

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is part of the UN system as the leading intergovernmental organization promoting humane and managed migration for the benefit of all. IOM was founded in 1951. It currently has 175 Member States and is present in 171 countries.

IOM has been working in the Czech Republic since 1998 and focuses on supporting and integrating migrants into society. It works closely with the Czech government, NGOs, academia and the private sector to improve migration policies and contribute to raising awareness of migration trends and challenges.

## TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN CZECHIA

In total, more than **620,000** persons from Ukraine have been granted temporary protection status in Czechia of whom **360,231** had active status as of 30 June 2024. With a population of approximately 10.8 million people, the Czech Republic ranks among the countries with the highest number of refugees from Ukraine in terms of population size.

## MAIN CHALLENGES

- **Unused labour potential:** Two-thirds of refugees work in jobs that do not match their skills, which reduces their income, prevents them from reaching their full potential and limits their social status and integration.
- **Inadequate working conditions:** Nearly three-fifths of refugees in the Czech Republic work in conditions with at least two features of precarization, such as harsh conditions, financial stress, job insecurity or lack of legal and social protection.
- **Language barrier:** Although the Czech language skills of temporary protection holders are improving, two-fifths do not reach a sufficient level (B2+) for full employment. Lower proficiency in Czech limits opportunities in the labour market and hinders the use of services and integration.
- **Discrimination:** More than half of refugees have experienced verbal attacks and discrimination, especially when looking for work and housing.
- **Unavailability of suitable housing:** Approximately one-sixth of refugees still live in substandard emergency or non-residential housing, making integration difficult.
- **Mental health care:** Almost half of refugees suffer from symptoms of depression or anxiety, and access to mental health care is limited due to language barriers, finances or the capacity of care providers.

## OUR WORK

### SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION



- **Promoting ethical employment:** Training for employers, sharing good practice with an emphasis on fair working conditions.
- **Prevention of labour exploitation:** Knowledge dissemination on labour law among temporary protection holders, providing legal assistance and information on Czech legislation.
- **Integration into the labour market:** Career counselling, language courses, retraining, recognition of qualifications.
- **Pilot project of intercultural mediators in labour inspections:** Streamlining inspections of foreign workers' rights and identification of exploitation in cooperation with the state administration (SÚIP).
- **Inter-sectoral cooperation:** Strengthening dialogue between migration-focused sectors and capacity development of both governmental and non-governmental sectors.

### HOUSING SUPPORT



- **Promoting rental housing:** Raising awareness of legislative changes and effective housing search.
- **Tools for finding accommodation:** Development and optimisation of tools for monitoring available accommodation.
- **Supporting contact points:** Methodological assistance to assist migrants and refugees with housing issues.
- **Prevention of homelessness:** Mapping the needs of homeless people and developing a methodology for working with them.

## ADVISING AND PROVIDING RELIABLE INFORMATION



- **Informing on legislation:** Raising awareness of temporary protection holders about changes in the legislation of Lex Ukraine.
- **Social and legal counselling:** Operation of the information line and dissemination of information on social networks.
- **Staff training:** Capacity building of direct labour staff on legislative changes and social benefits.
- **Promoting financial literacy:** Strengthening the capacity of actors in debt issues, debt repayment and foreclosure prevention.

## ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTING THE AID SYSTEM



- **Support for community centres:** Long-term support for diaspora organisations in creating an environment of tolerant coexistence.
- **Support for youth:** Support for low-care facilities and outreach services assisting adolescents to integrate into society.
- **Psychosocial support:** Training in the basics of psychosocial support for professionals.
- **Supporting intercultural workers:** Creating tools and capacity building for more effective work.
- **Crime prevention:** Supporting the involvement of the migrant community in the Crime Prevention Assistant (CP) project.
- **Data and analysis:** Collecting and evaluating data on the needs of the migrant and refugee community.

## PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



- **Psychosocial support:** Mental health care for refugees from Ukraine who have experienced traumatic situations and have to cope with stressful experiences.
- **Voluntary return and reintegration:** Ensuring the dignified and safe return of migrants to their country of origin.
- **Gender-based violence prevention:** Raising awareness and information on the assistance available to victims.
- **Sexual exploitation:** Promoting zero tolerance of sexual abuse.
- **Social inclusion:** Supporting vulnerable refugees in excluded localities.
- **Supporting people exposed to combat experience in Ukraine:** Developing a support network in cooperation with the state administration and the NGO sector.



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