

How to encourage the integration of Ukrainian refugee children into Scouting

How do you promote the integration of young people and adolescents?



Czechia NSO rapidly identified as the Ukrainian youngs between 15 – 19 years old being one of the most vulnerable and difficult to reach groups. Being this the main reason why the NSO focused a large part of their action in developing a programme and delivering activities that would welcome this age group.

This in mind, in November 2022 the NSO launched a pilot trip which got many more applications than expected, this already indicated the willingness and interests from the target group. The Ukrainian youngs who joined this trip reflected on how socially isolated they were and appreciated the trip as an opportunity to relax.

From this moment, the NSO adjusted their program and focused on games where participants could get to know each other. Additionally the NSO started to actively share through different social media groups such as Telgram, Facebook or Instagram the different activities envisioned for young people and adolescents and encouraged Ukrainian youngs, whether they were Scouts or not, to join them.

To ease their participation in the Scout camps, the NSO shared with those Ukrainian youngs who did not have the camping materials, their equipments and packages.

These trips were all financed through the UAct project. The integration during trips is usually very easy and natural, activities like boardgames, hiking, skiing, outdoor games, cooking together etc. help communication between Czech and Ukrainian participants