

Presentation of Studies of the Ukrainian Science Diaspora Initiative

November 27, 2025

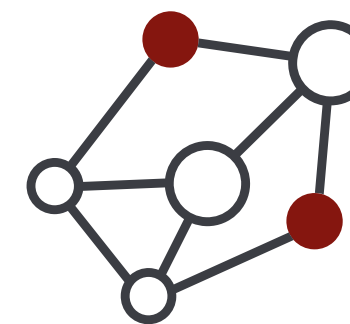


UKRAINIAN
SCIENCE
DIASPORA



Implemented by:

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH



active
g r o u p

Agenda (CET)

14:00 – 14:05 Greetings (GIZ, MESU, Co-founders of the Initiative “Ukrainian Science Diaspora”)

14:05 – 14:25 Presentation of Research “Impact Assessment of the Ukrainian Science Diaspora on the Rebuilding of Ukraine” and a complementary study on the experiences, challenges, and prospects of Ukrainian scientists temporarily or permanently residing abroad.

Speakers: Prof. Yevheniia Polishchuk, Oleksandr Pozniy .

14:25 – 14:40 Open Discussion

14:40 – 15:10 Presentation of the Interview Series: Ukrainian Scientists Abroad: Scientific Diplomacy and Activism.

Speaker: Prof. Ihor Lyman

15:10 – 15:30 Open Discussion and Conclusions



IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE UKRAINIAN SCIENCE DIASPORA ON REBUILDING THE RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM OF UKRAINE

Prof. Yevheniia Polishchuk, Oleksandr Pozniy

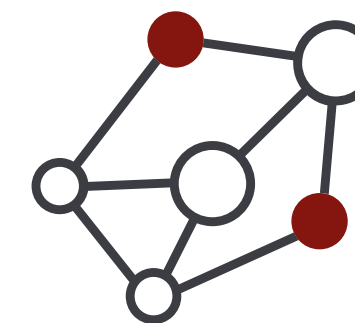


UKRAINIAN
SCIENCE
DIASPORA



Implemented by:

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit GmbH



active
g r o u p

Methodology

Objective: to assess the contribution of the Ukrainian scientific diaspora to the restoration of science and education, to identify barriers, incentives, and mechanisms for sustainable engagement.

Method: online survey (CAWI) of Ukrainian scientists abroad.

Sample: non-statistical combined (network recruiting, snowball sampling, open databases).

Number of respondents: 300 from different countries, fields of science, and migration statuses.

Data collection took place from October 23 to November 25, 2025.

Tool: structured questionnaire – engagement, cooperation, academic capital, willingness to return, vision of the role of the diaspora.

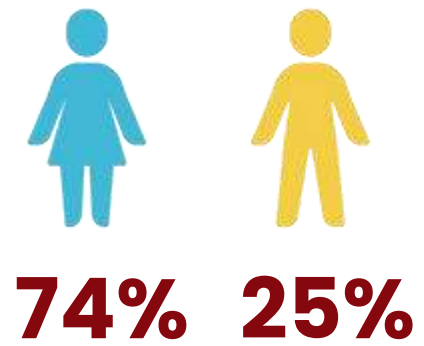
Analysis: quantitative (SPSS) and qualitative (content analysis) methods; triangulation principle.

Ethics: voluntary participation, anonymity, GDPR compliance.

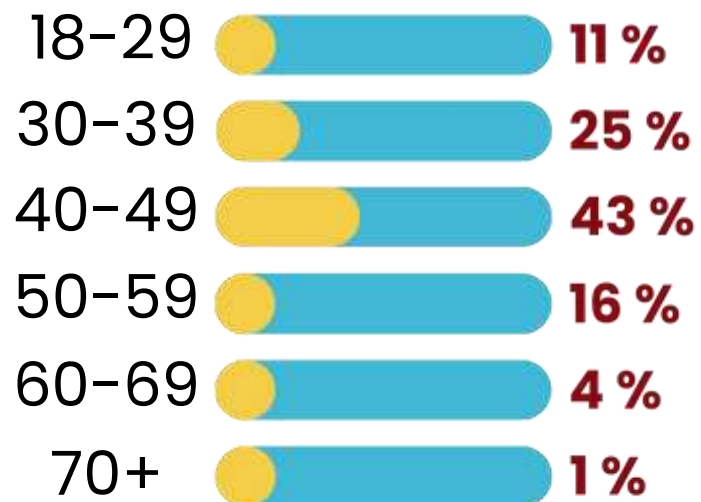
Expected outcome: analytical basis for state and university policies on cooperation with the scientific diaspora, development of the Ukrainian Scientific Diaspora Platform.

Profile of the science diaspora respondents

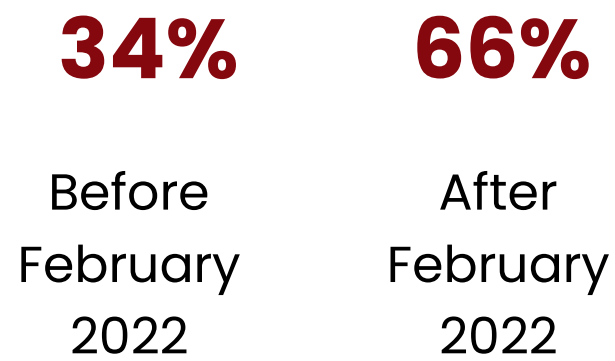
Gender



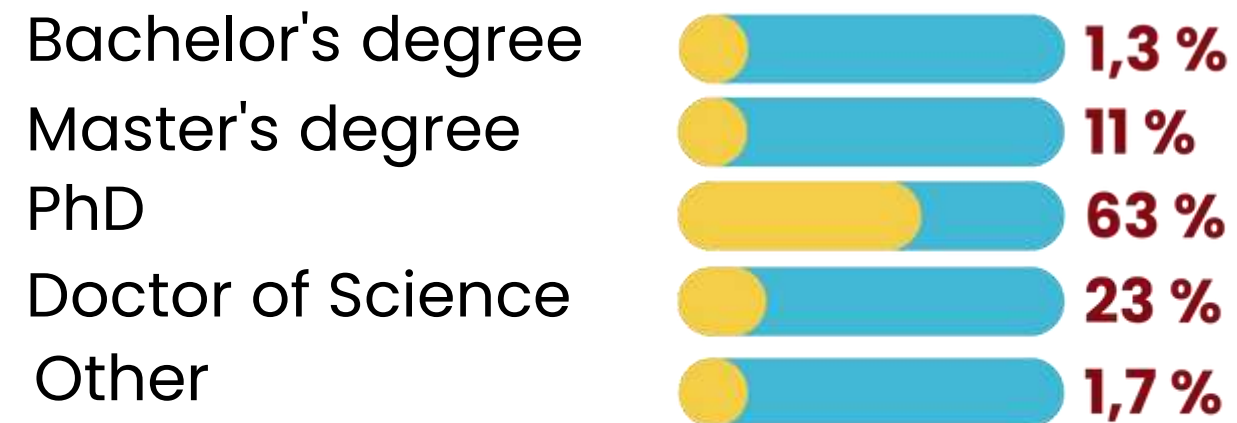
Age



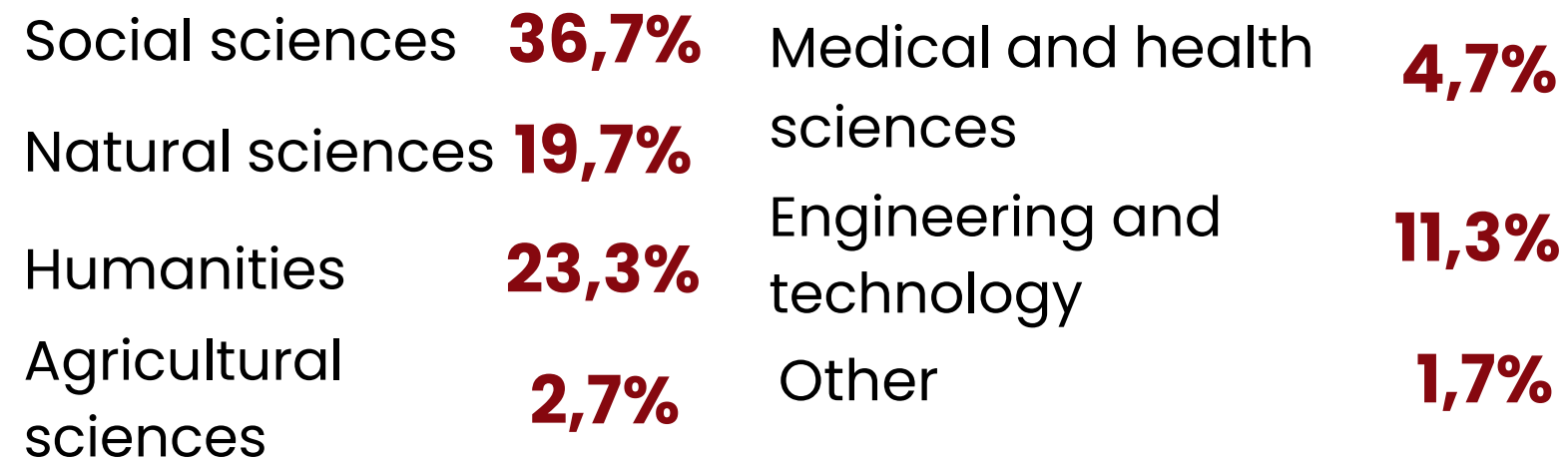
Left Ukraine



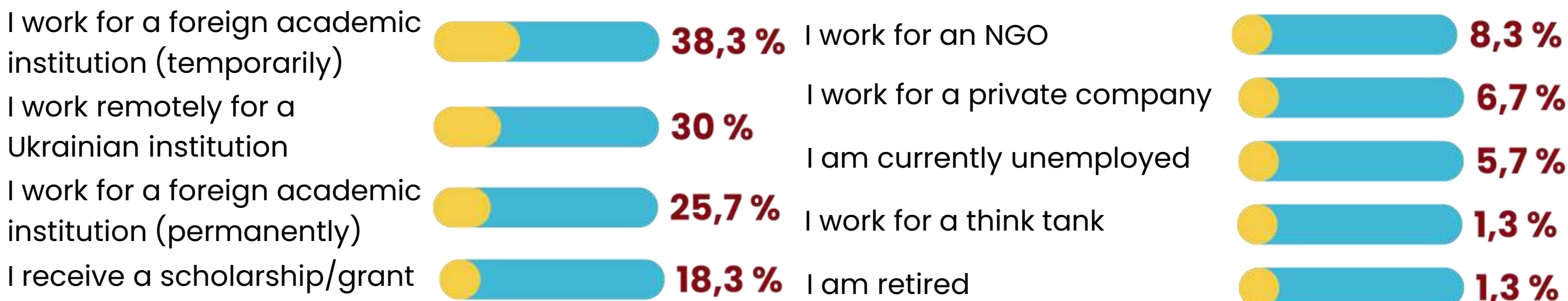
Level of education



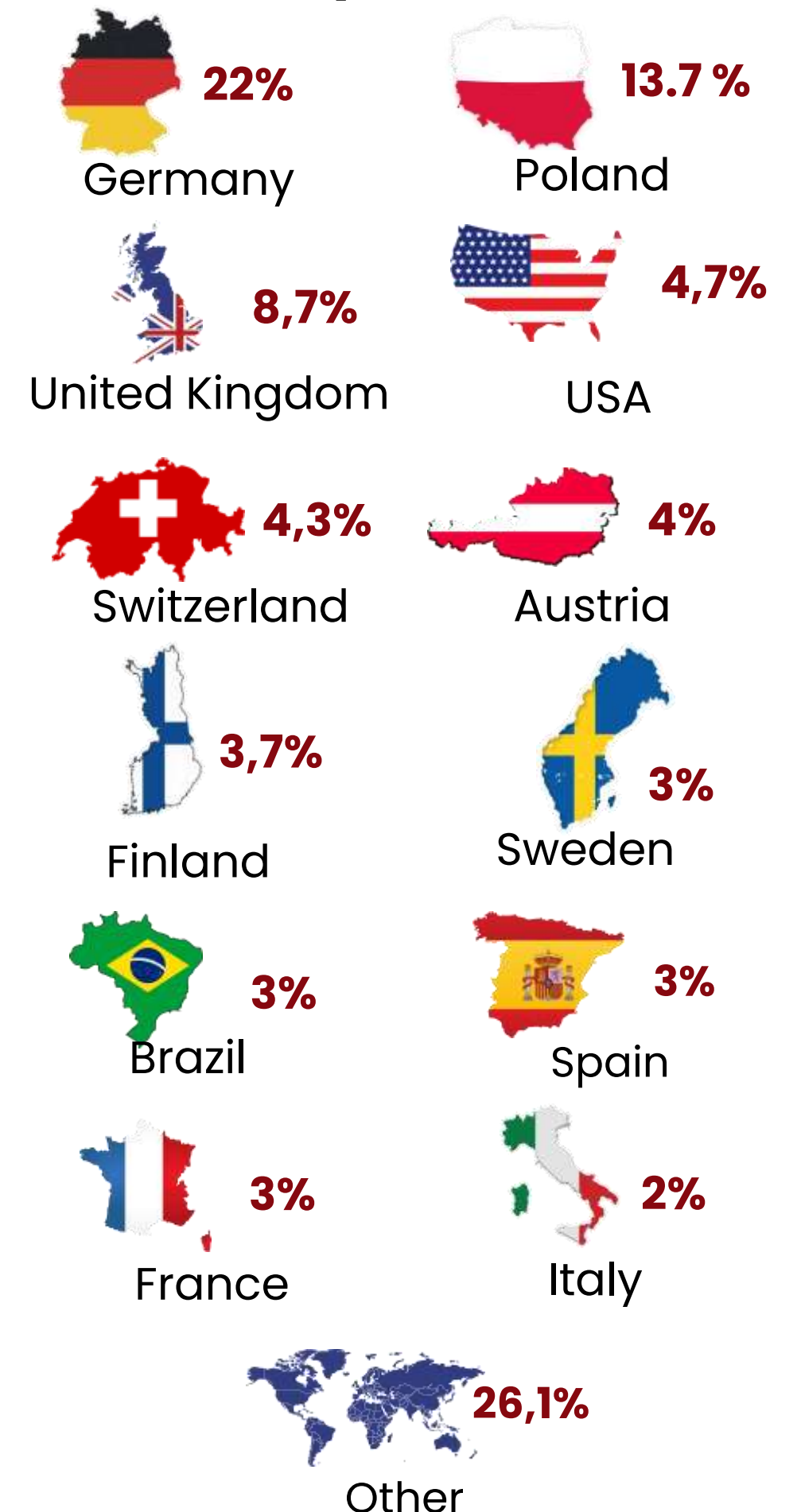
Field of science



Current professional status abroad



Country of residence



Participation of the diaspora in activities supporting Ukraine

Activities to support Ukraine

91,3%

Yes (regularly and occasionally)

Stakeholders' interest in cooperation with the scientific diaspora

Very interested



Somewhat interested



Not very interested



Not interested



Difficult to answer



Reasons for interest

Reasons for lack of interest



Forms of cooperation with Ukrainian institutions

Joint scientific publications



Participation in conferences, workshops, or seminars organized in Ukraine



Promotion of Ukrainian science and culture abroad (speeches, public events)



Teaching/giving lectures online



Joint preparation of grant applications



Scientific consulting for Ukrainian students/graduate students/young scientists



Joint research projects



Expert evaluation/review of scientific works or projects



Charitable or volunteer support for scientific, educational, and other initiatives

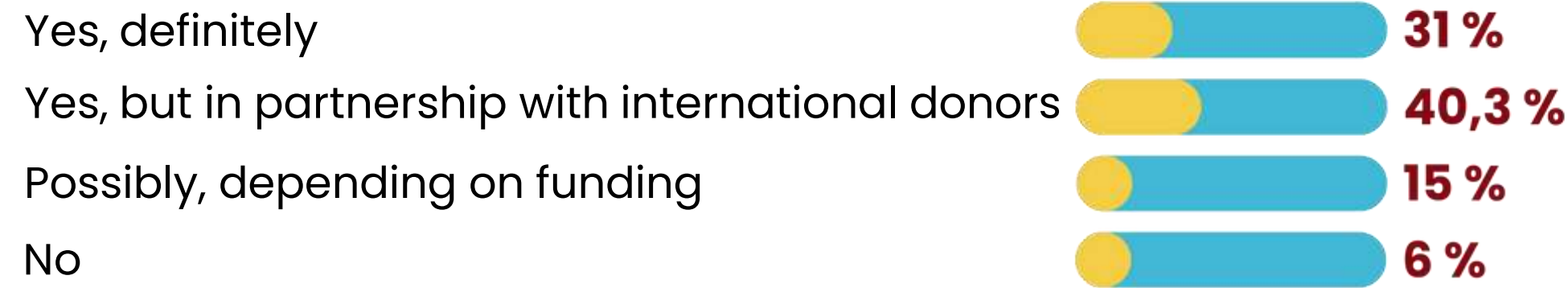


Countering disinformation and propaganda from the Russian Federation

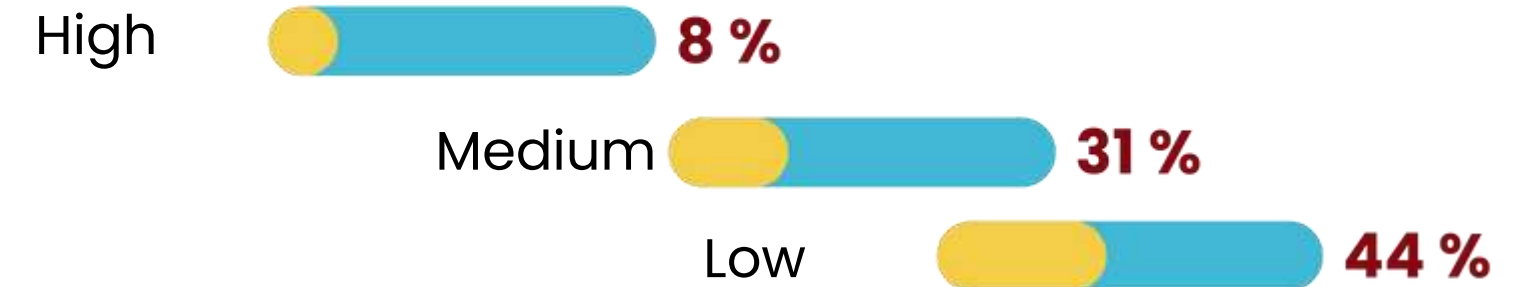


Support, awareness, and motivation

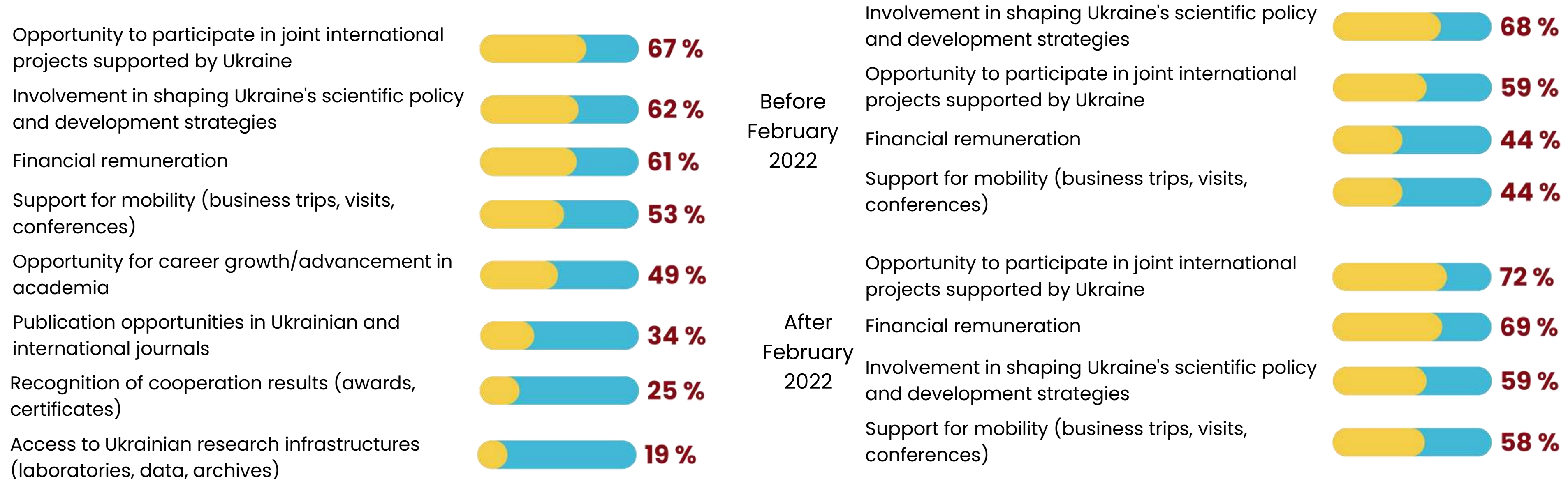
The need for a program to support the Ukrainian science diaspora



Level of awareness of opportunities for cooperation with Ukrainian colleagues



Incentives that could increase interest in cooperation with Ukraine



Problem. Weak communication between the scientists in diaspora and in scientists in Ukraine

Recommendations:

For scientists in diaspora:

- To be proactive and ask the Ukrainian universities and colleagues about their challenges and needs. Remember, a war is currently ongoing in Ukraine, and they are busy with another kind of routine.

For scientists in Ukraine:

- To join different activities related to science diaspora engagement (mentorship programs, online presentations, etc.)
- To use the www.ukrdiaspora.nauka.gov.ua platform for searching contacts and participating in the mentorship program, learn more about the benefits of diaspora cooperation.

For universities and research labs in Ukraine:

- To work and establish connections with alumni who are considered diaspora scientists. Additionally, paying attention to the administrative staff can facilitate various connections and open new horizons for collaboration.
- To prepare reports on the needs and problems of universities and laboratories, and to publicize information.
- To develop a mechanism of saying “Goodbye” and “Thank you” for those who left Ukraine after 2022 because of the war. They are the next generation of the Ukrainian science diaspora.
- To provide opportunities to continue the affiliation with the Ukrainian university (digital ambassadors, scientific volunteers, academic attachés, research liaisons, honorary researchers, knowledge partners, etc.).

For the Ministry of Education and Science in Ukraine and other Ministries (related to the field of expertise):

- To transform the Ukrainian Science diaspora initiative into a coordination centre with the diaspora.
- To create an advisory body under the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and other Ministries (related to the field of expertise)/or to invite them to working groups, which would include scientists from the diaspora who would directly participate in the process of forming policies in the field of science, higher education, and innovations.
- To promote the importance of the diaspora scientists' engagement in different activities, including in their digests for scientists' information from the science diaspora community.

For NGOs and other communities that represent different communities of scientists in Ukraine:

- To use the power of the network and become a hub for hosting the Ukrainian scientists in diaspora with speeches, presentations, etc. The network effect will multiply the impact of diaspora scholars and bringing new values in academic society.

Problem: Lack of programs supporting joint science diaspora and home country scientists' initiatives

Recommendations:

For the Ministry of Education and Science in Ukraine, the National Research Fund of Ukraine, the Science Committee, Verkhovna Rada Committee of Education, Science, and Innovation, the President of Ukraine for Education, Science, and Sports Fund:

- To support development special research bilateral programs for researchers from Ukraine and from the diaspora (**TOP-3 country candidates: Germany, Poland, United Kingdom**) focused on rebuilding of Ukraine

For Donors:

- To develop programs of innovation development support with the engagement of diaspora scientists. The programs should be aligned with a new system of priorities in science and innovation (focus on defence, economy, and post-war development).
- To develop programs for researchers returning to Ukraine temporarily.

For National Research Fund of Ukraine:

- To develop a seed funding program for establishing joint labs for scientists in diaspora and scientists in Ukraine
 - To introduce opportunities for joint management of scientific projects of diaspora scientists, those who are in Ukraine
 - To invite diaspora scientists as partners in consortia formed by the National Research Fund of Ukraine
- To invite diaspora scientists as experts to review applications and develop recommendations for enhancing existing calls, and to reveal systematic problems of the Ukrainian scientists in the development of the project.

Problem: Bureaucracy is a huge challenge to receive science in the diaspora support

Recommendations:

For universities and research labs in Ukraine:

- To provide the university of research institute regulations with the possibility of officially involving professors with foreign affiliations in co-teaching and co-research, and co-supervision of dissertations in the Ukrainian universities

For the Ministry of Education and Science in Ukraine

- To ensure the rapid recognition of degrees obtained at Western universities
- To enable Ukrainian Universities to cover travel costs and facilitate money transfers abroad.

Problem: Weak rewarding mechanism at all levels

Recommendations:

For the Ministry of Education and Science in Ukraine, the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, the Science Committee, Verkhovna Rada Committee of Education, Science, and Innovation, the President of Ukraine for Education, Science, and Sports Fund

- To establish special rewards
“For Contribution to Science Diplomacy”,
“Woman is Science Diaspora”,
“First Steps in Science Diplomacy” (for early career researchers) for prominent results

For universities and research labs and NGO related to science and education and related to scientific expertise field in Ukraine

- To use the existing mechanisms of rewarding actively (usually it is the gratitude or special reward for contribution to the University development),
 - To search, select, and nominate scientists who contributed to the rebuilding process for different existing rewards.

MAP OF EXPERT KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCIENCE DIASPORA



How digitalization can help to engage and promote scientists' in diaspora support

Plans for the Development of the Digital Platform "Ukrainian Science Diaspora":

Engagement:

- To develop a module for preparing petitions that can be signed by every Ukrainian scientist from the diaspora and beyond

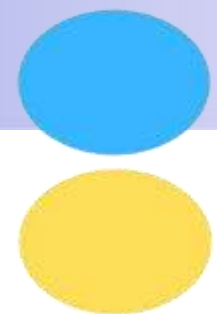
Promotion and further rewarding:

- To develop a module for submitting science diaspora's projects for further promotion and using as a base for further rewarding

Conclusions:

- 1. Good science starts with talented people, good funding, and effective infrastructure (both research and institutional). The science diaspora can provide access to talented scholars, enhance access to funding, and contribute to the development of a cohesive research infrastructure.**
- 2. It is necessary to distinguish between the scientific diaspora that was formed before 2022 and the one that is in the process of being formed after 2022. Accordingly, the potential of scientists abroad for the reconstruction of Ukraine is different. You should not expect much from those who left after 2022, but they have an extremely high motivation to cooperate.**
- 3. Supporting the diaspora is not only the responsibility of Ukrainian scientists abroad. For diaspora assistance to be effective, it is necessary to be able to accept it. Therefore, it is the work of both sides.**
- 4. Digitalization can intensify the work of the diaspora aimed at rebuilding Ukraine. It enables faster and more effective communication, conveying knowledge, and thus accelerating the processes of impact the rebuilding of Ukraine.**
- 5. Diaspora assistance is valuable and should be properly evaluated. Both financial and non-financial incentives can be effective in this context. Developing a system of non-financial incentives is equally important and can be implemented at various levels.**
- 6. The diaspora cannot solve all the problems of Ukrainian universities and research institutions, but it can significantly accelerate their internationalization, rebuilding, and integration to global research society.**

OPEN DISCUSSION



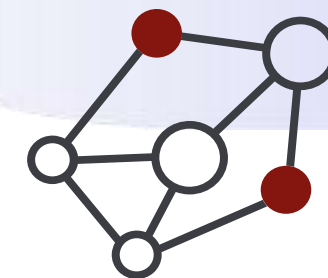
UKRAINIAN
SCIENCE
DIASPORA



співпраця з
німеччиною
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by:

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



active
g r o u p