



MIOK



BEST PARTNERSHIP PRACTICES

OF NGOS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN
**ADVOCACY UKRAINIAN
REFUGEES' ISSUES**

LVIV, 2024



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INFORMATION ABOUT EXECUTORS

The International Visegrad Fund

The International Visegrad Fund is a donor organisation established in 2000 by the governments of the Visegrad Group countries – Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The Fund follows the vision of President Vaclav Havel, President Lech Wałęsa and Prime Minister József Antall and supports regional cooperation of civil society organisations. That is possible thanks to Grants, Scholarships and Artists Residencies. We seek original approaches that help the region progress in seven main areas of Culture, Education, Innovation, Democratic Values, Public Policy, Environment and Tourism, and Social Development.

The Fund position is a Central Europe with full understanding of its shared history and the necessity of mutual respect and cooperation towards a better future in the broader European context.

The International Visegrad Fund supports regional cooperation between civil society organizations to advance their relations, exchange and share ideas and promote mutual understanding. When promoting European values in Central Europe, Fund works towards a better-connected future.

IIEC

International institute of education, culture and diaspora relations (short name IIEC) is a non-profit organisation which was set up in 2008 year.

The main purpose of the organisation is to develop national education, culture and language, promote social and cultural activity of young people, ensure comprehensive information, cultural and spiritual integration of Ukraine into the global and European community, create and implement regional, national and international programmes and projects.

The organisation's activities are of a social nature and are implemented through cooperation with state authorities, local governments, enterprises, institutions, foundations and other legal entities in Ukraine and abroad. For many years, IIEC has been combining the efforts of the non-governmental sector, academics and policy makers to develop solutions to overcome the issues of Ukrainian emigrants. In particular, during the first decade of the 2000s, projects were implemented to protect the interests of Ukrainian labour migrants and their children who remained at home. After the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, IIEC focused on the problems of Ukrainian war migrants, monitoring and discussing the role of Ukrainian diaspora organisations in these processes.

Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech

Ukrainian initiative in the Czech Republic (Ukrajinská iniciativa v České republice, UICR) is a diaspora organisation that focuses on the support and development of the Ukrainian migrants in the Czech Republic and other European countries; strengthening partnership between Ukrainian and Czech communities. UICR is a member of the European and World Congress of Ukrainians, cooperates with the Embassy of Ukraine in the Czech Republic, City council of Prague, Government Council for National Minorities, different Czech NGOs – Multicultural Center of Prague, Refugee Aid Organization, Integration Centers, Word 21. Since 1992, UICR has been publishing the magazine "Porohy" for Ukrainian migrants in the Czech Republic.

The Ukrainian initiative in the Czech Republic has a long-term cooperation with the International institute of education, culture and diaspora relations in joint conferences and other events dedicated to migration issues, the Smart Migration project (2021-2022), cultural and educational events.

The UNITERs Foundation

The UNITERs Foundation was founded in 2014 and its mission is to provide assistance to those in greatest need, including the elderly people, mothers with children in difficult situations. Currently, the Foundation operates a Refugee Help Point where more than 220,000 Ukrainian refugees have already received assistance. The UNITERs serves as a volunteer hub, uniting 3,000 volunteers in Poland, Ukraine, and other European countries fostering integration between the Polish and Ukrainian communities, enabling engagement in various ways.

The UNITERs partners with numerous organisations, including the Embassy of Ukraine in Poland, the European Congress of Ukrainians, the Polish Medical Mission, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights etc. The International institute of education, culture and diaspora relations has started its cooperation with UNITERs Foundation in the current project work.

Union of Ruthenians-Ukrainians of the Slovak Republic

Union of Ruthenians-Ukrainians of the Slovak Republic (URUSR) has a rich experience in assisting Ukrainians in Slovakia primarily in education and culture. In 2012-2014, within the program of the EU HUSKROUA/1001/083 URUSR implemented the project "Slovak-Ukrainian Cultural Center". In 2016-2017, within the cross-border cooperation program, financed by Norwegian Financial Mechanism fund, URUSR implemented "Slovak-Ukrainian Information Center" project. On February 28 2022 in the city of Prešov URUSR in cooperation with NGO "Slovak-Ukrainian Partnership" established the Coordination Center for Assistance to Ukrainian Refugees in Slovakia.

Hundreds of Ukrainian war migrants (90% of them were women and children) received different types of assistance in the Center. The International institute of education, culture and diaspora relations cooperates with URUSR in holding joint conferences and other events dedicated to migration issues, cultural and educational events.



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The non-governmental organization «International Institute of Education, Culture and Relations with the Diaspora» in partnership with Ukrainian non-governmental organizations of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, with the support of the International Visegrad Fund have implemented the project «The best practices of cooperation of non-governmental organizations with local authorities for the advocacy of issues of Ukrainian war migrants».

The need to hold it was determined by the changes that have taken place in the modern world structure as a result of the large-scale war launched by Russia against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, which led, in particular, to huge migration flows of war refugees - an unprecedented phenomenon since the Second World War - multi-million mass migration population and the emergence of forced war migrants, internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, refugees, displaced persons and emigrants.

The history over the past half century has experienced many powerful migration crises but in terms of its scale, geography and quantitative indicators, the current Ukrainian migration crisis has no analogues and far surpasses all previous ones.

Such a situation demanded from the world quick reactions to events, changes in legislation, adoption of new laws. Let's recall that on March 4, 2022, the Council of the EU activated the Directive on temporary protection 2001/55/EC, which allowed persons who left Ukraine on or after February 24, 2022, to stay in EU countries for one year with the possibility of extension up to three years. Persons with such a status received the right to work, full access to the system of health care, education and social assistance. In the course of time, the European legislation regarding persons with the status of temporary protection evolved, new legislative initiatives appeared which are aimed at the integration of the Ukrainians in the country that accepted them.

With the beginning of the aggression, millions of people from neighboring countries of Ukraine, in particular Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, were the first to bear the brunt of the migration waves. They managed to mobilize all their internal resources to help our state and to solve the problems of Ukrainian war migrants.

An important factor in the successful implementation of legislative initiatives regarding Ukrainian forced migrants in these countries was the interaction of the authorities with civil society - both those non-governmental organizations that appeared after liberation from the communist ideology, are developing and establishing themselves and those that have only recently completed the process of their institutionalization.

Back in 2001, the European Commission declared public participation one of the five basic principles of good governance and the White Paper states that «the quality, relevance and effectiveness of EU policy depends on ensuring broad public participation at all levels of the political chain - from conception to implementation». It is on this and other European postulates of democratic societies that the dialogue regarding refugees from the war is built and, as a result, practices of cooperation of

non-governmental organizations with local authorities are implemented, including for the advocacy of issues of Ukrainian war migrants. A wide variety of structures were involved in these processes - from ancient ones with a long history of activity (after all, these countries have an autochthonous Ukrainian population and it is precisely in these countries that laws on national minorities work) to the newest ones that emerged as a result of labor and war migration from Ukraine. Such interaction of authorities and NGOs proved that in developed democracies «civil society is, in its essence, a form of organized and purposeful influence of society on the implementation of state policy through its institutions...».

Four workshops with the participation of project partners held in Prague, Warsaw and Prešov, in which about forty NGOs from Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia were involved, confirmed the effectiveness of such cooperation. These were powerful workshops that allowed the participants to exchange experience, actualize new challenges, discuss problematic issues and determine best practices of cooperation between non-governmental organizations and local authorities for advocacy of Ukrainian war migrants. Spreading the invaluable experience of the project partners and disseminating the acquired new knowledge among NGOs of other European countries will help them in the development and implementation of new road maps and increase the efficiency of their activities.

War and political experts qualify this war as a war of attrition and, therefore, there is no prospect of its end in the near future. And this, as a result, will lead to another increase in emigration and the search for new conditions for the life of people in Ukraine who lost their homes and stayed for a long time in dangerous zones, risking their lives.

Thus, the results of this project, outlined in the analytical report, can also be useful for use in Ukraine, in particular for non-governmental organizations practicing assistance to internally displaced persons whose flow is not decreasing.

The non-governmental organization «International Institute of Education and Culture and Relations with the Diaspora» expresses its gratitude to the International Visegrad Foundation for the support of the project.

We would like to thank the partners for their cooperation in the implementation of the project which became the key to its success:

- «Ukrainian initiative in the Czech Republic» and its leader Bohdan Rajcinec
- «Uniters» Foundation (Poland) and its Head Halyna Adrushkov
- «Union of Ruthenians-Ukrainians of the Slovak Republic» and its Chairman Pavlov

Bohdan

Dynamics and structure of forced migration from Ukraine to the Czech Republic due to the full-scale invasion of russia

Since the beginning of russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, quite a number of Ukrainian war migrants have found refuge and international protection in the Czech Republic. As of August 2024, the total number of applications submitted by Ukrainian forced migrants for temporary protection status in the Czech Republic amounted to slightly more than 615,000 people, 370,900 of which were officially registered in this country¹.

The dynamics of granting temporary protection status to war migrants from Ukraine was characterized by an increase in numbers from March 2022 to February 2023. During this period, the number of refugees increased by almost 200,000 people. But from March 2023, a drop in the volume of arrivals was observed and their number stabilized at the level of 330-380,000. This trend continued until June 2024 (Fig. 1). The reasons for this were the return of war migrants to Ukraine or their relocation to other countries.

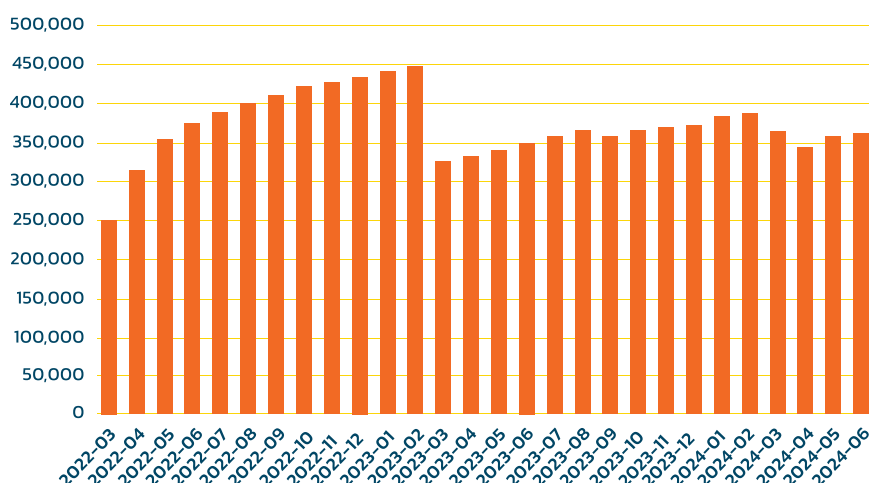


Figure 1.
The number of
citizens of Ukraine
in the territory of
the Czech Republic
with a valid status
of temporary
protection (as of the
end of the month),
number of persons,
2022-2024.²

Eurostat data³ show that the majority of Ukrainian forced migrants received temporary protection status in the first two quarters of 2022. In particular, for the first half of 2022, this status was granted to more than 83%, or 370,000 of Ukrainians. In 2023, the number of refugees with the status of temporary protection decreased significantly - to about 100,000 citizens of Ukraine which was less than 20% of the total number during 2022-2023 (Fig. 2).

¹ UNHCR (2024). Ukraine Refugee Situation – Data Explanatory Note. Operational Data Portal. URL: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine#category-25-520683>

² Eurostat (2024). Data Browser. Beneficiaries of temporary protection at the end of the month by citizenship, age and sex – monthly data. URL: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/MIGR_ASYTPSM__custom_7394287/default/table?lang=en

³ Eurostat (2024). Data Browser. Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex – quarterly data. URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/684d8bce-a18d-4ac7-a3c0-69f2b38f2770?lang=en>

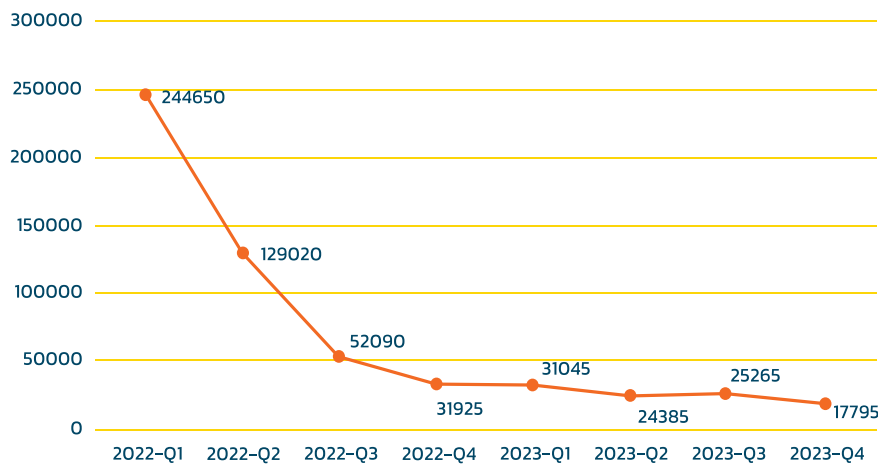


Figure 2.
Dynamics of positive decisions regarding the granting of temporary protection status to citizens of Ukraine, number of decisions, quarterly data, 2022-2023.

Among forced migrants with the status of temporary protection, women (62%) prevailed over men (38%). This relationship was established in 2022 when the majority of migrants moved to the Czech Republic. However, in 2023, the dynamics between the sexes changed - it became more balanced, where men amounted to 44%, and women - 56% (Fig. 3).

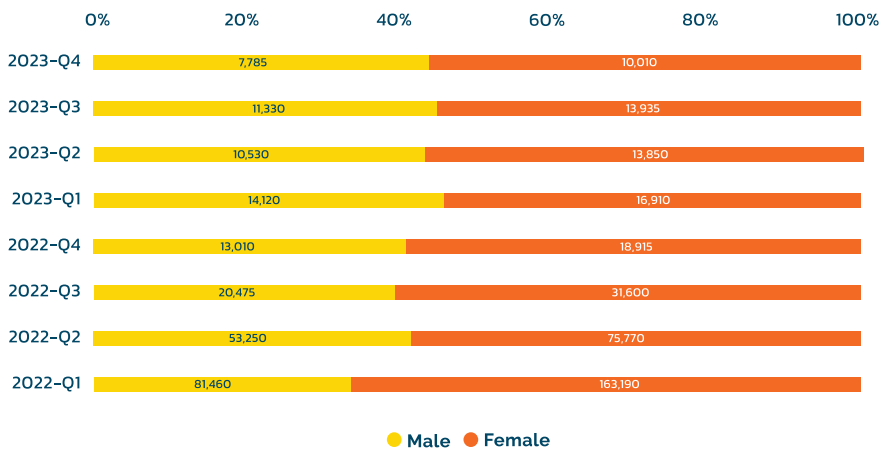


Figure 3. Dynamics of positive decisions regarding the granting of temporary protection status to citizens of Ukraine, gender distribution, quarterly data, 2022-2023.⁴

The analysis of Eurostat statistics on the share of Ukrainian children who arrived in the Czech Republic in 2022-2023 showed that most of them are children under 14 years old (73%). On the other hand, there were 27% of children aged 14 to 17 years. The bulk of the children arrived during the first two quarters of 2022, and their total share over the two years was 31% of all war migrants arriving in the state.

⁴ Eurostat (2024). Data Browser. Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex (Male & Female) – quarterly data. Statistics. URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/d13f30bd-749d-4625-abff-b15eb74451a?lang=en>

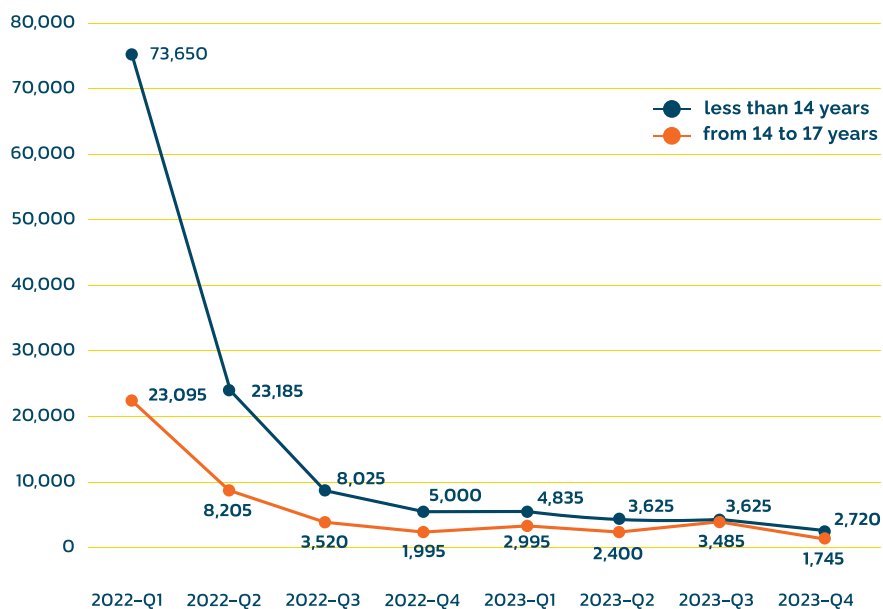


Figure 4.
Dynamics of positive decisions regarding the granting of temporary protection status to Ukrainian children, age distribution (up to 14 years, from 14 to 17 years), quarterly data, 2022-2023. ⁵



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⁵ Eurostat (2024). Data Browser. Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex (Less than 14 years & From 14 to 17 years) – quarterly data. Statistics. URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/bcf76946-b9e6-473c-a98d-9a599ecaa09c?lang=en>

The policy of the Czech Republic regarding Ukrainian war migrants

The Council of the European Union adopted Implementing Decision No. 2022/382 of March 04, 2022 as a response to the wave of war migrants from Ukraine, guaranteeing the granting of temporary protection status under Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC. The Czech Republic is one of the first countries in Europe to start preparing and adopting its internal regulations to ensure the appropriate status for the Ukrainians.

On March 21, 2022, the Czech Parliament adopted Law No. 65/2022 «On some measures in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of russian troops». It (the informal name «Law on Ukraine» or «Lex Ukraina») became the main legal act in the field of protection of Ukrainian refugees. In general, the Law included the following provisions:

- temporary protection is granted for one year by the Ministry of Internal Affairs or the Police of the Czech Republic;
- free access to the labor market and assistance in employment (the Agency for Business and Investment Development created the platform Jobs4UA.cz, which connected Czech companies and the Ukrainians who were looking for a job);
- the right to unemployment benefits;
- humanitarian and social monetary assistance;
- provision of housing as well as financial support to persons who host Ukrainian forced migrants;
- free transport.

In addition, the Ukrainians received the right to free health insurance, equal and free access to the educational process for children. In addition, war migrants who were in a difficult financial situation received payments through the Labor Bureau, the amount of which varied between 300-400 koruny české per day⁶.

Guarantees in the field of health care and the introduction of a system of measures for children under the age of 15 who arrived in the Czech Republic without legal guardians⁷ became important. The creation of an appropriate system of conditions to ensure the right to work without any permits was separately regulated in Law No. 66/2022 of March 21, 2022 «On measures in the field of employment and social protection in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine, caused by the invasion of russian troops». In it, people with the status of temporary protection are defined as participants in labor legislation, which give them the right to work on equal terms with citizens of the Czech Republic⁸.

One of the main elements of the Czech state policy for employment of citizens from Ukraine was the organization of free language courses. This made it possible for

⁶ Мотрук С. (2023). Політика Чеської Республіки щодо біженців російсько-української війни: головні тенденції та нові виклики. *European historical studies*, 25 (2), 59-73.

⁷ Zakony pro lidi (2024). Fragment #f7372432 zákona č. 65/2022 Sb. o některých opatřeních v souvislosti s ozbrojeným konfliktem na území Ukrajiny vyvolaným invazí <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2022-65#f7372432>

⁸ Zakony pro lidi (2024). Fragment #f7372507 zákona č. 66/2022 Sb. o opatřeních v oblasti zaměstnanosti a oblasti sociálního zabezpečení v souvislosti s ozbrojeným konfliktem na území Ukrajiny vyvolaným invazí vojsk Ruské federace – něni od 01.07.2024. URL: <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2022-66#f7372507>

displaced people registered as job seekers to apply for funding for Czech language courses. The government has established a clause for the provision of «dávka» assistance for migrants whose incomes are not enough for the basic needs of life. At the same time, registration with the Czech Labor Office was an opportunity to find a job. War migrants were provided with a wide range of conditions during employment: fair and equal treatment by Czech employers, work in accordance with the employment contract, issues of remuneration and a guarantee of its minimum amount, safe working conditions, availability of medical and social insurance and paid vacation. The highest legislative body of the Czech Republic normatively recorded that in case of violation of labor rights, it is necessary to contact the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the State Labor Inspectorate⁹.

The Czech Republic promoted the integration and adaptation of forced migrants to new living conditions thanks to free legal and psychological assistance. First, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Czech Republic has created a bilingual website for the Ukrainian citizens residing in its territory. Secondly, various programs on broadcasting in Ukrainian appeared on radio and television. Thirdly, applications for mobile use were created - Smart Migration and Umapa¹⁰.

Subsequently, the Czech Parliament adopted the following Laws - No. 175/2022, No. 198/2022 and No. 206/2022 which are related to the creation of a national system of conditions for the reception and integration of forced migrants. These were various measures to ensure better access to services and define requirements for them as well as the issue of providing housing as a state service. Such laws have become a successive addition to the primary version of «Lex Ukraine» and the changes made to it are being introduced step by step¹¹.

In late 2023, the Czech Republic adopted a provision that would extend temporary protection for war migrants from Ukraine until 2025. To do this, the Ukrainians should register on the website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Czech Republic. This status will further provide migrants with access to the labor market, state health insurance, education and other social services. Since July 2024, the changes regarding the support of the placement of migrants and the calculation of humanitarian financial aid in the Czech Republic, defined in the legislative amendment known as «Lex Ukraine V», will enter into force¹².

Thus, thanks to timely and extensive legislative activity, the Czech Republic was able to create and implement favorable conditions for the integration and adaptation of Ukrainian forced migrants, who have chosen this country as their main place of residence within two years since the start of the full-scale invasion. The policy of the state can be described as positive towards the reception of war migrants from Ukraine, but at the same time as changing according to the interests of the national government within its migration course.

⁹ Андрощук І. (2023). Політика Чеської Республіки щодо захисту українських біженців після повномасштабного вторгнення російської федерації в Україну. Наукові праці Міжрегіональної академії управління персоналом. Політичні науки та публічне управління, 71 (5), С. 19. Також відповідну інформацію слід шукати на сайті Державної служби зайнятості Чеської Республіки. URL: <https://www.mpsv.cz>

¹⁰ Ministerstvo práce a sociálních věcí (2024). Pomoc občanům Ukrajiny. URL: <https://www.mpsv.cz/pomoc-ukrajine>

¹¹ Мотрук С. (2023). Політика Чеської Республіки щодо біженців російсько-української війни: головні тенденції та нові виклики. European historical studies, 25 (2), С. 65.

¹² Blin S., Cahill Billings N. (2022) 'Czech Republic: A social protection country profile for the Ukraine crisis response'. Social Protection Technical Advice. Assistance and Resources (STAAR) Facility. DAI Global UK Ltd: United Kingdom.

The role of civil society in helping Ukrainian forced migrants

Support and assistance provided to war migrants from Ukraine largely depended on non-governmental organizations at the local level. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, thanks to NGOs, forced migrants in the Czech Republic initially received basic assistance, but then other specific needs were met, such as access to information, legal advice, medical and psychosocial support and care for the elderly and persons with disabilities¹³. Networks of regional assistance centers (KACPU) were created with the participation of state institutions, workers in the social, medical spheres and volunteers. Thanks to the quick reaction of the Czech society, schools, gyms and clubs have been prepared as places for the settlement of war migrants. As a result, the public sector has become a reliable and indispensable partner in helping the state to fulfill its informational and humanitarian functions in 2022-2024.

Quite a lot of local non-governmental organizations joined in supporting and promoting the integration of the Ukrainians in the Czech Republic. The Consortium of Migrants Assisting Organizations played a special role in such processes. It was founded as an umbrella-type organization for public organizations advocating the rights of foreigners in the state. It includes more than two dozen organizations that provide migrants with humanitarian assistance, legal and social consultations, raise public awareness and promote intercultural dialogue. The Consortium coordinates cooperation between non-governmental organizations and builds a network of partners in the migration field. The Association is based on experience, knowledge and research to analyze current trends and formulate expert recommendations. The Consortium cooperates with both state authorities and international organizations, educational institutions and mass media which deepens partnership relations for assistance in matters with migrants (especially from Ukraine) on a permanent basis and at present¹⁴.

One of the important areas of activity of public organizations in the Czech Republic in 2022-2024 was the issue of employment, when, within the framework of the relevant programs, war migrants from Ukraine were offered the opportunity to open or restore business in the host country. Psychiatric and psychosocial assistance in difficult emotional situations as well as involvement of migrants in volunteer activities, became an equally important topic¹⁵. Organizations paid attention to strengthening intercultural dialogue for communication between different ethnic groups where war migrants from Ukraine were involved. Therefore, an integral component was the organisation of various informational, educational and socio-cultural events on a regular basis in order to improve the conditions of interpersonal interaction. In this context, the role of some

¹³ Blin S., Cahill Billings N. (2022) 'Czech Republic: A social protection country profile for the Ukraine crisis response'. Social Protection Technical Advice. Assistance and Resources (STAAR) Facility. DAI Global UK Ltd: United Kingdom. P. 8.

¹⁴ Konsorcium nevládních organizací pracujících s migranty (2024). Členské organizace. URL: <https://migracnikonsorcium.cz/cs/>

¹⁵ Мотрук С. (2023). Політика Чеської Республіки щодо біженців російсько-української війни: головні тенденції та нові виклики. *European historical studies*, 25 (2), С. 67.

organizations is focused on monitoring situations regarding integration and avoiding segregation in the Czech society¹⁶. In the Czech Republic, there are also Ukrainian diaspora non-governmental organizations that help forced migrants with solving primarily legislative problems, preserving cultural traditions and national identity.

Therefore, thanks to both the wide quantitative coverage of diaspora non-governmental organizations and the areas of their activity, the state received significant support in the implementation of comprehensive assistance to war migrants from Ukraine in their integration, adaptation and settlement in the Czech Republic as a host country. Such interaction of the public sector with national and local authorities in solving numerous legal, social, economic issues, etc. was effective for both sides: both for the state and society that accepted Ukrainians and for war migrants who received favorable conditions for life in the period during 2022-2024.



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¹⁶ UNHCR (2024). UNHCR Czechia Help website – Community events. URL: <https://help.unhcr.org/czech/uk/where-to-see-help/community-events/>

Examples of the best practices of interaction between non-governmental organizations in the Czech Republic and local authorities to resolve the issues of Ukrainian war migrants

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

CENTER FOR HUMANITARIAN AID «CEHUPO» IN TEPLICE



Center for Humanitarian Aid «CeHuPo» in Teplice is a non-governmental non-profit organization based on the ideals of humanism, freedom, equality and solidarity. The center was officially opened on October 01, 2022, but has been developing its activities since March of the same year in the premises of the founder Lucie Beyerová's house. The organization offers a wide range of services, including humanitarian aid (clothing, furniture, dishes and children's items), psychological support and employment counseling.

The center also regularly organizes such events as: seminars, lectures and meetings with expert consultants who can help Ukrainian forced migrants in the Czech Republic to solve various problems related to adaptation in a new country.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

**ADAPTATION, INTEGRATION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL
SUPPORT OF PERSONS WITH TEMPORARY PROTECTION**



PROJECT PARTNERS

SOS Ukraine «People in Need», Teplice and the Ministry of Internal Affairs together with UNHCR, Czech Red Cross, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ukrainian initiative, Konto Bariéry.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Czech Republic, The Ústí Region (Teplice, Bilyna, Krupka, Usti nad Labem and surroundings)

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

2022 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

- help forced migrants cope with moving to a new country as well as their children and the elderly;
- provide real help which involves a friendly approach and understanding;
- take forced migrants «under their wing» and help them use this period of life for personal development;
- help support cultural practices with a focus on their own ones;
- restore the basic needs of forced migrants - housing, equipment, work, school, kindergarten, health care;
- increase the chances of forced migrants to succeed in the host country through educational activities, courses, coaching;
- provide psychological assistance to forced migrants and support each other.

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The project team accompanies Ukrainian forced migrants, conducts negotiations with institutions, city authorities and organizations. The project managed to attract more than 3 million koruny české, which went to direct assistance to forced migrants - deposits for housing, purchase of equipment for housing, housing insurance. It was possible to find employment in the Center for 8 forced migrants who work in the areas of adaptation and humanitarian aid.

In 2023, within the framework of the project, the organization sheltered more than 45 families with full care - from housing negotiations to settlement and receiving all the equipment, since the houses in the Czech Republic are rented empty. The Center's team

helped with placement of children of forced migrants in schools and kindergartens as well as provided them with leisure time.

Every month, up to 120 forced migrants use the services of two project psychologists. If necessary, specialists also work during non-working hours and at weekends.

In general, the activities of the program helped dozens of Ukrainian forced migrants to solve their urgent social and economic issues.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Mostly the human factor and understanding of a difficult situation. The local political community did not provide support in the first year of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. The situation improved after lobbying on this issue by the Center's team and indicating the need for financial assistance.

The greatest financial support was initially provided by the SOS Ukraine «People in Need» fund. Another important donor was the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

Great variability of the situation and events in Ukraine itself. An influx of activists to work at the underfunded Center and an outflow of volunteers after two and a half years. It is very difficult to work 24/7 under pressure and worry about how the organization can support forced migrants and at the same time raise funds to maintain the Center.

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

UKRAINIAN INITIATIVE OF SOUTH MORAVIA



The Ukrainian initiative of South Moravia is a Czech non-governmental non-profit organization that supports the Ukrainians in the Czech Republic and promotes the Ukrainian language, culture, history and contemporary realities among the Czechs. The organization was created by activists from Ukraine in 2014.

The mission of the organization is to create a positive image of Ukraine through the presentation of the Ukrainian culture and language to the residents of Brno and South Moravia; promoting positive relations between citizens of the Czech Republic and the Ukrainians as well as creating space for mutual dialogue.

Main areas of activity: organization of cultural, educational and other events; language courses and management of the the Ukrainian library; provision of information necessary for the integration of the Ukrainians into Czech society.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

THE UKRAINIAN CENTER IN BRNO



PROJECT PARTNERS

Ratolest, Brno City Administration, «Vesna» Women's Educational Association, JMK Center for Foreigners.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Czech Republic, Brno

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

2022 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

The center is designed to promote the integration of the Ukrainians into the Czech society as well as the presentation of Ukraine in the Czech Republic at various levels



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The center offers a wide range of services that help forced migrants feel welcome and support them in their new environment. In addition to professional psychological and legal assistance, social counseling and Czech language courses, the Center's team also organizes various lectures, workshops and children's groups. Almost all services of the Center are provided to forced migrants free of charge.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Government's openness to cooperation, additional funding for events, support of partners. Also, high-quality and intensive work of the project team itself, initiative and advocacy activities.

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

Insufficient funding as most grants cover material support or direct work with clients. However, for the successful operation of the organization, it is also necessary to have personnel who will support the operation of the organization itself (project management, accounting, marketing, etc.). Financing of these positions is difficult.

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

PRAGUE MAIDAN



Prague Maidan is a non-profit organization founded by Czech and Ukrainian activists in support of the Revolution of Dignity. The initiative is one of the longest-running street actions that started on September 06, 2014 in the center of Prague on Old Town Square.

The organization is an association of supporters of democratic values, human rights, freedom, European and transatlantic cooperation and European integration of the Czech Republic and Ukraine. The objective is educational activity, promotion of Czech-Ukrainian cooperation and support for European integration of Ukraine.

Prague Maidan takes care not only of informing the European community about events in Ukraine, but also conducts humanitarian projects and collects funds to provide direct assistance to victims of Russian aggression in Ukraine.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

NUSLE UKRAINIAN CENTER - HELP CENTER FOR UKRAINE



PROJECT PARTNERS

Prague City Hall, Prague City Council 4 and People in Need

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Czech Republic, Prague

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

2022 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

The center is designed to promote the integration and adaptation of Ukrainian forced migrants into the Czech society as well as to help Ukrainians become independent from humanitarian aid.



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The NUSLE Center has become a safe haven for thousands of Ukrainians who were forced to leave their country due to full-scale war.

The initiative team helps Ukrainian forced migrants in search of housing, employment, medical care, education of children and youth. The Center's employees also provide informational, psychological and social support. On average, the center is visited by 2,500 people per month.

In addition, the Center receives and sends humanitarian aid, medicine, medical, machinery and protective equipment to save the lives of Ukrainian soldiers.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

The professional and proactive team of the Nusle Center; cooperation with state institutions and public organizations; trust, solidarity and financial support of project partners and donors.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

UKRAINIAN YOUTH SPACE CREATIVE HUB NUSLE



PROJECT PARTNERS

Prague City Council 4 and People in Need

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Czech Republic, Prague

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

2023 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

The youth center is aimed to create a community in Prague where Ukrainian youth can find new friends, develop comprehensively, do their favorite things surrounded by like-minded people and spend their free time safely, interestingly and usefully.



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

HUB Nusle unites young people and provides a space for planning and organizing various informal, educational, entertainment and cultural events and also contributes to increasing the social role of young people in society.

HUB provides creative workshops for young people, language courses, trainings for the development of communication skills, personal growth, professional self-determination and what is more important, they organize friendly meetings

with Czech peers. The center creates a relaxed atmosphere for new acquaintances and communication among like-minded people through the Ukrainian and Czech communities.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Professional and proactive team of Creative HUB Nusle as well as financial support of project partners and donors

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL UKRAINIAN UNION IN EASTERN BOHEMIA



The Regional Ukrainian Union in Eastern Bohemia is a non-profit organization that supports the culture, traditions and customs of the Ukrainian people in the Czech Republic and beyond. The union organizes cultural, tourist and sports events. The objective is to unify the Ukrainians of Eastern Bohemia, to provide them with adequate informational assistance and support in their integration into European society.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

INFORMATION SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIANS WITH THE STATUS OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN HRADEC KRALOVE



PROJECT PARTNERS

Integration Center for Foreigners in Hradec Kralove, City Hall of Hradec Kralove, Regional Government of Hradec Kralove, UNHCR

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Czech Republic, Hradec Kralove

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

15 April 2024 - 31 July 2024

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

The initiative is designed to help the Ukrainians integrate and adapt to the environment of their new country as well as provide up-to-date information about the opportunities and rights of Ukrainian forced migrants in the Czech Republic.



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The project provides lectures and workshops on the topic of adaptation of the Ukrainians to a new living environment as well as training on personal and professional growth. Meetings took place every Friday.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

The government's openness to cooperation, in particular the organization's project activities are supported by regional and city governments.

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

Search for premises for the implementation of the project, since there is no financing for its long-term lease.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

DAYS OF UKRAINIAN CULTURE IN HRADEC KRALOVE



PROJECT PARTNERS

Integration Center for Foreigners in Hradec Kralove, City Hall of Hradec Kralove, Regional Government of Hradec Kralove

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Czech Republic, Hradec Kralove

DURATION

2013 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Days of Ukrainian culture are designed to acquaint residents and guests of the city with Ukrainian culture, art and traditions. At the same time, the festival is a thank you to the residents of the city and Hradec Kralove region for helping the Ukrainians.



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The festival is traditionally held every year in September and lasts for several days. The event always has a rich program: creative master classes and contests for children and youth, parade of Ukrainian traditional clothes, exhibitions of paintings, ceramics and embroidery samples, art plein air, concerts and excursions.

The days of Ukrainian culture provide an opportunity for the general public to familiarize themselves with Ukraine and for Ukrainian forced migrants to meet and support each other.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

The government's openness to cooperation, in particular, the project is financially supported by regional and city governments.

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

THE SCOUT INSTITUTE



The Scout Institute works in the spirit of the values of the Scout movement and promotes the prevailing principles of democracy, freedom and solidarity in society as well as helps a person to develop and realize his potential. The mission is to preserve the memory of Scouting, popularize it and make it available for research. The organization creates a space for meetings, discussions and the search for new impulses.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

COMMUNITY CENTER «SVITLO»



PROJECT PARTNERS

Prague City Government, The Scout Institute, Alza, Simplea pojišťovna, International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Czech Republic

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Czech Republic, Prague

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

2022 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

The Community Center «Svitlo» helps with the adaptation and integration of Ukrainian forced migrants in the Czech Republic. The center was created for the Ukrainians and local residents who are open to communication, new acquaintances and cooperation. The center is a place where you can gain new knowledge and gain strength for further activities.



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The community center «Svitlo» is a safe space that brings people together and provides an opportunity to get to know and communicate with each other. The organization conducts:

- consulting in social, legal and psychological areas, in particular, a full-time psychologist works in the team;
- free Czech language courses and conversation clubs as well as English language study groups;
- career counseling as well as various business clubs and women's clubs;
- financial literacy courses and online professional courses;
- drawing groups, including various creative workshops, art and play therapy;
- film group and various theater master classes;
- various physical activities such as zumba, yoga, fitness, bachata, gymnastics.

The public center has a library and a study room where you can work and study. There is also a children's corner on weekdays after lunch where parents can leave their children. In addition, the contact center for information support of Ukrainian forced migrants «Infopoint - Prague helps the Ukrainians» works in this community center. On average, 100-250 people visit the mentioned center every day.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

The support of the city authorities of Prague as well as the initiative of volunteers and ordinary Ukrainians who participated in the implementation of the project.

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

UKRAINIAN INITIATIVE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



The Ukrainian initiative in the Czech Republic is a non-profit organization that works according to the national-community principle. The organization was created by activists from Ukraine in 1993. Their objective is to support and develop Ukrainian culture within European and Czech society. The initiative organizes cultural and public events, actively helps Ukraine, provides powerful humanitarian and war support to our country.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

«POROHY», A MAGAZINE FOR THE UKRAINIANS IN THE UKRAINIAN CZECH REPUBLIC



PROJECT PARTNERS

The magazine is published with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Czech Republic, Prague

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

1992 – at present

OBJECTIVES, TASKS AND MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT

The magazine «Porohy» is a cultural and political magazine and an information guide that helps the Ukrainians in the Czech Republic to navigate in the modern environment and keep in touch with Ukraine. In the magazine you can find current analytics, interviews with leading political, public and cultural figures as well as historical and cultural events, event announcements and practical advice for those living in the Czech Republic.

In the first months of the full-scale invasion of Russia on the territory of Ukraine, the editors published special issues of the magazine. The magazine team provided overviews of important and verified information for newly arrived Ukrainian forced migrants about the peculiarities of being in the Czech Republic, in particular, publications related to housing, education, finances, health care, employment and document preparation.

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

SLOVO 21



Slovo 21 is a non-profit and non-governmental organization that was founded in 1999 in Prague. The initiative implements educational and cultural projects and mainly works with two target groups - the Roma community and foreigners living in the Czech Republic. The main goals of the organization include the protection of human rights, the development of tolerance towards national minorities, the fight against racism and xenophobia, the support of education and employment as well as the integration of national minorities into the living environment. The initiative implements the project throughout the Czech Republic.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

SLOVO 21 FOR UKRAINE



PROJECT PARTNERS

Ministry of the Interior Affairs of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, UNHCR, IOM, Bader Philanthropies, King Baudouin Foundation, People in Need, ERGO Network, Nadace Olgy Havlové.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Czech Republic

DURATION

2022 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

The project is designed to help Ukrainian forced migrants integrate into the society of the Czech Republic through learning the Czech language, providing informational support and participating in various cultural events.



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The initiative began its work in the first weeks of the full-scale invasion of Russia on the territory of Ukraine. The following types of activities are carried out within the project:

- provision of basic assistance to Ukrainian forced migrants - housing, food, clothing, medicine, etc. In total, more than 2,000 Ukrainians received humanitarian aid;
- information and integration meetings that provide useful information about life in a new environment: rights and responsibilities of Ukrainian forced migrants, features of the education or health care system, employment conditions, Czech customs and traditions. Meetings are held in more than 80 cities and towns across the country;
- intensive Czech language courses for adults and children. Almost 1,500 Ukrainian forced migrants took part in the course;
- conducting cultural events, including dance, music or circus master classes, sports events and children's days, art and confectionery classes, etc;
- integration measures for Ukrainian women and their children: mentoring, mental and physical health support, art therapy, etc;
- conducting a survey on the current state and needs of Ukrainian forced migrants. The aim of the study was to help the state in creating strategic materials in the field of integration of the Ukrainians in the country.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Support and effective cooperation with project partners.

Dynamics and structure of forced migration from Ukraine to Poland as a result of the full-scale invasion of russia

With the beginning of the full-scale invasion of russia on the territory of Ukraine in 2022, a large part of Ukrainian forced migrants found refuge and international protection in Poland. As of June 2024, the number of applications submitted by Ukrainian forced migrants for temporary protection status in Poland amounted to more than 1.8 million people, 957,500 of which were officially registered in this country¹. The positive growth of dynamics in the number of Ukrainian citizens who received the status of temporary protection in Poland was observed until September 2022, after which there was a decrease of more than 300,000 people. (Fig. 1). The reason for this was the return of forced migrants to the territory of Ukraine as well as moving to third countries.

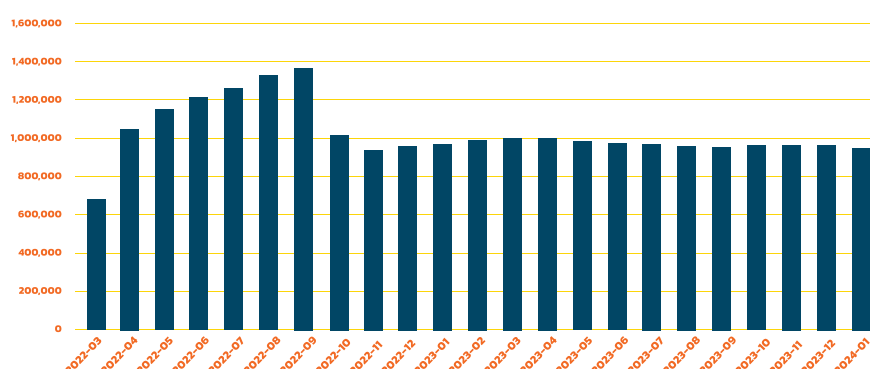


Figure 1.
The number of citizens of Ukraine in the territory of the Republic of Poland with a valid status of temporary protection (as of the end of the month), the number of persons, 2022-2024.²

In general, the majority of Ukrainian forced migrants arrived in Poland in the first half of 2022, as evidenced by the dynamics of decisions on granting temporary protection status (Fig. 2). Thus, in the first half of 2022, 80.5% of all Ukrainians who arrived in Poland during 2022 received such a status, despite the fact that the status of temporary protection was granted to more than 1.5 million citizens of Ukraine this year. At the same time, in 2023, the total number of positive decisions on granting such status in Poland amounted to slightly more than 237,000.

¹ UNHCR. (2024). Ukraine Refugee Situation - <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine#category-25-520683>

² Eurostat. (2024). Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_asytpfq_custom_9902919/default/table?lang=en

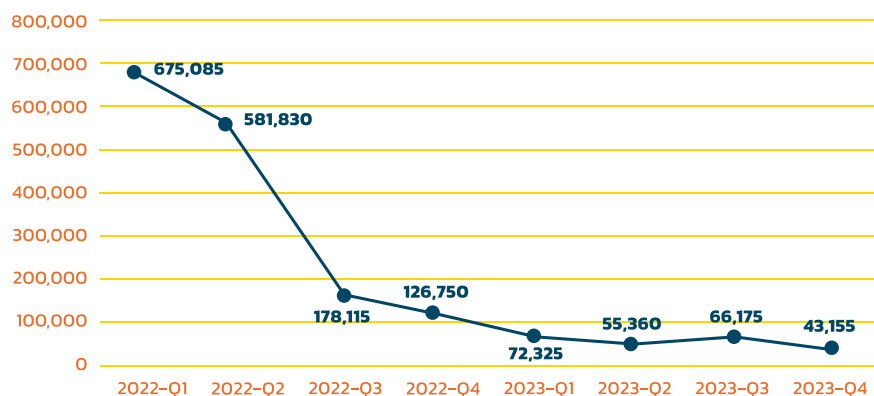


Figure 2.
Dynamics of positive decisions regarding the granting of temporary protection status to citizens of Ukraine, number of decisions, quarterly data, 2022-2023.³

The main share (67%) of citizens of Ukraine who received the status of temporary protection in Poland during 2022-2023 are women. Nevertheless, from the point of view of dynamics, if in 2022 the share of men was on average 34%, during the second half of 2023 the share of men was 40-41%.

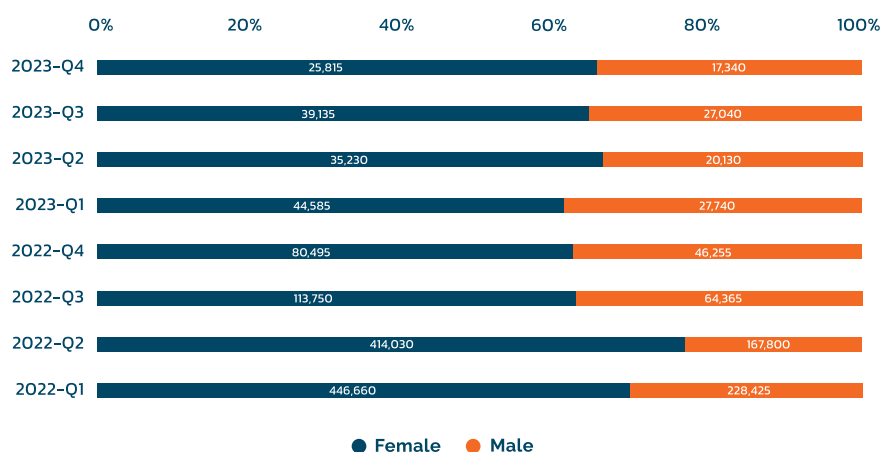


Figure 3.
Dynamics of positive decisions regarding the granting of temporary protection status to citizens of Ukraine, gender distribution, quarterly data, 2022-2023.⁴

The share of children under the age of 18 was the largest during the first half of 2022 and amounted to 53.56% in the first quarter of 2022 and 40.44% in the second quarter, respectively. In the second half of 2022 and throughout 2023, the average share of children who received temporary protection status in Poland was lower and amounted to only 26%⁵.

³ Eurostat. (2024), Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-browser/view/migr_asytpfq_custom_9902919/default/table?lang=en

⁴ Eurostat. (2024), Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-browser/view/migr_asytpfq_custom_9902919/default/table?lang=en

⁵ Eurostat. (2024), Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-browser/view/migr_asytpfq_custom_9902919/default/table?lang=en

Pursuant to the EU Directive on temporary protection No. 2001/55/EC for citizens of Ukraine who crossed the border after February 24, 2022, on March 12, 2022, Poland adopted the «Law on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict on territory of this state». According to this document, the Ukrainians who entered the territory of Poland directly after February 24, 2022, received the right to:

- Stay in the territory of the Republic of Poland for 18 months, starting from February 24, 2022 (i.e. until August 24, 2023);
- Assignment of an identification code (Numer identyfikacyjny Powszechnego Elektronicznego Systemu Ewidencji Ludności – PESEL) which became available from March 16, 2022;
- Employment and business activities under the same conditions as for Polish citizens;
- Free education, in particular study at higher educational establishments;
- A number of social benefits and financial aids (in particular, this is a one-time benefit in the amount of 300 zlotys for each person who has acquired the status of temporary protection; a monthly payment for the care of children under the age of 18 in the amount of 500 zlotys for each child; the «Good Start» program for students of schools and preschool education);
- Free medical care (every citizen of Ukraine, who is in Poland legally, has guaranteed access to the state health care system, on the same basis as Polish citizens who the insurance provided by the State Health Fund (NFZ));
- Opening a bank account⁶.

In addition, assistance to Ukrainian citizens provided by voivodes and local authorities was provided, in particular, providing housing or three meals a day for a group of people.

Every subject, in particular an individual who runs a household and guarantees accommodation and food to citizens of Ukraine fleeing the war, can receive financial assistance if they enter into an agreement with the commune. The aid is provided for a period of 60 days and its amount was later specified in the order of the Council of Ministers and amounted to 40 zlotys per person per day (the so-called «forty plus»). It should be noted that citizens of Ukraine lose (will be deprived of) the status of temporary protection if they leave the territory of Poland for a period of more than 30 days.

⁶ Nowelizacja ustawy o pomocy obywatelom Ukrainy w związku z konfliktem zbrojnym na terytorium tego państwa - Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców - Portal Gov.pl. Urząd Do Spraw Cudzoziemców. <https://www.gov.pl/web/udsc/weszla-w-zycie-ustawa-o-pomocy-obywatelom-ukrainy-w-zwiazku-z-konfliktem-zbrojnym-na-terytorium-tego-panstwa#UA>

During 2022–2024, the Polish legislation, which regulated the conditions of stay and social guarantees for Ukrainian migrants with the status of temporary protection, underwent several changes and additions. In particular, on December 14, 2022, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland voted for amendments to the Law «On assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of this state», which provided the introduction of personal participation in paying for accommodation. The Ukrainians received the right to live in temporary accommodation for free only during the first 120 days from the moment of their first arrival in Poland. Citizens of Ukraine, who live in such places in Poland for more than 120 days, from March 2023 are forced to pay 50% of the funds for their own maintenance, but no more than 40 zlotys per day and from May 2023 - 75% of the funds. These changes did not affect vulnerable categories (disabled persons, pregnant women, women with children under one year, persons of retirement age, women with three or more children, persons in a difficult situation)⁷.

According to the latest changes which entered into force on July 01, 2024, the temporary protection status for Ukrainian migrants in Poland was extended until September 30, 2025 and the PESEL registration procedure⁸ was changed. In addition, access to medical services, family and social benefits from ZUS (social insurance institution) was expanded, in particular, the amount of monthly benefits for a child under 18 increased from 500 to 800 PLN (the same as for Polish citizens)⁹. Instead, the condition for receiving both social benefits for children and «Good Start» assistance became a child's completion of the compulsory school program or the program of the relevant preschool education institution in Poland¹⁰.

Also, according to the updates, compensation for the costs of housing and food for refugees, incurred by the owners of private property and one-time cash assistance in the amount of 300 zlotys have been canceled¹¹. From July 01, 2024, the financing of housing and food assistance for Ukrainian refugees in a difficult situation became possible only under the condition of an agreement with the local voivode or local self-government body. In addition, changes have been made to the procedure for obtaining a permit for the temporary stay of Ukrainian citizens in Poland as well as the terms of issuing such permits¹².

⁷ Гусак, Д. (2023) Міграційна криза в Республіці Польща внаслідок російсько-української війни: Літопис Волині. Всеукраїнський науковий часопис, 28, 209 – 214. DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/2305-9389/2023.28.28>;

⁸ Закон про допомогу громадянам України (2024, July 15) <https://ukraina.interwencjaprawna.pl/>

⁹ Закон про допомогу громадянам України (2024, July 15) <https://ukraina.interwencjaprawna.pl/>

¹⁰ Димидюк, Д. (2024) Допомога «Родина 800+» за умови навчання у польській школі. Розмова з представником відділу моніторингу і адвокації Українського дому у Варшаві Олександром Пестриковим. <https://naszwybir.pl/800-plyus-polska-shkola/>

¹¹ Закон про допомогу громадянам України (2024, July 15) <https://ukraina.interwencjaprawna.pl/>

¹² Закон про допомогу громадянам України (2024, July 15) <https://ukraina.interwencjaprawna.pl/>

The role of civil society in helping Ukrainian forced migrants

According to the estimates of the Polish Economic Institute, in the first three months of the full-scale invasion of Russia on the territory of Ukraine, the expenses of Poland to help Ukrainian refugees in the territory of this country reached 25.4 billion zlotys (5.45 billion euros, or approximately 0,97% of GDP), of which the private expenses of ordinary Polish citizens amounted to no less than 5.5 billion zlotys (approximately 1.18 billion euros). It is worth emphasizing that, for example, in 2021, Polish citizens made charitable contributions in the amount of 3.9 billion zlotys (0.83 billion euros)¹³. This means that in the first three months of the mass forced migration of the Ukrainians to Poland, the citizens of this country mobilized more resources in the form of donations and aid than in the entire year of 2021 for all types of aid¹⁴.

At the beginning of the full-scale war, when the flow of refugees was the most massive, about 77% of the Polish community was involved in helping the Ukrainians. This manifested itself in various forms: from ordinary financial donations, to various types of volunteer work or providing one's home as a place of residence for refugees free of charge¹⁵.

Analyzing the spontaneous desire of Polish citizens and readiness for self-sacrifice, many researchers agree that the massive influx of forced migrants from Ukraine became a major impetus for the intensification of the unprecedented development of social capital in Poland¹⁶.

The Ukrainians were supported by Polish authorities, state and business structures, non-governmental organizations and ordinary citizens. A model of migrant protection was quickly developed, which combined formal and informal means of assistance from state and non-state institutions to effectively overcome the crisis, while humanitarian and Ukrainian diaspora organizations played a leading role in these processes¹⁷.

Non-governmental organizations also actively joined the support of displaced persons, which in fact took over the main mass of work: they began their activities immediately after the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine both in the humanitarian crisis zone (on the Polish-Ukrainian border and in the border strip) and in the whole country. Although their work was somewhat chaotic and spontaneous in the first days of the war, later they were able to establish communication among themselves and began to create the first crisis headquarters at the community level to unite their efforts¹⁸.

Non-governmental organizations carried out activities in which the following key

¹³ Baszczak, Ł., Kietczewska, A., Kukołowicz, P., Winciewicz, A., Zyzik, R. (2022), How Polish society has been helping refugees from Ukraine, Polish Economic Institute, Warsaw. <https://pie.net.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Pomoc-pol-spol-UKR-ENG-22.07.2022-C.pdf>

¹⁴ Baszczak, Ł., Kietczewska, A., Kukołowicz, P., Winciewicz, A., Zyzik, R. (2022), How Polish society has been helping refugees from Ukraine, Polish Economic Institute, Warsaw. <https://pie.net.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Pomoc-pol-spol-UKR-ENG-22.07.2022-C.pdf>

¹⁵ Baszczak, Ł., Kietczewska, A., Kukołowicz, P., Winciewicz, A., Zyzik, R. (2022), How Polish society has been helping refugees from Ukraine, Polish Economic Institute, Warsaw. <https://pie.net.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Pomoc-pol-spol-UKR-ENG-22.07.2022-C.pdf>

¹⁶ Sroda, M., Zielińska, E. (2022) Masowa pomoc w masowej ucieczce, Ed. Elzbieta Morawska, ISNS UW, Warszawa. https://www.isns.uw.edu.pl/pliki/wydawnictwa/Ukraina_WWW.pdf

¹⁷ Долінська, О. (2024, 26 квітня) Прибуття українських вимушених мігрантів до Польщі у перші тижні повномасштабної війни: допомога та основні актори, Закордонне українство: від дослідження історії до прогнозу розвитку: Матеріали міжнародної науково-практичної конференції, Київ, ТОВ «Гео-принт». 306–309.

¹⁸ Долінська, О. (2024, 26 квітня) Прибуття українських вимушених мігрантів до Польщі у перші тижні повномасштабної війни: допомога та основні актори, Закордонне українство: від дослідження історії до прогнозу розвитку: Матеріали міжнародної науково-практичної конференції, Київ, ТОВ «Гео-принт». 306–309.

measures for the support of the Ukrainians can be highlighted, such as: providing a reliable place for temporary residence, coordinating volunteer work, providing psychological, informational and legal support, conducting free Polish language courses, collecting funds for needs of migrants¹⁹. In addition, a significant part of Ukrainian diaspora organizations that functioned in Poland reoriented their activities and focused on helping Ukrainian refugees²⁰.

From March 2022, UNHCR adopted the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) to respond to the sudden influx of refugees from Ukraine and to facilitate coordinated approaches that were in line with government priorities while maximizing complementarities of resources and impact at different levels. Taking a local approach, Refugee Coordination Forums (RCFs) have been established in Mazovian, Lesser Poland, Lublin and Podkarpackie Voivodeships to ensure that partners and authorities experience of specialized participants of RCF was to ensure the integration of refugee policies, law and humanitarian principles and all possible sectoral responses, bringing together leadership from government, local partners and civil society organizations²¹. In 2022, 50 national partners were involved in the implementation of this UNHCR model in Poland. In 2023, 83 partner organizations were involved, 6 organizations of which are UN representative agencies, 24 are international non-governmental organizations, 4 are religious non-governmental organizations, the rest – Polish national non-governmental organizations and charitable foundations which, in turn, could attract partner organizations of civil society²².

In 2023, the Polish model of refugee coordination, based on humanitarian principles and partnership, underwent significant changes which continued in 2024: the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) in Poland was revised to optimize meetings, maintain flexibility as a tool, deepen intersectoral cooperation and collaboration with local and refugee-led organizations²³. More than 80 national organizations from across the country have signed up to the 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP), a 67% increase over the previous year²⁴. Poland's successful integrated approach involves various stakeholders, including government institutions at various levels, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, religious organizations, the Red Crescent and Red Cross, local communities, academic institutions and the private sector²⁵. In particular, the private sector not only offers funding opportunities for Polish organizations, but also supports refugees through employment opportunities; international organizations and UN agencies continue to support actively local participants by identifying financial initiatives. Thanks to the work of partners in different sectors (protection, health and nutrition, housing and accommodation, livelihoods, economic integration and education), coordination mechanisms ensure the alignment of information and resources²⁶.

¹⁹ Долінська, О. (2024, 26 квітня) Прибуття українських вимушених мігрантів до Польщі у перші тижні повномасштабної війни: допомога та основні актори, Закордонне українство: від дослідження історії до прогнозу розвитку: Матеріали міжнародної науково-практичної конференції, Київ, ТОВ «Гео-принт». 306–309

²⁰ П'ятковська, О. (2022) Функціональні пріоритети українських мігрантських організацій у Польщі після початку повномасштабної агресії росії. Multidimensionality of Ukrainian-Polish cooperation: genesis, particularities and prospects Scientific monograph [science eds. T. Astramovich-Leik, Ya. Turchyn, O. Horbach]. Riga, Latvia : "Baltija Publishing", 2022. 360 p.:

²¹ UNHCR. (2023) Poland: Poland Chapter of Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2023. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/99093>

²² UNHCR. (2023) Poland: Poland Chapter of Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2023. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/99093>

²³ UNHCR. (2024) Poland: Poland Chapter of Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2024, URL: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106305>

²⁴ UNHCR. (2024) Poland: Poland Chapter of Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2024, URL: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106305>

²⁵ UNHCR. (2024) Poland: Poland Chapter of Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2024, URL: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106305>

²⁶ UNHCR. (2024) Poland: Poland Chapter of Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2024, URL: <https://data.unhcr.org/n/documents/details/106305>

Examples of best practices of interaction between non-governmental organizations in Poland and local authorities to solve the issues of Ukrainian war migrants

NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

«OUR CHOICE» FOUNDATION, «UKRAINIAN HOUSE IN WARSAW»



The foundation was created as an initiative in 2004. A Polish-Ukrainian group of friends in Warsaw decided to start supporting migrants arriving in Poland and in 2009 the group of activists officially registered as the «Nasz Wybir» Foundation. Since 2014, «Nasz Wybir» founded the «Ukrainian House in Warsaw» organization. The main objective of the «Ukrainian House» Foundation is to support and help the Ukrainian community in Poland through the implementation of projects in the information, educational and cultural spheres.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

COALITION OF UKRAINIAN ORGANIZATIONS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES AND MIGRANTS



PROJECT PARTNERS

Association of the Ukrainians in Poland (headquarters in Warsaw and 10 regional departments), «Nasz Wybir» Foundation (Warsaw), «Zustrich» (Zustrich) Foundation (Krakow), «Kaleidoscope of Culture» Foundation (Wrocław)

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, Przemyśl

DURATION

March 2021 – October 2022

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Helping refugees find asylum in Poland



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

Diagnostics of the situation of the minority and migrant organizations (March–October 2021)

As part of the diagnostics, the current situation of organizations and leaders in individual voivodships, the obstacles they struggle with in their activities as well as needs and ideas for further development are determined. This involves the development of a report in individual voivodships and local authorities covered by this action.

Strategic Networking Meetings (March 2021 – March 2022)

During the implementation of the project, networking meetings were held for organizations from individual support regions and for NGOs, institutions and informal groups that support migrants.

Minority and Migrant Animators Course (April – October 2021)

As part of the project, a course was organized for novice leaders from migrant and minority communities (15 people, 5 training days). The organization of the course and recruitment was carried out by the Association of the Ukrainians in Poland - Branch in Przemyśl.

Mentorship of formal and informal leaders (January - August 2022)

12 organizations were involved in mentoring, it was carried out on the basis of individual diagnosis, in the form of selecting development tasks and providing support in their implementation. The organization and recruitment of personnel was carried out by the partner Foundation «Zustrich» (Krakow).

Incubator of initiatives of migrants and minorities

The incubator serves to support new coalition members, i.e. informal groups, local leaders or organizations, in acquiring practical competencies (registration of an organization, creation of a website, co-organization of events). Recruitment for participation in the Incubator is carried out by project partners for local initiatives from each region. The implementation of this activity is coordinated by «Nasz Wybór» Foundation.

Joint performance of activities: April–June 2022

- Film portraits of the organization
- Forum of partnership and integration

The objective of the Forum was to sum up the work in the project, strengthen established contacts and relations and create a platform for further cooperation between organizations. Its result is the development of recommendations for further actions of the coalition for 3 years from the moment of the completion of the project. The event was held at the Ukrainian House in Przemyśl, and its organization was coordinated by the Association of the Ukrainians in Poland.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

MIGRANCKIE CENTRUM WSPARCIA (MIGRANT SUPPORT CENTER)



PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Warsaw, Poland

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

01.01.2021 – 31.03.2022

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

The project is aimed at counteracting the informational, social and professional isolation of immigrants. This involves information, consultation, psychological and educational support as well as building a support network among the immigrants themselves.

The project later continued as CENTRUM WSPARCIA (Support Center)

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The project has several components: a counseling center, a national hotline for immigrants, individual psychological counseling, a mutual support club "Friends", a mentoring program for cultural mentors.

The counseling center serves immigrants without prior appointment. Consultants are immigrants who are fluent in several languages, well-educated, have up-to-date knowledge and many years of work experience. They provide advice on:

- legalization of stay and work;
- tax obligations;
- health care and mandatory insurance;
- education and schooling;
- obtaining Polish citizenship;
- finding a job, place of residence and other problems of everyday life in Poland;
- checking a set of documents for a specific permit;
- assistance in filing applications;
- assistance in various crisis situations.

National hotline. Besides the counseling center, there is a «Migrant Helpline» that offers help to people who cannot come to the location in person.

Individual psychological consultation is provided by a doctor-psychologist-immigrant in Ukrainian and, if necessary, in Russian or Polish. These are basic psychological consultations, help in stressful situations related to migration and integration as well as support in overcoming everyday difficulties related to family and professional life, support in difficult emotional states and formation of motivation.

Mutual support club «Friends» is a form of psychological group assistance. It is led by a psychologist-migrant from Ukraine. Meetings are focused on supporting foreigners in overcoming everyday difficulties and building motivation. A psychologist determines whether any of the people needs individual help or additional support from specialists.

Mentoring program for cultural mentors – training courses for migrant community leaders who want to become cultural mentors and help migrants who do not speak Polish to solve official cases and support them in difficult life situations as well as create a network for supporting migrants on the basis of partnership. The program provides training cycles adapted to the individual needs of the participants: knowledge in the field of Polish law on migration and refugees, fundraising, working with people from other cultures, managing a public organization, building local partnerships and cooperation with local authorities.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

This project was implemented thanks to grants from the program «Active residents - local fund» (Aktywni Obywatele - Fundusz Krajowy), financed by the EOG fund and co-financed by the Open Society Foundation, «Active Citizens» Fund

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

CENTRUM WSPARCIA (SUPPORT CENTRE)



PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Warsaw, Poland

DURATION

2022 - at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Providing assistance and support to Ukrainian refugees



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

Infoline

The hotline provides help and support to people from Ukraine who have come to Poland. Consultants provide advice on issues of legalization of stay. They also provide general information about the working principles of the health service, offices, the Ministry of Education and other services for citizens. Consultations are provided in Polish and Ukrainian.

Counseling center

Provision of broad and comprehensive information on the following issues: legalisation of stay; support in resolving official issues; legalisation of work and issues related to the specifics of the Polish labor market; education; access to medical services; comprehensive support in crisis situations; residence and issues related to the Polish real estate market; activities of the Ukrainian House; general information about matters related to everyday life.

Residence

Coordinating and matching people who provide housing for free or at public cost in a «solidarity» model, i.e. person/family - person/family. In total, it was possible to help more than 12 thousand people in this way.

Polish language courses

The language course consists of 60 hours of classes which take place twice or three times a week in small groups of 10-12 people

Volunteering

Support of Ukrainian women from the first day of the escalation of the war. Organization and involvement of volunteers to provide assistance at train stations and places of staying of Ukrainian refugees; translation of visits to doctors, meetings in schools and workshops for children. In total, the Ukrainian House collected the contacts of more than 5,000 volunteers. In the first year of the war, they completed almost 1,000 volunteer tasks. The Foundation supported community centers, the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Poland and numerous non-governmental organizations to coordinate efforts and initiatives.

From February 24, 2022 to July 2024, the following services were provided:

- 40,246 – inpatient consultations;
- 87,586 – helpline consultations;
- 14,057 – persons who received housing;
- 2,569 – women participated in the club;
- 11,881 – participants of cultural integration events;
- 1,112 – people benefited from free courses.

PROJECT PARTNERS

German Humanitarian Assistance, Norwegian Refugee Council, UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUND'S PROJECTS IN GENERAL

«Ukrainian House» was founded through legal structures in Poland and tenders for financial resources available through Poland's accession to the European Union. The Ukrainian House in Warsaw received premises provided by the Warsaw City Council at preferential rates as a result of the war in Ukraine that began in 2014. The counseling center which provides reliable information to Ukrainian migrants free of charge, was launched as a project funded by the Warsaw City Council in 2016. Among the public sector partners of the Ukrainian House are state institutions: the social protection service, social support centers, state labor offices.

The development of the activities of the Ukrainian House after the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022 took place thanks to the financial support of international humanitarian organizations, in particular, such as UNHCR, NRC, Save the Children, CARE, HIAS, Mercy Corps, UN Women, etc.

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

Financial instability

International non-governmental organizations and donors are leaving Poland, realizing that the Polish state has the resources to support the Ukrainians. At the same time, changes to the Law on the Special Protection of the Ukrainians in Poland cancel previous social support for Ukrainian refugees. As a result, both the Ukrainians and public organizations that currently work to support them find themselves in a difficult financial situation.

Political uncertainty

Although the Polish political class continues to demonstrate broad support for Ukraine and the Ukrainians, it has not got any long-term plans yet for the integration of the Ukrainians into Polish society. The state does not have a well-formed institutional infrastructure that could continue to support Ukrainian-led NGOs that currently provide services that facilitate the integration of the Ukrainians into Polish society. This is applied to both national, regional and city levels of public administration. Similarly, the state does not have any long-term programs to support the integration of Ukrainian refugees into various layers of Polish society, in particular, education, health care, professional support.

Direct communication between the Ukrainian House and the President of Warsaw has also become more difficult and there are difficulties in cooperating directly with the city council.

Russian propaganda

Russian propaganda is active in exacerbating social tension, in particular by shifting the responsibility on Ukrainian migrants for difficulties in the everyday organization of, for example, the Polish education or health care system.

NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

FOUNDATION «MOTHER (MAMA) – 2022 »



The Foundation was founded in 2022 after the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Russia on the territory of Ukraine. The main founders are Ukrainian forced migrants in Poland. The city of Warsaw, Poland.

The organization's mission: supporting Ukrainian women with children in their effective integration into Polish society and helping them contribute to the ecologically balanced and scientifically based development of Poland, Ukraine and the entire EU.

NAME OF THE PROJECT

CREATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE POPULAR BOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN



ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Support of the organization's activities and non-financial assistance in the implementation of projects.

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Warsaw

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

From the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Russia until now

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Providing Ukrainian children with popular scientific environmental literature. Reading books about nature significantly reduces stress and increases positive emotions. Positive emotions open up new opportunities for children and help them cope with the trauma of war.

Support for the development of science-based environmental education and environmental policy.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

«GREEN MEETINGS»



PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Warsaw

DURATION

2022 – 2024

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

«Green meetings» - events, lectures and master classes for children, youth and women that are designed to promote the deepening of integration and mutual understanding between the Ukrainians who lived in Poland before the start of the full-scale invasion, the local population (Poles) as well as Ukrainian refugees who were forced to leave Ukraine in 2022.

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

Regular online and offline meetings for children of Ukrainian forced migrants in Warsaw. Children meet, learn, play, discuss and expand their knowledge about nature and environmental issues. They also learn to write ecological fairy tales and implement «green» projects. «Green meetings» make children happy, give them new thoughts, dreams and self-confidence.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

**NETWORK OF UKRAINIAN WOMEN-ENVIRONMENTALISTS IN
POLAND AND EU COUNTRIES (NUWE-PL-EU)**



PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Warsaw. 5 more countries have joined

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

December 2022 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Establishing connections and joining efforts of Ukrainian refugee women to support each other.

1. Development and implementation of ideas and joint projects, exchange of experience.
2. Development of high-quality educational materials and policies.
3. Joint study of foreign languages and development of additional skills.

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

The need for financial support

NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

**COALITION OF UKRAINIAN YOUTH IN POLAND
«AUGUST 24» (COALITION 24/08)**



Organization at the stage of creation. From December 2023 to August 2024 – preparatory stage and registration.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

**A STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF UKRAINIAN YOUTH IN POLAND AND
RUSSIAN POLISH-LANGUAGE DISINFORMATION IN TELEGRAM
CHANNELS;**

**CONSOLIDATION OF UKRAINIAN YOUTH IN POLAND AROUND
ADVOCACY OF UKRAINIAN INTERESTS AND COMMUNICATION
WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES.**

PROJECT PARTNERS

Students of Warsaw University, Ukrainian Association of Students
UDONATION charity fund, NGO «PanEurope Kyiv»

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Warsaw and the Lesser Poland Voivodeship in general

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

It is scheduled to start on August 24, 2024.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OR INITIATIVE

1. Facilitating the establishment of communication and networking of Ukrainian forced migrants with local residents with the help of socially useful initiatives;
2. Increasing the eco-awareness of migrants and residents of Poland;
3. Promotion of a positive image of Ukrainian refugees in Polish society thanks to their involvement in eco-social initiatives of the local population;
4. Provision of humanitarian aid to Ukrainian refugees

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

- active participation in consultations and discussions on foreign policy issues as well as appeals to state authorities on issues related to the interests of Ukrainian youth in Poland;
- development and implementation of educational programs for Ukrainian youth that contribute to their professional and personal development;
- organization of a mentoring system that helps newcomers to adapt to the Polish university and professional environment and receive the necessary support;
- organization of training courses and seminars for Ukrainian youth looking for employment and internship opportunities in Poland;
- initiating and supporting initiatives aimed at the development and interaction of Ukrainian youth with other relevant communities in Poland;
- development of partnerships with public and professional organizations for joint work on projects and consolidation of efforts for dialogue between Ukraine and Poland;
- conducting information campaigns among Polish youth about the war led by Russia against Ukraine and Russian disinformation in Poland in order to improve and strengthen mutual understanding;
- organization of public discussions and round tables with the participation of representatives of the authorities and the public in order to discuss topical issues of interest with Ukrainian youth in Poland;
- constant analysis of the situation related to Ukrainian youth in Poland and abroad as well as other issues, with the aim of providing professional support to Ukrainian youth in the analytical sphere;
- preparation of studies, expert opinions and analytical materials on issues studied by representatives of Ukrainian youth;
- carrying out research works in the field of social and humanitarian sciences;
- organization and holding conferences, exhibitions and congresses;

- cooperation with private individuals, state organizations and institutions, mass media;
- maintenance of Internet portals.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

- Poland's foreign policy position towards Ukraine;
- a large number of Ukrainian students in Poland;
- selection of a successful combination of people in the team;
- contacts with civil society.

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

- legal difficulties, in particular regarding the possibility of official registration
- external factors (for example, changes in the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Poland)

NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

**STUDENT SELF-GOVERNMENT OF WARSAW
UNIVERSITY**



NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

DISCUSSION PLATFORM «UKRAINIAN DAY»



PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Warsaw

DURATION

December 2023 – February 2024

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Holding conferences, discussions and events to discuss and find solutions to the problems of Ukrainian forced migrants in Poland



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

An international conference was held with the participation of the head of the «University of Warsaw for Ukraine» project, the deputy mayor of Warsaw, the head of the Center for Migration Studies of the University of Warsaw as well as leading scientists of the Polish Academy of Sciences, researchers, journalists, representatives of local authorities and students.

Discussion topics:

- How can mutual understanding and cooperation between the Ukrainians and Poles be improved at different levels – from civil society to interstate relations?
- How to improve cooperation between Poland and Ukraine in the context of European and international initiatives? (Interreg)
- How to solve the issue of migration and promote the integration of the Ukrainians in Poland and Poles in Ukraine?

NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

FOUNDATION «AIDUA»



The Foundation was officially registered in April 2022. Main areas of activity: charitable activities for people who find themselves in a difficult life situation, victims of armed conflicts and wars in the country and abroad; humanitarian aid; social assistance; teaching, educational and upbringing activities; health and life protection; activities in the field of culture and art, protection of cultural values and traditions.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

**ORGANIZATION OF CLEANING PARK AREAS, SQUARES, TERRITORIES NEAR WATER BODIES;
ORGANIZATION OF WAREHOUSES FOR COLLECTING
HUMANITARIAN AID FROM THE POPULATION**



ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Government's openness to cooperation. The work is accompanied by representatives of the Department of Roads and Green Spaces, the City Hall, library administrations and other representatives of local authorities and self-government.

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Warsaw and 20 cities of Poland

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

April 2022 – at present

OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

1. Facilitating the establishment of communication and networking of Ukrainian forced migrants with local residents with the help of socially useful initiatives;
2. Increasing the eco-awareness of migrants and residents of Poland;
3. Promotion of a positive image of Ukrainian refugees in Polish society thanks to their involvement in eco-social initiatives of the local population;
4. Holding events for fundraising and humanitarian support
5. Provision of humanitarian aid to Ukrainian refugees.

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

- Providing information on cleaning various areas;
- providing people with the necessary equipment, gloves and garbage bags;
- organizing the removal of collected garbage;
- organizing places for collecting humanitarian aid;
- organizing sorting, packing and transportation of collected items.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

MIGRATION CONSORTIUM



The Migration Consortium is an association of 9 public organizations: Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, Polskie Forum Migracyjne, Ukraiński Dom (Ukrainian House), Stowarzyszenie NOMADA, Homo Faber, Fundacja Polska Gościnność, Migrant Info Point, Amnesty International Polska, Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Poland

DURATION

From 2017 – at present

OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

The mission is to work for refugees and migrants so that each of them can fully enjoy their rights and freedoms. The main task is to create a broad platform for joint activities, exchange of experience, improvement of the quality of work and public debate in the field of migration and integration in Poland.

The consortium is a democratic platform of cooperation, thanks to which the activities of the organizations that are part of it are coordinated for the fullest possible use of the resources available in each organization and their exchange with other subjects.

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The Cooperation and Integration Forum is a network of regular cooperation of non-governmental organizations working in the field of migration and integration throughout Poland. More than 50 public organizations from 19 cities participate in the Forum. Key areas of cooperation: exchange of knowledge, exchange of resources, welfare and advocacy.

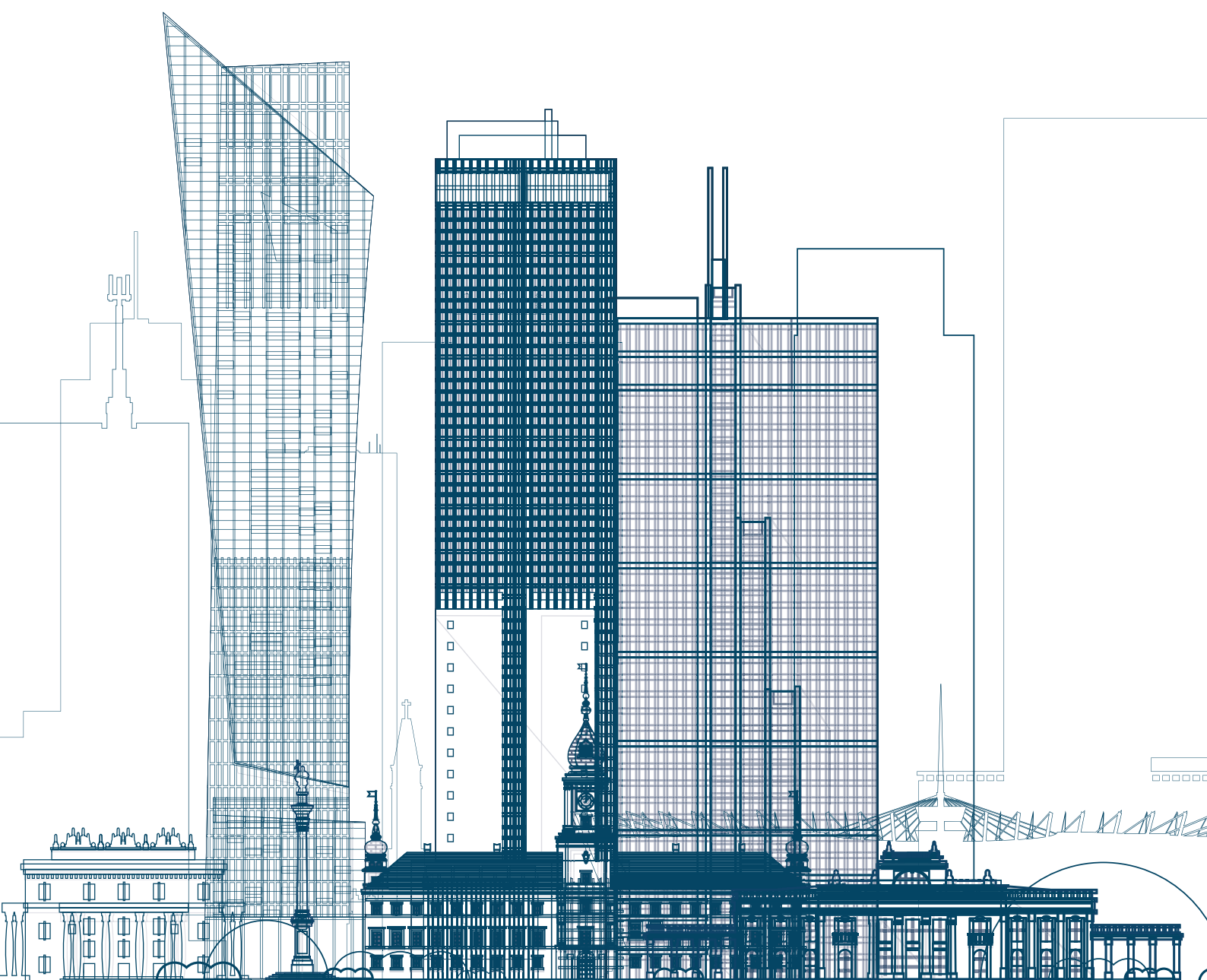
Migration Academy

The Migration Academy is a hybrid tool for acquiring knowledge and competences

in the field of migration management for local authorities and non-governmental organizations. The platform contains educational and expert materials on the integration of people with migration and refugee experience in Poland, especially at the local level.

Conducting research and preparing analytical reports mostly on current problems of integration of migrants and refugees.

Submission of political notes and recommendations to Polish authorities at various levels.



The dynamics and structure of forced migration from Ukraine to Slovakia due to the full-scale invasion of Russia

After the full-scale invasion of Russia on the territory of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, a part of the Ukrainian war migrants found refuge and international protection in Slovakia. As of August 25, 2024, almost 153,000 people applied for temporary protection status in this country, 125,000 of which were officially registered¹.

The dynamics of obtaining the status of temporary protection for forced migrants from Ukraine was characterized by a stable (albeit insignificant) increase in the number of Ukrainian citizens in Slovakia. During the period from April 2022 to July 2024, the total number of refugees increased by more than 50% and amounted to more than 124,000 people. This trend can be explained by the fact that war migrants have always been interested in this country as well as its proximity to Ukraine. Slovakia is also considered as a place from which you can move to other countries. At the same time, due to limitations in the ability to accept a significant number of migrants, these volumes are small compared to other neighboring states (Fig. 1). Along with this, the geographical proximity of the Slovak Republic to Ukraine affects the tendency of refugees to return to the Motherland.

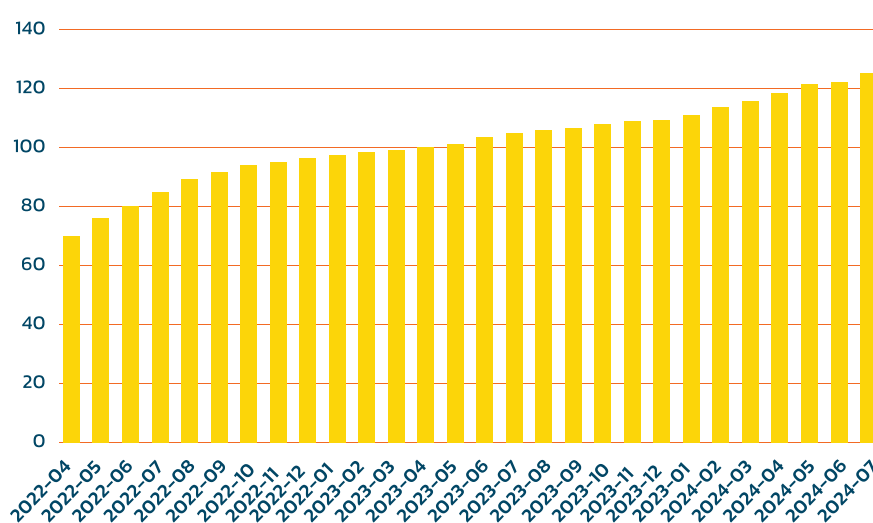


Figure 1.
Number of citizens of Ukraine on the territory of Slovakia with a valid status of temporary protection (as of the end of the month), number of persons, 2022-2024.²

Eurostat³ statistics show that the majority of Ukrainian forced migrants who received temporary protection status arrived in Slovakia in the first two quarters of 2022. In total, more than 80,000 people arrived. Instead, during the whole 2023 year, the rate of arrival of forced migrants fell, amounting to 30,000 people (Fig. 2).

¹ UNHCR (2024). Ukraine Refugee Situation – Data Explanatory Note. Operational Data Portal. URL: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine#category-25-520683>

² Eurostat (2024). Data Browser. Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex – quarterly data. Statistics. URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/684d8bce-a18d-4ac7-a3c0-69f2b38f2770?lang=en>

³ Eurostat (2024). Data Browser. Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex – quarterly data. Statistics. URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/684d8bce-a18d-4ac7-a3c0-69f2b38f2770?lang=en>

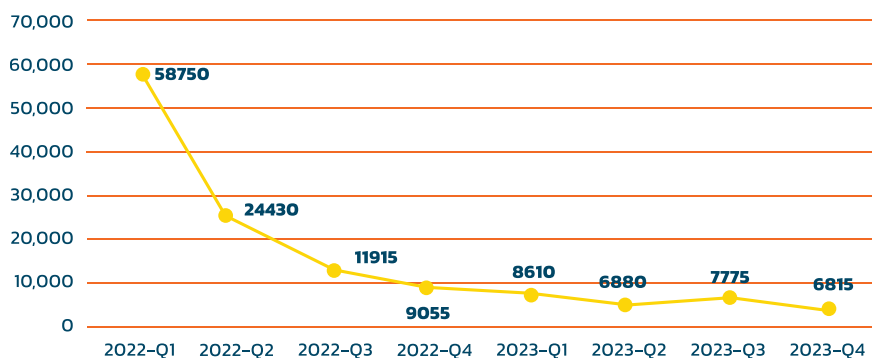


Figure 2.
Dynamics of positive decisions regarding the granting of temporary protection status to citizens of Ukraine, number of decisions, quarterly data, during 2022-2023.

Among the forced migrants who received the status of temporary protection for the period 2022-2023 in Slovakia, women (65%) prevailed over men (35%). This was typical for 2022, when the main part of refugees arrived - more than 100,000 people. However, in 2023, the dynamics changed, as the share between the sexes leveled off and was already 44% for men and 56% for women (Fig. 3). Although the number of forced migrants in 2023 was much smaller - 30,000 people.

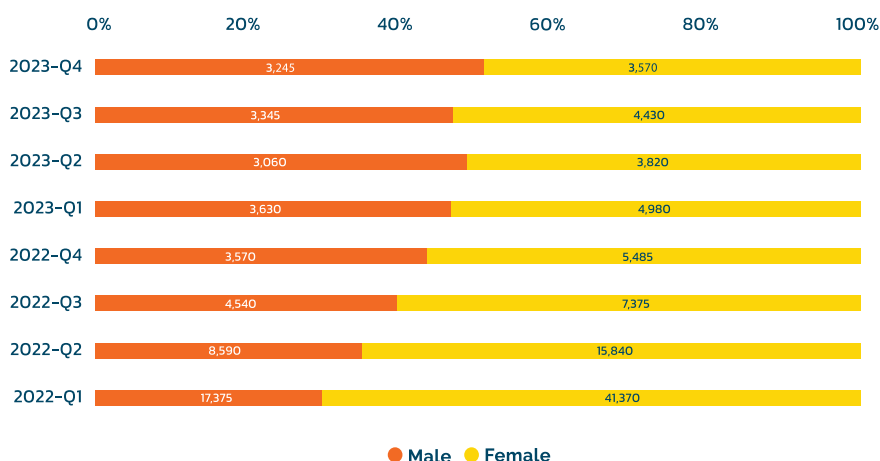


Fig. 3.
Dynamics of positive decisions regarding the granting of temporary protection status to citizens of Ukraine, gender distribution, quarterly data, during 2022-2023.⁴

Eurostat data on the share of Ukrainian children in Slovakia who arrived in 2022-2023 show that most of them are children under 14 (75%). Children aged 14 to 17 made up 25%. Most of them arrived in the first two quarters of 2022 - 78%. Children of both age categories in general accounted for almost 30% (that is 40,000 people) of all war migrants during the two years (2022-2023) from the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Russia on the territory of Ukraine.

⁴ Eurostat (2024). Data Browser. Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex (Male & Female) quarterly data. Statistics. URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/d13f30bd-749d-4625-abff-b15eb744511a?lang=en>

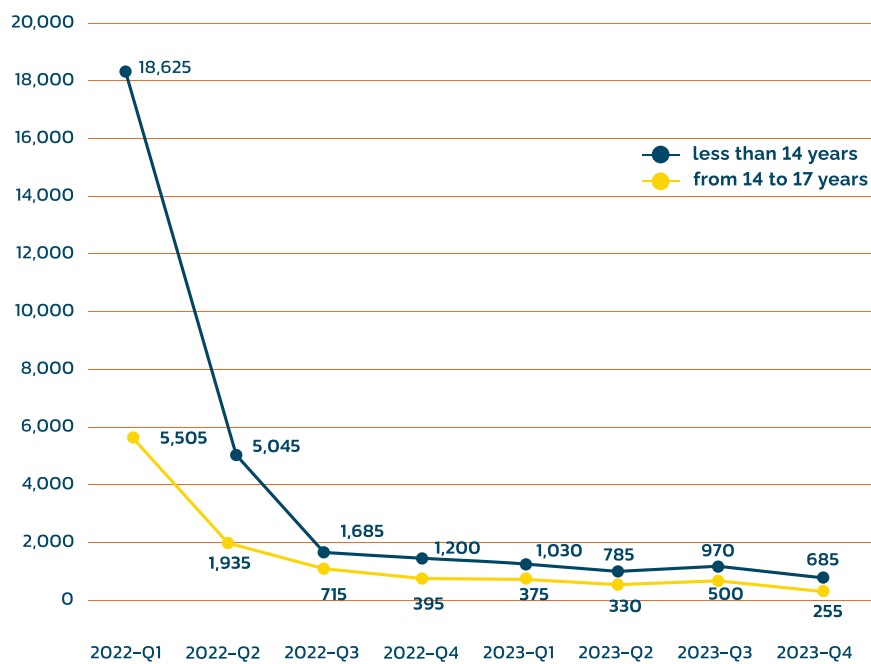


Fig. 4.
Dynamics of positive decisions regarding the granting of temporary protection status to Ukrainian children, age distribution ('less than 14 years old' and 'from 14 to 17 years old'), quarterly data, during 2022-2023.⁵



⁵ Eurostat (2024). Data Browser: Decisions granting temporary protection by citizenship, age and sex (Less than 14 years & From 14 to 17 years) – quarterly data. Statistics. URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/bcf76946-b9e6-473c-a98d-9a599ecaa09c?lang=en>

Slovakia's policy regarding Ukrainian war migrants

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the territory of Ukraine by Russian troops, Slovakia has shown solidarity with war migrants, accepting, helping, providing support and providing access to various services. At all levels - from national to local - the authorities immediately took a welcoming position and implemented a system of measures in many sectors aimed at better meeting the needs of displaced persons. From March 04, 2022, in accordance with Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EU on temporary protection (EU Council Implementing Decision No. 2022/382), the status of forced migrants became one of the ways to guarantee access to rights, employment, social protection and public services.

The national legislation of the Slovak Republic in the field of migration is regulated by several laws. In particular, Law No. 404/2011 on the Residence of Foreigners, the last amendment to which entered into force on January 01, 2023. The changes allowed persons with temporary protection status to continue their access to private housing outside humanitarian centers and asylum institutions thanks to subsidies, to have access to medical services, opportunities for employment and education as well as for receiving benefits for families with children, the unemployed or persons with disabilities⁶. It also granted the right to emigrants from Ukraine to apply for temporary or permanent residence. The Law No. 480/2002 on Asylum is important, which was last amended in May 2023. It entered into force in June of the same year. It is characteristic that the changes concerned displaced persons from Ukraine with the status of temporary protection. The amendment regulated the provision of assistance to them and extended its validity. Clarifications regarding the effect of the Law were supplemented by the Resolution of the Government of Slovakia No. 179/2023 Coll. Among the latest legal documents, we should also mention Government Resolution No. 218 of December 08, 2023, Parliament Resolution No. UV-46703/2023 of November 28, 2023 and Government Resolution No. 93 of September 15, 2023, which focus on issues accepting immigrants from Ukraine in Slovakia, providing support and organizing events in the social sphere, etc.⁷

As a result, there is no autonomous integration legislation in the country⁸. In particular, the place of the migration issue in politics is defined in the strategic document «Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic», which was approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 45 of January 29, 2014. Not so long ago, in 2021, the state adopted the program «Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic: perspective until 2025». Its main goal is well-organized labor migration to ensure the integration of migrants, the safety of citizens and their long-term coexistence⁹. Despite the fact that the course was adopted even before the beginning of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, its effect was extended to Ukrainian war migrants. In general, during the period 2022-2024, the parliament and the government of Slovakia on a regular basis adopted normative documents with a positive attitude towards the

⁶ UNHCR (2024). Ukrainian situation. Regional refugee response plan. Geneva, Switzerland: UNHCR. pp. 183-199.

⁷ UNHCR (2024). Refworld. Global Law & Policy Database. URL: [https://www.refworld.org/search?ordedesc&page=1&sm_country_name\[\]=Slovakia&sm_country_name%20\[\]=Slovakia&sort=score](https://www.refworld.org/search?ordedesc&page=1&sm_country_name[]=Slovakia&sm_country_name%20[]=Slovakia&sort=score)

⁸ European Union (2024). Governance of migrant integration in Slovakia. European Commission. European Website on Integration. URL: https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/index.php/country-governance/governance-migrant-integration-slovakia_en#legislation

⁹ Integral Human Development (2024). Country profiles – Slovakia. URL: <https://migrants-refugees.va/country-profile/slovakia/>

Ukrainians, which was a response to the events in Ukraine. This allowed, on the one hand, refugees from Ukraine to cross constantly the state border in order to stay in the Slovak Republic. On the other hand, Slovakia was also considered as a place from which they could move to other countries. The emergency plan for the mass arrival of migrants from Ukraine in the period 2022-2023 supplemented the above-mentioned documents. It is periodically updated¹⁰.

In general, the strategy of the Slovak Republic for 2024 is aimed at protecting the rights of war migrants, citizens of other countries and those who are at risk of becoming stateless while fleeing the war in Ukraine¹¹. The focus of the state's attention is focused on promoting the implementation of sustainable medium- and long-term solutions and guaranteeing better conditions for forced migrants to expand their own opportunities. The strategy is based on goals that reflect the response of the national authorities of Slovakia to the situation in Ukraine, namely:

- war migrants should be able to access legal status, protection and other rights;
- refugees with disabilities should have access to targeted support and assistance;
- socio-economic integration of war migrants into Slovak communities should be strengthened and their self-sufficiency should increase;
- strengthening of social cohesion between migrants and the society that received them.

Therefore, with the beginning of the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, national and local authorities actively participated in the integration, adaptation and provision of services to displaced persons from Ukraine who received the status of temporary protection. The migration policy of the state in the period 2022-2024 was flexible which is evidenced by the introduction of important innovations to the current legislation and new resolutions and regulations of the Parliament and the Government of Slovakia as a response to the events in the neighboring country. In the process of implementing the goals, authorities at various levels often cooperated with non-governmental organizations to support migrants from Ukraine.

¹⁰ European Union (2024). Governance of migrant integration in Slovakia. European Commission. European Website on Integration. URL: https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/country-governance/governance-migrant-integration-slovakia_en

¹¹ UNHCR (2024). Ukrainian situation. Regional refugee response plan. Geneva, Switzerland: UNHCR. pp. 189-190.

The role of civil society in helping Ukrainian forced migrants

With the start of the war against Ukraine, the public sector – local communities and activists, including volunteers, national and local non-governmental organizations – also played an important role in supporting war migrants from Ukraine. All these organizations focused their efforts on ensuring, creating and improving conditions for the integration, adaptation and protection of migrants in the state and society. Cooperating with national and local authorities, they provided assistance in the areas of protection, education, health care, gender-based violence, child care, etc. This was important in promoting solidarity and social cohesion between forced migrants from Ukraine and the Slovak community and host state.

Despite the formation of a favorable environment for the protection of migrants and their rights in Slovakia during the period 2022-2024, we note that progress is still needed in such issues as affordable housing, access to quality education and employment opportunities to support self-sufficiency and social economic integration of war migrants. All these problems objectively affected the integration of non-governmental organizations in the process of supporting a sufficient level of providing various services for refugees from Ukraine¹².

At the same time, it should be noted that there are no consultative bodies on integration issues in Slovakia. Immediately after the start of the war, there was a strengthening of cooperation between civil society and the state in solving the problems of integration of persons who received international protection. Non-governmental organizations began to provide services and implement integration programs at the local and national levels¹³. In order to consolidate the format of partnership in overcoming migration problems, in November 2022, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and public organizations initiated the signing of the Memorandum on cooperation in overcoming the emergency situation in connection with the arrival of a large number of people from Ukraine to the Slovak Republic, caused by the escalation of the armed conflict in Ukraine¹⁴.

An example of partnership between the state and the public sector was the created Interdepartmental Slovak unit for planning response to the needs of refugees, which united more than twenty participants – national non-governmental and international organizations as well as part of the relevant UN agencies. All of them collaborate with volunteers, academic and cultural associations to strengthen interaction and complementarity in providing best practices to meet the needs of forced migrants. The involvement of organizations led by women and refugee women is an essential aspect, which is crucial in ensuring inclusiveness and effective problem-solving. This provides options for responding appropriately to meeting the diversity of migrants' needs¹⁵.

Another example is the Slovak Humanitarian Council as a volunteer center, which

¹² UNHCR (2024). Ukrainian situation. Regional refugee response plan. Geneva, Switzerland: UNHCR. pp. 185-186.

¹³ European Union (2024). Governance of migrant integration in Slovakia. European Commission. European Website on Integration. URL: https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/country-governance/governance-migrant-integration-slovakia_en

¹⁴ Ministerstvo vnútra Slovenskej republiky (2022). Memorandum o spolupráci pri riešení mimoriadnej situácie v súvislosti s príchodom veľkého počtu ľudí z Ukrajiny na územie Slovenskej republiky spôsobeným eskaláciou ozbrojeného konfliktu na území Ukrajiny. Verzia final 18.10.2022. URL: https://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/rozvoj_obcianskej_spolocnosti/participacia/2022/Konferencia_Na%20spolupraci%20zalezi/Memorandum%20o%20spolupraci%20Ukrajina%20OPS%20verzia%20final%2018.10.2022.pdf

united more than a hundred humanitarian and charitable organizations and foundations aimed at improving the conditions for the integration of forced migrants into Slovak society. These are various organizations that offer assistance, services, maintenance and advice to socially disadvantaged people and people with disabilities. Their activities are aimed at Ukrainian migrants who arrive in Slovakia in search of asylum¹⁵.

In addition, among non-governmental organizations that helped war migrants, religious ones were quite active. The most common forms of their aid were humanitarian, informational and advisory. These organizations also offered Slovak language courses, assistance in administrative matters, finding housing and work.

In general, the range of services provided by non-governmental organizations to forced migrants from Ukraine is quite wide. Some of them focus their work on cooperation for the purpose of development and provision of various humanitarian aid, issues of social inclusion and global education. Other organizations are focused on education, employment counseling and financial literacy. In addition, there is a group of organizations united to help in finding housing for refugees and solving a tangential range of issues related to this topic: from maintenance to measures for the benefit of socially vulnerable people and people with disabilities. In Slovakia, there are also organizations focused on supporting the socially useful activities of Ukrainian migrants, in particular in the fields of education, social assistance, health care, sports, culture and ecology¹⁷.

Thus, with the beginning of the war, non-governmental organizations in the Slovak Republic immediately joined the processes of helping Ukrainian war migrants and their integration into the new environment. The activities of the organizations were aimed at various aspects of assisting the Ukrainians in their quick and effective adaptation: from humanitarian aid to the provision of consultations, information and services. Quite often, success in solving the current problems of migrants depended on cooperation with the state and international institutions at the national and local levels. This format of partnership is represented in many practices in Slovakia.

¹⁵ UNHCR (2024). Ukrainian situation. Regional refugee response plan. Geneva, Switzerland: UNHCR. p. 196.

¹⁶ Integral Human Development (2024). Country profiles – Slovakia. URL: <https://migrants-refugees.va/country-profile/slovakia/>

¹⁷ Integral Human Development (2024). Country profiles – Slovakia. URL: <https://migrants-refugees.va/country-profile/slovakia/>

Examples of best practices of cooperation of non-governmental organizations in Slovakia with local authorities to solve the issues of Ukrainian war migrants

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

**«PEOPLE IN PERIL» (IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE ORIGINAL
ČLOVEK V OHROZENÍ)**



«People in Peril» is a non-governmental non-profit organization founded in 1999 by a group of journalists who were concerned about the consequences of the conflict for the civilian population in the then Kosovo. It was created as a response to crisis situations occurring in the world. Since then, its activities began to expand. The organization is engaged in the provision of both humanitarian aid and long-term cooperation projects on issues of development, support of human rights and global education. Since the middle of 2016, the organization has merged with the Czech organization «People in Need» and implements projects on social integration in various communities of Slovakia. Until 2016, «People in Peril» operated as a non-governmental association and after merging with «People in Need» - it functions as a non-profit organization. After merging, it became part of the international network «People in Need». The organization holds the international documentary film festival «One World».

Key areas of activity: targeted assistance, interaction with local partners and effective use of financial resources.

The mission of the organization is to help people effectively who have suffered from the consequences of war conflicts, natural disasters and authoritarian regimes. Thanks to educational activities and work in the communities of Slovakia, the organization contributes to the development of an open, tolerant and inclusive society.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

**PROGRAM OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN
FROM UKRAINE**



PROJECT PARTNERS

Department of Education and Youth of the Municipal Administration of Žilina (Slovakia),
«League of Mental Health»

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Žilina (Slovakia), kindergarten

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

January-February 2023 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Adaptation of children of Ukrainian forced migrants to the local environment, food and daily routine



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

Within the framework of the project, meetings were organized with the participation of employees of the Department of Education and Youth of the Municipal Administration of Žilina, management and educators of kindergartens in Žilina, teachers, speech therapists, parents of children who are war migrants and representatives of «People in Peril» . All involved parties agreed to the formation of a parents' association, which will contribute to the process of adaptation of the children of Ukrainian forced migrants to the local environment. It was agreed on coordinating work in the following issues:

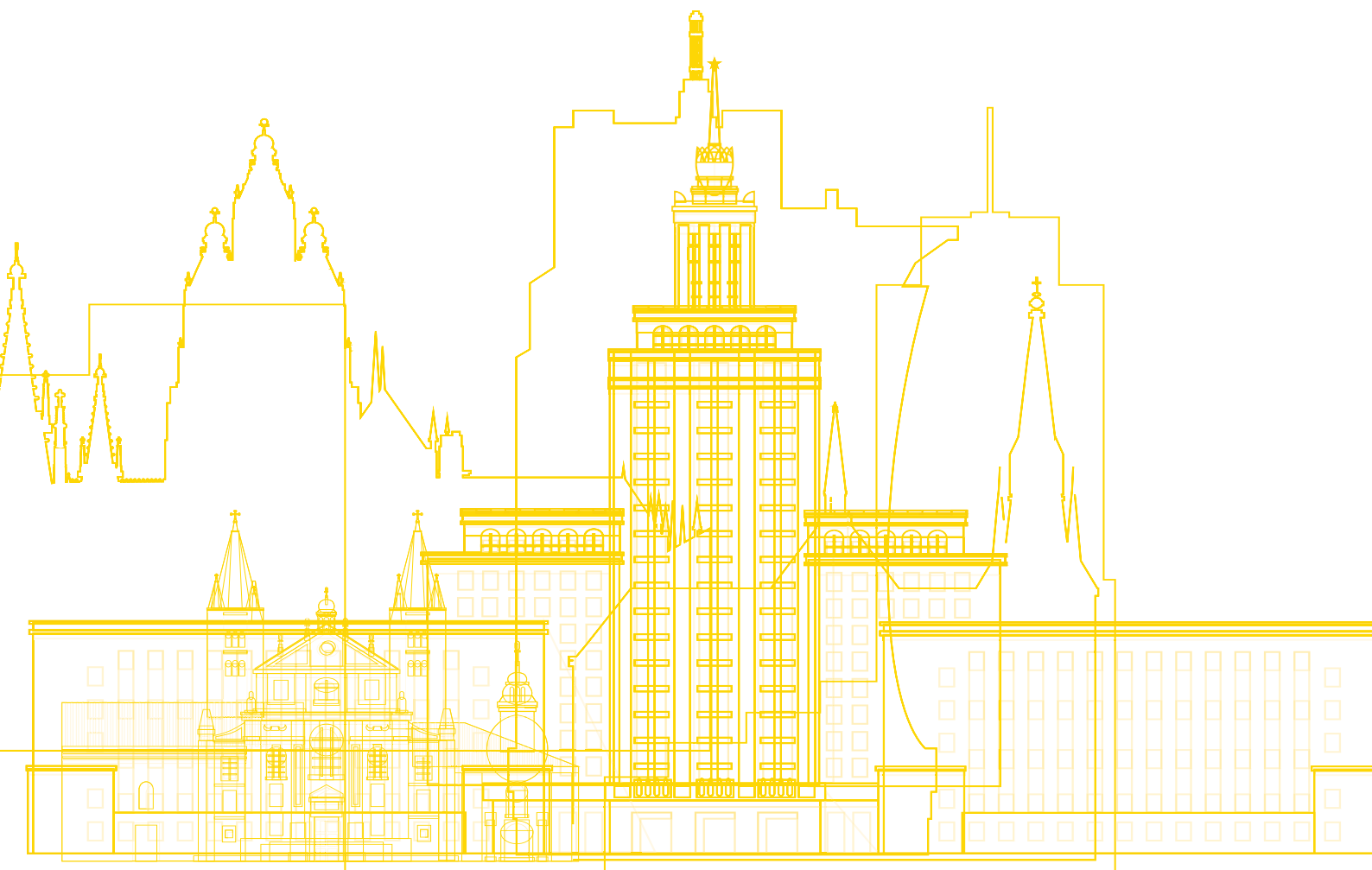
- logopedic and psychological assistance to children;
- communications between parents, kindergarten staff, «People in Peril» organization and Department of Education and Youth of the Zhilin municipal administration;
- pedagogical support of the process of learning and adaptation of children in a kindergarten

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

- the constructive desire of all involved parties (management and employees of the kindergarten, parents of children and various specialists) to achieve a positive result;
- inviting experts (psychologists, speech therapists and teachers) to the process of solving the problem

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

- language barrier and difficulties in communication;
- financial problems of Ukrainian forced migrants;
- stress, psychological injuries and partial alienation from children's social participation;
- other food preferences and day regime in a kindergarten



NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

**«PEOPLE IN PERIL» (IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE ORIGINAL
ČLOVEK V OHROZENÍ)**



NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

SOS UKRAJINA



PROJECT PARTNERS

«SlovakAid», specialized agencies of the United Nations (UNHCR), local authorities in the cities where the practice was implemented

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

First on the Ukrainian-Slovak border and later in such cities of Slovakia as Ubl'a, Veľké Slemence, Vyšné Nemecké, Košice, Prešov, Banská Bystrica, Žilina, Bardejov, Svidník, Lučenec, Zvolen, Liptovský Mikuláš, Liptovský Hrádok and Spišská Nová Ves

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

24 February 2022 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Provision of humanitarian aid and psychosocial support for Ukrainian war migrants



PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Active work was carried out in various directions in many settlements of Slovakia. Since the beginning of the war, significant humanitarian aid has been provided to war migrants from Ukraine, in particular, 2,200 tons of humanitarian aid has been distributed to more than 52,000 people, 14 shelters and 12 modular houses have been furnished with furniture and household appliances, 4 municipal houses have been renovated and 1 prefabricated house has been built. In addition, 615 families were provided with warm winter clothes and shoes.

Special attention is paid to psychological help. Private and group meetings with psychologists were organized for about 1700 people and 60 psychological events, trainings and seminars were held.

In general, aid was provided in three main areas: child protection, education and social integration. In the field of child protection, a safe space was successfully created for children and their guardians. Within this program, children of all ages can participate in regular activities aimed at facilitating social interaction, providing emotional and physical relief, reducing stress and anxiety, promoting relationships. Children regularly had the opportunity to participate in formal and non-formal education to ensure their learning process and integration into the Slovak education system. The organization held 57 public events for about 1,500 people and more than 1,300 volunteer events with children.

The organization provided support in the educational process through individual and group training, mentoring and career counseling. Safe places were used for meetings between representatives of the local population and forced migrants. Meetings, group events, festivals and cultural programs were organized there. These measures were aimed at supporting and strengthening social integration, thereby contributing to the building of a cohesive and tolerant society. The organization conducted 10 trainings for about 250 teachers and school psychologists, 5 two-day business trainings and 13 business grants as well as 10 seminars for 100 job seekers and 8 professional consultations for more than 100 teenagers.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

- funding from international organizations;
- mobilization of Slovak society to help the Ukrainians;
- provision of timely, quick and urgent assistance

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

- limitation of time and material resources;
- natural conditions for providing humanitarian aid;
- difficulties in the process of integration and adaptation of Ukrainian war migrants into Slovak society

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

«THE HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE» (IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE ORIGINAL LIGA ZA L'UDSKÉ PRÁVA)



«The Human Rights League» is a non-governmental organization that has been supporting refugees and migrants in Slovakia since 2005. It combines the provision of direct services (high-quality and free legal assistance to refugees and migrants) in advocacy and strategic litigation in the areas of migration, integration and asylum policy in the Slovak Republic. At the same time, the organization conducts training courses for various professions aimed at working with foreigners and educates a new generation of young lawyers on issues of migration law. The organization supports a transparent, dignified and responsible migration policy of the state in matters of

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

INTEGRATION CENTER OF KOŠICE REGION



PROJECT PARTNERS

«Človek v ohrození», «Mareena», local authorities of Košice Region, «DEDO Foundation», «ETP Slovakia», «Everyone for the Family», «DORKA», «Mental Health League», Archdiocesan charitable organization in Košice, «Oáza»

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Košice Region (Slovakia)

DURATION

June 2022 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Long-term support for Ukrainian forced migrants



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

Since its establishment, the «Integration Center» has contributed to the improvement of the legal status and protection of the rights of forced migrants from Ukraine. The center increased the level of social cohesion and involvement of forced migrants in Slovak society. It provided war migrants with legal services, social counseling and help to navigate the labor market. Other types of assistance: support in placing children in educational institutions, preparation of legal documents, verification and confirmation of diplomas.

The number of clients increased to more than 1,400 during the two years of operation of the «Integration Center». The staff provided an average of 275 consultations per month at the center.

Refugees from Ukraine turned to the center for help with orientation in the city of Košice, communication with the authorities, housing search, employment and enrollment in Slovak language courses. Services included psychological and legal counseling. The organization advised 2,331 people on employment and employed more than 400 of them, 140 of whom were forced migrants from Ukraine.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

- broad geographic cooperation between the public sector and local authorities in the Košice Region;
- active participation of volunteers;
- a wide range of activities

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

- limited financial, material and human resources;
- language barrier and communication problems;
- the process of integration and adaptation to new conditions;
- quantitative restrictions on the possibility of accepting war migrants

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

«THE HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE» (IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE ORIGINAL LIGA ZA LUDSKÉ PRÁVA)



NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PROGRAM DOCUMENT «INTEGRATION OF PEOPLE FROM UKRAINE»



PROJECT PARTNERS

«Človek v ohrození», «Mareena», «CVEK», «Nadácia Milana Šimečku», other non-governmental organizations in Slovakia, local and regional authorities throughout the country

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The entire territory of Slovakia

DURATION

May 2022 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Improvement of the system of informing about inclusion measures for people from Ukraine with the status of temporary protection. A central aspect of these efforts is the advocacy of the rights of war migrants, including their socio-economic integration and access to targeted services



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The analytical document was prepared as a result of cooperation of five main non-governmental organizations with many years of experience and know-how in the field of integration of foreigners in Slovakia and providing them with humanitarian assistance. The main objective of the project is to help the state, municipalities and other entities in developing integration measures for Ukrainian people with temporary protection.

The document was a synthesis of a large field of knowledge and work experience on issues of integration both before and during the hostilities in Ukraine as well as previous research and analysis conducted in Slovakia. This analytical document became one of the sources for the subjects of assistance to forced migrants from Ukraine who worked and continue to work in Slovakia on a medium and long-term basis.

One of the results of the work on the program document was a proposal to strengthen the potential of the organizational structure responsible for coordinating the integration of newcomers, to involve NGOs in this process, to focus on data collection and analysis, including the needs of forced migrants.

An equally important consequence of the project was communication and mutual support between municipalities and NGOs in Slovakia as well as indicators on employment, self-employment, social services, financial assistance, housing, access to information and legal assistance, health care, education, professional and language teaching. This also included measures related to the specific features of granting temporary protection status, humanitarian aid and other issues

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

- national scope of program coverage;
- a wide range of coverage of issues in the document

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

- limited financial, material and human resources;
- heterogeneity of the integration process for each person in terms of time and quality;
- the complexity of coordination of interaction between local and regional authorities, non-governmental organizations in the conditions of the entire state

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

«THE HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE» (IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE ORIGINAL LIGA ZA L'UDSKÉ PRÁVA)



NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE NEEDY IN SLOVAKIA



PROJECT PARTNERS

Local Authorities in the City of Bratislava (Slovakia), Police Department for Foreigners

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Bratislava (Slovakia)

DURATION

March 2022 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Provide legal assistance and interpretation services to war migrants from Ukraine



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

Thanks to the initiative of the League for the Protection of Human Rights, the municipality of Bratislava (Slovakia) established an information center at the main train station after the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine to respond to the urgent needs of refugees arriving from Ukraine. It was there that a large number of lawyers, with the support of volunteers, provided legal assistance and translation services to the majority of war migrants from Ukraine.

All services – legal assistance, translation services, helpline for forced migrants and

informational websites – were (and will continue to be) provided in Slovak, Ukrainian and English. The organization also established cooperation with the Foreign Police Department of Slovakia, on the basis of which preliminary registration of persons requesting temporary protection status was ensured.

In addition, the organization has been active in advocacy related to legal provisions and integration at the national and municipal levels as well as capacity building and training of municipalities, translators, lawyers and other stakeholders in areas related to the protection of war migrants.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

- financial support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- widespread involvement of volunteers in the provision of legal services

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

- a possible increase in the number of forced migrants from Ukraine in the future;
- lack of human, financial and material resources to provide timely assistance

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

«THE HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE» (IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE ORIGINAL LIGA ZA ĽUDSKÉ PRÁVA)



NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PREVENTION OF XENOPHOBIA, RACISM AND HATRED TOWARDS FORCED MIGRANTS



PROJECT PARTNERS

Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The city of Bratislava (Slovakia) as the headquarters, but the effect of the project extended to the entire territory of Slovakia

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2022

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Prevent manifestations of xenophobia and support victims of hate crimes against forced migrants who face xenophobia and hatred because of their external difference



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

Within the framework of the project, a large number of events of various formats were organized throughout the territory of Slovakia. Although the main ones were held in Bratislava.

In particular, many regional meetings were held, at which the key topic was raising awareness of the project at the national and local levels of the state.

Meetings were held with war migrants to share experience in raising their awareness of the possibility of receiving appropriate assistance if they became victims of hatred. The «Integration Forum» conference was held, as a result of which a space was created for networking and sharing experience in the field of migration and integration in Slovakia.

Also, many video materials were recorded, interviews were conducted, articles were prepared and an information campaign was organized in social networks. They have become an effective tool for conveying the life migration experience of forced migrants to the public.

An important result was the preparation of a document containing recommendations for experts on information dissemination on the topic of forced migration and gender equality in Slovakia.

Two series of trainings for lawyers and advocates on the issue of assistance to victims of hatred were also held to increase their professional potential.

Public discussions (broadcast on social networks) were organized to share the experiences of war migrants with the public in the Slovak Republic.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Financial support from the Ministry of Justice of Slovakia within the framework of the subsidy program for the promotion, support and protection of human rights and freedoms and the prevention of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other manifestations of intolerance in all forms.

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

- lack of measures to promote the integration of war migrants who become the object of discrimination, bullying and hate speech because of their origin, appearance or religion;
- low awareness among the public and politicians about the situation of war migrants in Slovakia.

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

«EQUITA»



«Equita» is a non-governmental organization dedicated to making professional healthcare accessible to vulnerable populations such as the homeless, refugees and people from marginalized communities. The organization provides medical support to those who are prevented from accessing medicine due to social isolation, poverty, war conflicts or other humanitarian disasters. The scope of the organization's activities is primary health care, services for sexual and reproductive health and human rights as well as support for people who have experienced various types of violence. For the organization, an important aspect of functioning is active scientific and legislative advocacy activity in the field of access to health care in order to identify systemic deficiencies.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR FORCED MIGRANTS



PROJECT PARTNERS

«CARE International», UNICEF, local and regional authorities of the Bratislava region

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Bratislava Region, Bratislava (Slovakia)

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

2022 – at present

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Expand the access of Ukrainian war migrants to medical services and their quality and timely provision



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

Within the scope of the project, medical assistance was provided to forced migrants from Ukraine. In particular, during the period of 2022-2023, about 50 visits to patients were made and more than 900 were cured thanks to the assistance of local authorities, the company «AGEL Merea» and the city hospital «AGEL Zvolen Hospital». Among the achievements of the project was the employment of Ukrainian medical workers from among war migrants in order to reduce the level of burden on medical workers in the Bratislava region.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

- the employment of Ukrainian medical workers from among the refugees helped to reduce the level of burden on medical workers in the Bratislava region (Slovakia);
- the involved medical workers quickly integrated into the new living conditions in the host country;
- financial support from UNICEF

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

The need for qualified medical workers in accordance with the standards of the medical field of Slovakia

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION



«MEMO 98»

«MEMO 98» is a non-governmental media monitoring organization with extensive experience in conducting media analysis commissioned by international institutions as well as providing technical assistance to official institutions and other non-governmental organizations. It was founded with the support of the US-based National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) in June 1998 to monitor the Slovak mass media on the eve of the 1998 parliamentary elections, using the methodology of qualitative and quantitative analysis. For more than 20 years, the organization has implemented numerous projects in Slovakia and almost 60 other countries which were aimed at improving the media environment, strengthening critical thinking and helping citizens to obtain comprehensive information.

In addition, the organization promotes the development of journalistic skills and knowledge by conducting media trainings as well as multimedia projects for minorities. For more than ten years, «MEMO 98» has been a partner of the Slovak Journalistic Award (Novinárska cena), which is organized annually by the Open Society Foundation and since 2018 one of its special categories (Solutions Journalism) is awarded under the auspices of MEMO 98.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE



PROVIDING SUPPORT TO UKRAINIAN REFUGEES THROUGH MASS MEDIA

PROJECT PARTNERS

«DW Akademie», «The European Broadcasting Union», «The Norwegian Refugee Council», local authorities and «Caritas of Slovakia», UNESCO

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Slovakia

DURATION

August 2023 – January 2024

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Expand forced migrants' access to reliable data, increase their self-confidence and promote peaceful interaction with the host society



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

At the initial stage of the project, UNESCO collaborated with the «Norwegian Refugee Council» (NRC) and «MEMO 98» to identify areas of informational needs of Ukrainian war migrants in Slovakia. The research used quantitative and qualitative methods, including focus groups, thematic discussions and almost 700 interviews with Ukrainian refugees in different places - schools, homes and support centers. The organizations «MEMO 98» and «Caritas of Slovakia» were responsible for data collection in Slovakia. Based on the results of the 1st stage of the research, it was envisaged to create content in the mass media for support related to refugees. In particular:

- programs aimed at migrants and those who participated in their implementation were created and broadcast on Slovak television and social networks;
- conflicts, decisions made by local authorities are highlighted and the ethical side of issues related to forced migration is considered;
- research and surveys were conducted with the participation of war migrants;
- media workers who were forced to leave Ukraine were integrated into the editorial teams to participate in the processes of preparation and creation of mass media materials in the countries that accepted the refugees;
- training and coaching of Ukrainian media workers took place to improve skills in the host country;
- the Slovak audience in the mass media was consulted on the truthfulness of the coverage of events about forced migrants and their views were included in the public discourse;
- establishing connections between the media, non-governmental organizations and local authorities which facilitated cooperation and exchange of knowledge.

The project aims to combat stigma and misinformation by giving war migrants the opportunity to tell their own stories. Content was created for them, with them and about them. It is devoted to topics that forced migrants consider to be a priority. Thanks to this project, the exchange of factual information between forced migrants and Slovak local communities that received them has increased. The project greatly contributed to social unity.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

- the scale of involvement of participants at the national and local levels;
- active participation in Coordination Forums on refugee issues, which contributed to ensuring a high level of relevance of events and their complementarity with activities carried out on the ground;
- coordination between the national and local levels of decision-making which ensured close and clear coordination in responding to the problems of forced migrants;
- funding from the Japanese government;
- implementation of the project under the auspices of UNESCO

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

- countering disinformation in the mass media;
- manipulative information technologies;
- dependence of mass media on political and financial influential circles which hinders objective coverage of social and political processes

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

«CVEK» (CENTRUM PRE VÝSKUM ETNICITY A KULTÚRY)



«CVEK» is an independent non-governmental organization that aims to contribute to the creation of a fairer and more cohesive society in Slovakia through research, analysis and education. It was founded in 2005 and is based in Bratislava. In its work, the organization relies on such legal principles as respect for human dignity and social diversity. The key activities of «CVEK» are focused on ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities and thematically it focuses primarily on the areas of education, housing, social situation, political participation and international relations. The organization has extensive experience in conducting research (mainly qualitative research) and studies public opinion and political discourse in the context of barriers that prevent the emergence of an inclusive society.

The objective of «CVEK» is to contribute systematically to the creation of an environment where every person can feel valued and respected.

NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PLANS FOR THE INCLUSION OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN SLOVAKIA



PROJECT PARTNERS

Local authorities of the involved cities in Slovakia

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

The entire territory of Slovakia

DURATION

May 2023 – April 2024

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Cooperation with municipalities in different regions of Slovakia on comprehensive medium-term and sustainable strategies for the inclusion of Ukrainian children and their families, other foreigners and/or vulnerable population groups at the local level



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The significance of «CVEK» in the project was to develop complex mid- and long-term sustainable strategies for the involvement of Ukrainian children and their families at the local level of the country's public life, thanks to cooperation with municipalities in various regions of Slovakia.

The project consisted of two stages:

- the research stage aimed at mapping the situation and analyzing needs in each participating city;
- a participation stage to create strategies for the integration of children and their families from Ukraine, foreigners and/or other vulnerable groups in each city.

The key role in the implementation of assistance to war migrants during their integration into society and local communities in Slovakia was played by the local authorities which comprehensively supported the migrants and Slovak citizens in matters related to the inclusion of children and their families from Ukraine into the public life of the country.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

The project is financed by the UNICEF Fund in Slovakia and Ukraine in the field of response to refugees

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

- search, selection and implementation of reliable tools by policy subjects for the integration of Ukrainian children and their families at the local level of the state;
- the widest involvement of local authorities in the process of supporting the integration of children of war migrants from Ukraine in Slovakia

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

«CVEK» (CENTRUM PRE VÝSKUM ETNICITY A KULTÚRY)



NAME OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

BUILDING THE POTENTIAL OF MUNICIPALITIES IN THE FIELD OF REFUGEE INCLUSION



PROJECT PARTNERS

UNHCR, four municipalities of Slovakia

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT OR INITIATIVE

PLACE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Four municipalities in Slovakia

DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

January 2024 – December 2024

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Building and strengthening the potential of municipalities in matters of integration of war migrants and foreigners into the new environment



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

The project was based on the previous experience of «CVEK» in cooperation with municipalities in the field of migrant integration. Within the framework of the project,

training events were organized for four municipalities in the field of intercultural communication with the participation of forced migrants as well as in the field of data collection and analysis of data on the migration of newcomers at the local level in Slovakia. An important part of the project was also the creation of a data collection mechanism to provide information about these communities at the local level.

As part of the successful interaction of «CVEK» with local authorities, forced migrants were also involved in order to know and understand the specific needs of the latter. At the same time, it was the local authorities that played a key role in the integration of refugees from the point of view of implementing the practices necessary for this task.

ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

- it is implemented in cooperation with UNHCR;
- experience of «CVEK» in cooperation with Slovak municipalities in the field of migrant integration

CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS

- limited territorial coverage within Slovakia;
- quantitative restrictions on the issue of involved municipalities;
- constant growth of the number of migrants and foreigners;
- increasing the amount of resources to meet the needs of the newcomers

This document presents an overview of various practices of interaction of public organizations, volunteer and other initiative groups with local authorities whose activities have defended the interests and provided assistance to Ukrainian refugees in three countries of the Visegrad Group - the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. It is important to note that we have described the experience of non-governmental organizations that were created before the beginning of the full-scale invasion of 2022, those that arose after February 24, 2022 as well as those that are actively operating at the level of initiatives, but are not officially registered.

The presentation, discussion, selection and analysis of cases of successful experiences of cooperation between civil society and local authorities during the first 2 years of the full-scale war between Russia and Ukraine (2022-2024) have made it possible to draw the following conclusions.

Spheres, priorities and target groups: the activities of non-governmental organizations were concentrated primarily in such spheres as humanitarian, medical, informational, educational, integration, psycho-social and cultural. During the first 6 months of the war, it was vital to ensure the basic humanitarian needs of Ukrainian refugees (housing, food, clothing), to provide information on basic rights, the possibility of obtaining temporary protection status, the list and contacts of state services dealing with refugee issues in these countries, etc. The requests of migrants have changed since that time, and therefore there have been changes in the priorities and areas of assistance - the need to involve non-governmental organizations to promote the linguistic and economic integration of Ukrainian refugees, to create an environment for meeting their cultural needs and social adaptation and to counter Russian propaganda and misinformation in the mass media. In addition, we note that the activities of the non-governmental sector were aimed at helping various age groups of war migrants, including children under the age of 18, because their share in the analyzed countries exceeded 30%. Thus, there was an activity aimed at creating and expanding institutions for preschool children, ensuring the educational process of school-age children as well as spaces for their leisure time.

Engagement formats. We observe various forms of interaction and cooperation of non-governmental organizations with local authorities. In addition to financial support (full or partial financing of certain critical projects, provision of premises for use free of charge or at preferential rates), other formats were also successful, in particular: exchange of information and experience, involvement of civil society representatives in the discussion and development of local policies on issues of Ukrainian refugees; personal participation of representatives of the mayor's office or local authorities in events or projects implemented by non-governmental organizations; delegating part of the duties, powers, various types of services and activities that should be implemented by state local institutions to non-governmental organizations that were able to perform

these tasks more efficiently and with the financial support of international donors.

Networking and collaboration. Certain projects have reached the national and international level. We observe the formation of coalitions, consortia of non-governmental organizations for the analysis and advocacy of Ukrainian refugee issues in the analyzed countries of the Visegrad Group. Such forms of cooperation provide an opportunity to seek a more comprehensive approach to the development of effective policies at different levels of government - from local to national or European as well as to cooperate in the efforts of public organizations that have different missions, but are ready to consolidate efforts and jointly attract international grant funds to support Ukrainian war migrants. It was also important to transfer and exchange information and experience of other EU countries which sheltered a significant part of Ukrainian refugees (for example, Germany), for the implementation of their practices in the countries of the Visegrad Fund.

Problems and challenges. Among the key problems most often mentioned by NGO representatives in their speeches at the workshops are the reduction or lack of financial support; lack of human resources and volunteers; the negative impact of russian propaganda in the mass media and the change in attitude towards Ukrainian refugees in the analyzed countries; election results, particularly in Poland and changes of managers; step-by-step partial changes in legislation as well as the lack of a strategic vision and the development of long-term plans for the integration of Ukrainian war migrants.

Best partnership practices of NGOs with local authorities in advocacy Ukrainian refugees' issues.
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