyed who use media outlets in Russian were asked to indicate the origin of media services used.

64 percent state they use offers in Russian language provided by Ukrainian media.

Russian-language media offers by Russian media (30 %) and/or by other media sources (33 %) are used overall by a similarly large proportion.

24 percent of users of media sources in Russian cannot or do not want to provide any further information in response to the question.

Figure 9: Origin of media used in Russian



*) multiple answers possible; figures in percentage

In addition, those Ukrainian refugees surveyed who use media outlets in Russian were asked to name the news sources (TV channels, radio stations, newspapers, online portals, apps) which they consult most frequently.

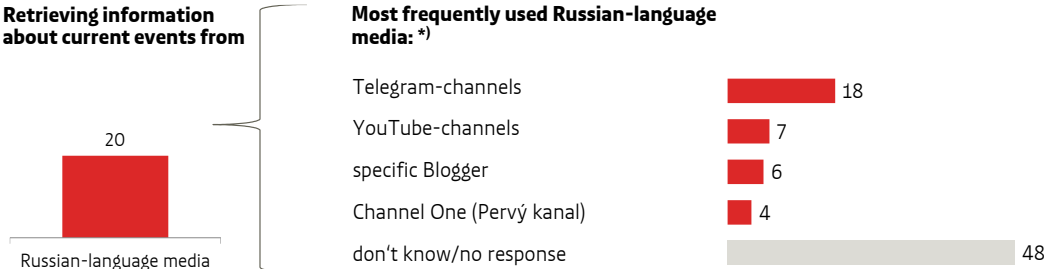
The most common source of information respondents use is Telegram channels (18 %), followed by YouTube channels (7 %) and specific bloggers (6 %).

Also, the Russian pro-government Channel One (Pervý kanal) (4 %) is occasionally listed.

Furthermore, the Russian exile media offerings of Aleksandr Nevzorov (YouTube or Telegram), Meduza (3 % each) and TV Rain (1 %) are mentioned by a few respondents.

Half of the respondents using media coverage in Russian language (48 %) did not provide any specific information.

Figure 10: Use of media in Russian



*) open query, multiple answers possible; mentions over 4 percent are shown; figures in percentage

1.6 Use of Media in German

When asked to name their most commonly used source of news and information 23 percent of Ukrainian respondents using media services in German mention *Deutsche Welle* (DW).

Regarding media services such as TV stations, the public broadcasters ARD (13 %) and ZDF (9 %) are mentioned first and foremost. Furthermore, RTL (1 %) is occasionally mentioned.

Other media sources listed are Spiegel or Spiegel Online (13 %), local media (10 %), specific radio stations (10 %), Die Welt (8 %), Die Zeit or Zeit Online (5 %) and Bild (5 %).

Furthermore Aussiedlerbote.de (3 %) is mentioned.

A third (33 %) of those surveyed did not give an answer.

Figure 11: Use of media in German



*) open query, multiple answers possible; mentions over 4 percent are shown; figures in percentage

1.7 News Sources Used in Other Languages

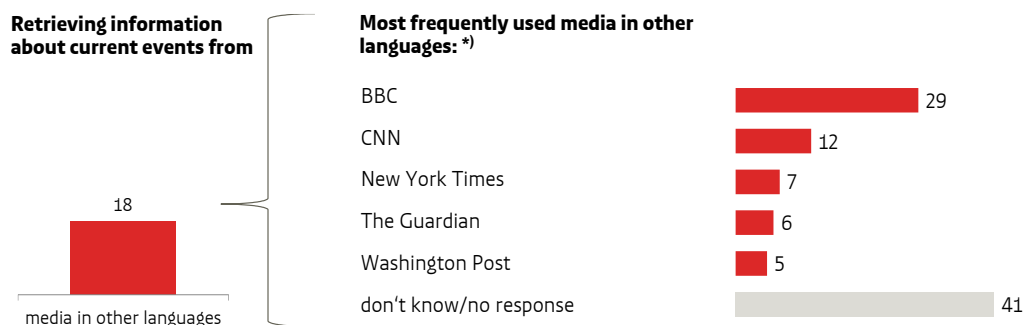
The few respondents who use media in languages beyond Ukrainian, Russian and German were also asked openly about the respective media (TV stations, radio stations, newspapers, online portals, apps).

By far the most frequently mentioned media is the BBC (29 %).

Others are CNN (12 %), the New York Times (7 %), The Guardian (6 %), the Washington Post (5 %) and DW (2 %).

41 percent of the respondents did not provide any information in response to the question.

Figure 12: News sources used in other languages



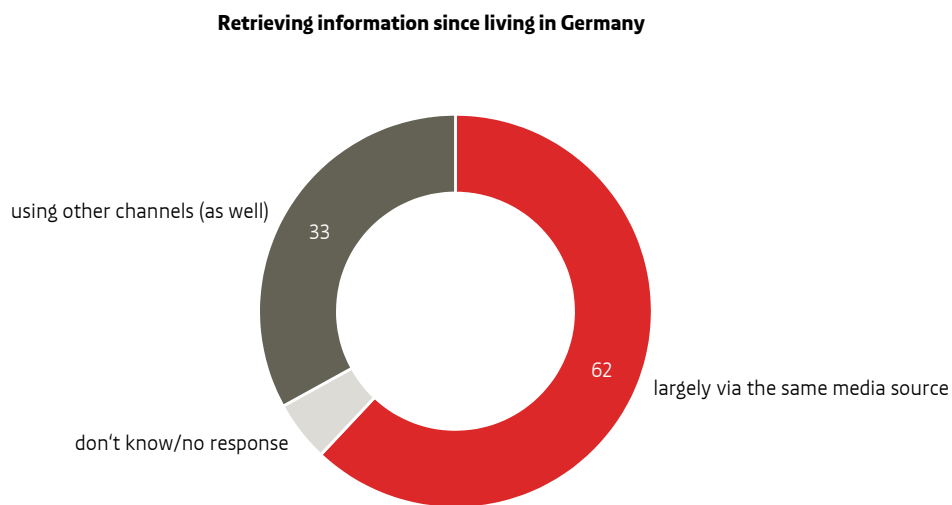
*) open query, multiple answers possible; mentions over 4 percent are shown; figures in percentage

1.8 Changes in Information Behaviour

Asked for self-assessment the majority (62 %) of respondents report that they have largely used the same media source since they moved to Germany.

A third (33 %) have since then (also) accessed other media platforms than before – men (44 %) more frequently than women (30 %).

Figure 13: Changes in information behaviour?



figures in percentage

Those who now (partly) use other media platforms than before their arrival in Germany were then asked to state a reason for their change in information habits, without having provided them with any answers to select from.

The most frequently cited reason is due to interest in a variety of perspectives and different sources (18 %).

Obtaining information about Germany using other media sources as well as having been provided new possibilities to access and gather news is stated by 11 percent of the respondents. A similar number confirm the change in information behaviour with the desire for more independent and objective reporting (9 %).

Consuming different media platforms to learn German (6 %) and the lack of access to Ukrainian media (5 %) are among other reasons.

A comparatively large proportion of respondents cannot or does not want to comment on this issue (36 %).

Figure 14: Reasons for changed information behaviour



*) open query, multiple answers possible; figures in percentage

1.9 Awareness, Use and Trustworthiness of Different Media Outlets

Presented with a list of different media outlets respondents were asked to single out which ones they were familiar with and had used in the four weeks prior to being surveyed.

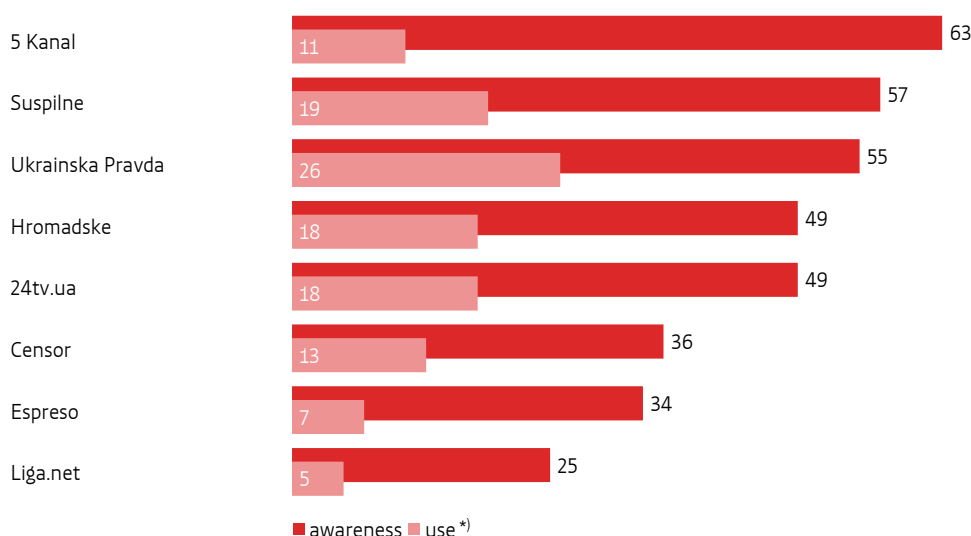
Of the Ukrainian media sources listed, 5 Kanal (63 %), Suspilne (57 %), Ukrainska Pravda (55 %), Hromadske and 24tv.ua (49 % each) are among the best known.

Censor (36 %), Espresso (34 %), Liga.net (25 %) and Novoe Vremya (including Radio NV) (14 %) are known to about a third or less of respondents.

Ukrainska Pravda (26 %), Suspilne (19 %), Homradske and 24tv.ua (18 % each) are the most frequently used. The best-known Ukrainian medium, 5 Kanal, on the other hand, was used comparatively rarely in the period surveyed (11 %). Censor (13 %), Espresso (7 %) and Liga.net (5 %) were also used by comparatively few respondents.

Figure 15: Awareness and use of Ukrainian media outlets

Awareness and use of the following Ukrainian media outlets



*) in the previous four weeks; multiple answers possible; figures in percentage

Deutsche Welle (44 %), Der Spiegel (37 %) and Bild (18 %) are among the most well-known German media prompted in the survey. Significantly fewer respondents are familiar with other German news sources. Deutsche Welle was recently used by 21 percent of respondents, while this was much less the case with Der Spiegel (8 %) or Bild (6 %).

Almost two thirds (65 %) of respondents know the BBC, half of the participants in the survey know CNN. Euro News is known to 42 percent, The Guardian to 15 percent. In comparison, only a slim number of respondents know Le Monde (7 %) and El Pais (3 %).

One fifth (19 %) of all respondents have also used the BBC in the four weeks prior to being surveyed. For CNN (9 %) and Euro News (10 %), the figure is around one in ten.

Ukrayina.pl (7 %) and Amal, Berlin! (2 %) are only occasionally known to the respondents.

Of the Russian media outlets surveyed, Meduza (23 %) and The Insider (21 %) are among the best known. They were most recently accessed by 5 and 4 percent of respondents respectively. Channel One (9 %), Mediazona (8 %) and TV Rain (3 %) are each known to only a few respondents.

14 percent know the Belarusian media outlet Zerkalo.

Figure 16: Awareness and use of different media outlets

Awareness and use of:

German media outlets



Media outlets from other countries



Russian media outlets



■ awareness ■ use *)

*) in the previous four weeks; multiple answers possible; figures in percentage

When asked how they would rate the credibility of each individual media source they personally know, Deutsche Welle (66 %), Ukrainska Pravda (61 %) and the BBC (60 %) are most often judged to be (very) trustworthy.

CNN (59 %), Euro News (58 %), Spiegel (58 %), Bild (56 %), Liga.net (56 %), Hromadske (55 %), Suspilne (52 %), 24tv.ua (50 %) and Censor (50 %) are also mostly considered as (very) trustworthy.

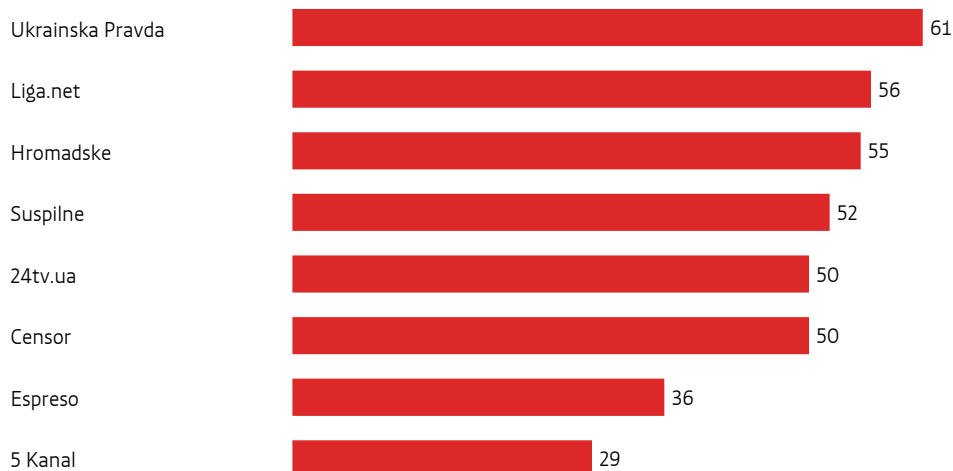
Espresso (36 %), 5 Kanal (29 %), The Insider (38 %) and Meduza (29 %) are considered (very) trustworthy by only about one third of respondents familiar with these media services.

For all media surveyed, the proportion of those who cannot or do not want to assess their trustworthiness is comparatively high (24 % and more). In the case of the Russian media The Insider and Meduza, this figure is even higher, at 50 and 42 percent respectively.

Figure 17: Trustworthiness of different media outlets

Following media are considered to be (very) trustworthy:

Ukrainian media outlets



German media outlets



Media outlets from other countries



Russian media outlets



data base: respondents who are familiar with the respective media; figures in percentage

1.10 Feeling informed about events in Ukraine

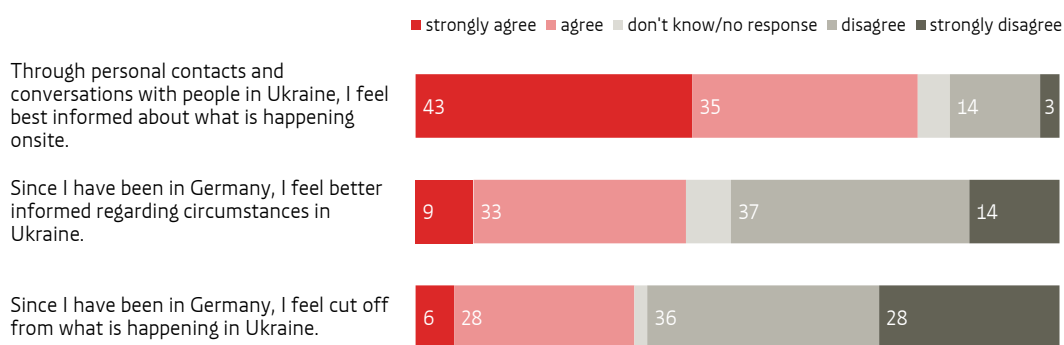
Various statements on the emotional and subjective side on levels of information were presented to the Ukrainians surveyed.

Results show that personal conversations with those still onsite in Ukraine are essential for many respondents: More than three quarters (78 %) of respondents acknowledge they feel best kept up to date regarding current events in Ukraine through personal contacts and conversations with people in situ.

There is a discrepancy when asked about the quality of information respondents have access to in Germany. 42 percent report the feeling of being better informed regarding circumstances in Ukraine since they have moved to Germany. For a slim majority about half (51 %), this is not the case.

Moreover, a majority (64 %) of Ukrainians surveyed do not feel cut off from what is happening in Ukraine since they have been in Germany. One third (34 %) do report feeling this way.

Figure 18: Feeling informed about events in Ukraine



figures in percentage

Women, slightly more often than men, feel more up to date regarding current events through personal conversations with people onsite, and slightly less well-informed about circumstances in Ukraine since they have been in Germany.

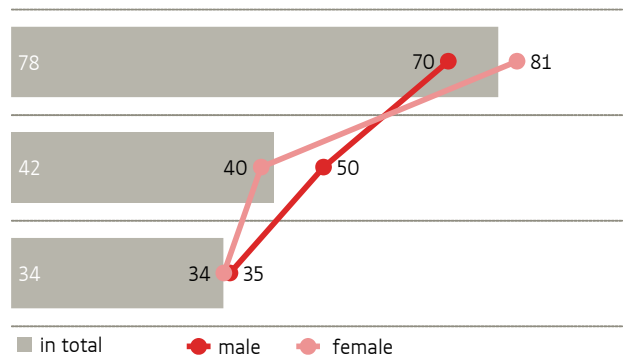
Figure 19: Feeling informed about events in Ukraine according to gender

Share of respondents who (strongly) agree:

Through personal contacts and conversations with people in Ukraine, I feel best informed about what is happening onsite.

Since I have been in Germany, I feel better informed regarding circumstances in Ukraine.

Since I have been in Germany, I feel cut off from what is happening in Ukraine.



figures in percentage

Younger respondents, aged 18 to 39, are more likely than older respondents to feel disconnected from events in Ukraine.

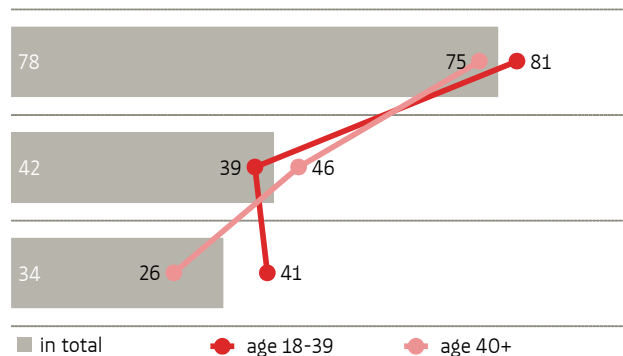
Figure 20: Feeling informed about events in Ukraine according to age

Share of respondents who (strongly) agree:

Through personal contacts and conversations with people in Ukraine, I feel best informed about what is happening onsite.

Since I have been in Germany, I feel better informed regarding circumstances in Ukraine.

Since I have been in Germany, I feel cut off from what is happening in Ukraine.



figures in percentage

2 Opinions on the Coverage of Events in Ukraine in German Media

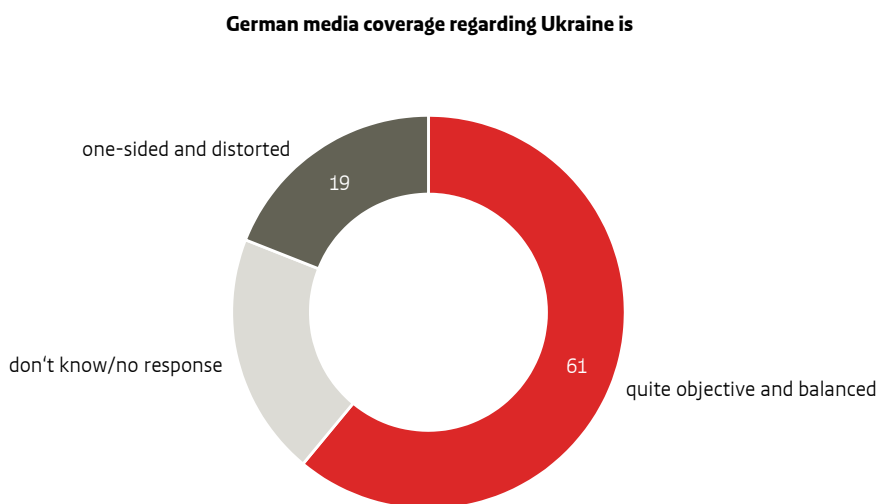
2.1 Assessment of Reporting in German Media

Those respondents who gather information regarding current events in German media were asked to assess the coverage of Ukraine in German media.

61 percent see the coverage of Ukraine in German media as quite objective and balanced. 19 percent, on the other hand, consider much of it to be one-sided and distorted.

Every fifth person surveyed does not (yet) have the confidence to make a judgement.

Figure 21: Assessment of reporting in German media



data base: respondents who obtain information from German-language media
figures in percentage

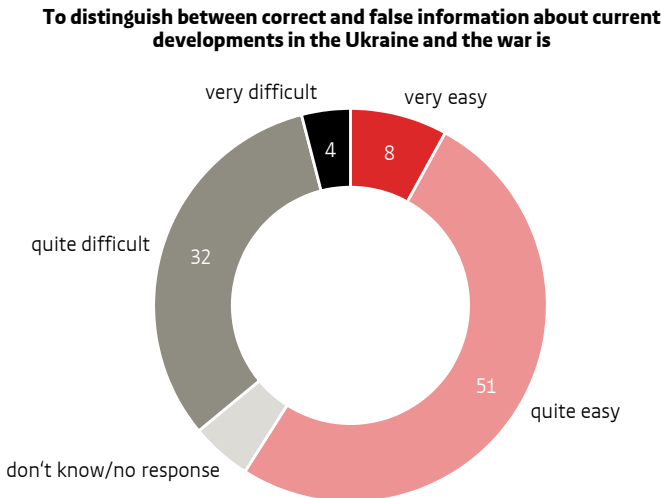
The few critical interviewees were then asked to point out what they felt was being reported in a one-sided or distorted way. Some interviewees state that the portrayal of the situation was too selective and not differentiated enough. For example, they claim that reports are primarily about military operations and Ukraine's foreign policy, and that the social consequences of the war are neglected, e.g. the sharp rise in rents in western Ukraine, accusations against Russian-speaking citizens and the general human rights situation in Ukraine. In addition, a few interviewees attest that German media displays a proximity to Russian media and narratives.

2.2 Assessing the Accuracy of Information

Almost six out of ten (59 %) respondents find it very or quite easy to distinguish between correct and false information concerning current developments in Ukraine and the war. 36 percent find it very or quite difficult.

Men (67 %) are slightly more likely than women (57 %) to claim that they find it easy to assess the quality of war-related information.

Figure 22: Assessing the accuracy of information



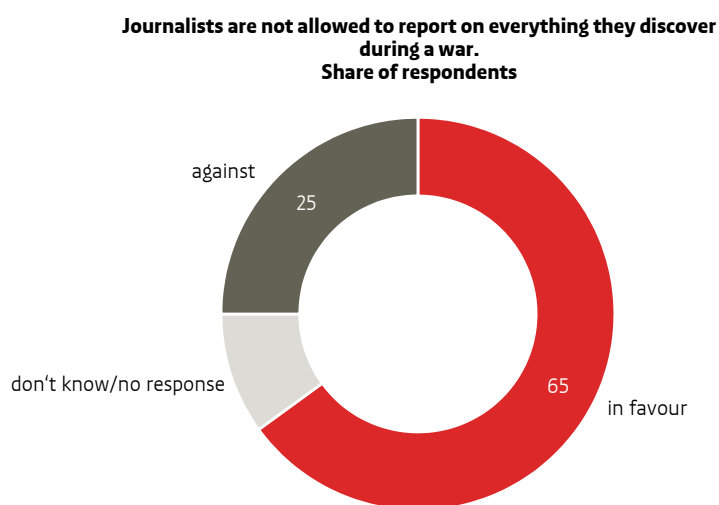
figures in percentage

2.3 Opinion on Changed Reporting in Times of War

Almost two-thirds (65 %) of the Ukrainians surveyed believe it is right that journalists are not allowed to report on everything they discover during a war.

Ukrainian speaking interviewees (69 %) are slightly more likely than primarily Russian-speaking respondents (61 %) to grasp that journalists have to limit their reporting in times of war.

Figure 23: Opinion on changed reporting in times of war



figures in percentage

3 Trust in Institutions

Ukrainians who had fled to Germany were asked – as forsa regularly does among German citizens – about their trust in various institutions and public figures.

The vast majority of the refugees surveyed (89 %) place their trust in the Ukrainian army.

The German Federal Government (75 %), the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (66 %), the European Union (63 %) and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (57 %) also hold a (very) high level of trust.

About half of the respondents put their trust in NATO (52 %), US President Joe Biden (49 %) and the Ukrainian government (48 %).

Significantly fewer respondents state they have faith in the political parties in Germany (38 %), the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOK) (23 %) or the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OKU) (21 %). However, about a third of the respondents have no opinion on these institutions.

Trust in political parties (14 %) and courts (8 %) in Ukraine is at a low level compared to the other institutions.

Respondents have the least trust in the Russian army and the Russian President Vladimir Putin (2 % each). A large majority of 90 percent and 92 percent respectively say they have no trust in these players.

What is striking about the results is the rather large discrepancy between the trust that Ukrainians who have fled the country place in President Zelensky (66 %) and the Ukrainian government as a whole (48 %).

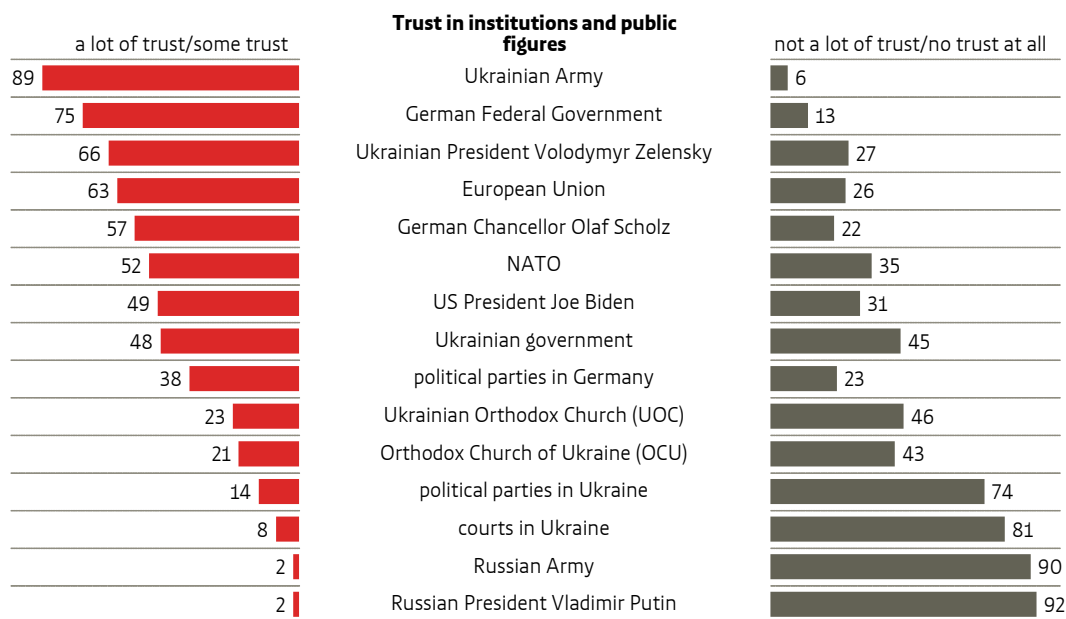
Also, only very few of the Ukrainians surveyed have trust in the courts (8 %) in Ukraine, while the courts in Germany are among the institutions with the highest level of trust among German citizens in the regular institutional trust rankings (most recently 68 % in January 2023).

There are only minor differences between men and women and between the age groups. Women trust domestic Ukrainian institutions such as the Ukrainian government or President Volodymyr Zelensky slightly more than men (50 % compared to 42 %). Men, on the other hand, have slightly more trust in foreign players such as the European Union (71 % compared to 61 %) or NATO (60 % compared to 50 %).

Younger respondents aged 18 to 39 tend to trust Volodymyr Zelensky slightly more than older respondents (72 % compared to 60 %). Respondents over 40 years of age tend to have greater faith in NATO than their younger counterparts (48 % compared to 58 %).

Respondents who speak mainly Ukrainian in their social environment have slightly more trust than their primarily Russian-speaking fellow citizens in the Ukrainian army (95 % compared to 84 %), President Volodymyr Zelensky (70 % compared to 62 %), US President Joe Biden (57 % compared to 42 %) and NATO (57 % compared to 48 %).

Figure 24: Trust in institutions



missing data to add up to 100 percent = "don't know"/no response
figures in percentage

4 Escape from Ukraine

4.1 Region of Origin in Ukraine

Before they had to flee Ukraine, almost a third of those surveyed lived in the city (25 %) or the Oblast (6 %) Kyiv.

The second most frequently mentioned regions of origin are primarily the eastern and southern parts of the country: Oblast Kharkiv (16 %), Oblast Donetsk (9 %), Oblast Odessa (8 %), Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (6 %) and Zaporizhia Oblast (5 %).

Only a few respondents come from other regions in the country.

Table 1: Region of origin in Ukraine

Prior to leaving Ukraine they lived in region/Oblast:	total %
Cherkasy Oblast	1
Chernihiv Oblast	2
Chernivtsi Oblast	0
Crimea	1
Dnipropetrovsk Oblast	6
Donetsk Oblast	9
Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast	2
Kharkiv Oblast	16
Kherson Oblast	2
Khmelnyskyi Oblast	0
Kirovohrad Oblast	1
Kyiv (City)	25
Kyiv Oblast	6
Luhansk Oblast	1
Lviv Oblast	2
Mykolaiv Oblast	3
Odessa Oblast	8
Poltava Oblast	1
Rivne Oblast	1
Sevastopol (City)	0
Sumy Oblast	2
Ternopil Oblast	1
Vinnytsia Oblast	2
Volyn Oblast	1
Zakarpattia Oblast	0
Zaporizhia Oblast	5
Zhytomyr Oblast	2

4.2 Motives for Migrating

When asked an open-ended question about the most important reason for leaving Ukraine, the war in general is by far the most frequently mentioned answer (63 %).

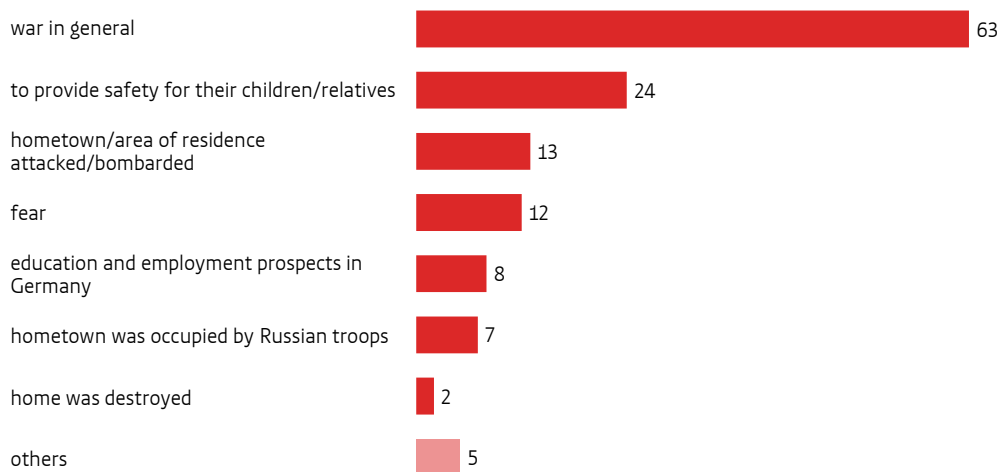
For around a quarter (24 %) of Ukrainians surveyed, the desire to bring their own children or family members to safety was the most important reason for fleeing.

The shelling of their hometown (13 %), fear (12 %), the occupation of their hometown by Russian troops (7 %) and the destruction of homes (2 %) are also among the reasons given for leaving the Ukraine.

8 percent of those surveyed state that (in addition) educational or work prospects in Germany were important reasons for migrating.

Figure 25: Motives for leaving the Ukraine

Reasons for leaving the Ukraine



open query, multiple answers possible;
figures in percentage

5 Linguistic Proficiency

The language most commonly spoken among the respondents' family and friends is Russian (48 %), followed by Ukrainian (46 %). For 4 percent, the primarily spoken language is German.

With regards to reading, 52 percent rate their English skills as very good or good, 39 percent rate their speaking and 38 percent their writing skills in English as such. Respondents between the ages of 18 and 39 are more likely than older respondents to claim they can read, write and speak English (very) well.

Table 2: Proficiency in English

Self-assessment of (very) good English skills with regards to	total	age 18-39	age 40+
	%	%	%
reading	52	58	44
speaking	39	46	32
writing	38	43	32

When it comes to reading, 40 percent rate their German skills as (very) good. 33 percent evaluate their speaking and 23 percent their writing skills in the same way. Based on their self-assessment respondents between the ages of 18 and 39 have a higher proficiency in German than their older counterparts.

Table 3: Proficiency in German

Self-assessment of (very) good German skills with regards to	total	age 18-39	age 40+
	%	%	%
reading	40	45	34
speaking	33	38	26
writing	23	27	18

6 Living Situation in Germany

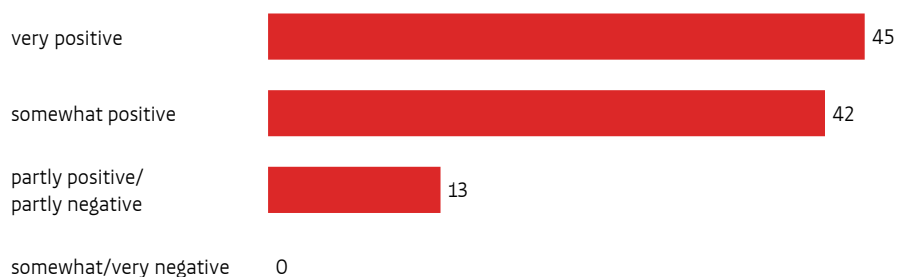
6.1 Current Experiences and Future Plans

The majority of Ukrainian refugees surveyed (87 %) rate their present experiences with people in Germany as somewhat or very positive.

Only few (13 %) report partly positive and partly negative experiences and almost no one reports negative experiences.

Figure 26: Evaluation of current experiences with people in Germany

Evaluation of current experiences with people in Germany



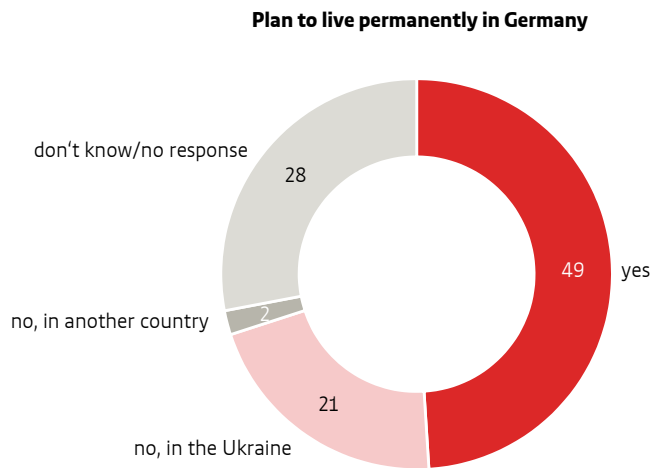
figures in percentage

When asked about their future plans, about half (49 %) of the people who fled say they want to live in Germany permanently.

21 percent plan to return to Ukraine, 27 percent are unsure about the matter or do not provide any information. Only a few respondents (2 %) plan to live in another country in the future.

Respondents who can speak German (very) well plan to stay in Germany more often than those with less knowledge of German (61 % with high proficiency compared to 49 % and 43 % with medium/low proficiency).

Figure 27: Planning a future in Germany?



figures in percentage

6.2 Housing Situation

The majority of respondents have found a private housing solution (61 %).

Around a quarter of the Ukrainians surveyed were taken in by others: 20 percent live with a host family they had not met before, 5 percent with German and 2 percent with Ukrainian relatives or acquaintances.

Almost every tenth respondent currently lives in a refugee accommodation (9 %).

Occasionally participants report that they live in a room for rent or in a shared apartment (1 %).

Respondents who are employed or have underage children are more likely to live in a private apartment than those who are not employed or without children.

Table 4: Housing situation

Currently accommodated ...	total %	employment:		with underage children:	
		yes %	no %	yes %	no %
... in private housing	61	73	57	67	52
... with a host family they had not met before	20	14	23	19	22
... in a refugee shelter	9	6	11	8	11
... with German relatives or acquaintances	5	4	6	3	8
... with Ukrainian relatives or acquaintances	2	1	2	2	3
<i>other: rented room or flat sharing community</i>	1	3	1	1	3

missing figures to add up to 100 percent = „I don't know"/no response

6.3 Employment

Three out of ten (29 %) respondents are currently employed. 70 percent of the sample group are not.

Ukrainian refugees with (very) good knowledge of German are more likely to be employed than those who are less proficient in German.

Table 5: Employment

		Currently in employment	
		yes	no
		%	%
Total		29	70
Men		37	62
Women		27	73
Age 18-39		27	72
Age 40+		30	69
No university degree		23	77
University degree		31	68
German speaking skills: *	low	24	75
	mediocre	23	76
	high	47	53

* self-assessment of German speaking skills: low = „none/very little“, mediocre = „some“, high = „(very) good“
missing figures to add up to 100 percent = „I don't know"/no response

6.4 Relationships and Underage Children

Almost two thirds (65 %) of the Ukrainians surveyed have a significant other. The vast majority of partners (63 %) also live in Germany.

60 percent of the Ukrainians surveyed in Germany have children who are minors. For most of the participants with underage children, all of them live in Germany (89 %). For 9 percent not all of their children live with them and for two percent none of their own children do.

Table 6: Relationships and underage children

		With a partner %	With underage children %
Total		65	60
Men		70	49
Women		64	63
Age 18-39		64	55
Age 40+		66	67
With underage children:	yes	80	-
	no	41	-

7 Sample Composition

The majority of interviewees are female (79 %) and have a university degree (74 %). On average (median) the respondents are 38 years old.

75 percent answered the questionnaire in Ukrainian and 25 percent in Russian.

Almost all (92 %) of the interviewees have been living in Germany since 2022, 6 percent since this year and only a few have come to Germany before 2022. This means the vast majority of respondents had already been living in Germany for at least four months by the time they were interviewed.

The structure of the sample is comparable to those of other studies in terms of gender, region and educational level of the participants.¹

Table 7: Sample demographic composition according to gender, age, education and arrival in Germany

	%
Men	21
Women	79
Non-binary	0
Age 18-29	18
Age 30-44	56
Age 45-59	21
Age 60+	4
Arrival in Germany:	
prior to 2022	2
2022	92
2023	6
Low education (4 th grade)/no primary education	0
Medium education (9 th grade)	2
Higher education (11 th grade)	15
University degree	74
Other degrees	8

¹ BAMF 2023: Geflüchtete aus der Ukraine in Deutschland. Ergebnisse der ersten Welle der IAB-BiB/FReDA-BAMF-SOEP-Befragung, pp. 22.

The table shows the distribution of respondents among the federal states.

Table 8: Sample composition by federal state

	%
Baden-Wuerttemberg	13
Bavaria	17
Berlin	5
Brandenburg	3
Bremen	1
Hamburg	1
Hesse	10
Lower Saxony	10
Mecklenburg Western Pomerania	1
North Rhine-Westphalia	19
Rhineland Palatinate	5
Saarland	1
Saxony	5
Saxony-Anhalt	1
Schleswig-Holstein	3
Thuringia	3