



MHPSS Romania

Meeting Minutes

[Recording of the meeting](#)



Members

WHO, Internews, Good Neighbours UK, Youth for Youth, Save the Children (Project Hope), World Vision, Terre Des Hommes.



Updates & Achievements

- **Internews** is an international NGO working in approximately 100 countries to improve access to quality information to inform decision making. They not have a country office in Romania, but they have been working in Ukraine to support independent media for 30 years and have a strong connection to that community. They provide support and training to strengthen media and in a humanitarian crisis and focus on supporting conflict and trauma sensitive reporting as well as communication engagement and accountability activities including misinformation management and hyperlocal information programs.
- **Internews** presented the reaserch consucted in the period: June – September 2022, in English, Romanian, Ukrainian and Russian language, in Bucharest, Iasi, Constanta, Cluj, plus Online.

The research raised a number of challenges in terms of how Ukrainian refugees access information, what their needs are in relation to this information and what the age specifics are in terms of the specifics of their searches and how this information is interpreted and processed. Adults mainly use Facebook and Telegram, while young people avoid using the channels used by their parents. An important aspect for young people is that they keep in touch online with their Ukrainian counterparts and prefer to stay more behind the computer, phones and do not leave the house.

Another relevant information of this study is that information is often organized in WEB format, and most Ukrainian refugees have only their phone to access sources, which means that they should be made in a specific format to be opened from their phone.

Ukrainian refugees prefer to turn to other Ukrainians to verify sources and accuracy of information, and the use of influencers in terms of information transmission through different media channels appears important. A different profile of Ukrainians coming from Odessa su Bucha than those coming from parts of Ukraine where there were no bombings was also identified. In relation to accessing mental health services, a reluctance and a lack of trust in accessing these services was identified, but during the interviews the individual need for psychological support was mentioned, this revelation coming at the end of the interview, after the interviewer had established a relationship with the interviewee.

Youth for Yourh presented their work and expressed their intention to participate further in the group, wishing to be included in the RRP planning for 2023.

Challenges

- A need was identified to find out what language refugees feel comfortable speaking when mental health services are provided. Some Ukrainians prefer to speak Russian, especially those from the southern regions, while others prefer to speak Ukrainian.



Useful Links



Action Points

- [Members List](#)
- [Service Mapping](#)
- [MHPSS TF SharedFolder](#)

- Research will be made available to members of the group together with contact details of the organisation, with several members expressing a willingness to contain bilateral discussions.

- <https://internews.org/resource/barriers-and-bridges-communication-and-information-exchange-with-ukrainian-refugees-in-romania/>

- **Next meeting on 14th of October 2022.**