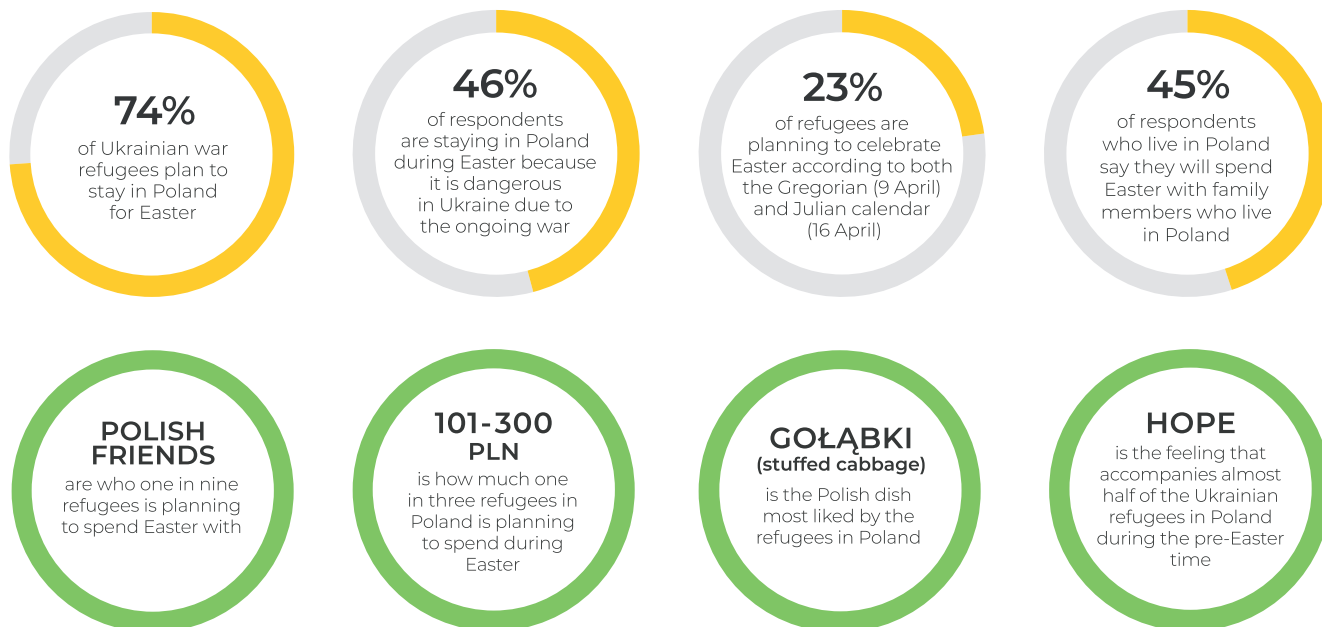




„WAR REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE. EASTER IN POLAND” A SURVEY

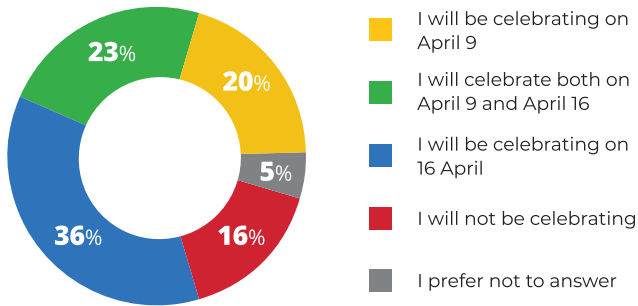
A report from the survey „War refugees from Ukraine. Easter in Poland“ conducted by the EWL Migration Platform, the Foundation for the Support of Migrants on the Labour Market „EWL” and the Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw.



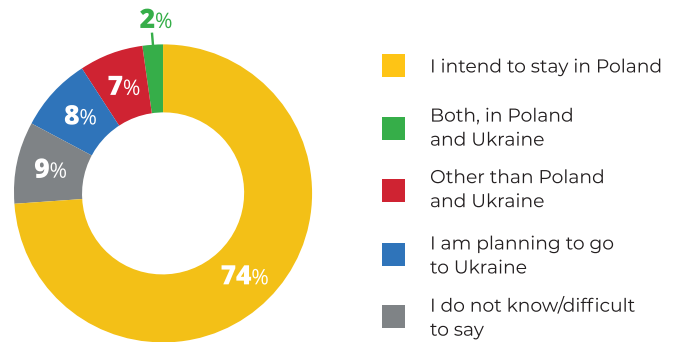
The survey of refugees from Ukraine who arrived in Poland after 24 February 2022 and are currently residing in Poland was carried out by means of online CAWI surveys and CATI telephone interviews on a sample of n=400 adult (18+) refugees from Ukraine.

The interviews were conducted from 23-28 March 2023 in various cities and regions of Poland, including Warsaw, Krakow, Wrocław, Gdańsk, Zielona Góra, Sieradz, Tarnów, Przemyśl, Szydłowiec, Wadowice, Krynica Górska.

Are you planning to celebrate Easter this year on April 9 (Gregorian calendar) or April 16 (Julian calendar)?

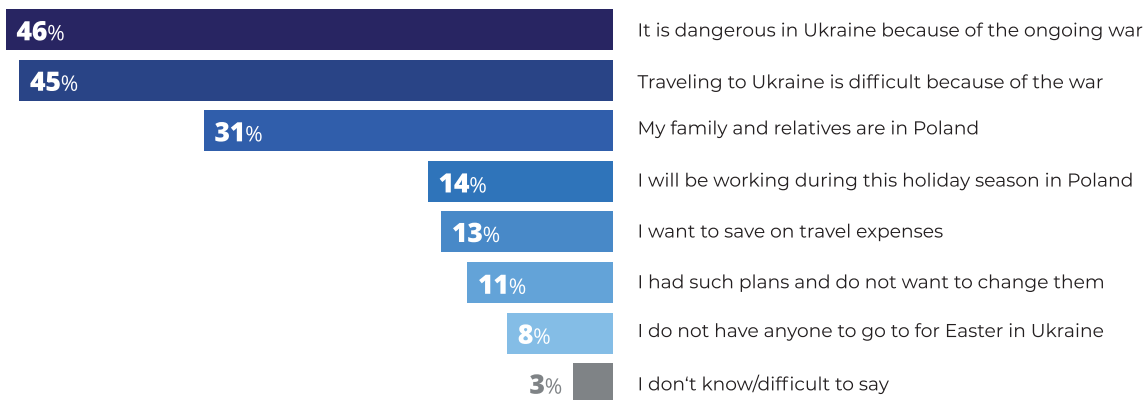


Which country do you intend to spend Easter in this year?



Why will you spend Easter in Poland?

(among those intending to stay in Poland N=304, multiple responses possible)



How do you plan to spend Easter in Poland?

(among those intending to stay in Poland N=304, multiple responses possible)



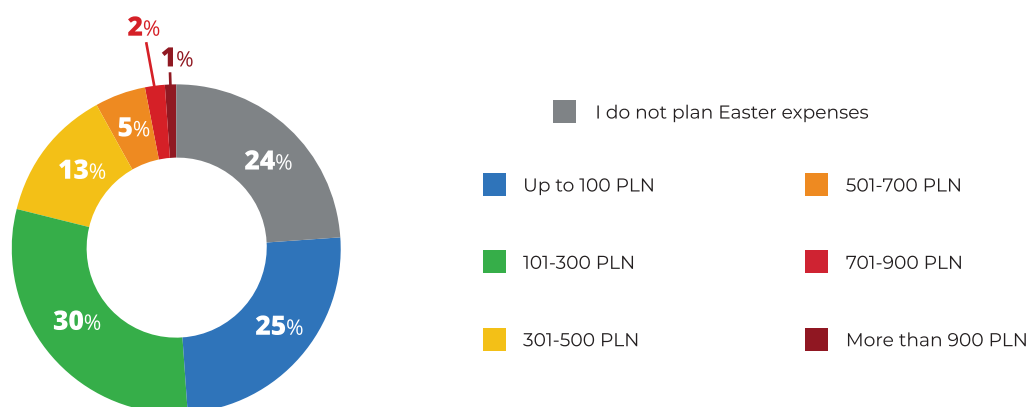
The survey showed that the majority of refugees from Ukraine residing in Poland (74%) are planning to spend Easter holidays in Poland. Among the main reasons for this decision are the fears and difficulties related to the ongoing war in Ukraine (46%) and the presence of family and relatives in Poland (31%).

45% of respondents will spend Easter in Poland with their family and every third Ukrainian refugee (36%) will be contacting relatives who do not live in Poland (by phone or online). 13% of respondents intend to attend Easter church services.

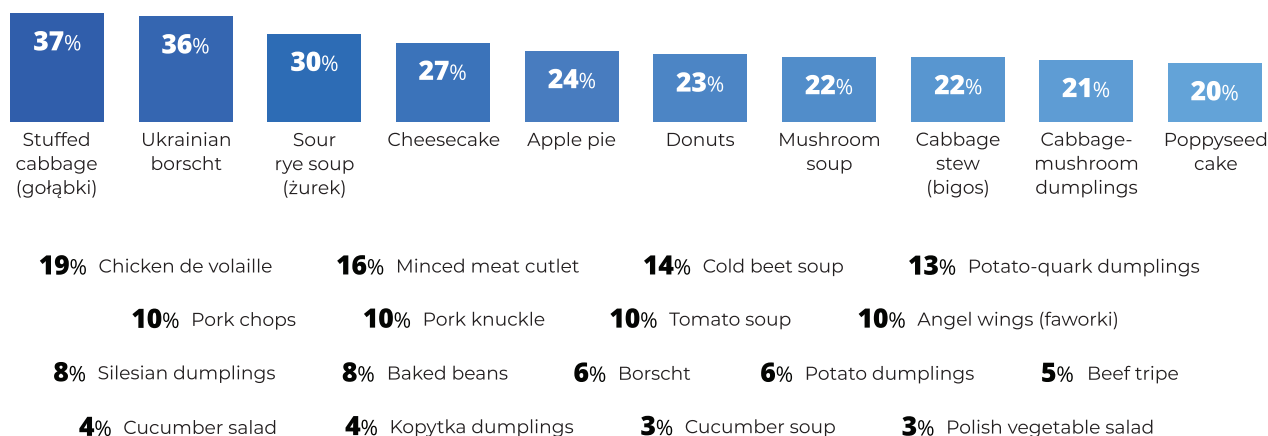
One in ten refugees (11%) will spend the holiday with friends from Poland, which is indicative of the constantly deepening ties between the neighbouring nations, as well as their cultural proximity.

What is more, 20% of those surveyed admit that they will celebrate Easter this year according to the Gregorian calendar (the so-called Western calendar), and 23% according to both calendars, indicating an ongoing discussion in Ukraine about abandoning the Julian calendar (the so-called Eastern calendar) in favour of the calendar used by the Catholic Church, among others.

How much do you intend to spend on shopping (food, gifts) and travel related to Easter?

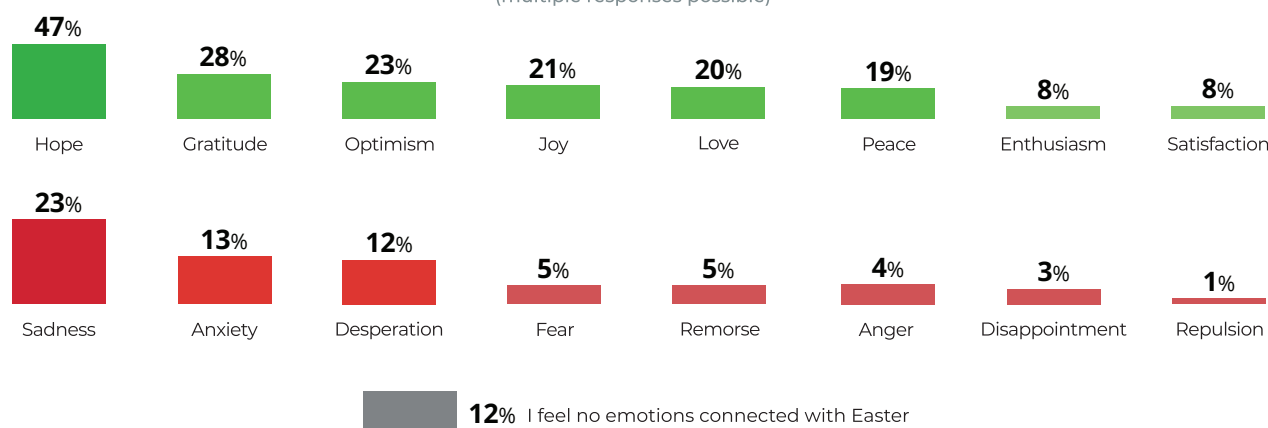


Which dishes of traditional Polish cuisine do you like best?



What emotions and feelings are you experiencing this Easter?

(multiple responses possible)



Nearly 1/4 of the refugees are not planning any Easter expenses, while more than half of the respondents (55%) intend to spend on Easter shopping and travel no more than PLN 300. Larger expenses are declared only by one in five refugees (21%).

The most liked traditional Polish dishes are golabki (stuffed cabbage rolls) (37%) and Ukrainian borscht (36%). It is worth noting that both dishes are very popular in Polish and Ukrainian cuisine. In addition, 30% of respondents admit that they like

zurek (sour rye soup), a traditional Polish dish which is little known in Ukraine. The top five also includes cheesecake (27%) and apple pie (24%).

In terms of the emotions that accompany the festive season hope is particularly noteworthy, as indicated by almost half of the respondents (47%). Gratitude (28%) ranked second, followed by optimism (23%), sadness (23%), joy (21%) and love (20%).

EXPERT OPINIONS



ANDRZEJ KORKUS

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Chairman of the EWL Foundation*



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*Director of the Centre for East European
Studies at the University of Warsaw*

Millions of war refugees from Ukraine have found temporary shelter in Poland and for more than 1.5 million people Poland has become a second home. Due to the ongoing war the vast majority of Ukrainian citizens will spend Easter in Poland with relatives, compatriots and Poles, with whom they have made friends during their stay. Poles and Ukrainians establish relationships based on mutual respect and understanding very quickly. That is why it is so important that this Easter time should become an opportunity to open ourselves to meeting and talking together, to understanding the emotions and feelings accompanying the Ukrainian guests.

It is encouraging to see that, despite the ongoing war, a sense of hope, gratitude, but also peace is present among the refugees from Ukraine. A contributing factor is also the aid of Poland and Poles, who have gone to great lengths since the beginning of the war to provide Ukrainian refugees with the sense of security and stability.

Easter is a time of the symbolic triumph of light over darkness. It is also a harbinger of rebirth, which our brothers and sisters from Ukraine have been awaiting since being faced with the unjust and cruel Russian aggression. It is primarily this aggression that prevents Ukrainian citizens staying in Poland from returning home for Easter. Nevertheless, we are rejoiced by the voice of the refugees that they do feel left alone in Poland and will largely spend the holiday at Easter church services and at the Easter table with relatives, compatriots and Poles! I sincerely hope that these meetings will deepen and permanently strengthen the Polish-Ukrainian relations.

Given the fact that over 40% of refugees residing in Poland wish to celebrate Easter according to the Western calendar, I believe that the day will soon come when Christians from Poland and Ukraine can celebrate religious holidays on the same day, at the same table as a symbolic community.

Reports of the EWL Migration Platform and the Centre for East European Studies (2018-2023)



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SPECIAL REPORT „War refugees from Ukraine. Easter in Poland”, a survey of EWL and the Centre for East European Studies

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