

## Malopolska Coordination Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 08 September 2022

<b>Meeting subject:</b>	Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting
<b>Time &amp; location:</b>	9 am – UNHCR Krakow Sub-Office
<b>Chaired by:</b>	VOICE Amplified; UNHCR; Open Krakow Coalition
<b>Minutes prepared by:</b>	UNHCR
<b>Participants:</b>	Urząd Miasta Krakowa – Wydział Polityki Społecznej i Zdrowia; Centrum Praw Kobiet Oddział w Krakowie; Clear Global/Translators without Borders; CORE Response; Faros Elpidas; Fundacja Autonomia; Fundacja Instytut Polska-Ukraina; Fundacja Zrodlo Zycia; Fundacja Zustricz; Internationaler Bund Polska/Centrum Wielokulturowe; Misja Słowiańska w Europie; OWiM; One World-One Heart; Polski Czerwony Krzyż; Salam Lab; Save the Children International; TEREN Foundation; UAinKrakow.pl; UNHCR; UNICEF; VOICE Amplified; Zupa Dla Ukrainy Krakow; ZHP Chorągiew Krakowska
<b>Agenda:</b>	<b>Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction from the co-chairs and update on the points decided on the last Coordination meeting.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Updates from the refugee community and UA-led organizations</li><li>2) Winter preparedness: Presentation of the current situation based on available data analysis and possible scenarios (OWiM and partners)</li><li>3) Winter preparedness: Summary of participant submissions on their winter preparedness and challenges observed</li><li>4) Updates from organizations involved in food and shelter</li><li>5) AOB</li></ol></li></ul>
<b>AGENDA POINT</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>Introduction and update on points from last meeting</b>	<p>Participants were welcomed to the third Małopolska Coordination Group meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open Krakow Coalition shared that Communication Group meetings have been taking place. Participants can contact <a href="mailto:olha.menko@uainkrakow.pl">olha.menko@uainkrakow.pl</a> for further information and access to meeting summaries.</li></ul>

<p><b>Agenda point 1</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TEREN Foundation shared that Foundation is beginning its work in Poland. The Foundation currently has two ongoing projects. The first of these are Polish language courses for women and children. The Foundation is also looking to collaborate with other NGOs to create bigger projects for women in Poland. The second project revolves around culture. The Foundation want to organize meetings on Ukrainian cultural heritage in Poland, possibly in collaboration with museums, so that Polish people have a better understanding of Ukrainian history, context and culture. TEREN Foundation also highlighted that systems of funding for NGOs differ significantly in Ukraine and in Poland. As such, it would be helpful to create a list of actors in Poland that offer support for Ukrainian led organizations. TEREN Foundation is willing to begin creation of such a list.</li> <li>• The Department of Social Policy and Health of the City of Krakow shared that in Krakow there are several established institutions working in the cultural sphere that may be open to collaboration with Ukrainian led organizations. These include, <i>inter alia</i>, Willa Decjusza, Muzeum Podgorze, and Dworek Bialopradnicki.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda point 2</b></p>	<p>The Migrant Observatory (OWiM) presented on the current refugee situation and possible refugee flow scenarios.</p> <p>During the course of the presentation meeting participants shared several comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TEREN foundation commented that the use of Russian in public communications could be received negatively by some Ukrainians. Many Ukrainians, even those who speak Russian, have made the decision to no longer do so.</li> <li>• The Department of Social Policy and Health of the City of Krakow noted that so far feedback on the use of Russian in public communications has been divided. Some members of the Ukrainian community have said use of Russian does not bother them, while others have been against its use. The City is open to listen to suggestions and adjust the language of websites and public communications accordingly. However, it was also noted that fully implementing a change would take time. It was furthermore suggested that the Ukrainian community approaches the city with one consolidated recommendation about the use of Russian.</li> <li>• The Department of Social Policy and Health of the City of Krakow noted that there are gaps in the labor market, for example the need for drivers in the Krakow Municipal Transport Company (MPK), that could be filled by refugees. However, in such cases, representatives of MPK Krakow or other such companies would need to be included in the discussion.</li> <li>• Soup for Ukraine noted that inclusion in the labor market is not only a question of whether women are capable of or willing to work in certain sectors, but of whether the proposed positions fit the schedules of single women who are also taking care of children.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another speaker noted that a second associated challenge related to the employment of refugees in entities like MPK Krakow is that initial contracts need to be signed for periods of 2-3 years. This may not make this type of employment a feasible option for refugees who are uncertain about their futures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda point 3</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The given agenda point was omitted due to lack of available time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda Point 4</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Social Policy and Health of the City of Krakow shared updates about the City's winter preparedness. The City ceased oversight of refugee services at the train station on 1 September. For the month of September the task of managing these services has been given by the Voivodeship to ZHP Chorągiew Krakowska. It is unclear what will happen with the services provided at the train station from October. In addition, some hotels in which refugees were placed have stopped cooperation with the City and the individuals living in these hotels were relocated to other locations inside and outside of Krakow. MOPS Krakow also continues to run temporary accommodation sites. However, it is unclear how long these will remain open, as questions remain about their funding. One site, located in the old Plaza shopping center, has already closed and 3 sites now remain. Given the uncertainty, MOPS Krakow is trying to encourage refugees to gain independence and move out of these sites.</li> <li>• The Department of Social Policy and Health of the City of Krakow also shared that Open Krakow has been considering anti-xenophobia initiatives for some time. The Department is open to suggestions on how to use funds in the Department for 2023 for such initiatives and open to project proposals.</li> <li>• VOICE Amplified asked if representatives from the City of Krakow could prepare a presentation on the City's winter preparedness for the next Coordination Meeting on 22 September.</li> <li>• ZHP Chorągiew Krakowska provided an update about the management of services at the Krakow train station. ZHP took over these services on 1 September at the request of the Office of the Voivodeship. Services provided at the train station include food distribution, relocation, psychosocial help, volunteer coordination, and temporary accommodation with 100 beds in which refugees can stay for 48 hours. Food distribution is only for those refugees who are travelling and can provide tickets as evidence. In addition, all children and pregnant mothers also receive food packages. On the point of relocation to towns and villages outside of Krakow, ZHP shared that places are available; however, most refugees wish to remain in Krakow. Most smaller towns and villages also have their own refugee help points, and in many refugees are placed in tourist guesthouses and accommodation.</li> <li>• Salaam Lab shared that the organization runs a help point which provides four services. These include an Infoline, an activity and social space which hosts various classes, accommodation, and language classes. In terms of accommodation, Salaam Lab</li> </ul>

has received grants from AirBnb and Fundacja Biedronka and can provide temporary accommodation for up to 30 days, and eventually up to 60 days, if necessary. The organization also has a long-term, 12 month assistance program, through which each family is assigned a language assistant and through which refugees are guaranteed an apartment, Polish language classes, help in finding work, and integration assistance. Through this program, Ukrainian, Roma, and Afghan families have so far been helped. Salaam Lab also maintains a database of potential options for relocations.

- Zrodlo Zycia Foundation provided information about the Foundation's activities. The Foundation is renting 41 hotel rooms in a single building, which house a total of 110 refugees. The refugees are guaranteed accommodation, food, help in accessing education, and once weekly language courses. The hotel currently has no free rooms, as the Foundation does not ask refugees to leave, and is focused on providing longer-term support. Additionally, due to uncertainty about the situation in the coming months, the Foundation has begun stockpiling some items.
- Open Krakow Coalition highlighted reports that on 1 October women will begin being conscripted into the Ukrainian armed forces. There are also concerns about rising energy prices in Ukraine. At the same time, there has been an observed decrease in eagerness to help Ukrainians in Poland. The result is that there is a need to discuss what will happen at the end of September if there is another large wave of border crossings from Ukraine into Poland.
- Zustricz Foundation provided input about the relation between employment and accommodation. Even if women find work, it is likely to be unskilled labor and as such poorly paid. This will not allow women to rent apartments on the open market. Although Zustricz does not help directly with accommodation, the Foundation's work with Ukrainian women has shows that even women who are already working are unable to find apartments. Even schemes where accommodation is first free and then rent is gradually increased monthly to market rates are not sustainable, as the women will not be able to afford this on their salaries. Solutions to this challenge could include accommodation in dormitories and public buildings in which the women would pay, but the prices would be more affordable. Furthermore, Zustricz noted that during the first coordination meeting information about accommodation locations and referral pathways would be shared with participants. However, this has not yet been done.
- ZHP Choragiew Krakowska shared that there are increasingly fewer accommodation options in Krakow. The relocation database at the train station contains over 1000 entries. If refugees want to move outside of Krakow, then options in hotels and guesthouses do exist. There is also a blacklist of locations that the relocation point at the train station no longer cooperates with.
- Soup for Ukraine shared that the organization would be moving locations to Sniadeckich 3 street, which is next door to the shelter run by MOPS Krakow at Sniadeckich 5 street. Together with I Love Debniki Foundation, Soup for Ukraine has been working to host various integration activities for Polish and Ukrainian women. Soup for Ukraine estimates that the

	<p>organization has helped about 30,000 people so far. When the organization was present at the train station, they were handing out 800 soup portions a day. At the organization's own distribution point, about 600 people were coming a day for soup and others were also coming for dry goods. Furthermore, Soup for Ukraine expects a large new wave of border crossings into Poland if women begin joining the armed forces. Soup for Ukraine further noted the need for a warehouse the organization could use to store hygiene products and dry goods, as well as a need for a system for sharing where in the city NFIs and food are available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Social Policy and Health of the City of Krakow noted that the City is responsible for the humanitarian warehouse on Bartnikow street. The warehouse contains NFIs, but does not contain food. For information about what items are available at a given time, organizations can contact Open Krakow at 12-616-7818.</li> <li>• Multicultural Center Krakow shared that the organization is distributing food less often due to funding constraints. Multicultural Center further highlighted that what is missing is a system where it can be traced who has already received what kind of help, so people do not misuse the system and everyone can receive support.</li> <li>• Slavic Mission shared that the organization has a shelter with 20 beds. The organization also distributes about 100 food packages a month. Beneficiaries are restricted and include, among others, the elderly and people who have crossed the border within the previous month. Slavic Mission also emphasizes to beneficiaries that they must find employment as their expression of gratitude and contribution to the host society. The organization helps in this regard, by assisting individuals in their job searches, providing job search training, and creating roadmaps for them.</li> <li>• UNHCR shared that the 14-day accommodation program with Hilton Hotels in Krakow is ongoing. In addition, UNHCR is continuing winterization planning. This includes plans to distribute NFIs directly to refugees and assistance to municipalities in emptying collective shelters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>AOB</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slavic Mission brought to attention a situation that took place in the previous week. An aid organization contacted Slavic Mission requesting help transferring children from Ukraine through Poland to Switzerland, where they reportedly had guaranteed accommodation. However, after further inquiries, it appeared that a group of children in institutional care and disabled individuals had been left at the Polish-Ukrainian border by the aid organization, and that further transport or accommodation to Switzerland was not guaranteed. Slavic Mission managed to arrange a location in Krakow with accommodation for 32 people, additional individuals were placed in collective shelters run by Krakow Municipality, and some returned to Ukraine.</li> </ul>

- Several other participants shared concerns about the same aid organization. Given the potential risks of such situations and the need for information sharing, several participants inquired whether a blacklist for organizations could be made.
- VOICE Amplified raised the idea of a newsletter with the most up-to-date information about refugee-related developments in the Krakow.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status (as of )
4.	Work on how the information of the updates from the local authorities can be circulated among participants – possibly a newsletter	City of Krakow, UNHCR, VOICE Amplified	Week of 14 Sept.	Ongoing