

Coordination meeting

MINUTES

Date: 14.04.2023 (Friday)

Time: 11.30 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.

Place: Lublin Voivodship Office, column room

The main points of the agenda

Introduction and opening remarks

Bolesław Gzik – Vice Governor of Lublin Voivodeship

- The meeting was opened by Vice Governor of Lublin Voivodeship - Boleslaw Gzik. At the outset, the agenda of the meeting was presented. The Deputy Governor referred to operational preparations for a potential influx of refugees from Ukraine. LUW does not expect any changes due to the increase in the number of refugees in the Lublin region in the near future.
- In Lublin Voivodeship, the number of occupied collective shelters remains at about 60%. As of 14.04.2023, the following number of people are staying in reception points: Hrubieszow - 130 persons, Tomaszow Lubelski - 2 persons, Chelm - 2 persons. LUW is considering proposing to the Ministry of Interior to suspend the operation of reception points in the Lublin region with the possibility of their quick reactivation.

Marco Procaccini – UNHCR

- Marco Procaccini expressed gratitude that LCG platform is developing and assuming relevance. UNHCR believe that it is very important that different institutions, civil societies, international organizations has an opportunity to share platform like this, asses the needs, plan together, conceive collective response that is a key to success.
- UNHCR observed increase in cross-border movements from Poland to Ukraine. It might be caused by Orthodox Easter. Similar situation was observed in December around Christmas. From 3 – 9 April: 2100 persons moved from Poland to Ukraine and only 1040 from Ukraine to Poland.
- In reference to protection profiling and update, needs related to labor market and economic inclusion, as well as material support or housing are still considered to be needed. At the same time there is growing number of people saying “no needs” which can be a positive development meaning that more people are going towards self reliance. On the other side it gives us more space to be more focused on those who are in need.
- Since the last coordination meeting there was a launch of Regional response Plan for 2023 which has significant chapter related to Poland involving 83 partner organizations. The focus on the border and on the possible new influx with particular reference to the impact that it may have on the border region, including Lublin Voivodeship is represented.
- We don't see high numbers of new arrivals. Upcoming months will be critical in terms of social and economical inclusion. It is relevant to highlight establishment of working group on



economic inclusion. It is very important to ensure that job opportunities, especially taking into consideration upcoming agricultural season will be taken into consideration while preparing activities supporting refugees.

- Implementation of new regulations related to contribution of refugees staying in collective shelters emerged a number of challenges directed to mandated authorities. It was a great task to complete in a short period of time a bug assessment in all poviats done by Voivodeship Office in cooperation of starosts and municipalities which give is very valuable information about who live in collective shelters. Collected data can be supportive in designing projects and activities for vulnerable groups. At the same time we have been confronted with problems that refugees are facing. One of them is that refugees reports that they haven't been properly informed about results of assessment and who will be exempted. Refugees are also concerned who they should pay for and how. Our suggestion is to try to make an effort on systematic communication based on transparency and consistency. UNHCR believe that Voivodeship Office in Lublin is on very good track on implementation of legal act amendment. UNHCR will be happy to support if there will be a need to solve extra problems or seek alternative solutions.
- UNHCR is about to conclude very large clothes distribution exercise which was directed to more than 100 collective shelters and more that 1500 individuals will be reached by the end of April. We realized that it was very much needed and appreciated by refugees. It is also an opportunity to thank the work and support from the Voivodeship Office, LUW warehouse and local coordination with starosts and coordinators to organize effective distribution. We are likely to repeat the exercise at the end of summer season ahead of winter.
- We are pleased to see that different actor are putting in the agenda events for International World Refugee Day – 20 June. UNHCR is encouraging LCG members to join the initiative and mark this date with smaller or bigger event. UNHCR jointly with Voivodeship Office would like to organize a technical meeting to gather all planned initiatives under one program in Lublin Voivodeship.

UNHCR Protection Sector updates in Lublin Voivoidship - UNHCR

- We have heard concerns from refugees regarding to their “evacuee” status when re-entering Poland using the Diia.pl document and returning within the 30 days. UNHCR is seeking clarification from the BG HQ on the procedures being implemented at the BCPs.
- Findings from protection monitoring: structured interviews conducted at bus/rail stations, public places, focusing on profiles and needs of respondents. July 26-March 31, 2023: 34,169 people interviewed. Including 4,151 people interviewed in Lublin Voivodeship, in 20 different poviats and 4 cities with poviat rights.
- Age: 60+ - 18%, 40-59 - 37%, 25-39 - 36%, 18-24 - 9%.
- Activity in Poland: Employed (stationary in Poland) - 26%; Unemployed - 21%; Family responsibilities - 20%; Retired - 15%; Employed (remotely) - 7%; Student - 4%; No answer - 3%; Other - 3%; Self-employed / own business - 1%; Intern / trainee / volunteer - <1%; Supporting family business - 0%.





- Education level 60+: Secondary education - 21%; University and higher education - 39%; Technical or vocational - 38%; Elementary - 1%; I prefer not to answer - 0%.
- Education level 18-24: Secondary education - 44%; University and higher education - 28%; Technical or vocational - 26%; Elementary - 1%; I prefer not to answer - 1%.
- Current employment 60+: Retired - 77%; Employed in PL - 9%; Unemployed - 6%; Family responsibilities - 4%; Employed remotely - 2%; No answer - 1%; Other - 1%; Self-employed / own business - 1%; Supporting family business - 0%.
- Current employment 18-24: Student - 42%; Employed in PL - 42%; Unemployed - 14%; Family responsibilities - 11%; Employed remotely - 7%; No answer - 3%; Other - 2%; Self-employment - 0%; Supporting family enterprise 0%.
- Accommodations 60+: Hosted by relatives or close friends - 27%; Rented an apartment/home on one's own - 17%; Collective accommodations - 23%; Hotel/Hostel (government-provided) - 8%; Hosted by local (unrelated) family - 10%; Hotel/Hostel (self-paid) - 3%; Rented an apartment/home with others - 3%; Other - 2%; Employer-provided accommodations - 1%; No answer - 2%; No accommodation -3%.
- Accommodation 18-24: Hosted by relatives or close friends - 20%; Self-rented apartment/home - 25%; Collective accommodation - 16%; Hotel/Hostel (government-provided) - 7%; Hosted by local (unrelated) family - 4%; Hotel/hostel (self-paid) - 8%; Rented apartment/home with others - 7%; other - 4%; Employer-provided accommodation - 4%; No answer - 3%; No accommodation -2%.
- Information needs of 60+: Financial assistance - 64%; Access to medical care - 37%; None - 21%; Employment opportunities - 12%; Legal status in Poland - 20%; Finding housing - 12%; Access to psychological consultation/support - 4%; Obtain documentation and related rights - 4%; Access to education - 1%; Don't know - 3%; Other - 1%; Apply for asylum - 0%; No answer - 1%; Reconnect with relatives - 0%.
- Information needs 18 - 24: Financial assistance - 48%; Access to medical care - 18%; None - 29%; Employment opportunities - 34%; Legal status in Poland - 29%; Finding housing - 15%; Access to psychological consultation/support - 8%; Obtaining documentation and related rights - 8%; Access to education - 9%; Don't know - 2%; Other - 1%; Applying for asylum - 1%; No answer - 0%; Reconnecting with relatives - 0%.
- Preferred way of receiving information 60+: Social media and instant messaging - 36%; Telephone - 35%; Organization websites - 16%; Information obtained in person - 31%; From friends/family - 24%; None - 9%; Government websites - 6%; Don't know - 3%; Written information - 4%; Radio - 2%; Other - 1%; No answer - 0%.
- Preferred way of receiving information 18-24: Social media and instant messaging - 73%; Telephone - 9%; Organizations' websites - 27%; Information obtained in person - 9%; From friends/family - 12%; None - 18%; Government websites - 15%; I don't know - 2%; Written information - 0%; Radio - 1%; Other - 0%; No answer - 0%.





Implementation of the amendment to the law on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of the country

Andrzej Osipowski – Voivodeship Office in Lublin

- At the moment there are 3918 refugees in collective accommodation in Lublin Voivodeship. Total number of available slots in collective shelters - 6500. The number of people staying in collective accommodation compared to the last few months has been stable for a long time. Since March 1, 2023, since the entry into force of the amended law, there has been a slight steady decline in the number of accommodated people. Approximately 30-40 people from week to week decide to leave collective shelters. Since the beginning of the year, the level has decreased by almost 10%. The data for the current and next week may not be representative due to the postponement of Orthodox Easter, which may cause trips to Ukraine.
- LUW does not have precise data at this time on how many people in collective shelters will be exempted from participation. Aggregate information on exemptions and the refugee situation should be sent by each poviats by April 10. Unfortunately, to date LUW has received data from 50% of the poviats. LUW expects to prepare the final report on April 17.
- The expected level of exemptions from participation should be similar to the data presented at the previous LCG meeting. We can divide those exempted from participation into two groups: exemption under dedicated paragraph and being in a difficult life situation. People included in the second group are about 30%.
- In March 2023, a small group of refugees participated in the cost of accommodation. At the beginning of March, the number of people accommodated - 4326 people. 18 people decided to participate in the costs. Participation reports are collected on a bi-weekly basis. The following week LUW will have data on how many people have decided to participate for the month of April.
- LUW has so far received only 18 appeals against the decision to participate in costs. Those who have appealed to the Governor's Office remain accommodated under the existing conditions until the decision is reviewed.
- Based on past experience, it is possible to identify a group of refugees who, despite earning an income and making efforts to become self-reliant, have difficulties in securing adequate funds to participate in the cost of housing. The reasons include internship employment, casual work, part-time work. LUW's position recognizes the above group as difficult life situation.
- For the month of March, all persons declaring a difficult life situation were exempted from paying. A similar modality was used to make the exemption for the month of April. However, it should be underlined that the exemption from participation is not indefinite. The exemption applies to the indicated period of time.
- The fee for cost participation is made to the entity that implements the accommodation, to the local municipality. The above issue is in line directly with the legal act. In the majority of cases, the fee is paid to the municipality or poviats, while the rest of cases the fee is paid to private entities such as tourist facilities, hotels or private companies.





Renata Rojek – Voivodeship[Office in Lublin

- The topic of building local coalitions has been put on hold due to the need to consult the indicated subject with local municipalities in advance and get to know their needs better from a local perspective. What remains to be considered is the potential and possibility of supporting local coalitions by larger NGOs, which concentrate their presence primarily in Lublin. The issue of building local coalitions will be based primarily on using the potential that lies within local municipalities and entities that operate within municipalities and poviats.
- The funds that have been allocated from February 24, 2022 to March 31, 2023 to assist the citizens/s of Ukraine:
 - Use of funds (Assistance Fund and state budget) as of 31/12/2022. - 306 967 253,52
 - Expenditures of TSU in 2022 - 283,846,269.01; Expenditures of TSU in 2022 - 36,202,984.24
 - Implementation of Assistance Fund expenditures by municipalities - 2023 - 174,322,392.28; 2023 - 14,438,312.96
 - Implementation of Assistance Fund expenditures by counties - 2022 - 104,168,236.66; 2023 - 21,082,835.88
 - Implementation of Assistance Fund expenditures by the Provincial Government - 2022 - 5,355,640.07; 2023 - 681,835.40Detailed presentation by category and expenditure attached

Working group on economic inclusion of refugees - UNHCR

Kamil Raczynski – UNHCR

- The establishment of the Working Group on Economic Inclusion was one of the action points to be carried out after the coordination meeting in February 2023.
- The Working Group met twice: 09.03.2023 and 30.03.2023.
- The membership is open. The following entities were invited to the first meetings: UNHCR, Voivodeship Office in Lublin, Voivode Labor Office in Lublin, Poviats Labor Office in Lublin, Homo Faber, Lena Grochowska Foundation, Polish-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce.
- During the first meeting, the problem of insufficient economic inclusion of refugees in Lubelskie Voivodeship and low level of participation in the labor market was defined. The needs in the context of economic inclusion were discussed. The group reflected on available data sources. Experiences between different organizations and institutions were exchanged.
- Key findings: Organization of labor exchanges / events involving matchmaking between employers and employees - in selected locations in Lubelskie Voivodeship; Leaving aside of the labor fair model; Events organized jointly with district labor offices; Counseling and guidance activities - coordination function of the Voivodeship Labor Office.
- Next meeting analyzed data on the number of people staying in collective accommodation s, PESEL numbers in each powiat, and children enrolled in schools. The information was confronted with Homo Faber's and UNHCR's experience with mobile trips, as well as the District Labor Office's knowledge of the specifics of the labor market in the analyzed locations.





- Key decisions: The following poviats were selected: Lublin, Włodawa, Lubartow, Opole, Biała Podlaska, Chełm; Next meeting - invitation of Powiat Labor Offices from the indicated locations; Joint diagnosis; Selection of 3 pilot locations; Development of common research tools; Development of a schedule; Creation of terms of reference for the group.

Hate crimes and refugee safety in Lublin Voivodeship - Voivodeship Police Department in Lublin

Edyta Naja – Voivodeship Police Department in Lublin

- Three areas of activities: Diagnosis of communities predisposed to discrimination and taking efforts for integration; Monitoring of threats and taking action in case of their occurrence; Education and prevention activities.
- Operation "Border", as of December 31, 2022:
 - Number of police officers securing reception points - 4,849 (from the beginning of operations until 1.06.2022).
 - Securing the passage of trains and coaches: Number of trains - 1,714, of which: escorted - 121, unescorted - 1,593
 - Number of coaches - 585, of which: escorted - 47, unescorted – 538
- Total forces involved in operations: 92,036 officers, including Lublin/KMP/KPP of Lublin region - 68,962,
 - Support forces from OPP/WRD/SPKP states from the country - 23,074
- Hate crimes: 2021 - 45, 2022 - 38.
 - Persons with Ukrainian nationality as victims of crime: 2021 - 172 persons, 2022 - 355 persons, 2023 - 89 persons.
 - Persons with Ukrainian nationality as perpetrators of crimes: 2021 - 341 persons, 2022- 404 persons, 2023 - 112 persons.

Opportunities to learn the Polish language as part of the project "Lubelskie helps Ukraine" -

Marshal's Office of the Lublin Voivodeship

Grażyna Kość, Monika Jędrych - Office of the Marshal of the Lublin Voivodeship

- The project "Lubelskie helps Ukraine - learning the Polish language" is aimed at adults who, as a result of the hostilities in Ukraine, have arrived legally on the territory of the Republic of Poland since 24.02.2022, and who are currently residing in the area of Lubelskie Voivodeship and will remain here at least until the completion of language training. Language training is free of charge. The value of the project is: 2,899,380.00 PLN.
- So far, more than 750 people have benefited from the trainings, while ultimately UMWL plans to train a total of 1,800 people in the entire area of Lublin Voivodeship.
- As part of the training courses, participants complete 60 hours of classroom instruction in the basics of the Polish language. The courses last approximately 8 weeks (min. 2 meetings per week of 4 lesson hours each).





- Promotion: leaflets and information posters in PL and UKR, social networks, websites of institutions, contact with JST, cooperation with the General Consulate of Ukraine in Lublin, cooperation with the Board of Education in Lublin, whisper marketing.
- Recruitment is open. The best way is to gather a group that has similar time preferences to attend the course and report it to UMWL.
- The Office of the Marshal of the Lublin Voivodeship warmly encourages all LAG members to help recruit and encourage refugees throughout the province to participate in the project, as well as to help distribute informational materials
- Details at Lubelskie helps Ukraine - [Lubelskie pomaga Ukrainie – nauka języka polskiego – Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Lubelskiego w Lublinie](#)
Contact: ked@lubelskie.pl, lubelskie_pomaga_ukrainie@lubelskie.pl, 81 47 81 210 and 81 47 81 219

Current activities conducted by the Polish-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce

Pawel Prokop - Polish-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce (PUIG)

- PUIG creates opportunities for its member companies to develop through the provision of quality services, and acts as a link between member companies and other institutions and organizations.
- PUIG supports reforms of the Ukrainian state. The Chamber has established a platform to support decentralization, the Polish-Ukrainian Academy of Cities. It participates in conferences and trainings held in Ukraine. It helps organize study stays of local government officials from Ukraine in Poland.
- An important element of PUIG's activities is to prepare Polish and Ukrainian partners for the reconstruction of Ukraine and the inclusion and inter-sectoral cooperation in the reconstruction process.
- Tasks carried out include representing Ukrainian investors in Poland and Polish investors in Ukraine, as well as shaping a positive image of Poland in Ukraine and Ukraine in Poland.

Action points

- Organization of a working meeting on the celebration of World Refugee Day in Lublin Province.
- Organization of a training course on communication and community involvement for members of the Lublin Coordination Group. The training will be conducted by NGO Forum.

Other information

- UNHCR is recruiting UN Volunteer to work in Lublin:
[Associate Protection Officer | UVP \(unv.org\)](#)
Recruitment is open until April 23, 2023.

Funding opportunities

- Bilateral and regional initiatives (AO-FK and AO-FR).
The call is open for proposals for international initiatives aimed at exchanging knowledge, know-how and experience between Polish social organizations and entities from designated





countries, including Ukraine.

Maximum grant amount: EUR 6,000 per initiative

Deadline: 30.04.2023

[Inicjatywy dwustronne i regionalne - Aktywni Obywatele - Fundusz Regionalny \(aktywniobywatele-regionalny.org.pl\)](https://aktywniobywatele-regionalny.org.pl)

- "NewStartPL" open call

Small grant for teachers of Polish as a foreign language who will open intensive Polish courses for adult refugees in their cities.

Maximum grant amount: no information available

Deadline: continuous call

[Fundacja LifeBus - niesiemy pomoc ofiarom wojny i klęsk żywiołowych](https://fundacja.lifebus.pl)

- European Solidarity Corps - Solidarity Projects

As part of the Program, young people aged 18-30 may, among other things, carry out Solidarity Projects - activities for the benefit of local communities in response to the needs and challenges diagnosed in them, including projects directed to refugees.

Maximum grant amount: EUR 15,028.00

Deadline: 04.05.2023

[Narodowa Agencja EKS | Europejski Korpus Solidarności](https://nawojna.gov.pl)

- Active Citizens Program - Regional Fund: interventions

The open call for intervention projects which plan to fund activities that provide a quick response to crisis situations identified by the Applicants, i.e. a sudden change in the social situation or escalating problems affecting a specific group of recipients

Maximum grant amount: EUR 15,000.00

Deadline: 22.05.2023

[Konkurs interwencyjny 2 - Aktywni Obywatele - Fundusz Regionalny \(aktywniobywatele-regionalny.org.pl\)](https://aktywniobywatele-regionalny.org.pl)

Participants

Name and surname	Organization / Institution
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Agata Gula	Voivodeship Office in Lublin
Renata Rojek	Voivodeship Office in Lublin
Mariusz Kidaj	Voivodeship Office in Lublin
Andrzej Osipowski	Voivodeship Office in Lublin
Beata Chodorowska	Voivodeship Office in Lublin
Marco Procaccini	UNHCR
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Kamil Raczyński	UNHCR
Sylwia Godlewska	UNHCR
Giovanni Monge	UNHCR
Ks. Mieczysław Puzewicz	Volunteer Center in Lublin
Aneta Serafin	Volunteer Center in Lublin
Lidia Kokszarowa	Polish Red Cross Lublin Regional Branch
Renata Jońska	Regional Social Policy Department
Agnieszka Tracz	Homo Faber
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Dorota Cieślik	Municipality of Chełm
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Małgorzata Kurkowska	UNICEF
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Jaroslawa Szewczuk	Danish Refugee Council
Agata Dziubińska	European Meeting Centre New Pond Foundation
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