

## Joint EUCPT and WHO site assessment for possible Medevac Reception Centre

15<sup>th</sup> April 2022



**Background:** On 15<sup>th</sup> April a joint EUCPT and WHO team were tasked by Ministry of Health Poland to assess a potential site in Korczowa for the establishment of a 200 bed reception centre in which medical evacuation patients being transferred from Lviv to other EU countries could be received and accommodated for a short period. This also includes accompanying family members and/or next of kin.

**Facility Name:** Punkt pomocy dla uchodźców: Świetlica Wiejska w Korczowej

**Location:** Korczowa 155, 37-552 Korczowa. 49.9561381, 23.0794580

The centre is located approximately 3km from the Ukrainian border (Korczowa crossing) which is the busiest road crossing from Lviv, enroute to Rzeszow. This is community house in use for about 40 years and was the first Reception centre established in Poland due to the local authorities. They inform us of a maximum of persons passing by pr day was 8000 at the peak. (100.000 refugees/day crossing the border).

The local population has done a tremendous effort for the refugees in the first wave and have done some further preparations for the days to come.

**Space:** The centre is situated over 2 floors, with a small storage cellar. There is parking space for around 15 vehicles to the front of the building. The areas around the centre are also available. (In total ca 30.000 m<sup>2</sup>)

**The ground floor** has one large room (approximately 15x7m or 100m<sup>2</sup>) with a separate kitchen and storage area. There are 2 semi accessible toilets (limited by narrow doors and insufficient space for a wheelchair or attendant). There is 1 small shower (same issues). The kitchen space included 2 gas oven/stoves with a large refrigerator.

**The first floor** is only accessible via stairs. There is a large room (approximately 10 x 6m or 60m<sup>2</sup>) kitchen, and an office space. There are 2 additional separate toilets.

**Utilities:** The centre includes electricity, running water (with a water heater) and wifi. Two mobile phone masts have been placed on the grounds to improve cellular coverage. Gas is available for cooking via propane cylinders. Fridge x 2 in 1. floor. Power supply is stable according to the local authorities.

Laundry: washing machine x 1 ground floor. One additional delivered to 1. floor, but not yet operational.

**Nearby services:** The mayor reports there is a general practitioner in the village. The nearest pharmacy is around 30km away.

Food supply: A local grocery store 300 m from centre.

Staff accommodation: Hotel at driving distance. Hotel Korczowa \*\*\* (<https://www.korczowa.pl>)

Bed and breakfast hotel: Korczowa Noclegi Zajazd Cykada ([https://pl-facebook.com/pages/category/Hotel---Lodging/Zajazd-Cykada-Korczowa-108621337226419/](https://pl.facebook.com/pages/category/Hotel---Lodging/Zajazd-Cykada-Korczowa-108621337226419/))

**Safety and Security:** This is the community house, but also the firestation for the voluntary local fire fighters. Fire extinguishers said to be available. No fire alarms, but can be arranged at request. Exit from 1.floor via 2 flights of stairs. (More info in "Challenges" below.)

### **Challenges:**

**Access:** The centre is not accessible – there are 6 stairs to access the building, and 2 flights of stairs to access the first floor.

**Space:** [WHO](#) recommend that patient beds must be spaced at least 1m apart to allow for effective Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and clinical care. The maximum number of beds in the facility would be 18 beds (of which 8 would be located upstairs and only appropriate for ambulatory patients). However, as family members may also need to be accommodated, the maximum number of patients that could realistically be accommodated would be 10.

**WASH:** [Sphere standards](#) recommend a minimum of 1 accessible toilet per 20 people (patients and staff combined). Maximum capacity of the centre based on WASH criteria would be 60 – inclusive of staff, family members and patients. However, current facilities are not accessible, and could not be accessed by wheelchair users or any patient requiring assistance.

**IPC:** An isolation area for infective patients would be difficult to establish with the limited space available.

**Summary:**

The centre is well located, being close to the major road border crossing from Lviv, but due to limitations in space and WASH could only accommodate a very small number of patients. Accessibility of the centre, and of its toilets and showers is a major constraint. All full package of support (staff, equipment, consumables, waste management, improved WASH) would need to be put in place to ensure patient safety.

**Recommendation:**

This site is not appropriate to establish a large medical reception centre. A second report will capture key recommendations for future site consideration.



