

# INTEGRATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIZENS IN SWEDEN: POTENTIAL AND STRUCTURAL RISKS 2026

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**Presentation of the Nationwide Analytical Report  
and Survey Findings on Readiness for Status  
Transition**

2026

spring

## Key Information



**Survey Period:** February 22 – March 8, 2026

**Sample Size:**  $n = 723$  respondents (Ukrainian citizens residing in Sweden)

**Presented to:** The Riksdag of Sweden and the Committee on Social Insurance (*Socialförsäkringsutskottet*)

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# When, How, and Why

## Methodological Parameters

**Period:** February 22 – March 8, 2026.

**Sample Size:** 723 respondents (a robust sample for assessing community needs).

**Target Audience:** Ukrainians under Temporary Protection (Directive 2001/55/EC) residing in Sweden.

**Geography:** All regions of Sweden (Stockholm — 33.5%, Västra Götaland — 11.3%, Skåne — 9.8%, Uppsala, Jämtland, and others).

## Objectives

- Assessment of Ukrainians' actual readiness to transition from temporary protection to regular resident permits (*statusbyte*).
- Identification of systemic barriers under the implementation of new legislation (June 2026).
- Providing the Riksdag with objective, data-driven insights to prevent the loss of human capital.

**Research Context:** In June 2026, new migration rules enter into force (Ds 2024:31, Prop. 2023/24:129). This study measures the actual proportion of citizens capable of meeting the new financial and administrative thresholds.

| Community Profile: High Degree of Integration (2026) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |   |           |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                    | Integration Indicator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 2 | Value (%) | 3 | Опис / Значення для СИСТЕМИ                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                      | Residing over 2 years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |   | 82.8%     |   | Established, stable social capital.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                      | Personnummer Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |   | 90.0%     |   | Full inclusion in the national population register ( <i>folkbokföring</i> ).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                      | BankID Usage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |   | 89.0%     |   | Deep integration into the state’s digital and financial infrastructure.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                      | Language Acquisition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |   | 67.7%     |   | SFI / Komvux courses (40.1% have a verified working proficiency).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                      | 50.6% (366 individuals) are officially employed.<br>54.9% of employed respondents hold the most secure contract: <i>tillsvidareanställning</i> (permanent employment).<br>45.3% have initiated foreign credential evaluation via UHR (35.7% have already received a final decision). |   |           |   | 53.4% (386 individuals) are pursuing education (SFI, Komvux, <i>Yrkeshögskola</i> , higher education institutions).<br>61.0% (442 individuals) are families with children attending Swedish schools and preschools.<br>3.5% have established their own business or work as freelancers ( <i>egenanställda</i> ). |

# Core Challenge: The "Integration Paradox"

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**Formulation of the Paradox:** Ukrainians in Sweden demonstrate some of the highest indicators of linguistic, digital, and economic adaptation. However, due to the new 2026 regulatory requirements, the vast majority assess their chances of legally remaining in the country as low.

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## Self-Assessment of Chances for Status Transition (*statusbyte*)

- **43.4%** assess their chances as low.
  - **23.2%** are unable to assess (operating in an information vacuum).
  - **11.3%** assess their chances as high.
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## Underlying Causes of Community Pessimism

- **Economic Mismatch:** The new salary threshold for a work permit (32,040 SEK / reduced threshold of 27,825 SEK) exceeds the actual earnings of the majority of employed individuals. Only 15.1% meet this threshold.
- **Psychological Exhaustion:** Prolonged legal uncertainty hinders long-term life planning, education, and investment.

# Analysis of Systemic Barriers and "Poverty/Policy Traps"

## The "Family Trap" (Maintenance Requirement / *Försörjningskrav*)

61% of the community have dependent children.

Transitioning to a work permit triggers a strict maintenance requirement: adequate housing lease (average 13,000 SEK) + statutory minimum subsistence amount per family member.

**Result:** The required net monthly income of a single parent reaches 40,000 – 50,000+ SEK, effectively blocking regular working families from transitioning.

## The "Educational Trap" (Student Track)

53.4% are currently studying.

However, once the Temporary Protection Directive ends, students lose domestic student status, facing tuition fees ranging from 80,000 to 300,000+ SEK/year and losing eligibility for CSN grants/loans.

*Karolinska Institutet Case:*

Students in critical shortage disciplines (e.g., Biomedical Analysts) are forced to discontinue their studies due to unaffordable tuition.

## Selectivity of the Academic Track

Researchers (PhD level) benefit from simplified transition pathways; however, this cohort constitutes only 1.0% of all Ukrainians. The model is excessively restrictive in scope.

# The Cost to Sweden: Direct and Indirect Losses

## Wasted Public Investment

Between 2022 and 2025, Sweden invested billions of SEK in SFI, housing, and schooling for children (~168,000 SEK/year per pupil). Displacing these individuals results in a total loss of return on public investments.

## Critical Workforce Shortages

Loss of qualified professionals in healthcare, diagnostics/laboratories (by 2030, ~30% of biomedical analysts retire), elderly care, and construction.

## The Shadow Economy (*Skuggsamhället*)

Individuals who lose legal status but cannot return due to the ongoing war risk being pushed into the informal sector, directly undermining the Government's policy priorities.

## Blow to Regional Municipalities

Ukrainians are settled throughout Sweden (Västra Götaland, Skåne, Västernorrland, Jämtland). The departure of families threatens classroom closures in smaller municipalities and erodes the local tax base.

### **Crediting Time Spent Under the Directive Towards Permanent Residency Qualifications:**

- *Measure:* Amend the Aliens Act (*Utlänningslagen*) to allow years of residence under temporary protection (2022–2026+) to count towards the qualifying residence period required for Permanent Residence (*PUT*) and citizenship.
- *Rationale:* Ukrainians have lived within Swedish society for 4 years, working and contributing taxes. Dismissing this qualifying time incentivizes talent drain to other countries.

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**Actionable Proposals for the  
Government and the Riksdag**

### **Necessary Policy Actions for 2026:**

- Transition from short-term emergency mechanisms to a predictable, long-term legal framework.
- Harmonize procedural standards between *Migrationsverket* and *Skatteverket* to eliminate the administrative, digital, and social vacuum during status transition.
- Protect Swedish taxpayer investments by retaining qualified professionals in the country.

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**Core Conclusion:** In 2026, the Ukrainian community in Sweden represents mature, deeply integrated, and economically active capital—not a social burden. The core policy principle of the "work-first approach" (*Arbetslinjen*) is already operating in practice.

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