

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

# PoMOCna KAWA #8



## INTEGRATION

**19** ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING (NGO Forum, Indigo Self-Development Foundation - Finansova.org, Liszewska-Bowen Foundation, Fundacja Leny Grochowskiej, New Story Foundation, Caritas Szczecin, Jewish Community Center, Q Foundation, Mudita, Ukrainian House, CultureLab, and others).

### Various integration activities

The process of social integration takes place on many levels. For people with refugee experiences, the most important thing is, of course, financial security and finding a place to live in a new country. To achieve this, they must, first and foremost, have the opportunity to immerse themselves in an unfamiliar environment, learn to communicate with it, and to get to know its customs and regulations. This is made possible by the many facilities/entities that organize:

- Polish language courses
- educational activities
- additional training courses
- job search assistance
- team building meetings
- creative workshops
- adaptation and integration workshops
- cultural events
- childcare
- sports activities
- assistance to the sick and disabled

The sources of funding for these activities can be seen below:

### SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES



Qualitative survey of Mapuj Pomoc from 22.11.2022, conducted on a group of 19 NGOs conducting INTEGRATION

# Participation of refugees from Ukraine in integration activities

Some organizations create opportunities for our guests to build contacts with their own community. Most, however, are dedicated to integrating refugees from Ukraine into the Polish community. Both aspects of functioning are very important for the well-being of the migrants.

More than half of those gathered at our meeting declared that they employ mostly refugees themselves to conduct classes and events for people coming from Ukraine. This is related to the ability to communicate in their native language. This is also a good way to embed the Ukrainians who conduct classes in Polish organizations, and thus allow them to adapt in our environment.

## Problems and needs of the organizations

In addition to a lack of funds to run their operations, integration facilities are plagued by a lack of volunteers. Another major problem is that our compatriots do not very often appear at meetings that could help refugees adapt in the Polish community.

### PROBLEMS THAT ACCOMPANY INTEGRATION WORK



Qualitative survey of Mapuj Pomoc from 22.11.2022, conducted on a group of 19 NGOs conducting INTEGRATION

The most important need for all establishments providing support to people with a refugee experience is a stable financial situation. Deprived of monetary support, organizations are unable to conduct long-term projects. Many of the integration activities require just that. Learning the Polish language does not end after three months, after all. The same is true of many further education courses. Creating the conditions for friendly social interaction also requires time, a paid meeting place, and leaders and teachers who receive a salary for their work.

### THE SUPPORT THAT ORGANIZATIONS EXPECT



Qualitative survey of Mapuj Pomoc from 22.11.2022, conducted on a group of 19 NGOs conducting INTEGRATION

## Success stories and contact information

The organizations that meet for the PoMOCna Kawa meetings boast many creative solutions in many areas and sectors. Their members presented us with positive examples of measures they have applied in their work for integration.

- **The Q Foundation**

had been organizing festivals and cultural events for several years. In the very first days of the war in Ukraine, it used its skills in arranging large-scale events and rushed to help refugees in the border areas. The foundation built tent cities for those fleeing the war zones, where the refugees could stay a while, eat something warm, get some rest, information and directions for their onward journey. Those facilities also had set-up generators, which made it possible for the refugees to charge phones, so that they could keep in touch with their families and loved ones and find the information they needed on the Internet.

The Q Foundation is currently organizing computer courses for refugee women, teaching them to use a keyboard with the Latin alphabet. We were also told about an interesting story of a group of female doctors who managed to nostrify their diplomas thanks to the foundation's support. They also learned how to work with the patient registration system used in Poland

- **The New Story Foundation**

integrates refugees into Polish society step by step. At first they work as volunteers, helping with the organization's work. Then they are invited as interns to temporary projects, and are getting paid. This is possible thanks to cooperation with the municipal government. After some time they can be employed for a longer period.

- **Cup of Polish**

a foundation that offers Polish language courses, employs Ukrainian women as intercultural assistants. It is thanks to them that information about job activation opportunities and courses spreads better and faster in the refugee community.

- **Fundacja im. Leny Grochowskiej**

runs group homes in several Polish cities. It enlists non-workers in mandatory social activities at their place of residence. This includes cleaning and taking care of the premises, manning the reception desk or caring for children. This helps activate people who have lost their will to act. After a while, many of them start looking for paid work.

- **Caritas**

conducts adaptation workshops for refugees, through which they learn about labour laws or rental housing regulations in our country. The foundation's staff, with an understanding of the problems refugees face, encourage them to emerge from their state of resignation and take steps to organize their lives in our country anew.

- **Ukrainian House in Warsaw**

has created a Ukrainian Women's Club. Workshops for the Ukrainian and Polish communities are held in the halls of the community centre. Members of the club participate in training sessions with specialists, creative activities and social events. Cultural events that promote Ukrainian culture, such as art exhibitions, film screenings or meetings with book authors, are an important part of the foundation's activities. The club's task is to network refugees and create a sense of security for them by allowing them to function in a well-coordinated, supportive group. Constant contact with their own traditions is of significant importance.

*CONTACT: If you want to get in touch with a specific organization, email [mapujpomoc@culturelab.pl](mailto:mapujpomoc@culturelab.pl). We also encourage you to join the closed group for NGOs, where we share knowledge and resources, seek inspiration, and let you know about grants: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mapujpomoc>*