

**Minutes of Protection Working Group  
27<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Place: UN House – Bucharest (hybrid format)

Facilitators: Jorunn Brandvoll

28 online participants, 5 participants in-person

**Agenda**

1. Presentation of the InKlusive App – Romanian Diversity Chamber of Commerce
2. Presentation of Draft Order on the Procedure for Granting Social Services to Adult Persons with Disabilities from Ukraine – FONSS
3. Presentation of tool for mapping of access to social benefits for refugees from Ukraine – UNHCR
4. Discussion on experiences from implementation of EO – all PWG members
5. Presentation of criticality review for Romania Protection Sector – Inter Agency Coordination Team

**Presentation of the InKlusive App – Romanian Diversity Chamber of Commerce**

A presentation of the app developed to support and empower the LGBTQ+ community in Romania was delivered by the Romanian Diversity Chamber of Commerce (RDCC). The app intends to serve as a central platform for LGBTIQ+ resources in Romania, offering easy access to community information, events, health and legal services. It strives to foster diversity and inclusion in society by tackling discrimination, hate crimes, and harassment. The app is currently available only in Romanian language, however there are discussions to make it more accessible to social categories at risk of discrimination or experiencing hate crimes. RDCC also explained that individual follow up is ensured on persons approaching the app with such experiences through collaboration with a Romanian NGO and a law firm.

**Presentation of Draft Order on the Procedure for Granting Social Services to Adult Person with Disabilities from Ukraine – FONSS**

The ministerial order sets out the instructions for the implementation of EO 96/2024, regarding access for people with disabilities to social services, specifically day centers, recovery centers, as well as residential centers. The order does not address the evaluation for disability certificate, for which specific instructions will be provided in the future. Concerns have been raised about the number of available places in residential centers and the lack of access to translators. FONSS has issued a recommendation to amend the order by mentioning

the non-requirement to present medical documents proving the disability translated into Romanian, as these are needed for admission into social services.

### **Presentation of tool for mapping of access to social benefits for refugees from Ukraine**

A tool was developed at Inter Agency level to map access to social benefits for beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, following the adoption of Emergency Ordinance 96/2024. The tool is intended to be used by partners to monitor effective access and map potential challenges that TP beneficiaries they are assisting have faced, to inform advocacy efforts on a local and national level. It allows a detailed localization at a municipality level and a tracking of the types of challenges an applicant has faced. The data reported will feed into a live dashboard that will be publicly available on the Operational Data Portal.

### **Discussion on experiences from implementation of EO – all PWG members**

One of the main challenges reported by participants was landlords who are increasing the cost of rent following requests by refugees to register lease contracts with the fiscal authority (ANAF) to obtain the new format of the TP permit with a proven address. Other landlords are unwilling to approach ANAF and instead ask the refugee to obtain a notary document for a comandat contract. This happens despite the fact that the TP permit has an option to be issued with a declared address, which does not require showing a rental contract.

### **Presentation of criticality review for Romania Protection Sector – Inter Agency Coordination Team**

The results of a criticality survey of the financial situation for Q2 was presented by the Inter Agency team. Out of 37 RRP partners, 23 responded to the survey. The main takeaway from this review is that all sectors are still affected by funding shortages, with the most underfunded sectors being Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion (9% of appeal), GBV (13% of appeal), Education (14% of appeal), Child Protection (21% of appeal) and Basic Needs (21% of appeal). However, all of the 17 organizations affected by funding shortages mentioned that they are capable of fully resuming activities if funding is received. The protection sector is less affected by funding shortages than other sectors.

#### **Action Points:**

<b>What needs to be done</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>By when</b>
Revision of tool for mapping of access to social benefits following feedback from partners	UNHCR/Inter Agency Team	End of month
