

## SUMMARY

# PoMOCna KAWA #13



LET MEET TOGETHER!

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## POLISH-UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS

**41 THE ORGANISATIONS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING** "We with You" Foundation, "Pass it On" Foundation, "International League" Foundation, Batory Foundation, Alight Organisation, Mudita Association, Find Refuge Organisation, Catholic Intelligentsia Club KIK, Ukrainian House, Q Foundation, Foundation for Migrants "Good Start" (formerly Foundation for Somalia), Polish Association of EMDR Therapy, Indigo Self-Development Foundation (Finansova. org), International Medical Corps, SOS Food Bank in Warsaw, CultureLab Foundation, OnkoFundacja Alivia, Centre for Partnership and Sustainable Development, A21, Фонд СІР (SIR Foundation), Фонд "Дзеркало добра (Mirror of Goodness Foundation), Фонд "Бункер" (Bunker Foundation), Фонд "Перлина Держави" (Pearl of the Nation Foundation), Організація Січеславська Просвіта (Sicheslav Prosvita Organisation) and others

## Different realities of the actions of Polish and Ukrainian humanitarian organisations

The problems of Polish and Ukrainian humanitarian organisations remain largely the same, however, differences can be seen in the goals and areas of action in the two different countries. A large number of NGOs representatives pointed out the paucity of information publicity and, more specifically, the difficulty of reaching the target audience. This works in two ways - people do not know where to get help, and organisations cannot further develop their socially useful projects due to a lack of participants and, therefore, opportunities to develop activities in the future. This is a problem not only for stationary organisations, but also for online platforms, such as Palyanytsa.info, Find Refugee or Let's shake hands.

Ukrainian organisations were very positive about the possibility of establishing cooperation with Polish facilities. Poland has taken in the largest number of refugees from Ukraine - inevitably, Polish organisations have been given the greatest responsibility for helping newcomers from Ukraine. Informational support from Ukrainian organisations (e.g. regarding Ukrainian culture) would make it possible to improve the content quality of projects, which would benefit the refugee community.

Mention should be made of the large differences in the profile of organisations. In Poland, assistance to refugees largely consists of integration activities, psychological, material or legal aid. This is because the aim of our activities is to help them adapt to their new country and solve problems related to this.

In Ukraine, meanwhile, the aims are to help people adapt to the war, to evacuate, to problems with energy supplies or to maintain security. The organisations themselves, which are operating in the reality of the constant threat of military action, have to run their projects differently (taking security into account first and foremost). They face numerous adversities on a daily basis, such as lack of electricity.

Moreover, the recipients of humanitarian aid in Poland are mainly women and children. Our neighbouring organisations face the challenge of supporting men who (with few exceptions) have had to remain in their homeland due to the law in force - whether fighting on the frontline or 'in civilian life'. This extends the profile of activities to support war veterans, families of deceased soldiers or people with disabilities resulting from war.

## **A unique area of assistance — learning the Ukrainian language**

Living in Poland, it seems to us that for refugees in the process of adapting and arranging their lives in a new country, learning the Polish language is crucial. This is of course true. Meanwhile, in Ukraine, the burning issue is... the Ukrainian language.

Representatives of one organisation pointed out that Ukrainians should be supported in their transition from Russian. They argued this on the grounds that when the war ends, Ukrainians will return to their country to rebuild it, and then we need to help them adapt back into Ukrainian culture, where this language is a tool for communication - and also protect it.

## Forgotten areas of assistance — helping military animals and countering human trafficking

With the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, voices were raised in Poland about the need to help animals. They were described as equal victims of warfare and therefore, in the first days of the war, we could see transports of pets, wild animals or animals from Ukrainian zoos right next to buses with fleeing people. In Poland, however, we have never bent over backwards to help military animals - responsible for searching for people or supporting the relevant services with their skills. These animals need to be provided with proper living conditions, a place to sleep, food, access to heat and water - otherwise, like humans, they will 'work' less efficiently.

One might get the impression that the topic of human trafficking in connection with the February/March 2022 refugee movement has disappeared from public debate permanently. However, one representative of an organisation operating in both Poland and Ukraine warned us that although we currently hear little about this phenomenon - due, among other things, to information chaos - analysing cases of human trafficking and fighting for justice on this issue will be the next issues we will have to face. Both Polish and Ukrainian organisations must put their own safety and the safety of the recipients of their aid above all else in their activities.



The event was co-organised by Mapuj Pomoc partner Українська Волонтерська Служба (Ukrainian Volunteer Service). They are the creators of the Palyanytsya.info portal - which enables people to easily and quickly find various forms of support for victims of war residing in Ukraine.

### **CONTACT:**

*If you need a contact for a specific organisation, please email us at [mapujpomoc@culturelab.pl](mailto:mapujpomoc@culturelab.pl). We also encourage you to join our closed Facebook group for members of organisations, NGOs and volunteers, where we share knowledge and oversized resources, seek inspiration, and let you know about grants:*

*<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mapujpomoc>.*