

A large, circular cutout of the Ukrainian national flag, showing the blue and yellow horizontal stripes, set against a background of a cloudy sky. The cutout is partially overlaid by a dark blue curved shape on the right side of the page.

2026
FEBRYARY

**TRANSITION BEYOND TEMPORARY
PROTECTION (MARCH 2027)**

SURVEY FINDINGS AND POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
UKRAINIANS IN ROMANIA

Transition Beyond Temporary Protection (March 2027)

Survey Findings and Policy Recommendations from Ukrainians in Romania

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Temporary Protection has offered millions of Ukrainians a fast and practical form of safety in the European Union. It has allowed people to access legal residence, work, education, healthcare, and basic stability while the war continues. **At the same time, Temporary Protection is, by design, temporary.** With the current end date set for March 2027, many families are now entering a new phase: one in which uncertainty about legal status, housing, employment, and children's education becomes a major stressor, and where early planning is essential to prevent avoidable hardship.

Against this background, JRS Romania conducted a survey among Ukrainians under Temporary Protection in Romania to better understand three things: how well people are informed about what may happen after March 2027; how prepared they feel for different transition scenarios; and what options, safeguards, and support measures they consider realistic and necessary. The survey also aimed to capture people's intentions, including whether they plan to stay, return, or move within the EU, and what factors most shape those decisions. Alongside closed questions, the questionnaire included open-ended prompts to gather practical recommendations directly from those affected.

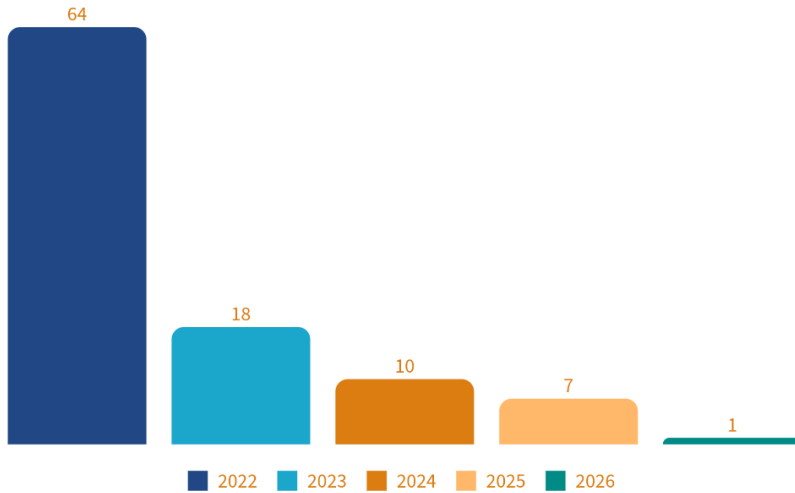
This report is intended to support constructive policy dialogue. Its purpose is not to predict a single outcome for post-2027 arrangements, but to inform preparation. A well-managed transition should maintain legal certainty, protect rights, and keep multiple realistic pathways open, so that families can plan their lives with dignity and without fear.

Overall, the survey results point to a clear message: people are trying to build stability in Romania, but they cannot plan their lives without predictable rules beyond 4 March 2027. While most respondents are aware of the current end date, the vast majority report receiving no clear information about what comes next, and many feel unprepared for a possible transition. This uncertainty affects key integration decisions now: housing, employment, education, and long-term residence planning.

Based on respondents' priorities, the most urgent need is an early, official, and practical transition framework that combines legal certainty, realistic pathways to longer-term status (including for people in non-standard work situations), and strong guarantees - first and foremost protection from forced return and non-discrimination. To be credible and workable, this framework should be developed through structured consultation with displaced Ukrainians and the organisations supporting them, and communicated widely in accessible language.

SECTION 1 – Background & Context

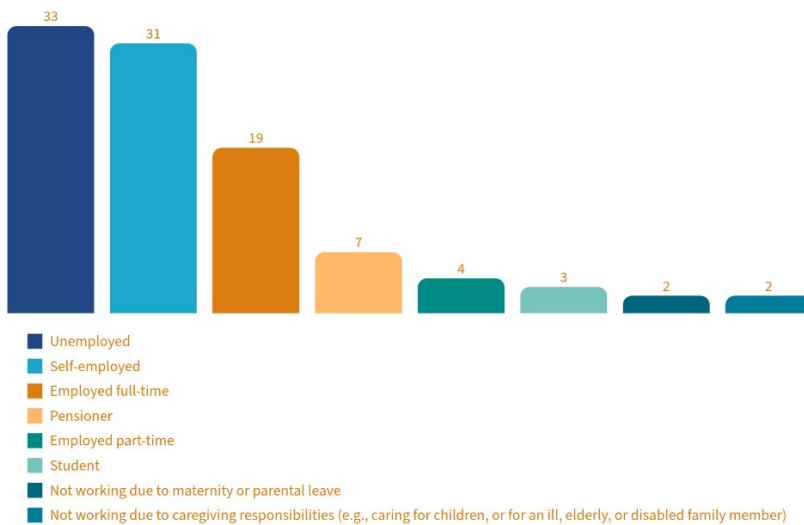
1. When did you receive Temporary Protection?



Responses indicate the year in which respondents first obtained Temporary Protection; expressed as percentages, 64% reported 2022, 18% reported 2023, 10% reported 2024, 7% reported 2025, and 1% reported 2026.

The findings show that most respondents entered Temporary Protection early in the crisis, with nearly two-thirds receiving it in 2022, while only a small minority obtained it in later years (2024–2026).

2. Current status.

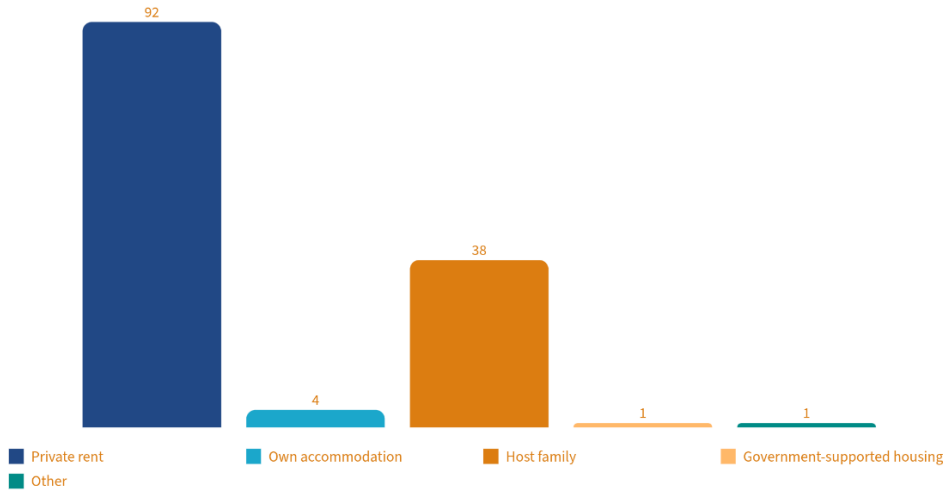


Respondents' current status was reported as follows (percentages): 33% identified as unemployed, 31% as self-employed, 19% as employed full-time, 7% as pensioners, 4% as employed part-time, 3% as students, 2% as not working due to maternity or parental leave, and 2% as not working due to caregiving

responsibilities (e.g., caring for children or for an ill, elderly, or disabled family member).

Overall, the results suggest that 54% of respondents report being economically active (self-employed or employed), while 46% report not currently working—primarily due to unemployment, retirement, studies, or family-related responsibilities.

3. Housing situation.

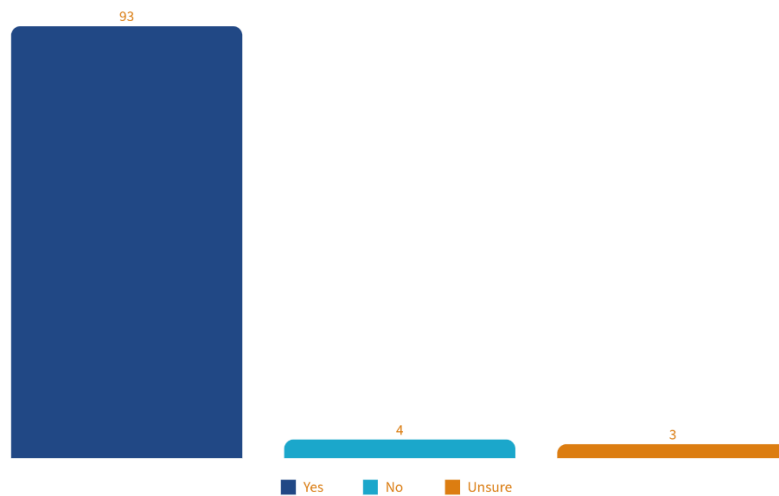


Housing situation was reported in percentage terms as follows: 92% indicated private rent; 38% reported living with a host family (either a Romanian or Ukrainian host family); 4% reported living in their own accommodation; 1% reported government-supported housing; and 1% selected “Other” (e.g., a dormitory provided by an employer, an educational institution, or an NGO/charitable organisation).

Overall, the results indicate a strong reliance on the private rental market, with a smaller but still significant share depending on host-family arrangements, while government-supported housing appears to play only a marginal role.

SECTION 2 – Awareness & Preparedness

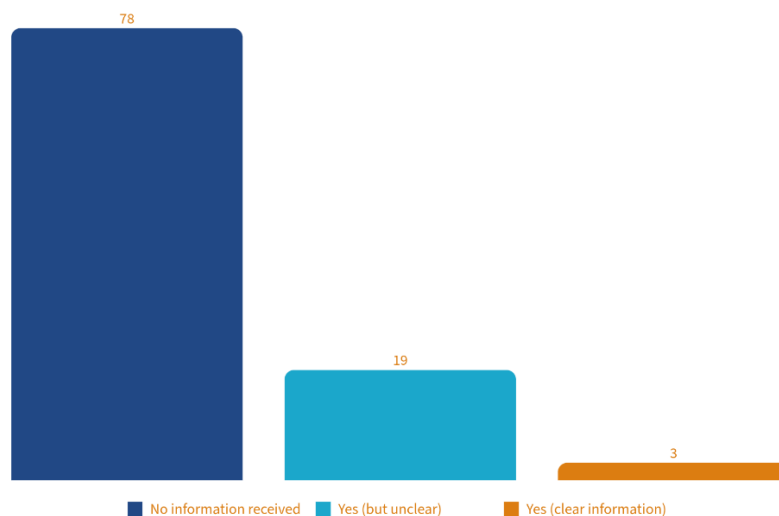
4. Are you aware that Temporary Protection is currently valid until March 2027?



Awareness of the current validity of Temporary Protection until March 2027 was reported in percentage terms as follows: 93% of respondents answered “Yes”, 4% answered “No”, and 3% answered “Unsure”.

Overall, the results indicate very high awareness of the current TP end date, with only a small minority either unaware or uncertain.

5. Have you received any information about what happens after March 2027?

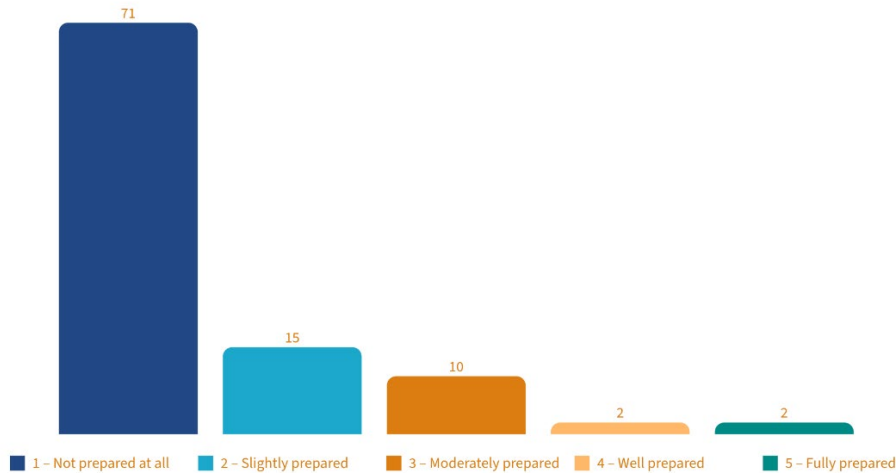


Information received about what happens after March 2027 was reported in percentage terms as follows: 78% of respondents reported receiving no information, 19% reported receiving information that was unclear, and 3% reported receiving clear information.

Overall, the results indicate a major information gap regarding post-2027 arrangements: only a very small minority report having clear guidance, while the vast majority report either no information or information

that is insufficiently clear for planning.

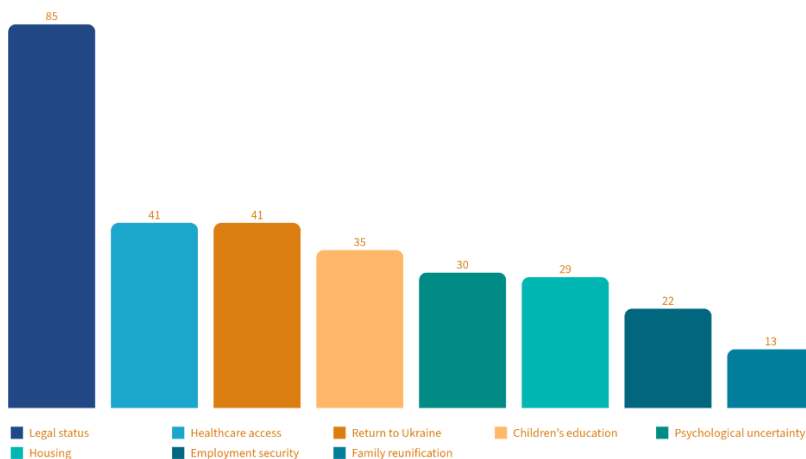
6. On a scale from 1-5, how prepared do you feel for the possible end of Temporary Protection?



Preparedness for the possible end of Temporary Protection was reported on a 1–5 scale, expressed as percentages: 71% selected 1 (“Not prepared at all”), 15% selected 2 (“Slightly prepared”), 10% selected 3 (“Moderately prepared”), 2% selected 4 (“Well prepared”), and 2% selected 5 (“Fully prepared”).

Overall, the results indicate very low perceived preparedness: 86% of respondents rate themselves at the two lowest levels (1-2), while only 4% report being well or fully prepared (4-5), suggesting that most respondents do not feel able to plan confidently for a post-2027 transition.

7. What are your main concerns about the period after March 2027? (choose maximum 3 the most important)

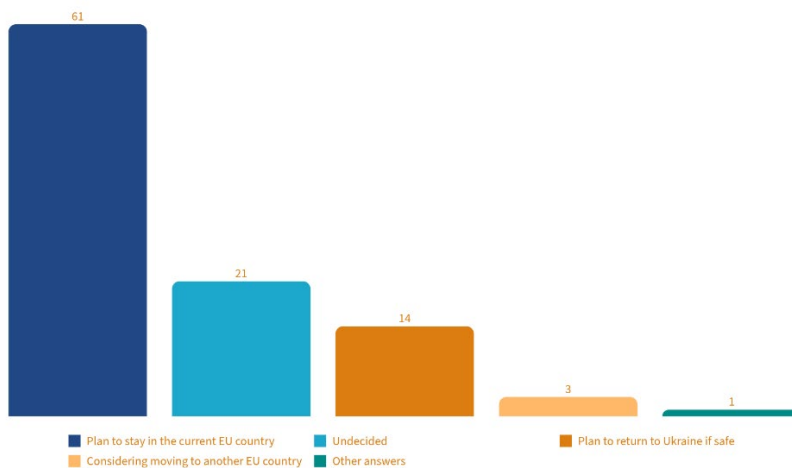


Main concerns about the period after March 2027 were reported in percentage terms as follows (share of respondents selecting each option; multiple answers allowed, up to three): 85% selected legal status, 41% selected healthcare access, 41% selected return to Ukraine, 35% selected children's education, 30% selected psychological uncertainty, 29% selected housing, 22% selected employment security, and 13% selected family reunification.

Overall, the results show that legal certainty is the dominant concern by a wide margin, while access to healthcare, the possibility of return, and children's education form a second tier of major worries, indicating that post-2027 planning is perceived primarily as a legal and rights-based issue with strong implications for family stability and wellbeing.

SECTION 3 – Future Intentions

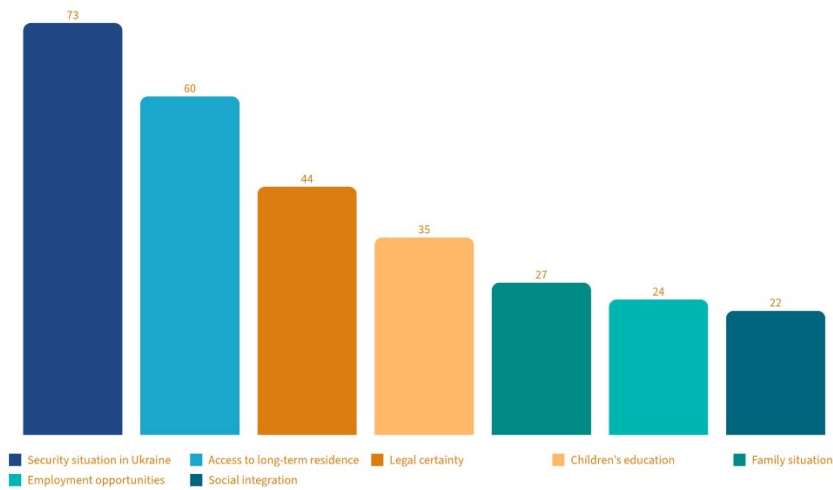
8. What is your current intention?



Current intentions were reported in percentage terms as follows: 61% of respondents plan to stay in their current EU country - Romania, 21% are undecided, 14% plan to return to Ukraine if it becomes safe, 3% are considering moving to another EU country, and 1% selected other answers.

Overall, the results suggest that most respondents are oriented toward continued stay in Romania, while a sizeable share remain undecided - indicating that legal clarity and predictable transition pathways are likely to influence decisions in the period leading up to March 2027.

9. What factors influence your decision most? (choose maximum 3 the most important)

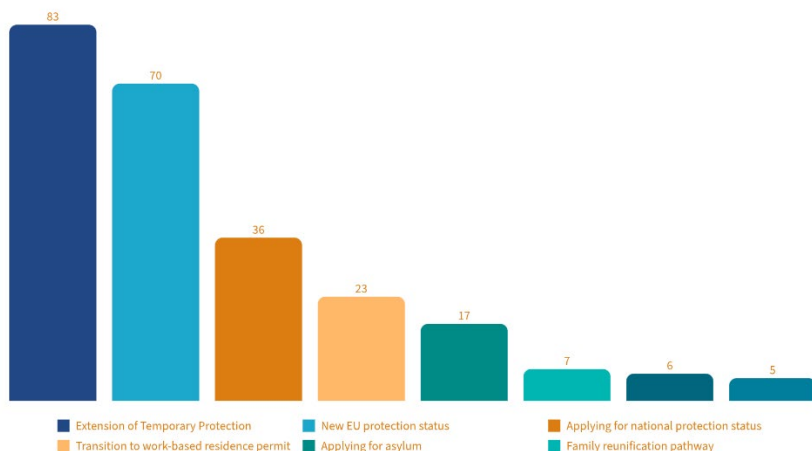


The factors most influencing respondents' decisions were reported in percentage terms as follows (share of respondents selecting each option; multiple answers allowed, up to three): 73% selected the security situation in Ukraine, 60% selected access to long-term residence, 44% selected legal certainty, 35% selected children's education, 27% selected family situation, 24% selected employment opportunities, and 22% selected social integration.

Overall, the results indicate that decisions are driven primarily by security and legal stability, with long-term residence prospects and legal certainty outweighing labour-market and integration considerations, suggesting that predictable legal pathways and credible safety assessments will be central to post-2027 planning.

SECTION 4 – Preferred Legal Pathways

10. Which options would you consider after March 2027? (multiple answers possible)



Options respondents would consider after March 2027 were reported in percentage terms as follows (share of respondents selecting each option; multiple answers allowed): 83% selected an extension of Temporary Protection, 70% selected a new EU protection status, 36% selected applying for a national protection status (national/humanitarian status outside asylum), 23% selected transition to a work-based residence permit, 17% selected applying for asylum, 7% selected a family reunification pathway, 6% selected voluntary return (with support), and 5% selected student visa/residence.

Overall, the results show a clear preference for continuity and EU-level legal solutions: most respondents favour either extending Temporary Protection or introducing a new EU protection status, while smaller but notable shares are considering national pathways, work-based residence, or asylum - suggesting that parallel, clearly explained options will be necessary to support a stable transition after 2027.

11. What information or support would help you decide? (open question)

- A clear, official decision on what happens after March 2027, with predictable rules.
- Extension of Temporary Protection, especially if the war and risks continue.
- A clear, workable pathway from Temporary Protection to a long-term legal status in Romania.
- Confirmation whether years lived under Temporary Protection will count toward long-term residence.
- Simplified residence options for people who can support themselves but cannot meet classic job rules (seafarers, online workers, caregivers, single parents).
- A realistic route to permanent residence and, for those eligible, citizenship, with transparent criteria.
- Safety clarity about Ukraine: when return is truly safe, and what guarantees exist after the war.
- Housing pressure: support for rent, more affordable options, and solutions for high rents in big hubs.
- Language support as a mobility key: accessible Romanian courses linked to employment and stability.

- Better matching skills to jobs: recognition of diplomas and competency-based routes for qualified professions, so people do not get stuck in low-skilled work.

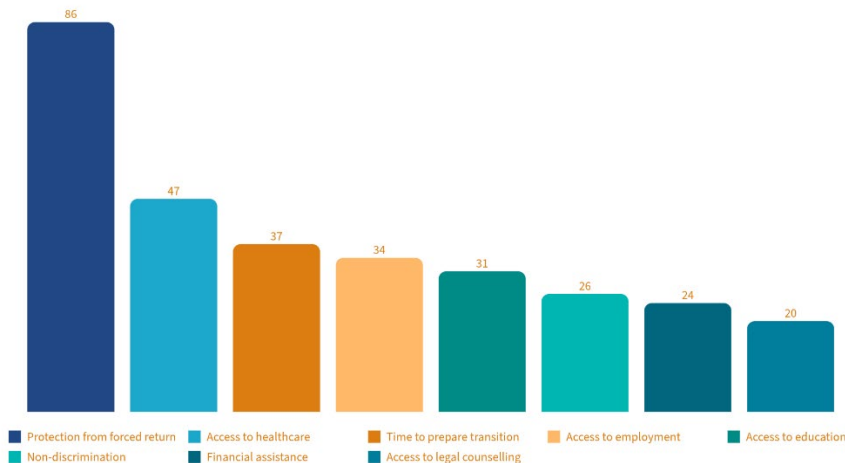
For the open question “What information or support would help you decide?”, respondents’ answers (summarised and ordered by frequency of mention) consistently pointed to the need for clear, official guidance and predictable rules well in advance of March 2027. The most frequently requested support was an unambiguous decision on what will happen after Temporary Protection ends, including whether Temporary Protection will be extended if the war and protection risks persist, and what alternative legal pathways will be available.

A second strong theme was the demand for a workable transition from Temporary Protection to a stable long-term status in Romania. Respondents repeatedly asked for confirmation on whether years spent under Temporary Protection will count towards long-term residence, and for a realistic route to permanent residence and, where relevant, citizenship, based on transparent eligibility criteria. Many also highlighted the need for simplified residence options for people who can support themselves but do not fit classic employment patterns, including seafarers, online workers, caregivers, and single parents.

Beyond legal clarity, respondents emphasised the practical conditions that shape any real decision. These include credible safety assessments and guarantees regarding return to Ukraine, relief from housing pressure through rent support or more affordable options in major hubs, and accessible Romanian language courses linked to employment and stability. Finally, many respondents stressed the importance of better matching skills to jobs through diploma recognition and competency-based pathways, so qualified people can access appropriate employment rather than remaining trapped in low-skilled work.

SECTION 5 – Human Rights & Safeguards

12. What guarantees are most important to you in any transition scenario? (choose maximum 3 the most important)

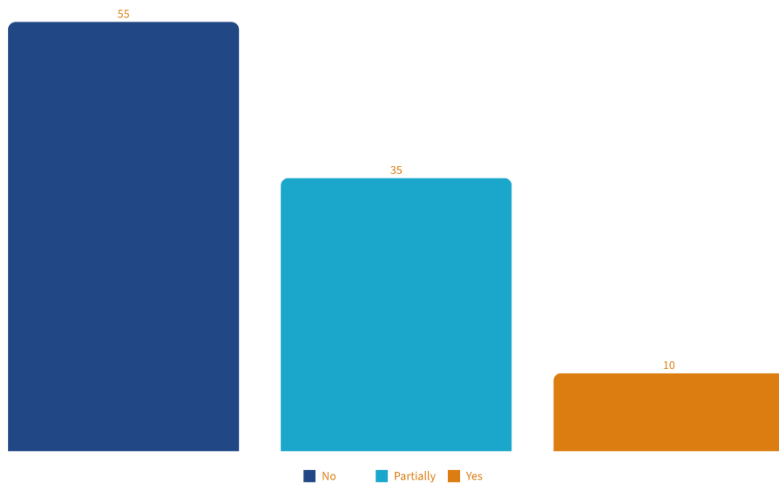


Guarantees considered most important in any transition scenario were reported in percentage terms as follows (share of respondents selecting each option; multiple answers allowed, up to three): 86% selected protection from forced return, 47% selected access to healthcare, 37% selected time to prepare the transition, 34% selected access to employment, 31% selected access to education, 26% selected non-

discrimination, 24% selected financial assistance, and 20% selected access to legal counselling.

Overall, the results indicate that the central expectation is protection-oriented: respondents prioritise safeguards against forced return, combined with continued access to core rights and services (healthcare, work, education) and sufficient time to plan—suggesting that any post-2027 framework will need strong non-refoulement guarantees and a structured transition period to be perceived as credible and fair.

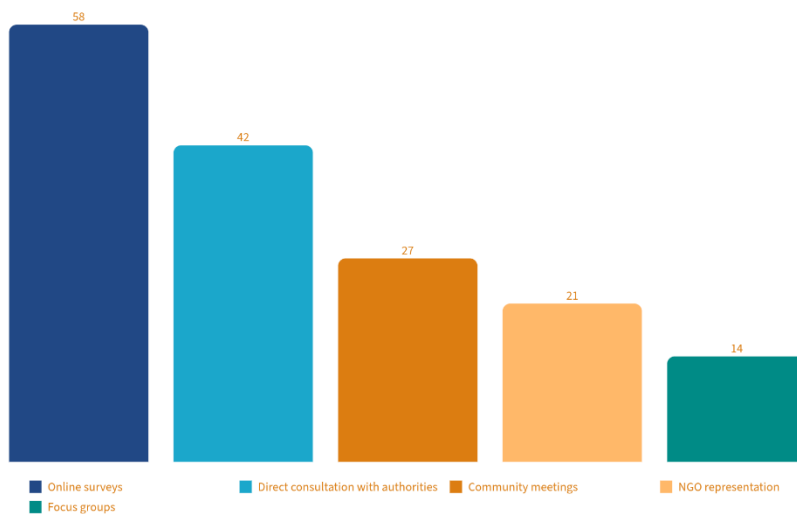
13. Do you feel your voice is currently heard in discussions about post-2027 policies?



Perceptions of whether respondents’ voices are heard in discussions about post-2027 policies were reported in percentage terms as follows: 55% answered “No”, 35% answered “Partially”, and 10% answered “Yes”.

Overall, the results indicate a significant perceived participation gap: most respondents do not feel heard, and only a small minority feel fully included—suggesting that more structured, accessible consultation mechanisms will be needed to ensure legitimacy and trust in post-2027 policy decisions.

14. How would you like to be consulted? (multiple answers possible)



Preferred consultation formats were reported in percentage terms as follows (share of respondents selecting each option; multiple answers allowed): 58% selected online surveys, 42% selected direct consultation with authorities, 27% selected community meetings, 21% selected NGO representation, and 14% selected focus groups.

Overall, the results indicate a strong preference for accessible, low-barrier consultation mechanisms (especially online surveys), combined with a clear demand for direct dialogue with decision-makers - suggesting that a credible consultation process should blend scalable digital input with structured opportunities for in-person or facilitated engagement.

SECTION 6 – Challenges & Opportunities

15. What are the biggest challenges you currently face? (open question)

Legal status after Temporary Protection

This is the strongest recurring theme. It includes fear of forced return, lack of clarity on what happens after March 2027, and confusion about pathways to a longer-term status. Sub-themes include uncertainty about extensions, unclear or “too high” requirements to move to another status, contradictory information from informal “experts,” and practical questions like “what should we do if protection ends?” Typical signals are references to “after March 2027,” “no legalization path,” “residence permit,” “permanent residency,” “work permit,” and “I am afraid to be forced back.”

Employment access and decent work

Statements here focus on inability to find work, inability to find work matching qualifications, informal work without contract, and barriers linked to status or employer practices. Sub-themes include discrimination in hiring due to non-EU citizenship, employers refusing to sign contracts, lack of part time options for single parents, and low wages relative to living costs. Typical signals are “can’t find a job unless manual work,” “no contract,” “good wage,” “official employment,” “job search,” “low salary.”

Legalization routes tied to work and self-employment

It captures technical obstacles to getting or keeping a legal stay through work, PFA, SRL, or self-employment. Sub-themes include inability to register PFA, unclear whether self-employment grants residence rights, difficulties opening bank accounts as a foreigner or new business, needing to show large sums of money for visas, and uncertainty about whether an “authorisation” is needed. Typical signals are “PFA,” “SRL,” “bank account,” “self-employment,” “work authorisation,” “proof of funds.”

Special legal and labour cases, especially seafarers

It includes seafarers and families where the main income is from long maritime contracts abroad, and the claim that Romania does not recognise this as a workable pathway for residence. Sub-themes include “how to get permit if I am a seaman,” “legalization option for sea farers,” “authorisation for SRL after protection ends,” and the “husband at sea, I cannot legalize” pattern.

Housing and living costs

High rent and utilities, rising prices for food and essentials, and the gap between salaries and housing costs appear constantly. Sub-themes include inability to pay rent, debt, fear of eviction, lack of social housing, discrimination by landlords, conflicts with owners, and the sense that “all income goes to rent.” Typical signals are “rent,” “utilities,” “expensive living,” “prices rising,” “no money for housing,” “eviction from dormitory,” “social housing missing.”

Language barrier and access to language learning

Language is both a standalone barrier and a root cause for jobs, services, and integration. Sub-themes include Romanian being hard, lack of free and long-term courses, learning being harder at older ages, needing a language certificate for work, and “no time to learn before protection ends.” Typical signals are “Romanian is hard,” “language courses missing,” “certificate,” “communication barriers.”

Healthcare access and family medicine

This includes problems registering with a family doctor, accessing prescriptions, tests, referrals, and general coverage. Sub-themes include lack of access outside big cities, chronic illness needs, disability related medical support, oncology treatment continuity, elderly care, and costs. Typical signals are “family doctor,” “medical insurance,” “can’t get tests,” “need prescriptions,” “disability paperwork,” “treatment.”

Children, education, and childcare barriers

This includes schooling continuity, kindergarten access, bullying, and discrimination in education settings. Sub-themes include children not knowing Romanian, fear of disruption if status changes, difficulty combining work with childcare, lack of specialised support for children with disabilities or ADHD/autism, and university access for older children. Typical signals are “school,” “kindergarten,” “bullying,” “special needs,” “university,” “child cannot adapt without language.”

Discrimination, stigma, and social climate

This code captures perceived unfair treatment and exclusion, beyond labour or housing alone. Sub-themes include discrimination by nationality, bullying of children, institutional attitudes, stereotypes about Ukrainians “living on others’ money,” and lack of respect or hostile behaviour. Typical signals are “discrimination,” “don’t like Ukrainians,” “unfair,” “stigma,” “bullying,” “hostility.”

Mental health strain and chronic stress from uncertainty

This includes anxiety, PTSD mentions, exhaustion, and the constant pressure of not being able to plan. Sub-themes include fear for safety in Ukraine, separation from home, living “in suspended state,” and stress amplified by unclear legal pathways and costs. Typical signals are “anxiety,” “PTSD,” “stress,” “cannot plan,” “fear,” “uncertainty for years.”

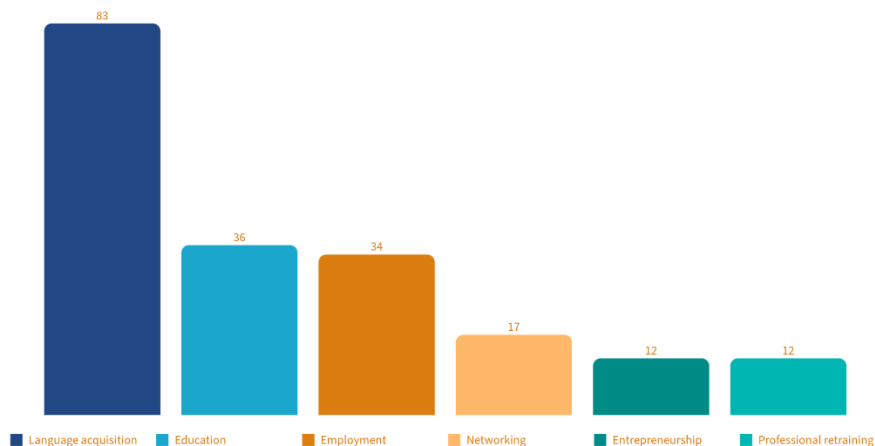
Information gaps, bureaucracy, and institutional navigation

This captures practical friction with offices and procedures. Sub-themes include “no clear information,” “too much misinformation,” delays, complicated document requirements, and specific complaints about migration offices. It also includes address documentation issues and general “I don’t know where to start.” Typical signals are “bureaucracy,” “no information,” “unclear steps,” “documents,” “migration office.”

“No major problems” or “All ok” responses

Many respondents say everything is fine or they have no challenges. Sub-themes include gratitude to Romania, “none,” “no problems,” and “all good.”

16. What opportunities have emerged during your stay in the EU? (choose maximum 3 the most important)



Opportunities that emerged during respondents’ stay in the EU were reported in percentage terms as follows (multiple answers allowed, up to three): 83% selected language acquisition, 36% selected education, 34% selected employment, 17% selected networking, 12% selected entrepreneurship, and 12% selected professional retraining.

Overall, the results suggest that respondents most strongly associate their EU experience with building longer-term integration capacity, especially through language learning - while education and employment also stand out as major opportunities, indicating that continued investment in language pathways and skills-to-work transitions remains central to stability after 2027.

17. What support do you still need to feel stable and secure? (open question)

Here are the most requested statements, ordered by how often they appear (most frequent first):

“Give us clear, predictable long-term legal status after Temporary Protection ends (March 2027), and a simple path to stay legally.”

This includes residence permits, permanent residence, citizenship options, and clear rules for transition.

“Extend Temporary Protection until the war ends, and guarantee we will not be forced to return while it is unsafe.”

Many people ask for explicit protection from forced return and a stable EU level decision.

“We need financial support to cover basic living costs, especially rent and food.”

Often framed as cash support, rent support, vouchers, or targeted help for pensioners, single parents, and large families.

“Help us find stable, legal, decent work, ideally in our profession, not only low skilled jobs.”

People ask for real job matching, official contracts, fair pay, and less discrimination.

“Provide accessible Romanian language courses (and sometimes English), including online and evening options.”

Many mention they live outside cities, need online courses, or need higher levels beyond beginner.

“Ensure real access to healthcare, medicines, and a family doctor, with clear rules about insurance.”

This includes chronic illness, oncology treatment, disability certification, and practical access without confusion.

“Support with housing: affordable options, help finding housing, and rent or utilities support.”

Some ask for a verified landlord database, social housing, or continued accommodation programs.

“Provide clear legal information and legal counselling, in a way people can understand and use.”

Many ask for guidance on documents, procedures, rights, and what will happen after 2027. Hotlines are mentioned too.

“Support children’s education and daily functioning: school access, after school care, kindergarten, learning support.”

This includes Ukrainian language support, hubs for children, and solutions for parents who cannot work full time.

“Offer psychological support, therapy, and help with anxiety caused by uncertainty and war trauma.”

Often linked directly to legal uncertainty and fear of future displacement.

“Help with recognition of qualifications and professional retraining, so people can work legally in skilled roles.”

This includes diploma recognition, certification, and access to regulated professions.

“Improve practical integration tools: translation support, communication with authorities, access to banking and ID.”

Several mention needing a proper ID card format, translator support, and access to digital and banking services."

SECTION 7 – Recommendations to Policy-Makers

18. What should EU institutions prioritize before March 2027? (open question)

"Extend Temporary Protection beyond March 2027, ideally until the war truly ends (many explicitly ask for 2028–2029), and keep protection standards stable.

Give a clear, official decision early, with a concrete timeline and step-by-step instructions for what happens after March 2027, so people can plan their lives.

Create a simple transition mechanism from Temporary Protection to a normal residence status (temporary residence, permanent residence, then citizenship options), with clear criteria and predictable processing.

Count the years spent under Temporary Protection toward the years required for permanent residence and later citizenship, instead of treating those years as “not counting.”

Allow people to stay if they want to, not only those employed in the host country. Many ask for options based on family situation, self-employment, remote work, or proof of means (bank balance, turnover, taxes paid), not only a Romanian work contract.

Guarantee protection from forced return while Ukraine remains unsafe, and prioritize people from occupied or frontline regions who realistically have nowhere to return to.

Protect vulnerable groups with explicit, easier pathways: people with disabilities, pensioners, single parents, large families, and children already integrated in school. This often comes with requests for continued social support and housing help.

Fix the disability certification and renewal system. People describe repeated commissions every 6 months as unrealistic for severe disability, and ask for longer validity, less travel, and less paperwork.

Ensure practical access to healthcare and health insurance for the whole family, including ongoing treatment and medication, even when not employed locally.

Secure children’s education continuity. Many ask that families can stay if children are enrolled in kindergarten or school, and that rules do not force children to interrupt schooling because parents cannot meet new income or work conditions.

Invest in real integration support before 2027: accessible Romanian language courses, requalification, recognition of diplomas, job matching into stable work, and support for small business, so people can become independent.

A smaller, but repeated set of messages asks for broader political action: stronger military support to end the war, reduced dependence on Russian resources, and limiting pro-Russian propaganda channels in European Union countries. United Nations and International Maritime Organization are also referenced in relation to special status for seafarers.

19. What should your host country improve? (open question)

"Improve public safety and the sense of security in daily life (people repeatedly write "safety" as the first need).

Provide a clear legal framework for stay and work, with predictable rules and early communication about what changes after March 2027.

Create a simple pathway from Temporary Protection to a stable status (temporary residence, permanent residence, and where possible an easier route to citizenship). Many explicitly ask for a "transition document," citing Netherlands as an example.

Count the years spent under Temporary Protection toward the years required for long-term residence and citizenship (some even propose a partial count, like practices in Czech Republic).

Reduce bureaucracy and contradictions between institutions. People complain that different offices interpret the same procedure differently, and that systems fail or produce errors.

Give clear explanations in Ukrainian and Russian about taxes, social contributions, employment rules, business registration, and rights under protection, so people do not depend on intermediaries and "fixers."

Improve access to decent work, not only low-skilled jobs. Frequent asks include: job-centre type support, fair wages, anti-discrimination, and real routes for qualified professions (recognition of diplomas, residency/internship recognition for doctors, regulated professions). A few mention barriers at large companies such as Google due to non-EU status.

Expand language learning. Many ask for free, nationwide Romanian courses (including online options), and also professional training while language is still limited.

Fix healthcare access in practice, especially access to a family doctor. People repeatedly say they cannot find a family doctor, and that medical staff sometimes do not know how to register Ukrainians correctly for covered services.

Improve children's education integration. The strongest repeated issue is the lack of adaptation programs, indifference in schools, and bullying. Suggested solutions include adaptation classes, extra Romanian support inside schools, and after-school learning support so children are not left as "listeners" without real learning (examples often refer to Bucharest).

Restore and strengthen "programs for Ukrainians," including community and volunteering centres, and targeted integration services. Some mention the discontinuity of support (e.g., programmes opening and closing).

Housing support is a major pressure point. Requests include rent subsidies or vouchers, social housing options, and addressing rent inflation and perceived higher rents charged to Ukrainians. Several also ask for support with utilities and basic living costs.

Increase social protection for vulnerable groups, especially pensioners, people with disabilities, and single mothers with children (including easier disability recognition and more stable support).

Provide free or accessible legal assistance (many ask explicitly for free legal consultations) and clear guidance on legalization options, including for self-employed people and those supported by a spouse.

Add specific legal solutions for Ukrainian seafarers and their families, including a legal stay mechanism tied to tax payments and family stability.

A visible minority state they are satisfied and do not ask for changes, except for one point: extending Temporary Protection and maintaining stability."

20. What would make you feel safe and confident about your future? (open question)

"Clear, early, official information about what happens after March 2027, ideally announced well in advance, with simple steps and criteria people can actually follow.

Extending Temporary Protection until the war ends, or replacing it with a predictable alternative that keeps people legally protected even if the war continues.

A defined transition route from Temporary Protection to a stable permit in Romania (temporary residence, permanent residence, or a special multi-year status like 3–5 years). Many explicitly ask for “a new status” rather than another short extension.

Protection from forced return to Ukraine while it remains unsafe, especially for families with children and people from high-risk regions.

Counting years spent under protection toward long-term residence and citizenship, with some respondents referencing examples like Netherlands and Czech Republic.

A real pathway to citizenship for those who have lived, worked, paid taxes, and integrated, including simplified routes for long-term residents.

A stable right to live normally, not only receive aid. Many say they do not need money, they need legal certainty to rent long-term, buy housing and cars, and plan family life.

Employment and income security. People ask for access to decent jobs, fair wages, non-discrimination for non-EU citizens, and clarity on work requirements after protection ends.

Clear rules for employers and workers on permits and work authorisations after 2027, including issues around “permis unic” and whether “aviz de muncă” will be required for those already employed.

Support for self-employment and entrepreneurship, including transparent tax rules and an easy legal route for self-sufficient families (many explicitly ask for an “algorithm” and clear forms).

Housing support remains critical for many, especially rent support or targeted help for vulnerable groups, because rent costs are the biggest pressure point.

Reliable access to healthcare, medicines, insurance, and specialist care, including chronic conditions and oncology. Some explicitly ask for guaranteed access, not ad hoc help.

Education stability for children. People want guarantees that children can continue schooling and higher education after 2027, plus adaptation support so children are not forced into another sudden move.

Language learning as an integration condition and as practical support. Many request accessible Romanian language courses, including evening options, plus vocational retraining linked to language learning.

Stronger support for vulnerable groups, especially pensioners, people with disabilities, and families caring for elderly relatives. Some ask for social benefits or targeted support, not universal payments.

Family unity and family reunification rules that allow spouses, children, and dependent parents to remain together legally.

Specific solutions for Ukrainian seafarers and their families, including a legal status that does not depend on local employment contracts, and recognition that they can contribute through tax payments while working at sea.

Consistent, respectful communication from authorities and less uncertainty. A few comments compare approaches across countries, mentioning Poland as more reassuring, and they ask for more harmonised, predictable EU practice under the European Union.

A core emotional theme: “safety” equals peace and a real end to the war, and for some respondents, a stable, prosperous Ukraine so they can return voluntarily. Others add strong anti-war sentiments directed at Russia.

For those living outside Romania (one detailed response from Moldova), the same pillars repeat: long-term legal perspective, stability for a teenager fully integrated in local school, access to legal work and entrepreneurship, and the ability to plan life without fear of sudden rule changes.

METHODOLOGY

Overview and purpose

This survey was conducted by JRS Romania to understand how Ukrainians under Temporary Protection (TP) in Romania perceive the transition beyond TP, currently set to end in March 2027.

The objectives were to measure (a) awareness of the current TP end date, (b) levels of preparedness, (c) key concerns and intentions, (d) preferred legal pathways after March 2027, and (e-f) guarantees and support needs that should inform national and EU-level planning. Alongside necessary technical terms, this report also includes plain-English explanations to ensure the findings are accessible to non-technical readers.

Target group and eligibility criteria

The intended respondents were Ukrainians currently benefiting from Temporary Protection in Romania.

Survey period, locations, and channels

Data collection took place between 17.02.2026 and 19.02.2026. The survey was disseminated in Romania. Respondents were reached through the following channels:

- Online distribution: Google Forms link shared via social media and messaging groups.

Languages and accessibility

The questionnaire was available in: Ukrainian / English.

Instrument design and content

The questionnaire was structured into seven sections: background/context; awareness and preparedness; future intentions; preferred legal pathways (multiple options); human rights and safeguards; challenges and opportunities; recommendations to policy-makers. It included:

Closed-ended single-choice items (e.g., awareness, intentions)

Scaled items (preparedness on 1–5)

Multiple-choice multi-select items (e.g., concerns, pathways, guarantees)

Open-ended questions (e.g., challenges, recommendations)

The instrument was developed by the JRS Romania team.

Sampling approach and response volume

The survey used a non-probability, convenience sampling approach, meaning participation depended on access to the survey and willingness to respond. This approach is appropriate for rapid needs assessments and advocacy evidence, but it does not produce statistically representative results for all Ukrainians under TP in Romania or in the EU.

Total number of submitted questionnaires: N = 1588.

Number of valid responses included in analysis: N = 1585.

Removed empty responses: 3.

Consent, safeguarding, and data protection

Participation was voluntary. Respondents were provided with an information note explaining the purpose of the survey.

No directly identifying personal data were collected.

Data were stored securely on: Google Forms platform with access limited to the: JRS Romania team.

The questionnaire did not request direct identifiers (such as name, phone number, email address, or identity document details). Responses were analysed and reported only in aggregated form. Prior to analysis and publication, open-ended answers were reviewed and any inadvertently provided identifying details were removed/redacted using a standard protocol.

It did not involve the provision of services, material benefits, or financial support to participants.

Data retention period: 1 month.