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In Search of Safe Harbor

Mapping of Collective
Centers for Ukrainian
Refugees in Poland in
2024

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LIST OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

IOM	International Organization for Migration
LGU	Local Government Unit
N	sample size
PARTICIPATION FEE	A partial accommodation fee introduced by the amendment of the so-called special act on January 25, 2023, eventually borne by refugees residing in collective centers.
REFUGEES	In this report, we use the term "war refugees from Ukraine," "refugees," or "refugees from Ukraine" to adequately describe the specificity of this group. These individuals have not been granted refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention and, for the most part, do not intend to apply for any form of international protection. Therefore, it was necessary to find another term to describe their status in Poland and the European Union. For the purposes of this report, the proposed term covers citizens of Ukraine who were present in Ukraine at the outbreak of full-scale war and crossed the border afterward. Citizenship and leaving Ukraine after February 24, 2022, are significant factors. Ukrainian citizens who crossed the border before February 24, 2024, were not

	<p>covered by "temporary protection." Citizens of other countries who crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border after February 24, 2022, also did not receive temporary protection. They constitute a marginal fraction of refugees staying in CCs funded solely from non-governmental sources.</p>
<p>COLLECTIVE CENTER (CC)</p>	<p>At the start of the mapping process on March 15, 2024, there was no official and widely applied definition of a collective accommodation center. Together with IOM, the To Proste Foundation decided to use the definition presented in the draft amendment to the Assistance Act, which will come into force on July 1, 2024. According to the draft act, a collective accommodation center is a place of collective stay for at least 10 Ukrainian refugees for a period of not less than 14 days. However, the analysis also includes CCs that exceed the above-mentioned definition but which have been reported as CCs to the To Proste Foundation, even though there might stay less than 10 people and for a period shorter than 14 days. In this report, the terms "collective center" and the acronym "CC" are used interchangeably.</p>
<p>SHELTER SECTOR</p>	<p>Abbreviation for Shelter, Housing and Accommodation Sector. In Poland, Habitat for Humanity Poland, together with IOM, coordinates the activities of the Shelter Sector as part of the National Coordination Forum, managed by the United Nations</p>

	<p>High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The shelter sector includes dozens of organizations. The shelter sector promotes information exchange and cooperation among partner organizations involved in housing for refugees who arrived from Ukraine after February 24, 2024.</p>
<p>SPECIAL ACT</p>	<p>The Act of March 12, 2022, on Assistance to Ukrainian Citizens in Connection with the Armed Conflict on the Territory, regulating residency issues, access to services, etc. It was amended several times, including on January 28, 2023, and July 1, 2024.</p>
<p>MHPSS TWG</p>	<p>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group</p>

INTRODUCTION

In January 2024, two years after the escalation of the war in Ukraine, the number of registered refugees from that country in Poland was 955,893 (based on active PESEL registrations). According to the 2024 Shelter, Housing and Accommodation Sector, about 68% of them rent housing on the private market, 12% share accommodation, 13% live in hostels, and 7% live in collective accommodation centers (CCs)¹. The current situation is a consequence of the exodus of war refugees from Ukraine from the first days of the escalation of the war. According to an analysis by Olgierd Dziekoński, Radomir Matczak and Rafał Trzeciakowski conducted for the report “Hospitable Poland 2022+”², as many as 45% of refugees from Ukraine were already staying on Polish territory in the apartments of relatives or friends in March 2022. At the same time, many war refugees from Ukraine were hosted by Polish families. As early as April 2022, 600,000 refugees from Ukraine were already benefiting from subsidies of PLN 40 per day to cover the cost of accommodation and food³, both in collective accommodation centers run by private individuals or organizations, and in the apartments of private individuals. A relatively low number of war refugees stayed in hotels.

At present, it is assumed that those living in the CCs are the most vulnerable refugees – they are often the elderly, chronically ill, single mothers with children and people with disabilities. To date, the collective centers have not been comprehensively mapped, and the type of services run on their premises has not been comprehensively monitored and analyzed. The local authorities, followed by the Ministry of Administration and Digitization, have information almost exclusively on state-funded centers. At the same time, until November 2023⁴, this data was not available to social organizations, even those operating within the shelter sector. Information on the number, location, and number of sites of CCs financed from other sources was fragmentary and incomplete, so that none of the humanitarian actors had

¹ For the purposes of the report, the definition of a collective accommodation center is given in the *List of abbreviations and terms* section.

² Matczak Ł., Dziekoński O., Trzeciakowski P., Results of a survey conducted among refugees from Ukraine applying for PESEL registration in the 1st week of their stay in Warsaw. Elaboration based on estimates by Tomasz Pactwa from the Office of Assistance and Social Projects of the City of Warsaw, in: Bukowski M., Duszczyk M. [eds:], *Hospitable Poland 2022+*, Warsaw 2022.

³ *Szefernaker: przedłużymy o 60 dni termin wypłaty świadczeń za pomoc uchodźcom*, PAP, 21.04.2022, <https://samorzad.pap.pl/kategoria/aktualnosci/szefernaker-przedluzymy-o-60-dni-termin-wypłaty-swiadczen-za-pomoc-uchodzcom> (dostęp 15.07.2014).

⁴ In November 2023, after the change of government, the Right to Protection Foundation, in partnership with social organizations including the To Proste Foundation, issued a request to governors to share information on the CACs present in each of the 16 voivodeships. Read more about this initiative and its results in *Chapter 9 – Main Challenges of the Project*.

full knowledge of the subject. There was a lack of access to information on the general situation of people living in CCs and on the type and quality of support provided in their areas. Such a situation exacerbated the difficulties in determining the needs of refugees residing in the CCs, and as a result, humanitarian assistance offered by NGOs could not reach many places and people requiring support.

The issue of determining the exact location and examining the services available in the CCs became even more relevant and urgent when the government announced plans to amend the Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Citizens in Connection with the Armed Conflict on the Territory of Ukraine. At the end of March 2024, it was known that under the new legislation, the support system for Ukrainian refugees would change as of July 1. Funding for stay in collective centers will be possible only on the basis of a signed agreement with the governor. The possibility of compensating the costs of stay and board of war refugees (Article 13 of the special act), the so-called 40+, will be abolished. What has become certain, is that the changes in the law will affect the fate of thousands of people, which will cause understandable anxiety and uncertainty.

In response to these challenges, from March 15, 2024 to June 30, 2024 the To Proste Foundation, at the initiative and with the support of IOM, carried out a project to locate and examine the offer of collective centers nationwide. The project included all the CCs that the Foundation managed to identify as a result of cross-sector activities and research. Three months of work involved more than 2,555 cross-checked and verified records so that the shelter sector could receive the most reliable and up-to-date information. The methodology and scope of the survey are described in the Methodology section. The condensed and most important results of the three-month project are described in this report.

We believe that the results of the survey presented here will serve social organizations, local government units, and public institutions to deliver appropriate, adequate, targeted, and transparent assistance to refugees residing in collective accommodation centers.

METHODOLOGY

GOAL OF THE SURVEY PROJECT

The purpose of the survey was to collect information on the location and offer of CCs located throughout Poland, which were still active and hosting war refugees from Ukraine in March-June 2024. The data was used to prepare the accurate and useful information database in the form of an interactive map of the CCs.

During the course of the survey, an equally important goal was to describe and label the CCs appropriately, enabling users to find a center meeting specific criteria. The survey team appropriately labeled, among other categories, the name of the center, voivodeship, powiat, city, address, distance from the school or kindergarten, and many other additional information that characterize the CCs.

SURVEY DURATION AND AREA

3.5 months: 15.03.2024 – 30.06.2024

Territory of entire Poland

DONORS AND SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

This report was produced thanks to the generous contribution from the United States Department of State - Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and the technical support and project initiation from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

INSTITUTIONS CONDUCTING AND SUPPORTING THE SURVEY

To Proste Foundation – organization conducting the survey

Union of Polish Cities, Union of Polish Metropolises – supporting partners

SURVEY SUBJECT

Center meeting the definition of a CC: The survey project included centers that met the definition of a Collective Center and also centers with less than 10 people, for less than 14 days, assuming that the survey subject defined itself as a collective accommodation center, not a private apartment.

Center management entity: All collective centers were considered during the research, regardless of whether they were operated and managed by a governor, local government unit, NGO, or private entity.

SOURCES OF DATA ON CCs

In the process of data collection and verification, the survey team analyzed data on more than 2,555 CCs.

The data on the CCs was obtained from the following sources:

1. voivodeship governors: 941 CCs⁵
2. district crisis management centers of Małopolskie voivodeship: 258 CCs
3. social organizations: 405 CCs
4. refugees: 73 CCs⁶
5. UN agencies: 264 CCs
6. online sources: 530 CCs
7. Union of Polish Cities and Union of Polish Metropolises: 9 CCs
8. Mapuj Pomoc database: 75 CCs (CCs that were in the Mapuj Pomoc database before the start of the project)

SOURCES OF DATA ON CCs	NUMBER OF CCs FOR WHICH DATA WERE OBTAINED
VOIVODESHIP GOVERNORS	941
DISTRICT CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTERS OF MAŁOPOLSKA PROVINCE	258
SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS	405

⁵ As part of the public information, the voivodeship governors provided information on the existence of 1,499 collective centers that, to their knowledge, were active and providing assistance to refugees in March 2024. At the same time, the survey team received contact information only for 941 centers from 14 voivodeships. The Łódzkie and Małopolskie voivodeships reported the existence of 558 CCs in their areas, but did not provide address or contact data allowing contact and direct verification of the type of assistance they provided.

⁶ Data obtained through a survey shared on the social channels of Mapuj Pomoc. The survey was filled out by 73 refugees.

REFUGEES	73
UN AGENCIES	264
ONLINE SOURCES	530
UNION OF POLISH CITIES & UNION OF POLISH METROPOLISES	9
MAPUJ POMOC DATABASE	75
SUM	2555

Based on various quality data on CCs obtained from the above-mentioned sources, the To Proste Foundation confirmed the existence of **1,236 collective centers** located in 16 voivodeships.

METHODOLOGY FOR CREATING DETAILED CCs PROFILES

For **956 CCs**, full contact details were obtained and attempts were made to contact them directly by phone in order to create a full profile of the CC on the Mapuj Pomoc interactive map. The profile of a CC on the interactive map was created according to a questionnaire detailing the scope of support provided by CC. Data from the questionnaire was collected in two ways:

- direct phone contact with the CC by the survey team (about 91% of the records were obtained this way);
- self-addition of data by the administrator/supervisor of a CC (exceptional situations, when a large number of CCs are coordinated by one entity. In such a situation, a detailed online questionnaire covering all the assumed variables was sent to the coordinator of the CC, and then the survey team entered the data on the platform); 106 questionnaires were completed in this way.

As a result of the project, detailed information was obtained on the activities of 802 CCs⁷. The basis for analysis in the report is the figure of 1,071, the total number of active CCs in Poland. It includes both centers that were successfully contacted and confirmed the scope of their support to refugees (802 CCs), and centers that could not be reached. For the purpose of analysis, it was assumed that these are active centers, even though it was not possible to contact them; data on these CCs were obtained through desk research⁸.

40 inactive CCs (165 in total) are those confirmed to be no longer active. Despite the research team's efforts, contact information for approximately 240 active CCs in the Malopolska region could not be obtained.

SURVEY SCOPE

STAGE I: March 15, 2024 - June 30, 2024

The first step to creating a comprehensive dataset of CCs on the interactive map was to obtain contact data for each CC. In an optimal situation, this included the address (voivodeship, town/city, postal code, street/village) and a phone number and/or email address (directly to the coordinator or center). STAGE I lasted throughout the entire research period, with the last contact data obtained two days before the project's completion.

STAGE II: April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024

In the second phase of the project, the research team gathered detailed information on the scope of each CC's operations by completing an online questionnaire during a phone interview. The questionnaire included the following information:

- Total number of places in the collective center;
- Available premises (private rooms, dorms, large dorms);
- Maximum length of stay in the collective center;
- Entity coordinating the collective center;
- Adaptation for the needs of people with disabilities;
- Fee for stay;
- Distance from important public utility facilities;
- Allocation criteria;
- Additional services provided in the collective center;
- Number of people staying in the collective center;

⁷ More information regarding the data collected on CCs can be found in: STAGE II of the survey scope.

⁸ A research method that involves the collection and analysis of data from existing sources.

- Number of people with disabilities staying in the collective center;
- Gender of people staying in the collective center;
- Age of people staying in the collective center;
- Ethnic and national minorities;
- Sources of funding;
- Future of the collective center (verification of whether the CC is expected to be closed after July 1, 2024).

DATA RELIABILITY

When analyzing the data contained in this report, it is important to keep in mind that it is still incomplete and largely declarative. All obtained data is based on information provided to the Foundation's team by individuals coordinating the collective centers. Since not all centers were willing to share information, and among those who did respond to the survey, not everyone provided complete data, this report should be considered as a partial insight into the situation of collective accommodation centers in Poland. The research team did not verify the information directly through site visits.

At the same time, the comprehensiveness of the study provides a significant starting point for further analysis and decision-making regarding support and optimization of aid activities. The report presents the situation as of June 30, 2024.

1. CCs IN NUMBERS

1.1. ACTIVE AND INACTIVE CCs BY VOIVODESHIP



Fig. 1 Number of mapped CCs (active and inactive) by voivodeship, N=1236

As mentioned in the Methodology chapter, during the mapping and data verification process from March to June 2024, the To Proste Foundation's survey team analyzed over **2,555 records** obtained from various sources. The existence of 1,236 unique collective centers across 16 voivodeships was confirmed. The data obtained from UN agencies, voivodeship governors, social organizations, and local governments were relatively up-to-date. However, during the research, which included cross-verification of the data, it became evident that the

entities providing this information often had a mistaken belief that it pertained to active, still-operating CCs. In reality, some centers previously considered active were found to be no longer operational. As of June 30, 2024, out of the **1,236 mapped, confirmed, unique CCs**, **1,071 centers were still operational** (referred to as "active"), while **165 had been closed before June 30** (referred to as "inactive").

9.2% of CCs, or 99 out of the 1,071 active centers, reported their plans to be closed by the end of June 2024. Some were uncertain about the future of the centers due to planned changes in the law on assistance to Ukrainian citizens.

1.2. ACTIVE CCs BY VOIVODESHIP

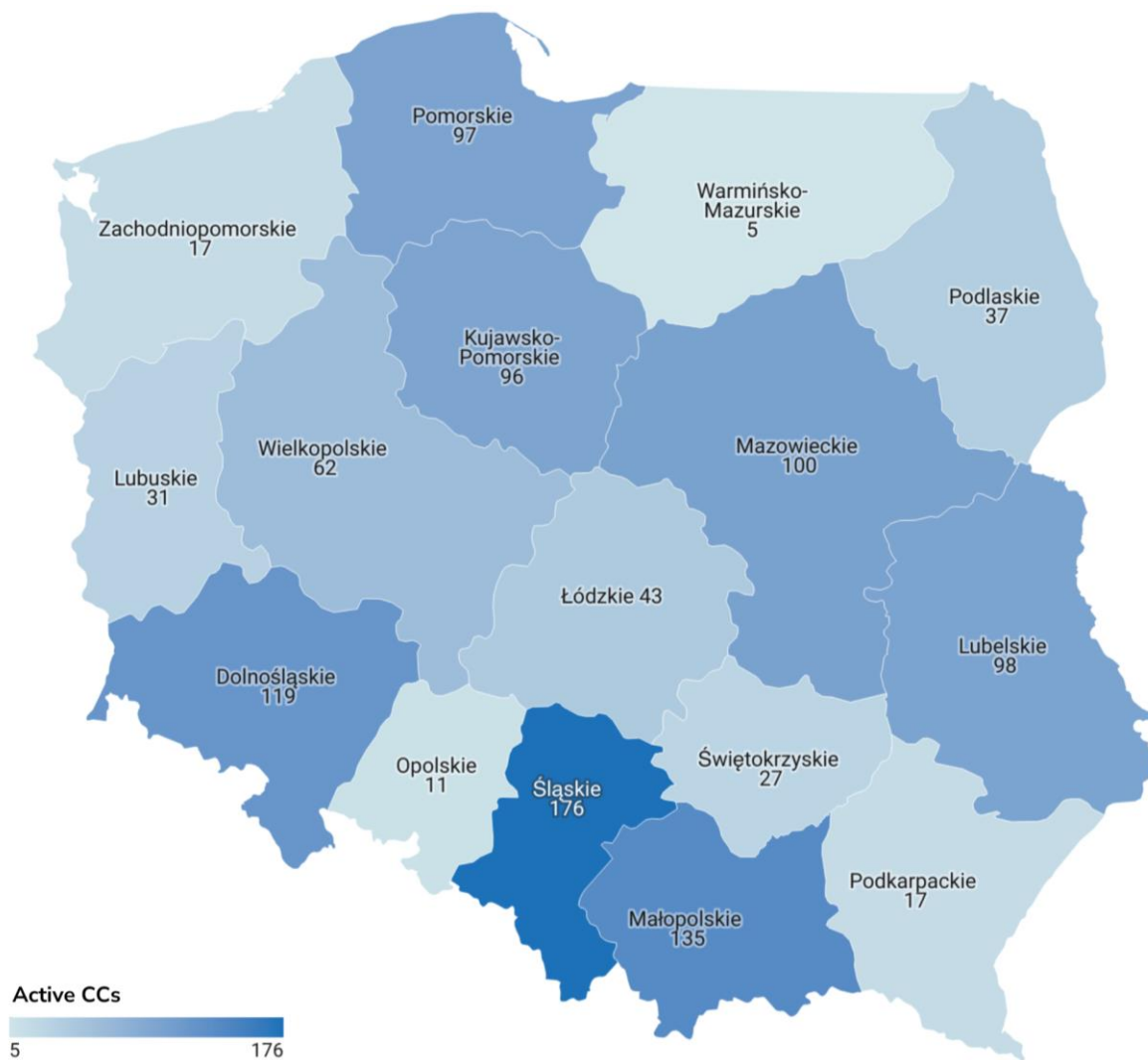


Fig. 2 Number of mapped active CCs by voivodeship, N=1071

Of the 1,071 mapped, active collective centers in Poland, most are located in the Śląskie voivodeship, with 176 centers. The second highest number of operating centers is in the Małopolskie voivodeship with 135 CCs⁹, followed by the Dolnośląskie voivodeship with 119 active CCs. Next in line are the Mazowieckie, Lubelskie, Pomorskie, and Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship, with 100, 98, 97, and 96 open accommodation centers, respectively.

Among the voivodeships with the fewest active CCs, the Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship stands out with 5 active centers, the Opolskie voivodeship with 11, and both the Podkarpackie and Zachodniopomorskie voivodships with 17 still open centers each. In the Świętokrzyskie, Lubuskie, and Podlaskie voivodeship, 27, 31, and 37 open CCs were mapped, respectively.

⁹ The number of CCs in the Małopolskie voivodeship until June 30, 2024 was probably the highest in the entire country. Due to the fact that verifying the information provided by the Małopolska governor was impossible, the To Proste Foundation bases its analysis only on confirmed data.

1.3. INACTIVE CCs BY VOIVODESHIP

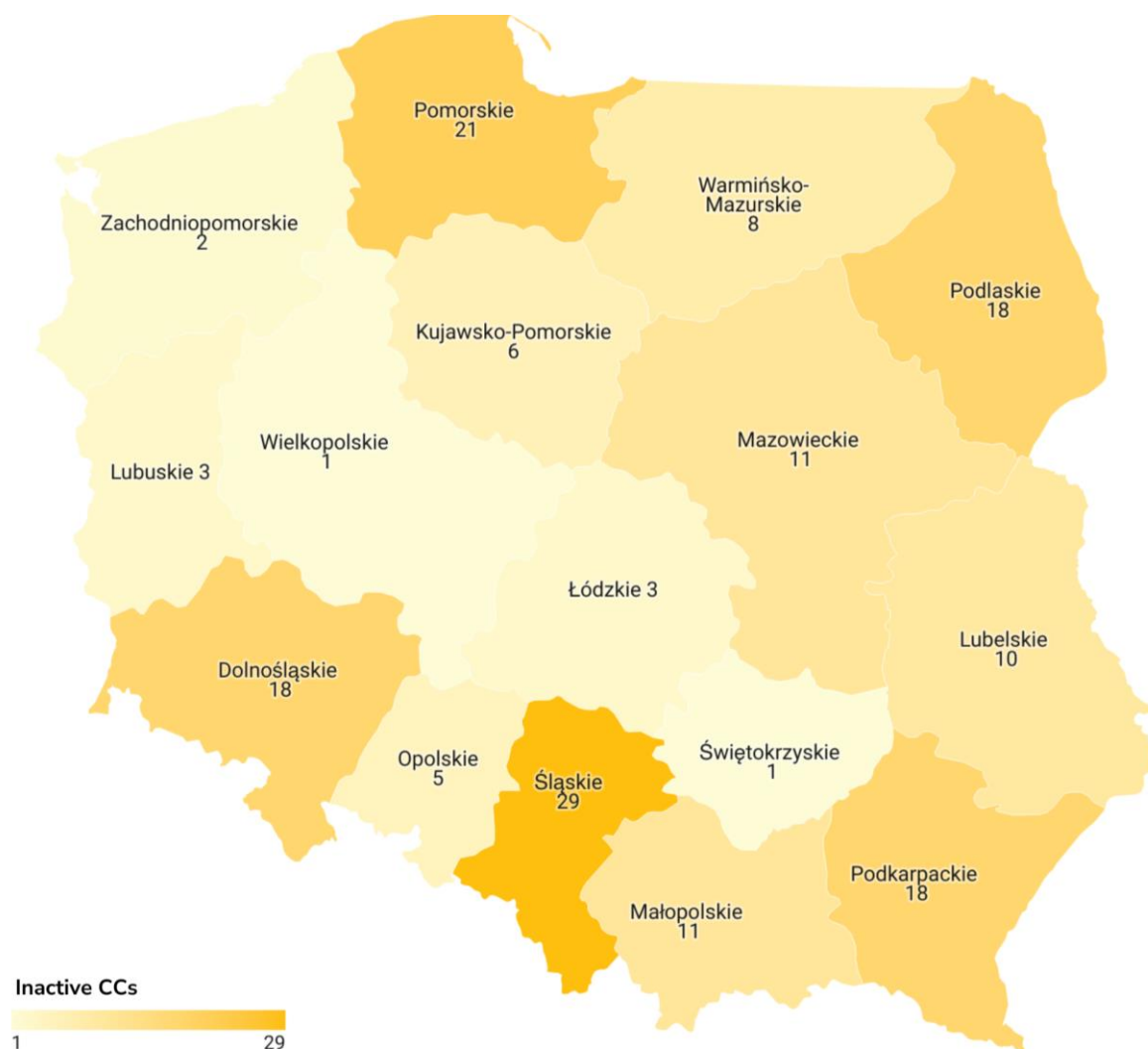


Fig. 3 Number of mapped inactive CCs by voivodeship, N=165

The largest number of closed centers, previously reported as operational by various public and social actors as of March 2024, is located in the following provinces: Śląskie – 29, Pomorskie – 21, as well as Dolnośląskie and Podkarpackie – each with 18 CCs. The voivodeships with the fewest inactive CCs are Świętokrzyskie and Wielkopolskie – each with 1 center, and Lubuskie and Łódzkie – each with 3 centers. In the Mazowieckie and Małopolskie voivodeships, there are 11 closed CCs each, 10 in Lubelskie voivodeship, 8 in Warmińsko-Mazurskie, 6 in Kujawsko-Pomorskie, and 5 in Opolskie.

The above analysis does not provide information on the total number of centers that operated from 2022 to 2024 and closed in the first quarter of 2024. The map indicates only how many centers, initially reported to the survey team as possibly open, turned out to be closed. It is assumed that the majority of the 165 inactive CCs were operational in Poland between 2023 and 2024. It is important to note that the study's objective was not to gather data on inactive CCs. According to the information provided in the Methodology chapter, this data was collected incidentally during the main study.

1.4. ACTIVE CCs BY POVIAT

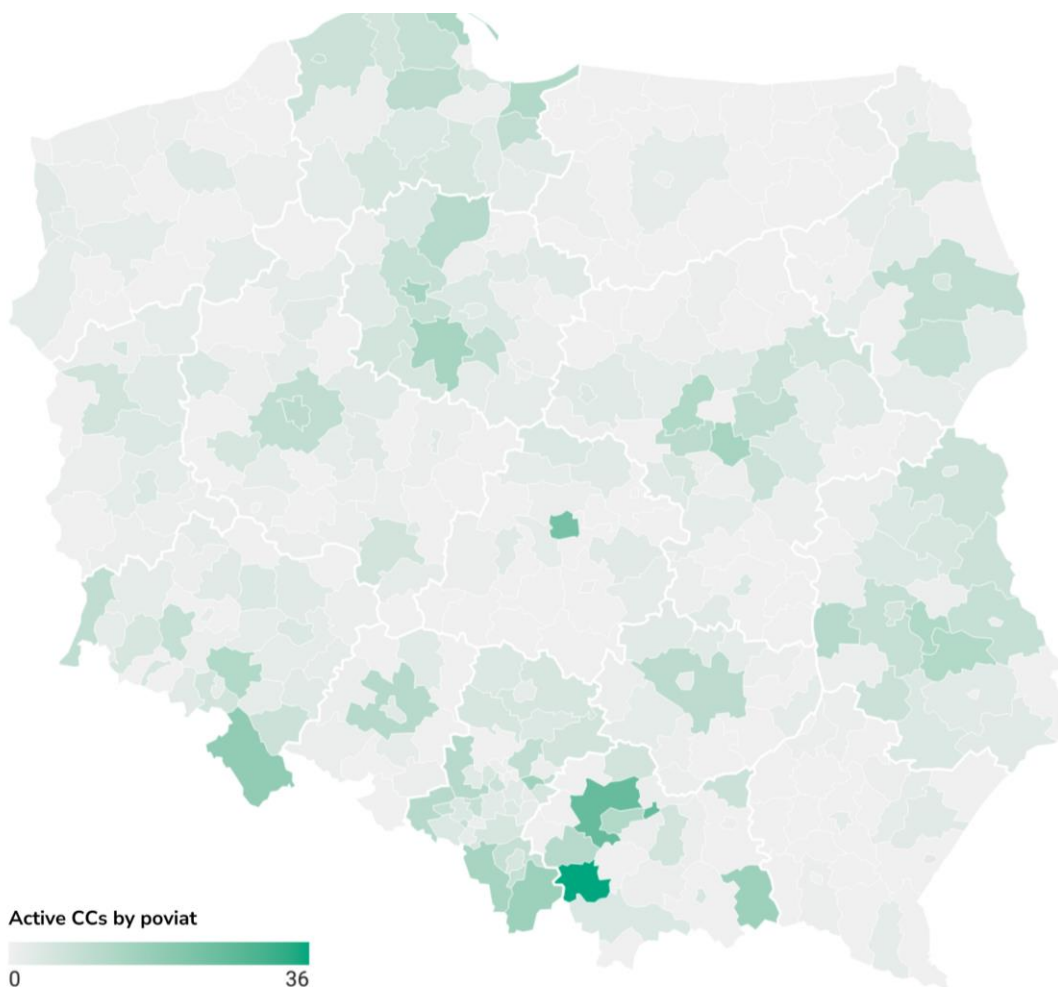


Fig. 4 Number of mapped active CCs by poviat, N=1071

In the data verification process, it was crucial for the survey team to determine the extent of the dispersion of CCs. Are CCs exclusively operated within large metropolises? Or are they spread across all voivodeships, proportionally across all poviats? The map above illustrates

the numerical distribution of CCs across Poland. The analysis covered all 380 poviats or poviat-level cities (314 poviats and 66 poviat-level cities).

According to the information gathered during the study, at least 1 CC has been established in 67% of poviats. In numerical terms, this means at least 1 active CC is operating in 254 Polish poviats. The highest number of CCs was recorded in Suski poviat – 36, Kraków poviat – 26, Łódź – 23, and Kłodzko poviat – 18. There are 16 accommodation centers each in Gorlice and Żywiec poviats, 15 in Sosnowiec, 14 in Bydgoszcz, Cieszyn, Inowrocław poviat, and Warsaw. Additionally, there are 3 CCs in 38 poviats, 2 in 47 poviats, and 1 active CC in 70 poviats.

2. TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACES IN CCs



Fig. 5 Total number of places in CCs (active and inactive) by voivodeship, N=44766

The map indicating the number of active CCs from section 1.1 is not identical to the map showing the total number of places in CCs within each voivodeship. The total number of places in collective centers was calculated based on declarations from individuals coordinating CCs contacted by the survey team. Due to the fact that not all CCs were willing to respond to inquiries, it is highly probable that the actual total number of places is higher. The presented number includes both active and already inactive centers.

Among all voivodeships in Poland, the centers located in the Mazowieckie voivodeship have the highest number of places for refugees, with 10,368 places. In second place is the Małopolskie voivodeship with 5,451 places in centers. The third is the Dolnośląskie

voivodeship with 4,639 places. In the Pomorskie voivodeship, there are 4,107 places in CCs. The voivodeships with the smallest number of places in collective centers are Opolskie with 264, Warmińsko-Mazurskie with 860, Zachodniopomorskie with 952, and Łódzkie with 959 places.

2.1. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN CCs

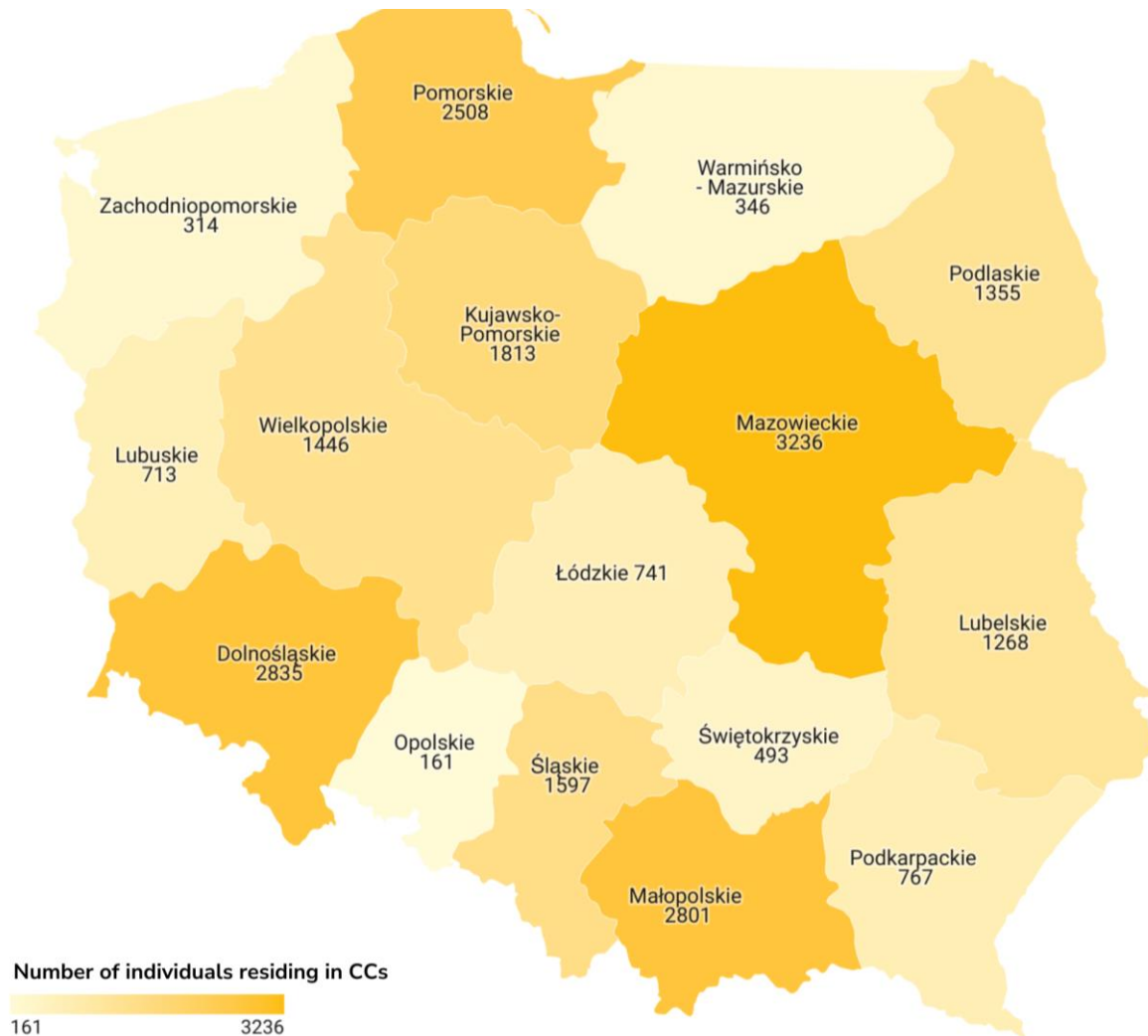


Fig. 6 Number of individuals residing in CCs by voivodeship, N=22394

The utilization of places in CCs varies depending on the specific region of the country. The highest number of refugees resides in centers of Mazowieckie voivodeship – 3,236 individuals. In the Dolnośląskie and Małopolskie voivodeships, CCs house 2,835 and 2,801 residents respectively. In the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship, there are 1,813 individuals living in centers, 1,597 in Śląskie, 1,446 in Wielkopolskie, 1,355 in Podlaskie, and 1,268 in Lubelskie.

The voivodeships with the fewest number of individuals residing in centers are Opolskie with 161, Zachodniopomorskie with 314, Warmińsko-Mazurskie with 346, and Świętokrzyskie with 493 people. In the Lubuskie, Łódzkie, and Podkarpackie voivodeships, there are 713, 741, and 767 refugees respectively residing in collective centers.

When comparing the maps from section 2 (total number of places in CCs) and 2.1 (number of individuals residing in CCs), the highest percentage occupancy is observed in the Wielkopolskie voivodeship. Out of 1,865 available places, 1,446 are occupied, which is 76%. The lowest occupancy rates are in Świętokrzyskie and Podkarpackie voivodeship, with 36% and 32% respectively.

3. SUPPORT FOR GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

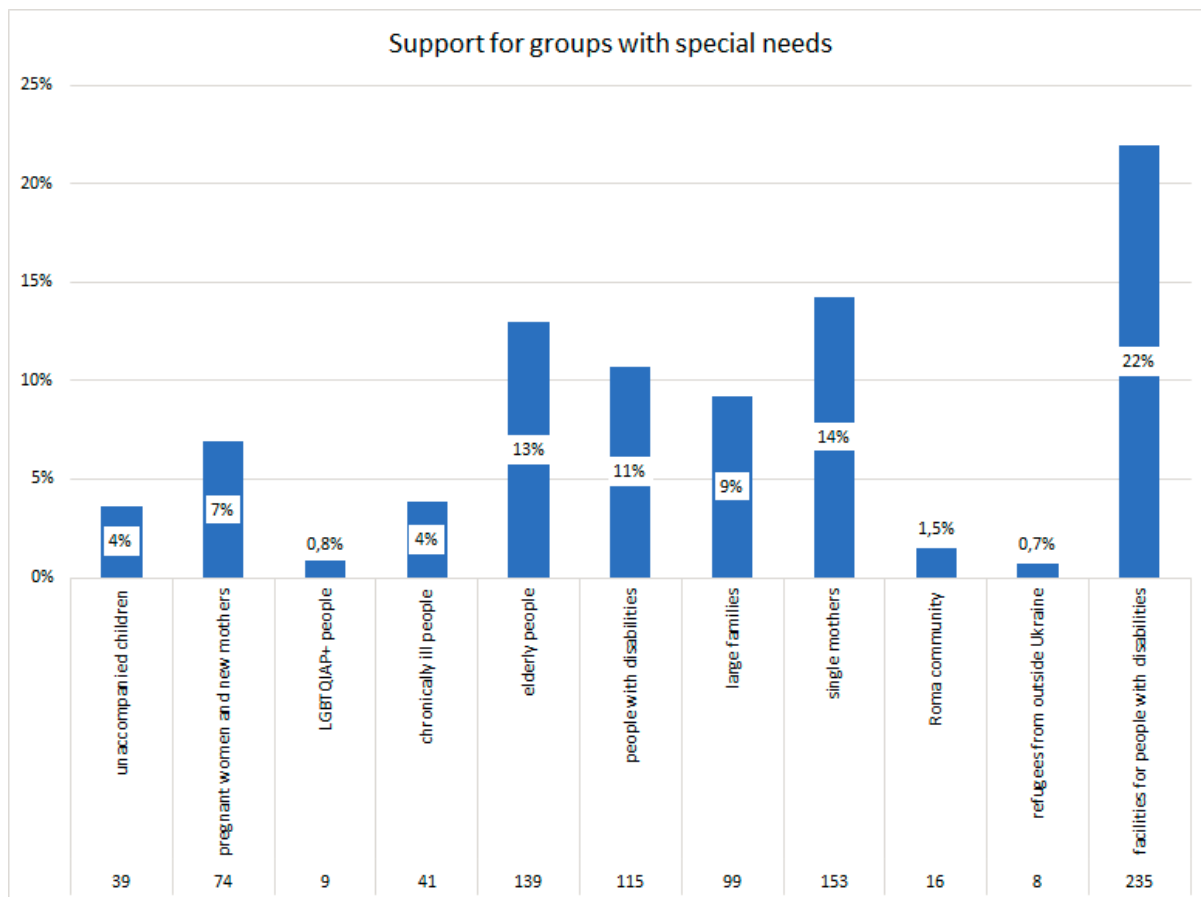


Fig. 1 Support for individuals with special needs, N=1071

Of all the mapped active CCs which data was obtained, 22% declared that the center is adapted to the needs of people with disabilities. Support for single mothers is offered by 14% of facilities, for the elderly by 13%, and for people with disabilities by 11%. Large families can expect assistance in 9% of centers, while pregnant and new mothers can receive help in 7% of CCs. Support for unaccompanied children is provided by 4% of CCs. 1.5% of centers support the Roma community, and less than 1% of mapped active CCs assist LGBTQIAP+ individuals and refugees from outside Ukraine.

4. ADAPTATION TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

War refugees with disabilities are a group vulnerable to double social exclusion. Due to limited and difficult access to assistance, they find it significantly harder to adapt, integrate, and participate in social life. The exact number of refugees with disabilities in Poland is unknown. According to data obtained from the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy¹⁰ up till October 2023, Ukrainian refugees with disabilities submitted 16,004 applications for disability certificates to Polish authorities. This represents 1.7% of Ukrainian citizens who had active temporary protection status by October 2023. Given that just before the outbreak of the full-scale war in Ukraine, people with disabilities accounted for more than 6%¹¹ in that country, it is assumed that a similar percentage of people with disabilities may reside in Poland. The UNHCR/Reach profile survey shows that in June 2022, 9% of Ukrainian households declared that they have at least one person with a disability in their care, 5% of households that they have a person with a serious medical condition in their care, and another 5% that they have an elderly person with special needs in their care¹².

When analyzing the chart below, it is important to remember that, similar to most of the collected data, information regarding the adaptation of centers to the needs of people with disabilities comes from CCs' coordinators. The Foundation's team did not have the opportunity to verify this information during study visits. The presented data pertains to active CCs.

¹⁰ Nowicka M., *Ukraińscy uchodźcy z niepełnosprawnościami w Polsce*, ICMPD 2023.

¹¹ Calculations based on data from Nowicka M., *Ukraińscy uchodźcy z niepełnosprawnościami w Polsce*, ICMPD 2023. Knowing the number of people with disabilities from 2014, the authors of the current report compared it to the estimated population of Ukraine by averaging between the 2001 census (48.5 million people) and the December 1, 2019 electronic census (37.3 million people) from the 2012 census, and thus calculated 6% as the number representing the percentage of people with disabilities in relation to the total population of Ukraine.

¹²“To understand the demographics of the Ukrainian refugee population, their intentions, immediate needs, access to information and displacement patterns, UNHCR, in partnership with REACH, launched a region-wide profiling exercise. Interviews were carried out in multiple locations, including border areas, transit and reception centres, collective sites and information and assistance points. While the interviews were conducted in selected locations (i.e. NGO information offices, train and bus stations, reception and transit centers), the results cannot be extrapolated to the population of all refugees from Ukraine residing in Poland and the findings remain indicative” <https://data.unhcr.org/ar/documents/details/94977>.

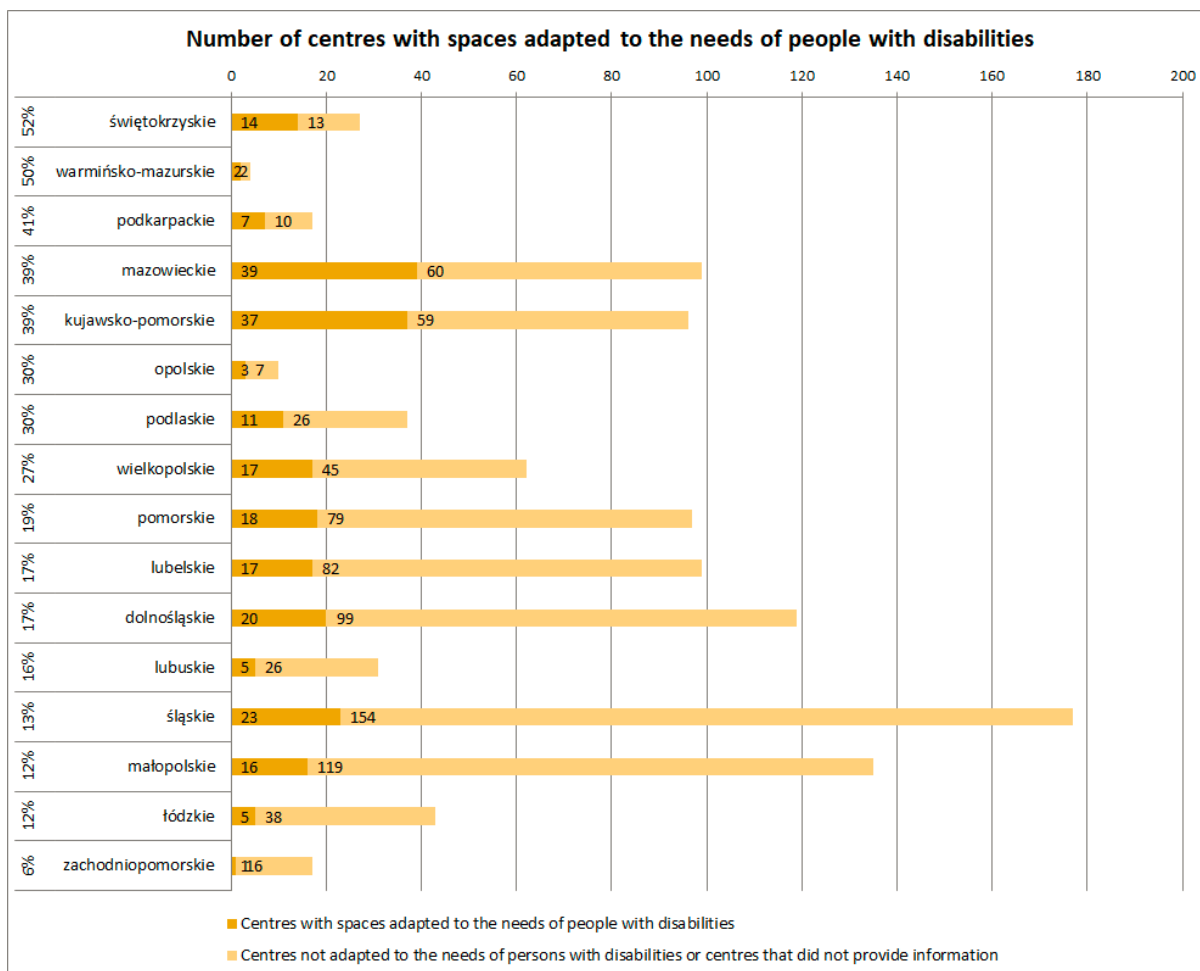


Fig. 2: Space in CCs adapted to the needs of individuals with disabilities (IwD) by voivodeship, percentages indicate the share of CCs adapted to the needs of IwD in a given voivodeship, N=1071

The percentage share of centers adapted to the needs of people with disabilities is an important indicator. However, it is also necessary to analyze the actual number of such centers in individual voivodeships. In regions with a high number of CCs, for example, with 40 centers adapted for people with disabilities, it is possible to effectively distribute refugees so that each has access to suitable conditions.

However, it is important to note that the percentage of adapted centers may not always reflect real availability. For instance, in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship, where 50% of CCs are adapted for people with disabilities, it may seem that the situation is more favorable compared to other regions. Nevertheless, this indicator does not present the full picture – in reality, throughout the entire Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship, individuals with disabilities may only find suitable shelter in two centers.

Such a situation emphasizes the need to analyze both the numerical and percentage availability of adapted centers in order to effectively plan and manage the distribution of refugees, taking into account their specific needs.

The highest number of centers with spaces adapted for people with disabilities was recorded in the following voivodeships: Mazowieckie – 39 and Kujawsko-Pomorskie – 37 centers. In both cases, this constitutes 39% of all active CCs in these voivodeships. The next in line are: Śląskie – 23 centers (13%), Pomorskie – 18 CCs (19%), Lubelskie and Wielkopolskie – each with 17 centers, which respectively account for 17% and 27% of all active CCs in these voivodeships. The voivodeship with the fewest centers adapted for people with disabilities is Zachodniopomorskie – there is only one such CC, which represents 6% of all active CCs in this voivodeship.

Although only two CCs in Warmińsko-Mazurskie declared having spaces adapted for people with disabilities, this accounts for 50% of all active CCs in this voivodeship. Another voivodeship with a small number of adapted centers but with a significant percentage relative to all active CCs is Opolskie – 3 CCs (30%). In Podkarpackie, there are 7 such CCs (41%), and in Podlaskie – 11 CCs (30%). The highest percentage of CCs adapted for people with disabilities is found in Świętokrzyskie voivodeship – 52%.

Considering the percentage share of centers adapted for people with disabilities among active CCs in each voivodeship, we observe that the highest percentage of such CCs is found in Świętokrzyskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeships – 52% and 50% respectively. In third place is Podkarpackie voivodeship with 41% of CCs adapted for people with disabilities, and in fourth place are Mazowieckie and Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeships with 39% each. The lowest percentage, only 6% of active CCs adapted for people with disabilities, operates in Zachodniopomorskie voivodeship. Łódzkie and Małopolskie voivodeships each have 12% of such centers, and Śląskie voivodeship has 13%.

5. CHARGES FOR STAYING IN CCs

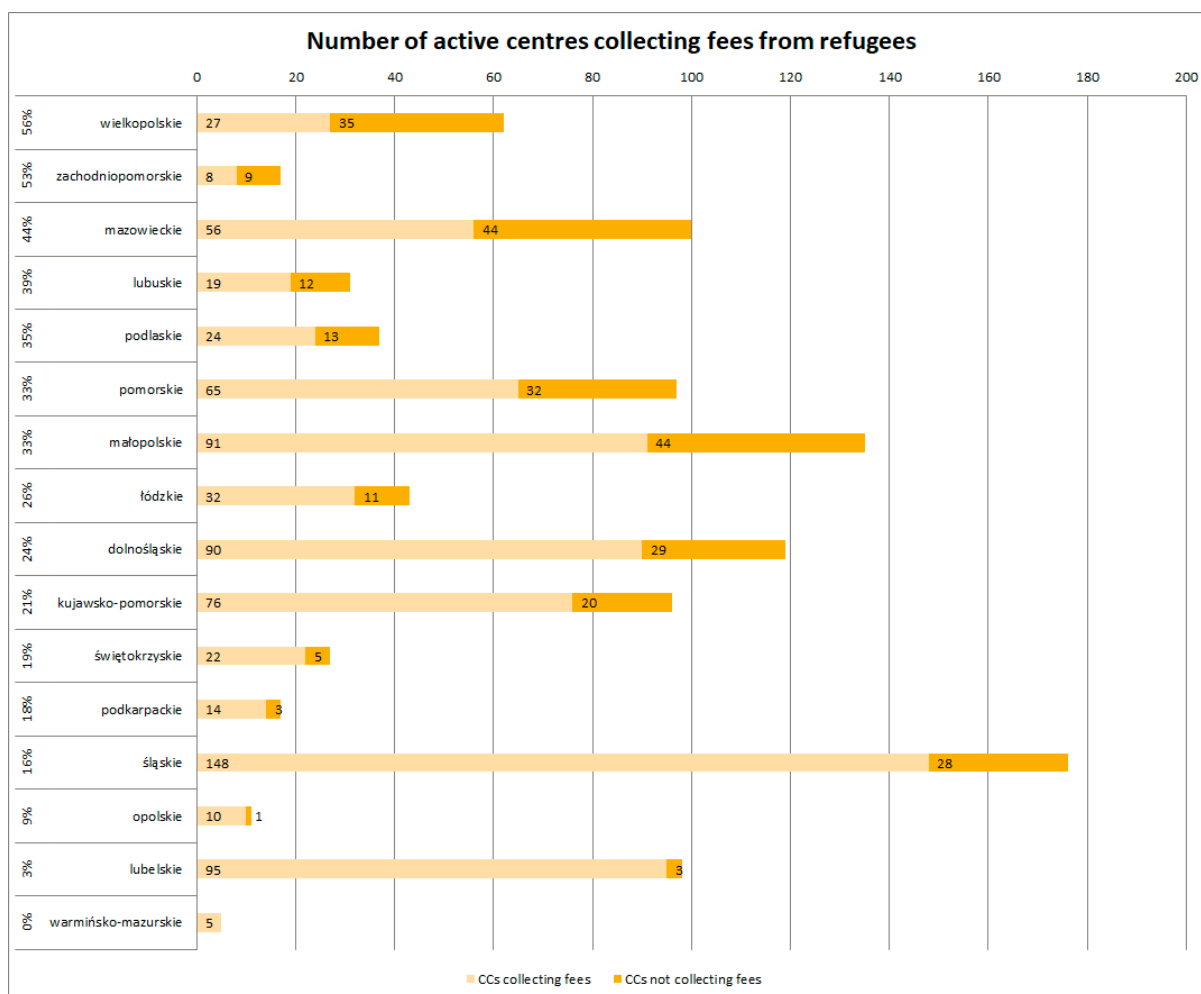


Fig. 3: Proportions of CCs charging fees and not charging fees for accommodation by voivodeship, percentages indicate the share of CCs where a fee is charged for accommodation, N=1071

During interviews with individuals coordinating collective centers (CCs), the Foundation's team collected information on the fees charged at these centers to examine the percentage of CCs offering free accommodation and meals to their residents, as well as the percentage of refugees required to pay partial or full fees as of June 30. The team did not inquire about the percentage of residents exempt from paying for their stay. Instead, the team only noted in how many CCs at least some refugees contribute to the cost of living.

A total of 120 of the 802 active CCs that responded to this question declared that they charge their residents partially or fully such fees.

Wielkopolskie and Zachodniopomorskie voivodeships have the highest percentage of active CCs charging fees to refugees – 56% and 53%, respectively. Mazowieckie voivodeship ranks third with 44% of centers, and Lubuskie with 39% of centers. The following on the list are voivodeships: Podlaskie – 35%, Małopolskie and Pomorskie – 33% each. Residents of centers also participate in maintenance costs in Łódzkie – 26%, Dolnośląskie – 24%, Kujawsko-Pomorskie – 21%, Świętokrzyskie – 19%, Podkarpackie – 18%, Śląskie – 16%, Opolskie (9%), and Lubelskie (3%). No CCs charge fees in Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship.

6. ADDITIONAL SERVICES OFFERED IN CCs

From the beginning of full-scale military operations in Ukraine, the To Proste Foundation has been analyzing and informing refugees arriving in Poland about various available forms of support offered by social organizations and public institutions. Through comprehensive mapping of in-person, telephone, and online services, the Foundation has been able to identify nearly all key points of psychological, medical, legal, food, educational, and integration support. Until June 30, 2024, the To Proste Foundation did not have the capability to analyze what type of assistance is directly available to residents of collective accommodation centers.

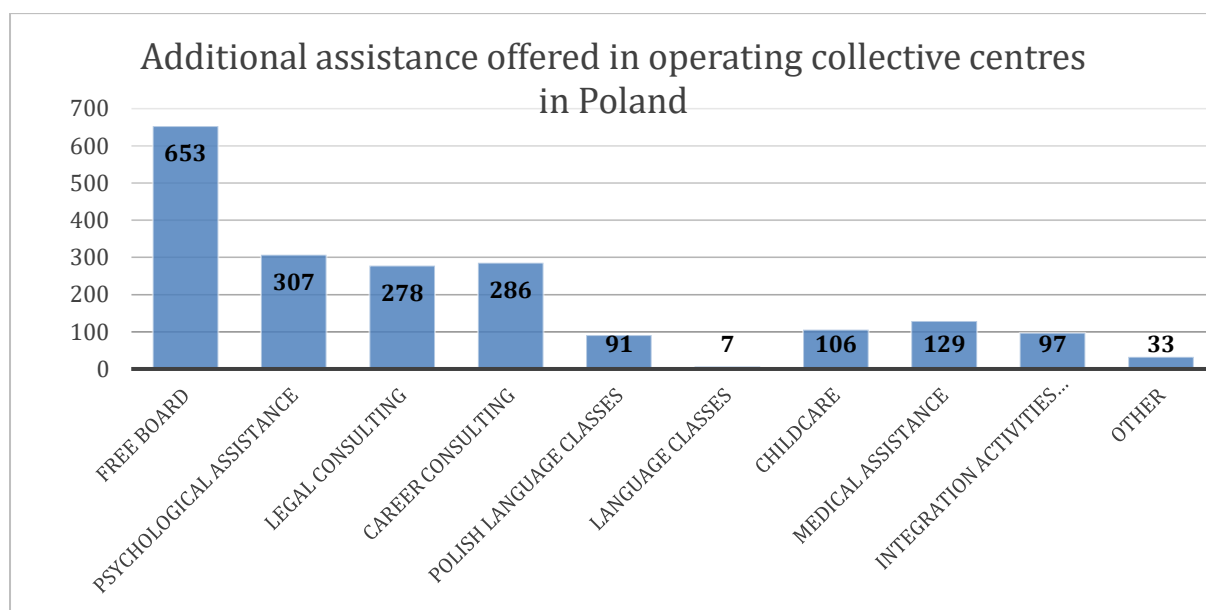


Fig. 4 Number of active CCs offering additional services, N=802

Although the integration of the assistance services map with the CCs map is planned for the future, and the analysis of the availability of assistance programs for CCs residents will be subject to separate research, this report verifies the availability of 10 categories of aid within CCs. The survey team contacted 802 CCs coordinators to determine which of the following services are available at each center and/or which of these forms of support CCs are able to provide: free meals, psychological assistance, legal advice, career counseling, Polish language learning, other language classes, childcare, medical assistance, and integration activities.

Direct conversations with the coordinators of 802 CCs reveal that the most commonly offered additional service in active CCs in Poland is free meals – available in 653 (81%) centers. Other fairly common types of support include psychological assistance, available in 307 (38%) centers, career counseling in 286 centers, and legal advice offered in 278 (34%) accommodation facilities.

129 (16%) – medical assistance, 106 (13%) – childcare, 91 (11%) – Polish language learning, and 97 (12%) – integration activities and workshops. 33 (4%) CCs provide other forms of additional services. The fewest centers offer language classes other than Polish, available in only 7 CCs nationwide.

It should be noted that most centers offer more than one service, hence the total number of services may exceed the number of actively operating centers. At the same time, there are CCs that do not offer any additional forms of support

6.1 ADDITIONAL SERVICES OFFERED IN CCs BY VOIVODESHIP

Analyzing the availability of additional services at the voivodeship level is also worthwhile. The most places offering free meals are located in the Mazowieckie voivodeship – 100 CCs. In the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship, 84 centers provide such a service, and in Pomorskie voivodeship, 69.

Refugees can count on psychological support in 58 CCs in the Małopolskie voivodeship, in 49 CCs in the Wielkopolskie voivodeship, and in 36 centers in the Mazowieckie voivodeship. In the Opolskie voivodeship, no accommodation center offers such a service, while in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship one out of the three active locations provides it.

Legal advice is available in 57 centers in the Małopolskie voivodeship, in 49 CCs in the Wielkopolskie voivodeship, and in 30 CCs in the Podlaskie voivodeship. In the Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship, there are no centers providing legal assistance to the residents. In the Opolskie voivodeship, one center offers such support, and in the Zachodniopomorskie and Świętokrzyskie voivodeships, there are 2 CCs each.

Career counseling for refugees is offered in 55 CCs in the Małopolskie voivodeship, in 46 CCs in the Wielkopolskie voivodeship, and in 35 CCs in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship. In the Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Opolskie voivodeships, there are no centers offering this service, while in the Zachodniopomorskie and Podkarpackie voivodeships, there are 2 such centers each.

Polish language classes, organized in only 11% of centers nationwide, are available in 18 centers in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship, 13 CCs in the Mazowieckie voivodeship, and 11 CCs in the Dolnośląskie voivodeship. In the centers of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Opolskie voivodeships, Polish language classes are not organized; in the Wielkopolskie and Łódzkie voivodeships, there is one such center each; in the Świętokrzyskie and Małopolskie voivodeships, there are 2 each; 4 centers in the Pomorskie voivodeship.

Hardly any other than Polish language classes are organized across the country. Only in 6 voivodeships are there 1-2 centers offering such support; these are: Zachodniopomorskie, Śląskie, Pomorskie, Mazowieckie, Lubuskie, and Dolnośląskie.

Childcare assistance is limited, at 13% nationwide. 33 CCs offering such a service are located in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship, 21 in the Pomorskie voivodeship, and 17 in the Mazowieckie voivodeship. None of the centers in the Wielkopolskie and Opolskie voivodeships reported providing such support, while only 1 CC in both the Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Łódzkie voivodeships, and 2 each in the Śląskie and Zachodniopomorskie voivodeships offer this assistance.

Medical assistance can be received at 37 CCs in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship, 26 in the Pomorskie voivodeship, and 23 in the Mazowieckie voivodeship. There are no centers offering this form of assistance in the Wielkopolskie and Opolskie voivodeships, and only 1 CC each in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Podlaskie voivodeships.

Integration activities and workshops are organized in 22 accommodation centers in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship and 11 in the Lubelskie voivodeship. No center reported conducting additional activities in the Wielkopolskie and Opolskie voivodeships, and only 1 CC in the Łódzkie voivodeship.

A total of 30 active CCs across Poland reported offering services other than the ones mentioned above. The most were in the Śląskie voivodeship – 7, and 6 each in the Mazowieckie and Dolnośląskie voivodeships, 4 centers in the Podkarpackie voivodeship, 3 in the Małopolskie voivodeship, and 1 each in the Łódzkie and Podlaskie voivodeships. The most frequently offered service is transporting children to kindergarten or school. Other services mentioned include organizing sports activities, music classes, and trips for children.

7. SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR CCs

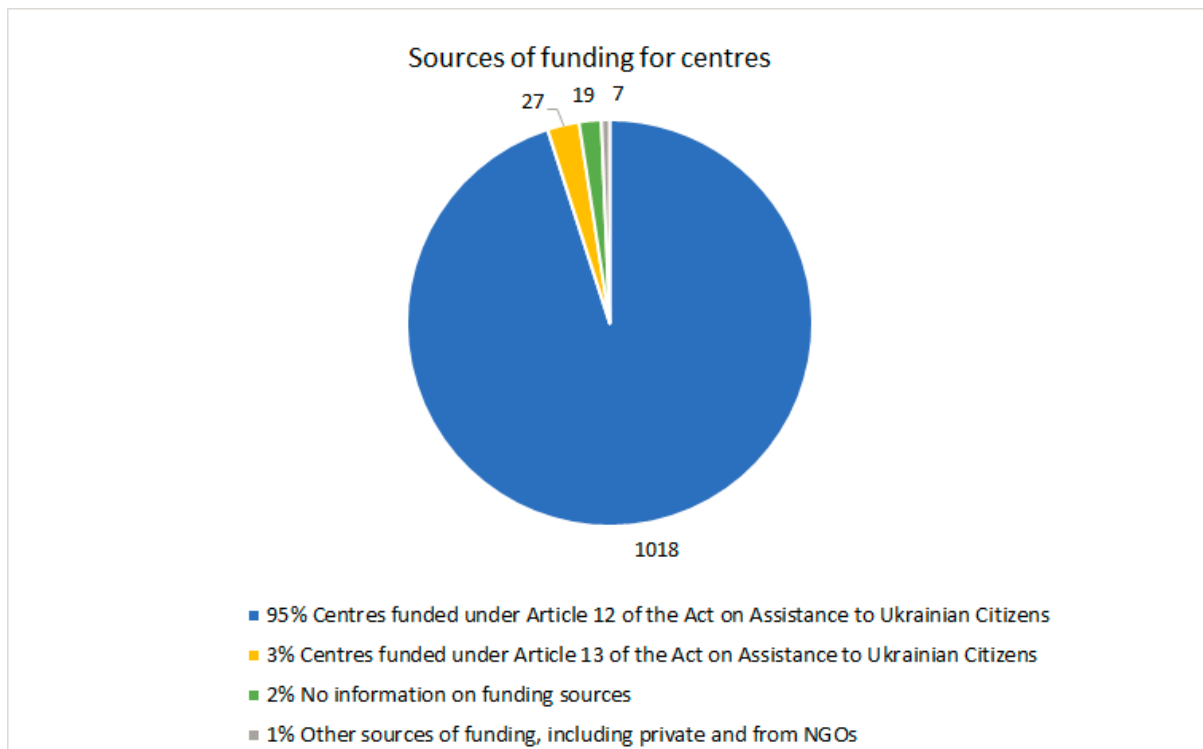


Fig. 5 Sources of funding for CCs, N=1071

Before the survey conducted by IOM and the To Proste Foundation, no humanitarian aid actors had a clear understanding of the scale of accommodation support provided by social organizations and the private sector to war refugees from Ukraine. Between March 2023 and October 2024, the Ministry of Administration and Digitization had information on the number of CCs funded by voivodeships' budgets. However, this information was not accessible to a broader group of humanitarian actors. Partners from diverse sectors and working groups, including the shelter sector, had fragmented data on the available assistance. IOM had data for 224 CCs, and the To Proste Foundation had data for 75 CCs. However, no attempts were made to exchange, merge, or standardize this data. Analyzing 1,071 active CCs provides unique results and insights into the current structure of accommodation assistance.

The vast majority – 95% of the reached CCs – are centers funded under Article 12. Through the analysis of 2,555 records, the To Proste Foundation team found only 27 centers funded by the state budget under Article 13 of the special act, representing just 3% of all active CCs operating in Poland. Among the mapped centers, 1% declared other sources of funding,

including private and non-governmental organizations. A portion of the CCs – 2% – did not provide information on their sources of funding.

7.1. SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR CCs BY VOIVODESHIP

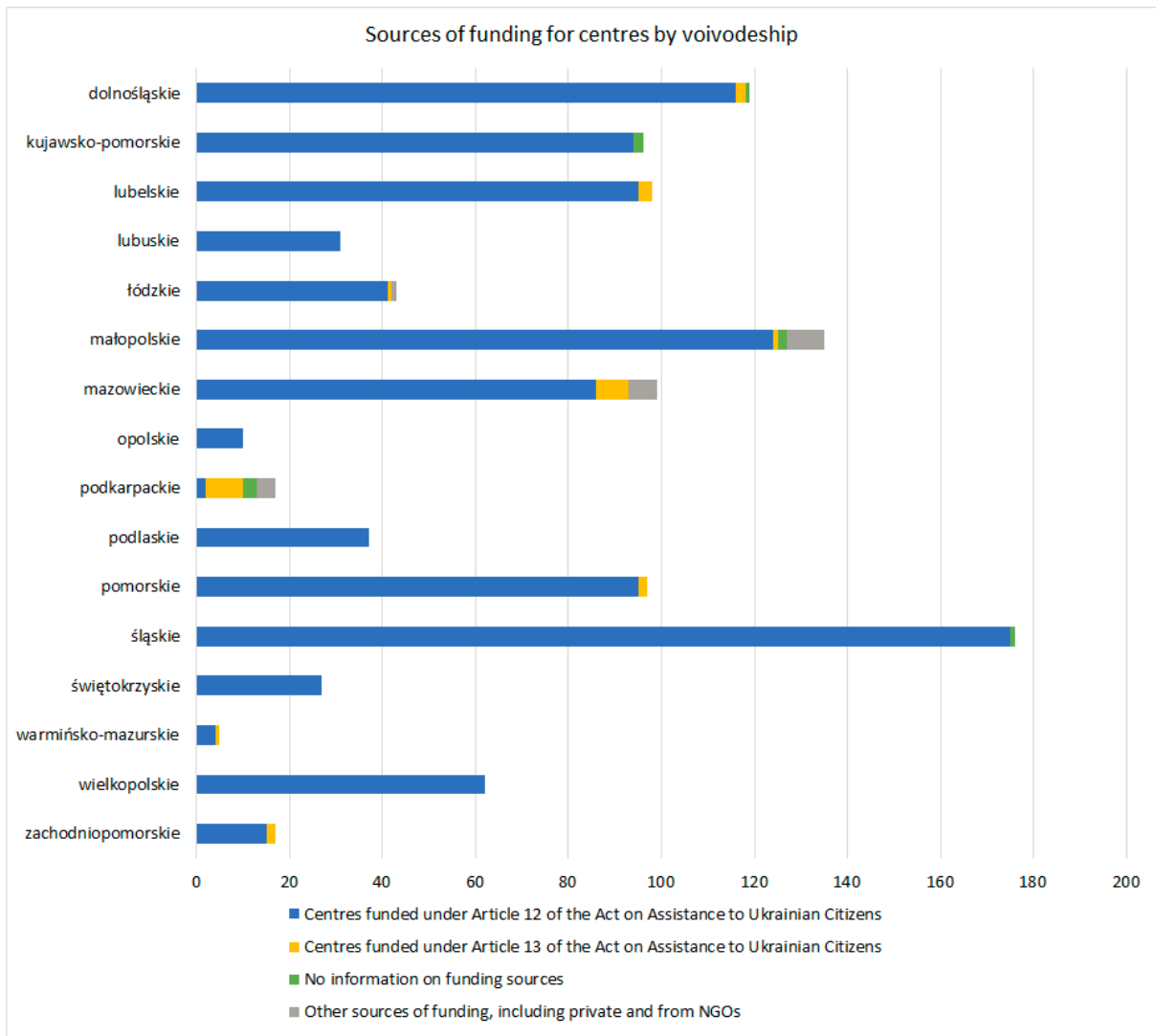


Fig. 6 Sources of funding for CCs by voivodeship, N=1071

In most voivodeships, the majority of CCs declared funding under Article 12 of the Act on Assistance for Ukrainian citizens. In the Lubuskie, Opolskie, Podlaskie, and Śląskie voivodeships, 100% of the reached CCs are centers funded by the voivodeship governor.

A unique case in terms of funding sources is the Podkarpackie voivodeship, where only two CCs have contracts with the voivodeship governor, and most centers are funded from other sources¹³.

Two other voivodeships where CCs have more diverse funding sources, including those without agreements with voivodeship governors, are the Mazowieckie and Małopolskie voivodeships.

¹³The voivodeship had signed the agreements with part of the CCs funded under Article 13 by July 1. Currently, there are 14 CCs in the Podkarpackie voivodeship funded under Article 12. Source: <https://rzeszow-news.pl/na-podkarpaciu-jest-ponad-800-miejsc-zakwaterowania-dla-uchodzcow-z-ukrainy> (dostęp: 17.07.2024).

8. FUTURE AND CLOSURE PLANS of CCs

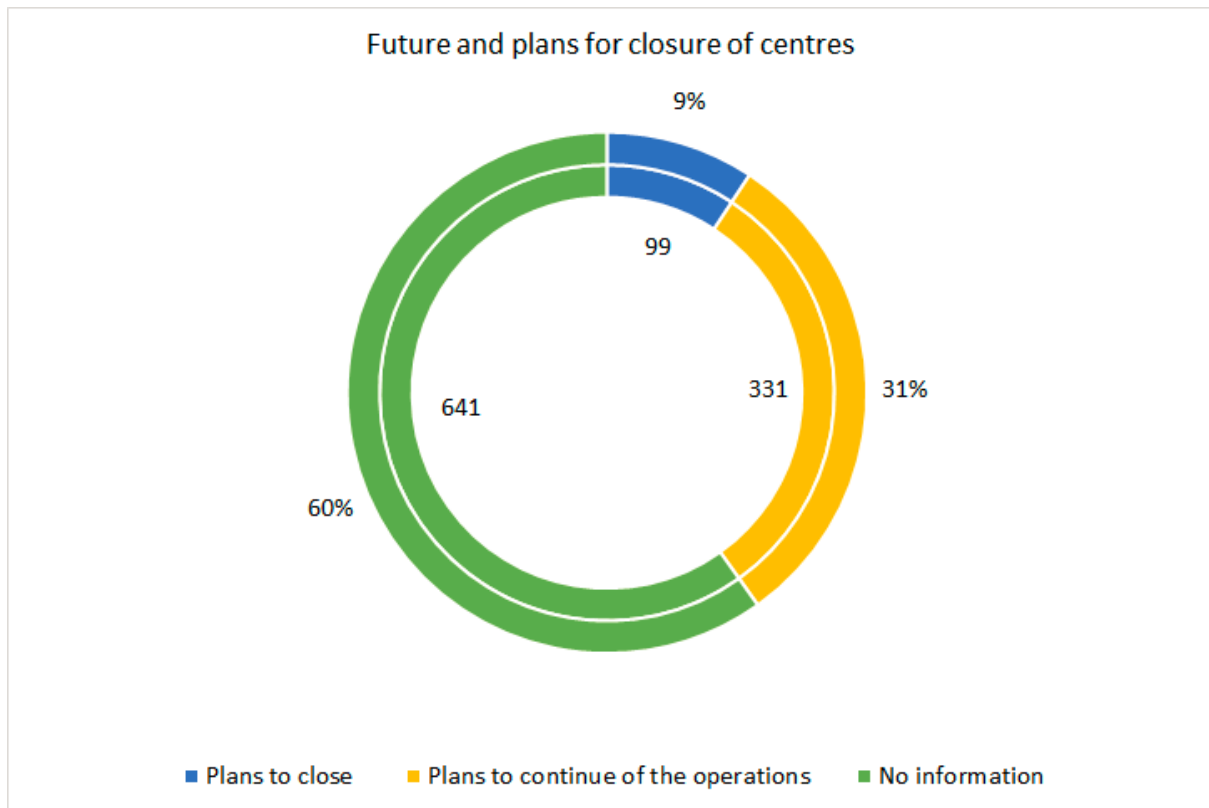


Fig. 7 Further activity of CCs in Poland

Due to the planned changes in the special act starting from July 1, 2024, some CCs coordinators have expressed concerns about the future of the centers. Out of all active CCs in Poland, 99 centers have announced plans to close on June 30, 2024. Continuation of activities has been declared by 331 CCs. Information was not received about the future plans of the remaining 641 accommodation centers.

9. THREAT OF HOMELESSNESS OR RETURNING INSECURITY

The nationwide survey carried out on the initiative of the IOM, which forms the basis of this report, makes it possible to detect and counteract many of the risks posed by the location and size of the CCs, as well as the type of funding the collective centers were given until 30 June 2024.

In this chapter, we outline the key risks that should be broadly analyzed and discussed in the second and third quarter of 2024, whether by the government community, UN agencies or local authorities, or the shelter sector, in order to prevent a crisis of homelessness among Ukrainian refugees and a loss of security.

It seems inevitable that many refugees from Ukraine will need to relocate after 1 July 2024. Only good multi-sectoral collaboration, mutual openness and cooperation, as well as accurate mapping and exchange of information about which collective centers will continue to operate after 1 July, can limit or prevent a housing crisis.

9.1 TERMINATION OF CCs FUNDED UNDER THE ARTICLE 13

From 12 March 2022, persons hosting refugees from Ukraine under their roof, regardless of their socio-economic status, were entitled to receive welfare benefits. Initially, the Special Act (Article 13) guaranteed a monetary benefit of PLN 40 per day (known as the 40+) for 60 days (later extended to 120 days) to various entities, especially household owners, who provided accommodation and food to Ukrainian citizens arriving in Poland after 24 February 2022. This amount was intended to cover the costs of accommodation and food for a refugee.

The Article 13 benefit was an extremely important support that helped many refugees, including the elderly and people with special needs, to find safe shelter. On the other hand, the interpretation of Article 13 has raised many controversies and inconsistencies. The Ministry of the Interior and Administration pointed to abuses and interpretative doubts related to it. As a result, the decision was made to abolish Article 13. The changes in the special act come into effect on 1 July 2024.

Refugee hosts that received Article 13 financial support before 30 June, including collective centers run by NGOs or private individuals, will not be able to use it after 1 July. Between July and September 2024, a significant proportion of Ukrainian war refugees previously living in private accommodation or in CCs that have not signed an Article 12 agreement with the voivod or relevant LGU and whose source of funding was the 40+ benefit will be forced to relocate. The nationwide scale is difficult to estimate due to the lack of data from public institutions on how many people were receiving the 40+ benefit in June 2024. Monitoring and cross-sectoral coordination are more important in this area than to date.

The study revealed that, as of 30 June, **there were 53 active CCs financed from sources other than Article 12, with a total of 2,514 persons on their premises. 27 of the CCs were funded under Article 13, 7 by NGO or private sources and 19 by other means.**

Up to 30 June, the largest number of CCs financed from sources other than Article 12 was in the Podkarpackie, Mazowieckie and Małopolskie voivodeships (14, 13 and 11 centres respectively). At the same time, in the Wielkopolskie, Świętokrzyskie, Opolskie and Lubuskie Voivodeships, no CCs financed from sources other than Article 12 were identified.

9.2 CCs WITH FEWER THAN 10 PERSONS

As of 1 July 2024, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration has decided to close down CCs with fewer than 10 residents. This is due to the necessity to reduce the costs of running too many centers as well as the intention to provide adequate services to as many people as possible. From a financial perspective, this decision is understandable. However, from the point of view of the well-being of refugees, there are numerous controversies, such as the need for yet another change of residence, changing jobs or schools, the severance of existing social ties, and a general feeling of insecurity. The act, signed by the President on 6 June 2024, allows centers with fewer than 10 people to operate based on Article 1(1), which refers to the provision of accommodation and meals, without the condition of a minimum number of persons in the facilities, on the basis of a contract with a public benefit organization that has been in existence for a minimum of 24 months and provides accommodation exclusively for persons' with disabilities and the elderly. However, we do not know how large a percentage of these small centers provided shelter exclusively for a group like this.

The data obtained from the IOM and the To Proste Foundation study shows that a minimum of 170 collective centers should be closed after 1 July due to housing fewer than 10 people. This represents 25% of the active CCs that submitted data to the research team on the

number of people in the center (682 CCs). There were a total of 867 people living in 170 CCs (giving an average of 5.1 people/center of less than 10 people). The number of people forced to relocate exceeds 867.

In addition, at least 100 CCs with less than 10 persons are likely to operate in the territory of the Małopolskie Voivodeship (this information was provided by the voivode, but due to lack of contact details the research team was not able to verify it). We can assume that there are at least 510 persons living in those CCs (100 CCs * 5.1 = 510).

If we assume that in the 389 CCs that the survey team mapped, but which declined to provide information on the number of people residing there, there is the same proportion of CCs with fewer than 10 people as in those that responded to the questions, we can estimate that the number of such centers is 97. Assuming this ratio, we further estimate that there are approximately 495 people residing in these centers who will need to find new places to live.

In total, the survey team was able to analyze or estimate that there are at least 1,872 people living in all the CCs in Poland who will have to find a new place to live after 1 July 2024.

The largest number of collective centers with fewer than 10 residents was in operation in the first two quarters of 2024 in the Małopolskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Śląskie voivodeships. The existence of between 20 and 33 such small centers was confirmed in each of these provinces. At the same time, in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship, the existence of no such center was recorded, and in the Podlaskie, Opolskie and Łódzkie Voivodeships, only one center was located in each.

In voivodeships where hundreds of refugees most in need of institutional support will be forced to be relocated within a short period of time, a great deal of reflection and cross-sectoral consensus is needed to select the most convenient and tailored accommodation for them.

9.3 QUALITY OF COLLECTIVE CENTERS

In order to accurately evaluate the current situation of collective centers and predict their future, attention needs to be paid to the quality of life of the people staying in these centers. Although it is not possible to assess the infrastructure directly, according to the 'Standards for collective accommodation centers – technical guidelines for Poland' drafted by members of the Shelter sector in cooperation with the Shelter Sector for Poland in May 2023¹⁴, the research team decided to look at the access to services in the CCs.

Chapter 6 presents the scale of access to the main services offered by the collective centers. Analyzing the survey results, the foundation team noted that only 277 out of 1,071 CCs reported offering at least three different forms of additional support to residents. 9,802 out of 45,000 people had access to at least three additional services apart from safe shelter, such as psychological, medical or legal support, free food, educational or integration support. Slightly more people, 12,407 (27%), had access to at least 2 out of the 9 forms of surveyed support. **This means that from the humanitarian point of view, 73% of refugees did not receive sufficient forms of support to facilitate adaptation and integration in Poland.**

In the context of the proposed decisions to close many collective centers, it is crucial to analyze which centers stood out as having the best developed forms of additional support for the people staying there. In deciding whether to close the CCs, it is important to take into account the availability of support services offered both in the centers themselves and in their surroundings.

10. MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE PROJECT

During the project, the survey team encountered a series of challenges that needed to be addressed and resolved appropriately. Some challenges were foreseeable, while others were not initially included in the SWOT analysis, necessitating a range of managerial and research decisions to ensure the project's goals were achieved.

INCOMPLETE CONTACT DATA RECEIVED FROM VOIVODESHIPS

As part of the project, the primary source of address or contact data for CCs was intended to be data obtained from voivodeships or voivodeship crisis centers as public information. In October 2023, for the first time since 2022, the Right to Protection Foundation in partnership with, among others, the To Proste Foundation, received information from voivodeships regarding the existence of 1,598 CCs financed by voivodeships' budgets. Among the 16 voivodeships, only Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie did not report the number of CCs in their region before the planning period of the study. The incomplete, estimated data formed the basis for the planned project activities.

Since in November 2023 each voivodeship reported information about functioning CCs in different way, most often not allowing direct contact with CCs (providing address data, contact data, or only summary data, often incomplete and incorrect), in March 2024, the To Proste Foundation sent a renewed request to voivodeships under the public information procedure, emphasizing the need for contact data. Once again, the data received from voivodeships were largely incomplete. The To Proste Foundation received:

- **Complete information for 25% of CCs¹⁵** – complete information is understood as providing full contact data, i.e., address, telephone number, and/or email address;
- **Partial information for 38% of CCs** – partial information is understood as providing only address data, without telephone number or email address;
- **Summary information about 37% of CCs** – some voivodeships sent summary data about the specific number of centers, divided by poviats, but without providing address or contact details. Voivodeships that did not provide contact data included

¹⁴ [Standards for Collective Centers and Communal Housing UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency](#)

¹⁵ We accept as 100% all the information obtained about CCs from voivodeships N=53 (Łódzkie) + 505 (Małopolskie) + 941 (remaining voivodeships) = 1,499.

Małopolskie voivodeship and Łódzkie voivodeship. Both voivodeships only informed about the existence of 505 (Małopolskie) and 53 (Łódzkie) CCs within their borders.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES – MARGINAL DATA

To supplement the data obtained from voivodeship authorities, the To Proste Foundation, in cooperation with IOM, established a partnership with the Union of Polish Cities (UPC) and the Union of Polish Metropolises (UPM). All parties expressed interest in the project's outcomes and obtaining as comprehensive and detailed data as possible. From April 9, 2024, to May 1, 2024, the To Proste Foundation directed a request to all local government units affiliated with UPC and UPM to provide information on existing CCs in their areas or direct contact details for CCs to provide the data themselves. Unfortunately, the results of this effort were disappointing, as the Foundation received only 9 records of CCs from the local authorities.

ALTERNATIVE DATA SOURCES

Due to the limited number of contact data obtained from the two main sources (voivodeships and local governments), starting from April 1, 2024, the To Proste Foundation undertook actions to acquire data from alternative sources:

- 15 non-governmental organizations provided data for **305 CCs** from various parts of Poland;
- IOM, UNHCR, and the MHPSS Technical Working Group provided contact data for **264 CCs**;
- Through an online survey promoted on social media and the mapujpomoc.pl website, the survey team reached over 2,000 refugees, out of which **73 individuals** completed the survey, providing information about the CCs where they currently reside or have stayed;
- The survey team conducted internet research focusing on official reports, analyses, documents, scientific publications, and social media information to enhance the data collection process.

INEQUALITY IN ACCESS TO DATA (Łódzkie and Małopolskie voivodeships)

Despite acquiring data from various sources, Łódzkie and Małopolskie voivodeships were “blank spots” on the CCs map. In Małopolskie voivodeship, the Foundation obtained data from sources other than the voivodeship about 33 CCs, out of which 9 were found to be inactive during verification. In Łódzkie voivodeship, the Foundation received data on only 2 CCs. Compared to the declared numbers of 53 (Łódzkie) and 505 (Małopolskie), this was insufficient data.

At the end of May 2024, just 14 days before the project's completion, the Foundation decided to directly contact poviats crisis centers. The results of this contact were the biggest surprise for the research team. In both cases, the Foundation received from poviats crisis centers respectively 77% (Łódzkie voivodeship) and 29% (Małopolskie voivodeship) of the sought-after contact data. All new data received by June 30, 2024, was included in the analysis. Additionally, after June 30 but before the report publication deadline (July 15, 2024), the To Proste Foundation received information from poviats crisis centers about an additional 20% of CCs from Małopolskie voivodeship.

THE NEED FOR DATA ACQUISITION PROCESS OPTIMIZATION

As mentioned earlier, 38% of the records obtained from voivodeships, nearly 570 records, consisted of address data only, making direct contact impossible. Data of another 558 CCs were received in an aggregated manner. Two voivodeship governors informed the To Proste Foundation only about the number of CCs located within their areas. The process of finding these centers online and establishing telephone contact with the coordinators of accommodation facilities absorbed more time than originally anticipated.

PROCESSING DIVERSE DATA

The data acquired for analysis exhibited a diverse structure, often being duplicated and frequently containing incomplete information. The process of its verification and organization proved to be complicated and time-consuming.

MISTRUST AND COMMUNICATION BARRIERS

One of the main challenges of the project was establishing contact with coordinators of collective centers and obtaining detailed data. It was difficult to reach individuals who not only possessed knowledge about how exactly the centers function, but also felt authorized to share this information. Personnel employed in CCs often refused to talk, citing regulations regarding the protection of sensitive data and confidentiality clauses included in agreements with voivodeships or local governments. Refusals also pertained to questions unrelated to sensitive data, such as: "How far is the CC located from the school, hospital, city office?" or "Do residents of the CC have the opportunity to participate in Polish language classes, receive psychological support or career guidance?" and "Is the center accessible for people with disabilities?".

Collaboration and a joint letter with the UPC and UPM to centers, signed by all partnership parties, were crucial in overcoming the lack of trust. Additionally, internal training of the survey team on breaking communication barriers significantly contributed to improving efficiency in data acquisition.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following conclusions and recommendations were developed by the research team of the To Proste Foundation supported by IOM.

INTERACTIVE MAP OF CCs

Until March 2024, there was no comprehensive list of accommodation centers for Ukrainian war refugees in Poland. Detailed information on their functioning was also lacking. As a result of a three-month study, not only the above report was prepared, but also three levels of access to information available to registered users of the Mapuj Pomoc portal were developed. Access to detailed data depends on the function and profession of the platform users:

- **comprehensive map and table** – the staff of IOM and other UN agencies, governmental and local governmental institutions at various levels, as well as institutions submitting requests to IOM, arguing the need for detailed data, will receive a compilation of specific information about CCs in a given area. IOM and the To Proste Foundation staff can select specific CCs based on indicated data categories: voivodeship, powiat, city, type of services offered, etc. We ensure that organizations and institutions involved in planning or conducting humanitarian activities will have access to key information about CCs. At the same time, sensitive data will not be publicly available on the Mapuj Pomoc website, in accordance with the priority of IOM and the To Proste Foundation to ensure the safety of refugees.
- **CCs and humanitarian organizations map** – upon logging into mapujpomoc.pl, the staff of IOM, UN agencies and public institutions, will be able to verify the location of CCs in relation to other humanitarian organizations and institutions mapped on Mapuj Pomoc. Expanded functionality for other organizations will be possible in subsequent steps, which will undergo regulation after the report is released.
- **simplified map** – upon logging into mapujpomoc.pl/login, all social organizations and public institutions can access simplified data about CCs. At the voivodeship and powiat levels, users will be able to view: the number of CCs, total number of beds, and CCs occupancy (as of June 30, 2024). However, without additional consent, other users will not be able to access exact addresses or contact details for CCs. This is aimed at enhancing the protection of sensitive data.

Recommendation: The developed tool could in the future enable organizations and institutions involved in CCs activities and support to monitor the situation at a national level. We recommend maintaining and updating the created coherent database of collective centers for refugees. Joint plans and actions can be established in the third quarter of 2024.

FURTHER ANALYSES BASED ON OBTAINED DATA

Based on the information presented in the previous subsection, detailed data on 1,236 CCs (1,071 active and 165 inactive) are currently compiled in one place, although this information is not publicly accessible due to data protection regulations and GDPR compliance. The To Proste Foundation and IOM have full access to this information and can provide specific research findings or more detailed information about selected records upon written (email) request from public institutions, non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, or entities associated with the housing sector.

The current report presents the key research findings at the national level. The report does not include analysis at the poviats level or detailed data for specific voivodeships.

The authors of the report are open to collaborating to further analyze the research results in-depth, serving public and social institutions at both the voivodeship and poviats levels nationwide.

SUPPORT FOR GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

As indicated by the analysis conducted in Chapter 4, only 22% of the centers out of 1,071 declared adaptation to needs for persons with disabilities. Support for other groups, such as single mothers, elderly persons, or LGBTQIAP+ individuals, was even more limited.

Recommendation: During the period of closure of the least occupied CCs across Poland, the survey team recommends prioritizing CCs adapted for persons with disabilities and those supporting vulnerable groups in terms of opportunities for sustainability and continued operation.

FUNDING OF CENTERS – RECOGNIZING GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

Despite a widespread belief that the government has done little in terms of humanitarian aid and that the burden of support over the past two years has been shifted to citizens and social organizations, it is worth noting that according to the research findings, as of June 30, 2024, 95% of active collective centers, operating two years after the start of the full-scale war, were funded based on Article 12 of the special act, with an additional 3% funded according to Article 13 of the special act (the so-called 40+). This means that 98% of the centers were

funded from government sources, while only 2% were maintained from other sources of funding

ADDITIONAL SERVICES IN CENTERS

Chapter 6 of this report discusses the availability of additional services offered in collective centers for refugees. To enhance the independence of refugees and provide them with appropriate support tailored to their age and needs, it is recommended to conduct further research on these services. Analyzing at the voivodeship and powiat levels and assessing the availability of support centers near CCs is a significant research component that can significantly improve the quality of life for war refugees.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION WITH CCs

Implementing uniform communication procedures and information sharing between collective centers and data-collecting institutions will enhance the efficiency and accuracy of data collection processes in the future.

MORE COOPERATION

Nationwide intersectoral cooperation between the To Proste Foundation, IOM, UPC, UPM, local governments, powiat crisis centers, voivodeship crisis centers, and social organizations contributed to the ultimate outcome of this report and the mapping of 1,236 collective centers. Utilizing available data and through partnership and collaboration, the To Proste Foundation conducted comprehensive, exhaustive data analysis across 16 voivodeships. Where direct data from voivodeships were not available (as in the case of Łódzkie and Małopolskie voivodeships), other entities were able to complete the missing information. In the Małopolskie voivodeship, the research team did not receive the names or contact details of the centres from the voivodeship governor, but a breakdown of the number of people living in the individual CCs was received. In another voivodeship, data on integration or language classes was available on the websites of the social partners carrying out specific assignments. The various data provided by reliable partners fed the information that could have been useful for analysing the state of the CCs. In one of the voivodeships, officials employed at the provincial crisis centre did not agree to provide contact details to the centres' coordinators, but contacted the centres themselves, obtaining the necessary data for the To Proste Foundation. The support of the mayors' plenipotentiaries for refugees, e.g. Ms. Katarzyna Perdzyńska-Zarzeczna from the City of Kielce, meant that the CCs from the respective city, or even the entire Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, were more willing to answer the researchers' questions, or decided to respond on their own by email or through the contact form.

The support of the Union of Polish Cities and the Union of Polish Metropolises, as organisations respected by public institutions at the municipal or district level, encouraged CCs staff to share information with the research team of the To Proste Foundation.

The role of open and cooperative state and local government officials was extremely valuable in the implementation of this study.

Recommendation: In the next phase, three main actions should be taken: a) verify the centers that declared closure after July 1, 2024, b) attempt to locate the missing CCs in Małopolskie voivodeship and verify which CCs declared by the voivodeship governor in March 2024 are still active, c) maintain intersectoral cooperation to ensure that subsequent actions and analyses proceed more smoothly.

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- Local Government Units
- Association of Polish Cities, Union of Polish Metropolises
- UNHCR, MHPSS Technical Working Group
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