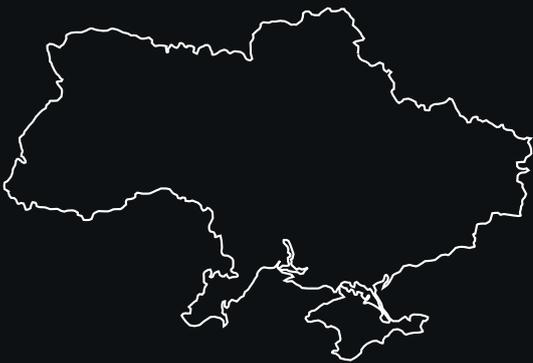




IOM International Organization for Migration



# UKRAINE

MAPPING EXERCISE  
LONDON, AUGUST 2007

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The aim of this Mapping Report is to guide IOM's outreach activities and communications strategies. The report does not purport to be exhaustive. The mapping consultant who conducted the exercise and wrote the report on behalf of IOM has taken every effort to ensure accuracy in his/her reporting and the views expressed in this report are his/hers. IOM cannot be held responsible for any omissions or inaccuracies.

# INTRODUCTION

## AIM OF THE MAPPING EXERCISE, TARGET GROUP AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of the mapping exercise, conducted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), was to identify the main channels of information and the location of potential beneficiaries of IOM's voluntary return programmes, which are open to asylum seekers and irregular migrants. The ultimate goal of the mapping exercise is to help IOM to improve its communication strategies with relevant diaspora communities in the United Kingdom through publications in the media, advertisements and presentations to community groups.

The first mapping exercise was undertaken in December 2005. It surveyed the Brazilian community across the country. Subsequently, more than twenty similar projects have been carried out by IOM, with a few currently still being completed. The mapping exercise for the Ukrainian community in the UK was undertaken between April and July 2007.

As with other projects, this mapping exercise aims to establish a number of community characteristics.

- The approximate size and geographical spread of the Ukrainian diaspora in the UK.
- Its preferred media, such as TV networks, radio stations, newspapers and magazines, as well as the role of Internet-based information sources.
- The languages in which Ukrainians in the UK would like to receive IOM information materials.
- Which institutions, such as libraries, religious centres, shops etc. could be used to distribute information about IOM voluntary return programmes?
- Which community organisations exist and the identity of the community leaders to whom other Ukrainians turn for advice.

This mapping exercise was undertaken with the help of a questionnaire, that is divided into two sections and consists of twenty-five questions in total. The first section focuses on media sources and other channels of information available to members of the Ukrainian diaspora in the UK. It also asks about the community organisations and institutions that they use in order to meet their compatriots. The second section of the questionnaire requests specific baseline data from each respondent, such as age, gender, and length of stay in the UK. The mapping consultant would like to emphasize that the anonymity of the respondents was respected and no personal information, such as name and address, was gathered.

A Russian national was recruited to undertake the mapping exercise. The skills and assets of the mapping exercise consultant, such as an inside knowledge of the Ukrainian community and established contacts with its members in the UK, proved to be an essential resource for the exercise.

The first phase of the project involved translating the questionnaire into Ukrainian and adapting its contents. Primary research was carried out using multiple approaches to data collection. Information was gathered by disseminating and collecting questionnaires, qualitative fact-finding and in-depth interviews with multipliers.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This term is used to indicate individuals or organisations that are well known within diaspora groups and could therefore play a key role in delivering information.

Extensive networking was carried out to identify media, organisations, churches and individuals that interact with Ukrainians. During the exercise, 54 questionnaires were collected.

The mapping exercise was mostly conducted in the Greater London Area, as the majority of Ukrainians reside there. However, it was not limited to the capital as there are growing numbers of Ukrainians in other major cities as well. The researcher traveled to Cambridge, Brighton, Birmingham, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Manchester, where he met with representatives of the Ukrainian expatriate community, members of British-Ukrainian organisations and visited several establishments frequented by Ukrainians. It enabled him to create a more complete and comprehensive view of the existing networks and made questionnaire answers more accurate and representative.

This report includes charts and tables based on the information obtained from the questionnaires. Additionally, IOM created an extensive list of contacts which merges data gathered directly from completed questionnaires with the results of the researcher's own fact-finding, as well as information provided by the multipliers during in-depth interviews. This database will be used by the Information team at IOM in their outreach work.

It is important to emphasise that the mapping exercise relied on networks and that the questionnaire was completed by those who selected themselves to be part of this small study. It is not possible to generalise about the population of Ukrainian nationals in the UK from the mapping exercise data. However, the range of individuals who helped to facilitate the mapping exercise does constitute a wide and diverse sample.



# 1 UKRAINIANS IN THE UK

## 1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY

### History

Ukrainian immigration to the UK dates from beginning of the 20th century. The first documented evidence of Ukrainians in the country is a record of 100 families settling in Manchester a couple of years before World War I. The first community centre was later set up there. The first significant group of migrants left Ukraine in the wake of the Revolution and Civil War and the ensuing incorporation of the Ukraine into the Soviet Union. The second main influx came at the end of World War II, when Britain became host to many Ukrainians, mainly POWs from the Polish and German armies and displaced persons from labour camps across Europe. They were primarily from the western parts of the country and from the former Polish territories, which became part of the USSR in 1939. Many of them assimilated completely into British life. As was the case with others coming from the USSR, the number of Ukrainians living in the UK remained relatively low until the end of the 1980s. Until then, it was virtually impossible to leave the former Soviet Union freely. With the political changes in the East, culminating in the break up of the USSR and the arrival of capitalism, the number of Ukrainian speaking newcomers has been increasing rapidly. In fact, one can speak of something of a snowball effect, with more and more people arriving every year. Given that recent counts indicate that nearly 600,000 East European migrants have come to the United Kingdom in the past two years<sup>2</sup>, it is estimated that around 60,000 are Ukrainian nationals.<sup>3</sup>

The Home Office estimates that most Ukrainians presently residing in the UK are family reunification migrants or irregular migrants. Many of them are here as visitors or contract workers; some are classified as highly skilled migrants and businessmen. There were 300 Ukrainian citizens seeking asylum in 2003, 120 in 2004 and 55 in 2004. Asylum, exceptional leave or humanitarian protection was refused in almost all cases.<sup>4</sup>

### Number of Ukrainian Citizens

Gathering accurate information about the size of the Ukrainian diaspora in the UK is as difficult as it was for similar mapping projects on other ethnic groups. First and foremost, there is no up-to-date information on the number of any foreign nationals in the UK. The figures in the 2001 Census were approximate in the first place but even they have now become obsolete, bearing in mind the influx of Ukrainians over the last few years. Another common obstacle to establishing the nationality of someone coming from a former Soviet state is that only their passport offers any certainty about their nationality. Much of the Ukraine was originally part of the old Russian Empire and subsequently the Soviet Union. Its cultural and social links to Russia and other states of the former USSR are often considerable. There are many examples of how this affects questions of national identity and, for the purpose of this exercise, community characteristics. Russian was, for example, the prevalent tongue in the old society, which means that many Ukrainians see it as their first language and barely use Ukrainian in everyday life. There are many mixed marriages and some Ukrainians who have worked and lived in Russia might not distinguish between the two countries. In simple terms, it means that an individual who only speaks Russian, and who is seen as “Russian” by others, could come from

<sup>2</sup> Independent Immigration Advice, ‘Work Permit’, UK Immigration News, 16 December 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Interview with Peter Tkachuk, Communication Officer at the Ukrainian Embassy in London.

<sup>4</sup> Home Office, *Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2005*, HOSB 14/06, pp.34 and 39.

the Ukraine and consider it his home country. He might not, however, use Ukrainian media or get involved in Ukrainian community organisations. It is worth stressing, though, that the above applies only to a certain percentage of Ukrainian nationals and is by no means a universal rule. To establish how significant this percentage is, let alone to determine anyone's formal nationality, has therefore presented challenges.

**Figure 1: Breakdown according to age**

AGE	CITIZENS
0-14	699
15-29	2,310
30-44	1,844
45-59	518
59-74	1,587
75 or older	4,950

The 1991 UK census only listed citizens of the former USSR. According to the census conducted in 2001, there were 11,908 Ukrainian citizens living in Britain.

There is no doubt that these figures have risen significantly during the last few years. Also, the age breakdown is likely to have changed, since most of the newly arrived Ukrainians are younger than 45 years old.

The Institute for Public Policy Research estimated that there were 13,200 Ukrainian citizens in the UK in 2001.<sup>5</sup> However, even these figures are out of date, given the developments in recent years.

Unofficial estimates show that approximately 120,000 Ukrainians, or those who consider themselves as such, call Britain their home, with a very noticeable surge of approximately 45,000 in the past two years. The numbers are, however, highly approximate and are not formally confirmed by any authority, including the Home Office. The estimates are produced on the basis of other figures relating to other aspects of migration. One analysis, for example, takes account of numbers of issued visas, approximate numbers of Ukrainian citizens returning to their country (giving a rough estimation of how many have overstayed) and numbers of asylum applications approved and refused.<sup>6</sup> In 2000, for example, 87,000 visas were granted to Ukrainians; by 2003, the number had increased by 46%.<sup>7</sup>

Considerable relaxation of domestic rules on foreign travel in the Ukraine in recent years, and increasing cooperation between Ukraine and the EU states, have contributed to a growing Ukrainian migration into Britain. After the 'Orange Revolution', Ukraine unilaterally introduced a visa free regime for EU citizens, which undoubtedly boosted the number of visitors to the country. However, a similar measure by the UK or EU is not on the cards as long as issues like smuggling, illegal immigration and human trafficking remain in the news. At the end of 2005, it was estimated that 100,000 Ukrainians and Ukrainian-speaking people lived in the United Kingdom. By December 2006, there were about 120,000.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> James Rather, *Counting the Uncountable*, IPPR, March 2007.

<sup>6</sup> Interview with P. Tkachuk, see above.

<sup>7</sup> "National Statistics Acceptances for Settlement by Nationality, 2000-2002" in *Annual Abstract of Statistics*.

<sup>8</sup> 'Independent Immigration Advice', *Work Permit*, 12 January 2007.

## 1.2 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY

A lack of officially verified and up-to-date statistics is also apparent when it comes to a breakdown of numbers of Ukrainians living in different parts of the UK. Representatives for the British authorities and Ukrainian diplomatic staff both agree on one thing: nobody really knows how many there really are. Characteristically, the spokesman for the Ukrainian Embassy in London pointed out that, although there are just 12,000 Ukrainians officially registered with them, in reality many more had settled here. He said: “There is no requirement for Ukrainians to register with their embassy any more and, even when it was in place, it was largely ignored. There are a significant number of Ukrainians who came here on family reunion grounds or who are here illegally. No one can give even approximate estimates of how many there are.”<sup>9</sup>

The embassy believes that the vast majority of the UK diaspora of 120,000 Ukrainians has settled in London. Unofficial estimates suggest that 85,000 (around 70%) now live in the capital. Like other migrants from the old Soviet countries, Ukrainians tend to be spread all over Greater London; however, the London Boroughs of Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets are their favourite destinations.

Manchester was said to be the second city of choice, with around 12,000 (10%) of the members of the diaspora, closely followed by Bradford and Nottingham with 6,000 (5%) each. There are small Ukrainian communities in Yorkshire and Scotland. It is estimated that the rest (roughly 3,000) is concentrated in small towns and villages around the country. The explanation that was given by the Embassy is that many of them work in the agricultural and food-processing sectors and live nearby.<sup>10</sup> This list, however, is by no means exhaustive. As shown in other sections of the report, there is a significant Ukrainian presence in all the major cities of the country, with societies and community groups in Newcastle, Birmingham and Wales, to name a few.

### Mapping Questionnaire Data and Other Sources

Respondents were asked whether they knew areas with significant numbers of Ukrainians in the UK. 8 questionnaires did not answer the question. The rest largely confirmed the information described above. The vast majority of respondents produced answers like “Bayswater”, “Ealing” or “Tottenham” and there was a clear view that the vast majority of Ukrainian citizens resides in the capital. This is consistent with the information from the Home Office and the 2001 Census.

It is worth pointing out that like others from the old Soviet Union, Ukrainians do not tend to settle down in a particular area in London or in the UK in general. According to the mapping exercise observations, there are almost no examples of areas where a concentration of Ukrainians could be labelled as “high” or “considerable”. It is more appropriate to speak of certain parts of Greater London where you are more likely to hear Ukrainian spoken or perhaps to see a local establishment like a food store or a restaurant. However, the existence of such establishments is sporadic and does not depend on many expatriates actually residing in a particular neighbourhood. This stands in sharp contrast to many other immigrant groups, perhaps partly owing to their size and longer history of living in the UK. Thus, it can be said that the composition of the Ukrainian diaspora is, in geographical terms, rather loose.

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<sup>9</sup> Ukrainian Consulate, Edinburgh; interview for IOM, 28 June 2007.

<sup>10</sup> Interview with P. Tkachuk, see above.

# Geographical Spread of the Ukrainian Community in the UK, 2007



The above figures are rough estimates. The rest of the Ukrainian community in the UK is largely to be found in Scotland and Yorkshire.

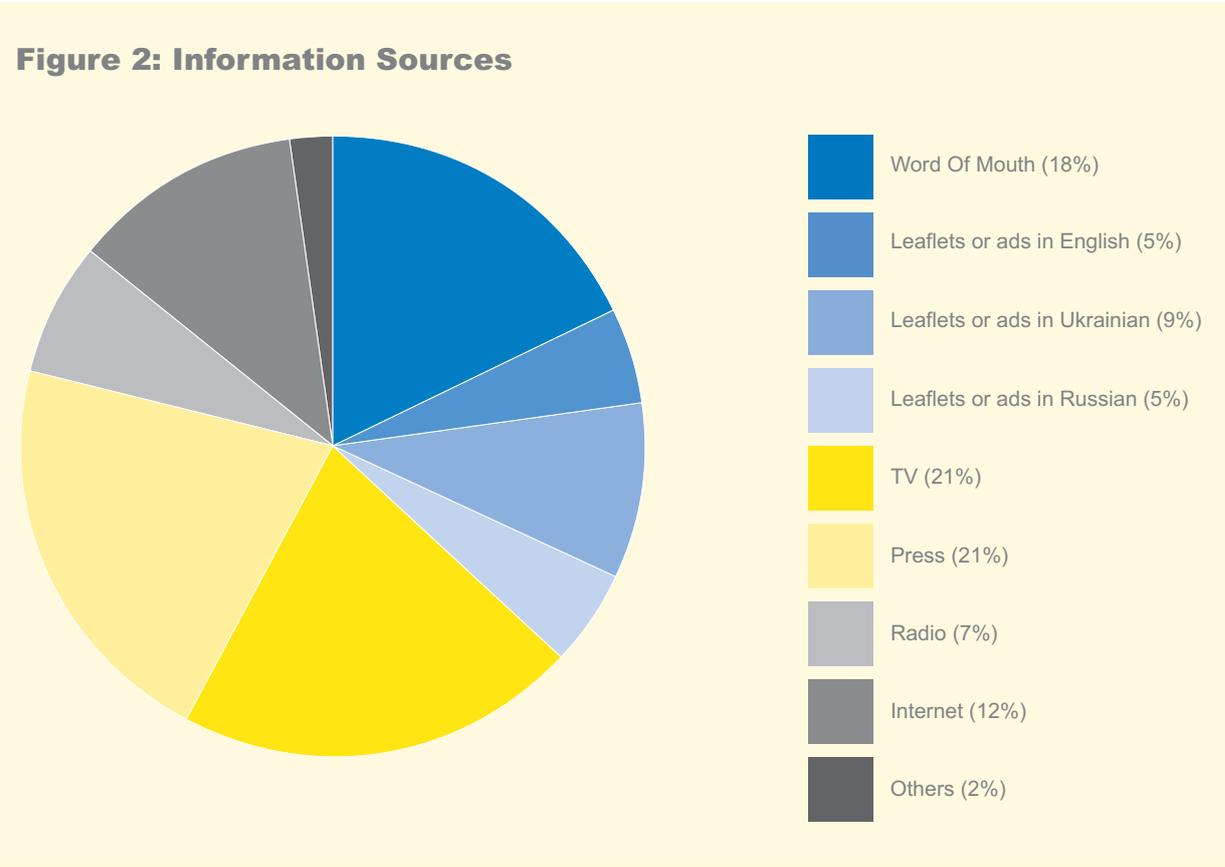
# 2 MAPPING EXERCISE OUTCOMES

## INFORMATION CHANNELS

### 2.1 PREFERRED SOURCES OF INFORMATION

#### Information Sources

Respondents were asked how they normally obtain information on political, social, cultural and entertainment matters. The answers were as follows:



A few respondents listed communal notice boards and notice boards in shops and workplaces as a way of getting information. The fact that newspapers tended to be favoured by respondents is probably due to the availability of free newspapers in both English and Russian.

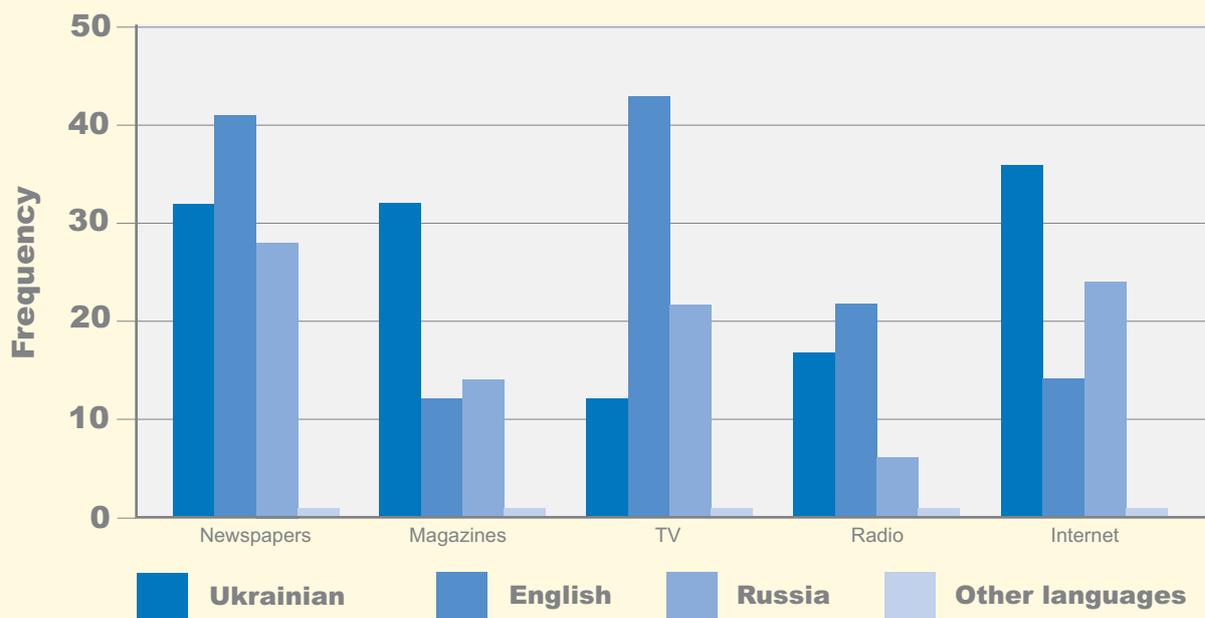
## 2.2 MEDIA

The first section of the questionnaire was designed to identify the main channels of information used by Ukrainians in the UK. It was divided into three main categories: media; community groups and organisations; and other sources of information. All the information, including contact details provided by the respondents and the interviewees, was merged and organised in a unified way as a list of organisations and contacts. This list is confidential to IOM. Its purpose is to serve as a foundation for IOM's work in establishing links with the Ukrainian community and as a vital tool for IOM's future outreach activities. It is not designed to be an exhaustive register of media and organisations, especially since new newspapers and organisations appear all the time, given the rapid growth of the Ukrainian population in Britain.

### Media Comprehension

Respondents were asked which language they prefer to read, and in what language they can best understand, information from electronic media, newspapers, the Internet and various publications and advertisements. Figure 3 presents the outcome.

**Figure 3: Media Comprehension**

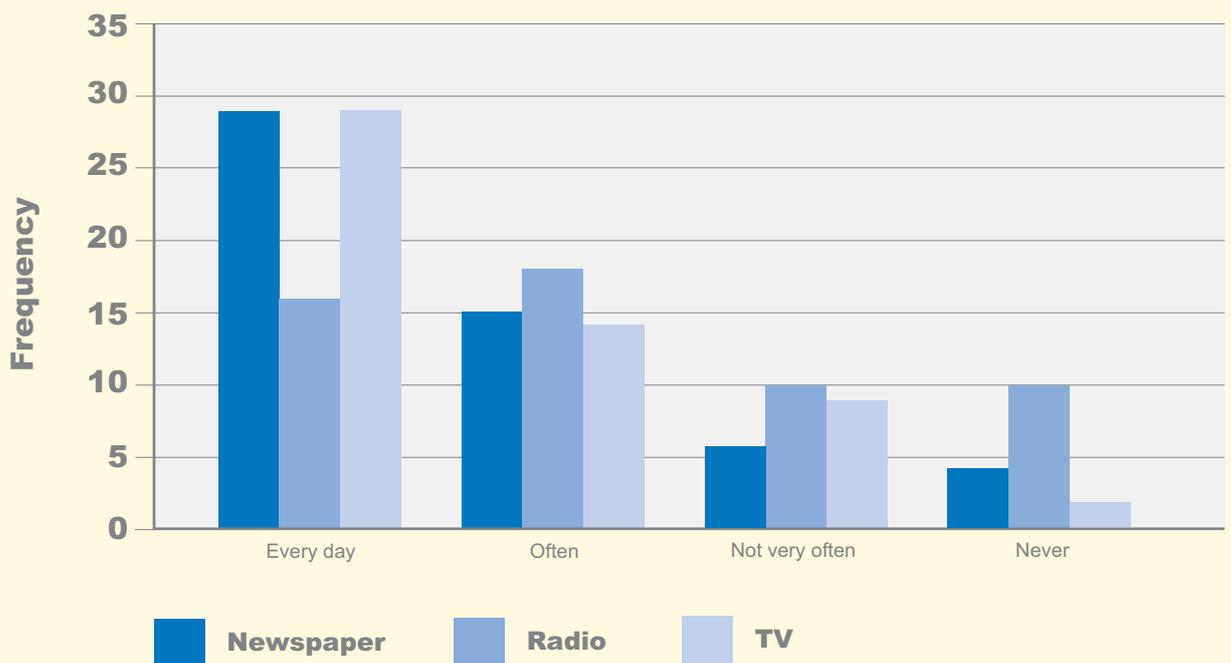


Unsurprisingly, Ukrainian seems to be the language of choice when it comes to some media products but English is in the lead in other categories. Most of the respondents do consult English language media, something that witnesses to a relatively low average age and high degree of integration into British society. Most Ukrainians understand and consult Russian language media, if they find any available. One respondent listed Polish publications, radio and TV. The main issue in this regard is availability. Ukrainian media resources in Britain are in short supply so respondents read Ukrainian media originating in their home country, rather than coming from Western Europe. On the other hand, there is a selection of Russian publications and electronic media available in the UK. A significant number of Ukrainians refrain from using this source of information but many others consult them on a regular basis.

## Frequency of Media Consultation

Respondents were asked how often they used the media. Most of them said that they used it daily. The vast majority of people confirmed that they read daily free newspapers, such as *Metro* or the *London Paper*, which are handed out on the streets and on public transport in major cities. Most of the respondents said that “every day” actually refers to their consultation of the English media. “Often” tends to represent answers from people reading Ukrainian or, in some cases, Russian daily and weekly publications and listening to Ukrainian radio stations at home.

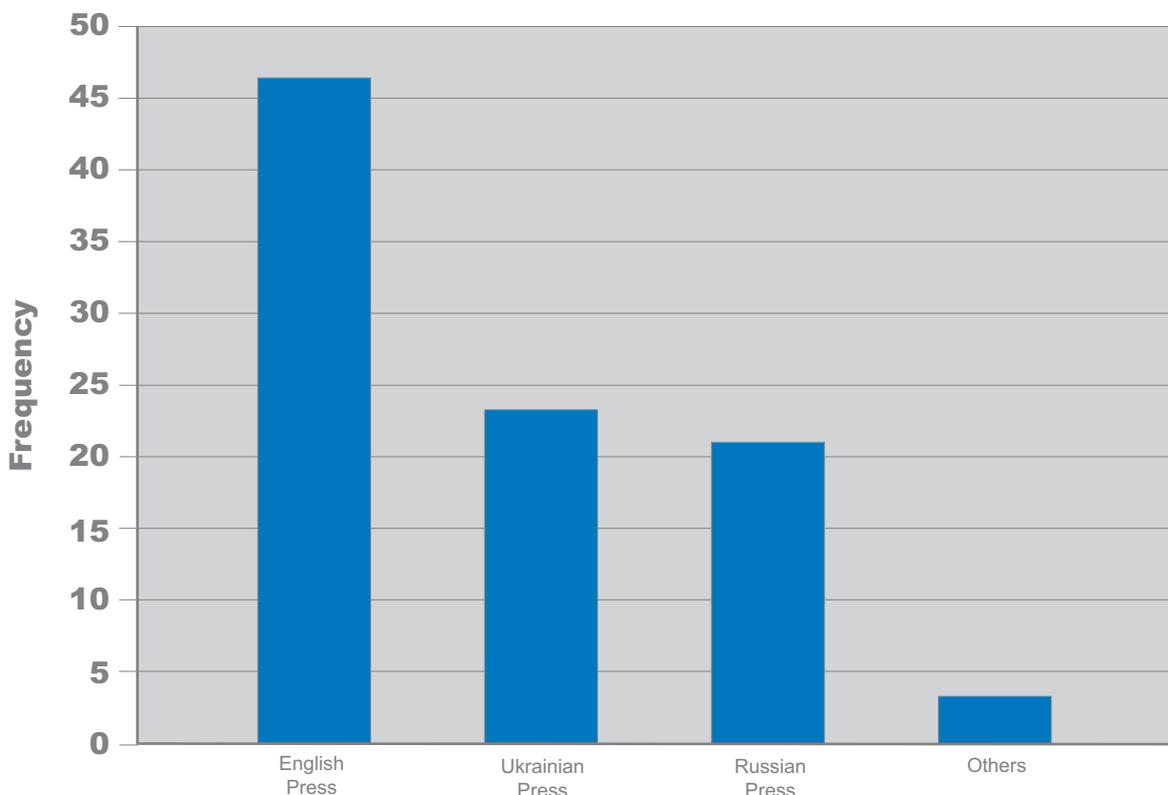
**Figure 4: Media Consultation**





## Newspaper Readership

**Figure 5: Preferred Newspapers and Magazines**



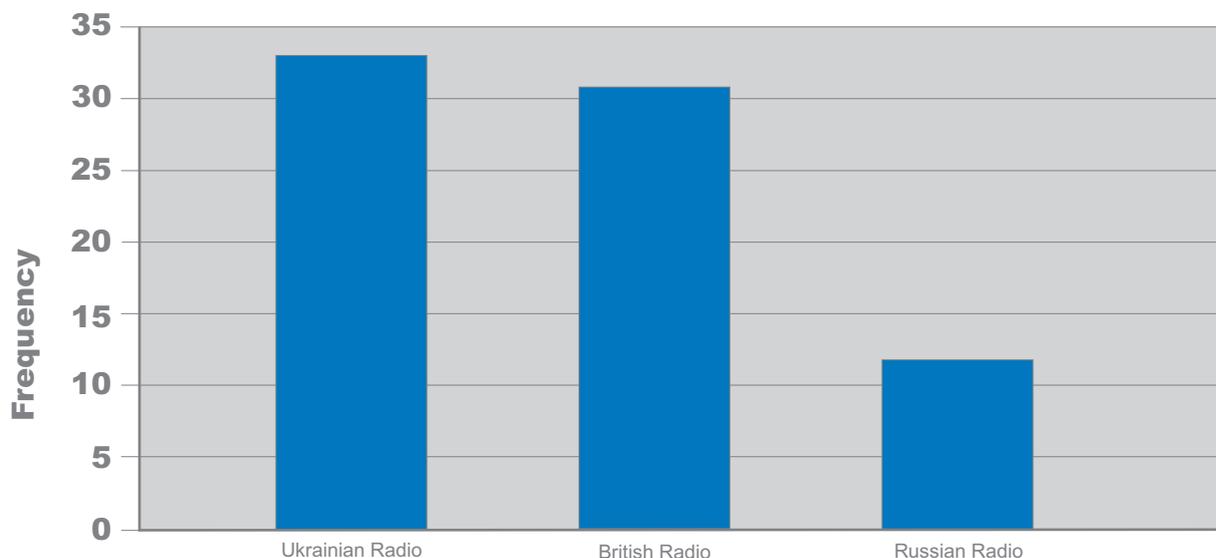
The mapping exercise did not unearth any widely available periodical publications in Ukrainian which are produced in the UK. Some respondents mentioned religious newspapers circulated in churches; information material, often produced in relation to a specific event or holiday; information sheets; or a few pilot schemes. There is, however, a weekly newspaper, *Ukrainska Dumka (Ukrainian Thought)*, which has its roots in the old immigrant community. Although the publishers insist that it is still issued frequently and regularly, very few of the respondents knew about it. Even fewer said that they read it regularly. The same can be said about the *Ukrainian Britain Newspaper*. In the course of the exercise, the consultant has seen a few copies of it, but the latest edition was six months old. The mapping exercise did not identify any weekly or monthly Ukrainian language periodical magazine produced in Britain. All the magazines listed in the survey, with almost no exceptions, were either English language ones, or ones produced in Ukraine.

The conclusion which can be drawn is that, while some Ukrainian newspapers are being produced in the UK, they are not yet either well-known or widely distributed. The vast majority of Ukrainians turn to newspapers and magazines coming from their home country.

17 respondents stated that they occasionally read Russian language newspapers, such as *Russian Courier* (5), *Russian London Info* (5), *Pulse UK* (3) and *Anglia* (4). 21 respondents confirmed that they occasionally read Russian newspapers from Russia itself. *The Times* and the *Guardian* were the most popular British newspapers, with 15 and 19 frequencies respectively.

## Radio

**Figure 6: Radio**



There is a similar lack of Ukrainian radio stations broadcasting from the UK or Western European countries. However, radio stations such as *Radio Free Europe /Radio Liberty* and *Voice of America* have news and programmes in Ukrainian. They are still very popular with the older members of the diaspora, as well as with those who have been here the longest.

The most popular Ukrainian-language radio station in the UK is *BBC Ukrainian Service* (31 respondents). The BBC offers a variety of programmes in Ukrainian on a wide range of issues, from news and political debates to weekly analytical shows and programmes with a cultural agenda.

The radio stations broadcasting from Ukraine are far more popular and they are often accessible online. *RUI - Radio Ukraine International* is the one that was cited most often in the survey. The consultant learned of many more stations broadcasting from Ukraine. They were not contacted but it would in theory be possible to discuss outreach activities with them. One of the immediate achievements of this project was an offer from the BBC to do an interview with IOM about its voluntary return programmes.

## Television

The vast majority of Ukrainians in this country watch British TV channels regularly (39 respondents). Only 6 respondents said that they have access to Ukrainian TV. Some members of the community cannot afford satellite dishes or digital boxes, since they are either living here temporarily or living in shared accommodation. However, all the main Ukrainian TV networks, such as *UT*, *Channel 5*, *Ukraine 24*, have offices in London and their broadcasts are specifically designed for Ukrainians living abroad. Advertisements on such networks are therefore adapted to an external audience and focus on goods and services that can be obtained abroad, rather than in Ukraine. While carrying out the exercise, the mapping consultant was advised that Russian TV broadcasting to Germany ran information about visas and legal services in relation to immigration. This suggests that there is clearly an opportunity for IOM to approach the TV networks and to discuss co-operation with them.

## Internet

More than 50% of the respondents use the Internet on a regular basis at home or at work, either for business or leisure. It became apparent during the survey that it is the only medium available for a daily consumption of news in Ukrainian for many people, especially of a younger age. Of them, two thirds regularly consult Ukrainian UK portals and information networks. The most prominent are: *www.ukrainianlondon.com*; *www.brama.com*; *www.ukrainians.mysite.orange.co.uk*; and *www.infoukes.com*. Even these resources are not very well-known or widely used by the respondents. One of the problems is that they are often not exclusively “British”. They can be part of a larger diaspora web-community with other Ukrainian communities, mainly in the USA and Canada, which might affect their use. Another issue is that some of them are rarely updated. Their contents mainly focus on subjects like folk music and discussions of Ukrainian history. A few web-sites that were listed as links, or were named by interviewees, such as *www.augb.co.uk* (Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain), were under construction. An e-mail-subscription facility is often available but is not used by the vast majority of the respondents.

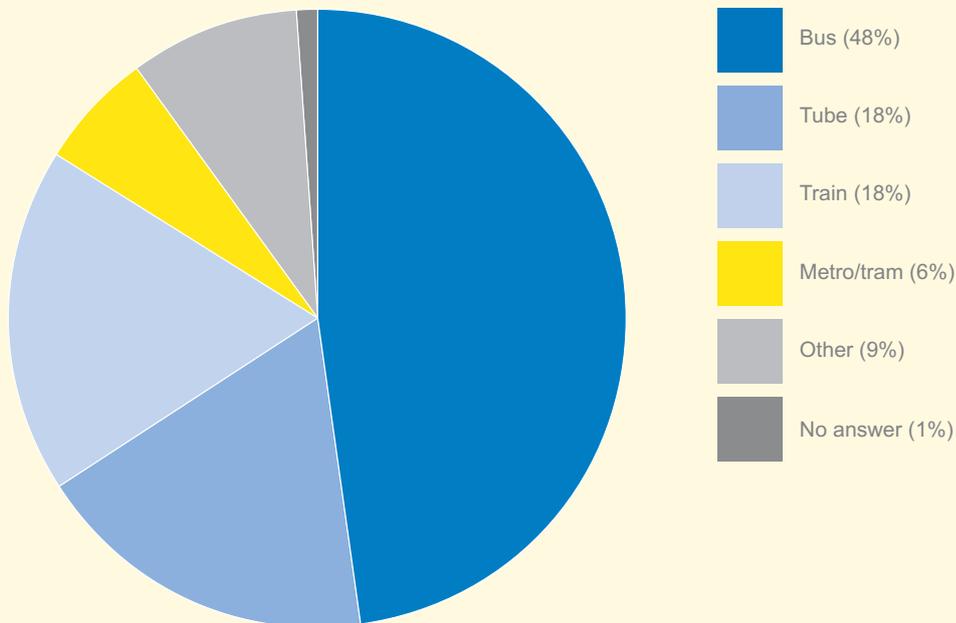
## Conclusion

There is an evident shortage of Ukrainian publications, radio and Internet resources in the UK, particularly produced in this country. Most Ukrainians use media originating in Ukraine itself. English and Russian media are used to a considerable extent. Existing Ukrainian outlets appear not to offer versatile content. Politics in the Ukraine, folk and classical music and various aspects of national history are the prevailing subjects in both newspapers and websites, serving as a forum for the older members of the diaspora and appealing to those with strong links to the home country.

## 2.3 USE OF SERVICES

### Method of Transport

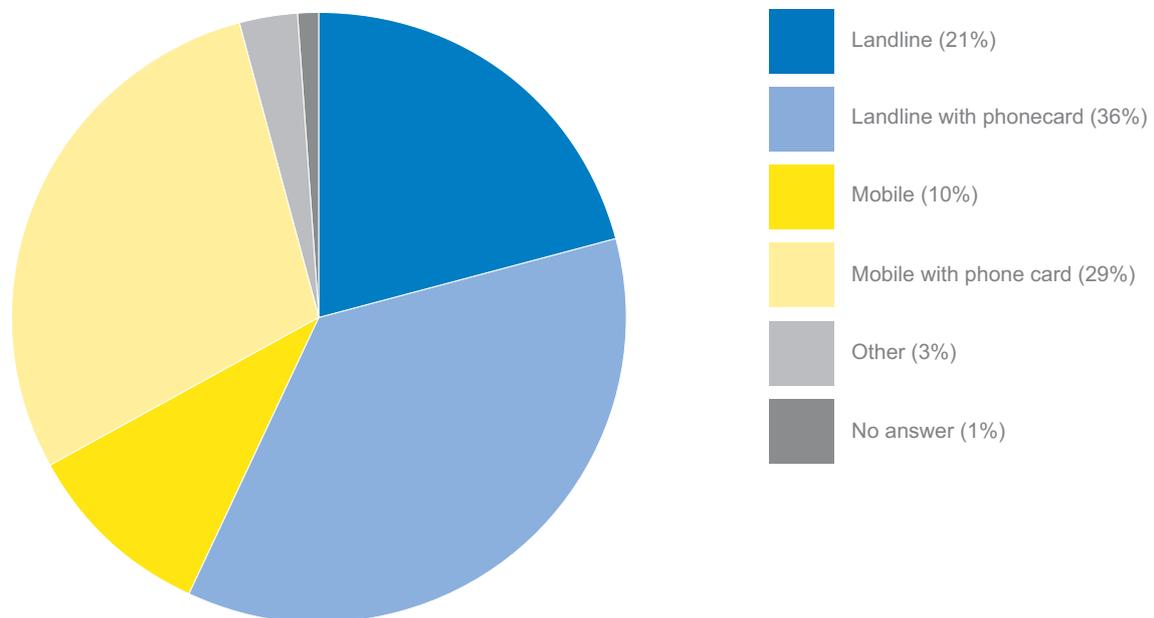
**Figure 7: Transport**



Most of the respondents live in London and their daily means of transport are predominantly buses or the Underground. Mainline trains were mostly used by Ukrainians living in Manchester and Bradford. "Other" generally meant that respondents used their own cars or perhaps relied on worker transport services. Irregular migrants who, for example, work in the agricultural sector, in removals or on building sites, are sometimes picked up by lorry or van and taken to a location and returned after the working day.

## Phone Calls

**Figure 8: Phoning Abroad**



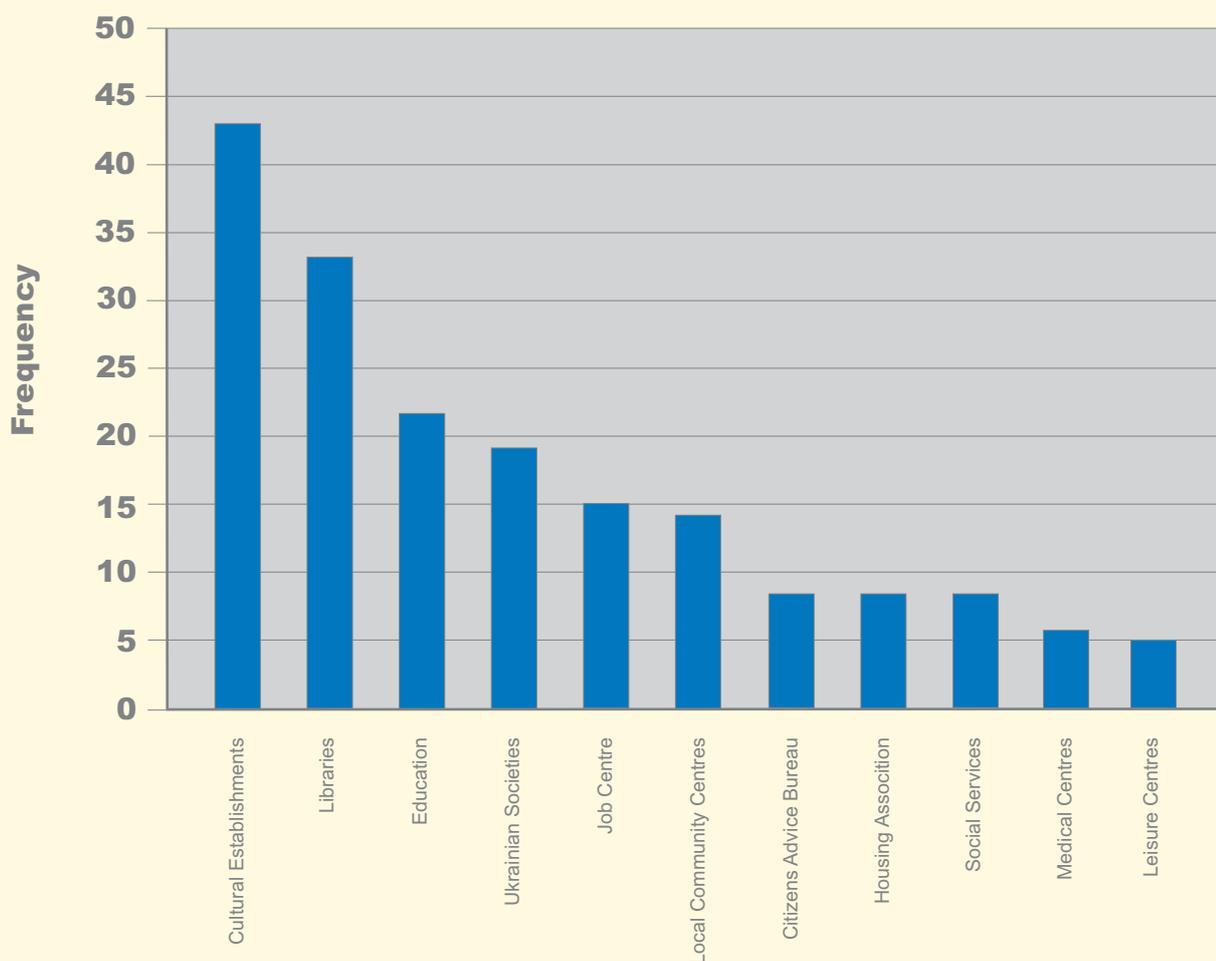
The survey clearly indicates that most people use phone cards to minimise their costs. There are several specialised calling cards, for example *IDT Eastern Europe*, *Eastern Tel* or *Tele-Tsar*, with preferential rates on calls to Eastern Europe and with the Russian language as a menu option. They are sold in most convenience stores, kiosks and markets.

## Local Services

Figure 9 shows which local services are commonly used by the respondents. Many of them chose to tick several options.

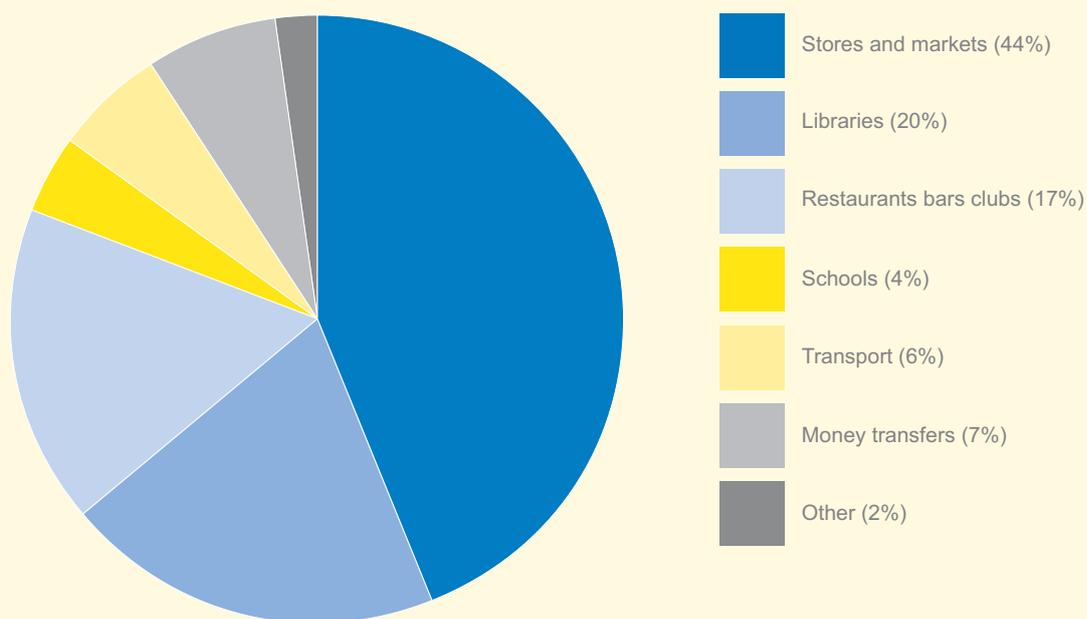
The outcome highlights the fact that a high percentage of Ukrainians in the UK enjoy cultural activities and frequently use libraries. The latter are more appealing to older respondents. Much of the communal activity has to do with arts or entertainment. Many Ukrainian associations revolve around cultural events or undertakings.

**Figure 9: Use of Services**



Admittedly, the follow-up question about where the participants think information should be posted for easier access did not produce an interesting outcome (figure 9). Almost all the respondents chose most of the options on offer and commented that all the options were valid and also somewhat obvious. However, even in this context, cultural establishments and libraries were most popular.

**Figure 10: Preferred Sources of Information**



## Conclusions

Buses and London Underground are the most common means of transport, which makes them an obvious choice for advertisements. On the other hand, Ukrainians do not concentrate in a defined area in large numbers and make it to their “own”. They tend to live in areas where there are many ethnic groups so it could be more productive to advertise in a number of languages, Ukrainian among them, to maximize impact.

Phone cards are a popular method of communication. There are several cards marketed by different companies that are designed for making calls to Eastern Europe, with distinct East European and Ukrainian symbols and images on them. In recent years these phone cards have also introduced different ways of incorporating advertising. IOM should approach the producers and distributors of such cards and advertise either on them or using promotions as part of the calling arrangements.

Libraries and shops selling books, music and DVDs from Ukraine and CIS countries are immensely popular with members of the Ukrainian diaspora. Grocery stores, selling Ukrainian and Eastern European foods, are increasing rapidly. IOM should consider advertising in these places where it could achieve daily exposure for its programmes.

## 2.4 COMMUNITY GROUPS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The results of the survey suggest that many Ukrainians consult Russian-language media, visit Eastern European food stores and participate in events organised by Russian societies. Nevertheless, there are a few associations in the UK that are distinctly Ukrainian and they are often keen to emphasise this fact. They are usually based around a clear concept of Ukrainian national identity, as opposed to the “Soviet” or post-Soviet transnational one. Not surprisingly, the main focus of their activity highlights unique Ukrainian culture and history. They might appear slightly more politicised. Despite soaring levels of immigration into the UK in recent years, there are still very few of these associations. Their formation appears to be rather loose: they are often not known among Ukrainians and they do not have an extensive membership base. Some Ukrainians are affiliated to these organisations and participate in their activities but far fewer subscribe to full membership or become actively involved in them.

This was definitely confirmed by working with the questionnaires and during in-depth interviews with the community leaders and general public. Unlike many other ethnic groups, Ukrainians have so far been reluctant to organise themselves into different societies and rely on individual contacts and smaller, more informal, networks. People seem to build mini-communities of friends, acquaintances and colleagues but refrain from getting involved more seriously with larger associations. 38 respondents said that they rely on friends and colleagues, or simply on people they know, if help or consultation is needed. Respondents do not assume that these people must be Ukrainian but there is often a common denominator like language or customs. These contacts are thus more likely to be from the old Soviet Union or Eastern European countries.

Nevertheless, it is worth noticing that there is a rapidly increasing number of advice centres, legal practices and charities that assist people from Ukraine and the CIS, or even specialise in working with them. Forums and establishments, such as bookshops and video stores, restaurants, social clubs, schools, nurseries, music schools and cultural associations are also constantly increasing.

A comprehensive listing of community organisations, institutions and enterprises has been compiled in the list of contacts, together with recommendations on what action could be taken. The list of contacts is confidential and for IOM use only. A brief reference to some of the most significant contacts is below.

**Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain:** social networking and organisation of cultural events. It publishes the weekly newspaper, *Ukrainian Thought*. There is a whole range of related Ukrainian organisations located in the same area of west London, such as the Ukrainian Brotherhood, Organisation of Ukrainian Veterans, Ukrainian Women in Britain, Ukrainian Catholic University, Ukrainian Book Society, Ukrainian School and Nursery, etc.

**British Ukrainian Society:** an NGO which organises cultural events, seminars and forums in Ukraine and Britain.

**Ukrainian Youth Association in Great Britain (CYM):** organises and promotes cultural and social events for young Ukrainians.

**Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and Ukrainian Orthodox Church:** important meeting point for many Ukrainians in Britain.

**Ukrainian Social Club and Cultural Centre (Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain – Manchester branch):** centre of Ukrainian life in that city.

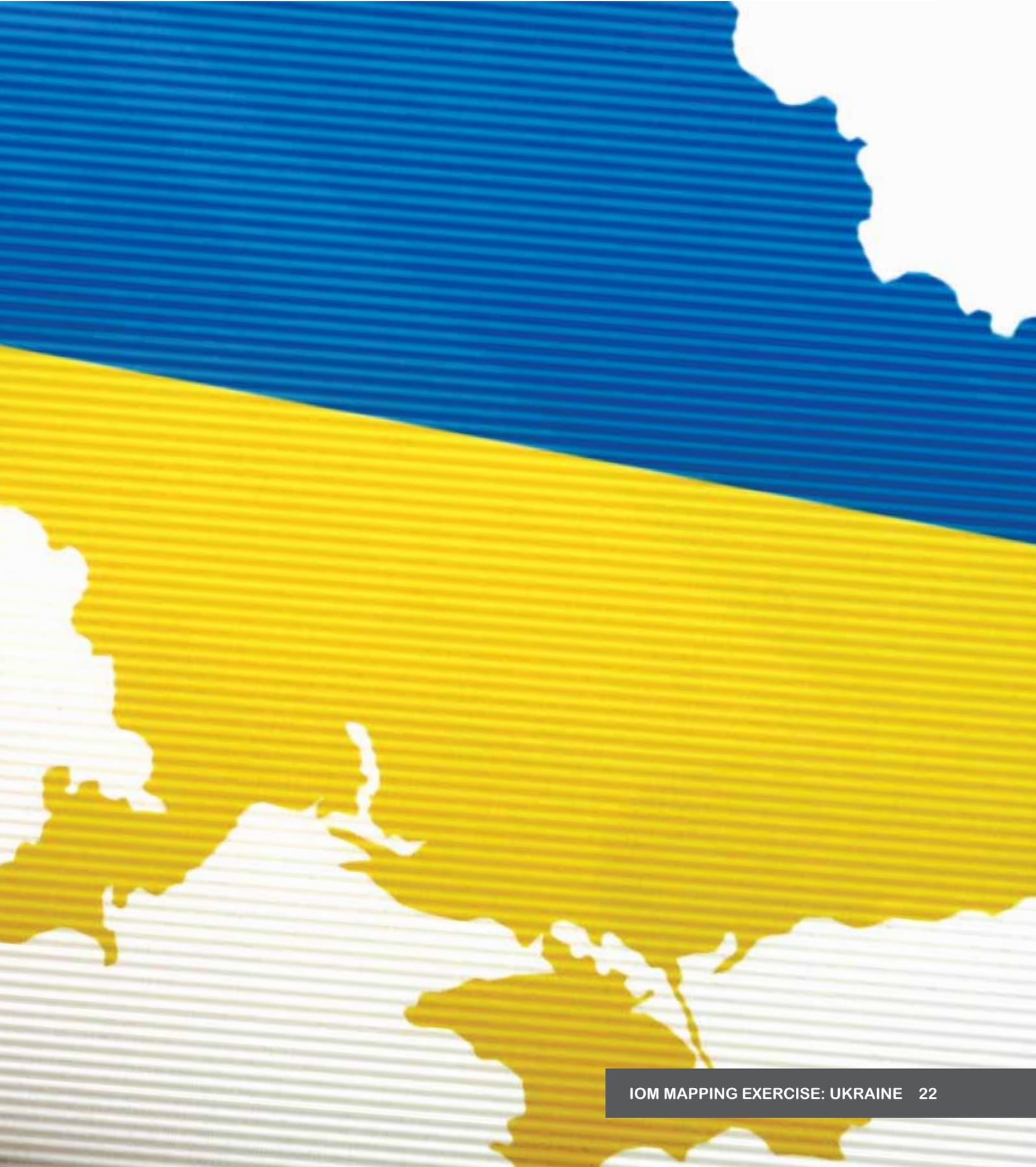
**Russian Immigrants Association** provides help over asylum matters and with integration for those from former USSR who were granted leave to stay in the country.

**Russian Refugees Aid Society:** assistance and support for asylum-seekers, refugees and irregular migrants from former Soviet countries.

**Russian Annual Festival in London:** usually takes place in Trafalgar Square at the beginning of January. It is supported by the City of London and several prominent political and corporate figures and it attracts vast numbers of Ukrainians, people from the former USSR and other Londoners. It is by far the biggest and the most important such social event during the year.

## Conclusions

There are still not that many community organisations or centres for Ukrainian people; those that do exist tend to be event-based. Despite their irregular occurrence, they attract a large number of visitors and tend to be a focal point of contact for many. These events present a real opportunity for establishing communication networks and promoting ideas.



# 3 MAPPING EXERCISE OUTCOMES

## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The second section of the questionnaire was designed to gather baseline data from the respondents, namely their age, gender, and their length of stay in the UK. Its aim was to establish sociological parameters and to visualise a typical member of the Ukrainian community. Although the information here is more personal, the mapping consultant made every effort to reassure the respondents of their anonymity.

### 3.1 GENDER

32 respondents were women and 22 were men. The mapping exercise managed to achieve a good balance between genders, although male interviewees were generally more reluctant to take the time to answer the questions fully.

### 3.2 AGE

Figure 11 largely confirms both the empirical impression of dealing with the Ukrainian community and some well-known facts. Although it does not claim to be an exhaustive sociological survey, it reaffirms the fact that a considerable proportion of the Ukrainian community is young. The following table also confirms the fact that most of the community has not been in the UK for a long time and that they are rather new to this country.

**Figure 11: Age**

AGE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Under 18	0
18-24	11
25-34	19
35-44	16
45-54	4
55-64	3
65 and over	1
TOTAL	54

### 3.3 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

**Figure 12: Length of residence in the UK**

LENGTH OF TIME	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Less than 12 months	3
1 year but less than 3	21
3 years but less than 5	19
5 years but less than 10	8
10 years or more	3
TOTAL	54



## 4 CONSTRAINTS

The Ukrainian mapping exercise did not encounter any considerable difficulties and experienced almost no obstacles from either individuals or representatives of any organisation. On a few occasions, respondents asked why a Ukrainian mapping exercise was being conducted by a Russian but the issue did not impede or affect the exercise adversely.

The vast majority of respondents were positive about the exercise and very obliging. Although many people chose to speak Ukrainian, mutual understanding was satisfactory. As in many similar surveys, it was also common in this one for people to be slightly cautious and reluctant; a few declined to participate in it. Lack of time or interest was to blame in most situations. Cases of open suspicion and mistrust were rather rare.

It needs to be stressed, though, that in order to ensure a smooth progression of the questionnaire work, the consultant chose to interview people and fill in their answers himself, rather than leave it with them. This method also helped to ensure that most of the questions were actually answered. The responses were also more precise because one could go back and explore a particular subject further. It also helped significantly in the discovery of societies and organisations in general. There is no doubt, however, that the degree of willingness to participate in the survey was higher among the respondents whose personal situation in this country was settled and secure. Another factor was that people in London tended to be busier and more sceptical than people in smaller places.

There were complaints that the questionnaire was rather long and some questions repetitive. This applied mainly to the media section. Some respondents thought that many of the answers to the questions were self-evident as everyone goes to the bank and post-office every now and then and almost everyone in London uses different modes of transportation. IOM should look into how this criticism can be addressed.

Finally, it needs to be stressed that the number of Ukrainian organisations in the UK is growing and many of them have therefore just been established. This may have affected how much people know about them, or whether they are known at all. A number of British-Ukrainian student societies or associations, created for learning Ukrainian and about the country's culture, were visited. It soon became apparent that the British often have a better knowledge of Ukrainian organisations than Ukrainians themselves, as they often look for them pro-actively, hoping to meet some Ukrainians. This situation is changing and even native Ukrainians are becoming more aware of their associations.

# 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## Characteristics of the Ukrainian Diaspora

The mapping exercise clearly showed that, in common with other communities from former Soviet countries, the Ukrainian community in the UK can hardly be labelled a traditional “diaspora”. Although the number of Ukrainians in the UK is increasing, it appears there are few groups, societies and organised social networks.

According to most of the participants in the mapping exercise, they are either completely oblivious of the existence of such associations, or have a very limited interest in engaging in such activity. Most of them do so very occasionally, almost always in connection with a major celebration or social event. Most of the respondents certainly did not perceive such institutions as places where they can get advice or assistance. It appears that Ukrainians tend to build small networks of relatives, friends and acquaintances, which would typically include different nationalities.

Ukrainians seem to be less organised as a community than some because they prefer to participate in cross-national networks with other migrants from the former Soviet Union. These were extensively covered in the mapping report on the Russian diaspora in Britain. “Russian” in this case is often merely a label as these networks welcome anyone from Russia and the CIS. Only a small fraction of Ukrainians reject such societies because they are not distinctly Ukrainian and they prefer not to speak Russian.

Despite this, Ukrainians do engage in communal activity occasionally. Many of them tend to participate in big cultural and social events. One aspect which is very characteristic of Ukrainians and other migrants from the old Soviet countries is that their links to the home country are to a very large extent based on culture and the arts. The mapping exercise established that libraries and book and video stores are extremely popular and that most of the associations and societies are either formed on the basis of some cultural activity, or at least organise many events of that kind. Expressions of cultural identity were stressed by many respondents as something that people of this group have in common. Films, books, concerts, exhibitions, the role of the Orthodox Church and festivals, such as Easter and Christmas, were all mentioned repeatedly in the course of the survey.

Many of the people that participated in the mapping exercise are economic migrants or family reunification migrants and it was apparent that many of them were willing and, in many cases, even planning to return to Ukraine. Earning enough money during their stay in Britain was their main goal, followed by family and personal considerations. In addition, many named a further improvement of the economic and social situation in the home country as a precondition for return.

## Recommendations of the Mapping Exercise

The following recommendations have emerged from the implementation of the exercise.

- IOM should initialise contacts with the Ukrainian newspaper currently produced in the UK (*Ukrainska Dumka, Ukrainian British Newspaper*) with a view to advertising in their paper and in online editions.
- IOM should approach existing Ukrainian web-based forums, such as *www.ukrainianlondon.com*, *www.brama.com*, *www.ukrainians.mysite.orange.co.uk*, and *www.infoukes.com*, and discuss placing advertisements there, especially in the e-newsletter that they send out to their subscribers.
- IOM should approach existing Ukrainian societies and organisations, such as the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain and the British Ukrainian Society and discuss the possibility of participating in their events, whether by having a stand or through outreach staff giving presentations.
- IOM should advertise in Russian-language media, societies and establishments, specifically those aiming at CIS nationals other than Russians. This is due to the fact that a wider group than actual Russian nationals consult these media. The Russian mapping exercise report lists all the relevant contacts in this field.
- IOM should contact commercial establishments, such as shops, restaurants and bars, for example *Dacha* and *Karpati*, and discuss putting up posters there and leaving flyers and leaflets.
- IOM should liaise with the main multipliers identified in the list of contacts with a view to co-operating with existing societies and associations for further promotion of IOM ideas and activities.
- Carrying out the mapping exercise has raised awareness about IOM and its voluntary return programmes among community leaders and members of general public. To take advantage of this, these recommendations should be taken into consideration and implemented in the immediate future.

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