Compass Bulgaria Network of Protection and Inclusion Centres

Overview

The Compass Network of Protection and Inclusion Centres is a joint initiative between UNHCR and partners Bulgarian Red Cross, Ukraine Support and Renovation Foundation, Energy Association Varna, Caritas Bulgaria, Foundation for Access to Rights and the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee in six refugee-hosting cities in Bulgaria spanning Sofia, Plovdiv, Harmanli, Burgas, Varna and Dobrich. These are protection and inclusion community centres established to promote collective empowerment, integration, and social cohesion for refugees of all nationalities and vulnerable people among the local host communities alike, through comprehensive support tailored to their diverse needs. The Compass Network provides crucial context-dependent activities for the well-being of all, as well as it promotes social cohesion between refugee and host communities through regular community events, workshops, and dialogues focused on mutual understanding and acceptance. The centres complement services offered by the national/regional authorities and the municipalities with activities addressing mid-to-longer term needs of refugees, including language, cultural and livelihood. Services are available since the beginning of 2024.

What are the services provided?

Legal assistance and social protection
- Legal counselling on international –temporary protection and documentation
- Support with referrals for access to health care services and rights
- Access to social services and labour rights

Specialized child protection services and child-friendly spaces
- Play and child development activities
- Pre-school groups

Women empowerment and life skills sessions
- Community activities and safe space
- Support self-organization and leaderships skills

Recreation, events, and workshops for local and refugee community

Community mobilization and social cohesion

Psychosocial support services
- Community and family support services through groups and art-based activities, including parent groups
- Individual counselling

Livelihood and economic inclusion support
Individual counselling on livelihood opportunities according to specific needs and market requirement (Entrepreneurship, TVET and soft skills training, mentorship programs and job placement support)

Education
- Language courses
- Providing guidance on education and skills certification

Mobile services and mainstreaming inclusion of persons with disabilities
- Coordination with municipal services to assist transportation for people with limited mobility (Varna)
- Assistance with social protection benefits, including disability benefits
- Support with referrals for access to health care services and rights

Services are free of charge, and humanitarian workers are not permitted to request or accept any payments or favours.

Locations

City	Address	Core working hours	Contact details
Sofia	ul. "Prof. Kiril Popov" 19, 1700 Sofia Bul. "Evlogi i Hristo Georgievi" 165, 1504 Sofia (Both operated by BRC)	08:30-17:00 Monday-Friday	(+359) 882 900 896 (Mobile, Viber)
Plovdiv	Bul. "Knyaginya Maria Luiza" 47, 4000 Plovdiv (Operated by USRF)	09:00-17:00 Monday-Friday 10:00-16:00 Saturdays	(+359) 882 977 523 (Mobile, Viber, Telegram)
Harmanli	ul. "Baucher" 5, 6450 Harmanli (Operated by BRC)	08:30-16:00 Monday-Friday	(+359) 887 290 487 (Mobile)
Varna	ul. "Lyuben Karavelov" 4A, 9002 Varna (Operated by ENERGY)	09:00-12:00 13:00-16:00 Monday-Friday	(+359) 884 553 494 https://t.me/communitycentrevarna
Burgas	Ul. "Tsar Samuil" 11, 8016 Burgas (Operated by BRC)	10:00-17:00 Monday-Friday	(+359) 895 540 619 https://t.me/+Uy11AklhqDgxODQ0
Dobrich	zh.k. "Balik", 9A36 9303 Dobrich (Operated by BRC)	09:00-17:00 Monday-Friday	(+359) 886 447 306 (Mobile, Viber, Telegram)

UNHCR Partners for COMPASS

Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC)
https://www.redcross.bg/

Ukraine Support and Renovation Foundation (USRF)
https://ukraine-renovation.com/obsthnostenczentar-kompas/

Caritas Bulgaria
https://caritas.bg/

ENERGY Association Varna
https://www.nrg-ngo.com/Community-center

Foundation for Access to Rights
https://farbg.eu/

Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (BHC)
https://bghelsinki.org/