

NA ODNOMU KORABLI

The abstract of the case study describes the practice of the project Na Odnomu Korabli

Project Implementer

The project „Na odnomu korabli“ was implemented by MAS Frýdlantsko, z. s., a regional organization focused on supporting and developing rural areas. MAS brings together municipalities, entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations, and individuals to collectively improve the quality of life in the region.

Project Objectives

The project aimed to ensure a high-quality and sustainable approach to integrating Ukrainian refugees in the Frýdlant region. It focused on supporting refugees, assisting local institutions, and reducing tensions between local residents and newcomers. Additionally, the project sought to connect activities across municipalities and establish a foundation for cooperation among professionals and other stakeholders in the region.

Project Activities

The project included three key activities:

- **Coordination** – Providing practical support to refugees in navigating their new environment, accompanying them to offices, translating, and assisting with legal and everyday issues.
- **Integration** – Running community centers, organizing cultural and educational events, language clubs, and other activities promoting social inclusion.
- **Project Management** – Coordinating activities, public communication, and monitoring outcomes.



Target Group

The project's target group consisted of **Ukrainian refugees**, particularly women with children, who needed help adapting to their new environment and society. Another key group included the **general public**, comprising local residents and professionals (such as doctors, teachers, and civil servants) who interacted with refugees in their daily work.

Project Benefits

The project brought significant benefits to both the target group and the wider community. By connecting municipalities, utilizing community centers, and engaging a wide range of stakeholders, the project **not only improved the quality of life for refugees but also strengthened interpersonal relationships, enhanced community cohesion, and supported local institutions in their work.**

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There were notable improvements in **socio-cultural orientation and independence**. Refugees learned to better navigate their new environment, understand local conditions, access public services, handle everyday situations, and reduce their initial dependency on external assistance, such as administrative processes, finding housing, or accessing healthcare.

“We faced many challenges. We went to the Free-klub to see the coordinator and other staff, and they helped us with various issues, including healthcare, employment offices, banks... Everything we encountered in life, which was very difficult due to the language barrier... Thanks to the coordinators, we could resolve it.” (project participant)

Interpreter services facilitated communication between refugees and institutions, improving access to healthcare, education, and other public services.

“There was a pediatrician here who refused to treat refugees unless the project coordinator was present because he couldn't understand them.” (collaborating organization/subject)

Community centers, open to the general public, provided spaces for meetings and relationship-building while also fulfilling refugees' need for mutual support and solidarity. This not only met social needs but also contributed to **psychological stability and accelerated their integration into local society**. Language clubs helped refugees learn Czech and gain confidence in using it, fostering independence, enabling them to handle matters without external help, and boosting their self-esteem.

Crucially, the project's activities strengthened relationships between refugees and local residents, reducing prejudice, mistrust, and fostering intercultural understanding.

A total of **331 Ukrainian refugees received support, with 57 individuals receiving over 40 hours** of direct assistance.

Best Practices

The project successfully **addressed refugee needs across the entire Frýdlant region** and connected previously isolated "intercultural" workers in different municipalities. Uniting them under one organization enhanced knowledge-sharing, collaborative problem-solving, and peer learning.

The project **emphasized cooperation between municipalities, local actors, and institutions**. It leveraged existing strong relationships within MAS and skillfully utilized local knowledge and resources. MAS played a crucial role in transferring its accumulated social capital to this new area of support. The project also built on previously established activities following the arrival of refugees and effectively connected previously isolated stakeholders, ensuring broader support for refugees across the entire Frýdlant region (including remote villages).

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The combination of activities provided comprehensive support to both individuals and local institutions. Community centers created a unique space for intercultural communication and breaking down barriers between communities, helping refugees maintain their identity while receiving essential solidarity.

The use of social media proved effective in reaching and communicating with the target group.

Challenges and Barriers

For frontline workers, **maintaining a boundary between their professional and personal lives was a long-term challenge**. Due to the high and often constant demand for assistance, staff were frequently contacted outside of working hours with non-urgent issues. Introducing clear working hours, limiting contact outside designated times (e.g., requesting text messages instead of calls), and strengthening the independence of the target group brought relief, improved work efficiency, and helped maintain a work-life balance.

