

STUDY AND SOLIDARITY: Ukrainian University Students in Poland Supporting Ukraine

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BACKGROUND

- **24 February 2022** – start of the full-scale invasion by Russia.
- **77% of Poles** engaging in support for Ukraine and Ukrainian forced migrants in 2022–2023 [1]
- Networks of informal, bottom-up and spontaneous activities emerging – civic **ecosystem** [2]

KNOWLEDGE GAP

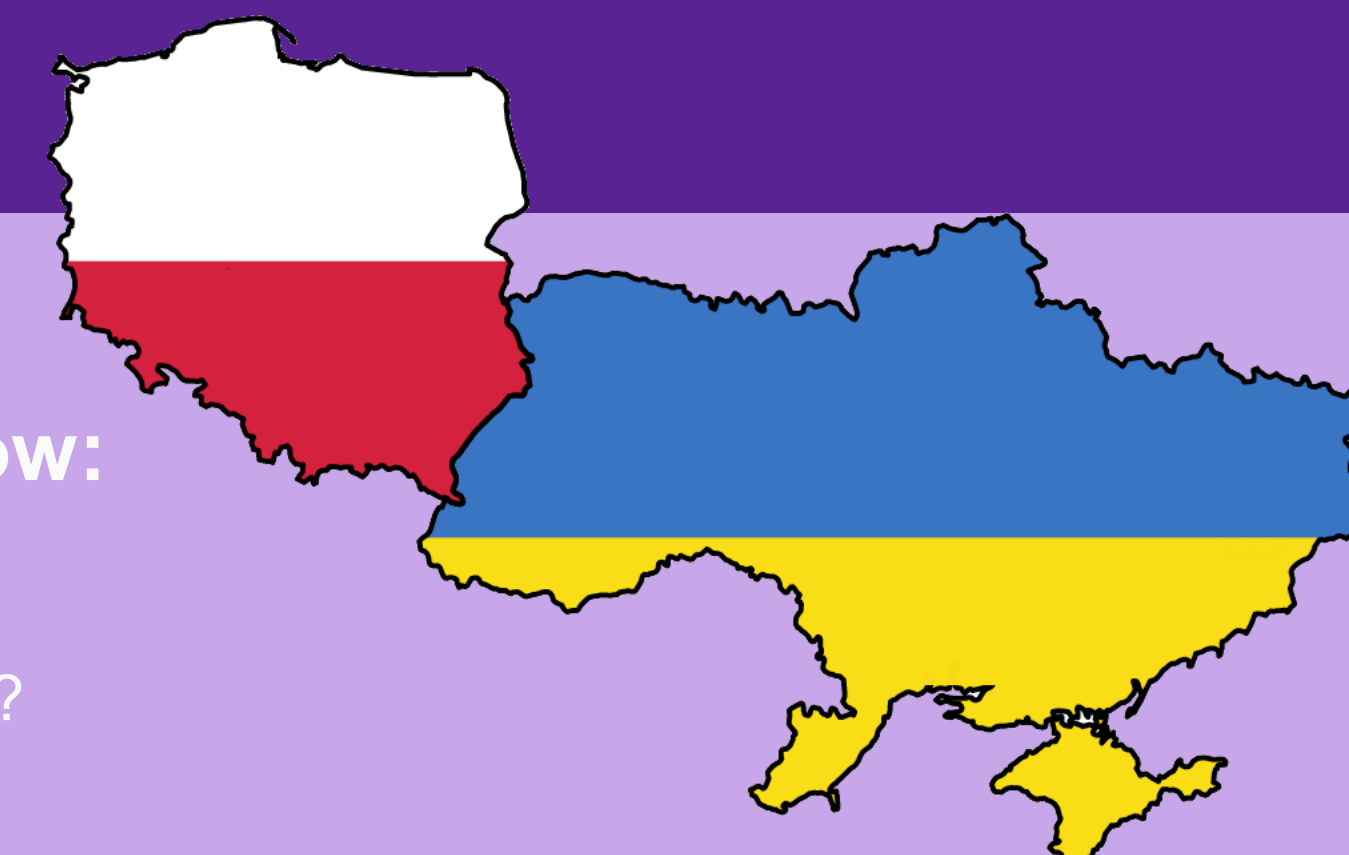
48,000
students

Registered to study in Poland
after early 2022 [3, 4]

BUT no Poland-wide study

What we wanted to know:

1. How do they support Ukraine?
2. What motivates them to do so?
3. What are their future plans?



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

About **60%**

We hypothesise they could constitute

**Capital for future
reconstruction
of Ukraine**

200,000
Ukrainian youth

In the Polish education system
likely to progress to university [6]

METHODS



Online survey

- **1167** responses, including **526** valid responses*
- **49** universities

*As of 23 August 2026



In-depth interviews

- **25** interviews with actively engaged survey respondents*
- **Majority in person and in Polish**
- **14** universities

*As of 18 September 2026

RESULTS

1. Types of Support

64%

engage in
financial support

only **21%**

are not engaged

Among actively
engaged respondents
no organisational
form dominates

"I also recently opened a small fundraiser specifically for one of the battalions" (JD_F_12)

2. Motivations

1. Social responsibility towards Ukraine
2. Patriotism

"(...) in my mind, acting for Ukraine is synonymous with patriotism, because to me, patriotism is worthless without action" (JD_F_2)

3. Future Outlooks

52%

see their immediate
future outside of Ukraine

28%

find it hard to say

Most actively engaged individuals are decided to
**use their professional experience for
Ukraine's reconstruction**
– but **only on their own terms.**

4. Further Insights

*"it's a society more
diverse than any
other" (JD_F_12)*

Anti-Ukrainian sentiments

*"over the past year, as you may have
noticed, there's been this whole campaign
against Ukrainians (...) we simply feel this
psychological pressure, yes." (JD_F_17)*

- Mostly NOT based on own experience
- High awareness
- Yet they have an impact

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Ukrainian university students in Poland

– important actor in
supporting Ukraine
now and in the future

– want to use their
professional experience
for reconstruction

Recommendations

Allow them combine support for Ukraine with their
personal and professional advancement

Offer forms of aiding reconstruction from outside of Ukraine

REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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