

**Minutes of Protection Working Group  
30<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Place: UN House – Bucharest (hybrid format)

Facilitators: Wendy Zillich

25 online participants, 6 participants in-person

Agenda

1. The Emergency Ordinance no. 96/2024
2. Community Engagement Workshop

**The Emergency Ordinance no. 96/2024**

CNRR presented the differences between the new EO no. 96/2024 and the old EO no. 15/2022 in terms of the assistance offered to persons forcibly displaced from Ukraine. The presentation provided a comparison between the two programs and highlighted some of the concerns and challenges that remain or emerged, pending the adoption of the Government Decision and ministerial orders which will complement the EO.

Key highlights:

- TP holders will receive a lump sum to cover their accommodation expenses, for a period of 3 months. Previous beneficiaries can also apply for this sum, only if they have not accumulated 3 consecutive months of payments from the previous program by 1 July 2024.
- After those 3 months, beneficiaries can access social benefits, in the same conditions as Romanians. Theoretically, beneficiaries may be able to apply to receive the social benefits, however in practice, certain ministerial orders that define the procedures are still needed. Accessing medical services will continue to be free of charge and TP holders will not necessarily have to obtain a referral from their family doctor. However, TP holders who earn income will be required to pay the contribution to the health insurance, starting with 1 January 2025. The National Medical Insurance Agency will not have a new application to register people, it will use the one currently in place, and there is now a clear procedure for reimbursing the providers of medical services.

Some concerns raised by the participants, not necessarily related to the new EO:

- In Iași, some doctors do request TP holders to first obtain a referral from their family doctor before approaching a specialist.
- The procedure for Ukrainians to start teaching officially presents some technical challenges – they need a Romanian teaching certificate, they must undergo a full pedagogical module and take the exams. These exams are usually organized during the beginning of summer, meaning eligible persons will need to wait until 2025 to take them.
- Persons with disabilities face challenges in terms of the reassessment procedure which they need to go through every 6 months, as this is both a lengthy and costly procedure.

**Community Engagement Workshop**

The Protection Working Group conducted, in line with the annual workplan, a Community Engagement workshop on 23 July 2024. The workshop aimed at providing a space of reflection to find ways to enhance community engagement by the various stakeholders involved, gathering NGOs, authorities, and representatives of different communities, such as the Ukrainian, Kurdish, Arabic and Ukrainian Roma refugee communities. Such engagement was framed within the relation between refugee and host communities, as well as within one community as such. While doing so, actors reaffirmed their commitment to cover all relevant stages of engagement, going beyond informing and consulting to also empower and include communities in work done by all actors.

Five areas of focus were established and some recommendations were drafted based on the focus areas: building trust, engaging through awareness raising, social cohesion, advocacy, community and integration, around which PWG actors will guide their own interventions.

**Action Points:**

<b>What needs to be done</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>By when</b>
Continuous monitoring of the decisional transparency relating to the GD and ministerial orders.	All	Ongoing
Engagement on the communication materials on the DSU Platform.	UNHCR/CNRR	Ongoing
Sharing the materials presented in the PWG – Cristi’s and Pedro’s presentations.	UNHCR/CNRR	15.08.2024