

EDUHUBS AT POLISH GOVERNMENT REFUGEE RESPONSE EVENT

Warsaw, 15.02.2024

<u>Poland</u> is hosting the largest refugee population with over 1 mln, of whom 90% are women, children and elderly persons.

Representatives of the Polish Government, UNHCR and over 100 grassroots organisations launched an appeal to mobilise financial and other types of support for the most vulnerable refugees in Poland, Ukraine and other countries.

The focus of the <u>Humanitarian Response Plan for Ukraine</u> is investing in the capacity of refugees and human capital for the future for the benefit of both Poland and Ukraine. ASPIRE's <u>Education Hub</u> project has been doing just that since May 2022. The project operates as an ASPIRE-Ignatianum partnership with Krakow's business service centres providing educational spaces for Ukrainian teenagers and the Ignatianum Foundation organising volunteers and educational programmes.

Find out more - ASPIRE Education Hub (youtube.com)

According to the Polish Ministry of Education 180.000 Ukrainian children are enrolled in formal education. But that's only half of estimated children & youth of school age, most of whom are participating in non-formal education programmes or not attending school at all. Supporting Ukrainian teenagers will continue to be a priority.

"Given there is no end to the War in sight, we are looking to scale the Education Hub project though a partnership approach that engages more businesses, the City of Krakow, regional authorities, the UNHCR, civil society groups and most importantly the Ukrainian community in Krakow. This should be seen as an investment opportunity to build social capital for our city" said Rafal Serafin, who represented ASPIRE and the Ignatianum Jesuit University partnership at the event.

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