

Integration of refugees in Poland

The example of Warsaw

Dominik Wach
dominik.wach@wcpr.pl



Who do we support

- ▶ **Refugee status-** *a person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.*

REFUGEES



Who do we support

- ▶ **Subsidiary protection**- a third country national or stateless who would face a real risk of suffering serious harm if s/he return to the country of origin.
 - ▶ *death penalty or execution;*
 - ▶ *torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of an applicant in the country of origin;*
 - ▶ *serious and individual threat to a civilian's life or person by reasons of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict*

Refugees in Poland

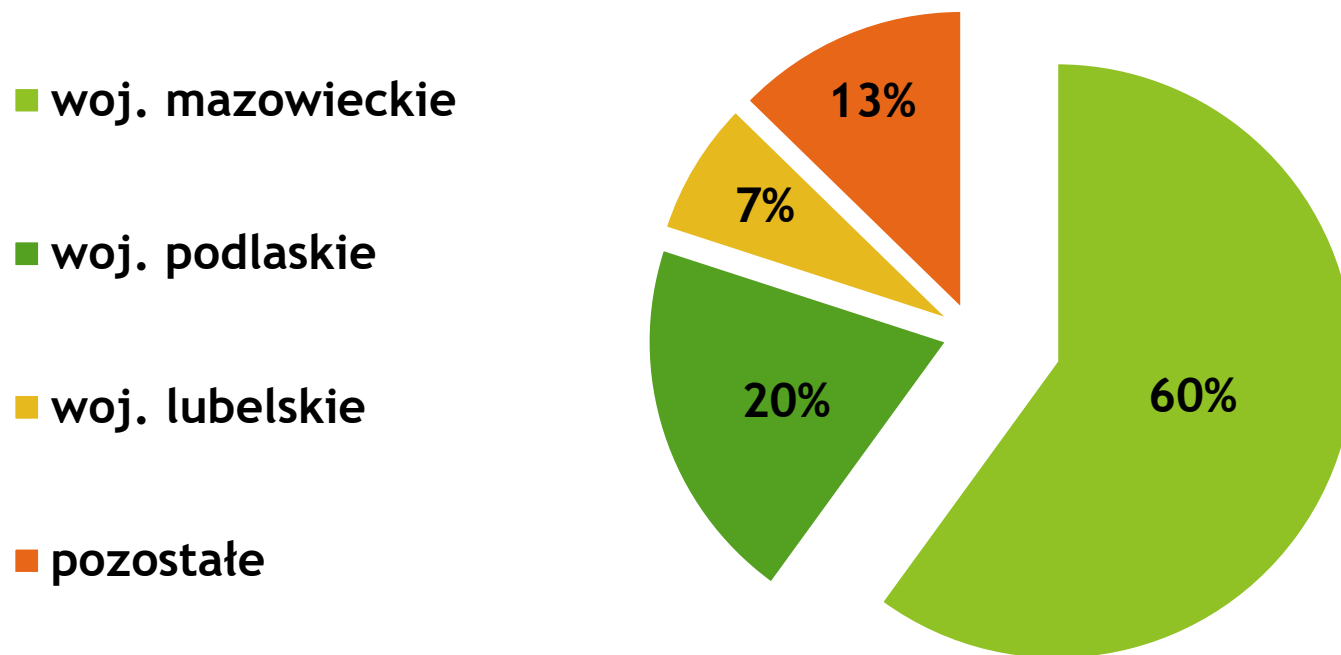
- ▶ 2015 - **12.325** asylum seekers in Poland applied for a refugee status, **4,5%*** got a refugee status or subsidiary protection
- ▶ 2016 - **12.319** asylum seekers, **2,1%*** got a refugee status or subsidiary protection
- ▶ 2017 - **5.078** asylum seekers, **9,6%*** got a refugee status or subsidiary protection



*1st instance decisions

Refugees in Poland

2004-2016 - 5.229 Integration Programs



Individual Integration Program (IIP)

- ▶ Application for assistance under the integration program must be submitted no later than **60 days** from the date of receipt of the decision granting refugee status or subsidiary protection.



Individual Integration Program (IIP)

- ▶ The aim of Individual Integration Program (IIP) is to support foreigners in all possible fields of life in their first period of stay in Poland.
- ▶ The maximum period of assistance during IIP is **12 months**.
- ▶ Individual Integration Program must be agreed both by Family Support Center and refugee, and must include amount, scope and forms of assistance based on individual refugee's situation.

Individual Integration Program (IIP)

- ▶ Integration assistance is granted only under the Individual Integration Program (IIP). Before granting integration assistance social worker has to make an interview (in place where refugee lives) to recognize refugees situation (family relations, health, financial conditions, employment, knowledge of Polish language and culture etc.) and to prepare Individual Integration Program (IIP).
- ▶ Integration assistance begins from month when refugee applied for that assistance and brought all necessary documents (Geneva Travel Document and residence card).
- ▶ If refugee stays in refugee camp, integration support begins from month when he or she leaves the camp.

Integration assistance includes

- ▶ Financial support for living and payment of Polish language courses;
- ▶ Health insurance;
- ▶ Polish language courses;
- ▶ Social assistance and specialized assistance (legal, psychological etc.).



Integration assistance includes

Financial support:

1. during first 6 month of IIP:

- ▶ up to **1.335 PLN** monthly - single person household
- ▶ up to **934,50 PLN** monthly per person - double household
- ▶ up to **801 PLN** monthly per person - triple household
- ▶ up to **667,50 PLN** monthly per person - four and more household

2. during second 6 months of IIP:

- ▶ up to **1.201,50 PLN** monthly - single person household
- ▶ up to **841,05 PLN** monthly per person - double household
- ▶ up to **720,90 PLN** monthly per person - triple household
- ▶ up to **606 PLN** monthly per person - four house hold

Family Support Center's obligations

Due to IIP Family Support Center is obligated to:

- ▶ providing information about amount of financial assistance;
- ▶ providing information about possibilities of holding and denying financial assistance;
- ▶ providing social support, especially by supporting and motivating in contacts with local society and institutions (including local Social Support Office);
- ▶ providing support with finding a place to live after leaving refugee camp;
- ▶ providing any other necessary activities which could help in integration process and which were agreed in IIP.

Refugee's obligations

Due to IIP refugee is obligated to:

- ▶ register at District Office;
- ▶ register and remain in contact with Job Office;
- ▶ search for a job;
- ▶ participate in Polish language courses if it is necessary;
- ▶ contact social worker (minimum two times a month);
- ▶ cooperate with social worker;
- ▶ honor all commitments agreed in IIP.

Individual Integration Program (IIP)

RESTRICTIONS

- ▶ If refugee do not honor commitments agreed in IIP, especially when he or she do not attend Polish language course, spend money in a manner inconsistent with the purpose, do not contact social worker and do not make efforts to integrate with local society etc., there is a possibility to hold or deny further assistance.

Housing support

- ▶ Foreigners who were granted refugee status or subsidiary protection have the same rights to housing support like Polish citizens. They can apply for a social house/flat in district where they live.



Housing support

City of Warsaw in cooperation with Warsaw Family Support Centre additionally provide two special housing programmes for refugees:

- ▶ **housing programme for refugees (5 flats)**
 - ▶ every year refugees who fulfilled IIP and live in Warsaw can apply for a special flat only for refugees. Flats are granted to those refugee families which level of integration is high, which are in difficult housing situation and difficult living conditions.
- ▶ **„protected flat” or „training flat”**
 - ▶ Warsaw Family Support Centre can assign for 12 months (+ possible extension) a special flat for refugee family which is in difficult situation and which needs special additional support in a place where it lives.

Additional support provided by Warsaw Family Support Center

Integration projects cofound from EU programs

- ▶ Integration for independence: 546 refugees participated between 2008 and 2015



Additional support provided by Warsaw Family Support Center

- ▶ **Welcome to Warsaw:** integration activities for about 200 refugees (2016-2017)



UNIA EUROPEJSKA
FUNDUSZ AZYLU,
MIGRACJI I INTEGRACJI

Additional support provided by Warsaw Family Support Center

Type of support	Integration for independence	Welcome to Warsaw
Social work	✓	✓
Labour and housing assistant	✓	✓
Individual consultations (employment advisor, nurse, psychologist etc.)	✓	✓
Vocational training	✓	
Self-presentation and legal workshops	✓	
Polish language courses	✓	✓
Workshops for women	✓	
Information leaflets for refugees		✓

Additional support provided by Warsaw Family Support Center

- ▶ „Support-Activation-Inclusion”:
integration activities (vocational courses,
Polish language course, social and
professional counseling) for refugees
(2017-2018)





EUMIGRO
Jean Monnet Module

Thank you

Dominik Wach

