

METHODOLOGY FOR TRAINING REGARDING IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE INVOLVEMENT IN POLICY PLANNING, CO-DESIGN AND CO-IMPLEMENTATION

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This methodology is created within the framework of the Nordic-Baltic project on integration at the local level "Fostering refugee and immigrant integration" (For-In) launched by the Nordic Council of Ministers offices in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, and UNHCR representation for the Nordic and Baltic countries.

Partner organisations: Nordic Councils of Ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, UNHCR, Providus (Latvia), Tartu Welcome Centre (Estonia) and Diversity Development Group (Lithuania)



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MAIN CONCEPTS OF THE METHODOLOGY

Asylum: a form of protection given by a State on its territory, based on the principle of non-refoulement and internationally or nationally recognised refugee rights and which is granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in their country of citizenship and/or residence, in particular for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or for having a political opinion.

Asylum seeker: In the EU context, a third-country national or stateless person who has made an application for protection under the Geneva Refugee Convention and Protocol in respect of which a final decision has not yet been taken.

Immigrant: In the EU context, a person who is established in the territory of an EU Member State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months, having previously been usually resident in another EU Member State or a third country.

Refugee: In the EU context, either a third-country national who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country, or a stateless person, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reasons as mentioned above, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it, and to whom Art. 12 (Exclusion) of Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive) does not apply.

Third country national: Any person who is not a citizen of the European Union within the meaning of Art. 20(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and who is not a person enjoying the European Union right to free movement, as defined in Art. 2(5) of the Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code).

Integration: a dynamic and multifaceted two-way process that requires efforts by all parties concerned, including a preparedness on the part of refugees to adapt to the host society without having to forego their own cultural identity, and a corresponding readiness on the part of host communities and public institutions to welcome refugees and to meet the needs of a diverse population.

Involvement of immigrants and refugees in policy planning, co-design and co-implementation: providing comprehensive information relevant for all city/district residents including immigrants and refugees, as well as creating a dialogue and a space to be heard and actively engaged into (local) policy planning, design and implementation.

¹ More information is available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/asylum_en

² More information is available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/asylum-seeker_en

³ More information is available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/pages/glossary/immigrant_en

⁴ More information is available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/pages/glossary/refugee_en

⁵ More information is available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/pages/glossary/third-country-national_en

⁶ More information is available at: www.unhcr.org/publications/conclusion-local-integration

INTRODUCTION

In recent years the tendencies of immigration to Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) are changing and reveal an increase in non-EU nationals who choose to live and work in this part of Europe. Furthermore, in 2022, Baltic countries have faced rapidly increasing arrivals due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Observing the tendencies and current situation, the question of immigrant and refugee integration becomes more relevant than ever. Integration is a two-way process that requires efforts by all parties concerned, both from immigrants (despite their status and purpose of arrival to destination country) and receiving society (host communities and public institutions).⁷

Enabling immigrants and refugees to be a part of (local) policy planning, co-design and co-implementation facilitates their incorporation into local community and strengthens social cohesion. On the one hand, possibilities provided to contribute to the decisions related both to the integration issues and to the topics relevant for the place the immigrants live, increase the feeling of being a part of the city and the responsibility to be actively involved. On the other hand, it helps to improve the decision-making process, the effectiveness and sustainability of adopted measures.

The aim of this methodology is to strengthen the capacities of the municipal authorities and other local actors to involve immigrants and refugees in policy planning, co-design and co-implementation; additionally, it is to strengthen the capacities of immigrants and refugees to develop community building and self-representation structures, to increase their sense of belonging and the responsibility to be actively involved.

The methodology is prepared based on the handbook "Effective inclusion of refugees. Participatory approaches for practitioners at the local level" developed by the Migration Policy

Group (MPG) and UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Europe⁸ and the toolkit "ECCAR 10 points Action Plan Toolkit for Equality City Policies Against Racism" developed by European Coalition of Cities against Racism⁹.

In addition, valuable contributions to the methodology were made by the immigrants and refugees during the focus groups carried out in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In total, 14 non-EU nationals from 11 countries shared their experiences and opinions on the questions related to the immigrants' and refugees' self-representation and involvement in (local) policy planning, designing and implementation (*for more information, please, see Appendix 1*).

This methodology is created in the framework of the Nordic-Baltic project on integration at local-level "Fostering refugee and immigrant integration" (For-In)¹⁰ launched by the Nordic Council of Ministers offices in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and UNHCR representation for the Nordic and Baltic countries.

⁷ UNHCR (2005). "Conclusion on Local Integration No. 104 (LVI) – 2005". Available at: www.unhcr.org/publications/conclusion-local-integration

⁸ UNHCR and Migration Policy Group (2021). "Effective Inclusion of Refugees: participatory approaches for practitioners at the local level". Available at: www.unhcr.org/effective-inclusion-of-refugees.html

⁹ European Coalition of Cities against Racism (2017). "ECCAR 10 points Action Plan Toolkit for Equality City Policies Against Racism". Available at: www.eccar.info/en/eccar-toolkit-equality

¹⁰ More information is available at: www.norden.lt/en/projects/for-in-fostering-refugee-and-immigrant-integration-for-integration/

**PARTICIPATION AND
INVOLVEMENT IN
POLICY PLANNING,
CO-DESIGN AND
CO-IMPLEMENTATION
FROM THE
PERSPECTIVE OF
IMMIGRANTS AND
REFUGEES**



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Applying the bottom-up approach, three focus groups were conducted in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania during the period of February-March 2023. In total, 14 non-EU nationals from 11 countries shared their experiences and opinions on the questions related to immigrant and refugee self-representation and involvement in (local) policy planning, designing and implementation. The period that participants of the focus groups have lived in the countries ranges from 1 to 10 years. Six of them arrived in the country of destination (Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania) due to asylum and hold refugee status or status of temporary protection. One research participant immigrated due to employment, 3 – family and 2 – study reasons. Two individuals indicated themselves as repatriates. (For more information, please, see [Appendix 1](#))

All participants of the focus groups emphasised the importance of immigrant and refugee representation and their involvement in (local) policy planning, design and implementation processes. However, according to the interviewees, the first step to immigrant and refugee involvement should be the provision of comprehensive and regularly updated information adopted to persons who do not speak the national language and cover general questions on accessibility to (public) services and more specific issues such social inclusion into the local community, foreign nationals' rights and opportunities of active citizenship in the country of destination.

"The first step could be sharing information – informing newcomers about support system possibilities and informing local authorities about the questions and topics what need to be covered <...>." (EE-1)¹¹

In response to the question of **what participation and involvement means to them**, research participants from **Estonia** mostly mentioned the possibility to be heard and share information about the needs of immigrants and refugees, the opportunity to enrich local society with cultural diversity and the feeling that you belong to the society you live in.

"It is a bottom-up approach – if they feel heard, they feel [like] part of the system; if not, they are outside of everything." (EE-3)

Meanwhile, interviewees from **Latvia** shared that they understand participation and involvement as immigrant and refugee engagement to political and civic processes, the empowerment to participate in integration services provision, regular meetings and conversations that include both the target group and various

stakeholders, as well representation of the target group in the media.

"Participation is a conversation between various parties rather than a one-directional information kind of goal." (LV-4)

Upcoming municipal elections in **Lithuania** had an impact on interviewees in response to the question of what participation and involvement means to them. They talked a lot about the immigrants and refugees right to vote and to receive proper information on such possibility. Focus group participants also shared that participation to them means the possibility to represent the group of people they belong to (in terms of their ethnicity, status or, in general, foreigners living in Lithuania), to develop a dialogue with local and national stakeholders, as well as to make local society aware of the challenges foreigners face and the benefits they give to the country to fight prejudices.

"<...> it is a lack of information for the local population; thus, they have those myths, and there is [also] a lack of information for refugees (...), they don't really know where to go and what to do as there is a lack of representation. Whatever it is – organisation or some other channels, they could be the ones who could say – 'Look, it is not so rosy'." (LT- 1)

What is common from all the research in the participating countries is that the interviewees see participation as involvement in a dialogue between immigrants/refugees and local/national stakeholders in which both parties have an equal role and receive benefits. In addition, research participants shared that they feel some kind of responsibility to contribute to the country they live in and to seek changes.

"If you are coming here, you have to give something in return." (EE-1)

"<...> it is not just having a voice and demanding something to happen on our behalf, (...) if we want to do something, we have to be a part of the effort (...), because it maybe led us for the things to happen." (LT-5)

Although the interviewees agree with the importance of the participation and involvement of immigrants and refugees in policy planning and related processes, and share their willingness to contribute, the results of focus groups reveal that they **face various difficulties in doing so in practice**. First, it was raised that there is lack of information on how and where immigrants and refugees could get involved.

¹¹ Hereinafter, the quotes taken from the focus group interviews are provided. The letters of the code of the interview mean the country the interview was taken (EE – Estonia, LV – Latvia and LT – Lithuania), the number identifies the interviewee. For more information, please, see Appendix 1.

"I am aggressively pursuing all kind of activities, but I just don't get the information." (EE-3)

"<...> since they [immigrants and refugees] don't understand [the context] and cannot have easy access to information (...), they don't really complain about it. They say – 'Well, I don't know what to do, don't know where to go and that's why I will just keep silent'." (LT-1)

Second, research participants shared that they face a language barrier that doesn't allow them to get involved in various volunteer activities, usually related to working with more vulnerable immigrants and refugees.

"I say as a person who doesn't speak enough Lithuanian and no Russian, (...) there is nothing I can do actually. I approached many NGOs (...) and they responded like, "Well, you can come, you have a lot of content to offer, but because of the language there is not so much for us to let you do". (...) so far, I couldn't get directed to where I can be useful. I just keep trying, but (...) I am just 'shooting into the darkness'." (LT-5)

From the point of view of the research participants, **both the municipalities and the immigrants and refugees themselves benefit from their involvement and participation.** First, municipalities are more aware of the needs of immigrants and refugees, better understand the integration challenges they face and receive the opportunity to enrich their programs from the perspective of diversity. Meanwhile, immigrants and refugees acquire new connections that are necessary for their sense of belonging and feeling of being useful in the local community.

"Participation in the decision-making [process] in the country and the community helps migrants to integrate better into the society and helps get their most important needs met. In this process, they acquire very necessary connections that they lost by moving from their home country." (LV-3)

These are important for developing and adjusting public services to meet the needs of different groups, including immigrants and refugees, as well as achieving better incorporation of them into the local community.

"<... if you don't make connections, then so many people will be excluded, and they don't have any opportunity to participate in society. Let's not make the same mistakes that have been made in countries where are many immigrants. Let's include people instead making them feel alienated." (EE-4)

In addition, immigrant and refugee involvement and participation make a contribution to changing public attitudes and prejudices.

"<...> information that migrants not only sponge off of the country, but also give to the community [they live], will be better known for accepting members of society and this contributes to changing public attitudes and prejudices." (LT-1)

During the focus groups, **what instruments should be used to involve immigrants and refugees** into various policy planning related processes and encouraging their participation was discussed. First, the interviewees suggested that it was important to develop a dialogue between representatives of immigrant/refugee groups and (local) stakeholders by initiating meetings and introducing the challenges foreigners face. The importance of follow-up and regular updates about the outcomes of such meetings and the decisions that were made during them was emphasised.

Second, there was a proposal to initiate networking events, where immigrants and refugees could meet with local community members. Participants of the focus group also suggested having an agreement with the municipality to use its facilities for meetings both with the local community and as a venue for immigrant and refugee communities' initiatives.

Immigrant and refugee involvement in already-existing NGOs on a voluntary basis to help immigrants and refugees who are in more vulnerable position and to represent them on this was discussed.

Among other proposals of how immigrants and refugees could be involved "an open house" was mentioned, where people can meet the representative of the municipality and share their concerns; an "ombudsperson" who represents immigrants and refugees on the municipal and/or national level; an e-mail address where immigrants and refugees could send their inquiries, feedback and complaints.

In order for collaboration among representatives of immigrants/refugees groups to be smooth and to avoid risks, it is important that stakeholders be prepared to meet people representing different cultures and religions and understand that the aim of these meetings are to achieve welfare for both sides. As a result, no one would take the criticism personally, but would think how developments could be achieved by working together.



**BENEFITS OF
IMMIGRANT AND
REFUGEE INVOLVEMENT
IN POLICY PLANNING,
CO-DESIGN AND
CO-IMPLEMENTATION**



For immigrants and refugees

- Facilitate immigrant and refugee socioeconomic inclusion into the local community.
- Strengthen immigrants' and refugees' capacities in community building.
- Reduce vulnerability and reliance on humanitarian and external assistance.
- Increase the sense of belonging to the city/ country they live in and the responsibility to be actively involved.
- Positive impact for public attitudes and for fighting against prejudices.




For local communities

- When immigrants and refugees feel welcome, confident and secure, they are able to invest in their new country of residence and make valued contributions to society.
- Help build a more inclusive and culturally diverse society.
- Positive impact on fighting prejudices and achieving more cohesive cooperation among immigrant and refugee and local communities.



For local government

- Better understanding of immigrants' and refugees' needs, capacities, challenges and opportunities that are essential for service and strategic planning.
 - Reduce refugees' and immigrants' reliance on humanitarian and external assistance.
 - Improved self-assessment of conducted (integration) measures and (strategically) planning the new ones.
 - Municipal programs enriched with the perspective of cultural diversity.
- 



**METHODS ON HOW
THE INVOLVEMENT
OF IMMIGRANTS AND
REFUGEES COULD
BE IMPLEMENTED
IN PRACTICE**

The results of the focus groups carried out in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania reveal that immigrants and refugees interpret their *involvement* as:

a) Receiving comprehensive and constantly updated information relevant for all city/district residents including immigrants and refugees

b) Having a dialogue and a space to be heard and actively engaged in (local) policy planning, design and implementation.

3.1. COMPREHENSIVE AND REGULARLY UPDATED INFORMATION PROVISION

The primary aim of this methodology is to introduce the possible methods and examples of direct immigrant and refugee involvement in policy planning, co-design and co-implementation. However, considering how it is important for immigrants and refugees to receive **comprehensive information relevant for all city/district residents**, here are few examples how this information could reach the target group:

- To provide translated information on the municipality's official website (accessibility of services, residents rights and duties (e.g., the right to participate in local elections), cultural events etc.)
- To create an online information platform to upload and regularly update information on various services provided by the institutions subordinate to the municipality in different languages, services and initiatives provided by NGOs, and specialists who can provide consultation services to foreign nationals in different languages
- To prepare (welcome) information packages (electronic and hard copies) on various services and their availability to newly arrived foreigners to live and work in the municipality. (Welcome) information packages would be available on the official municipality's website, at the NGOs that provide consultation for immigrants and refugees, at the offices where newly arrival have to declare the place of residence etc.

3.2. PREPARATORY STEPS OF IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE INVOLVEMENT

Regarding direct immigrant and refugee involvement, before going deeper in this process, it is important to perform a **self-assessment on municipality's experience** in:

- the context of migration
- the procedures of public consultations

In case the municipality lacks experience in the context of migration, it is recommended to initiate:

- Contacts with local immigrant and refugee communities¹² to understand the migration situation on the ground, the challenges the target group face and to figure out their needs
- Contacts with local NGOs/researchers/and other specialists who work in the field of migration and could introduce the migration situation in the city/region
- Research on migration tendencies and integration challenges that covers specific city/region
- Training sessions on intercultural communication, the legal aspect of migration, gender mainstream migration and integration policies etc.

Regarding to the procedures of public consultations, the proposal is for the city to answer if it has any experience regarding the process of policy consultation/co-design and co-implementation, including people with different ethnic backgrounds.

Guiding question: Has your city adopted a process of policy consultation and/or co-design including people of all ethnic or cultural backgrounds?¹³

YES, we systematically carry out public consultations which **involve all kinds of diverse groups** and engage in co-design involving people with diverse backgrounds in policy formulation

Go to 3.4.

YES, we systematically carry out public consultations, but **involve only nationals**

Go to 3.3.

NO, **we have not adopted a process** of policy consultation and/or co-design including people of all ethnic or cultural backgrounds

Go to 3.3.

For example, by encouraging all migrant, cultural, religious, gender-specific and other diversity organisations to meet, voice their concerns and make proposals, by adapting communication techniques in languages people understand and ways in which they prefer to communicate, by providing interpretation during meetings, public debates, discussion groups etc.

Based on the answer to the questions above, this chapter is further divided into two parts. First of all, the examples of possible methods are provided for municipalities who do not have any experience and/or for ones who involve only nationals in public consultations on a municipal level (*see part 3.3.*). The second part is devoted to the municipalities who already involve immigrants and refugees in policy planning, co-design and co-implementation, but would like to try other methods and/or develop the methods they apply (*see part 3.4.*).

¹² More information on receiving feedback from the immigrant and refugee community is available here: www.unhcr.org/innovation/10-steps-to-setting-up-an-effective-feedback-mechanism/

¹³ Based on the Intercultural Cities Index questionnaire, more information is available at: www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities/about-the-index

3.3. FOR MUNICIPALITIES THAT HAVE NOT ADOPTED A PROCESS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS OR INCLUDE ONLY NATIONALS

3.3.1. Main steps for immigrant and refugee involvement

Map existing (in)formal immigrant and refugee communities, organisations and/or associations. Consider that chosen representatives would be diverse in terms of gender identity, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation etc.

Invite the representatives of immigrants and refugees to participate in the consultations, explain the aims and benefits of participation.

Plan the frequency and also ensure continuity of the consultations.

Ensure accessibility of the consultative process by providing materials and the organisational framework conditions.

Collect feedback from the representatives of immigrants and refugees on the consultations to build trust and improve the consultative process.

Ensure a feedback mechanism that systematically informs about how immigrants' and refugees' inputs are provided during consultations, how they have been used and what is the ongoing process.

3.3.2. Criteria for successful implementation in practice

- **Representation¹⁴:** Involve and consult immigrants and refugees from different genders, age groups, nationalities, and other diversity factors (e.g., disabilities, LGBTQI, educational levels etc.) in the formulation and design of integration services to ensure all perspectives are equally represented.
- **Ownership and commitment:** Build trust and explain the benefits of participating in the consultation process; approach participating immigrants and refugees as experts not as passive recipients of services.

- **Accessible communication:** Conduct consultations in a language and format that immigrants and refugees are comfortable with and allow for representative participation.
- **Accessibility of process:** Enable immigrants and refugees to participate in the consultative

process by providing material and organisational framework conditions that allow them to take part.

- **Continuity:** Plan this process from a long-term perspective, not as a one-off exercise; foresee and communicate consultations as a regular event.

3.3.3. Methods of immigrant and refugee involvement in practice

- **Consultations with local immigrant and refugee communities¹⁵ at the municipality premises**

To understand the challenges the target group face and to figure out their needs could be initiated the official meetings with the representatives of local immigrant and refugee communities in the municipality premises. As an alternative, immigrants and refugees could be invited to share their thoughts on specific issues during the focus groups conducted by the representatives of the municipality.

- **Consultations with local NGOs who work in the field of immigrant and refugee integration**

To initiate contact with the local NGOs who work in the field of immigrant and refugee integration could be the first step in immigrant and refugee involvement regarding policy consultations, co-design and co-implementation. NGOs could provide relevant information to understand the context of migration at the municipal, regional and national level and to emphasise the needs of the target group.

In cooperation with the local NGOs, immigrant and refugee self-presentation could be initiated under the existing NGO structure, which in the long run (as the second step) could be the establishment of a refugee/immigrant led organisation (e.g., an Intercultural Council, see [3.4.1.](#)).

Before starting to work with the target group, initiate some training on intercultural competencies and what factors are important to know when working with different ethnic groups.

- **"Cosy corners"**

"Cosy corners" allows the involvement of immigrants and refugees in an informal atmosphere. A safe place is provided in which relevant questions for the community could be discussed. The discussions could be carried out

regularly, and this will allow the creation of a sustainable and trusting relationship with them. The "Cosy corners" method could be especially useful for reaching more vulnerable immigrant and refugee groups (e.g., migrant women)¹⁶.

"Cosy corners" implementation steps:

- The creation of contacts through local networks and personal invitations.
- The first meeting involves getting to know each other and creating a sense of trust within an informal atmosphere that allows the opportunity for immigrants and refugees to meet and talk.
- The following meetings could be dedicated to discussing the relevant questions for immigrant and refugee communities and how they could be solved from the local authority perspective.

- **City Inhabitants' Forum**

The operating principles of the City Inhabitants' Forum coincide with the operating principles of the Immigrant and Refugee Citizenship Forum (see [3.4.2.](#)). The main difference is that the members of this Forum are not only from the immigrants' and refugees' communities, but also other groups of city inhabitants. The City Inhabitants' Forum is an especially good place to discuss very local topics that concern a particular district or neighbourhood within the city.

When contracting external entities for the provision of services, include a special clause for the social inclusion of the representatives of immigrants and refugees (representatives from the communities, NGOs and professionals working in the field of integration) as one of the conditions to supply those services.

¹⁴ More information on the application age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach is available here: www.unhcr.org/publications/unhcr-age-gender-and-diversity-policy

¹⁵ More information on receiving feedback from the immigrant and refugee community is available here www.unhcr.org/innovation/10-steps-to-setting-up-an-effective-feedback-mechanism/

¹⁶ For an example of the "Cosy corners" implementation in practice, please check the information here www.nicehearts.com/in-english/

3.4. FOR MUNICIPALITIES THAT HAVE ADOPTED A PROCESS OF POLICY PLANNING AND ENGAGE ALL KINDS OF DIVERSE GROUPS

There are a number of possibilities to involve all kinds of diverse groups (including immigrant and refugees) into a policy consultation and/or co-design and co-implementation process. Once you have experience in having a dialogue with the target group, you could apply more developed methods, such as establishing an **Intercultural Council** or **Immigrant and Refugee Citizenship Forums**.

3.4.1. Intercultural Council¹⁷

The Intercultural Council (hereinafter the "Council") is a consultative body "that allows a minimum political representation of city inhabitants who are not entitled to vote in local elections due to their citizenship."¹⁸ The members of the Council are the representatives formally elected by its target group (immigrant and

refugee communities). "The establishment of the Council aims at strengthening societal and political participation as well as an exchange of expertise in order to work towards living together under the best possible conditions within the city population."¹⁹

¹⁷ For an example of Intercultural Council work in practice, please check the information here: <https://reykjavik.is/en/intercultural-council>

¹⁸ More information is available at: www.eccar.info/sites/default/files/document/4_Toolkit-en_ElectedMigrantCouncil.pdf (p. 8)

¹⁹ *Ibid*



Main steps of the establishment of the Council²⁰

I. PLANNING AND ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

1.1. Networking: establish contacts among migrants who wish to push the initiative forward. Establish a network among migrants, migrants associations and local NGOs.

1.2. Political support: find and engage politicians who are willing to take on the issue.

1.3. Form a working group of individuals who are motivated and have the perseverance to see the process to its goal. The working group should include: migrants, migrant associations, relevant local NGOs and local politicians.

II. DEVELOPING THE CONCEPT

2.1. Take into consideration the relevant legislation: Legal regulations concerning a city's powers provide the basic framework for the establishment and shape of the Council.

2.2. Develop the Council's Statute: Discuss and negotiate the rights and duties that the Council should have in the city. Reach a consensus on the purpose, objective and rules of procedure for the Council.

2.3. Amendment of existing laws or bylaws: Incorporate the rights and procedures involved in the cooperation between the City Council and the Migrant Council into the city council's laws and/or bylaws.

2.4. Forecast the budget for the possible expenses of the Council (administrative, human resources etc.)

III. SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 Legal basis: Sustainability of the Council is best achieved if the right to form such Council is determined by (regional) law

IV. PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

4.1. Instruct the local election authorities: The local election authority needs to be tasked with administration of the Council elections. It needs to create an electoral register, officially informing eligible voters about the election, submit candidate lists and count the votes.

4.2.J Inform the immigrant/refugee community: For the first election, the working group should be in charge of reaching out to migrants and associations in order to provide information about the election and its procedures, and to ask for the formation of election lists as well as encouraging people to vote as well as becoming candidates. Concerning later elections, the outgoing Council should perform this task.

After the elections of the Council members, it is recommended to adopt the agreement on the regular meetings and elect the Chairperson who would be responsible in leading the discussion towards agreements on proposals and recommendations to the municipality.

In the beginning, setting the agenda of the Council with realistic goals and initiatives with a focus

on producing concrete results is proposed. "The achievement of more limited goals will contribute to team building among the Council members and help in developing mutual respect and trust between city authorities and council members."²¹

Regularly inform other public bodies about the Council's activities as their support is necessary for accomplishing their goals.

²⁰ More information is available at: www.eccar.info/sites/default/files/document/4_Toolkit-en_ElectedMigrantCouncil.pdf (p. 12)

²¹ More information is available at: www.eccar.info/sites/default/files/document/4_Toolkit-en_ElectedMigrantCouncil.pdf (p. 24)

3.4.2. Immigrant and Refugee Citizenship Forums²²

The Immigrant and Refugee Citizenship Forum (*hereinafter the "Forum"*) "follows the logic of a citizen dialogue and takes the form of participatory forums to discuss selected topics with interested (migrant) inhabitants."²³ The Forum allows a minimum political

representation of city inhabitants who are not entitled to participate in local elections or vote due to their legal status and citizenship. The aim of this instrument is to strengthen immigrants' and refugees' civic participation and their sense of belonging to the city in which they live.

Main steps of the establishment of the Forum²⁴

I. PLANNING AND ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS.

The objective of the Forum is to "co-produce politics" by designing concrete measures in a dialogue with the city's inhabitants. The Forum is based on the idea of creating an open platform and discussing topics that are put on the table. The advantage of a Forum is in the opportunity to invite a broader spectrum of people in order to renew the circle of participants and to not be restricted to only non-EU nationals.

There is an open invitation to all interested immigrant/refugee city inhabitants and to professionals working in the field to participate in a Forum. There is a moderator for the Forum. Participants work on prepared questions, give their assessment of the current situation and develop concrete recommendations for improvement.

II. PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

2.1. Foresee the budget for the expenses of the Forum (administrative, human resources etc.)

2.2. Mandate for the Forum concerning a specific topic: Ask city officials as well as representatives of immigrant/refugee communities and NGOs about their view of the most pressing integration issues. The Forum is also suitable for discussion of very local topics that might concern a particular district or neighborhood. Focus on choosing a topic that can be addressed within the city's powers and current political/budgetary priorities. Discuss whether the topic you have in mind is suitable for participatory dialogue, a topic can be discussed from a practical perspective.

2.3. Organise the Forum event

2.4. Establish a core team/facilitation committee

2.5. Formulate the results and recommendations

2.6. Present the results to city's decision makers

2.7. Implementation and recommendations

²² For Immigrant and Refugee Citizenship Forums in practice, please check the information here: <https://oikeusministerio.fi/en/the-advisory-board-for-ethnic-relations>

²³ More information is available at: www.eccar.info/sites/default/files/document/5_Toolkit-en_MigrantCitizenshipForum.pdf (p. 5)

²⁴ More information is available at: www.eccar.info/sites/default/files/document/5_Toolkit-en_MigrantCitizenshipForum.pdf

3.4.3. The strength and weaknesses of the Councils and Forums²⁵

Intercultural Council	Immigrant and Refugee Citizenship Forum
<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Free to select a topic to be discussed- Recommendations submitted to the city with no procedure/obligation to be taken into account/implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pre-selection of topics by the cities' officials to be discussed+ Clear mandate to develop measures addressing a specific issue; stronger commitment to implementation of the recommendations
<p>Logic of representation</p> <p>The Elected Immigrant/Refugee Council is based on idea "to compensate" the lack of a right to vote for non-EU nationals living in the city by providing a possibility to elect representatives.</p>	<p>Logic of representation</p> <p>The participatory forum is based on the idea of citizens' dialogue and participation. Each person is considered the most competent for their life situation, and citizens' everyday expertise is considered valuable to design feasible policy programmes. Every person who feels concerned by a matter is invited to participate in a discussion event. The Forum allows for inviting and including a broader spectrum of people.</p>

Other options of immigrant and refugee involvement:

- **Representation of persons with immigrant or refugee background in local (regional) assemblies, parliaments and other decision-making bodies**, that reflect their actual share among the population.
- When contracting external entities for the provision of services, **include a special clause for the social inclusion of the representatives of immigrants and refugees (representatives from the communities, NGOs and professionals working in the field of integration) as one of the conditions to supply those services.**

²⁵ More information is available at: www.eccar.info/sites/default/files/document/4_Toolkit-en_ElectedMigrantCouncil.pdf (p. 5)

**FACTORS THAT
ARE IMPORTANT
TO CONSIDER
WHEN PLANNING
IMMIGRANT
AND REFUGEE
INVOLVEMENT**

- Address the language barrier – think about in what language a consultative process will take place, consider the participation of the interpreter, use easily understandable language(s) and format(s) that the immigrants and refugees are comfortable with.
- Address cultural and religious differences.
- Ensure that different groups of immigrants and refugees are represented (e.g., immigrant and refugee women; immigrants and refugees with disabilities; representatives of different age groups etc.)
- To make it easier for immigrant women to participate, the meetings could be organised wherever possible in “community spaces”, preferably familiar to women and suitable for possible activities for children.
- Think about the possibility to offer compensation or travel reimbursement to those who would like to participate in consultative process but encounter burdensome financial difficulties.

Risks

Measures to mitigate risks

Immigrants/refugees are reluctant to participate

- Create a safe space and try to establish personal contacts through in-person meetings.
- Focus on explaining the aims of the consultative process and benefits, both for the municipality and immigrant/refugee communities.

Different perceptions of the representatives of immigrant/refugee communities due to the cultural and religious differences

- Include key personalities (from immigrant/refugee communities) who can take on the role of intermediaries.
- Include members from experienced NGOs who could act as mediators.

Newly arrived immigrants/refugees generally have little knowledge and experience concerning the political structures in the municipality and about the rules of procedure

- Include immigrants/refugees who have been living in the city for a longer time and/or have a good knowledge of the local political landscape.
- Include NGOs experienced in working with city authorities.

Fluctuation of working group members

- Be prepared that this could happen – the work at hand is voluntary.
- Discuss the best time for consultations among the representatives.
- Organise the consultations in a central location that is easily accessible

Disagreement among the local government members to include immigrants/refugees into the consultative process

- Long-term awareness-raising for a target group, intercultural education etc.
- Explain the benefits of the immigrants'/refugees' involvement.
- Emphasise the strong argument of social cohesion.

Adequate candidates with the potential to be involved in the consultative process are not (easily) found

- Visit immigrant and refugee communities, motivate them to be involved.
- Organise workshops about the knowledge of the local political structures, civic participation etc.



USEFUL MATERIALS



- European Coalition of Cities against Racism (2017). "ECCAR 10 points Action Plan Toolkit for Equality City Policies Against Racism". Available at: www.eccar.info/en/eccar-toolkit-equality
- European Website on Integration (2021). "Mapping key migrant-led organisations across the EU". Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/special-feature/mapping-key-migrant-led-organisations-across-eu_en
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (2017). "Migrant political participation: a review of policies and integration results in the OSCE region". Research paper. Available at: www.osce.org/files/f/documents/2/c/367936.pdf
- UNHCR and Migration Policy Group (2021). "Effective Inclusion of Refugees: participatory approaches for practitioners at the local level". Available at: www.unhcr.org/effective-inclusion-of-refugees.html
- UNHCR (2019). "UNHCR Age, Gender and Diversity Policy". Available at: www.unhcr.org/publications/unhcr-age-gender-and-diversity-policy
- UNHCR (2017). "10 steps to setting up an effective feedback mechanism". Available at: www.unhcr.org/innovation/10-steps-to-setting-up-an-effective-feedback-mechanism/

Other:

- Designing intercultural strategies, available at: www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities/designing-intercultural-strategies
- Project "Empowering Migrant Voices on Integration and Inclusion policies" (EMVI), available at: <https://diaspora-participation.eu/emvi-project/>
- Transatlantic Migrant Democracy Dialogue (TMDD), Training and Mentoring at the National Level, available at: <https://tmdd.info/what-we-do/training-and-mentoring-at-the-national-level/>

APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

ESTONIA			
	Code	Country of origin	Gender
1.	EE-1	China	Female
2.	EE-2	Mexico	Male
3.	EE-3	USA	Female
4.	EE-4	Switzerland	Male
LATVIA			
	Code	Country of origin	Gender
5.	LV-1	Ukraine	Female
6.	LV-2	Ukraine	Female
7.	LV-3	Belarus	Male
8.	LV-4	USA	Female
9.	LV-5	India	Male
LITHUANIA			
	Code	Country of origin	Gender
10.	LT-1	Ukraine	Female
11.	LT-2	Russia	Male
12.	LT-3	Afghanistan	Male
13.	LT-4	Brazil	Female
14.	LT-5	Taiwan	Female

Status**Residing in the country**

Studentas

Since 2021

Family reunification

Since 2018

Repatriate

Since 2022

Family reunification

Since 2013

Status**Residing in the country**

Refugee

Since 2021

Refugee

Since 2021

Refugee

Since 2020

Repatriate

Since 2019

Student

Since 2018

Status**Residing in the country**

Refugee (Temporary protection)

Since 2022

Refugee (Temporary protection)

Since 2018

Refugee

Since 2018

Family reunification

Since 2021

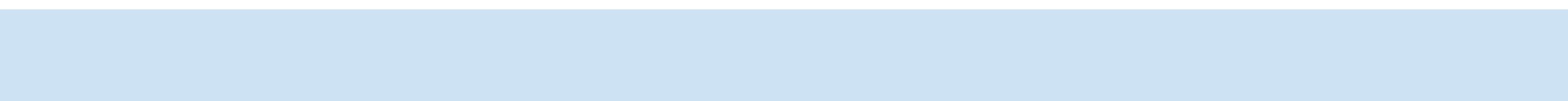
Employment

Since 2017">

APPENDIX 2 – LIST OF IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE-LED ORGANISATIONS, NGOS AND CSOS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF INTEGRATION IN ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA

ESTONIA			
Name of the organisation	Migrant led / migrant represented / both	Type of organisation	Target group
Integration Foundation		Public institution	All ages
Estonian Language Houses		Public institution	Adults
Tartu Folk High School			Adults
Volunteer Hub		Registered NGO	Adults
Estonian National Museum		Public institution	All ages
Tartu Welcome Centre		Registered NGO	All ages
Estonian Refugee Council	Both	Registered NGO	All ages
International House of Estonia	Both	Public institution	Adults





Operational objective	Main functions	Website
To support the development of an integrated and cohesive society	Language studies for adults and young people, cultural studies for adults, language camps for young people, information for new arrivals, counselling and guidelines.	https://integratsioon.ee/en
Supportive Estonian-language environment for language learners	Courses for language communication, advisory services, special courses and events for practising Estonian.	https://integratsioon.ee/en/estonian-language-houses
Courses with assistance in English	Many different courses for developing talents, refreshing knowledge or learning something new. For example – arts, handicrafts, flower arrangement, music, language etc. Estonian language courses for refugees.	https://rahvaylikool.ee/tartu-folk-high-school/
Information for voluntary activities	Gathers volunteer work information and involving migrants in NGO activities.	https://vabatahtlikud.ee/en/
Exhibitions and courses about Estonian culture and history	Museum tours, introduction to Estonian folk culture, film nights, musical events, workshops in handicrafts	www.erm.ee/en
Consultations and registry services	Free consultations from official procedures to daily life; registry services such as registering a place of residence and applying for an ID-code; organising monthly cultural and networking events.	https://tartuwelcomecentre.ee
Provides support services and humanitarian aid for refugees	Group counselling for refugees, translation services, help reunifying families, support person services.	www.pagulasabi.ee/en
Information and consultations for foreigners and employers	Provides information and consultations, arranges events for building social networks.	https://workinestonia.com/internationalhouse/

Name of the organisation	Migrant led / migrant represented / both	Type of organisation	Target group
Settle in Estonia		Public institution	Adults
Tallinn City Centre for Expats		Social media group	All ages
Walktalk		Website app	All ages
Keelekliik		Website app	All ages
Education Estonia		Public institution	All ages
Visit Estonia			All ages
Köömen	Both	Registered NGO	All ages
Siin & Sääl	Both		All ages
Paranduskelder	Both	Registered NGO	All ages
Sovereign Order of Malta	Migrant-represented	Registered NGO	All ages
The International House of Pärnu	Starting organisation	Registered NGO	All ages

Operational objective	Main functions	Website
Providing free educational programs	Possibility of participating in different training modules: basic module, work module, entrepreneurship module, study module, research module, family module, A1 and A2 level Estonian language courses.	www.settleinestonia.ee
Engaging the English-speaking community in the district's social life and decision-making processes	Share information about events, overview of the city news, public discussions related to life in Tallinn.	www.facebook.com/groups/1199304950256641
For practising language	Supports foreign language practice in everyday life situations.	https://walktalk.ee/en/
For practising language	Estonian language courses for beginners and intermediate, courses are suited for English, Russian and Ukrainian-speaking learners.	www.keeleklikk.ee/index.html
Information about studying in Estonia	Offers information about studying opportunities in Estonia	www.educationestonia.org
Travel guide	Information about attractions, events, travel ideas and information centres	www.visitestonia.com/en/
Cooking events, catering	Online cooking events, taught by cooks from many different countries. Also supporting practical Estonian language learning.	https://koomen.ee
Cooking, language and culture events	Cooking events, dancing workshops, language courses. Events are focused on different cultures, countries and languages.	https://siinjasaal.ee/en
To raise funds to provide financial assistance to victims of repression in Belarus.		www.bysol.org
To popularise repairing and upcycling	Events and workshops to gain and develop DIY and repair skills, educational programs.	https://paranda.ee/en/
Provides support and information	Provides helpful information and support for children starting in a new school, offers practical advice, integrating newcomers into the community.	https://houseofparnu.wordpress.com

LATVIA

Name of the organisation	Migrant led / migrant represented / both	Type of organisation	Target group
Make Room Europe	Both	Registered foundation	Newcomers
I Want to Help Refugees	Migrant- represented	Registered association	Asylum seekers, BIPs
Shelter "Safe House"	Migrant- represented	Registered association	Newcomers, victims of human trafficking, BIPs
Creative association for youth "TREPES"	Migrant- represented	Registered association	Children from social risk groups; children whose mother tongue is not Latvian; young immigrants, foreign students; homeless and disadvantaged persons
Dialogu nams	Both	Registered association	Newcomers, residents of Latvia
Tartu Welcome Centre	Migrant- represented	Registered association	Persons with temporary protection status (Ukrainian civilians)
Latvian Ukrainian confederation "VICHE"	Migrant- represented	Registered association	Persons with temporary protection status (Ukrainian civilians)



Operational objective	Main functions	Website
Main focus in Latvia is to foster effective inclusion of newcomers, notably foreign nationals with fewer opportunities in a wide range of areas.	Raising awareness, reporting Hate Crime/ Hate Speech, generating employment, volunteering and entrepreneurship opportunities, support for language learning, offering social mentoring, advocating for inclusive policy reforms, offering other practical support.	https://makeroomeu.com/about/makeroomlatvia/
Promotion of the protection of the rights and socio- economic integration of asylum seekers, refugees and persons with subsidiary protection status into Latvian society; Raising awareness of migration and other related issues in Latvian society, reducing prejudice and racism; organising charitable events.	Protection of human and individual rights, development of civil society, improving the social well- being of society, in particular poor and socially vulnerable groups.	https://gribupalidzetbegliem.lv
Development of support services to victims of human trafficking, legal immigrants, including asylum seekers, refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection status by ensuring individuals right to receive adequate assistance and protection; promoting rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking into the society; creating interactive forms of training, and expanding cooperation with state and local government institutions, public and Christian organisations in Latvia and worldwide.	Provision of support services of victims of human trafficking, ensuring the right of the individual to adequate assistance and protection, changing societal attitudes towards trafficked persons and legal immigrants; promotion of rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked persons into society; provision of support services for legal immigrants; developing interactive forms of training; developing cooperation with state and local government institutions, public and Christian organisations worldwide; promotion respect for human rights and providing support for human rights and fundamental freedoms.	www.patverums-dm.lv/lv
Helping young people reach the next step in their personal development by giving practical tools, raising awareness of social issues.	Promotion of voluntary work, promotion of civic engagement, organisation of self-improvement activities, cultural events; coordination and training of volunteers; organisation of workshops; organisation of educational seminars; intercultural education.	www.facebook.com/NVOTrepes/?locale=lv_LV
Promotion of social cohesion, promotion of inter-community dialogue; community building; awareness-raising of social issues.	Organisation of discussion forums, courses, capacity building publications;	www.facebook.com/DialoguNams/
Preservation and development of Ukrainian ethnic culture in Latvia	Organisation of cultural events related to Ukrainian culture.	www.jelgava.lv/lv/iestades/sabiedriskais-centrs/nvo/jelgavas-mazakumtautibunacionalas-kulturas-biedribas/jelgavas-mazakumtautibunacionalas-kulturas-biedribas/ukrainu-kulturas-centrs-dzerelo/
Unite Ukrainian NGOs within Latvia to coordinate the work of NGOs in Latvia.	Cooperation with public authorities of Ukraine and Latvia; advocacy regarding legal acts that impact the life of Ukrainian minority in Latvia; provision of the objective on formation about Ukraine.	https://viche.lv/lv/par-mums/

Name of the organisation	Migrant led / migrant represented / both	Type of organisation	Target group
Bedriba "Tavi Draugi"	Migrant represented	Registered association	Vulnerable groups, persons with temporary protection status (Ukrainian civilians)
Biedriba "Common Ground"	Migrant represented	Registered association	Persons with temporary protection status (Ukrainian civilians)
Jaunatnes organizācija "New East"	Migrant represented	Registered association	Persons aged 15-35 from Daugavpils, Latgale region in Latvia; Eastern Europe, Balkan and Caucasus region
Organizācija "Radi Vidi Pats"	Migrant- represented	Registered association	Residents of Liepāja
Belarus Women's Foundation	Migrant- represented	Registered foundation	Belarussian women
Latvian Centre for Human Rights	Migrant- represented	Registered association	Ethnic minorities, migrants
Latvian Red Cross	Migrant- represented	Registered association	Vulnerable groups, including refugees, asylum seekers, persons with temporary protection status (Ukrainian civilians)
AIESEC Latvia	Both	Student organisation	Students and recent graduates of institutions of higher education, students in high school, corporate and non-corporate sectors and other governmental institutions and NGOs
Association "Supolka"	Both	Registered association	Belarussian asylum seekers, BIPs

Operational objective

Main functions

Website

Collection of donations, organisation of voluntary work

Provision of assistance to Ukrainian civilians; transporting Ukrainians to Latvia, provision of other forms of assistance.

www.palidzibaukrainai.lv/

Provision, coordination and organisation of social, psychological, legal and other types of assistance.

This organisation fulfils a function of a community centre. Social and recreational activities are carried out; yoga, meditation, lectures for children and adults are carried out; organisation of volunteer work.

<https://commonground.lv/>

Assistance to vulnerable groups; provision of informative, legal, social and other types of assistance, organisation of cultural events.

Provision of educational programs, media and critical thinking related workshops and hackathons; organisation of cultural events for young persons.

www.neweasteurope.com

Promotion of sustainable development of Latvian society through the education of culture and environment and participation in social processes.

Strengthening of community by organising cultural events and activities; promotion of voluntary work by participating in exchange programs; provision of environmentally - friendly lifestyle; activities regarding non- formal education; development of inclusive society.

<https://radividipats.lv/tips/par-biedribu>

Fight against the repression of women in Belarus; uniting the international community against the dictatorship in Belarus.

Advocacy for the release of female political prisoners in Belarus; provision of assistance to repressed Belarussian women

www.belaruswomen.org

Promotion of human rights, social cohesion and advocacy for different societal groups.

Monitoring of human rights, research and policy analysis; advocacy, legal assistance in regard to integration, tolerance and anti- discrimination.

<https://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/>

Provision of assistance to people in need

Assistance to different vulnerable groups, including refugees, asylum seekers; education and provision of first aid; provision of social centres; provision of material assistance; organisation of voluntary work; provision of humanitarian aid; provision of integration services, psychological assistance, housing in collaboration with other NGOs.

www.redcross.lv/

Helping youth to develop leadership through cross- culture exchanges and challenging environment.

Organisation of volunteer work, activities related to personal development; provision of internship opportunities.

aiesecinlatvia.wixsite.com/home

Uniting everyone who is interested in the people and culture of Belarus; support of the interests of Belarussians and their families in Latvia; connecting Belarussian and Latvian culture; establishment of contacts between Belarussians and Latvians.

Participation in Latvian-Belarussian cooperation projects, promotion of Belarussian integration into Latvian culture-and-work life; establishment of contacts with Latvian politicians and journalists to keep them updated on the situation in Belarus, dissemination of information about Belarus in Latvia.

<https://supolka.lv/>

Name of the organisation	Migrant led / migrant represented / both	Type of organisation	Target group
Biedrība "Free Belarus"	Migrant represented	Registered association	Belarussian asylum seekers, BIPs
Latvijas Baltkrievu kultūras biedrība "Svitanak"	Both	Registered association	Ethnic Belarussians, Belarussian asylum seekers, BIPs
Young Folks	Migrant represented	Registered association	Youth, persons with temporary protection status (Ukrainian civilians)



Operational objective

Main functions

Website

Support for democratic processes in Belarus; to inform the Latvian population, incl. the Belarussian community, politicians and the media about developments in Belarus after the 2020 presidential elections and the activities of pro-democracy Belarussians in Latvia and worldwide; cooperation with NGOs and the Belarussian diaspora in Latvia and other countries; provision of support to asylum seekers from Belarus, initiation of activities to facilitate their integration in Latvian society.

Awareness-raising activities; provision of information about the situation in Belarus via social media; organisation of activities to raise awareness about human rights violations in Belarus;

https://twitter.com/free_belarus_lv?lang=ne

Unite Belarussians and representatives of other nationalities who are interested in Latvian and Belarussian cultural connections and history; promotion and development of Belarussian culture in Latvia, promotion of Belarussian integration in Latvian society.

Organisation of cultural and educational events about Belarussian culture

www.svitanak.eu

Promotion of informative and educational activities for successful societal and professional inclusion; support for youth initiatives and activities; provision of activities related to personal development including physical and creative activities.

Organisation of volunteer work, provision of assistance to Ukrainian civilians who cross Latvia in transit.

www.youngfolks.lv

LITHUANIA

Name of the organisation	Migrant led / migrant represented / both	Type of organisation	Target group
Refugee Council of Lithuania	Both	Registered NGO	Beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs)
Artscape	Migrant-represented	Registered NGO	Asylum seekers, BIPs and migrants
Lithuanian Red Cross Society, Migration and asylum programme	Migrant-represented	Registered NGO	Asylum seekers, BIPs, migrants and other vulnerable groups
Caritas of Vilnius Archdiocese, Foreigners' integration programme	Migrant-represented	Registered NGO	Asylum seekers, BIPs, migrants and other vulnerable groups
RAZAM	Both	Charity and support fund	Belarusian asylum seekers and refugees
Association Baltic Turkish Culture Academy	Both	Registered NGO	Migrants
Ukrainian integration center "Malva"	Both	Registered NGO	Ukrainians with temporary protection status (fleeing Ukraine war)
VšĮ „Ukrainiečių diaspora“	Both	Registered NGO	Ukrainians with temporary protection status (fleeing Ukraine war)
Association "Karpatai"	Migrant-represented	Association	Ukrainians with temporary protection status (fleeing Ukraine war)

Operational objective	Main functions	Website
To increase the participation of refugees in decision making and implementation of (refugee integration) projects as well as refugee inclusion	Refugee advocacy, capacity-building projects for refugees in Lithuania.	www.refugeeslt.com
To provide an opportunity for vulnerable society groups to participate in culture and to initiate social change through high-quality art projects.	By working in collaboration with artists, local communities and sensitive societal groups to nurture self-expression, active participation in societal matters and to seek social solutions.	https://artscape.lt/en
To protect people's lives and dignity, to provide assistance to people affected by misfortunes.	Assistance and care to the elderly and disabled people and their families, training to provide first aid, humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people in Lithuania, various kind of services to migrants (including asylum seekers and BIPs). Humanitarian, informational, and family reunification support for refugees from Ukraine.	https://redcross.lt/veiklos/prieglobscio-ir-migracijos-programa
To provide support that meets the needs of people.	Social, humanitarian, psychological, integrational, legal support for migrants and BIPs.	https://vilnius.caritas.lt/prieglobscio-ieskantiems-uzsienieciams/?fbclid=IwAR0tTW8Qe_p1RdRFmq88IhnKyeNa4fKtY8L4tOWLHxmdgGv4DDbOOAJ9_6w
Humanitarian, psychological and social support for refugees from Ukraine.	www.facebook.com/uzsienieciu.integracijos.programa/	
To support and help Belarusians forced to leave Belarus because of political repressions.	The Razam Charity and Support Foundation provides material and informational assistance to Belarusians.	www.razam.lt www.facebook.com/razam.lietuva
To improve the tolerance of foreigners (people of different origins and religions) in Lithuania.	Social projects, events, courses	balturka.org
The foreigner integration centre focuses on different ways of integration of newly arrived Ukrainians.	Humanitarian support, housing, medical care, recruitment of grown-ups, education of children, Lithuanian language courses, IT courses and psychological supp	www.facebook.com/Pagalba.Ukrainieciams.Siauliuose/
	Help with housing, education, psychological help, recruitment.	
Primary care for newly arrived Ukrainians fleeing the war.		

Name of the organisation	Migrant led / migrant represented / both	Type of organisation	Target group
Dapamoga	Both	Registered NGO	Belarusian asylum seekers Ukrainian asylum seekers
Kelias į svajonę	Both	Registered NGO	Ukrainian migrants, asylum seekers and beneficiaries of temporary protection
"Strana dlya zhizni"	Migrant-led	Charity and support fund	Belarusian political prisoners
Ukrainian Culture and Education Center "Rodyna"	Both		Ukrainian diaspora
Ukrainos namai		Registered NGO	Ukrainian diaspora
BYSOL - Belarus Solidarity Foundation	Both	Registered NGO	Belarusian asylum seekers
Sovereign Order of Malta	Migrant-represented	Registered NGO	People at social risk
Klaipėda Centre for National Cultures	Migrant-represented	Public institution	Different minority ethnic groups of Lithuania, migrants
Kaunas Cultural Centre of Various Nations	Migrant-represented	Public institution	Different minority ethnic groups of Lithuania, migrants
Save the Children	Migrant-represented	Registered NGO	Children and parents

Operational objective	Main functions	Website
Primary care for newly arrived Belarusians, who had to flee Belarus (due to political prosecutions) in Lithuania.	Housing, recruitment, medical services and material assistance.	https://dapamoga.lt
Primary care for newly arrived Ukrainians, who had to flee Ukraine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help at the border with Ukraine - Assistance with evacuations, transit through Europe and finding accommodation in European cities - Humanitarian aid in the form of food and medicine - Assistance with the procurement and transport of defence clothing and personal protective equipment to Ukraine <p>Coordination of other voluntary initiatives.</p>	https://dapamoga.lt/ua-en
International cooperation, democracy	Organising the arrival of refugees to Lithuania, humanitarian support, housing, excursions, transport around Lithuania, administrative support.	www.facebook.com/keliasisvajone
	The Foundation provides assistance to political prisoners, visa and accommodation assistance, assistance to Belarussians in obtaining foreign visas or studying abroad, as well as material assistance to active members of society, their families and children	
	Humanitarinė pagalba, sekmadieninė mokyklėlė Ukrainos vaikams.	www.rodynaklaipeda.lt/
		https://ukrainosnamai.lt
To raise funds to provide financial assistance to victims of repression in Belarus.		https://www.bysol.org/en/
To provide assistance to people at social risk, to promote the social maturity of society and volunteerism.	Humanitarian, social support for elderly, young and disabled people who are at a social risk. Humanitarian support during the war in Ukraine.	https://maltieciai.lt/en/
To help the national minority communities of Klaipėda to integrate into the life of the city and the country, to foster national tolerance of the population and to promote the traditions of the city's many cultures.	Regarding integration of Ukrainian asylum seekers: language teaching, childcare, psychological support, educational/ cultural programme for families about the local area. Intends to keep providing the soft integration measures.	www.klaipedatkc.lt/
	Cultural activities	www.154kulturos.lt/ www.facebook.com/KaunasCulturalCentre/about/?ref=page_internal www.facebook.com/154kulturos
To provide safe and caring environment to children and families that are facing different types of challenges.	Afterschool centres for children, psychological, social, humanitarian, financial support to families and single parents. Humanitarian support for children and pregnant women during the war in Ukraine.	https://gelbekitvaikus.lt/



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