

To work as an editor during a war: Ukrainian experience and lessons



Speakers:

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According to the UN, about 12 million people may be affected by the war in Ukraine



6.4
million
refugees
abroad across
Europe

6.3
million
forced migrants
within Ukraine

- *Educational institutions* - **659** damaged, **74** - completely destroyed.
- *Vocational education institutions* - **45** damaged, **5** – completely destroyed.
- *Institutions of professional higher education* **22** - damaged, **1** - completely destroyed.
- *Higher education institutions* **18** - damaged, **1** – completely destroyed.



Our main aim



to collect data about how the war changed plans and usual daily lives of those who work in editorial services, how significantly it impacts their job and work.

The idea belongs to



Maryna Zhenchenko
Vice-chair

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Questionnaire was made together by

Maryna Zhenchenko and Iryna Izarova



Iryna Izarova
Chair

Editor in Chief, Access to Justice in Eastern Europe
Ukraine

[Read more](#)



Yuliia Baklazhenko

Ukraine

We work all together

with



Редакції наукової періодики в часи ВІЙНИ

Дорогі колеги! Війна змінила наші плани і звичне повсякденне життя. Розкажіть нам, будь ласка, про свою нову реальність. Чи Ви у безпеці? Чи змінили Ви місце проживання? Чи маєте Ви роботу? Як змінилася Ваша робота? Чим Українське регіональне відділення Європейської асоціації наукових редакторів (<https://ease.org.uk/communities/regional-chapters/ukrainian-regional-chapter/contacts/>) і Асоціація українських редакторів (<https://www.uaredactor.com.ua/>) можуть бути корисними спільноті редакторів наукової періодики. Опитування займе 10-15 хвилин – будемо раді почути вас.

The target population - **1447**
science journals

The survey period:

from 25 May 2022 to 20 August 2022, in two stages

The first stage

Emails were sent during May 25-27, 2022 to 1,355 addresses from the e-mail database of scientific journals.

**160
answers**

The second stage

On August 7-10, 2022, the questionnaire was re-sent to 1,209 editorial offices. This led to almost double the number of responses. In general, from out of 1,209 invitations to participate, we received only 160 answers, 13,2% of all.

Interim results

Presented at the 16th EASE General Assembly and Conference (Valencia, Spain, 24-26 June, 2022)



Subject areas
of the science
journals
Founder and
publisher of
the science
journals.

technical sciences (25.2%),
economical science (12.6%),
physical-mathematical sciences (11.3%),
biological sciences (11.3%),
pedagogical sciences (10.6%),
historical sciences (10.6%),
medical sciences (9.3%),
agricultural sciences (8.6%),
chemical sciences (6%),
philological sciences (5.3 %),
other sciences – less than 5%.

Founder and
publisher of
the science
journals

state universities - **88.8%**
state scientific institutions - **6.3%**,
commercial organizations - **3.1%** and
private universities - **1.9 %**.

Figure 1. The geographical location of the respondents

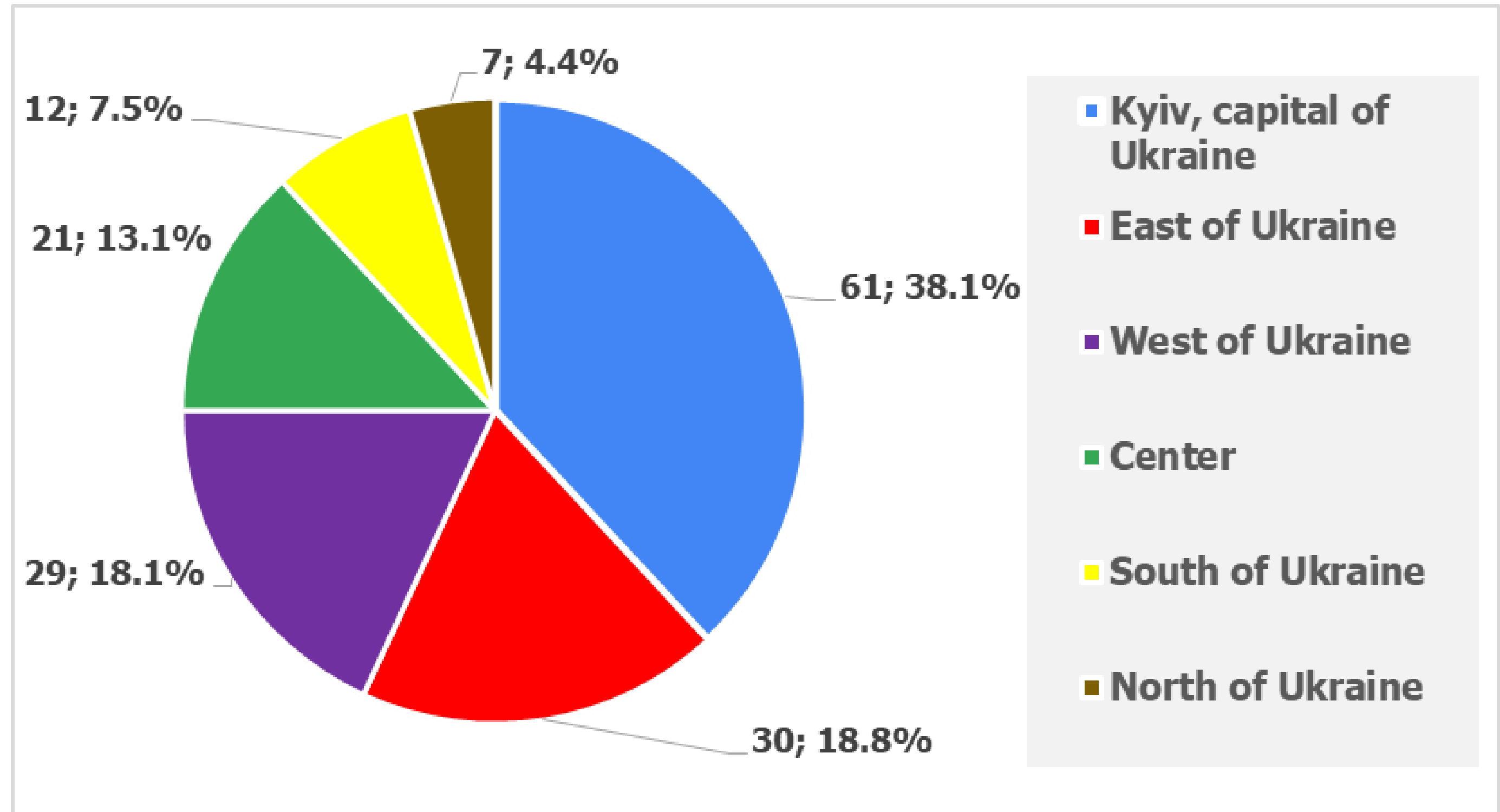


Figure 2. The change of the geographical location of the editors who stayed in Ukraine

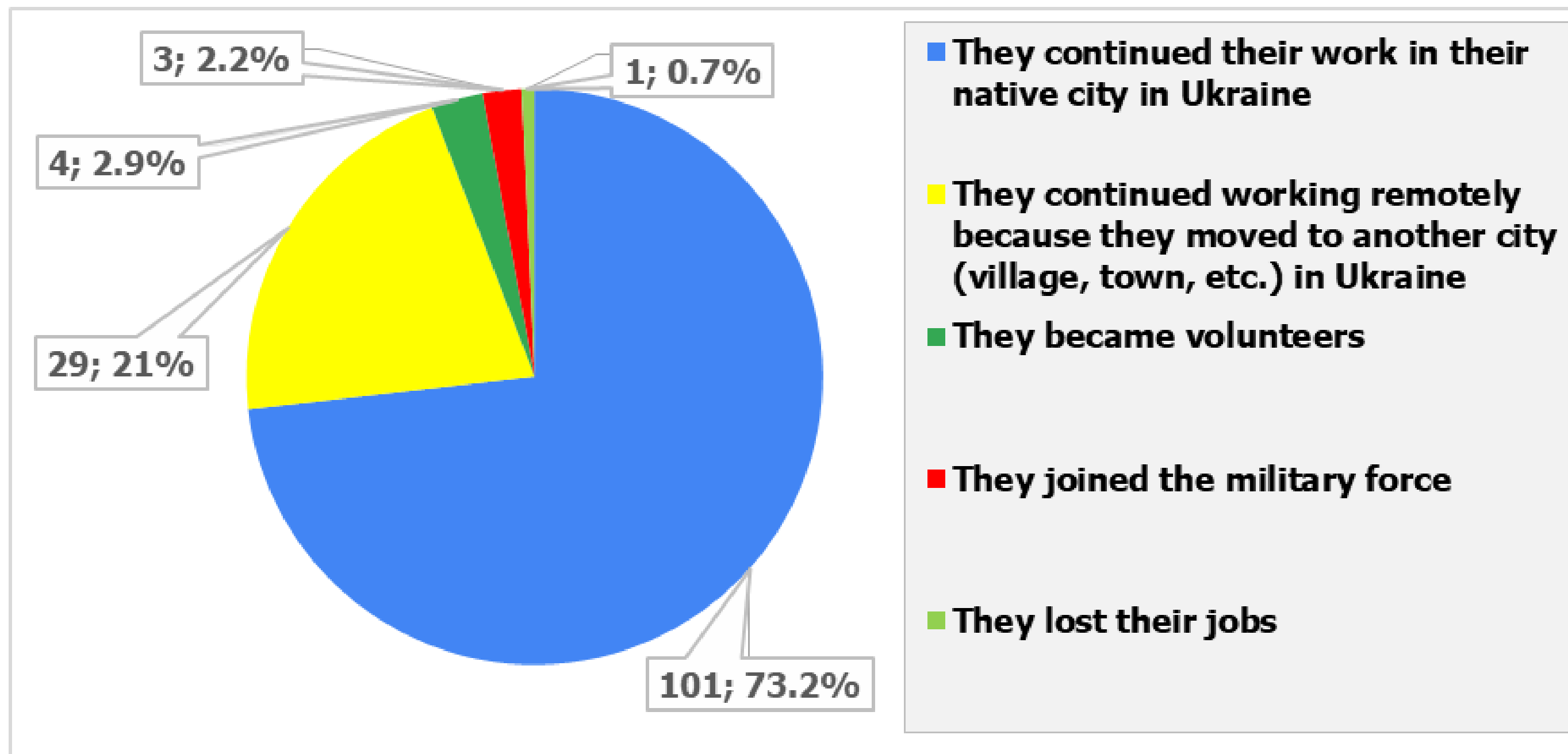


Figure 3.
Editorial
positions
of the
respondents

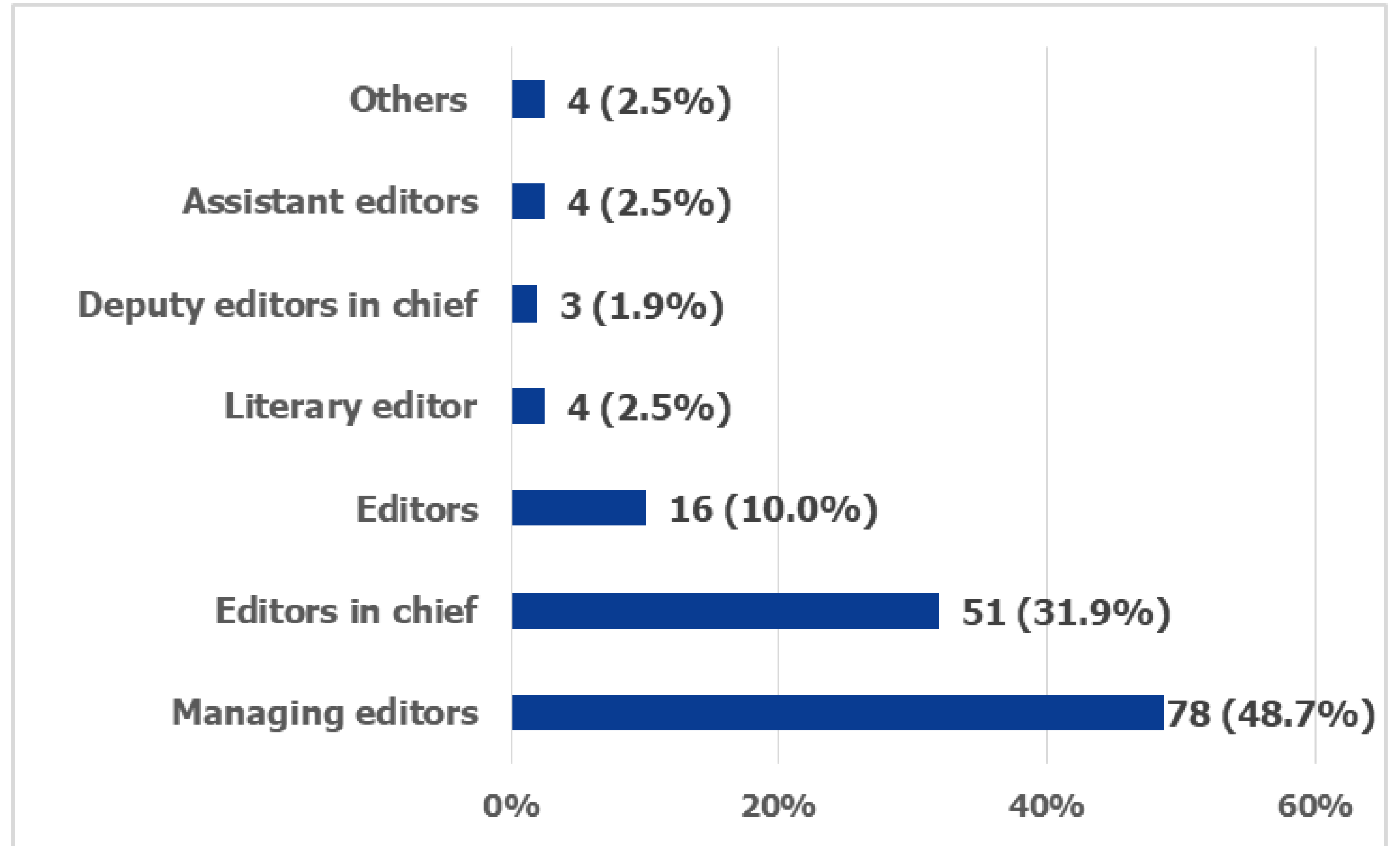
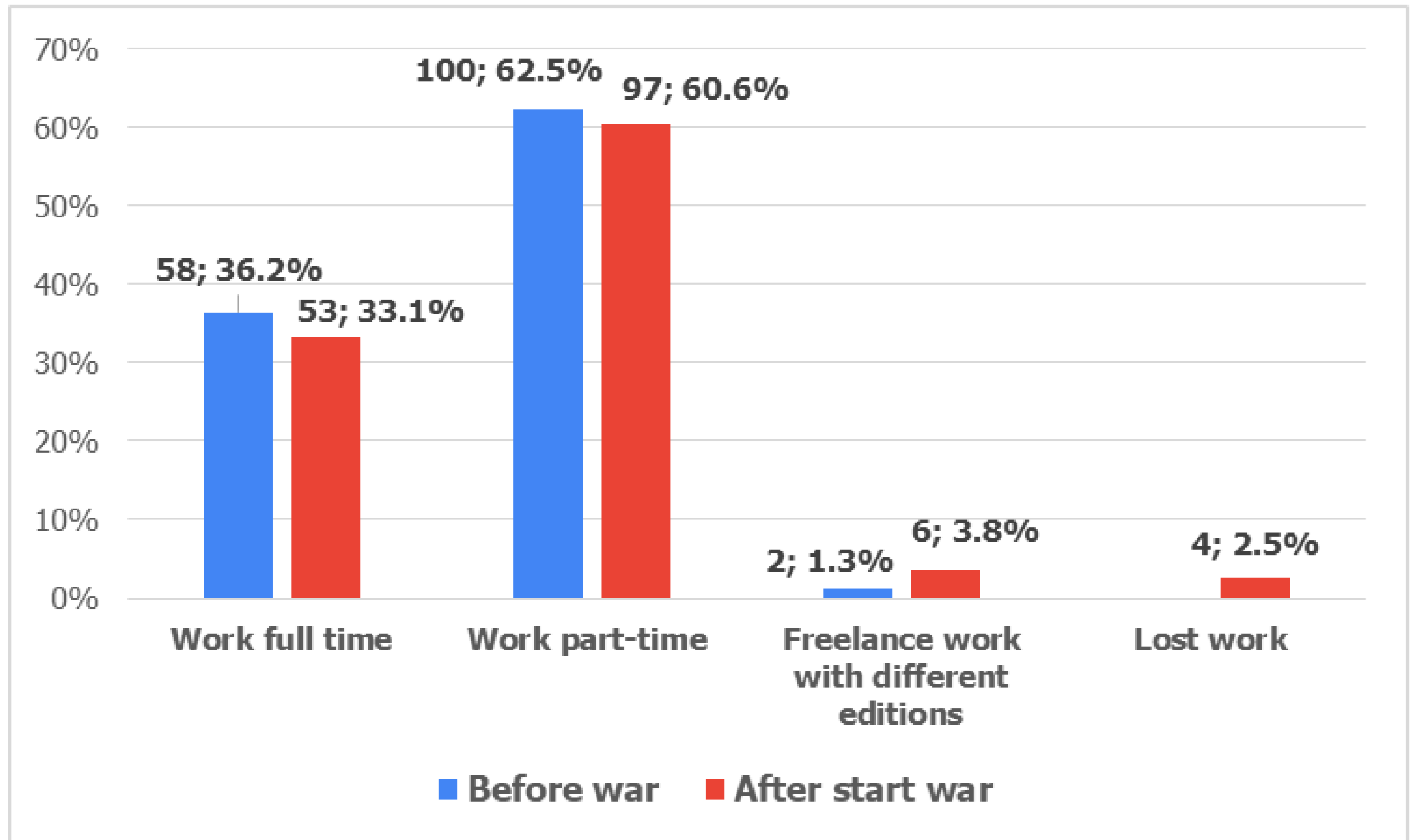
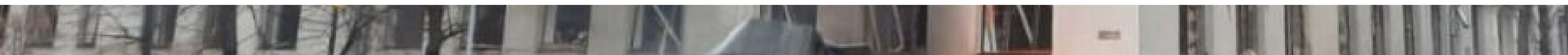


Figure 4. The type of cooperation with the editorial office before and after start war





Impact of war



Changes in the structure of editorial offices, the organization of the editorial and publishing process

12 editors (7.5%) answered that there were no changes
63 (39.4%) chose the answer "no significant changes"

85 respondents (53.1%) noted changes, in particular:

- the staff of the editorial staff was reduced – **16 (10%);**
- had to organize remote work of editorial office, as some of the employees left abroad – **38 (23.8%);**
- the periodicity of journal issues was violated – **34 (21.3%);**
- the number of articles decreased – **71 (44.4%);**
- the number of articles increased – **6 (3.8%);**
- the topic of articles has changed (the number of studies in the context of wartime has increased) – **25 (15.6%);**
- the review procedure became more complicated: a significant number of permanent reviewers found themselves in the combat zone, accordingly, the time to search for reviewers increased – **2 (1.3%);**
- the journal temporarily suspended its activity – **3 (1.9%);**
- the journal closed – **2 (1.3%).**

More than **90% (147 out of 160)** of journals are
Open Access journals

77 respondents (48.1%) indicated that the cost of publication is paid
by the author,

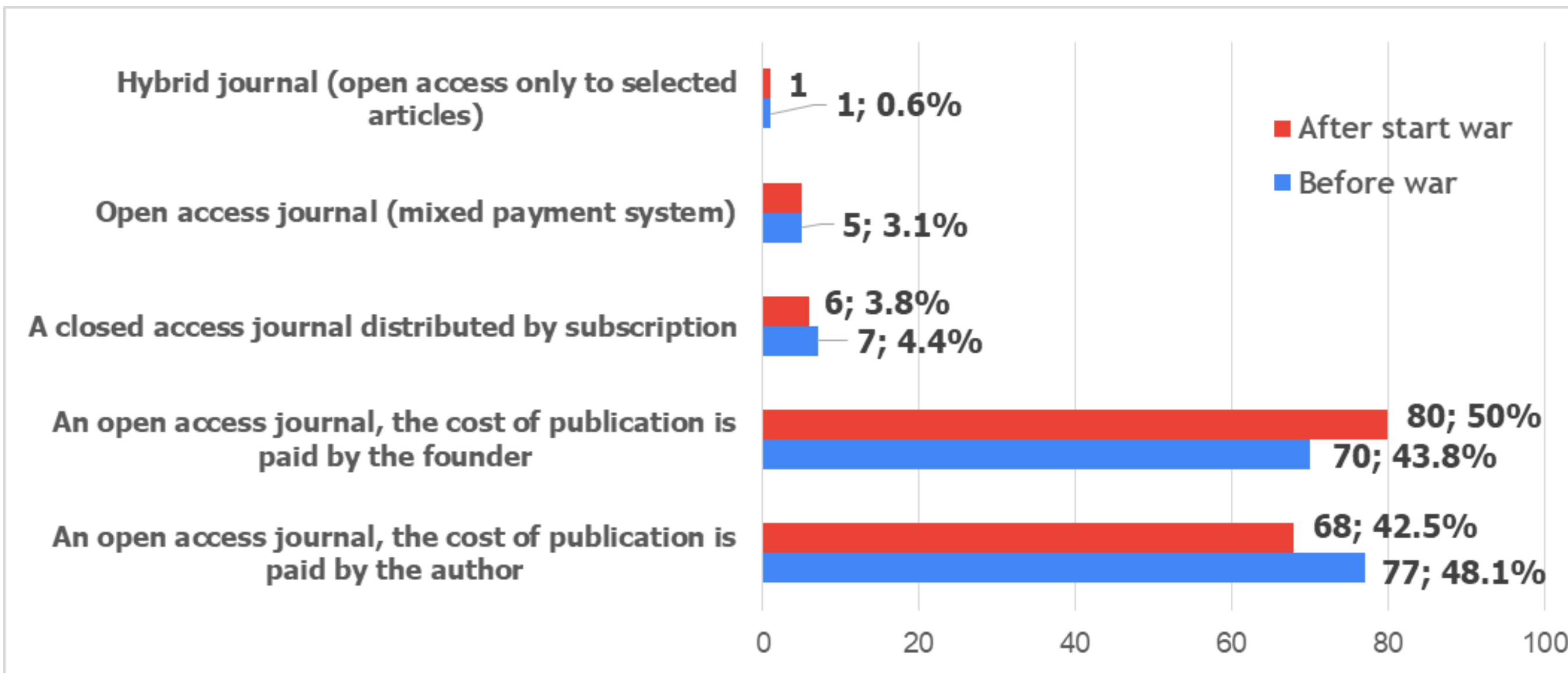
70 (43.8%) chose the option with payment of the cost of publication
of the article by the founder of the journal

Individual answers from the item "other" clearly demonstrate the unity and mutual assistance of Ukrainians in the fight against russian aggression, for example: "**we make a free of charge to support our scientists**" or "**we are looking for opportunities to reduce or cancel payment for authors from the territories affected by the war**".

Transformation
of the business
model

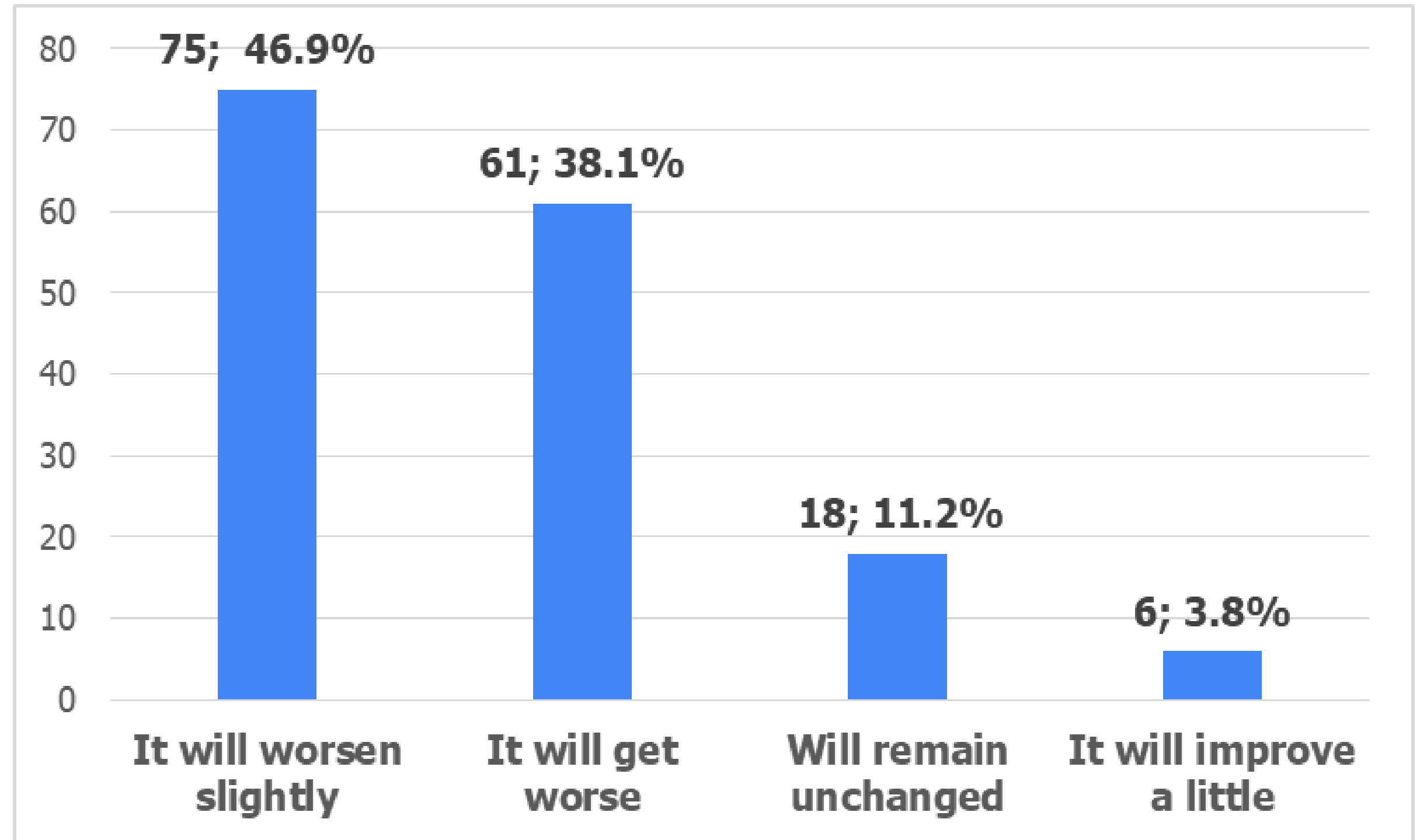
The war caused a significant decrease in the income levels of the population, accordingly, the authors do not always have the funds to pay the cost of publishing the article.

In view of this, **9 scientific journals (5.6%)** changed their business model and moved from payment for publication by authors to payment by the founder (university) in order to support scientists.



Transformation of the business model

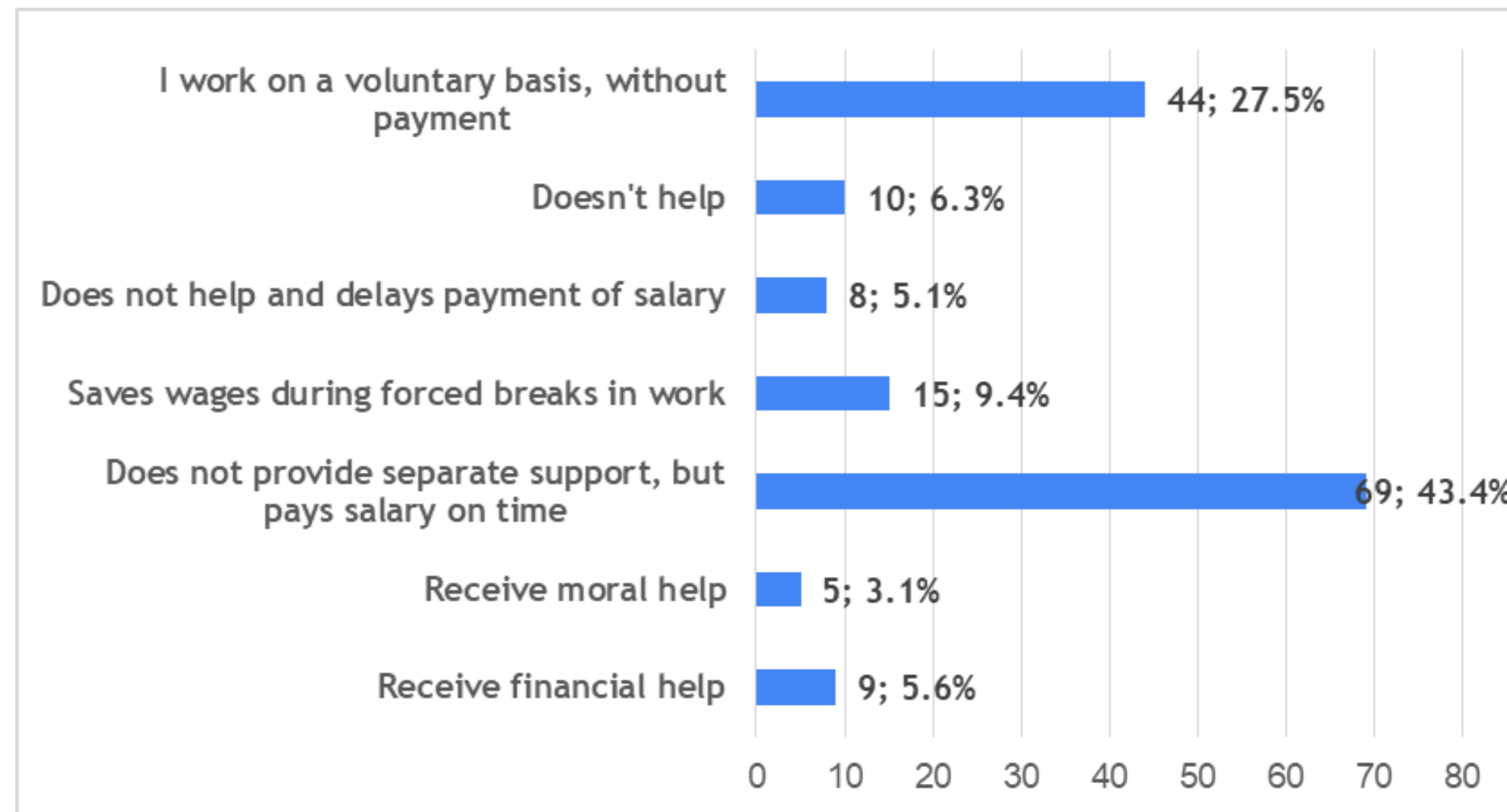
"How, in your opinion, will your financial situation change during the next 6 months?"



The forms of support from the editorial office

Only **5.6 %** of the respondents received financial help,
2.5% received moral help,

54.8% received no special support,
among them **43.4% are happy to receive the salary in a timely manner**,
9.4% identified as support the fact that the editorial office keeps salary ;
27.5% emphasized that they work on a volunteer basis and do not receive a salary for their work.



Stressful
situations
experienced by
editors or
members of their
families

conflict of disruption of relationship with relatives
from the aggressor state – **36 (22.5%)**

members of the family are enrolled in the military
forces of Ukraine – **23 (14.4%)**

illnesses – **15 (9.4%)**

damaged house / accomodation – **12 (7.5%)**

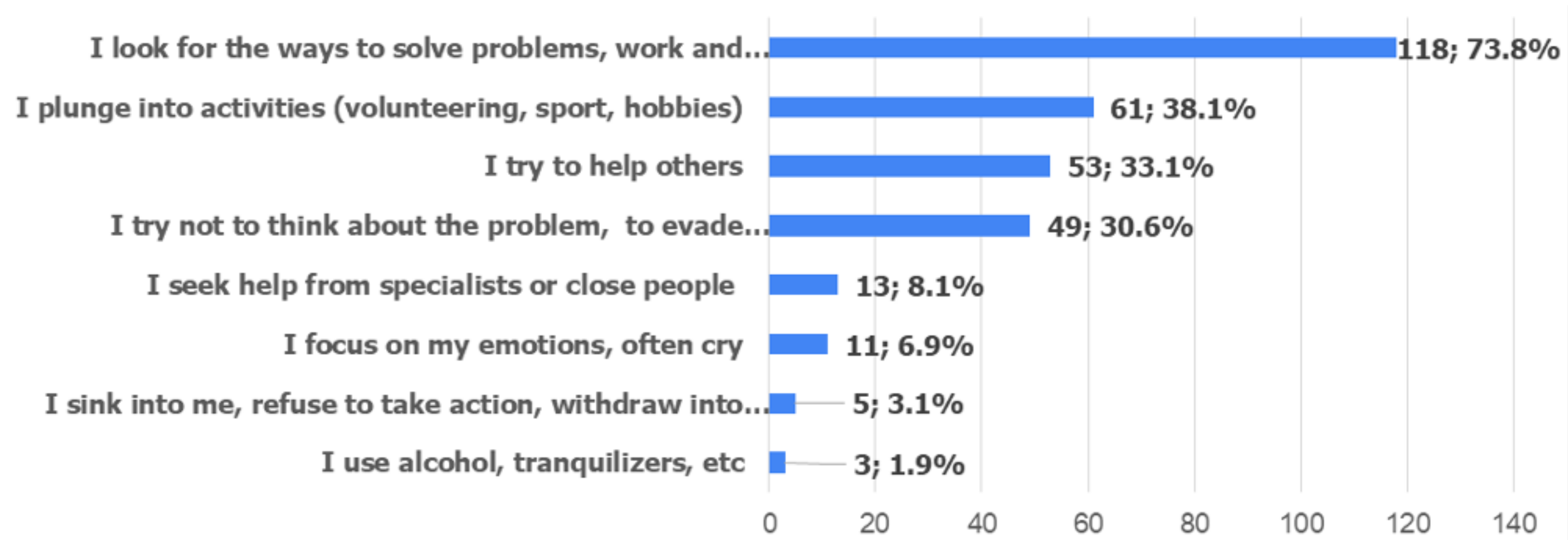
death of relatives or close people – **11 (6.9%)**

loss of house/ accomodation – **6 (3.8%)**

loss of work – **5 (3.1%)**

The feelings and experiences of the editors caused by the war

No.	What do you feel about the war in Ukraine	Number of respondents (percent)
1	Belief in a better future, <u>expectation</u> of positive changes in life	79 (49.4%)
2	Fatigue from uncertainty, emotional devastation	70 (43.8%)
3	A constant feeling of the unreality of what is happening	57 (35.6%)
4	Rapid fatigue, loss of physical strength	46 (28.7%)
5	Frequent <u>change</u> of emotions, mood swings, increased vulnerability	37 (23.1%)
6	Difficulty concentrating, memory impairment	34 (21.3%)
7	A feeling of helplessness, powerlessness, despair	32 (20.01%)
8	Constant thoughts about what you could have done but didn't	28 (17.5%)
9	A constant feeling of "life at the station"	25 (15.6%)
10	<u>Apathy</u> , decreased interest in life	22 (13.8%)
11	Reluctance to communicate with people, seeking solitude	20 (12.5%)
12	Loneliness, feeling of abandonment, uselessness	16 (10.0%)
13	Lack of desire and strength to live on	5 (3.1%)

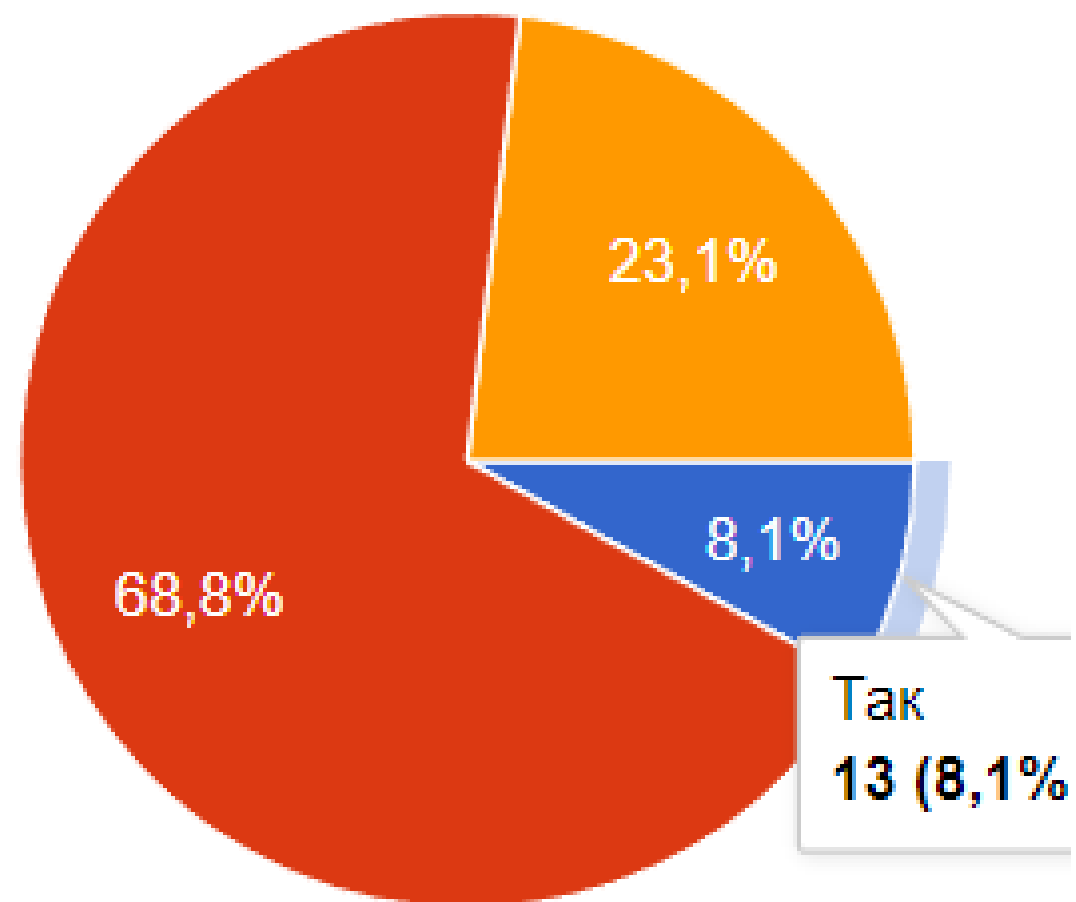


"What do you do to overcome stress and restore psychological balance"?

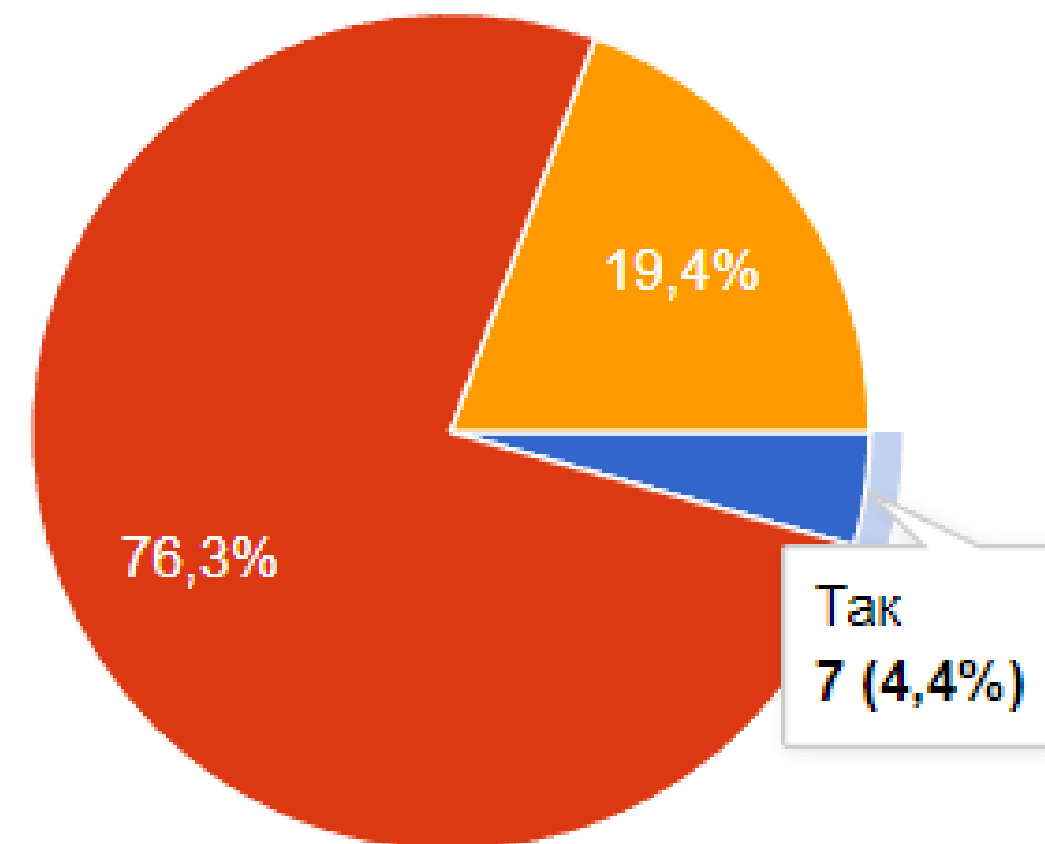
International editorial associations membership and support of foreign colleagues

Only **13 respondents (8.1%)** are members of Ukrainian Editors' Associations, **7 (4.4%)** – EASE, and **3 (1.9%)** – other association, in particular: International Society of Managing and Technical Editors, Ukrainian Library Association, Ukrainian Council of Science Editors.

Ukrainian Editors' Association



EASE



International editorial associations membership and support of foreign colleagues

However, **23.1%** of the respondents chose the answer **«No, but considered»** regarding admission to Ukrainian Editors' Associations, and **19.4%** – to EASE.

Ukrainian Editors' Association



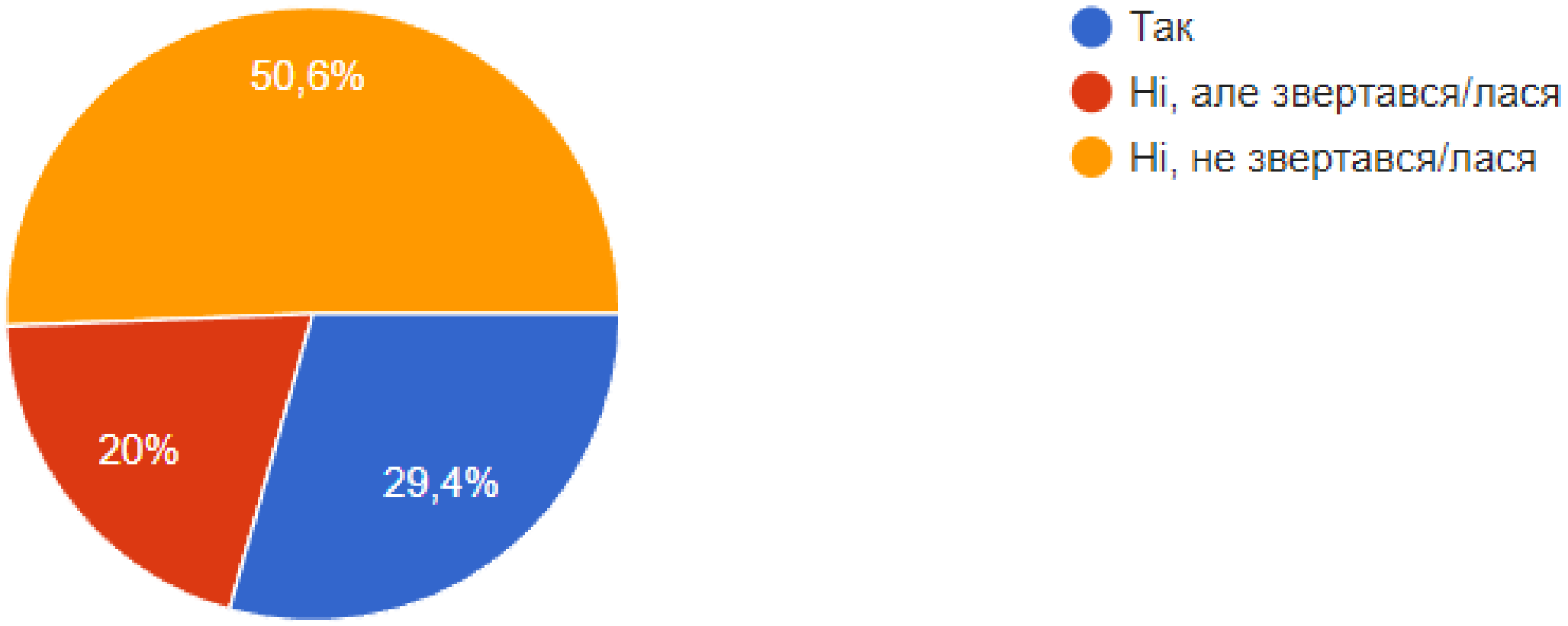
EASE



The international support of Ukrainian scientists

In respect of international support of Ukrainian scientists, **47 (29.4%)** respondents answered that they received help within international collaboration.

81 (50.6%) did not seek such a support and **32 (20%)** asked for support but did not receive it.



From international organizations, Ukrainian editors expect

- invitations to participate in joint scientific projects **(110; 68.8%),**
- financial support **(96; 60%) and**
- the possibility of internships in foreign editorial offices of scientific periodicals **(65; 40.6%).**



Conclusions

We have to keep high quality human resources and to develop international standards of scholarly publishing in Ukraine.

We need:

- support of the international community;
- practical recommendations for the editors who faced war;
- continue research, collect data and maintain surveys for identifying current problems and focusing on it.

Thank you!



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