Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 23 April 2025

Meeting subject:	Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting
Time & location:	9 am – UNHCR Krakow Sub-Office
Chaired by:	UNHCR
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	IOM, UNHCR, ZHP, Vela foundation, IBP, Halina Niec legal aid centre, PCPM, Centrum Informacji dla Dzieci z Doświadczeniem Migracji, City Office of Krakow, Ośrodek Interwencji Kryzysowej, Project Hope, Save the Children, Net on Wheels
Agenda:	1. Introduction and updates from the co-chairs and from refugee-led organizations 2. Presentation from PCPM on the project "Together to Independence" 3. Presentation from the Center for Children with Migration Experience Centre 4. Any Other Business (AOB)
AGENDA POINT	**DISCUSSION**
Introduction and update on points from last meeting	Participants were welcomed to the 42nd Małopolska Coordination Group (MCG) meeting.
Agenda point 1	- Introduction and updates from the co-chairs and from refugee-led organizations: **1. UNHCR office status and funding update**

- **UNHCR Kraków and Lublin Offices** will remain closed until **1 September 2025** due to a **funding freeze from international donors**.
- The **Warsaw office remains operational** to coordinate activities at the national level.
- **Partnership agreements** are currently under review and impacted by the funding cuts.
- Until the temporary closure, UNHCR offers to **share a list of available trainings** and **conduct them for partners**. A full menu of training options will be disseminated shortly.

2. UNICEF & UNHCR: multicultural education training on 24th of April

- A **joint workshop** will take place:
  "Edukacja wielokulturowa w (mało)polskich szkołach"
- Target participants: **intercultural assistants** and **teachers**
- The session will cover the **"Szkoły dla wszystkich"** (School for All) government programme and offer **tools for teachers working in multicultural settings**.
- The event will include a **panel discussion and group workshops** to exchange good practices.

3. **Updates from IOM Kraków**

- Due to **global funding changes**, activities were paused from **January to end of March 2025**.
- As of **April**, activities **resumed in a modified form**, in alignment with donor requirements.
- **Integration activities** are ongoing, but some services remain **suspended or under re-evaluation**.

4. Updates from Spilno Hub Kraków

- A **part-time lawyer** has been hired and will be available **twice a week**.
- **Visit hours and appointment details** are published on social media:
  - Facebook Group

	○ Instagram Page **5. Save the Children** • Activities will continue until **December 2025**. • Programs have been **scaled back** but remain operational. **6. Foundation IB Polska** • Organization is undergoing **staff changes**. • **Outreach to Rabka-Zdrój** and **legal support (once per week)** continue. • **HNLAC lawyers are currently not active** in the centers managed by the foundation. **7. Project Hope** • **No changes** in operations despite funding challenges. • Continues to provide **psychological and social support** to refugees. • **Stable funding** is secured until **end of 2025** through **private donors**. **8. VELA foundation** • **UNICEF funding freeze** affected their activities significantly. • Forced to **close operations in Wrocław and Warsaw**. • The **Kraków team has been reduced**, but the **Freedom Space remains active**. • Some services are maintained with support from **private donors**.
Agenda point 2	

Agenda point 3	**2. Presentation from PCPM on the project "Together to Independence"**
	[Presentation attached]
	
	Project overview:
	
	• **Lead:** Ministry of Interior and Administration (MSWiA)
	• **Partners:** Polish Red Cross (PCK), PCPM
	• **Duration:** April 2024 – March 2026
	• **Coverage:** Nationwide, with **strong engagement in Małopolska**
	• **Funding:**
	  ○ Total: **93.5 million PLN**
	  ○ EU AMIF (90%): **84.1 million PLN**
	  ○ State budget (10%): **9.3 million PLN**
	
	Objectives:
	
	• Aim to transition **6,000 refugees** from **collective shelters** to **independent housing**.
	• Provide **career counseling** and **integration workshops** for **6,000 individuals**.
	• Deliver **language courses** to **1,500 people**.
	
	Current status:
	
	• **27,000 refugees** remain in collective shelters across Poland, with **6,424 in Małopolska** (as of April 2025).
	• **246 shelters** operating in Małopolska.
	• **540 individuals** in Małopolska and **1,150 nationally** have successfully moved to independent living.
	• **Resistance from shelter owners** remains a challenge due to their **financial interests**.

	• Target group: **working-age refugees** paying for shelter stays; less focus on elderly, disabled, and large families (although participation is not excluded).
	
	Support components:
	
	• **Housing:**
	  ○ **Rent & deposit subsidies** (up to 6 months, decreasing over time).
	  ○ **Furnishing allowances** (avg. 2,500 PLN per household).
	  ○ **Moving and notarial costs covered**.
	• **Employment:**
	  ○ **Personalized career counseling** (CV support, job market guidance).
	  ○ **Transport subsidies** for commuting to work or school.
	  ○ **Polish language courses** (avg. 1,500 PLN per person).
	  ○ **Recognition of qualifications** (subsidies for nostrification and document translation).
	• **Integration & adaptation:**
	  ○ **Workshops on Polish law, taxes, public services, digital tools** (e.g., mObywatel, IKP).
	• **Registration process:**
	  ○ Applications through **PCPM/PCK websites**.
	  ○ Verification and **individual meetings with integration assistants**.
	  ○ **Housing contract submission** within 30 days of qualification.
	  ○ **Monitoring visits** (2-3 during the 6-month subsidy period).
	• **Current challenges:**

	○ **Lack of motivation among target group**, reliance on assistance, waiting for the end of the war. ○ Awaiting the final **revision of the Special Act** regarding Ukrainian refugees. ○ Shelter closures expected by **March 2026**. • **Registration open until: end of July 2025** ○ Information available at: www.pcpm.org.pl/wdn ○ Ukrainian helpline: +48 223 988 827
Agenda point 4	**10. Centrum Informacji Edukacyjnej dla Dzieci z Doświadczeniem Migracji (CIEM)** **Purpose:** • A dedicated **Educational Information Centre** supporting **migrant children** and their families. • Provides **psychological-pedagogical guidance**, **training**, and **consultations** for schools and educators. **Target groups:** • **Parents, students, teachers, school directors, intercultural assistants** in Kraków. **Services offered:** • **Individual and group consultations**, workshops, and **webinars**. • **Languages supported:** Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, English, German, Portuguese, Serbian, Croatian, and others upon request (e.g., Vietnamese, Italian). • **Communication channels:** ○ **In-person appointments** ○ **Facebook and messenger** ○ **Website of the Psychological-Pedagogical counseling center**

	Key topics for families: • School registration, **preparatory classes**, **intercultural assistants** availability. • **Special education needs**, language support, parental engagement. **Key topics for students:** • Exam preparation, **school transitions**, **language learning**, rights awareness, psychological support. **Key topics for educators:** • Accessing **intercultural assistants**, **language group organization**, cultural sensitivity, exam accommodations, integration strategies. **Statistics (October 2024 – March 2025):** • **7 staff members** (coordinators, consultants). • **53 children** and **103 adults** received support. • **82 intercultural assistants** involved. • **Numerous training sessions and events:** ○ **20 on-site meetings**, **12 external**, and **26 special events** (e.g., workshops, educational fairs). **Recent events (March 2025):** • Multicultural education workshops, educational fairs, and **integration events** (e.g., jewelry-making, cultural heritage discussions). • Active collaboration with the **City of Kraków**, and **universities**.
AOB	**No AOB**

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	**Action**	**Responsible**	**Deadline**	**Status** (as of)
1.	UNHCR to share the training menu with partners	UNHCR		