

## How to build partnerships & advocate for humanitarian action

## What impact have you experienced in your humanitarian response by joining the network of organisations who are supporting the Ukrainian refugees?



Scouts from Slovakia showed that they are very supportive and willing to help where needed.

By counting with the direct support of Ukrainian professionals at the Bottova Center and hiring different Ukrainian refugees to assist at the center, the NSO rapidly saw the benefits from counting with their perspective and insights in the design and delivery of the different activities. With the inputs from the 10 Ukrainian refugees who were working at the center, the NSO came up with a program where people from Ukraine could be effectively supported. Some of these activities was the delivery of daily Slovak language conversations classes with the centre's clients.

Building on the importance of creating a common response, the NSO also meet on a regular basis with the municipality of Bratislava, where they resolved the most effective way of assistance to refugees in the city. Slovak Scouting signed a memorandum with the Ministry of the Interior to agree on a common and cooperative response to the emergency situation in connection with the arrival of a large number of people from Ukraine to the territory of the Slovak Republic caused by the escalation of the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine.

Thanks to this approach the NSO is now part of an active and network of national organisations that are assisting the different vulnerable groups in the country.

## How did you build a partnership with the Scouts Institute?

The Scout Institute in Prague is an independent legal entity founded by Scouts in order to further spread Scout ideals and values.

Since the very beginning of the war in Ukraine, employees and volunteers of Scout Institute played a crucial role in scout help to the Ukrainians: they coordinated the collections of necessary materials and sent it to Ukraine or to the refugees in Czech Republic, gradually they have founded 2 hotels to ubicate the refugees and they have founded community center "Svitlo" to provide the refugees safe space, advices, and eventually also various courses for both children and their parents.

Since the beginning of the war, the NSO and the Institute were connected in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. At the end of 2022, programme team of UAct project identified persistent or new needs of Ukrainian children and following activities were designed:

- Adaptation-Integration courses for Ukrainian children
- Children's corner
- Workshops and hobby courses for Ukrainian children: arts, yoga, English, piano
- Preparation for secondary school entrance exams
- Career courses for high school students and university students
- Self-development groups for boys
- Therapeutic group for older children

Together, the NSO and the Institute started to implement these activities in mid- February. Whil the management and oversight of the activities stayed in the UAct team, the Scout Institute implemented them.

Both partners set a regular reporting process via online google tools and together discussed every issue that arised and searched for solutions.

The benefits of this cooperation were considerable, as the Scout institute is an experienced and well - established partner for these kinds of activities, therefore the start of the implementation of activities was as smooth and easy as possible in the otherwise unpredictable situation.

