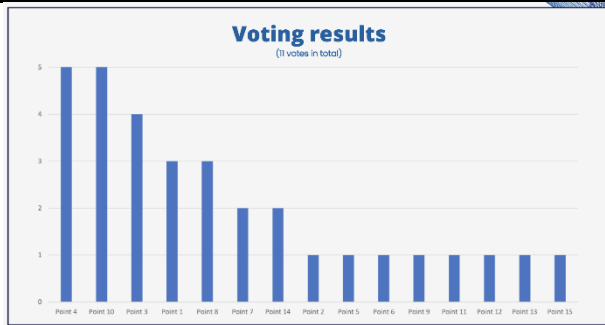


#23 Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Working Group Meeting 4 July 2024

Minutes of meeting #23 Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Working Group		
Location, Date & Time	Online meeting on Teams, Thursday 4 July 2024, from 13:00 to 14:30	
Co-Chairs	Victoria Moren (UNHCR) and Florina Dragulin (World Vision)	
Participants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alla stegnii, UNHCR 2. Andreea Vrinceanu, KATYA Center 3. Andreea-Catalina Grecu, UNHCR 4. Eira Angelica Cerda Ruano, UNHCR 5. Eugene Vovk, Sus Inima 6. Katarzyna Ottorpilot 7. Katarzyna Kirchyk, UNHCR 8. Lestat Monroe, Romanian Diversity Chamber of Commerce (RDCC) 9. Mirabela Vasile, Eliberare 10. Mykola Koltun, HIAS 11. Myroslava Dmytriieva, Fundatia Nationala pentru Tineret (FNT) 12. Roxana Popa, Jobs for Ukraine 13. Valentina Mirza, FONPC 14. Astrid Hamberger, Brasov Migrant Integration Center 15. Yvonna Hofnar, Code for Romania 16. Irinel Cocos, HIAS 17. Laurentia Mereuta, World Vision 18. Teodora Rogozea-Weatherlake 	
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions and overview of agenda • Presentation of survey results regarding priority advocacy points • Romanian Diversity Chamber of Commerce (RDCC) presentation about their work and recently launched LGBT+ inclusive app • Eliberare presentation about their work and available resources focused on preventing labor exploitation 	
	Discussion	Action Points
Advocacy points follow-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the past month, the Working Group has worked on developing a joint list of priority advocacy points (available here). Last week, a survey was sent out to the group whereby everyone could vote on the top 5 priority points and how these should be taken forward by the group. • The results can be found in the presentation here and below. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those interested are asked to join the advocacy task force by signing up here. A meeting will be scheduled with the task force members shortly.



Top priorities

- 4: Enhanced access to the Employment Agencies services**
 The Employment Agencies are encouraged to promote their services more broadly among refugees and to make these resources more accessible to non-Romanian speakers (including employment counselling, language classes, vocational training courses, and technical certification exams). Vocational trainings and examinations should be possible in multiple languages. Possibly through establishing collaboration contracts with organizations that can provide language and mediation support.
- 10: Accelerated recognition of qualifications**
 The Government is encouraged to make the process for recognizing qualifications from non-EU countries more simplified and accelerated. This shall be done through:
 1) Providing accessible information and raising awareness on recognition practices, including the Europass / European Qualifications Passport for Refugees
 2) Fostering cooperation between national authorities in charge of integration and centers for recognition of qualifications
 3) Promote exchanges with relevant authorities in Ukraine (and other countries of origin for refugees) to harmonize processes on the recognition for qualifications and to provide complementary/bridging courses
- 3: Address taxation issue for part-time employees**
 The Government is encouraged to modify the relevant legislation (Law no. 277/2015 and Government Ordinance no. 16/2022) to ensure that part-time employees are not taxed at the same level as full-time employees.
- 1: Clearly communicate refugees right to open a business**
 The Government of Romania is encouraged to harmonize relevant legislation to clearly state TP holders' right to open a PFA or other legal business form. The government is also encouraged to more broadly communicate the rights of TP holders to establish businesses and work as freelancers in Romania.
- 8: Include refugees in target groups for project proposals for national programs**
 Include UKR refugees in the target groups for project proposals in national programs funded by EU and Ministries, ensuring sufficient funding for NGOs offering complimentary services for refugees.

Way forward: Creation of a taskforce



Romanian Diversity Chamber of Commerce (RDCC) presentation

- Lestat Monroe, founder and board member of the RDCC, held a presentation (available [here](#)) about the chamber's work and recently launched "Inklusive App", which was developed jointly with Accenture and designed to empower the LGBT+ community in Romania.
- More info about the Inklusive App and RDCC is available [here](#).

• For questions about the App or RDCC's work, feel free to reach out to Lestat Monroe (lestat@rdcc.ro).

		
<p>Eliberare presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirabela Vasile held a presentation (available here) about Eliberare’s work and available tools on the prevention of labor exploitation. More information is available on Eliberare’s website: www.eliberare.com 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For questions about Eliberare’s work or resources, you can reach out to Mirabela Vasile (mirabela@eliberare.com)