

# Momentum

Sept 23

## In this edition...

This month we examine some of the issues facing Ukrainians who are seeking work in Switzerland. Many dream of returning to Ukraine but as it is 19 months since the war started; they feel they need to pursue their lives here while they wait to see what the future holds. A little more than 70,000 Ukrainians fled to Switzerland in the days after the war started in February 2022. The majority were elderly, women and children but, according to two Government reports (see below), those of working age are keen to get a job.

## Looking for work

- 3,000 Ukrainians had found work in Switzerland in restaurants, shops and agriculture, as [reported](#) in August 2022. This is around 10% of working age Ukrainians sheltering in Switzerland.
- Two thirds of Ukrainians refugees were actively seeking work or wished to work, according to a Government [survey](#) last Autumn.



Hundreds gathered for the annual Ukraine Independence Day celebrations. It was organised by our partner organisations IvAlive, Ukraine Reborn and Ukrainian members of the Centre. Handicrafts and tasty Ukrainian food were on sale while the audience was entertained with traditional and current songs.

## Nice work if you can get it

The majority of Ukrainian refugees are keen to find work in Switzerland, according to Government findings, but it is not easy; there are many obstacles to overcome. The Centre is poised to launch its own mentoring programme (see below) to support Ukrainian integration and providing help with job seeking is one of its key objectives. We asked two Ukrainian women, Liubov Shabatina and Tamila Zubkova, to tell us about the problems they faced.



Liubov Shabatina arrived from Kyiv in March with her husband and their three children, including a two-week-old baby. Both she and her husband ran their own businesses in Ukraine and it was going to be hard to do the same in Switzerland. Her husband had a furniture making business but with a degree in engineering he found work as a mechanic in a bowling club. Liubov ran two manicure shops and a training school for manicurists in Ukraine. Here, she could not take a full time job with a tiny baby and she started training other Ukrainians for free where she lived in Crans-Montana. Now the family is housed in a refugee hostel in Nyon and she has managed to secure an

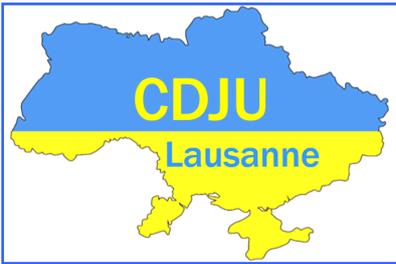
office and is working as an instructor again. "I really want to return to Ukraine. I started working here because I cannot live as a refugee. I am used to being independent. I am grateful to Switzerland for the opportunity to live and work here. I decided for myself that as long as I live here, I will work here." Her main problem was discovering how to register as self-employed. "Everyone has their own version."

Tamila Zubkova was determined to find work when she arrived in Switzerland. She and her two children left Zaporizhzhia in March when the Russians started bombing the nuclear power plant there. She has no idea how long she will be here.

The special S permit, issued to Ukrainians, allowed them to work but she found many employers were still hesitant to accept a temporary permit. "When I was looking for a job, employers were reluctant to hire people with S status on a permanent basis because no one knew whether the status would be extended or not." The Swiss Government has now extended it to March 2024. The 40 year-old marketing professional did find work starting with a temporary job at an arts festival. "It was a great opportunity to practise my French." Now she has a marketing job at an executive coaching centre which is also training her to become a coach. It took her four months to obtain the post and she is grateful for the help she received from the Ukraine ex-pat community that was established here before the war and which launched the #hiretheukrainianinitiative. She found the job on the Telegram social media platform.



The Centre's new mentoring programme "USpring," has been designed by Herb Riband and Dmytro Milashchuk, two Centre volunteers with relevant experience. "USpring" launches in October and we will keep you informed.



## Who we are

The Ukraine Day Centre is a not-for-profit association opened on 28 April 2022. It is an ecumenical initiative between Our Lady of Faith, Christ Church and the Scots Kirk. We support those fleeing Ukraine irrespective of language, race, faith or gender. The Centre's services are free.

## Outdoors: late sunshine to enjoy sport at the Centre



## Indoors: a masterclass in makeup



Books, art and crafts were also on offer during another busy Sunday at the Centre.

## How can you help ?

Help with our new French and English conversation classes.  
Contact: 076 558 6805 or e mail [ukrainecentrelausanne@gmail.com](mailto:ukrainecentrelausanne@gmail.com)

## “Hosting”: a new volunteer role

The Centre is becoming increasingly autonomous and run by our Ukrainian friends. However, we still need the involvement of our non-Ukrainian volunteers. We now have two hosts per session, a Ukrainian and a non-Ukrainian, to open and lock up and provide help where needed. On Sunday 17th September it was Ludmila Bahmut and Missy Marquardt. Missy tells us about her first Sunday in the role.

— “Hosting at the Ukraine Centre on Sunday afternoons is a great way to connect with our Ukrainian neighbours and appreciate their creativity, ambition, gratitude and grit. After opening the downstairs, upstairs and church library, a few prepare the tables, reception, clothing, and the refreshments. The set-up is on ‘auto-pilot’ and Ludmila needs very little help, she’s a marvel. The registration goes smoothly, all seem respectful of the process. The classes are running by 14:15 – Ukrainian in the Church, English in the library, arts and crafts in the Church hall, robotics upstairs etc...The hall is abuzz with children playing, dozens sit and share conversation over coffee and biscuits, there is a make-up demonstration, some buy English books, and there is a sense of peace and coming together. The end of the afternoon is equally smooth with the kitchen crew cleaning up with little need for assistance. It was particularly nice to see and chat with some of the Sunday participants, new faces to me, as I generally go to the Centre on Thursday. I highly recommend hosting on Sundays, a truly positive experience! ”

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*The team spirit amongst the volunteers is real*

Missy has been volunteering at the Centre since it opened in April 2022. She has lived in Switzerland for 24 years. She left the United States 48 years ago to study in France then lived in Cairo, London, Athens, Bahrain, Luxembourg and Brussels. “It’s given me a strong sense of belonging to our global community,” she says. “When the war in Ukraine started, my heart went out to its victims.” She signed up to the Centre to teach English. “The team spirit amongst the volunteers is real, and a joy to be a part of. The Ukrainians we serve are grateful, courageous, and polite. I learn something every time I am at the Centre and feel I take away far more from it than I give.



*Missy (l) with Victoria Golosna*



## Mastering robotics: young students at the Centre make a prototype bus that knows where to stop.

They also learned about public transport in different cities and how the driverless metro operates in Lausanne.

## Donate

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## Editorial

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