MEETING MINUTES

ECONOMIC INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

DATE	28.05.2026	TIME	10:30-11:55	PLACE	Online meeting

CHAIRS	
1.	UNHCR (Eliza Przezdziecka, Assistant Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Officer, przezdzi@unhcr.org)
2.	CARITAS POLSKA (Marek Lepianka, Project Coordinator, mlepianka@caritas.org.pl)

PRESENTERS	
1.	Cezary Przybył, Polish Economic Institute.

PARTICIPANTS	
1.	UNHCR
2.	Caritas
3.	Polish Red Cross
4.	International Orthodox Christian Charities
5.	Ministry of Finance
6.	Voivodship Labour Office in Torun
7.	NGO “Dobry start”

AGENDA
10:30 - 10:40 – Introduction

10:40- 11:10 - Integration of Ukrainian immigrants in the context of their residency plans in Poland, Cezary Przybył, Polish Economic Institute

11:10 - 11:55 – Discussion + AOB

INTRODUCTION

This month's meeting focused on the integration of Ukrainian immigrants in Poland based on their long-term stay intentions and entrepreneurial activity. The discussion highlighted the multi-dimensional aspect of social and economic integration, examining the profiles of immigrants, their entry into Polish society, and the scale of businesses they have established.

OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION

I. Integration of Ukrainian immigrants in the context of their residency plans in Poland

The presentation by the Polish Economic Institute (PIE) examines how the integration levels of Ukrainian immigrants relate to their probability of remaining in Poland, utilizing a model that segments immigrants into four distinct profiles rather than treating them as a single group. These profiles, based on demographic and socio-economic criteria, consist of "Guests" who make up 39% of the sample and are mostly men highly active in the labor market but with shorter plans to stay, "Travelers" who represent 30% and consist entirely of highly educated women, "Newcomers" at 16% who are mostly older women with lower employment rates, and "Settlers" who comprise 15% of the group and are characterized by a high share of entrepreneurial activity and the strongest intention to stay in Poland permanently.

The research evaluates this integration across four key dimensions on a scale from 0 to 100%, revealing overall scores of 60% for economic integration, 50% for cultural integration, 45% for identity integration, and 39% for socio-political integration. While "Settlers" demonstrate the highest level of economic integration at 74%, the study also shows that 4 out of 10 working immigrants experienced a drop in professional status and changed their industry after arriving in Poland, underscoring the vital importance of removing systemic barriers such as the recognition of foreign qualifications. This comprehensive analysis is backed by data sources from August to September 2025, including a representative survey of 1,100 adult Ukrainian immigrants conducted by the Centre of Migration Research at the University of Warsaw, alongside official administrative registry data from CEIDG and KRS covering the years 2022 to 2025.

This administrative data reveals a massive wave of entrepreneurship, showing that 1 in 10 sole proprietorships (JDG) established in Poland between 2022 and 2025 was Ukrainian, with a notable peak occurring in early 2024. Furthermore, Ukrainian-capital companies accounted for 6% of all entities registered in the National Court Register (KRS) during this period — peaking at over 4,200 companies in 2022 — with the majority of these businesses operating in trade, administrative services, and construction.

In conclusion, the study applies the concept of "anchoring" to demonstrate that the stability of residency rights, favorable working conditions and wages, and the overall cost of living stand out as the most critical factors driving immigrants' decisions regarding their future country of residence. To support long-term economic stability and counter professional downgrading, the presentation emphasizes that targeted integration policies must prioritize vocational counseling, networking, and providing accessible information about local labor market navigation.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 25th June 2026 at 09:30h.