Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 17 July 2025

Meeting subject:	Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting
Time & location:	9 am – UNHCR Krakow Sub-Office
Chaired by:	UNHCR
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	UNHCR, IOM Poland, HNLAC, Zustricz, Spilno Hub Krakow, OIK, HumanDoc, IB Polska, Project Hope
Agenda:	1. Updates from the members of the Malopolskie Working Group 2. Amendments to the special Act and legal developments – UNHCR and Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre 3. Innovation for Dependence : Social and Behavioral Change Communication Strategy by UNHCR Country Office Warsaw 4. AoB
AGENDA POINT	**DISCUSSION**
Introduction and update on points from last meeting	Participants were welcomed to the 44th Małopolska Coordination Group (MCG) meeting.
Agenda point 1	**UNHCR Kraków** informed participants that this was the **last coordination meeting hosted at the Kraków office**, which will officially **close on 31 August 2025**.

	Moving forward, **coordination will be led jointly** by the **UNHCR Interagency Team in Warsaw** and the **Małopolska Voivodeship Office**. Beginning **October 2025**, **bimonthly coordination meetings** will be held at the **Voivodeship Office premises**. For matters related to coordination going forward, participants can contact: • **Konrad Rahal Linkewitsch** (UNHCR Warsaw - ENG) linkewit@unhcr.org • **Aleksandra** Kaplon (UNHCR Warsaw – ENG, PL) kaplon@unhcr.org

Agenda point 2	**2. Amendments to the Special Act and Legal Developments**
	
	• UNHCR presented its comments provided to MSWIA: dokument726150.pdf
	• An overview of the **planned amendments to the Special Act** was provided.
	• Topics covered included:
	  ○ **Changes to the regulations on collective accommodation**
	  ○ Risks for vulnerable groups if not properly informed of their rights and options
	• Discussion focused on how **organizations can support refugees during the legal transition** through:
	  ○ **Information sessions**
	  ○ Legal aid referrals
	  ○ Advocacy on maintaining humanitarian safeguards (e.g., Article 6 exemptions)

Agenda point 3	**Overview of SBCC Strategy:**
	
	• Developed by UNHCR to support **refugees' transition to independence** by addressing **behavioral barriers** such as:
	  ○ **Learned helplessness**
	  ○ **Low self-confidence**

	○ **Peer discouragement and misinformation** • Core message: **"Live Here and Now" / "Жити тут і тепер"**, encouraging small steps toward independence. **Target Groups:** • **Women from female-headed households** • **Residents of collective shelters** • **Host community members** (especially employers and landlords) **Relevance to Current Context:** • Designed to support a **smooth transition amid shelter phase-out and legal changes**. • SBCC tools can **reduce fear and misinformation** around program changes like "Together to Independence." • Municipalities and NGOs are encouraged to **use SBCC as a service activation tool**, especially in AMIF-funded projects. **Opportunities for Partners:** • Incorporate SBCC in integration projects • Apply under **AMIF 2025 calls** (e.g., migrant women's empowerment) • Use SBCC to improve **employment, housing, and education outcomes** **Participants were encouraged to join info session in Polish:** **Strategia Zmiany Zachowań Społecznych: Innowacje w Komunikacji (in Polish)** **Date:** 25 August 2025 **Time:** 14:00-15:00 (Geneva time) **Platform:** Dołącz do webinaru na MS Teams

AOB	No points.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	**Action**	**Responsible**	**Deadline**	**Status** (as of)
1.	**Contact UNHCR Warsaw CO in case of questions:** **Konrad Rahal Linkewitsch** (UNHCR Warsaw - ENG) linkewit@unhcr.org **Aleksandra** Kaplon (UNHCR Warsaw – ENG, PL) kaplon@unhcr.org	Partners		