



# Interests and Civic Engagement of the Ukrainian Youth

Survey Report

2025 - 2026

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This study was conducted as part of the project “Strengthening Youth Power and Capacity at the Local Self-Government Level in Ukraine,” implemented by the National Ukrainian Youth Association (NUMO) with financial support from terre des hommes.

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# General Information about the Study

**Object of the study:** Ukrainian youth aged 18–26.

**Achieved sample size:** 2020 respondents.

**Fieldwork period:** Data were collected from December 5, 2025, to January 20, 2026.

**Geography:** The study covered 12 regions of Ukraine: Vinnytsia, Poltava, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Rivne, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Odesa, and Kyiv oblasts, as well as the city of Kyiv separately. These regions represent various Ukrainian macro-regions: Centre, North, South, West, East, and the city of Kyiv.

**Methodology:** A quantitative standardized survey conducted among Ukrainian residents aged 18–26 via face-to-face (F2F) personal interviews using tablets.

**Sampling design:** According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the general population of Ukrainian youth aged 18–26 as of January 1, 2022, stood at 3,148,627 permanent residents, excluding the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, as well as Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts<sup>1</sup>. These data served as the basis for sample construction. The sample size comprised 2,000 people.

The sample was proportionally stratified by two criteria: macro-region (Centre, North, East, West, South, and the city of Kyiv) and type of settlement (urban or rural) within each macro-region. A stochastic selection of settlements (clusters) was carried out from the list of all settlements in each stratum, considering cluster size (number of residents), using Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) sampling.

Gender and age quotas were calculated for women and men within the age groups 18–20, 21–23, and 24–26 years to select respondents by place of residence. The overall quotas were divided into 246 separate assignments, each comprising 8 to 9 respondents.

Thus, the sample employed a two-stage combined design: probabilistic sampling at the settlement selection stage and quota sampling during respondent selection within households.

Overall, the sample represents the population of Ukraine between the ages of 18 and 26. The margin of error at 95% confidence level does not exceed 2.2% for univariate distributions of all respondents<sup>2</sup>.

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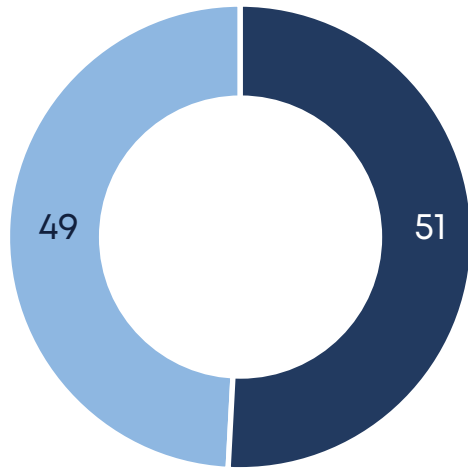
1 <https://stat.gov.ua/uk/publications/rozpodil-postiynoho-naselennya-ukrayiny-za-stattyu-ta-vikom-na-1-sichnya-2022-roku>

2 This theoretical margin of error does not account for the sample design effect.

## Section 1. Socio-Demographic Profile of Respondents

Among survey participants, 49% were men and 51% were women [Figure 1.1]. The age distribution of respondents was as follows: 37% were aged 24–26, 32% were aged 21–23, and 31% were aged 18–20 [Figure 1.2].

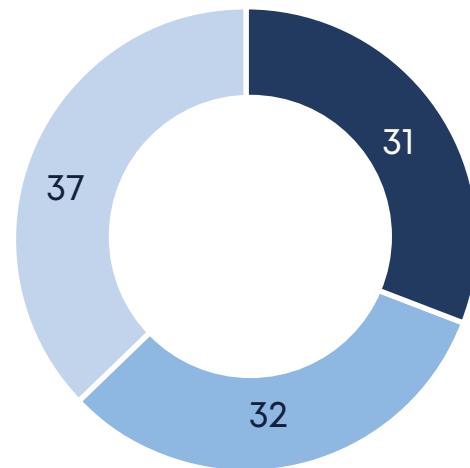
Figure 1.1. Distribution of respondents by gender (%)



● Men

● Women

Figure 1.2. Distribution of respondents by age (%)



● 18-20

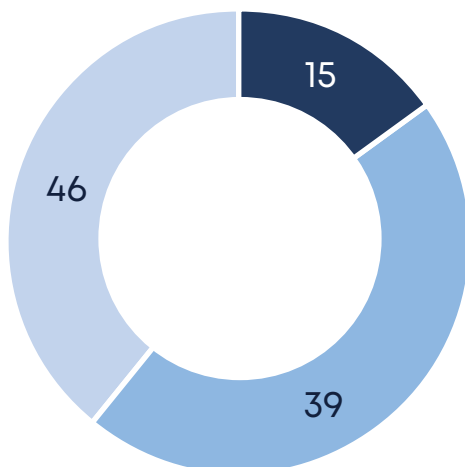
● 21-23

● 24-26

Almost half (46%) of the surveyed youth possess incomplete higher education or a higher education (academic degree). An additional 39% have vocational education [Figure 1.3]. Respondents from the city of Kyiv, East and North exhibit the highest levels of education [Figure 1.4].

Figure 1.3. Respondents' level of education (%)

Q: "What is your level of education?"



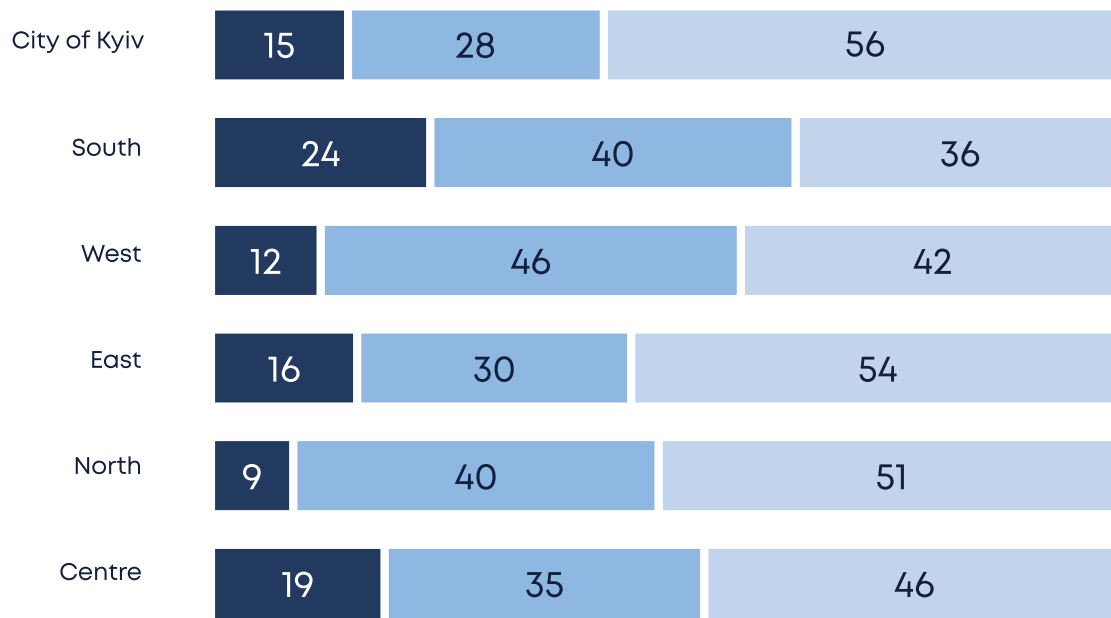
● Primary, incomplete secondary, secondary education

● Vocational education

● Incomplete higher, higher education, academic degree

Figure 1.4. **Respondents' level of education by region (%)**

Q: "What is your level of education?"

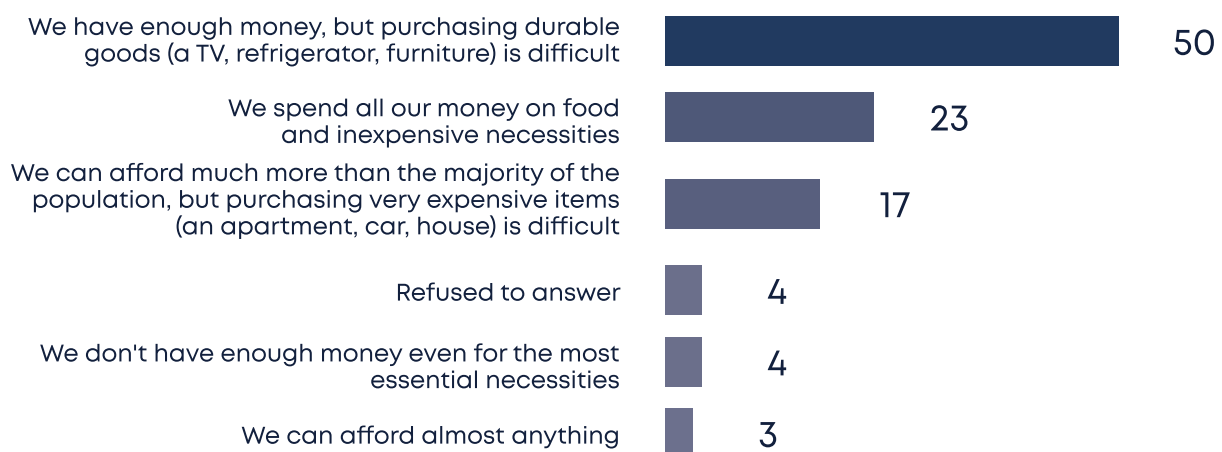


- Primary, incomplete secondary, secondary education
- Vocational education
- Incomplete higher, higher education, academic degree

Most respondents assessed their financial situation as moderate but constrained in terms of financial security. The largest share of respondents (50%) reported generally having sufficient funds, although purchasing durable goods, such as household appliances and furniture, remains difficult. An additional 23% of respondents indicated that all their funds are spent on food and essential inexpensive items, precluding larger purchases [Figure 1.5].

Figure 1.5. **Respondents' financial situation (%)**

Q: "How would you assess your financial situation?"



Most respondents (64%) indicated that they do not belong to any of the specified vulnerable groups [Figure 1.6]. However, 11% reported that they come from military families, with the highest proportion among these respondents being from the North (15%). An additional 8% of those surveyed are internally displaced persons (IDPs), with the highest proportions in the East (15%) and South (11%) [Table 1.1].

Figure 1.6. **Respondents' belonging to different vulnerable groups (multiple responses, %)**

Q: "Do you belong to any of the following vulnerable groups?"

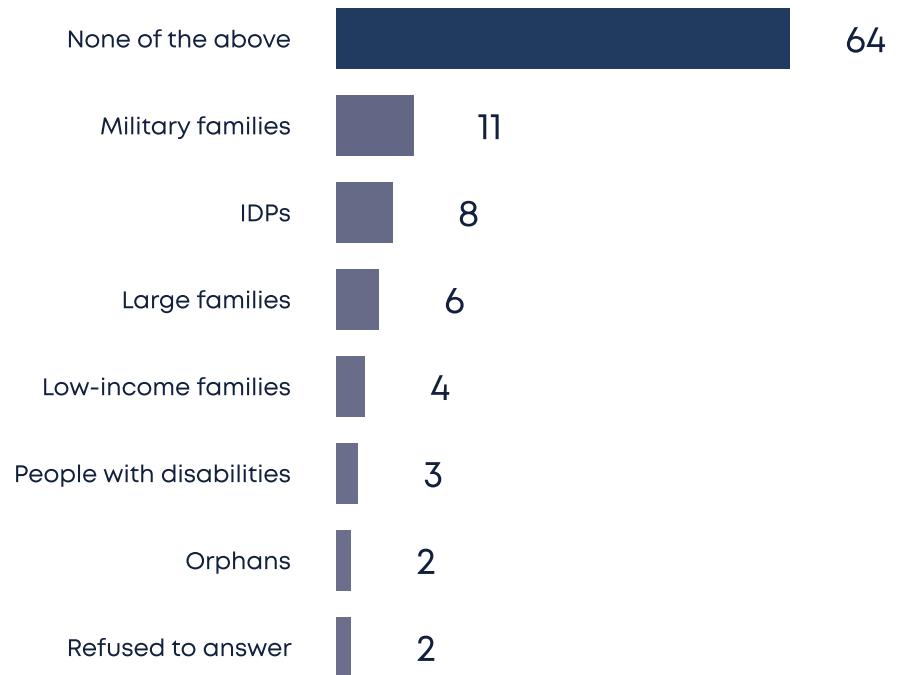


Table 1.1. Respondents' belonging to different vulnerable groups by region (multiple responses, %)

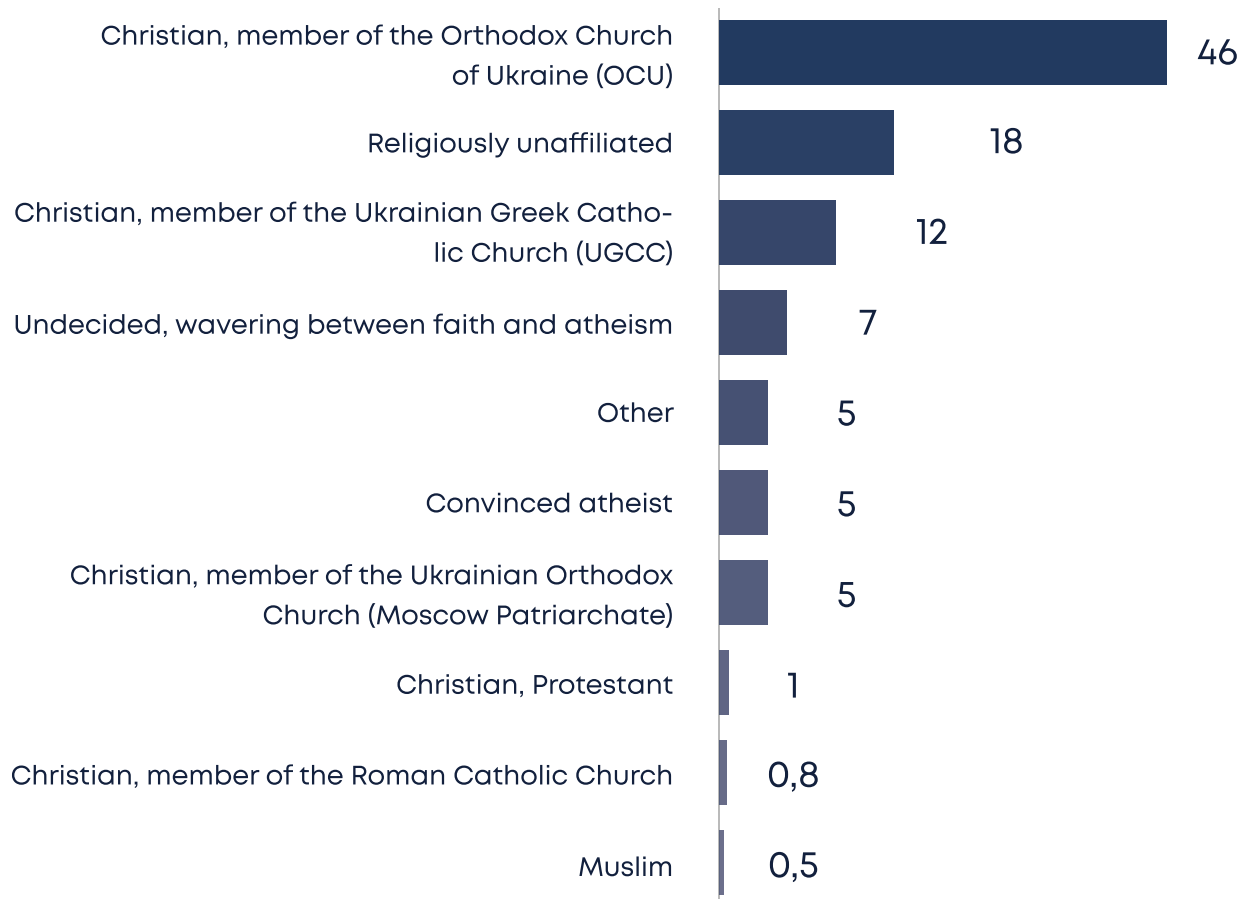
Q: "Do you belong to any of the following vulnerable groups?"

	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
People with disabilities	5	2	2	4	3	1
IDPs	7	6	15	5	11	8
Orphans	3	2	1	1	3	-
Low-income families	6	3	4	3	7	3
Military families	12	15	12	8	8	12
Large families	8	4	6	8	6	4
None of the above	59	63	60	71	60	69
Refused to answer	2	5	2	1	2	-

Regarding religious beliefs, nearly half of respondents (46%) identify as believers of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, while 18% indicated that they are religiously unaffiliated [Figure 1.7].

Figure 1.7. **Respondents' religious identity (regardless of church attendance) (%)**

Q: "Regardless of whether you attend church or not, what is your religious identity?"



## Section 2. Youth Leisure

On average, surveyed youth reported having 4.7 hours of free time per day.

Survey results indicate that young people most often allocate their free time among three main activity types: spending time alone, with friends, and with other people—such as family, significant others, or teachers. Most respondents spend a moderate amount of time on all three activity types, ranging from 20% to 39% of their total free time (alone – 45% of respondents; with friends – 46%; with other people – 37%).

In contrast, most young people dedicate minimal time to socially beneficial activities. Only a small share of respondents (3%) indicate that they devote a significant amount of time to such pursuits (60% and more). Overall, these data indicate that youth leisure is primarily focused on interpersonal communication and private activities, with civic engagement playing a secondary role [Table 2.1].

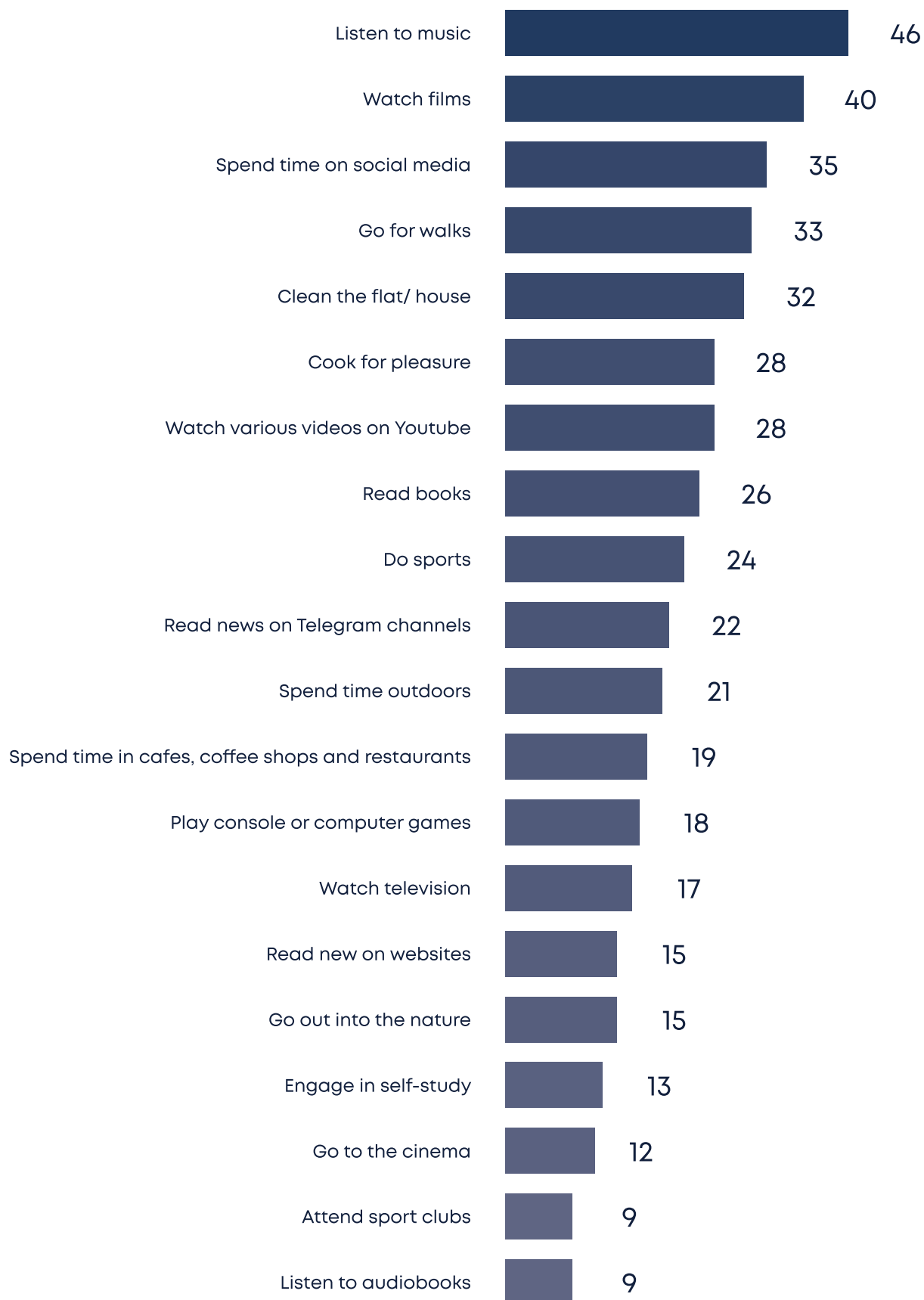
Table 2.1. **Distribution of respondents' free time (%)**

Q: “How much time do you spend...?”

% of free time	Alone	With friends	In the community for social benefit	With other people (family, significant other, teachers, etc.)
Less than 20 %	29	35	66	24
20-39 %	45	46	27	37
40-59 %	16	14	5	23
60-79 %	6	3	2	8
80 % and more	4	3	1	8

Overall, individual leisure activities of youth are dominated by relaxation and media consumption: nearly half (46%) listen to music, two out of five (40%) watch films, and over one-third (35%) spend time on social media. However, free time spent alone is not limited to passive recreation; a significant proportion of young people engage in everyday, moderately active pursuits, such as going for walks (33%), cleaning their house or flat (32%), cooking for pleasure (28%), and doing sports (24%). Activities related to learning, self-development, and civic engagement are less common: 26% of respondents read books, 13% engage in self-study, 7% take online courses, and approximately 3% volunteer and participate in civic activities [Figure 2.1].

Figure 2.1. **How respondents usually spend their free time alone (multiple responses, %)**  
 Q: "How do you usually spend your free time alone?"





Younger respondents are more likely to engage in games, sports, and online activities, whereas those aged 24–26 show a relative increase in interest in reading news and watching television. Active forms of leisure, such as going for walks, doing sports, and spending time outdoors, remain widespread, although their frequency declines somewhat with age. Cultural and educational activities—including theatre, cinema, libraries, and online courses—show consistently low figures across all age groups, as does volunteering [Table 2.2].

Table 2.2. **How respondents usually spend their free time alone (multiple responses, % by age)**

Q: “How do you usually spend your free time alone?”

	Age		
	18-20	21-23	24-26
Watch films	41	38	38
Spend time in cafés, coffee shops, and restaurants	22	20	17
Go out into nature	16	16	17
Spend time outdoors	24	20	19
Engage in remote volunteering	3	4	2
Prepare to resist the occupiers	3	2	2
Go for walks	34	34	30
Do sports	29	20	22
Read books	27	25	26
Play console or computer games	23	18	14
Take educational online courses/trainings	6	8	7
Visit webcam sites or OnlyFans	1	1	1
Listen to audiobooks	9	8	9
Watch various videos on YouTube	31	25	27
Engage in self-study	16	12	12
Clean the flat/house	35	32	31

	Age		
	18-20	21-23	24-26
Spend time on social media	40	35	29
Listen to music	53	46	40
Watch television	16	15	19
Read news on Telegram channels	22	21	23
Read news on websites	12	13	18
Cook for pleasure	28	25	29
Go to the theatre	4	3	4
Go to the cinema	4	2	2
Visit the library	4	2	2
Attend concerts and festivals	6	7	4
Attend competitions and sports events	8	5	5
Visit exhibitions	3	3	4
Attend sports clubs	12	9	8
Travel around Ukraine	6	7	6
Travel abroad and plan future trips	2	4	3
Do not spend free time alone	2	2	4

Gender differences regarding how people spend their free time alone are pronounced and reflect distinct leisure patterns. Men more frequently engage in game-based and physical activities, particularly playing computer games, doing sports, and attending sports events. Women, in contrast, are more inclined toward domestic, cultural, and educational activities, such as cooking for pleasure, cleaning at home, reading, going for walks, and taking online courses. Women also attend cultural events and travel more frequently. Media consumption—including watching films and videos, listening to music, and reading news—is generally similar between men and women [Table 2.3].

Table 2.3. **How respondents usually spend their free time alone (multiple responses, % by gender)**

Q: “How do you usually spend your free time alone?”

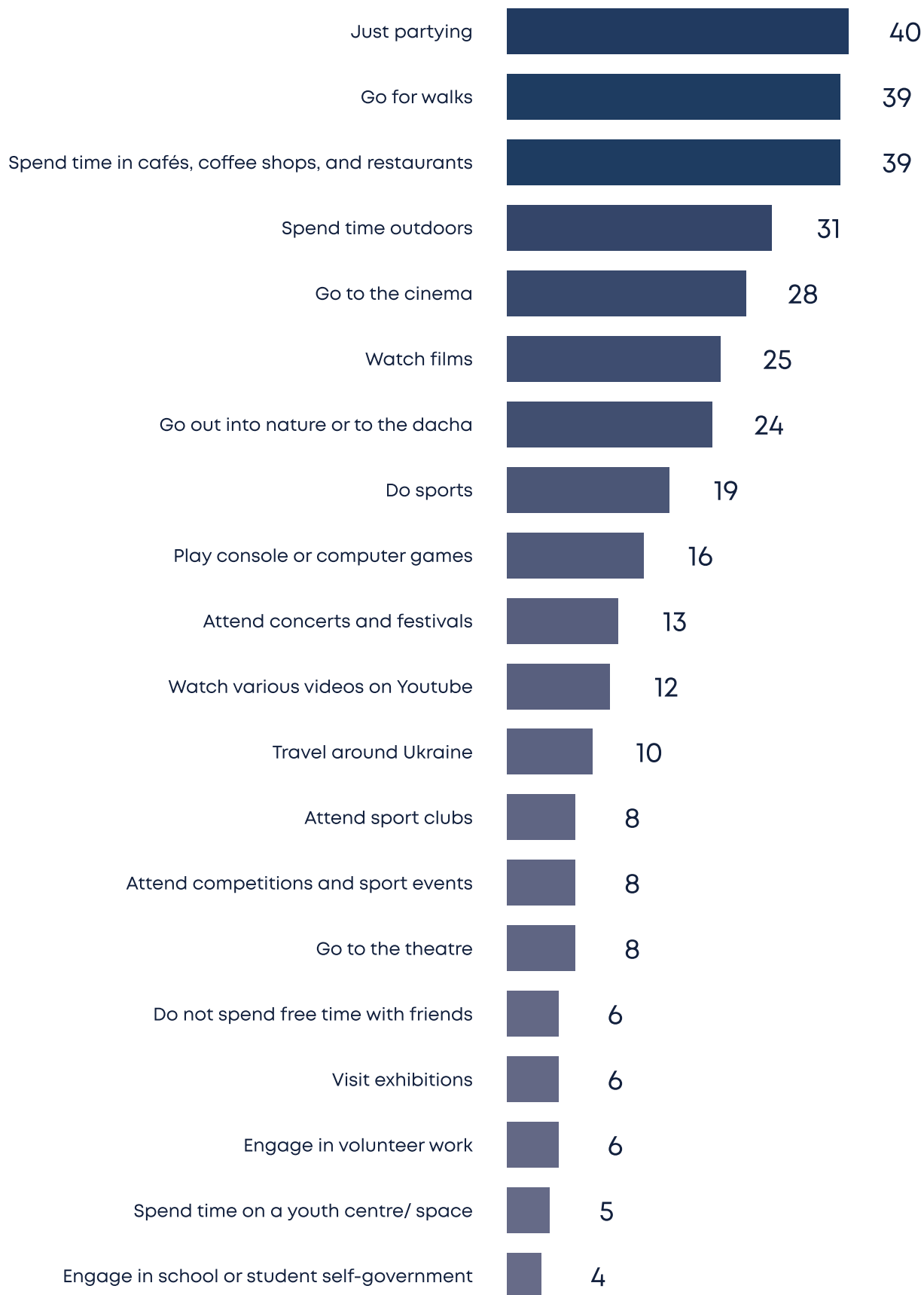
	Age	
	Men	Women
Watch films	39	41
Spend time in cafés, coffee shops, and restaurants	16	23
Go out into nature	14	16
Spend time outdoors	21	20
Engage in remote volunteering	2	4
Prepare to resist the occupiers	4	2
Go for walks	28	37
Do sports	29	19
Read books	18	34
Play console or computer games	26	10
Take educational online courses/trainings	5	9
Visit webcam sites or OnlyFans	1	1
Listen to audiobooks	8	10
Watch various videos on YouTube	27	28
Engage in self-study	14	13
Clean the flat/house	22	43
Spend time on social media	32	27
Listen to music	46	45

	Age	
	Men	Women
Watch television	15	18
Read news on Telegram channels	23	22
Read news on websites	15	15
Cook for pleasure	17	38
Go to the theatre	3	5
Go to the cinema	11	13
Visit the library	2	4
Attend concerts and festivals	4	8
Attend competitions and sports events	8	4
Visit exhibitions	2	5
Attend sports clubs	10	8
Travel around Ukraine	5	8
Travel abroad and plan future trips	2	5
Do not spend free time alone	4	2

Youth leisure activities involving friends are predominantly entertainment-oriented: most respondents hang out together doing nothing in particular (40%), go for walks (39%), or visit cafés and other food establishments (39%). Active or cultural pursuits, such as spending time outdoors (31%), attending the cinema (28%), watching films together (25%), and going out into nature (24%), are somewhat less common. A smaller proportion of young people engage in doing sports (19%), playing video games (16%), or attending concerts (13%). Educational and civic activities involving friends, such as participation in clubs, debate groups, or civic organizations' activities and visiting libraries, remain similarly unpopular (1–4%) [Figure 2.3]

Figure 2.2. **How respondents usually spend their free time with friends (multiple responses, %)**

Q: “How do you usually spend your free time with friends?”





Men more frequently engage in spontaneous socializing without any specific activities, doing sports, playing video games, and attending sports events. Conversely, women show a stronger preference towards cultural activities for shared leisure, including meeting in food establishments, attending the cinema, concerts, exhibitions, or theatre, as well as travelling and going for walks [Table 2.4].

#### How respondents usually spend their free time for social benefit (multiple responses, %)

Q: “How do you usually spend your free time for social benefit?”

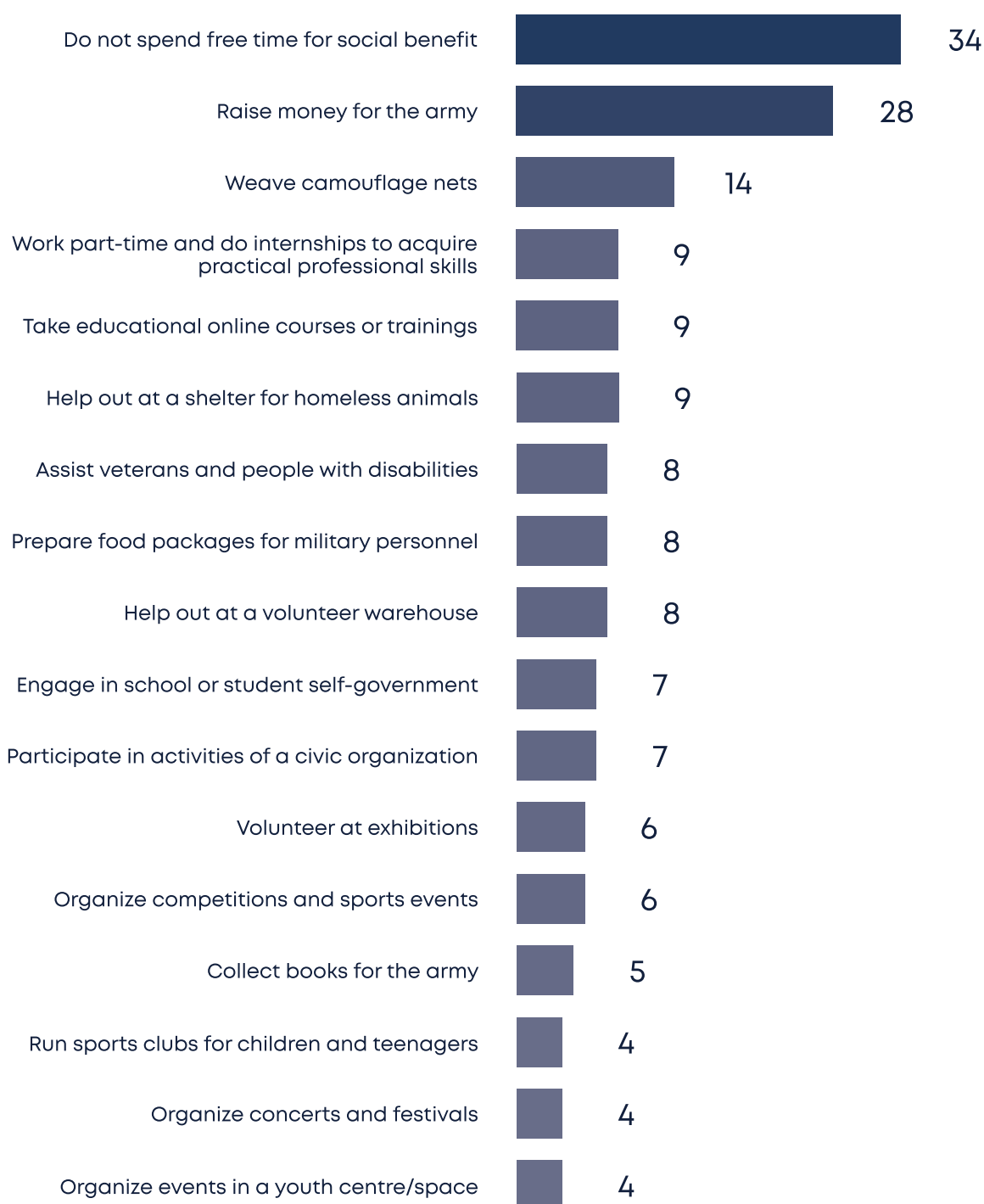
	Gender	
	Men	Women
Watch films	22	29
Spend time in cafés, coffee shops, and restaurants	32	46
Go out into nature or to the dacha	21	27
Spend time outdoors	31	31
Engage in volunteer work	5	7
Prepare to resist the occupiers	3	2
Go for walks	35	44

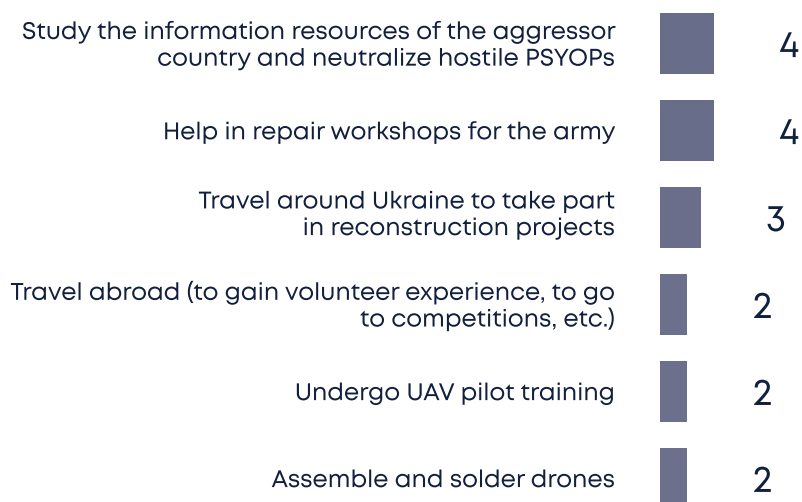
	Gender	
	Men	Women
Do sports	27	12
Play console or computer games	22	9
Watch various videos on YouTube	12	12
Attend school clubs	2	3
Attend clubs at extracurricular institutions	1	2
Participate in debate groups or other clubs	2	2
Just hang out	44	36
Spend time in a youth centre/space	3	6
Participate in activities of a civic organization	4	3
Engage in school or student self-government	3	4
Go to the theatre	4	11
Go to the cinema	22	33
Visit the library	2	3
Attend concerts and festivals	8	18
Attend competitions and sports events	9	6
Visit exhibitions	4	8
Attend sports clubs	11	5
Travel around Ukraine	7	13
Travel abroad and plan future trips	2	6
Do not spend free time with friends	7	5

More than one-third of respondents reported not spending their free time on activities that benefit society. Among those who do engage in such activities, the most common practices are supporting the army and lending assistance in wartime, specifically raising money (28%) and weaving camouflage nets (14%). Other forms of civic engagement are considerably less common: educational courses, internships, and assistance to animals or vulnerable groups of people account for approximately 8–9%. Participation in self-government and civic organizations amounts to about 7%, while travel for volunteering purposes comprises 2–3% [Figure 2.3].

Figure 2.3. **How respondents usually spend their free time for social benefit (multiple responses, %)**

Q: “How do you usually spend your free time for social benefit?”





Women participate in socially beneficial activities more frequently than men. Women are more involved in volunteering and charitable work, including supporting the army, helping people and animals, and participating in cultural and social initiatives. Men tend to engage in more specialized activities related to technical tasks or organizing sports events [Table 2.5].

Table 2.5. **How respondents usually spend their free time for social benefit (multiple responses, % by gender)**

Q: “How do you usually spend your free time for social benefit?”

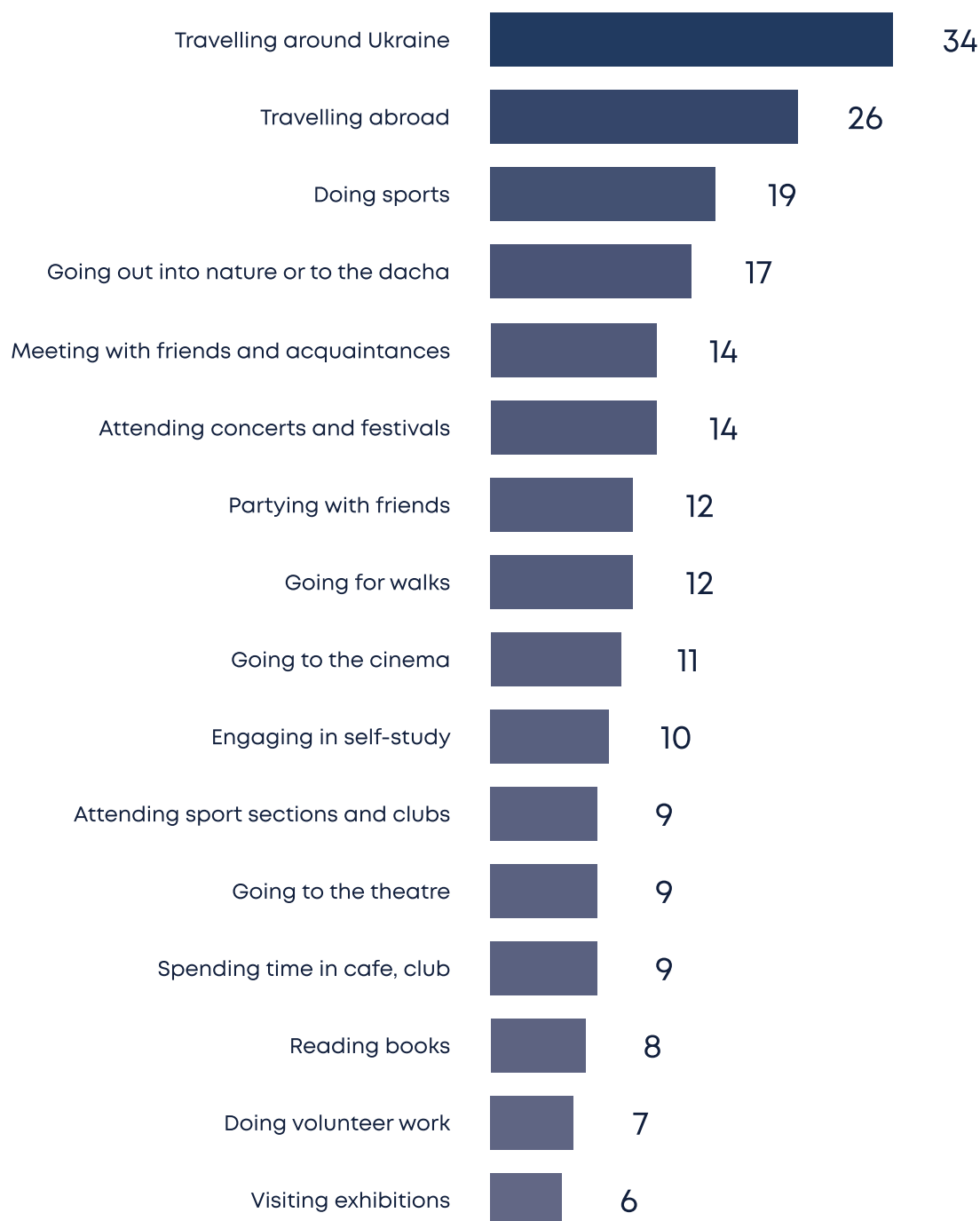
	Gender	
	Men	Women
Raise money for the army	23	34
Assemble and solder drones	3	1
Weave camouflage nets	9	19
Help out at a volunteer warehouse	6	9
Help in repair workshops for the army	5	2
Study the information resources of the aggressor country and neutralize hostile PSYOPs	4	4
Prepare food packages for military personnel	4	13
Assist veterans and people with disabilities	8	9
Collect books for the army	4	7

	Gender	
	Men	Women
Undergo UAV pilot training	3	1
Help out at a shelter for homeless animals	5	14
Take educational online courses or trainings	7	10
Organize events in a youth centre/space	4	4
Work part-time and do internships to acquire practical professional skills	9	9
Organize concerts and festivals	3	5
Organize competitions and sports events	8	4
Participate in activities of a civic organization	8	6
Volunteer at exhibitions	4	8
Run sports clubs for children and teenagers	4	4
Travel around Ukraine to take part in reconstruction projects	3	4
Travel abroad (to gain volunteer experience, to go to competitions, etc.)	1	2
Engage in school or student self-government	5	8
Do not spend free time for social benefit	38	30

Among the types of activities respondents would like to engage in but currently lack opportunities or resources for, they more often included the following: travelling within Ukraine (34%) and abroad (26%). Respondents also expressed a desire to participate in sports (19%) and to spend time in nature or at a dacha (17%) [Figure 2.4].

Figure 2.4. **Leisure activities that respondents would like to engage in more often but are unable to due to a lack of opportunities or resources (multiple responses, %)**

Q: “From this list, select the leisure activities that you would like to engage in more often but are unable to due to a lack of opportunities or resources.”



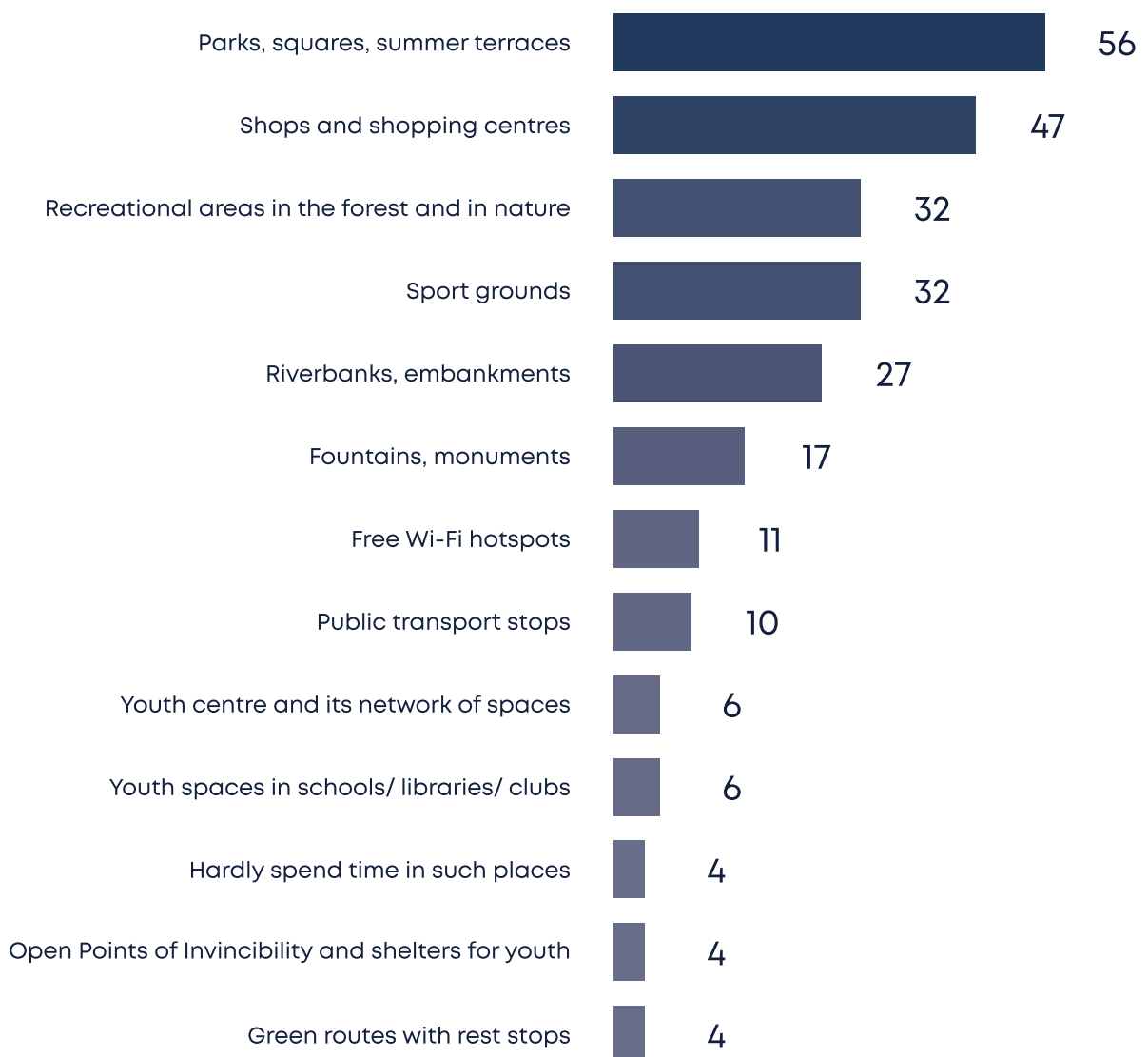


### Section 3. Choice of Public Places for Leisure

Open urban spaces are the most popular public places for young people's leisure. Parks, squares, and summer terraces were selected by 56% of respondents, while shops and shopping centres were chosen by 47%. Approximately one-third of respondents spend time in natural areas (32%) or on sports grounds (32%), while 27% visit embankments. Locations with infrastructural or symbolic functions, such as fountains and monuments (17%), free Wi-Fi hotspots (11%), and public transport stops (10%), are less commonly visited. Specialized youth spaces exhibit significantly lower attendance rates: youth centres and spaces within educational or cultural institutions were named by only 6% of respondents each, whereas premises of organizations and shelters for youth were mentioned by 4% each [Figure 3.1].

Figure 3.1. Public places where respondents usually spend their free time (multiple responses, %)

Q: "In which public places do you usually spend your free time?"



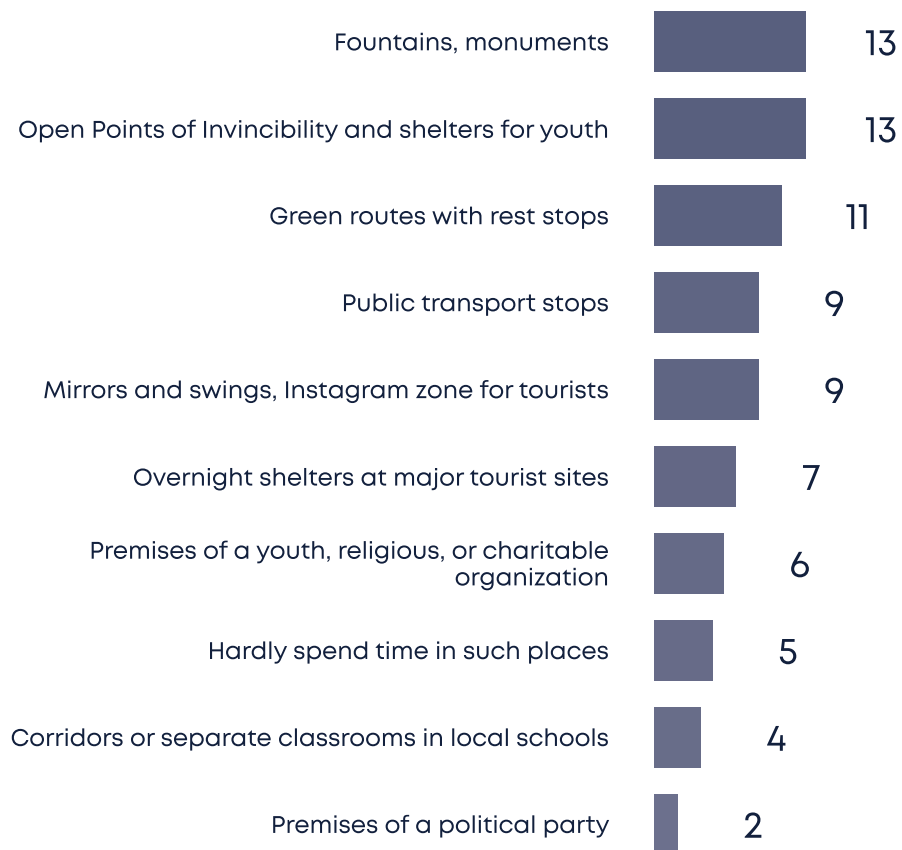


It stands to reason that young people primarily desire to see improvements in the spaces where they spend the most time. The greatest demand pertains to parks and squares (39%), sports grounds (38%), and natural recreational areas (32%). Embankments (24%) and free Wi-Fi hotspots (20%) are also high on the list. Conversely, shopping centres are mentioned less frequently (16%), possibly indicating relative satisfaction with their conditions. In contrast, youth spaces within educational and cultural institutions (15% and 14%) exhibit notable demand for development, suggesting potential for further improvement and popularization [Figure 3.2].

Figure 3.2. **Locations that, in respondents' opinion, should be made more accessible and convenient for youth (multiple responses, %)**

Q: "Which locations, in your opinion, should be made more accessible and convenient for youth?"

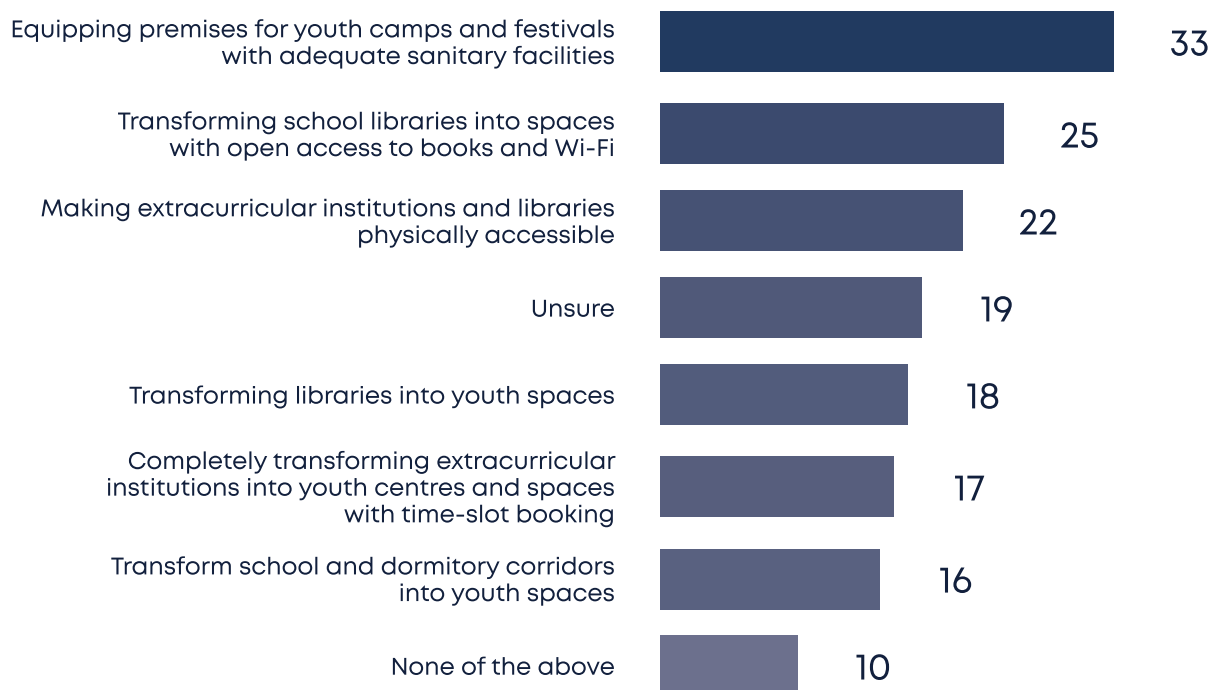




In response to the question of what measures need to be taken in order to improve accessibility of leisure facilities to young people, over one-third of respondents (33%) stated the need to equip premises for youth camps and festivals with adequate sanitary facilities. An additional 25% of respondents suggested that school libraries should be transformed into spaces offering open access to books and Wi-Fi. Furthermore, 22% of respondents indicated that extracurricular institutions and libraries require improved physical accessibility. 19% of respondents were unsure about their answer [Figure 3.3].

Figure 3.3. **Ways to improve the accessibility of leisure facilities to youth (multiple responses, %)**

Q: “What needs to be done in order for leisure facilities to be more accessible to youth?”





## Section 4. Civic Engagement

39% of respondents reported no participation in any form of civic engagement during the previous year. 26% reported participating in volunteer initiatives supporting the army. An additional 20% participated in charitable projects, while 17% engaged in sports-related activities [Figure 4.1]. Youth from the West, Centre, and North demonstrated higher involvement in volunteer initiatives supporting the army. Conversely, the South and the city of Kyiv exhibit some of the highest proportions of respondents who did not engage in any civic activities during the past year [Table 4.1]

Figure 4.1. **Types of civic activities in which respondents participated during the last 12 months (%)**

Q: “In which civic activities did you participate during the last 12 months?”

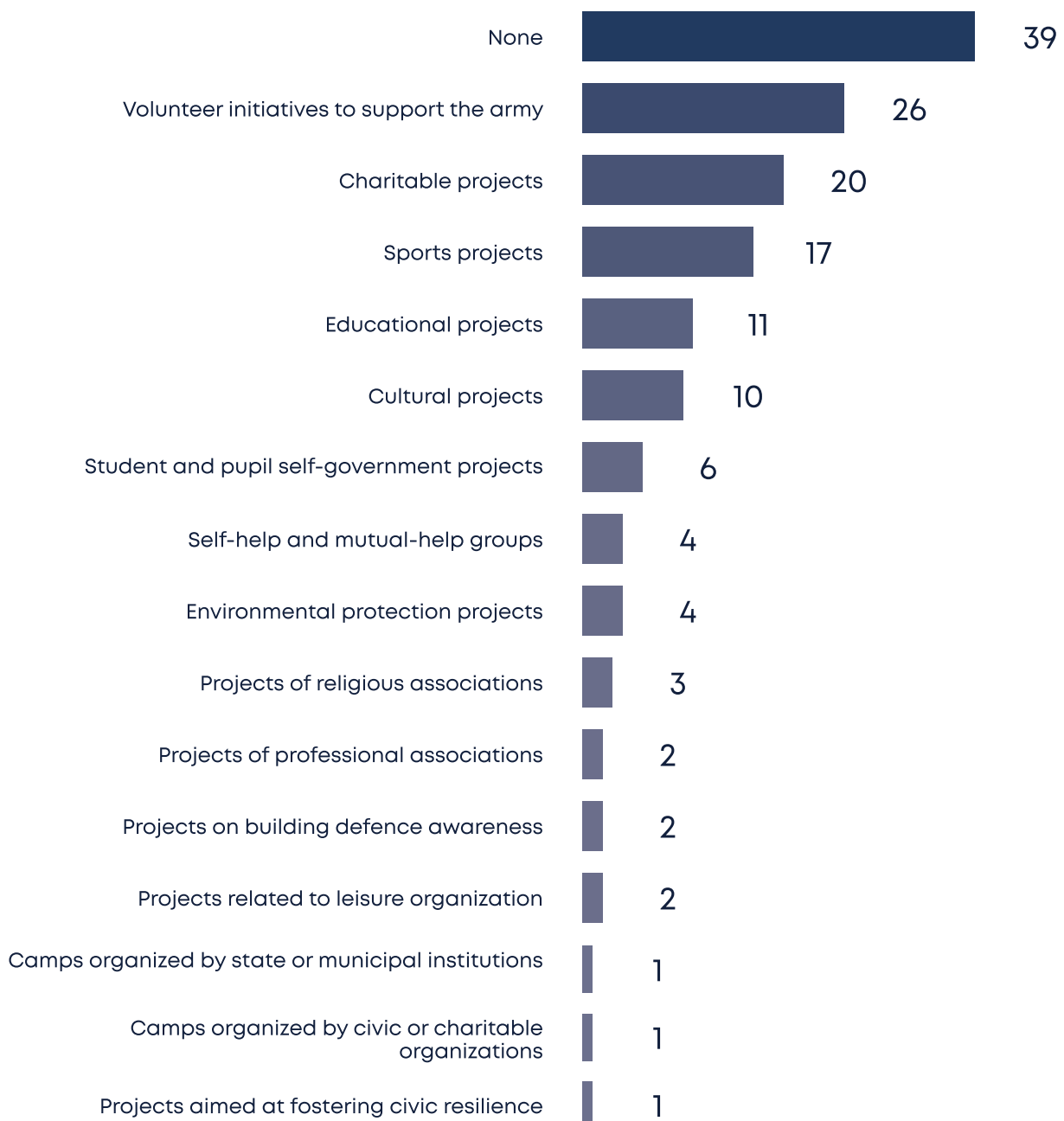


Table 4.1. **Types of civic activities in which respondents participated during the last 12 months by region (%)**

Q: “In which civic activities did you participate during the last 12 months?”

	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
Volunteer initiatives to support the army	29	28	23	32	20	20
Charitable projects	27	21	20	21	16	15
Sports projects	20	20	16	17	15	17
Recreational projects	4	2	2	2	3	1
Educational projects	13	13	14	11	10	6
Cultural projects	13	11	9	13	7	3
Environmental protection projects	4	4	3	4	5	4
Projects aimed at fostering civic resilience	1	1	1	1	4	1
Student and pupil self-government projects	6	4	6	5	10	5
Projects aimed at fostering a sense of civic duty to defend one’s homeland	1	1	2	1	3	1
Self-help and mutual-help groups	3	8	2	3	4	-
Projects and events of political parties	-	1	1	1	-	1
Projects of religious associations	3	2	2	5	1	2
Projects of professional associations	3	3	2	2	3	1
Projects organized by Plast	1	1	-	1	-	-
Camps organized by civic or charitable organizations	2	1	1	1	1	2
Camps organized by state or municipal institutions	2	2	1	-	1	2
None	34	29	43	40	47	45

Only 16% of respondents indicated participation in civic activities as project organizers. 6% of these respondents had done so on multiple occasions [Figure 4.2]. The South region exhibits the highest overall involvement, with a larger proportion of youth possessing organizational experience compared to other regions. Youth in Kyiv and the East seem to be the least involved; the proportion of respondents with any organizational experience is lowest there. Across all regions, the majority of young people lack experience in organizing civic projects, indicating the overall low prevalence of this practice irrespective of residence [Figure 4.3].

Figure 4.2. Respondents' participation in civic activities as project organizers (%)

Q: "Have you participated in civic activities as a project organizer?"

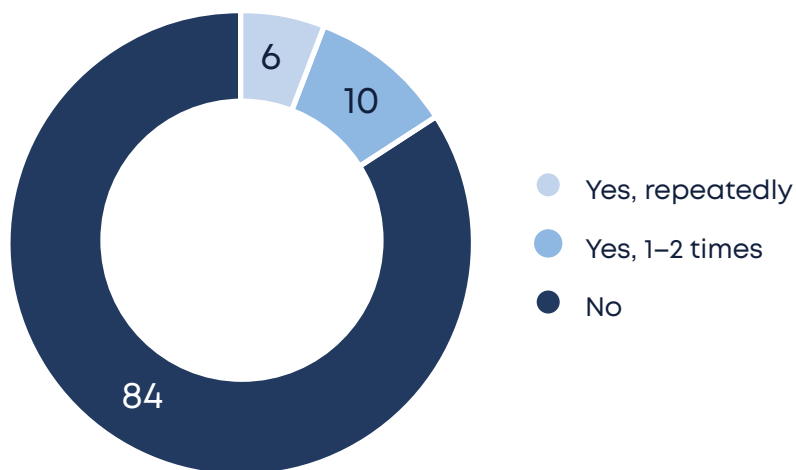
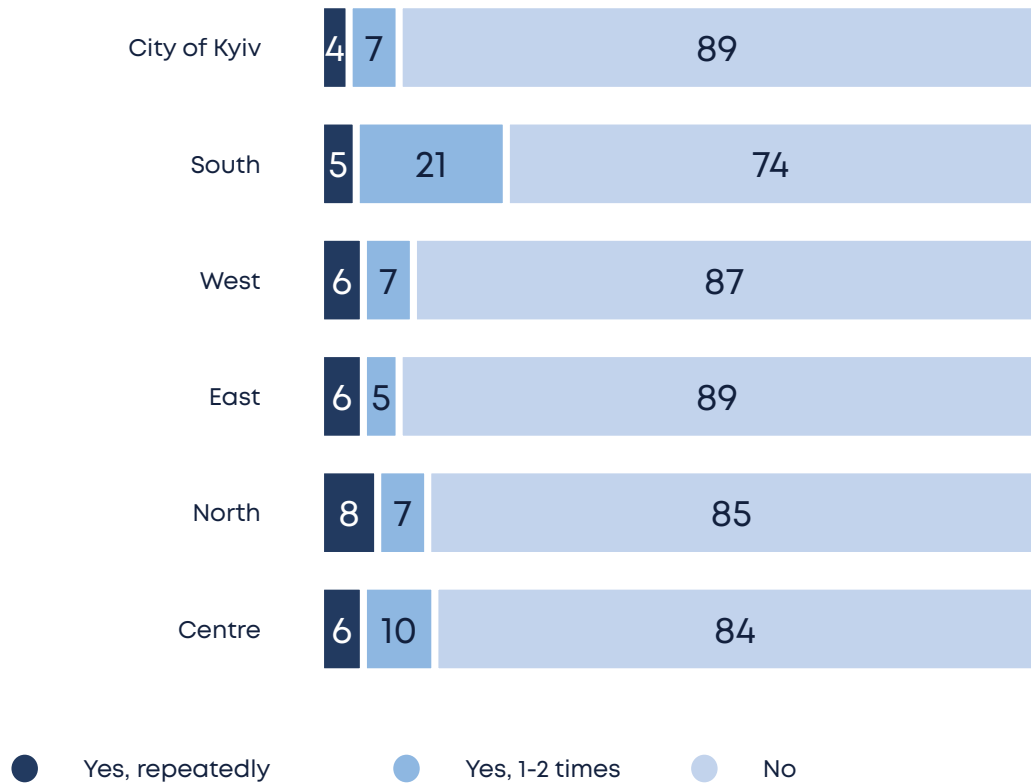


Figure 4.3. Respondents' participation in civic activities as project organizers by region (%)

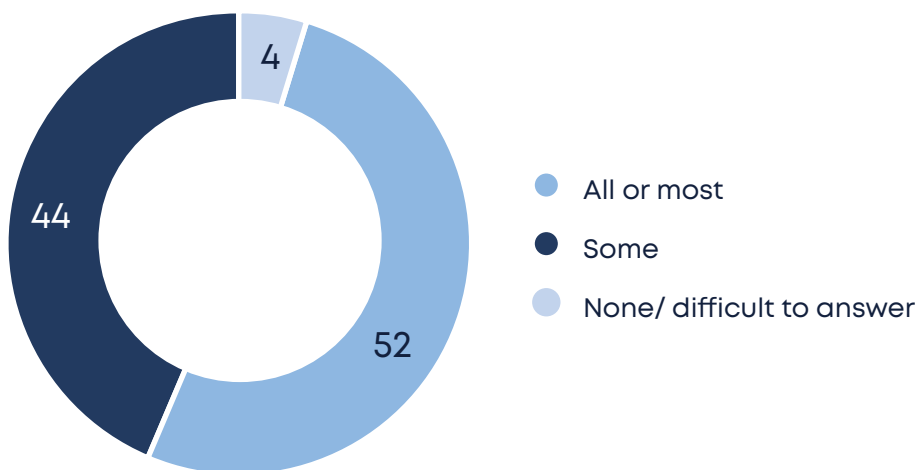
Q: "Have you participated in civic activities as a project organizer?"



Among respondents who organized projects, slightly more than half reported that all or most of their projects were successfully completed. Only 4% reported that none of their projects were successful or found it difficult to provide an answer [Figure 4.4].

Figure 4.4. Share of successfully completed projects organized by respondents (% among those who organized projects, N = 317)

Q: "If yes, how many of the projects you organized were successfully completed?"



The vast majority (77%) of surveyed youth are not regular members of civic organizations, charitable foundations, religious associations, or political parties. Only 6% reported regular membership of such organizations, while others acknowledged occasional participation [Figure 4.5]. The North exhibits the highest proportion (10%) of respondents reporting membership of civic organizations. Occasional involvement peaks in the South (17%), whereas one-time participation is most common in the East (17%) [Figure 4.6].

Figure 4.5. Respondents' regular membership of civic organizations, charitable foundations, religious associations, or political parties (%)

Q: "Are you a regular member of a civic organization, charitable foundation, religious association, or political party?"

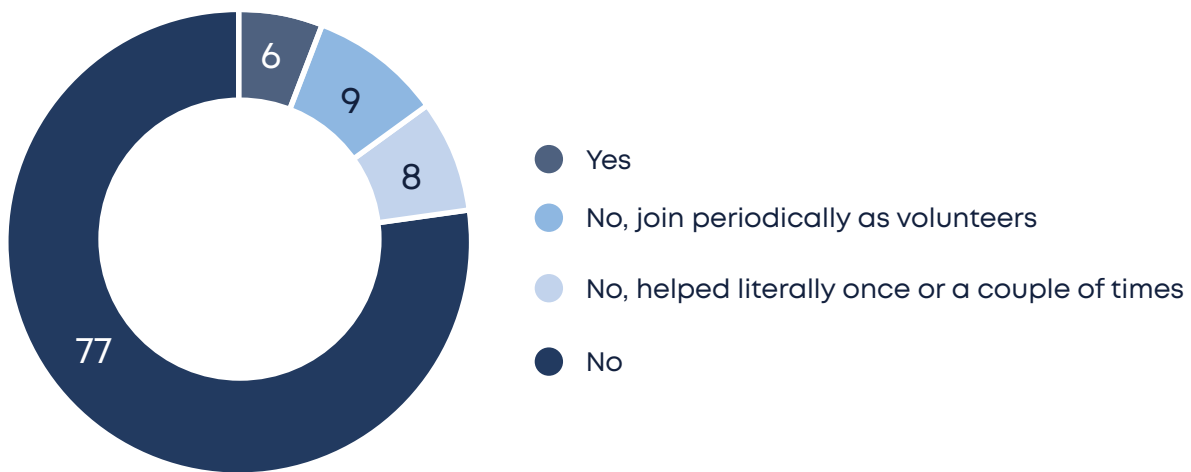
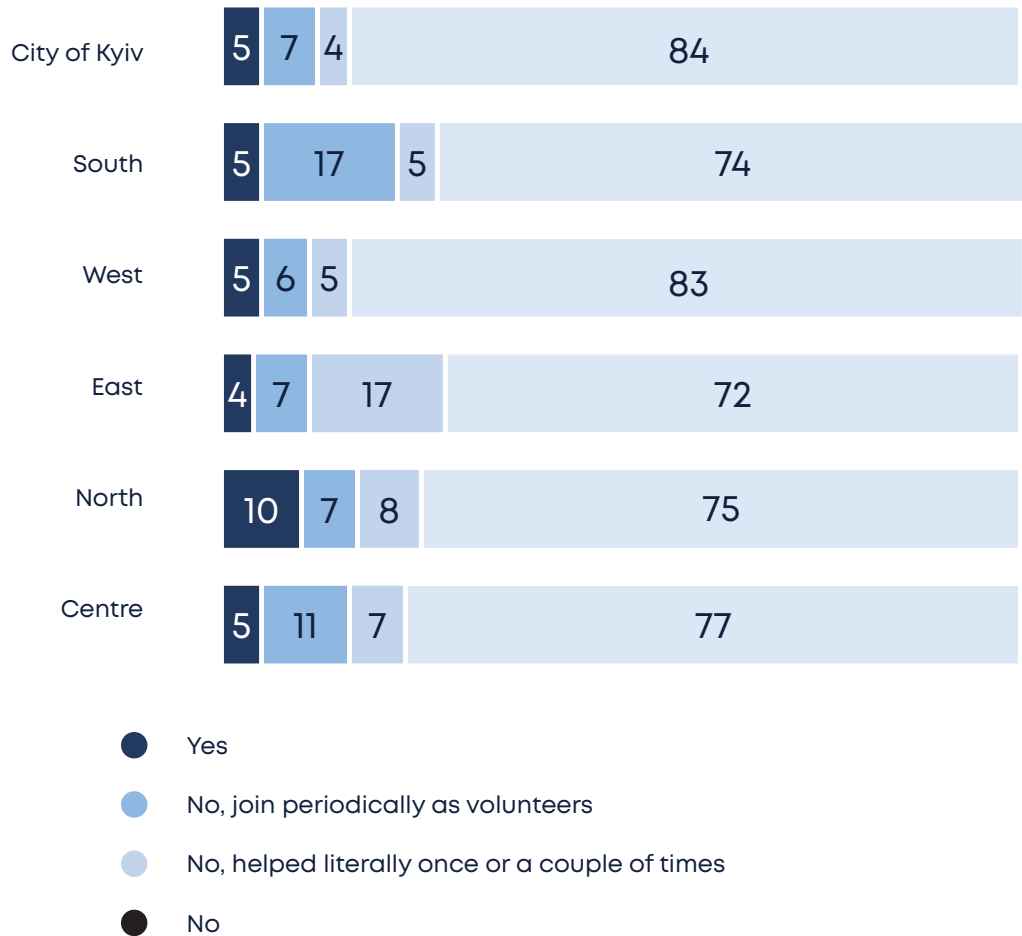


Figure 4.6. Respondents' regular membership of civic organizations, charitable foundations, religious associations, or political parties by region (%)

Q: "Are you a regular member of a civic organization, charitable foundation, religious association, or political party?"



To the question whether young people can name organizations, foundations, parties, or religious associations that work with youth in their settlements, more than a third of respondents (35%) answered affirmatively. However, 21% of these respondents could not recall specific names. In contrast, 14% were able to name specific organizations [Figure 4.7]. Regional analysis reveals that respondents in the North are more informed, with 22% able to name organizations compared to 8–15% in other regions [Figure 4.8].

The most frequently named organizations included youth centres, youth councils, scout-type organizations such as Plast, and various church and religious communities. A significant portion of responses also referenced large charitable and volunteer foundations, notably Caritas, the Red Cross, and initiatives supporting the army

Figure 4.7. Respondents' awareness of organizations, foundations, parties, or religious associations working with youth in their place of residence (%)

Q: "Can you name organizations, foundations, parties, or religious associations that work with youth in your settlement?"

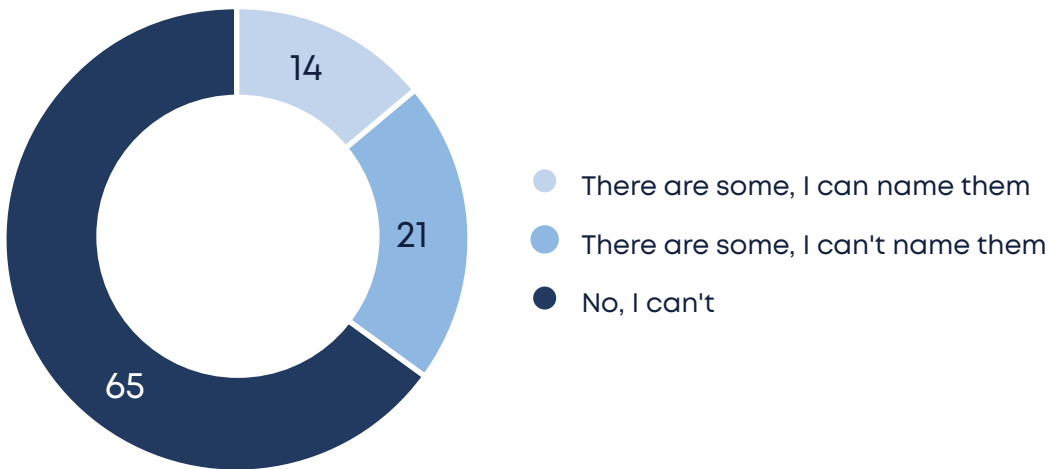
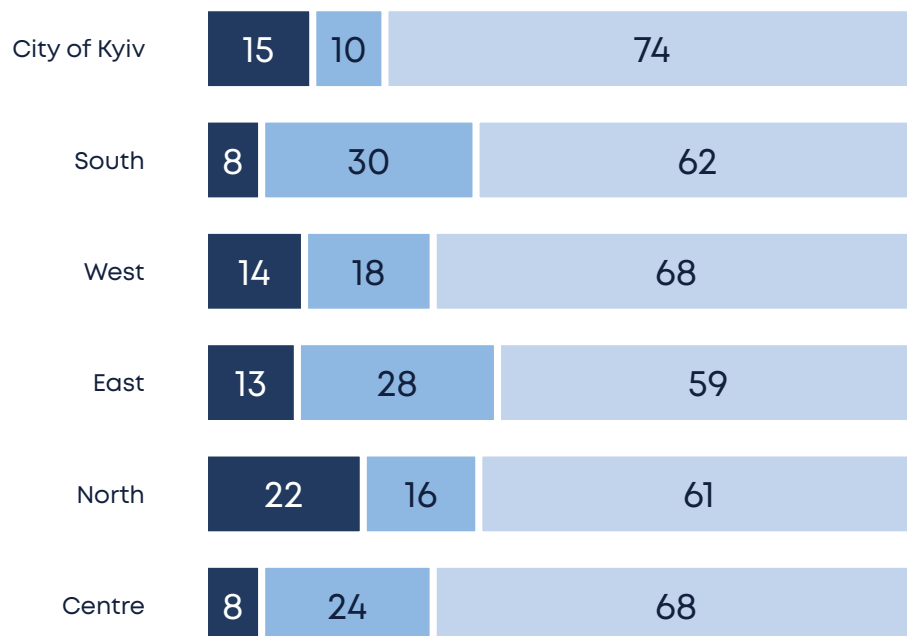


Figure 4.8. Respondents' awareness of organizations, foundations, parties, or religious associations working with youth in their place of residence by region (%)

Q: "Can you name organizations, foundations, parties, or religious associations that work with youth in your settlement?"



- There are some, I can name them
- There are some, I can't name them
- No I cannot

## Section 5. Interaction with Local Authorities

Youth assessments of their ability to influence local government decisions are predominantly critical. The largest proportion of respondents (36%) believe that no such opportunity exists, while an additional 17% tend towards a negative response. Conversely, positive assessments are less common: only 9% of respondents are confident that such an opportunity exists, and an additional 22% tend towards this view. A notable proportion (16%) reported difficulty in providing an answer [Figure 5.1].

There's some variation in the responses across regions. For instance, respondents from the North more frequently indicated that such an opportunity exists or likely exists. The highest proportion of respondents uncertain about their answer was observed in the East and the city of Kyiv [Figure 5.2].

Figure 5.1. Respondents' views on whether young people in their settlements have the opportunity to influence local government decision-making (%)

Q: "Do young people in your settlement have the opportunity to influence local government decision-making?"

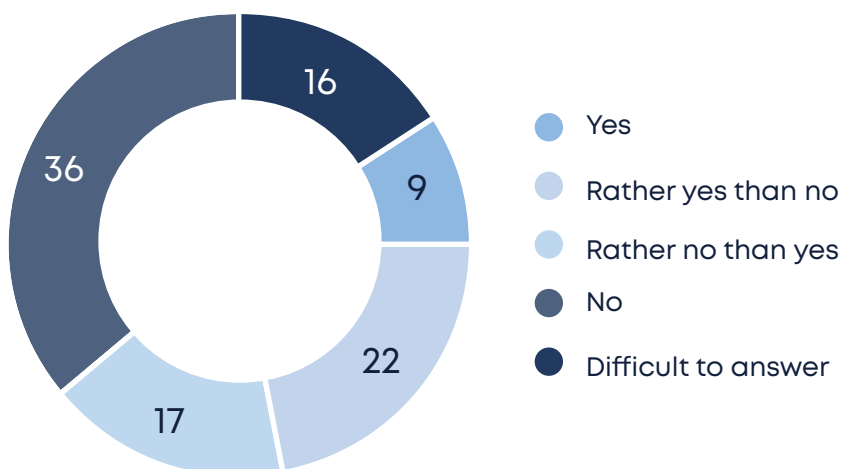
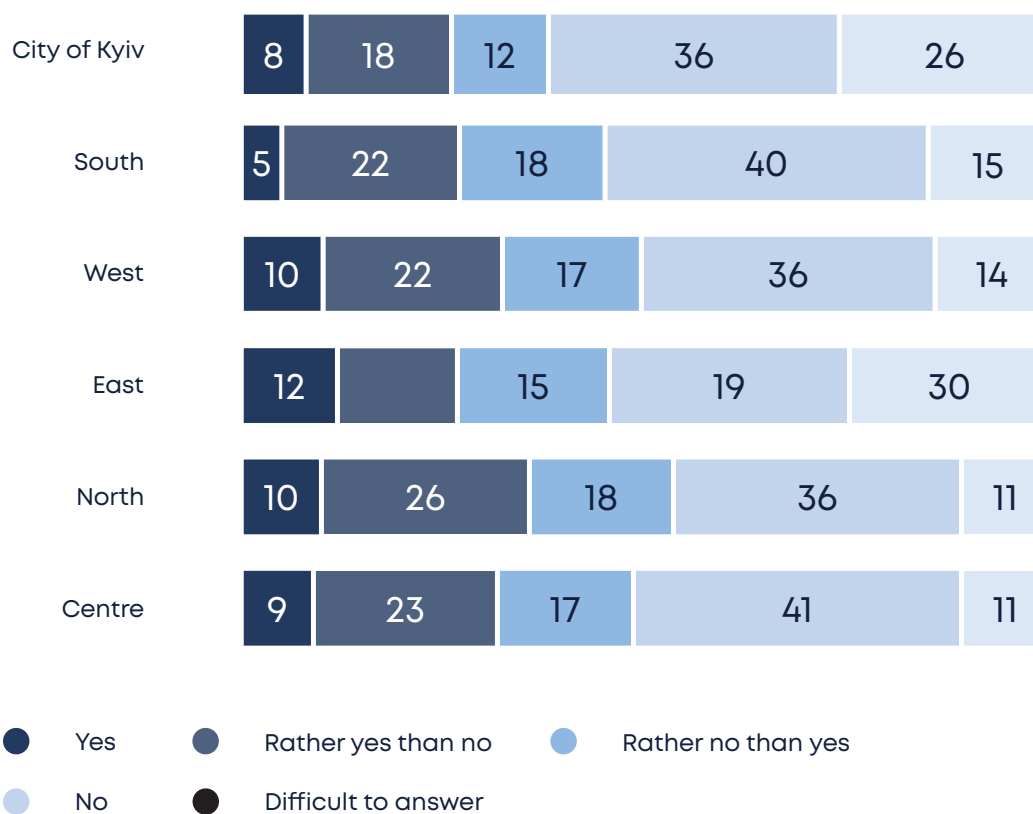


Figure 5.2. Respondents' views on whether young people in their settlements have the opportunity to influence local government decision-making by region (%)

Q: "Do young people in your settlement have the opportunity to influence local government decision-making?"



Among respondents who stated that youth can influence local government decision-making, nearly half cited student or pupil self-government as the primary means of influence. Online petitions (43%) and public consultations (36%) also play significant roles, highlighting the importance of formalized participation mechanisms. Influence through charitable foundations and civic organizations is less common (28%). Religious associations (10%) and political parties (6%) are perceived as even less effective means of influence [Figure 5.3].

Regional differences indicate that student and pupil self-government is a primary means of youth influence in the West and South. Online petitions are most widely recognized as effective tools in the Centre and in Kyiv. Participation via civic organizations is most prominent in the East, where this mechanism stands out compared to other regions. In contrast, influence through political parties generally remains weak, though it is somewhat more pronounced in Kyiv. Religious associations play a more noticeable role in the West and partially in the capital, whereas their influence is rated lower in other regions. Public consultations as a means of participation are more characteristic of the Centre and West, but less widespread in the South and in Kyiv [Table 5.1].

Figure 5.3. Ways in which young people can influence local government decision-making in the respondents' place of residence (%)

Q: "If yes, then in what way?"

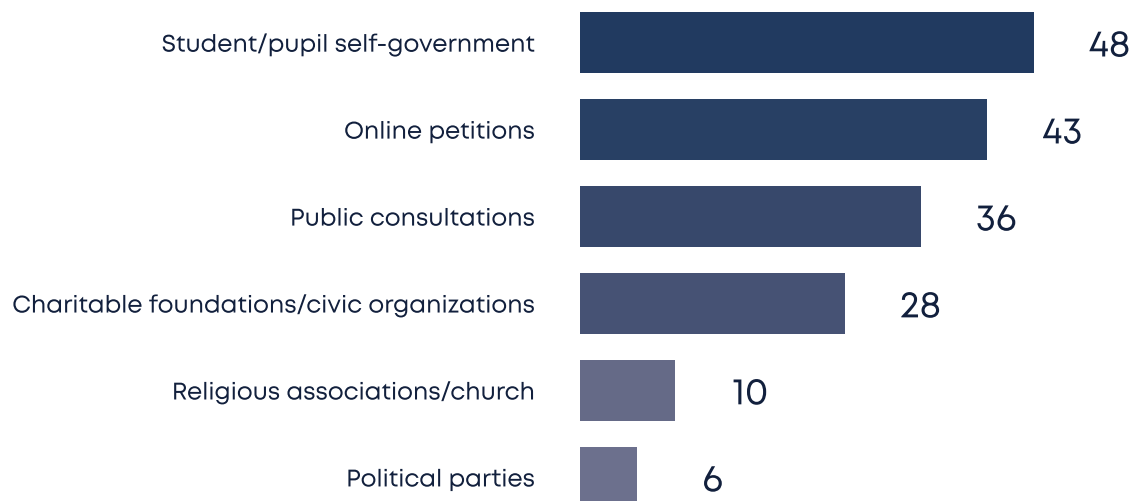


Figure 5.1. Ways in which young people can influence local government decision-making in the respondents' place of residence (% among those who indicated that such an opportunity exists)

Q: "If yes, then in what way?"

	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
Charitable foundations/civic organizations	21	25	43	28	27	21
Student/pupil self-government	45	36	46	58	56	47
Political parties	7	6	7	2	5	14
Religious associations/church	7	6	9	20	5	12
Online petitions	53	38	45	44	37	49
Public consultations	40	38	35	44	24	19

## Section 6. Youth Work Centres

Approximately one-third of respondents are unaware of the existence of youth work centres in their settlement. 15% of respondents indicated the presence of pupil or student self-government, while 11% mentioned a youth centre or youth space [Figure 6.1]. Regional differences reveal that awareness of specific forms of youth infrastructure is highest in the North and Centre, where respondents more frequently mentioned various types of youth work centres—youth councils, youth centres, self-government bodies, and clubs [Table 6.1].

Figure 6.1. Respondents' views on whether there are youth work centres in their settlement (%)



Table 6.1. Respondents' views on whether there are youth work centres in their settlement by region (%)

	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
Yes, youth councils	6	11	9	9	7	4
Yes, pupil and/or student self-government	22	14	12	15	13	16
Yes, a youth centre or youth space	7	16	9	9	13	6
Yes, extracurricular activities, student clubs, hobby groups	14	10	9	8	7	6
Yes, a civic organization working with youth	3	4	5	2	4	4
Yes, a youth civic organization	2	5	1	3	1	2
No, I know nothing about the existence of such centres	36	27	30	34	38	22
Difficult to answer	9	12	23	21	17	40

Nearly half of respondents (47%) neither attend nor plan to attend youth work centres. Conversely, one-quarter of respondents reported attending. An additional quarter of respondents expressed plans or a desire to attend [Figure 6.2]. Respondents from the East reported the lowest attendance rates [Table 6.2].

Figure 6.2. Respondents' attendance of youth work centres (%)

Q: "Do you attend this centre / these centres?"

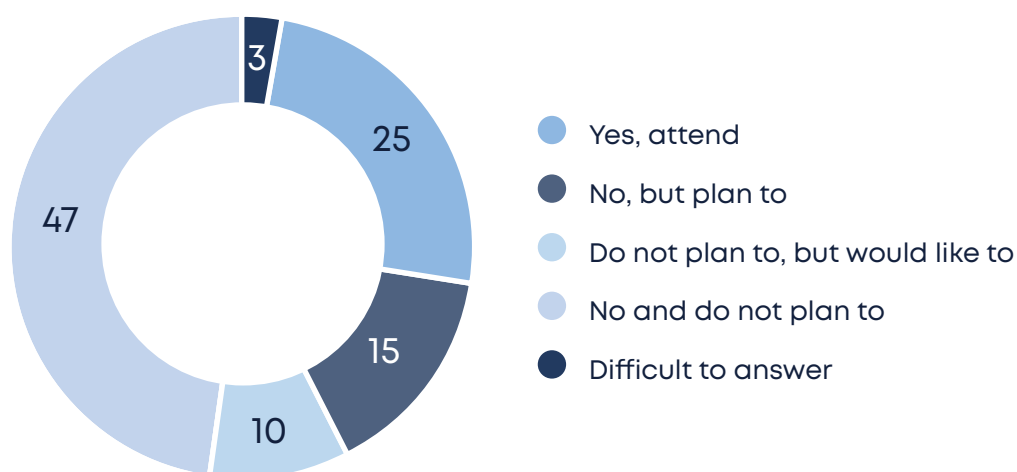


Table 6.2. Respondents' attendance of youth work centres by region (%)

Q: "Do you attend this centre / these centres?"

	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
Yes, I do	22	27	18	29	28	21
No, but I would like to	14	6	13	10	11	8
No, but I plan to	12	17	15	15	14	10
No and I do not plan to	50	48	51	44	45	59
Difficult to answer	2	2	4	3	3	3

When asked why young people avoid using the services of youth work centres, respondents primarily cited a lack of awareness regarding their existence (34%). Other frequently mentioned reasons include a lack of free time (28%), insufficient knowledge about the centres' activities (20%), and uncertainty about how young people might actually benefit from them (16%) [Figure 6.3]. Certain regional differences exist in the reasons why youth may avoid youth work centres; however, these are not radical and primarily reflect varying emphases. In the Centre and West, lack of time is more frequently cited, whereas in the North, lack of information about the centres' activities receives greater attention. The East and South exhibit a higher proportion of uncertain responses and increased sensitivity to security-related concerns [Table 6.3].

Figure 6.3. Respondents' views regarding reasons for avoiding youth work centres (%)

Q: "Why, in your opinion, might young people avoid using the services of youth work centres?"

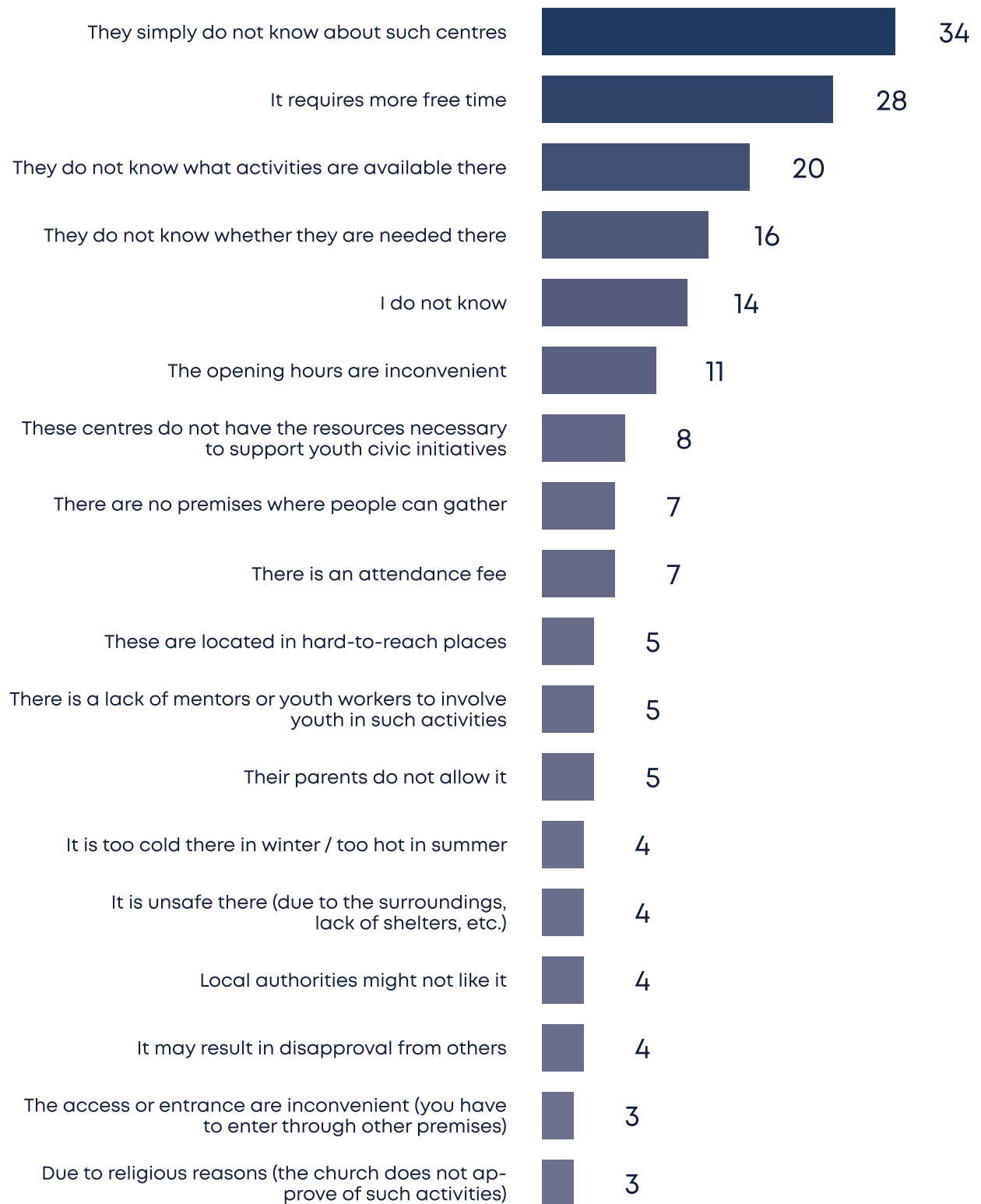


Table 6.3. Respondents' views regarding reasons for avoiding youth work centres (%)

Q: "Why, in your opinion, might young people avoid using the services of youth work centres?"

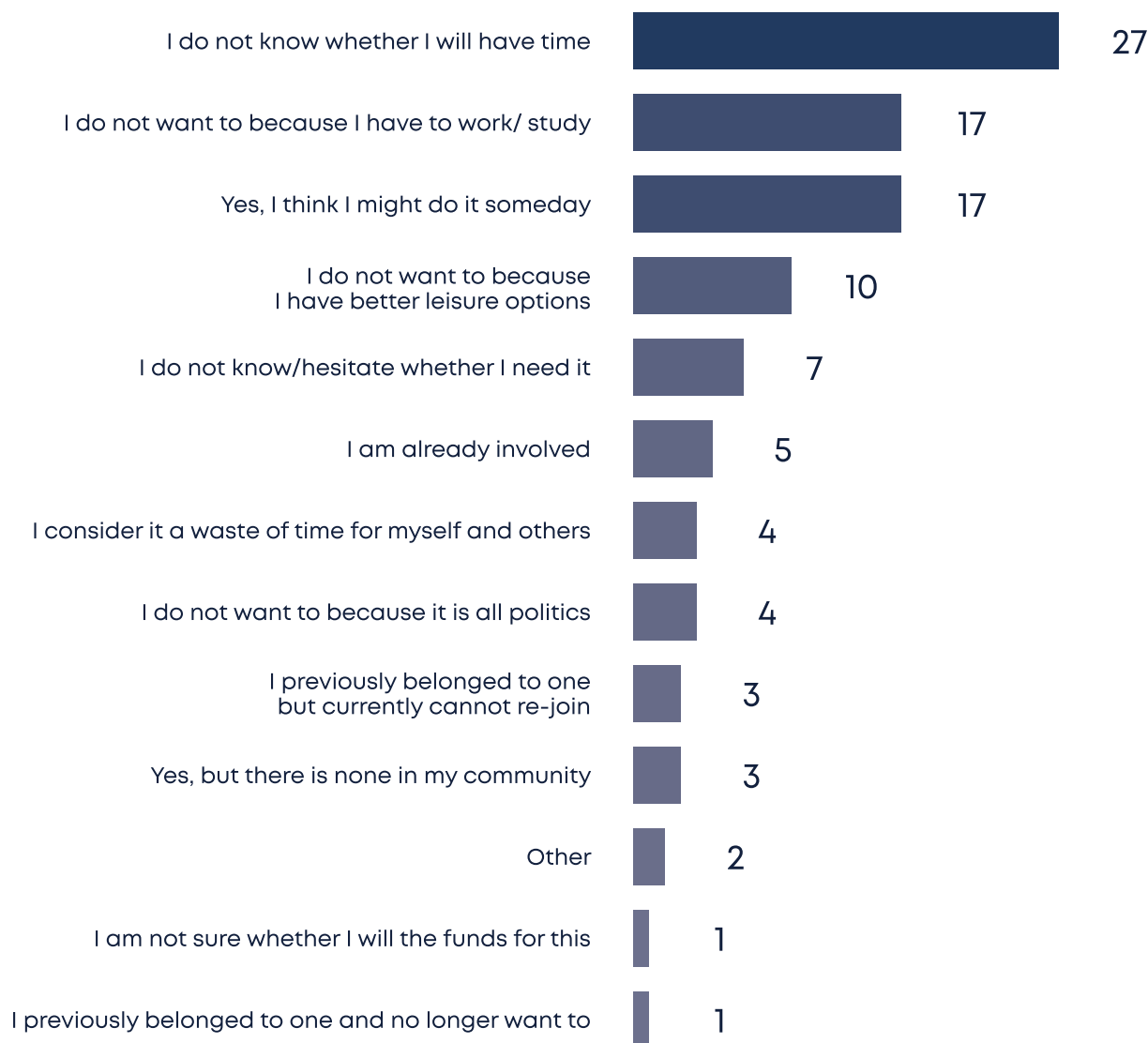
	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
They simply do not know about such centres	41	31	36	34	31	29
There is an attendance fee	8	5	7	6	7	7
Their parents do not allow it	8	5	6	4	5	5
Due to religious reasons (the church does not approve of such activities)	2	1	3	2	5	4
It may result in disapproval from others	2	3	6	3	5	4
Local authorities might not like it	5	4	4	3	5	2
It requires more free time	36	22	27	37	22	22
They do not know what activities are available there	24	29	15	17	13	19
They do not know whether they are needed there	19	21	14	13	16	17
These centres do not have the resources necessary to support youth civic initiatives	9	6	9	9	7	4
There is a lack of mentors or youth workers to involve youth in such activities	4	5	6	8	4	3
It is unsafe there (due to the surroundings, lack of shelters, etc.)	2	1	7	2	7	4
It is too cold there in winter / too hot in summer	4	3	5	4	6	4
There are no premises where people can gather	7	6	9	4	10	8
The access or entrance are inconvenient (you have to enter through other premises)	4	2	4	3	2	3
These are located in hard-to-reach places	5	5	5	4	6	5
The opening hours are inconvenient	11	12	8	12	13	6
I do not know	6	11	20	14	16	15

Slightly more than one-quarter of respondents indicated that they do not know whether they would have time to join one of the youth organizations. Two groups, each comprising 17% of respondents, expressed opposing views: some do not wish to join due to work or study commitments, while others consider joining in the future. An additional 10% indicated a lack of interest, citing superior leisure alternatives [Figure 6.4].

Respondents not currently involved in youth organizations reported that financial incentives might encourage their participation. A significant portion of responses also reflected a lack of motivation or a lack of a clear answer (“nothing/no/I do not know”).

Figure 6.4. **Respondents’ willingness to join one of the youth work organizations (%)**

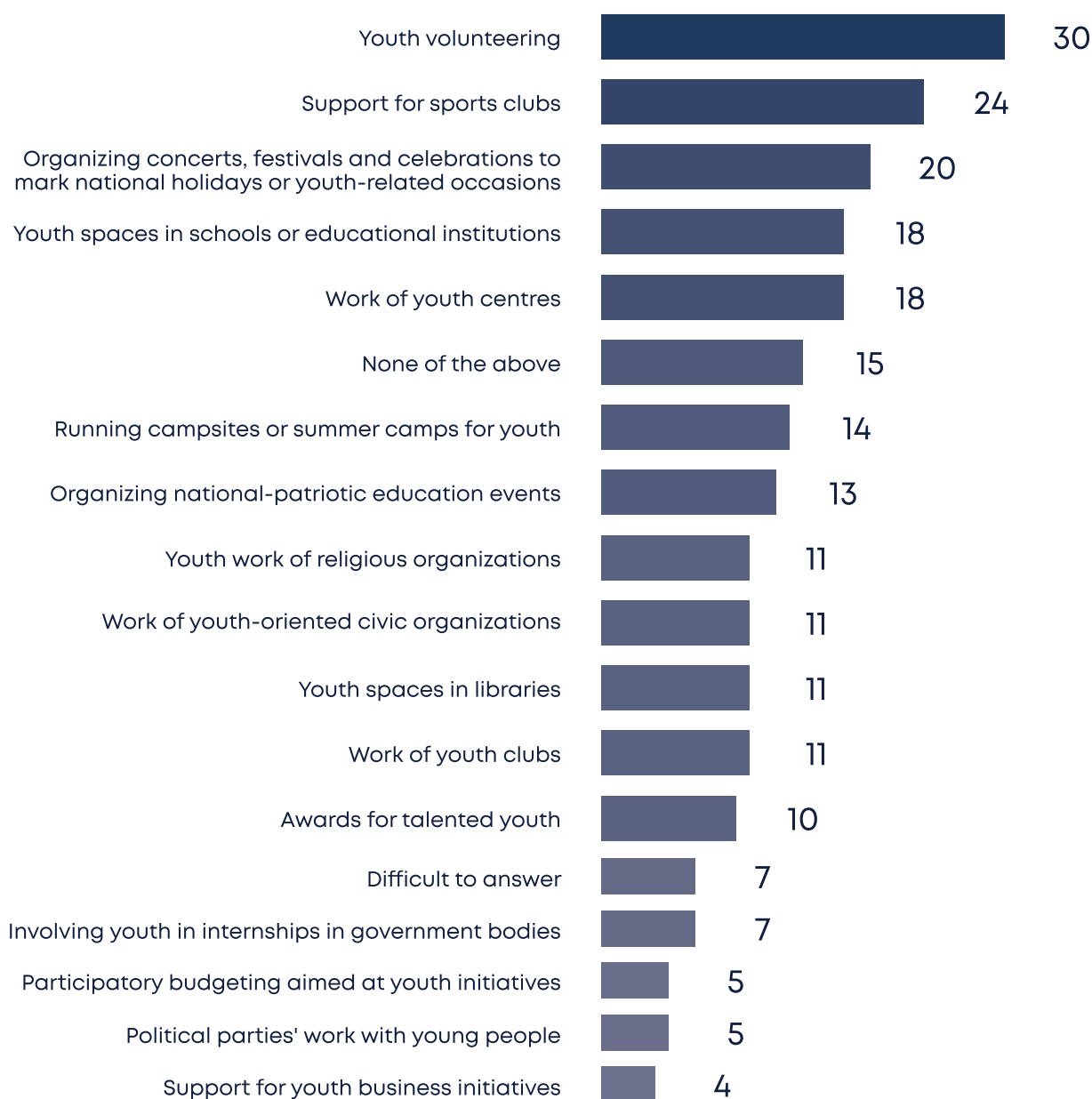
Q: “Would you like to join one of the youth organizations?”



Young people are most familiar with practical and event-based formats of youth work, while opportunities for participation in formal or governance mechanisms are known to a much smaller share of respondents. Consequently, nearly one-third of young people (30%) reported awareness of youth volunteering opportunities within their communities. One-quarter of respondents indicated awareness of support for sports clubs. An additional 20% mentioned concerts, festivals, and celebrations of national holidays or youth-related occasions. Significantly fewer respondents reported awareness of summer camps or campsites (14%) and national-patriotic education activities (13%). Other formats, including the youth work of civic and religious organizations, library spaces, and youth clubs, have recognition rates of approximately 11%. In contrast, institutional participation tools such as internships in government bodies (7%), participatory budgeting (5%), and political party activities (5%) remain largely unknown [Figure 6.5].

Figure 6.5. Youth work opportunities in the community known to respondents (%)

Q: “What youth work opportunities in the community are known to you?”



Financial support for youth is predominantly provided through individual payments and incentives, rather than measures aimed at fostering initiatives or entrepreneurship. Among forms of financial support, respondents most frequently mention scholarship supplements (21%), followed by scholarships from local councils and awards for talented youth (17% each). In contrast, funding for youth organizations and events constitutes 10%, whereas participatory budgets and programs supporting youth business initiatives are the least common, each accounting for 6%. Simultaneously, 22% of respondents indicated that none of the listed measures are employed in their settlements, while another 19% were unable to provide an answer [Figure 6.6]. There are regional differences: the Centre exhibits the broadest range of support measures, with scholarship supplements, awards for talented youth, and scholarships from local councils cited more frequently. The East also demonstrates relatively active utilization of certain financial mechanisms, especially scholarship supplements [Table 6.4].

Figure 6.6. **Forms of financial support for youth provided in respondents' settlements (%)**

Q: "What forms of financial support for youth are provided in your settlement?"

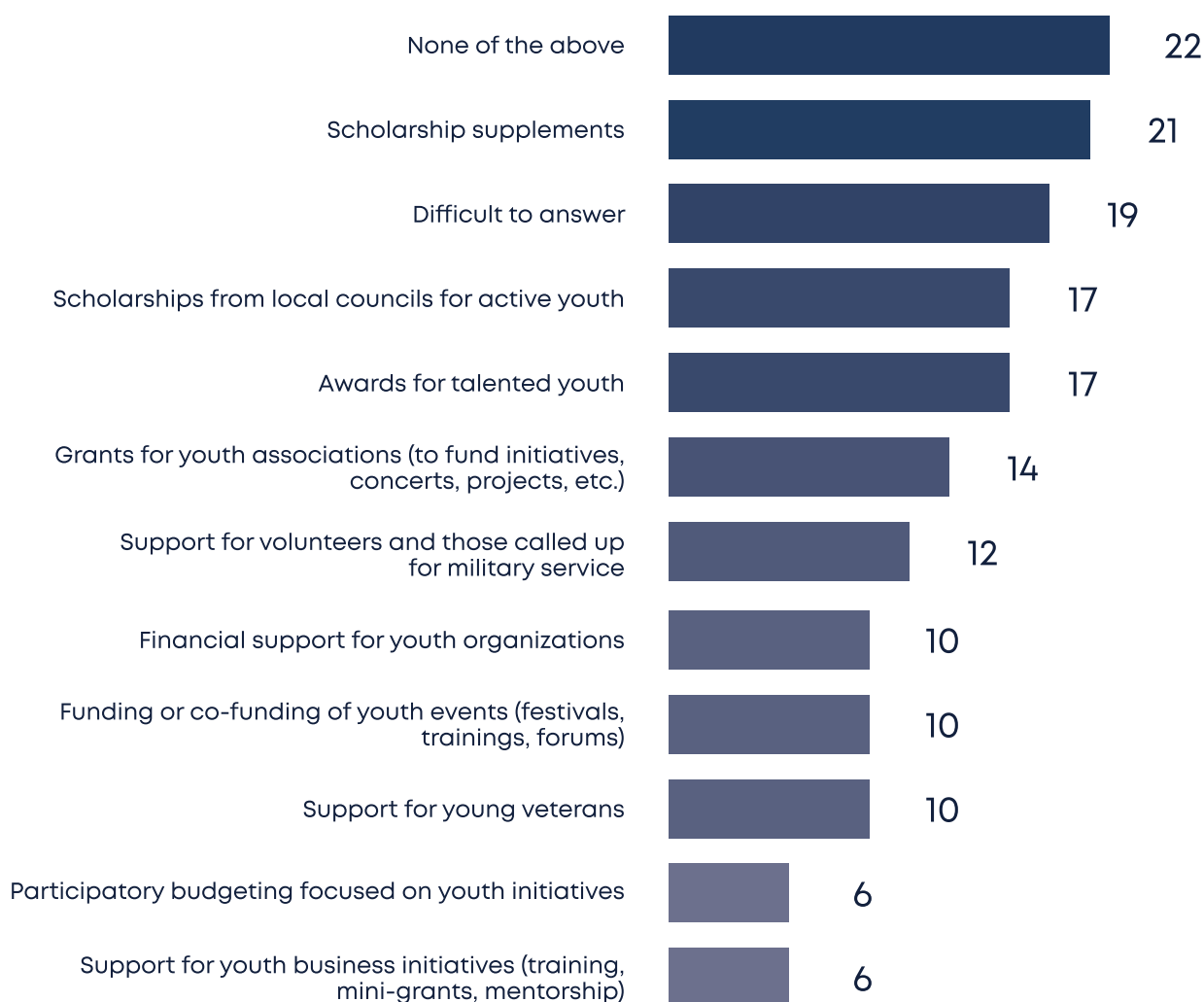


Table 6.4. **Forms of financial support for youth provided in respondents' settlements by region (%)**

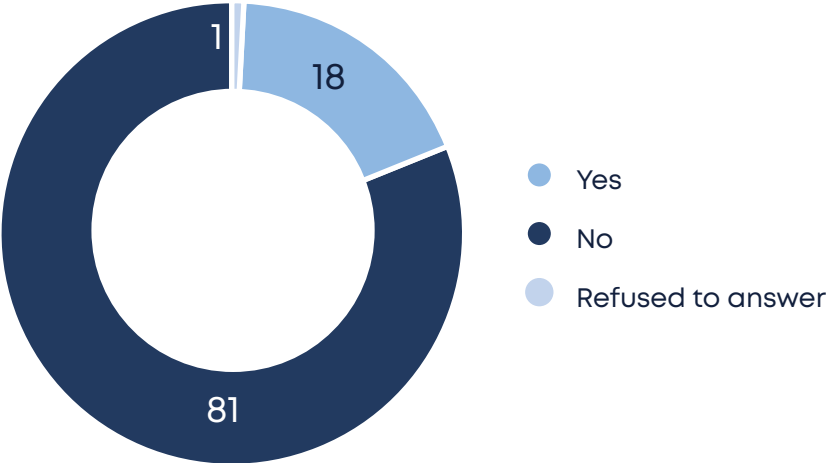
Q: "What forms of financial support for youth are provided in your settlement?"

	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
Awards for talented youth	25	16	13	17	14	22
Scholarship supplements	31	15	28	18	21	20
Grants for youth associations (to fund initiatives, concerts, projects, etc.)	17	17	16	11	10	16
Support for volunteers and those called up for military service	11	10	10	13	13	14
Support for young veterans	14	10	9	11	11	6
Support for youth business initiatives (training, mini-grants, mentorship)	7	5	7	6	5	3
Funding or co-funding of youth events (festivals, trainings, forums)	13	8	13	8	8	9
Participatory budgeting aimed at youth initiatives	7	5	8	7	6	4
Scholarships from local councils for active youth	28	16	16	15	14	12
Financial support for youth organizations	11	12	6	11	12	7
None of the above	21	23	17	23	28	17
Difficult to answer	9	14	23	25	18	24

The majority of surveyed young people (81%) reported not receiving such support.

Figure 6.7. Respondents' own experience of receiving such support (%)

Q: "Did you personally receive such support?"

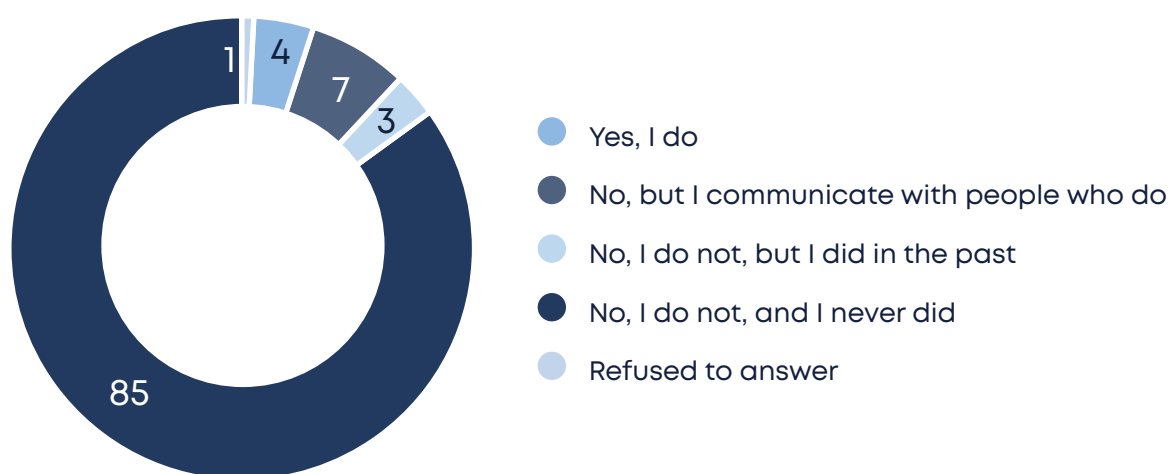


## Section 7. Youth Subcultures

The vast majority of young people (85%) have no experience of participating in subcultures and have never been members of such groups. Additionally, 7% reported that they do not belong to subcultures but maintain communication with participants. A further 3% stated that they had previously belonged to a subculture but no longer do. Currently, 4% of respondents are members of such groups, whereas 1% declined to answer [Figure 7.1].

Figure 7.1. Respondents' affiliation with subcultures (%)

Q: "Do you belong to any subculture?"



Over the past three years, 14% of respondents had experience participating in subcultures, while 86% had not been involved [Figure 7.2]. Regionally, respondents from Kyiv (23%) and the North (21%) reported the highest involvement in subcultures [Table 7.1].

Among the few free-form responses from individuals reporting involvement in subcultures over the past three years, mentions include punks, emo, and rock-related communities. Additional mentions included goths, hippies, a biker club, skinheads, and members of anime and cyber communities. However, each specific group was rarely mentioned more than once, indicating the absence of a predominant subculture and a fragmented nature of such experiences among youth

Figure 7.2. Respondents' involvement in subcultures during the past 3 years (%)

Q: "Have you been involved in any subculture during the past 3 years?"

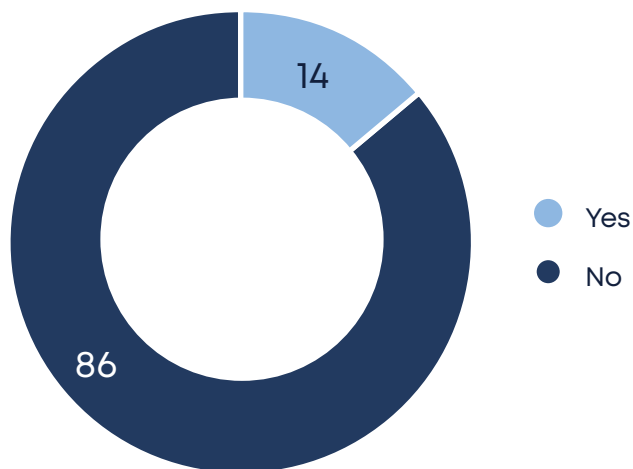


Table 7.1. Respondents' involvement in subcultures during the past 3 years (%)

Q: "Have you been involved in any subculture during the past 3 years?"

	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
Yes	7	21	15	16	7	23
No	93	79	85	84	93	77

## Section 8. Social Media Usage

Nearly 39% of respondents are not active readers or participants in social media groups or channels related to any of the specified topics. Among respondents engaged in online communities, the most frequently cited topics are local news (32%) and entertainment content (26%). A significant proportion of young people follow political news (22%) and updates on the aftermath of missile or drone attacks (19%). Approximately one-sixth (17%) of respondents participate in communities related to volunteering [Figure 8.1].

Interest in local and political news is more pronounced in the North, while the Centre and East show greater interest in security-related information. Overall, regional differences pertain more to activity levels than to fundamentally distinct thematic priorities [Table 8.1].

Responses to the open-ended question regarding Telegram channels indicate that a substantial portion of respondents either do not use Telegram as an information source or could not specify channels: 40% left the response field blank, while smaller proportions answered “I don’t remember,” “I don’t read,” “none,” or similar. Among respondents who named channels, news and security-related information were the predominant interests. The most frequently mentioned channels included local and regional news outlets (e.g. “Trukha” covering specific cities or regions, “Kyiv Operatyvnyi,” “Odesa,” “Zaporizhzhia,” “Rivne,” “Chernihiv”) and nationwide news sources (“Channel 24,” “UNIAN,” “Suspilne”). A distinct recurring cluster comprises channels focused on air raid alerts, missile threats, air defence, and alert maps, indicating that Telegram functions as a tool for real-time notifications in the context of war. Personalized information sources, such as individual bloggers and public figures, are also present but tend to complement rather than dominate the overall information landscape. Channels focused on entertainment, education, or lifestyle are mentioned only sporadically.

Figure 8.1. **Topics of social media groups or channels of which respondents are active readers or participants (multiple responses, %)**

Q: “Are you an active reader or participant in social media groups or channels on any of the selected topics?”

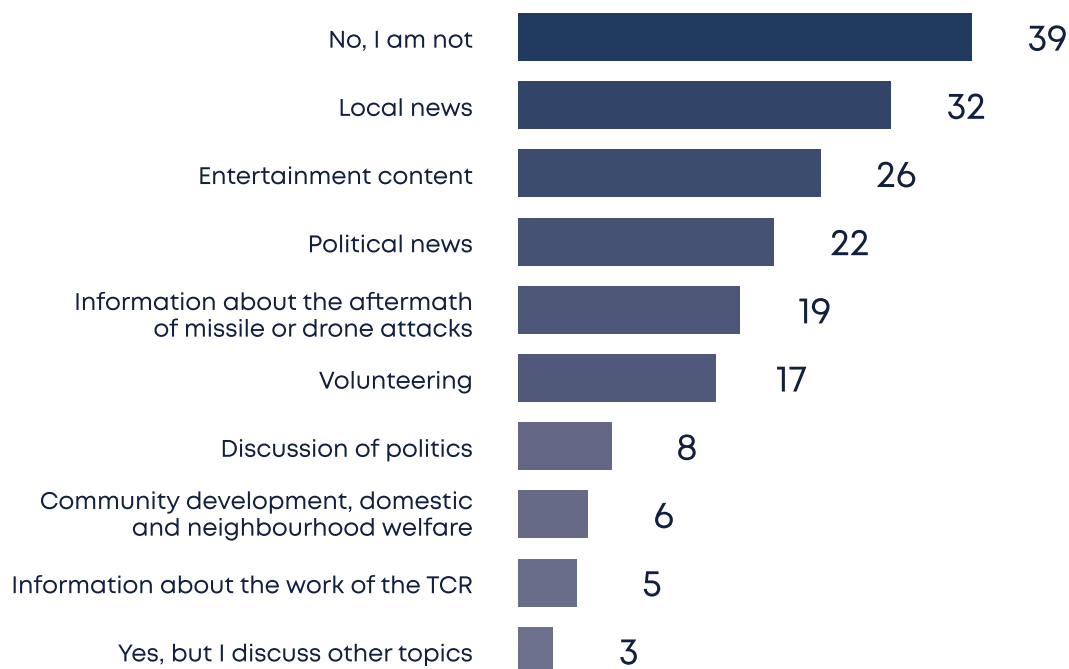


Table 8.1. **Topics of social media groups or channels of which respondents are active readers or participants by region (multiple responses, %)**

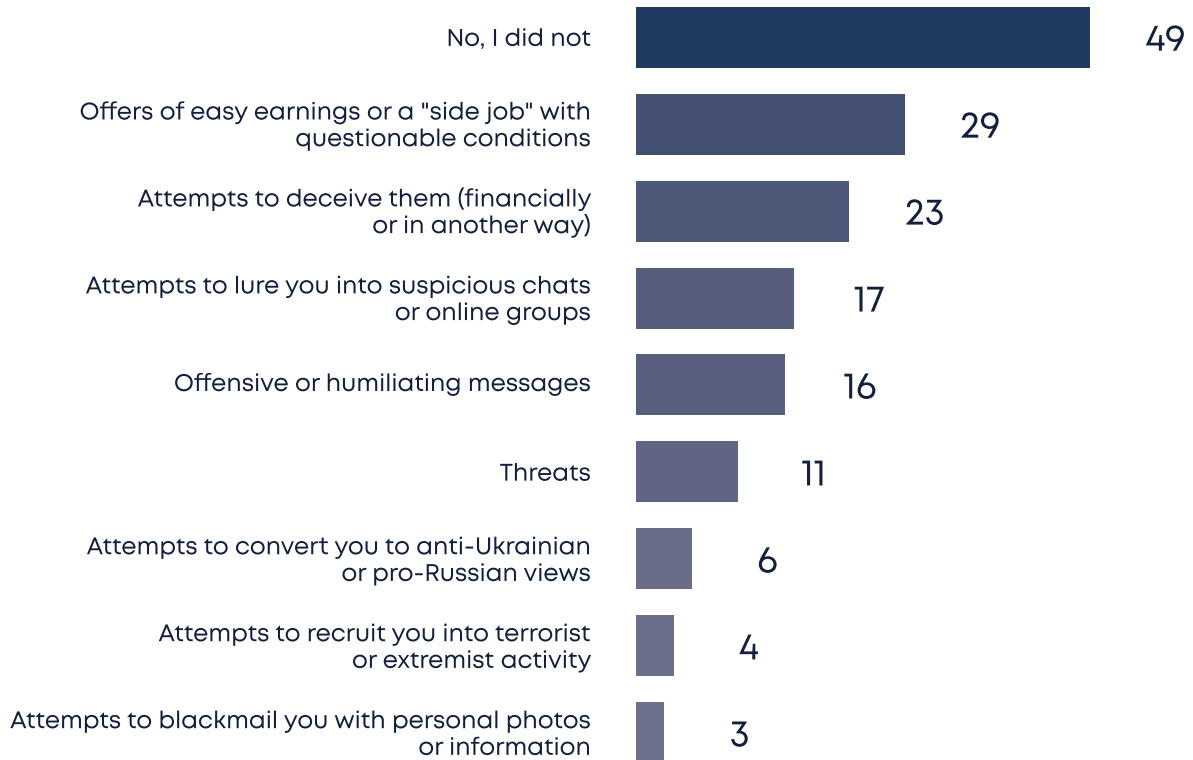
Q: “Are you an active reader or participant in social media groups or channels on any of the selected topics?”

	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
Community development, home or neighbourhood welfare	7	5	7	7	5	6
Information about the aftermath of missile or drone attacks	25	18	24	17	18	12
Volunteering	18	22	14	18	15	11
Entertainment content	32	30	24	23	27	18
Discussion of politics	6	9	7	8	9	7
Information about the work of the TCR	8	5	7	4	5	4
Local news	35	43	32	29	29	20
Political news	18	30	20	21	18	20
Yes, but I discuss other topics	4	2	1	3	3	3
No, I am not	36	27	45	45	40	46
Refused to answer	-	1	2	-	-	1

Results indicate that nearly half of respondents (49%) have not experienced risky or dangerous situations online. Conversely, a significant proportion of young people report encountering various forms of online risks. Most commonly, these are offers of easy earnings or “side jobs” with questionable conditions (29%) and various attempts at scamming (23%). A notable proportion also report attempts to lure them into suspicious chats or online groups (17%) and receiving offensive messages (16%). Less frequent but still reported are threats (11%), attempts to undermine pro-Ukrainian views (6%), efforts to lure into illegal activities (4%), and blackmail using personal data (3%) [Figure 8.2].

Figure 8.2. **Situations respondents encountered on the Internet (multiple responses, %)**

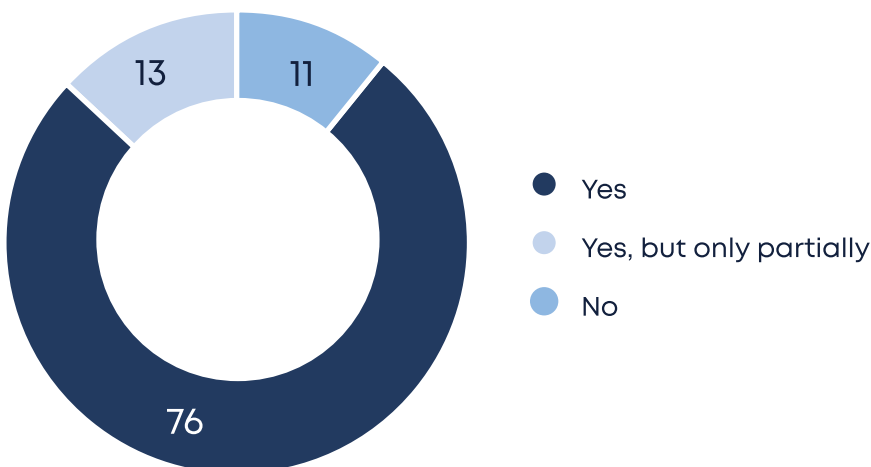
Q: "Have you encountered any of the following situations on the Internet?"



Most respondents (77%) indicated that they know how to respond to such situations. An additional 13% reported partial knowledge of appropriate responses. Conversely, 11% of respondents admitted that they do not know how to act in such situations [Figure 8.3].

Figure 8.3. **Respondents' knowledge on how to deal with online risks (%)**

Q: "Do you know what to do in such situations?"



## Section 9. Education and Employment of Youth

Nearly half of surveyed young people (47%) are in full-time employment. Approximately one-third are unemployed, while 15% hold part-time employment [Figure 9.1].

The most significant regional differences pertain to full-time employment: The East exhibits the highest proportion of respondents in full-time employment, whereas the city of Kyiv shows the lowest. Part-time employment is most prevalent in Kyiv and the South and least common in the East. The proportion of unemployed respondents' is highest in the West and lowest in the East and South [Table 9.1].

As age and level of education increase, young people more frequently secure permanent employment and less frequently remain unemployed, reflecting the typical transition from education to stable professional activity. Younger respondents are more likely to be unemployed or engaged in temporary side jobs, whereas older respondents are more often integrated into the labour market. A similar trend is observed with level of education: higher education is associated with a greater likelihood of stable employment. Gender differences are less pronounced; however, men are somewhat more likely to have full-time jobs, while women more frequently experience unemployment or unstable employment [Table 9.2].

Figure 9.1. Respondents' employment (%)

Q: "Are you currently working?"

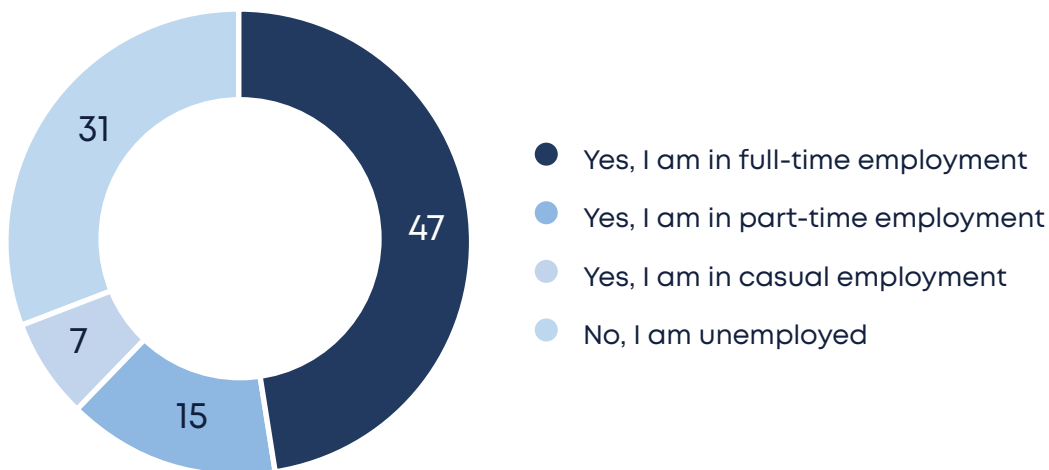


Table 9.1. Respondents' employment by region (%)

Q: "Are you currently working?"

	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
Yes, I am in full-time employment	50	49	59	42	48	37
Yes, I am in part-time employment	13	16	8	14	20	24
Yes, I am in casual employment	5	6	6	8	7	77
No, I am unemployed	33	29	26	37	26	31

Table 9.2. Respondents' employment by gender, age, and level of education (%)

	Gender		Age			Education		
	Male	Female	18-20 years	21-23 years	24-26 years	Primary, incomplete secondary education	Vocational education	Incomplete higher/higher education, academic degree
Yes, I am in full-time employment	51	45	30	47	64	28	44	58
Yes, I am in part-time employment	14	16	16	16	13	16	15	14
Yes, I am in casual employment	8	6	8	7	5	10	6	6
No, I am unemployed	28	33	46	30	18	46	35	22

Among employed youth, a significant proportion (41%) work in the service sector. An additional 12% of respondents are employed in other sectors, while 10% work in people-oriented professions [Figure 9.2].

Figure 9.2. Respondents' career fields (%)

Q: "In which field do you currently work?"

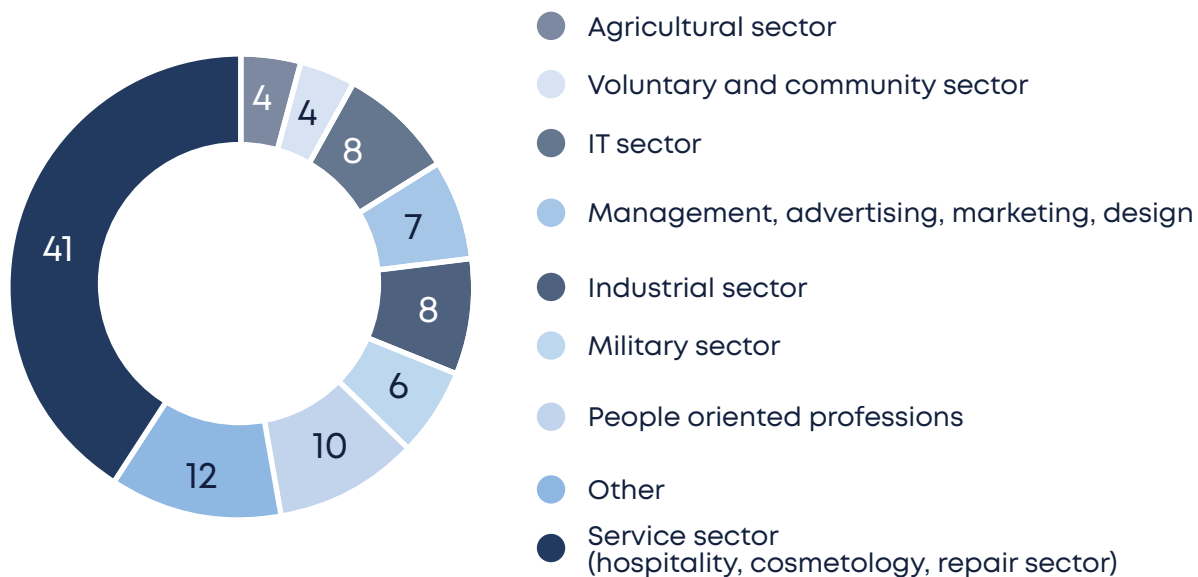
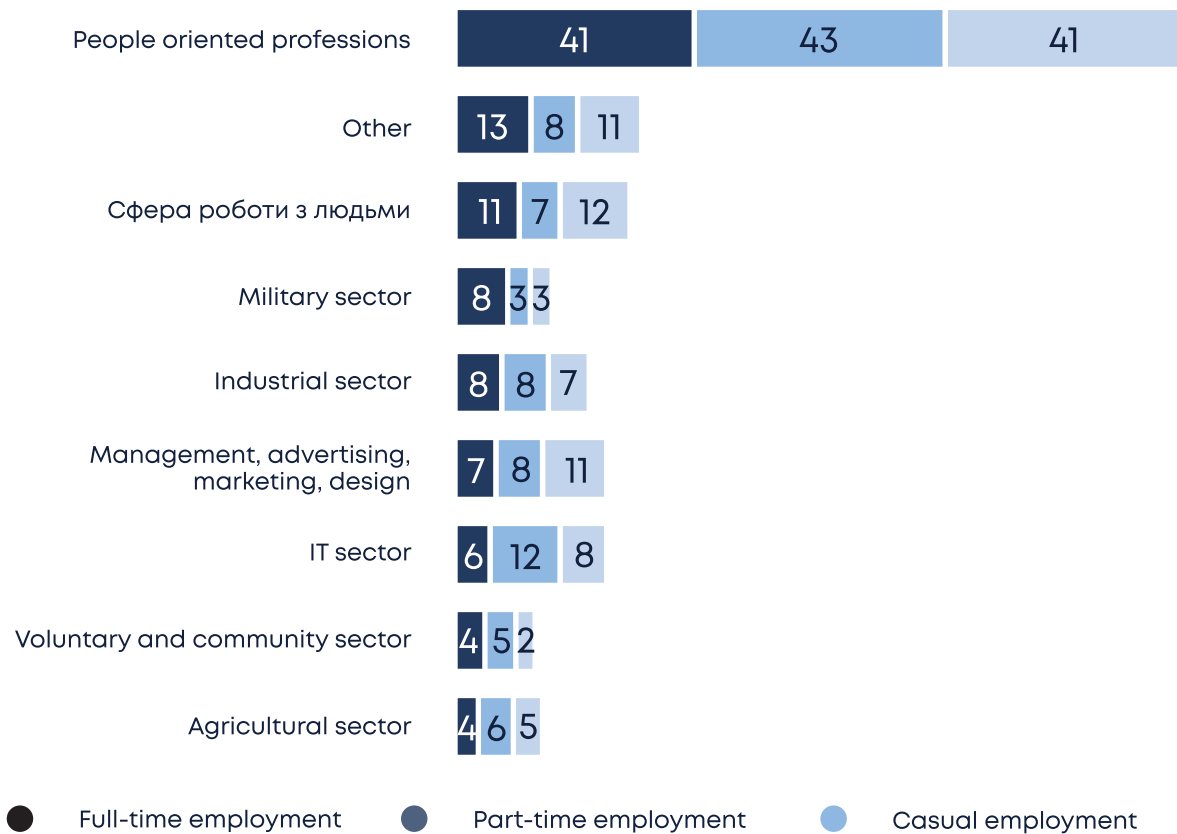


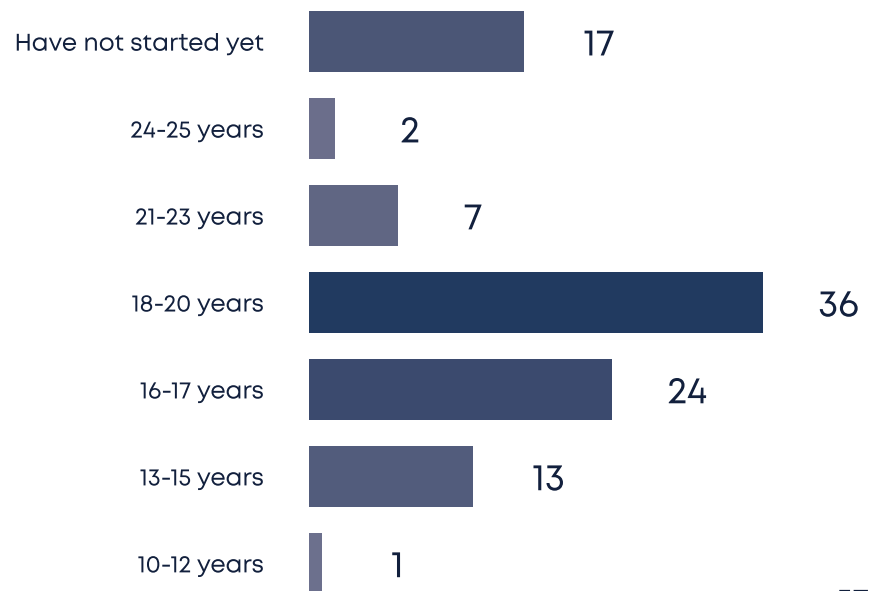
Figure 9.3. Respondents' career fields by type of employment—full-time, part-time, or casual work (%)



Most young people (36%) start working when they are 18–20 years old. The next most frequent starting age is 16–17 years old, accounting for 24% of respondents. An additional 13% of respondents entered the workforce at 13–15 years old, whereas 7% started at 21–23 years old. Meanwhile, 17% of respondents reported that they have not been employed yet [Figure 9.4].

Figure 9.4. Respondents' age of starting work (%)

Q: "At what age did you start working?"



It is also evident that men tend to start working slightly earlier than women [Table 9.3].

Table 9.3. Respondents' age of starting work by gender (%)

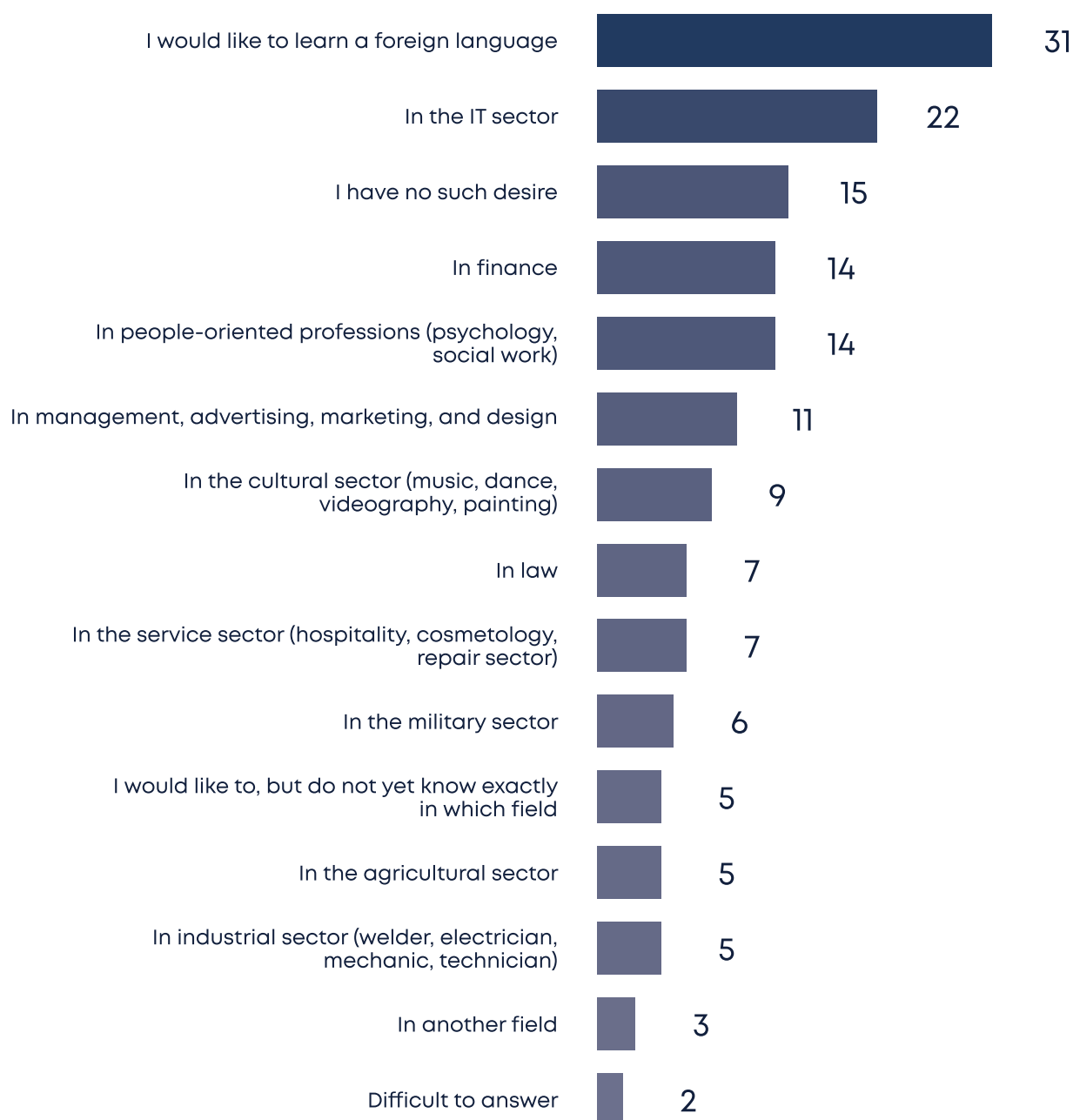
Q: "At what age did you start working?"

	Gender	
	Men	Women
10-12 years	2	1
13-15 years	16	9
16-17 years	28	21
18-20 years	32	41
21-23 years	6	9
24-26 years	16	19

When it comes to acquiring professional skills and knowledge, learning a foreign language is the most common aspiration (31%). This is followed by IT skills, desired by 22% of respondents, while finance and people-oriented professions each attract 14%. Management, marketing, and design interest 11% of respondents. However, 15% of respondents indicated no desire to acquire professional skills [Figure 9.5].

Figure 9.5. **Respondents' desire to acquire professional skills and knowledge (%)**

Q: "Would you like to acquire professional skills and gain knowledge in any particular field?"



Gender differences in youth professional interests exhibit distinct thematic patterns. Women are more likely to gravitate towards career fields involving communication, creativity, and social interaction, such as foreign languages, psychology and social work, marketing and design, as well as the cultural and service sectors. In contrast, men significantly more often

choose technical and hands-on career fields—IT, manufacturing, agriculture, and the military. In certain areas, such as finance, law, or undefined professional plans, there is little difference in interests. Furthermore, the proportion of individuals unwilling to acquire new professional skills is equal among men and women [Table 9.4].

Table 9.4. **Respondents’ desire to acquire professional skills and knowledge by gender (%)**

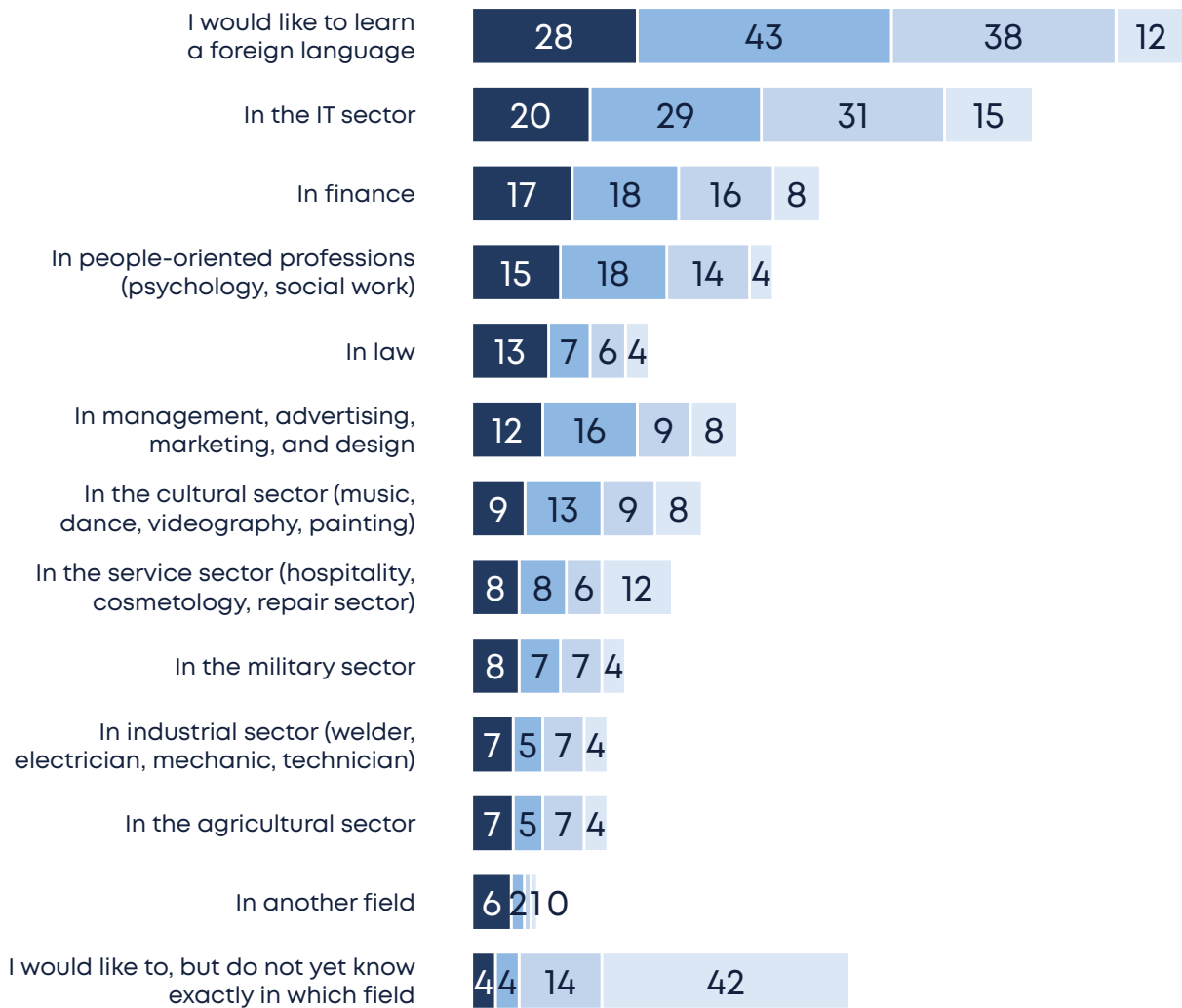
Q: “Would you like to acquire professional skills and gain knowledge in any particular field?”

	Gender	
	Men	Women
I would like to learn a foreign language	26	35
In the IT sector	27	16
In finance	14	14
In people-oriented professions (psychology, social work)	9	19
In management, advertising, marketing, and design	9	14
In the cultural sector (music, dance, videography, painting)	6	12
In law	8	7
In the service sector (hospitality, cosmetology, repair sector)	5	8
In the military sector	8	4
In the agricultural sector	8	2
In industrial sector (welder, electrician, mechanic, technician)	9	1
In another field	2	3
I would like to, but do not yet know exactly in which field	5	5
I have no such desire	15	15
Difficult to answer	1	2

The majority of respondents intend to acquire skills and knowledge via non-formal education, particularly in IT, languages, management, and creative industries. Formal education is more frequently considered for structured professions, such as finance, law, or industrial occupations [Figure 9.6].

Figure 9.6. Respondents' views on ways to acquire professional skills and knowledge (%)

Q: "How do you plan to acquire these skills?"

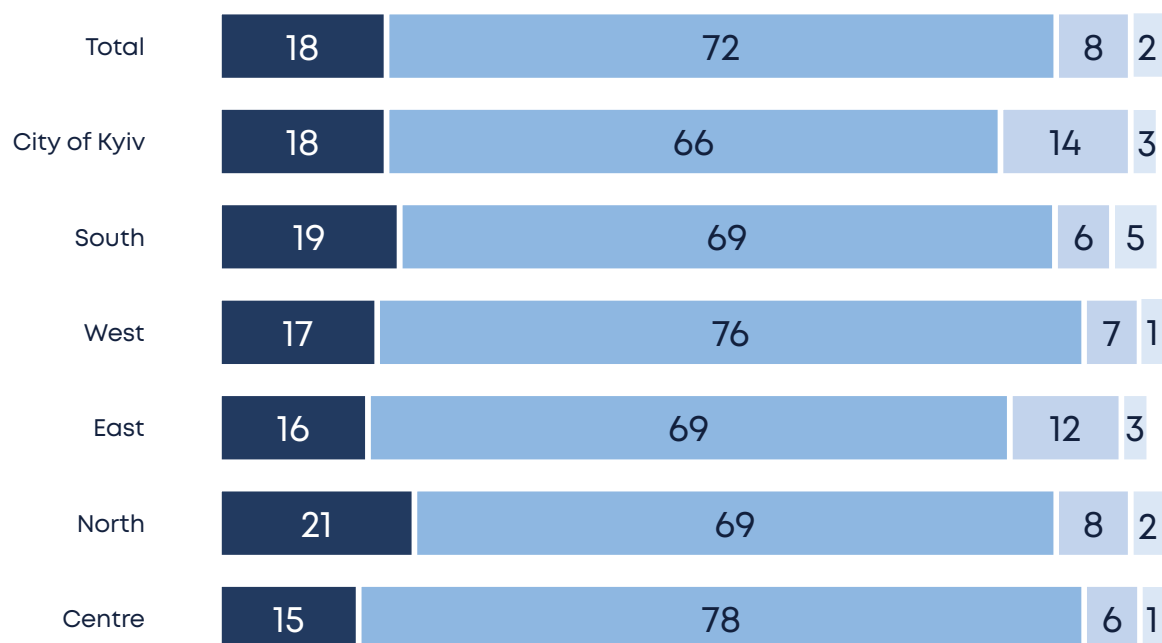


- A formal education credential (from university, college, etc.)
- Practical skills and abilities obtained through non-formal education (self-study, trainings offered by civic organizations, online courses)
- I am not sure yet
- In no way

According to young people, the primary priority for securing a good job is practical skills obtained through non-formal education. On average, 72% of respondents expressed this view. This perspective is most prevalent among respondents from the Centre and West (78% and 76%, respectively). Conversely, 18% of respondents prioritize a formal education credential [Figure 9.7].

Figure 9.7. Respondents' priorities for obtaining a good job (%)

Q: "In your opinion, what is more important for obtaining a good job?"



- A formal education credential (from university, college, etc.)
- Practical skills and abilities obtained through non-formal education (self-study, trainings offered by civic organizations, online courses)
- Difficult to answer
- Other factors

## Section 10. Migration Plans

Overall, among the surveyed youth, the majority have no intention to relocate. The largest proportion of respondents (39%) chose “Definitely no.” An additional 20% responded “Rather no.” At the same time, 20% of respondents plan to relocate in the future, 6% — as soon as possible, and 13% are undecided [Figure 10.1].

Noticeable regional contrasts are observed. Respondents from the city of Kyiv (10%) and the West (17%) are least likely to plan future relocation. Respondents from central Ukraine (11%) more frequently express intentions to relocate as soon as possible [Table 10.1].

Figure 10.1. Respondents’ plans to change place of residence (%)

Q: “Do you have plans to leave your settlement for another place of residence?”

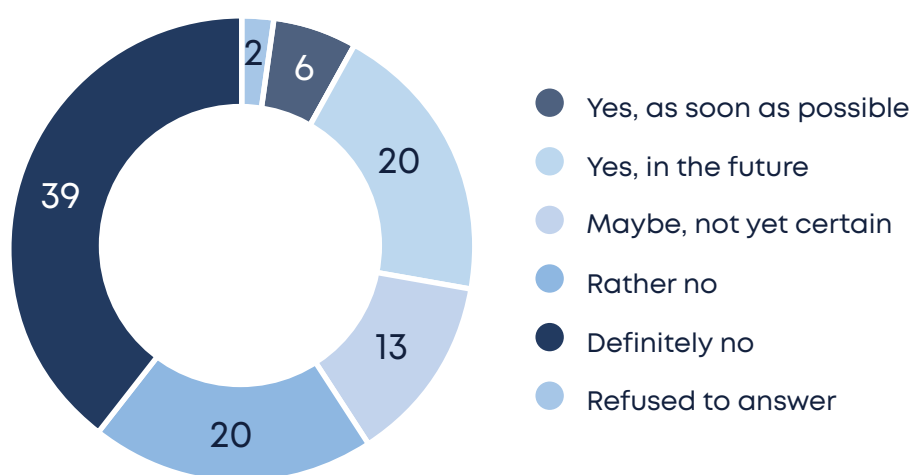


Table 10.1. Respondents’ plans to change place of residence by region (%)

Q: “Do you have plans to leave your settlement for another place of residence?”

	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
Yes, as soon as possible	11	4	5	3	7	6
Yes, in the future	27	23	20	17	22	10
Maybe, not yet certain	13	13	13	8	20	12
Rather no	17	21	23	21	15	21
Definitely no	31	37	38	50	36	45
Refused to answer	1	2	2	1	1	6

Across gender, age, and education groups, the predominant attitude remains the same: no intention to move. Gender differences are minimal. Men and women demonstrate almost identical migration attitudes, although women are somewhat more likely to categorically refuse to change their place of residence. Age is the most pronounced factor. Younger respondents more often consider the possibility of relocation, whereas older age groups show a growing tendency to stay put. A similar pattern is observed concerning level of education. Youth with lower levels of education somewhat more often consider relocation or hesitate, whereas among more educated respondents, there is a stronger orientation toward stability [Table 10.2].

Table 10.2. **Respondents' plans to change place of residence by gender, age, and level of education (%)**

Q: "Do you have plans to leave your settlement for another place of residence?"

	Gender		Age			Education		
	Male	Female	18-20 years	21-23 years	24-26 years	Primary, incomplete secondary, secondary education	Vocational education	Incomplete higher/higher education, academic degree
Yes, as soon as possible	6	5	7	6	4	4	7	5
Yes, in the future	22	18	26	22	15	24	20	19
Maybe, not yet certain	13	12	14	11	13	16	10	14
Rather no	20	20	20	20	19	18	19	21
Definitely no	38	43	32	39	48	35	42	40
Refused to answer	2	2	1	2	2	3	1	2

There is also a certain correlation between material well-being and migration plans. In groups with medium and higher levels of material well-being, the share of those who do not plan to relocate or tend to stay increases, especially among the most financially secure. Individuals who assess their situation as average are more likely to consider moving in the future rather than immediately, suggesting strategic planning rather than forced decisions [Table 10.3].

Table 10.3. Respondents' plans to change their place of residence by financial situation (%)

Q: "Do you have plans to leave your settlement for another place of residence?"

	We don't have enough money even for the most essential necessities	We spend all our money on food and inexpensive necessities	We have enough money, but purchasing durable goods is difficult	We can afford much more than the majority of the population	We can afford almost anything	Refused to answer
Yes, as soon as possible	14	6	5	5	5	6
Yes, in the future	14	19	21	25	15	16
Maybe, not yet certain	13	17	11	12	2	14
Rather no	8	22	20	18	31	21
Definitely no	51	35	42	40	46	37
Refused to answer	-	1	2	1	2	6

Among respondents considering relocation, the primary motivation is the lack of suitable employment opportunities, reported by nearly 25% of this group. The absence of prospects for self-realization within the community was also frequently cited (18%). An additional 17% of respondents indicated plans for temporary relocation for education or work [Figure 10.2].

Regionally, the West and Centre are more focused on seeking opportunities, whereas the East and South prioritize security; Kyiv exhibits a combination of both motives [Table 10.4].

Figure 10.2. **Respondents' reasons to change their place of residence (% among those who (possibly) plan to do so)**

Q: "If yes, what is the main reason?"

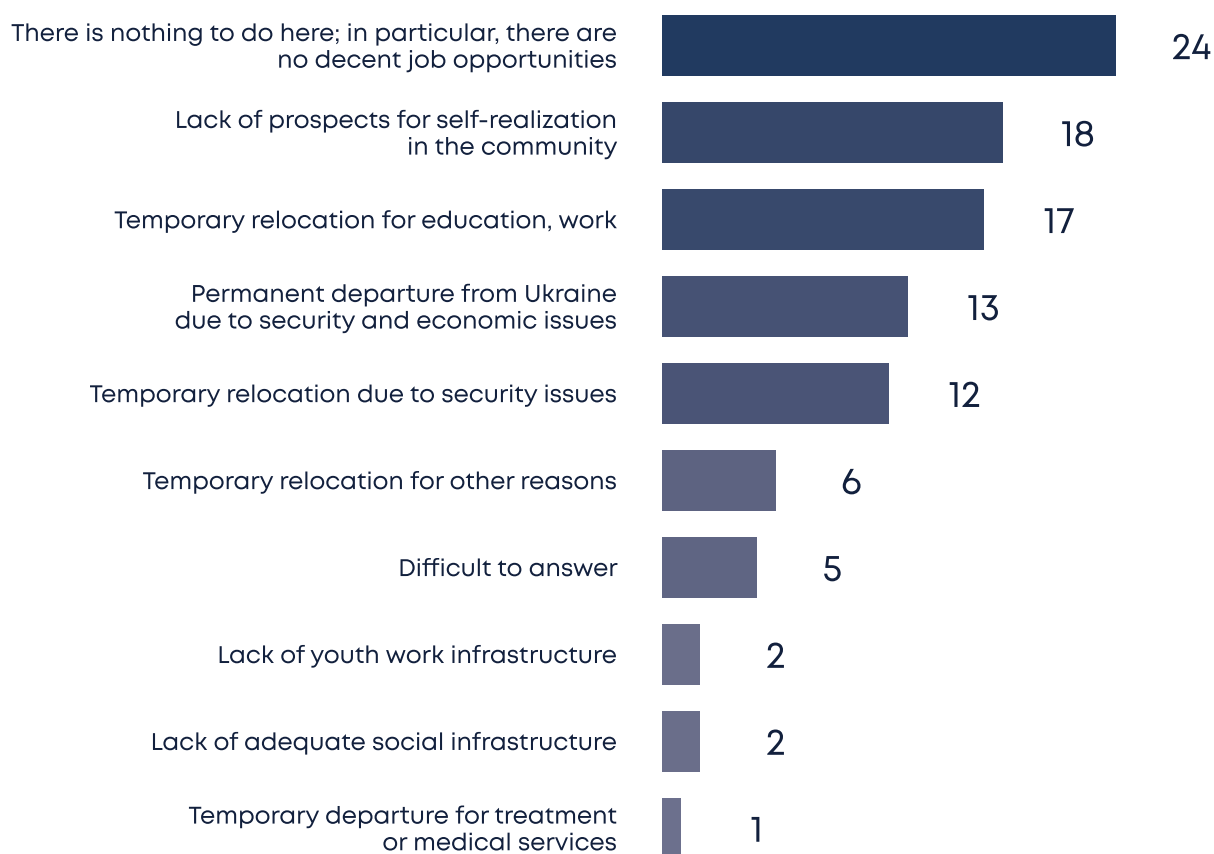


Table 10.4. Respondents' reasons to change their place of residence (% among those who (possibly) plan to do so)

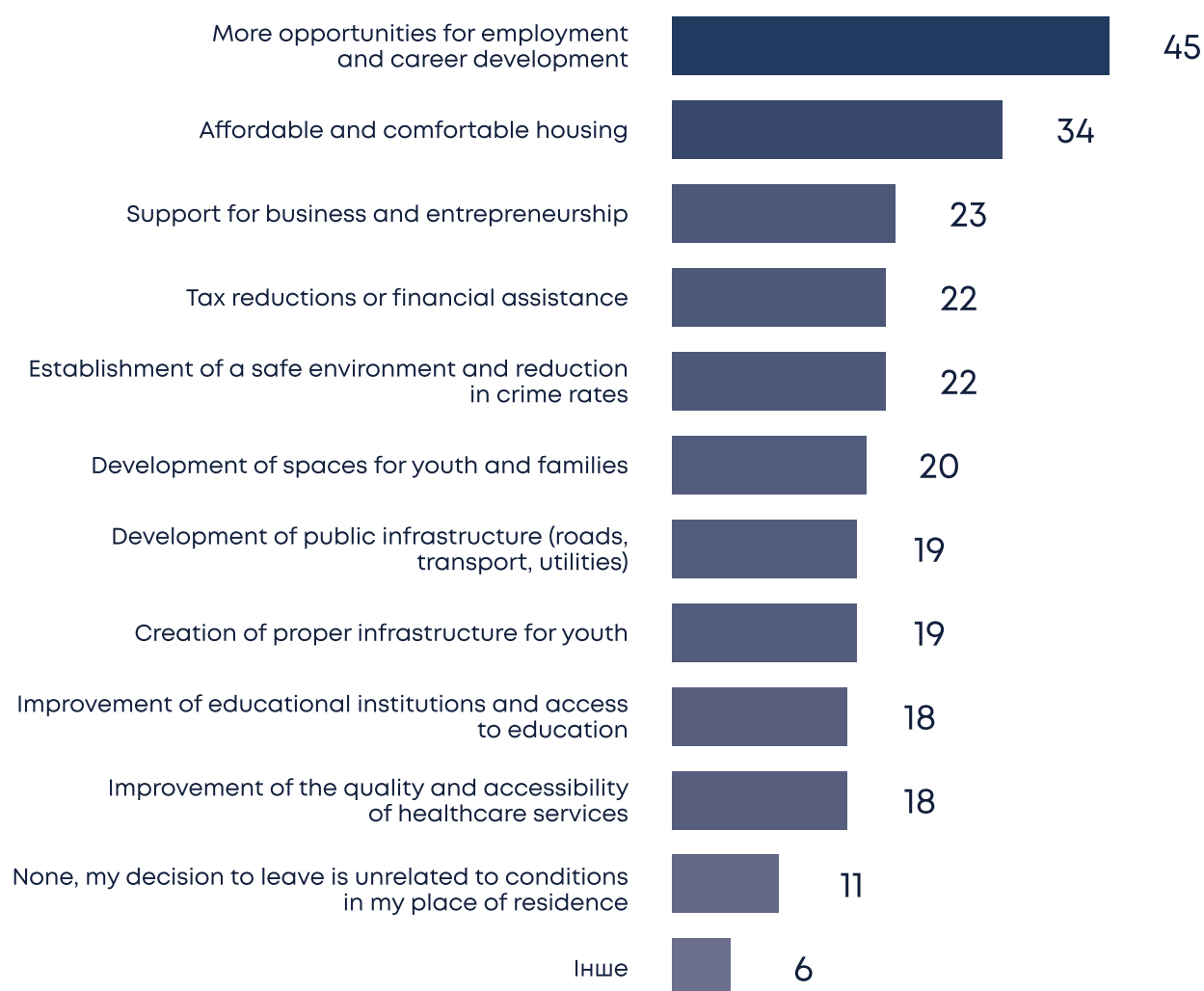
Q: "If yes, what is the main reason?"

	Centre	North	East	West	South	City of Kyiv
There is nothing to do here; in particular, there are no decent job opportunities	27	17	24	26	29	16
Lack of prospects for self-realization in the community	26	17	12	18	17	20
Lack of adequate social infrastructure	2	2	2	4	1	-
Lack of youth work infrastructure	1	3	1	2	1	2
Temporary relocation for education, work	17	20	14	25	9	11
Temporary departure for treatment or medical services	1	2	-	1	-	-
Temporary relocation due to security issues	7	11	18	5	15	22
Permanent departure from Ukraine due to security and economic issues	8	16	10	8	19	13
Temporary relocation for other reasons	5	7	5	5	5	9
Difficult to answer	2	2	8	2	1	2

The most significant factor that could discourage young people from relocating is the expansion of employment and career development opportunities, cited by 45% of respondents. This is followed by the availability of affordable and comfortable housing, reported by 34%. Approximately one-fifth of respondents mentioned support for business (23%), tax reductions or financial assistance (22%), and the establishment of a safe environment (22%) as significant factors. Additionally, the development of spaces for youth and families (20%) and improvements to public and youth infrastructure (19% each) were also considered important [Figure 10.3].

Figure 10.3. **Changes that would encourage respondents to remain in their settlements (% among those who indicated an intention to change their place of residence)**

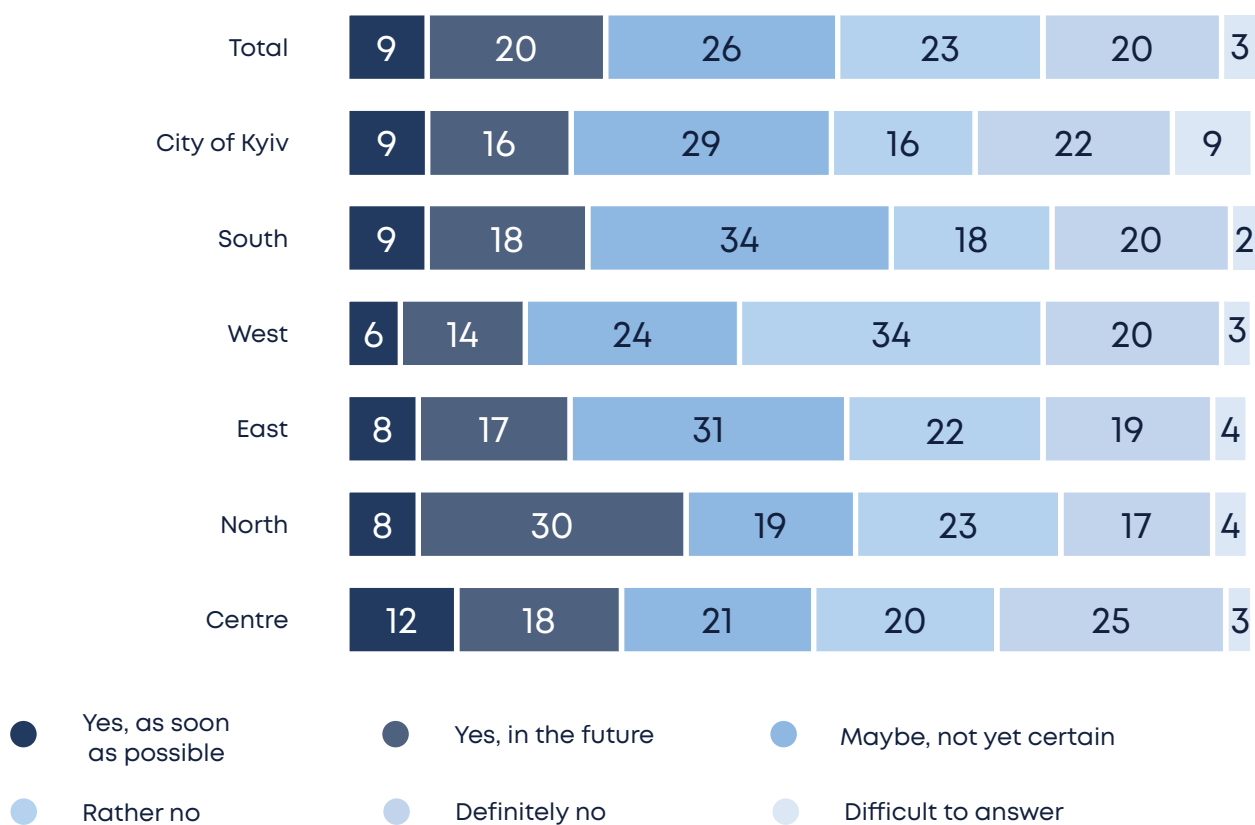
Q: “If you are planning to change your place of residence, what changes in your settlement would encourage you to stay?”



Overall, youth predominantly exhibit restrained or negative attitudes towards emigration: 26% of respondents remain undecided, 23% are inclined not to leave, and 20% definitely do not intend to do so. Conversely, 20% are considering relocation in the future, 9% intend to leave as soon as possible, and 3% found it difficult to answer. The highest proportion of people intending to leave was recorded in the North, while the West exhibited a lower figure. Young people in the central oblasts more frequently plan to leave as soon as possible. Overall, the North shows a stronger inclination towards migration, whereas the Centre and Kyiv demonstrate a relatively greater tendency to remain in the country [Figure 10.4].

Figure 10.4. Respondents's plans to leave abroad permanently by region (%)

Q: "Do you have plans to leave abroad permanently?"



## Conclusions

- On average, youth have approximately five hours of free time daily, which they typically allocate among solitary activities, socializing with friends, and interacting with their immediate circle; none of these forms of leisure takes precedence over the others.
- Socially beneficial activities occupy a minimal share of leisure time, have a predominantly situational character, and are largely tied to the wartime context—in particular, volunteer assistance to the army and charitable initiatives.
- Regular participation in civic organizations, youth associations, or project organization remains uncommon. Youth participation in subcultures is also generally uncommon and not widespread, and most young people have never belonged to such communities.
- Awareness of the activities of youth organizations and youth work centres is low. A significant proportion of youth either lack knowledge of these organizations' existence or do not comprehend their activities and their own potential role. Consequently, the primary barriers to participation are a lack of information, time constraints, and absence of clear motivation.
- The presence of youth who express willingness to participate under certain conditions indicates potential for increased youth participation given improved communication, clear activity formats, and accessible infrastructure.
- Youth predominantly select open urban spaces and informal public places for leisure, whereas specialized youth centres and organizations' premises are less frequented. The greatest demand for improvement concerns precisely those places where young people already spend their time, as well as youth spaces that have potential for development and popularization.
- Young people are rather critical in their assessments of their own ability to influence local government decision-making. The predominant perception of limited or absent influence may indicate a disconnect between young citizens and institutional governance mechanisms, as well as insufficient visibility of avenues for participation.
- Student self-government and online petitions are perceived as the most legitimate mechanisms of youth influence, while participation through political parties or other formalized routes remains less attractive. The financial support system for youth primarily emphasizes individual incentives rather than the development of initiatives or entrepreneurship.
- The online environment constitutes an important component of youth daily life but is accompanied by significant risks. Some young people experience fraud, manipulation, or toxic communication online. Most youth report basic digital literacy and preparedness to respond to online risks.
- Youth online engagement is selective: a significant proportion does not actively participate in thematic communities; among those involved, dominant interests include news, security-related content, and entertainment. Telegram is primarily used as a source of up-to-the-minute information, whereas educational and lifestyle channels play a secondary role.
- Youth employment demonstrates a gradual transition from unstable forms of work to permanent employment as age and level of education increase, while younger respondents more often remain outside the labour market or have casual jobs. Youth professional interests focus mainly on practical and competitive fields, particularly languages and IT. Most

respondents intend to acquire skills and knowledge via non-formal education. This trend reflects shifting perceptions of career success and the increasing importance of applied competencies in the modern economy.

- Migration attitudes are generally cautious: most youth have no plans to change their place of residence, although some consider this possibility in the future. Intentions to relocate are more frequently associated not with leaving the country but with seeking opportunities for self-realization, employment, and security. This suggests that mobility is perceived rather as a tool for development rather than an escape.
- At the same time, the existing demand for youth infrastructure development and willingness to engage in volunteer activities provide a foundation for strengthening youth policy and fostering systematic interaction among youth, communities, and local authorities.
- Overall, youth in Ukraine demonstrate potential for civic engagement; however, this potential is realized inconsistently and predominantly through informal or isolated measures. Key challenges include low institutional involvement, limited awareness, and insufficient sustainability of participation.

