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Activities of the Emergency Service of Boy-Scouts and Girl-Scouts of the Małopolska District in the Scope of Assistance for War Refugees from Ukraine in the Light of Messages From the Scout Headquarters and Scouts Reports

Original article

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Abstract

Objectives: The main purpose of the article is to show examples of help from the Polish authorities and society for Ukrainian war refugees by using the example of the activity of the Emergency Service of Boy-Scouts and Girl-Scouts (PHiH) of the Polish Scouting Association (ZHR) after the Russian aggression against Ukraine, undertaken on February 24, 2022.

Methods: The source basis for the study is documents regarding the activities of the Emergency Service of Boy-Scouts and Girl-Scouts and reports on the service on the Polish-Ukrainian border, available on the ZHR websites, the Facebook social network, and messages from the PHiH Staff of the Małopolska District of the ZHR. Due to the current development of events, the author has adopted a descriptive model focused on describing the current situation in Ukraine.

Results: The author described the activities of the PHiH in the Małopolska District of the ZHR, showing various aspects of the scout service for war refugees. After the Russian aggression in Ukraine, more than 7 million people, mainly women and children, fled from that country to neighbouring countries, most of them to Poland. In the face of war refugees in need of help, Polish scout organisations, including Małopolska District of the ZHR joined the auxiliary service in Krakow and on the border with Ukraine, the activities of the ZHR result from the Law and the Scout Promise.

Conclusions: The result of the article is a description of the service of PHiH scouts and scouts for Ukrainian war refugees and its examples. It is an important contribution to attempts to describe the Russian-Ukrainian war in its various aspects, and its content fits into its context.

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Introduction

At dawn on 24 February 2022. The Russian Federation attacked Ukraine for no reason. Probably aware of the Russian threat, the authorities and society of this country were making preparations to repel the expected Russian aggression. This was evident from autumn 2021 onwards, as Russian troops concentrated their troops over the Ukrainian border, in Crimea, and in vassalised Belarus. In August 2021, the Belarusian regime launched, with Russian approval, a hybrid attack with demographic weapons (so-called refugees) on Lithuania and Latvia and then on Poland. Even a day before the start of the war, on 23 February 2022, the presidents of Poland and Lithuania, Andrzej Duda and Gitanas Nausėda, were in Kiev to express solidarity with the authorities and citizens of Ukraine threatened by Russia.

The purpose of this paper is to attempt to show the activities of the Scouting Ambulance, still established in March 2020, after the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in Poland, against the background of the social upsurge in the work of helping Ukrainian refugees. As the covid-19 human aid service was underway, after 24 February 2022, many scouts and civilian volunteers began first spontaneously and then in an organized manner to join the relief efforts for the masses of Ukrainian refugees arriving in Poland. Many of them had traumatic war experiences behind them: the death of loved ones, collapsing or burning houses, the screams and cries of murdered people, corpses lying on the streets of Bucza or other towns in eastern and southern Ukraine and because SERVICE is inscribed in the scout upbringing, hence scout organisations almost immediately joined in, just as they did in 1914, 1918, 1920, 1939, 1980 and after 1989. Also the author of the present text - as an instructor of the Małopolska Scouting ZHR¹ - took part in the said service in Krakow, and hence he sees the service "from the inside".

In connection with the content of the article, which refers to the Russian aggression against Ukraine, as well as the aid given to refugees by the Scouts' Emergency of the Małopolska ZHR District, the following research hypotheses should be put forward:

1. The Russian Federation attacked Ukraine without any justification for invasion, beginning logistical preparations and preparing starting positions for aggression in 2021-2022, with vassalised Belarus and Iran on its side. In response, Ukrainian forces began to defend the independence and territorial integrity of the state. Ukraine was supported by NATO countries, the European Union, the USA, Canada, and many other free-world countries.
2. In the face of Russian aggression, more than 7 million people, mostly women and children, fled from Ukraine to neighbouring countries, most to Poland.
3. In the face of war refugees in need of help, Polish scout organisations, including the Małopolska District of the Polish Scouting Association, stood up to provide assistance in Krakow (Old Railway Station, Galeria Krakowska and other points) and on the border with Ukraine. Our activities stem from the Scout Law and Pledge, which speak of service to God, Poland, and neighbour.

¹ Polish Scouting Association

The research was based on documents relating to the activities of the Scouts' Emergency of the Małopolska District of the Polish Scouting Association, accounts of service on the Polish-Ukrainian border and communications of the PHiH Staff. Research material is available on the ZHR website and on the Facebook social network. It should be noted that so far there is no study of the scouting service in the Malopolska District of the ZHR - this is the first article on the subject, hence its text is a novelty in the aforementioned research topic. The article is a testimony to the fact that in the face of the Russian invasion, the Polish authorities and society did not remain indifferent, being aware that if we do not help Ukraine today, tomorrow Russian missiles and bombs will fly on Warsaw, London, Prague, or even Berlin, which is "conciliatory" towards Russia.

1. Selected examples of administrative and local government activity and social mobilization in Poland

The Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine has led to potentially the largest refugee wave in Europe since and immediately after the Second World War. As Jadwiga Rogoża of the Centre for Eastern Studies noted: "[...] from the morning of 24 February, intensified westbound traffic was recorded on the roads: some people, including residents of Kiev - fearing a siege of the city - were heading (or evacuating their families) to the west of the country, while the rest were going abroad - mainly to Poland, but also to other EU neighbours and Moldova. The number of people leaving their permanent place of residence is estimated by the Ukrainian media to be at least 100,000, while those leaving the country, tens of thousands (border crossings with Poland were crossed by 30,000 people last day)." [Rogoża 25 II 2022].

The number of refugees from Ukraine has rapidly exceeded the number seeking legal protection and entry to the European Union since the refugee crisis of 2015-2016, when 2383.7 thousand asylum applications were registered in the EU, not all of which were granted (during the 'stabilisation' phase of this crisis in 2017-2021, a further 2747.8 thousand applications were accepted [Eurostat 22 XI 2022]). The vast majority were from Asian countries, mainly Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan, and from African countries. Meanwhile, according to a 16 March 2022 UN report, 3.3 million refugees left Ukraine after only three weeks of war, and 6.5 million more became internal refugees, mainly in its western part, representing a total of 23% of the country's population [Uchodźcy z Ukrainy, 20 III 2022]. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), some 3726,000 refugees, mainly women and children, including infants, arrived in countries bordering Ukraine between 24 February and 24 March [Zołędowski 2022, p. 4]. In contrast, according to a report by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, published in June 2022. 65 % of Ukrainians who went abroad after the start of the war plan to stay in their country of residence, 9 % want to move to another country (most to Germany - 33 %, Czech Republic - 7 % and Canada - 5 %). 16 % of those surveyed intend to return to their country in the next two months, but the vast majority only for a certain period of time, to reunite with their families. According to UNHCR estimates, 5.6 million of the 8.8 million Ukrainians who left the country after 24 February remain abroad: the largest number of refugees registered in

Poland (1.2 million), Germany (900 000), the Czech Republic (391 000), Turkey (150 000) and Italy (150 000) [Niczypor & Rogoża & Matuszak, 14 VII 2022].

According to information from the United Nations, more than 8.4 million people fled Ukraine after the outbreak of the war, of which almost 5.5 million refugees were in the European area. Of this number, 4.48 million came to Poland, and some refugees returned to Ukraine between April and June [Ilu uchodźców 22 VII 2022]. On 7 March alone, 141,500 refugees had crossed the Ukrainian-Polish border and a total of 1.2 million people since the start of the invasion. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 1.7 million people left Ukraine on 6 March. Most (1.027 million) moved to Poland, 180,000 to Hungary, 128,000 to Slovakia, 83,000 to Moldova, and 79,000 to Romania. 184,000 went to other European countries, and 53,300 to Russia. Approximately 200,000 IDPs are staying in Lviv, some of them staying there for a few nights and then going abroad [Wilk & Żochowski 8 III 2022]. By 12 March, a total of 1.67 million people had entered Poland since the start of the invasion [Wilk & Żochowski & Rogoża 13 III 2022].

With the largest number of refugees, Poland has become the main hub for their next journey or their decision to stay. Since the beginning of the war, 7.051 million people fleeing the war have arrived. However, some of them went outside Poland or, successively, returned to the country. In the period 24 February-15 October, more than 5.254 million people returned from Poland to Ukraine [Ilu uchodźców 15 X 2022].

A precise determination of their number is hampered by the different ways in which migrants are registered in different countries and, above all, by the lack of controls at the EU's internal borders and the relatively high and increasing mobility of refugees within the Union. For example, in Germany, the destination of many refugees, 225,400 arrivals from Ukraine had been recorded by 21 March. However, these figures only include those registered at reception centers and offices for foreigners and omit those arriving with family and friends under visa-free travel arrangements. In addition to Germany, during the first weeks of the war, numerous refugees from Ukraine also made their way to the Czech Republic (270,000), as well as to: Bulgaria (78,000), Italy (59,600), Estonia (25,200), Lithuania (23,800), and France (20,000). Some continued to move to other countries, eg, more than half of those who arrived in Bulgaria and more than one in four refugees who ended up in Estonia [Żołędowski 2022, p. 5]. The European Commission enacted a directive giving refugees from Ukraine the right to stay and work in the European Union for up to three years and to social, medical, and livelihood assistance for up to one year. The United States has also announced a relaxation of deportation and work permit laws for Ukrainian nationals [Wilk & Żochowski 4 III 2022].

The first news of the war launched by Russia, which the Russian authorities described in propaganda as a 'special operation' and 'denazification', triggered a natural opposition and rebellion in Poland and elsewhere in the world. However, the emotions quickly subsided as help had to be given to the refugees, of whom there were more and more in the following days.

From the beginning of the war, the Polish authorities, both the government administration and local governments, took action to help the refugees. It should be noted that

in Poland no camps were built near the border with Ukraine, everyone was treated equally, and everyone had a chance to receive the help they needed.

In light of the observation of events related to the reception of refugees in Poland, the analysis of statements by government representatives, and official documents, it is possible to speak of an inclusive one which has the following characteristics:

- openness to all war refugees from Ukraine fleeing from the war; any war refugee choosing Poland as a country of destination or transit will be accepted,
- Solidarity between the community of the Polish nation and the Polish state; the organization of assistance and support for war refugees from Ukraine is a common matter for public and nonpublic entities of the state and Polish society;
- integration of refugees into Polish society; the aid system developed in action is to activate Ukrainian refugees to take up "immediately" the social and economic roles interrupted by the war,
- abandonment of relocation; Poland will not solicit assistance coordinated by the EU or international organizations in the final destination of refugees [Firlit-Fesnak 2022, p. 12].

Regarding the formal public management of the refugee crisis, the responsibility for the procedures related to the legalisation of the refugees' stay in Poland, coordination and provision of the rights granted by law rests with the public administration bodies [Dz.U. 2021, item 735] according to their competences set out in a number of specific normative acts [Dz.U. 1990, no. 16, item 95; Dz.U. 2021, item 1285; Dz.U. 2021, item 2268; Dz.U. 2022, item 615; Dz.U. 2021, item 1915; Dz.U. 2022, item 690]. The function of coordinating the actions of the public administration with regard to the refugee crisis on the territory of each voivodeship falls to the voivode, who, in accordance with the Act of 23 January 2009 on the voivode and government administration in the voivodeship by law, is responsible for carrying out the objectives and tasks of the policy of the Council of Ministers [Journal of Laws 2022, item 135].

The creation of reception points in all regions of Poland was progressing smoothly - on 6 March 2022 there were seven in the Lubelskie Voivodeship, six in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, and 14 in each of the other voivodeship cities, but in view of the influx of thousands of refugees, problems with organising the process of their onwards destination were experienced particularly by large cities such as Kraków, Warsaw, and Wrocław. On 9 March 2022, Krakow's Deputy Mayor Andrzej Kulig stated that the city's absorption capacity was organic. According to Magistrate's calculations, there were up to 90,000 refugees in Kraków, and more the city could not take [More and more refugees, 9 III 2022]. The Director of the Social Policy and Health Department of the Cracow City Hall, Elżbieta Kois-Żurek, on the other hand, pointed out that refugee issues had to be solved systemically, knowing that three cities in Poland: Warsaw, Wrocław and Krakow were the most burdened, and therefore there was no possibility of further dislocation in Krakow. E. Kois-Żurek stated, among other things: "They need to be told that there are other places in Poland where they will be welcomed just as warmly. We will continue to provide assistance with our resources and

forces, but for those who need comfortable and safe shelter, the movement should be organised so that they are transferred to other places" [ibidem].

The main problems related to the 'siege' of railway stations, inefficiencies in the information system, lack of coordination of relief efforts, deficits in psychological support, deficits or excesses in the provision of 'essential' products and items for refugees by various donors, lack of control and registry of those offering a place to live to refugees. However, the time of 'chaos' usually did not last long; after a few days, also in the cities with the highest influx of refugees, reasonably coherent and well-functioning structures of the refugee assistance system were developed, implementing the forms of benefits regulated by the Law of 12 March 2022 on assistance to refugees. As a good example, information from Krakow of 16 March on the organisation of assistance for refugees in Krakow can serve as a good example: "In addition to the posts assigning PESEL numbers, there are already points set up by the Municipal Social Assistance Centre, the Grodzki Urząd Pracy in Krakow, as well as a ZUS point and one dealing with education. They deal with matters relating to the issue of 300 zloty for anyone who crossed the border after the outbreak of war; they present job offers, of which there are already almost a thousand, and will deal with matters relating to continuing education in Polish schools. According to the announcements, about 30 employees of the Marshal's Office and the city will work in the Tauron Arena. The operation of the point will be continuously reinforced by employees delegated by the government, e.g. from the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture and the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund. Employees of the Department of Foreigners' Affairs of the provincial office are also expected to be ready to assist" [Ruined, 16 III 2022].

In connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine, on 12 March 2022. The Parliament of the Republic of Poland adopted a law on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in the country, setting out specific rules for the legalisation of residence of citizens of Ukraine and public forms of assistance to all refugees who arrived in the territory of the Republic of Poland from the territory of that country. Pursuant to this act, Ukrainian citizens were able to: legalise their residence (by assigning a PESEL number²), take up legal employment, receive monetary and nonmonetary benefits, bring up and educate their children, acquire the rights of Polish citizens accepting refugees, Poland honoured and recognised the rights of Ukrainian students, academics, teachers or persons wishing to undertake legal economic activity in Poland. According to the content of the aforementioned law, they received medical care and could take a photograph for a document legalising their stay. In addition, the government created the Assistance Fund, defined the areas of funding of local governments' expenditures to assist refugees from targeted subsidies from the state budget, the rules for refugees' use of PFRON³, the Solidarity Fund and the European Fund for Aid to the Most Deprived. Apart from that, the compensation for overtime hours for employees of the Border Guard Service, the State Fire Service, the Customs and Excise Service, the State Protection Service, and the Internal Security Agency have been established [Dz. U. 2022, nr 583].

² personal identification number

³ In Poland: The State Fund for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled

Since 18 March, the transfer of money from the Assistance Fund to local governments and nongovernmental organisations providing assistance to refugees from Ukraine has started, based on their documented expenses and costs incurred for this purpose [Ministry of Internal Affairs, 18 III 2022]. According to the Minister of Education, Przemysław Czarnek, by 19 March, 75,000 Ukrainian students had enrolled in Polish schools, while by 28 March this number had risen to 130,000 [Czarnek: In the Polish system, 29 III 2022]. From 24 March, enrolment for Polish language courses organised by the Centre for Education Development began, with 900 enrolled on 28 March. From 26 March, the Social Insurance Institution began accepting electronic applications for “500 plus” assistance⁴, for refugees from Ukraine who have a special PESEL, a bank account in Poland and a Polish telephone number [Program 500+, 26 III 2022].

The influx of refugees from Ukraine has resulted in perhaps the greatest mobilisation of Polish society in the 21st century, comparable in some respects to the activism revealed in the political watersheds of recent decades: the mass Solidarity movement of 1980-1981 and the regime changes of 1989 [Ołdak 2022, pp. 23-26]. Without civic engagement, helping refugees in Poland would have been much less effective, and in many ways probably impossible. The huge aid spurt did not lack state authorities, government administration, local self-governments, the Catholic Church and other religious associations, the NSZZ "Solidarność" and non-governmental organisations, including scouting organisations operating in Poland and abroad. Activities in support of victims of the war in Ukraine included:

- the provision of shelter in Poland, including the coordination of housing assistance. Activities in this area are carried out by, among others: Kamilińska Misja Pomocy, Towarzystwo Pomocy im. Św. Brata Alberta in cooperation with Wrocławskie Spółdzielnia Socjalna, Stowarzyszenie Pomocy Bliźniemu im. Brata Krystyna, Spółdzielnia Socjalna Blues Hostel, Fundacja Habitat for Humanity Polska, Ukrainian House in Warsaw run by the 'Nasz Wybór' Foundation, Fundacja Ocalenie, informal Grupa Zasób- Warszawa, Wielka Orkiestra Świątecznej Pomocy, Elbląskie Stowarzyszenie Wspierania Inicjatyw Pozarządowych, informal group Chlebem i Solą, Poles for refugees, Fundacja im. Lena Grochowska, the Węgrowianka Social;
- cooperative, and volunteer fire brigades from all over the country;
- transport: volunteer fire brigades, among others;
- purchase and delivery of medical equipment to Ukraine: e.g. WOŚP⁵ and volunteer fire brigades;
- collection and delivery of military and optical equipment: inter alia, Polish Hunting Association, All-Poland Association for the Protection of Birds, REC Poland Regional Environmental Centre;

⁴ In Poland, each child up to 18 years of age is entitled to a financial allowance of PLN 500

⁵ Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity – a Polish organization that has been organizing large fundraisers for medical assistance for Poles for over 20 years (<https://en.wosp.org.pl/>)

- assistance and care for children: inter alia, SOS Children's Villages Association, Caritas of the Opole Diocese, Fundacja Świętego Mikołaja; Fundacja Polki Moga Wszystko, Fundacja Polsat, Spółdzielnia Socjalna OGNIWO;
- support for people with disabilities: i.a. Polish Deaf Association, Mudita Association, SMA Foundation, Deaf Youth Academy Foundation, Step by Step Association for Disabled Children, Prodeste Foundation, Eudajmonia Foundation, Polish Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability, Physiotherapy Poland Association;
- support for LGBT+ people: Stonewall Group, Lambda Warsaw, Perpetual Help Group, Wrzenie Foundation, Interakcja Foundation; education, including Polish language learning: e.g. Centre for Civic Education, Our Choice Foundation, Dajemy Dzieciom Siłę Foundation, Ukrainian Education Centre Foundation, Ukrainian House in Poland;
- psychological support: inter alia Polish Migration Forum, Nagle Sami Foundation, RAZEM Foundation for Psychological Help and Social Education;
- information support and legal aid: inter alia, Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre, Ocalenie Foundation, Multicultural Centre in Warsaw, Polish Migration Forum, Association for Legal Intervention, Ukrainian House in Warsaw, Support Centre for Immigrant Women and Immigrants, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, NOMADA Association for Integration and Multicultural Society;
- integration assistance: Ocalenie Foundation, Homo Faber Association, among others;
- career counselling: Immigrant Women and Immigrants Support Centre, Migration Research Centre Foundation, Foundation for Somalia; animal care: e.g. International Movement for Animals Viva! Foundation, Centaurus Foundation, Koteria Foundation, Skawińsk Animal Welfare Association, Krakow Animal Care Society [Ołdak 2022, pp. 23-26].

The most important trade union centres in Poland and many trade unions (e.g. NSZZ Solidarność, OPZZ, ZNP, Konfederacja Pracy and many other trade union organisations issued statements condemning the Russian aggression against Ukraine, and many launched collections in support of Ukrainian residents and refugees. Various information materials and helplines were also set up to help these people find their way in the labour market (e.g. OPZZ, Confederation of Labour), while the NSZZ Solidarność organised a financial collection. In addition, the union also provided accommodation for more than 500 people at its training and recreation centres in Spala and Jarnołtówek, and in-kind collections were organised, e.g. to equip the above-mentioned centres with fridges and equipment necessary to launch children's playrooms in them and to create suitable conditions for remote learning for Ukrainian students [Solidarność pomaga 17 III 2022].

On 14 March, the NSZZ Solidarity National Commission appealed to trade unionists, members of European Works Councils, to call for the withdrawal of their parent transnational corporations from their activities in Russia ["March of Dignity" 17 III 2022]. On 7 March, the Presidium of the National Section for Education and Upbringing of the NSZZ "Solidarity" appealed to the Minister of Education and Science to urgently undertake talks on the difficult

situation in which Polish teachers and educational institutions found themselves, and the National Section for Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services, with the support of branch structures, organised a financial collection for the purchase of medical equipment and the organisation of sanitary convoys [National Ambulance Section 3 III 2022]. Thanks to it, among other things, two fully equipped ambulances with additional equipment and medical supplies were delivered to Ukraine) [Oświatowa Solidarność dla dzieci 7 III 2022].

The Polish Teachers' Union (ZNP) also joined the aid effort by organising tuition for Ukrainian pupils within the Polish educational system. On 8 March this year, ZNP submitted a request to the Minister of Education for the urgent implementation of solutions that would facilitate the work of schools and kindergartens in connection with the influx of large numbers of refugee children and youth. These included: the necessity to prepare an adequate number of Polish teachers as a foreign language, the necessity to provide an adequate number of textbooks for the study of Polish as a foreign language, to allow the general employment of teacher assistants, to provide refugee children with free school/preschool layettes and necessary textbooks, to provide students with appropriately organised pedagogical and psychological assistance (including allowing the diagnosis of development and traumas resulting from the experiences and situation in which they find themselves) [Postulaty ZNP 9 III 2022].

16 March 2022. ZNP submitted a request to the Ministry of Education and National Heritage to organize an urgent meeting with representatives of the union to discuss the current problems of the education system resulting from the sudden increase in the number of children and young people attending Polish kindergartens, schools, and other educational institutions. The union also formulated demands concerning the legal arrangement of education for children from Ukraine, including:

- changing the rules of assessment and grading for non-Polish citizens by excluding Ukrainian students from the generally applicable rules of assessment and grading in Polish schools (at least until the end of June);
- enabling Ukrainian teachers to take up teaching and teaching assistant positions; preparing an adequate number of teachers of Polish as a foreign language,
- providing an adequate number of textbooks for learning Polish as a foreign language,
- enabling the general employment of assistants in schools and kindergartens,
- providing refugee children with free school/kindergarten starter kits and necessary textbooks,
- providing pupils with appropriately organised pedagogical and psychological assistance [W polskiej szkole 16 III 2022].

ZNP also made a proposal to the Minister of Funds and Regional Policy to redirect unused funds from the European Social Fund to support educational institutions receiving Ukrainian children, in terms of preparing teachers of Polish as a foreign language, purchasing textbooks and school supplies, or employing assistants, and also prepared a mini-guide

entitled "How to talk about the war in Ukraine at school". "How to talk about the war in Ukraine at school?" [ZNP proposal 12 III 2022].

Various forms of informal assistance were also set in motion, such as women leaving baby prams, which were no longer necessary for them, for Ukrainian mothers to use - such situations occurred at railway stations in Przemyśl and other Polish cities. Internet applications were also created from the bottom up to help refugees find their way in the new reality, such as the "Druha we mnie masz" application⁶ 69 , which pairs young Ukrainians in need of camaraderie with their Polish peers, who act as a friend-mentor by Maria Trybus. Another important tool to support refugee assistance is community groups, most of which were established immediately after the Russian invasion. In addition to nationwide groups, there are many local groups through which helpers can exchange information and respond to the ongoing needs of those in need of support [Ołdak 2022, pp. 29-30].

Fundraising events were organised for refugees across the country on various sub-accounts set up online. Free shops, such as in Gdańsk, Tczew, Rybnik, Kraków and Myślenice, were active in support of refugees. An example of civic activism was the consumer boycott of companies that did not decide to leave the Russian market (e.g. Accor, Coca-Cola, Nestle, Leroy Merlin, Auchan, Decathlon, Asus, Pirelli, Reebok, LG Electronics, Oriflame, Metro, Reno, Unilever, Subway⁷⁸), as well as Russian products [Ołdak 2022, pp. 32-33]. As indicated by CBOS data, as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, up to 57% of respondents decided to boycott Russian products [Poles towards the Russian invasion 2022, p. 2]. As a form of expressing solidarity with the Ukrainian people, trolling campaigns to provide real information about the war in Ukraine to Russian residents using Google Maps [Chimiak 2014, p. 98].

There have been and continue to be civic protests outside the Russian Embassy in Warsaw and consulates in other cities. The first protest in front of the Russian embassy in Warsaw took place on 24 February this year at 10 am. Although it was organised spontaneously, it was attended by around 1,000 people expressing their opposition to Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine. Later the same day, another protest took place at 5.00 p.m., attended by around 5000 people. In the following days, further demonstrations took place and are still taking place, organised, among others, by the Union of Ukrainians in Poland, the Civic Committee of Solidarity with Ukraine, the Our Choice Foundation, and the Ukrainian House in Warsaw. Protests were also organised in Katowice, Poznan, Olsztyn, Białystok, Lodz, Krakow, Wroclaw, Gdansk, among others [Oldak 2022, p. 33].

In addition, at the border crossing in Koroszczyń, Lubelskie Voivodeship in March 2022, there were civic protests against the transport of goods to Russia and Belarus, which were attended daily by dozens of people, largely local residents. Another example of grassroots initiatives triggered by the military action in Ukraine are the murals. Numerous examples of artistic solidarity with Ukraine have already appeared in urban spaces (e.g. Mariusz Waras with the Pogoda Collective in Gdańsk, Jakub Sobczak with the WakeUpTime team in Gdańsk, Pieksa in Kraków, Kawu in Poznań, Good Looking Studio in Warsaw,

⁶ Application: You have a friend in me - aimed at providing assistance to Ukrainian citizens who started studying in Polish schools due to the war

anonymous murals were also created in Szczecin and Kędzierzyn-Koźle). In turn, posters expressing support for the Ukrainian nation were prepared by A. Pałowski, A. Morowiak, P. Kotyński, P. Szlotawa or H. Kmieć [ibidem, pp. 33-34]. The service of scout organisations for refugees, among them the Union of the Polish Scouts (Związek Harcerstwa Rzeczypospolitej), also fitted into the context of such spontaneous mobilisation.

2. Decision to undertake service for Ukrainian war refugees

Due to the fact that the war in Ukraine has started and the reaction to it: by the Polish authorities, government administration, and local governments, scout organizations also joined the service for refugees. On 24 February, the Headquarters of the Polish Scouting Association (ZHR) expressed its position towards the Russian aggression against Ukraine. In a special order, the President of the ZHR, hm⁷. Karol Sergey stated, among other things:

"it is with sadness, anger, and concern that we receive the news of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Our thoughts and prayers are with its citizens, especially with the scouts of the Ukrainian Plast⁸ and the scouts of the Polish Scouts in Ukraine. We also embrace the Ukrainians in Poland, above all our fellow scouts, and among them especially the members of the Plast - the Ukrainian Scout Organisation in Poland, which has been close to us since the beginnings of our organisations. We have worked with you in sunshine and joy, we will not leave you in times of storm and sorrow. [...] The Scout Association of the Republic of Poland is joined in helping Ukraine. We take up the service and the challenge" [Rozkaz Specjalny 24 II 2022].

In connection with the war in Ukraine, the President of the ZHR, Hm. Karol Siergiej appointed a Crisis Staff, consisting of Hm. Małgorzata Siergiej as Chief of Staff, and Hm. Justyna Kralisz, Hm. Michał Markowicz, Hm. Magdalena Ryniak, Hm. Wiesław Turzański and Hm. Adam Paczyn, who was responsible for the contact with the media [Sztab Kryzysowy 25 II 2022]. At the same time, he instructed the authorities of the ZHR Districts, the Emergency Scout Service (PHiH), and the Scout Rescue Service to undertake the service coordinated by this staff. Furthermore, the ZHR Headquarters undertook organisational activities in cooperation with the Union's authorities, with other scout organisations, as well as with state and local authorities in preparation for the start of the PHiH service, calling on "... all members, friends, and supporters of the ZHR to participate in solidarity and aid activities for Ukraine and its citizens" [Stanowisko ZHR 25 II 2022].

The day after the start of the war, on 25 February, the Crisis Staff issued the first communiqué, signed by Hm. Magdalena Ryniak in which she confirmed that the ZHR was joining the action to help Ukraine, and the Headmasters took organisational actions in cooperation with state authorities, local authorities, authorities of other scouting and nongovernmental organisations, the Polish Humanitarian Action, Caritas Poland, the National Blood Centre, the Polish Centre for International Aid, with provincial governors and government administration. The ZHR scouts and girl scouts began to organise inkind aid for families forced to leave Ukraine. To this end, a special ZHR sub-account was opened, in

⁷ scoutmaster

⁸ National Scout Organization - the largest educational organization for children and youth in Ukraine

which money could be deposited, for which food, cleaning products, dressing materials, transport, and decent housing conditions were purchased for the needy people from Ukraine [Komunikat Sztabu Kryzysowego 25 II 2022].

The Staff provided detailed information on the ZHR's activities in Communiqué No. 2 of 27 February, in which it confirmed the Union's involvement in the service for refugees from Ukraine. Furthermore, the communiqué stated, among other things, that: "[...] day-to-day communication is done internally through the business route. We only provide general information in the communication.

As mentioned, the ZHR authorities called on the members of the Association to actively join the Ukrainian refugee service. The main objective of the service organised by the ZHR was a national aid campaign, operating in every province, which, thanks to coordination, would be able to respond adequately to emerging needs regardless of the place and field of service. As far as the activities carried out by the Emergency Service are concerned, they are as follows: organising collections of products, information activities at the border and at railway stations throughout Poland, proper packing and addressing of parcels, sorting and organising warehouses, assistance with transports, service at the border in reception points for refugees, organisation of places where refugees are staying, and many other actions, adequately to current needs. According to the rules, ZHR members filled out questionnaires and were then contacted by district coordinators who informed them of the tasks and formal matters relating to the service they had undertaken. The ZHR also organised in-kind assistance for families forced to leave Ukraine. To this end, a special ZHR subaccount was opened into which funds are collected. From their pool, food, cleaning products, dressing materials, transport, and decent housing for the needy among the refugees were purchased.

Due to the trauma of the war, psychological support for refugees has proven to be very important, hence it has been organised and coordinated in the ZHR as a psychological support team of volunteers, coordinators, and team leaders. Its aim is to take care of the best possible condition of the helpers, in line with the principle that: "the support of the helper supports the helper", and Hm. Magdalena Leczkowska became its coordinator. Since 14 March, the ZHR Girl Scouts' Emergency Support Phone Line has also been in operation; scouts and girl scouts could share their emotional difficulties related to service, get advice on how to deal with difficult situations, and find out where to seek professional psychological help for themselves, their charges and refugees; telephone consultations are run by psychologists, pedagogues, and final-year students of these faculties. In a situation of great stress, this is a valuable initiative [Wsparcie psychologiczne 25 II 2022].

3. Malopolska District of the ZHR during the period of service (February-June 2022)

Along with the entire Polish Scouting Association, the boy-scouts and girl-scouts of the Malopolska District of the ZHR stood up to serve within the PHiH. On 24 February, the chairman of the district, hm. Krzysztof Wójtowicz emailed information to the tribal leaders and quartermasters asking them to familiarise themselves with it immediately and to remain in constant communication through intra-organisational channels. The main issue was the matter

of reactivating the structures of the Girl-Scouts Emergency from the covid-19 pandemic in order to undertake service to Ukraine, primarily in support of refugees [PHiH 24 II 2022].

Throughout the Malopolska district of the ZHR, mobilisation for service began. One of the first tasks was to set up the Emergency Staff of the Scouts of the Malopolska District of the ZHR, to define its main tasks, as well as how people should report for service. The designated emergency staff, to which the PHiH OM ZHR and HOPR were subordinate, was headed by phm. Maciej Skóra, as the PHiH provincial coordinator, and his deputy was phm. Małgorzata Mikulska. Apart from them, the staff included: phm Anna Czesak and Dominik Baran as coordinators of the Scouting Voluntary Rescue Service, Barbara Kurzyńska-Skóra as coordinator of the Malopolska District Scouts' Group, Jakub Palczewski as coordinator of the Malopolska District Group named after Andrzej Małkowski, and regional coordinators: Piotr Słowakiewicz from the Tatra Region, Joanna Korabik from Niepołomice and Sylwia Bożek from Wieliczka. Furthermore, there were also Skawina PHiH coordinators [PHiH 25 II 2022]. In order for people to sign up, members of the Staff also developed a questionnaire on the basis of which the group was verified on fb, which became the main source of information, although the most important information was provided through service channels, especially to instructors, and regionally directly. Initially, 16-year-old Scouts were accepted for service, but there was also an opportunity for younger ones to serve in the ranks of PHiH without completing the questionnaire. The response did not have to wait long - by the fourth day of the war, 28 February, there were already 400 volunteers in the ranks of PHiH [PHiH 25, 28 II 2022].

In terms of the Emergency Service duties, priority was given to helping the activities of the government and local authorities, followed by actions to help other organisations and emergency cases in which assistance could be provided. It was also at this time that the Crisis Staff of the ZHR prepared a survey needed to present to the NPRM on the organisation's capabilities. Although this was a second survey of a similar nature, it also had to be completed. The important difference was that it could only be done by ZHR members and former male and female instructors. PHiH was reported to the Crisis Centres and the Governor's Office, both of which were able to dissonate Scouts and Girl Scouts in this area, another issue was cooperation between organisations and general reported needs. There was also the option of calling people who had indicated in the survey the possibility of accommodation for refugees, as long as there were no official accommodation bases. The Boy-Scouts and Girl-Scouts organised assistance, especially in terms of collecting needed materials for refugees in Scout communities, donating them to city collections, for example [Komunikat nr 2, 25 II 2022].

Since the beginning of the activities of the Scouts' Emergency of the Małopolska Region of the ZHR, their activities have been supported by the Marshal's Office of the Małopolska Voivodeship under the public task "Promotion and organisation of volunteering". The Małopolska Voivodeship Office also financially supported their action within the framework of the public task "Activity in the field of providing assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of that country". The Girl-Scouts of the Emergency Service organised and ran two accommodation and rest points for refugees in the old railway station building, where approximately 200 people could find

accommodation, and in Galeria Krakowska. The points operated from 28 February to early June, after which they were taken over from the ZHR by the Magistrate of the City of Krakow. Other organisations established similar accommodation bases and those willing to open their homes to refugees (e.g. Caritas) were referred to them [PHiH 27 II 2022].

PHiH also allowed volunteers from outside the ZHR to serve, e.g. ex-Scouts and Scout sympathisers. In this connection, in April the PHiH Staff published a communication addressed to such people. Its contents read:

"Want to get involved in volunteering but don't know where you could volunteer? There is a place where you are needed! In Krakow, there are two refugee accommodation points run by scouts in Stary Dworzec and Galeria Krakowska. The work consists of serving tea and food, providing information, giving a good word, a smile. We need support, because the point operates 24/7 and we are already running out of resources - 1-2h a week is already a lot! For more info and a link to the schedule write priv. Thank you so much for your service, delightful commitment and unflagging enthusiasm!" [PHiH 8 IV 2022].

As part of PHiH, scouts from both flags performed various types of service to help Ukrainian war refugees. In Krakow, they performed this service at the Main Railway Station (old building), at the point for mothers with young children in the Krakow Gallery, at the warehouse in Retoryka ("Koala") Street, at the warehouse of the Vistula Hall in Reymonta Street and at the Polish-Ukrainian border, in the Podkarpackie and Lubelskie Voivodeships.

On 14 March 2022, an additional assembly point for refugees was also opened in the building of the former "Plaza" Gallery in Kraków-Nowa Huta, which operated from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with a shift service (I: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., II: 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.). At this point, the sorting and issuing of clothes to those in need was carried out, and there would be 4-5 people per shift [PHiH 13 III 2022].

The 'Koala' service was held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. From 28 March, two afternoon shifts operated at the warehouse at 1 Rhetoric Street. During the 4.00-6.00 p.m. shift, the warehouse on Smolensk Street collected packages with the necessary items for the baby and for the mother. On the other hand, from 6 to 9 p.m. the collection of donations, sorting, etc. took place. For larger items, e.g. cots, changing tables, baby baths, those on duty were sent to the warehouse located in the Library on Rajska Street. Younger bridesmaids and bridegrooms (under 16 years of age, an adult must be present during the shift), whole troops, ZZs, cadres of scout troops, supporters of scouting, etc. were especially invited to serve. The organisers also asked people to read the instructions and the "Notes" column on the service sheet [PHiH 28 III 2022].

During one of the services on 26 April, the scouts and scoutmasters handled bag pick-ups by people from Ukraine at the warehouse located at 29 Smolensk Street, and the service consisted of: issuing lactation/personalised bags for mothers of children as needed, signing the contracts in two copies, putting them in a folder and helping them to look for the items they needed. To this end, clothes for mom, baby, hygiene items, etc. were laid out in the warehouse on Smolensk Street for them to take as needed, sometimes something needs to be shown, something to look for, etc. [PHiH 26 IV 2022].

The service lasted until the end of May, after which and the beginning of June it was suspended due to the return of a significant number of refugees to Ukraine, as well as a decrease in the number of people from more than 100,000 to more than 20,000 per day. Scouts and Girl Scouts with knowledge of Ukrainian or Russian were there on duty as translators, in addition to transporting food, hygiene and sanitary products and other materials, issuing equipment, working in offices and aid points, setting up field bases for those in need, and providing psychological support to refugees, working in this regard with volunteers from Caritas Poland or Polish Humanitarian Action [PHiH 26 II 2022]. A communication of 20 March 2022 on this issue reads, among other things:

The service of the scouts at the Central Station and the Krakow Gallery was of a different nature. One of them was to help during the cleaning at 12:00 p.m. At both points there were cleaning ladies who vacuumed the rooms, including under the beds. In connection with the cleaning action moments before, the scouts on duty at that time would inform people about it by asking them to give their belongings to the beds, and during the cleaning they would help to move the beds away to vacuum the area underneath. The following is an example of information on organisational matters from the service in early March:

Due to the increasing number of refugees, a regular and comprehensive cleaning of the hall of the former Old Station took place from 16 March. Accordingly, the PHiH Staff on 15 March issued a relevant communication on the matter, which reads:

"Important information concerning the operation of the Old Station [...] - from tomorrow (i.e. 16.03) a thorough cleaning of our point will take place every day. Between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. we will be assembling the beds and bedding with the help of volunteers from the City Council, so that the cleaning ladies can wash and vacuum everything. This will be a bit of an extra logistical task, but it is important that we keep the place clean, especially because of how many people pass through there, in what condition, with what access to sanitary facilities. For this time we ask people to roll up their belongings, to wait out this cleaning period. Of course, afterwards they can return to the place. [...] Thank you very much for your help and time dedicated to this service" [PHiH 15 III 2022].

As the date of the ZHR Malopolska District convention approached, information about the threat of a shortage at the point of female and male instructors appeared online. However, it turned out that it was possible to count on the help of other organisations. However, the main issue concerned the people coordinating the activities on Sunday, 6 March between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. It was mainly about older people who were not instructors or female instructors and who had previously been on duty at the station, and fortunately there was no shortage of such people [PHiH 2 III 2022].

At Krakow Central Station, the registration of the volunteers was carried out at a point run together with the City of Krakow, which had to master the issue of unification of the markings of all the volunteers who worked there. Consequently, numbered badges appeared at ZHR points, which were subject to return after service to the shift coordinator. During the service, rules were also adopted regarding the identification of people who came to the points - the scouts currently on duty were not authorised to ask them for their passport or any other

document. If someone seemed suspicious, they were to ask the police for help, while they could not take such action themselves.

According to a decision by the PKP InterCity Company, from 1 April free tickets were available to children and young people up to the age of 18, women and men over the age of 60 and men with a disability certificate, while others already had to buy normal train tickets. This was a departure from the free-ticket policy for war refugees adopted on the outbreak of war on 24 February 2022.

At the beginning of April, the Emergency SMS box was launched. As a result, all male and female instructors reported to PHiH received an SMS message to this effect. The first message they received was about requesting permission to receive SMS messages, with the option to refuse if Facebook sufficed. In the first four weeks of the service, volunteers worked 10,000 person-hours at the Station and Gallery, serving approximately 6880 refugees at points [PHiH 5 IV 2022].

An important part of the PHiH's service was the logistical service of washing dirty clothes and providing food, including sandwiches, for refugees. Laundry was taken weekly, on Thursdays, between 9.00 and 11.00 a.m. with fresh laundry from the previous week brought in at the same time. It was taken from a place behind the banner, in front of the entrance to the Old Station building, but no one came to the Gallery to collect it and it had to be carried by themselves or with the help of the firefighters in this, they are happy to help, so you can ask them for help if needed, and all the laundry was stored in bags at the Old Station, every Thursday it is taken away.

As for the sandwiches, they had to be collected every day at 10 a.m. from the Caritas food tent at Jan Nowak-Jeziorański Square. There, they were delivered collectively for both ZHR and ZHP points. Once the sandwiches were collected, enough was taken to meet the current demand, while the rest was handed over to the cold store, which was run by the ZHP scouts. As such, they had to call to inform them of the delivery of sandwiches, at which point they were packed into the cooler, and when the sandwiches ran out during the day, another portion had to be taken out of the cooler. To make it logistically easier to access it, the scouts from the ZHR point at the Old Railway Station had keys to it, so it was not necessary to call each time to the point manned by the scouts and girl scouts of the Krakow ZHP Scouts' Troop, which made it easier, for example, to pack the sandwiches brought to it [PHiH 10 IV 2022].

In order to identify people who were temporarily staying at refugee points, located in the building of the former railway station (the so-called Old Station), the PHiH staff introduced armbands, which were given to people arriving from Ukraine. On this we read in the report:

"[...] The point in Old Station operates a wristband system that allows us to identify people who are in our point. I would very much ask that, before putting on such a wristband, you write on it the date and time 24 hours after arriving at the point. That is, if someone came to us now (8.04, 11:42 p.m.), we write 9.04, 11:42 p.m. Because now there is a transition

period, a change of system, etc., to indicate that it is about leaving our point, we write the letter D next to the date" [PHiH 23 IV 2022].

There was soon to be a change regarding the writing of dates on the wristbands. The PHiH staff adopted a rule that the date should be written 24 hours after a person was admitted to the point, but if such a person was admitted - by way of exception - he or she could stay at the point in the Old Railway Station longer. This could be related, for example, to waiting for a medical appointment or a longer wait for a train, and it would be difficult for such a person to find another accommodation - in such a case, scouts or volunteers on duty at the point would write on the wristband the date agreed with the person to leave the point [PHiH 10 IV 2022].

Quite specific for Ukrainian war refugees was the day of 10 April, the 12th anniversary of the Smolensk catastrophe. At 8.41 am, i.e. at the exact moment of this tragedy, sirens wailed in Poland, including Krakow, evoked traumatic memories among the refugees of sirens announcing aerial bombardments or rocket fire on Ukrainian cities. The PHiH communiqué stated on this subject:

"As most of you probably know, the emergency sirens are due to be activated at 8:41 tomorrow. It is not difficult to guess that for people who have come to us from a war-torn country such a stimulus can bring back traumatic memories, so here a big request for the service, which will be on site from 8am. Please, please, warn people that there will be such a situation, beforehand. Explain what is going on. Provide maximum information comfort, because that is the most we can do in this situation. It certainly won't be completely effective, people's reactions may be different, not entirely controllable. Be prepared for this, I will also be at the station during this time and will try to help you as much as I can if something were to happen. Let's try to deal with this unfortunate situation!" [PHiH 9 IV 2022].

On the initiative of the city authorities of Krakow, also in the Vistula Hall, on Reymonta Street, a warehouse was quickly organised. Scouts and Girl Scouts segregated there the items that came in as part of the collection organised by the City Hall of Cracow. The service took place from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm and was divided into two rounds: 8.00 am to 2.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 8.00 pm. As a rule, there were about 10 people working in each group and the action was coordinated on site by the Cpl. Jakub Palczewski. There was no age restriction, but it was accepted that younger scouts and girl scouts from the teams could participate under the supervision of team leaders, instructors or step scouts [PHiH 26 II 2022].

Another important action was the collection of donations for the inhabitants of Lviv, which the ZHR conducted on the occasion of scouting masses at St. Idzi's Church, at which prayers for peace in Ukraine were prayed for. Thanks to the transport organisation, the donations were taken to the warehouse on Reymonta Street at a convenient time. The demand was great and included: thermal blankets, sleeping bags, sleeping mats (with foil covering), mattresses, clothes, raincoats, care and hygiene products, body cleansers, toothpaste and toothbrushes, hairbrushes, underwear for women, men and children, sanitary pads, children's nappies, adult nappies, paper towels, microfibre towels, sets of reusable kitchen utensils, including: deep dishes, spoons, forks, knives, cups, antiseptics / spirits, and reusable masks. In terms of food, the following were needed: water, food items suitable for quick preparation,

energy bars, dried fruit, nuts, tinned food, pasta, instant cereal, matches, batteries, lighters, candles, and medical kits. For reasons of proper packing, it was important to separate all medicines from hygiene products and food, as this made it easier to separate and prepare the appropriate bags [ibid].

28 February also saw the start of a donation sorting and parcel packing campaign organised by the Cracow City Council. Up to five people were to help in each round, and the rounds started at 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. at All Saints' Square near the Magistrate's Office. From there, a joint drive was organised to the warehouse in Dobczyce, where the work took place. Those on duty were expected to be in uniform and to have an identity document with them [Grafik zgłoszeń 13 IV 2022].

At the same time, a service for refugees was underway at Retoryka Street in Kraków, where Girl Scouts prepared layettes for people in need, including children, and conducted a collection of donations [PHiH 2 III 2022]. On 1 March, UMK reported a demand for volunteers to serve in sorting donations at the Wisła Kraków stadium, at Reymonta Street and at the Museum of Urban Engineering between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. The PHiH coordinator encouraged the service of Pledges and team cadres so that the efficiency of the work would increase and scouts and girl scouts usually had work gloves [PHiH 1 III 2022].

On 3 March, PHiH Staff Communiqué No. 4 was published, which included service in sorting packages and Ukrainian language courses for volunteers to facilitate contact with refugees. The communiqué reads, among other things:

"As an organisation, we are identified, in addition to our educational methodology/pedagogical competence, with high management skills/logistics/leadership charisma [...] Therefore, our service will also be based on coordinating a particular service/place, of course not leaving out the service for the youngest e.g. sorting - how important! We are preparing the topic of handling/organising the handling/sorting centre, and it is possible that we will draw volunteers from other districts. After all, we handle the logistics of packing the lorries for the camps every year. And these are the kind of people who will be badly needed. [Language lessons - ZHR details -> <https://www.zhr.pl/.../podstawy-jezyka-ukrainskiego.../....> [...] We are a real partner with the KPRM / Governor / local government offices and as much as we can we also help other organisations e.g. in cooperation with Caritas, PAH [...] [PHiH 3 III 2022].

The service on the Polish-Ukrainian border, which was crossed by more than 100,000 people in the first months of the war, was particularly difficult. Consequently, there was a great need for scouts and volunteers with Ukrainian and Russian knowledge to serve the refugees. In addition, there were so-called 'unforeseen situations' related to the security of the refugees. This was evidenced by the Safe ZHR Team's communication of 8 March, which read:

Dear Colleagues

In recent days, more and more incidents of behaviour that could pose a threat to refugees have been observed at border crossings and around reception points. Example: men offering 'free transport to anywhere in Poland' or 'to Germany for a year, with accommodation and

work', preying on young and attractive women or women without children. We are preparing an internal instruction on this matter, but it will be ready in 24 hours at the earliest, and since the topic is important, difficult and urgent I ask you now to:

(a) maintain heightened vigilance,

b) report potentially suspicious situations immediately to the Police, either directly or by telephone. Don't be afraid to do so, the Police are sensitive to the subject and have the ability to check the identity of these people etc. right away.

"Safe ZHR" team [PHiH 8 III 2022].

The scouting service was carried out at all crossings on the Polish-Ukrainian border. As phm. Barbara Sobieska of the Girl Scout Headquarters recalled: "The service at the pedestrian crossing in Medyka takes place in a system of 12-hour shifts, which start at 9 am. and last until 9 pm. There are three teams, we make sure that everyone can sleep, eat and also... teach geography, for example. Schooling here is the most popular, for that every moment spent is learning' [Sobieska 4 IV 2022].

One of the most important crossings was Mostiska-Medyka, as a border hub for refugees, from which they departed to Kraków, Warsaw, and other locations in Poland and abroad (Germany, France, Czech Republic). Volunteers working at the border benefited from the hospitality of the Podkarpackie Teacher Education Centre. The scouts performed various types of service, e.g. they cooked tea at the food preparation point, distributed food products to adults and children at the points, and separately for small children. They ran and maintained three cell-loading points, two baby changing facilities, while a Polish scout from Lviv, who spoke Ukrainian, informed the refugees there. The scouts also transported luggage and assisted the Police in organising buses to Przemyśl.

The primary service was health care, which was done by paramedics, the Scout Volunteer Ambulance Service, but also our First Aid and Medical Course rescuers. Doctors also worked, both from Poland and other countries, such as France, Germany, Italy and the United States. Scouts often transported elderly and disabled people in wheelchairs from the border to the bus. As phm Barbra Sobieska wrote:

"Working for 4 weeks was a volunteer effort of 180 ZHR scouts, but also our friends from ZHP Belgium, the Polish Scouts in Ukraine, scouts from Belgium and several volunteers from outside the scouts (e.g. from the USA). In addition to those using the rescue tents, we have helped over 22,000 people in need of our donations or 'services'. Our work is appreciated by numerous organisations including UNICEF - they donated a special tent to us which, we have been looking after for 2 weeks. The UNICEF tent is a special case - the instructions for putting up the tent are 30 pages long and the whole thing weighs 350 kg. At the point, there is also cooperation with the PCK, a brotherly organisation - the ZHP, which moved about 20 days ago from a car border crossing to us - on foot, and we really complement and support each other superbly.

In 4 weeks of service we have already had more than 30 cases requiring an ambulance call or referral to a hospital in Przemyśl. Hence, more than 110 people from the ZHR Scout Volunteer Ambulance Service, but also the aforementioned doctors and paramedics, have

already passed through the point. Of course, there would be no point if it were not for the ZHR Scouts' Ambulance - that is, the scouts acting within the framework of a special educational programme set up for the pandemic and now for the service to Ukraine" [ibidem].

According to B. Sobieska - the largest group of ZHR at the border crossing in Medyka was from Pomerania, with more than 100 people, but also from the Małopolska and Podkarpackie Districts. The commitment of the scouts and volunteers is a great reason to be proud - they have served and continue to serve in more than 350 places in Poland helping refugees by several thousand people associated with the ZHR [ibidem].

Aid for refugees from Ukraine, which was fighting the Russian invasion, was provided throughout Poland, and ZHR cooperated with Caritas Poland, Polish Humanitarian Action, and other scout organisations: the Scouts of Europe (in Poland) and the Scout Association (mainly Mazovia District). The service was coordinated by the ZHR Staff established on 24 February 2022, but each of the regions, due to its specifics, needs, location, transport hubs, etc. - perform various additional tasks. Scouts-informants were on duty at the railway stations in Poznań or Kraków, who were prepared in various ways to provide information and assistance to those arriving in the cities, as well as to those transferring on further journeys [Sobieska 3 III 2022].

Unfortunately, over time, the shortage of volunteers began to be felt, as evidenced by the following message, concerning the service at the border, although similar situations also occurred in other sections of the PHiH service. It states, among other things:

"For several weeks now, the ZHR has been on duty at the Polish-Ukrainian border. At several points we work together with Caritas and PAH, in Medyka we run an independent point. Unfortunately, WE ARE LACKING VOLUNTEERS!

The days from Monday to Thursday are particularly difficult to cover. We badly need support! We are [...] putting together teams who can go together. You don't have to have a car, you don't have to be of legal age (16+ for ZHR scouts). We reimburse travel costs, accommodation is provided on site. You can even go from Krakow for one shift, although I recommend at least two days. I also appeal to strain leaders and other unit leaders! Try to get a group together in your communities! At the same time, I would like to thank all the people who have supported us so far in serving at the border. Well done!" [PHiH 27 III 2022].

The fluidity of the Scout service at the border during the Easter holidays was also an important issue, as reported in a communiqué of the PHiH head for the Małopolska District of the ZHR, issued on 8 April, which read:

"[...] The festive season is approaching, but our service is not slowing down. There are still people waiting for us who need our help. Therefore, and I am confident that during this beautiful and important time of Holy Week and Easter we will be able to continue to perform the service entrusted to us. We are looking for people to go to the border in the coming week. I encourage teams to organise themselves around our Scouting communities and Scouting supporters. But I also encourage individuals who want to help to sign up to the disposition

schedule. I hope we can put together a squad of brave people to go and help refugees at our border! Remember that you don't have to sign up for the whole holiday, it is also very important to dedicate this time to the Lord God and family. But maybe you can organise it so that you can go at least for a few shifts" [PHiH 8 IV 2022].

Due to the efficiency and speed of the scouts, there was no shortage of scouts, girl scouts, as well as civilian volunteers, so it was possible to organise a refugee service at the old railway station, but for logistical reasons the Krakow Gallery point was closed during the Christmas period, which was open again after Christmas [PHiH 23 IV 2022]. On Easter service, PHiH Staff issued a detailed communiqué on 10 April, which stated:

"After lengthy logistical arrangements, we have managed to come up with a Christmas plan for the operation of our points. We have decided to close the outlet in Galeria Krakowska from Thursday to Monday because we want to give you the opportunity to rest and spend this time with your family to experience Easter. What will this look like?

On Wednesday we will slowly try to redirect people to other points - to the Old Railway Station, to the UMK tent at Nowak-Jeziorański Square or to other points in Krakow. We want the space in the Gallery to be empty by 8pm. The service that is signed up for Wednesday evening will be responsible for cleaning up the place, securing food etc. Ideally, the venue should be vacant by 24 on Wednesday. From Thursday, 00:00 we operate only at the Old Station, with the proviso that we operate with a full complement of volunteers. Why?

There is a risk that a bus will suddenly turn up bringing a lot of people. It will then be necessary to open a point in the Gallery and send some of our volunteers there. Apart from that, there will always be a designated person from the Town Hall to help. However, we very much hope that this will not be the case and that we will get through Christmas calmly with one point open. We have removed the spreadsheet table for the Gallery in the sheet for this time, so please crowd-fill the table for the Old Station.

When do we return to the old layout? The assumption is - from Tuesday, but I will give details closer to that date when we know better what the needs are, which change a lot and planning something a week ahead can be difficult. I apologise to you very much for this, at the same time I rely hugely on your flexibility' [PHiH 10 IV 2022].

Two weeks later, 24 April was Easter, which was celebrated by Orthodox and Greek Catholics and included Ukrainians. Accordingly, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts welcomed the arriving refugees with a piece of cake, according to the tradition of the Eastern Rite Christian faithful [PHiH 23 IV 2022].

In order to distinguish male and female scouts taking part in the service to Ukrainian refugees, on 8 March the PHiH coordinator of the Małopolska ZHR, phm. Maciej Skóra, informed about the possibility of collecting badges in the Scouts' Storehouse "Watra". There were also 50 holograms entitling to free public transport to be collected in March, but for those who did not have a city card or free rides, service waistcoats were also introduced, and there were also city collections where collected items went to, among others, ZHR points [PHiH 8 III 2022].

In terms of providing security, the scouts currently on duty at the various points worked together with the Police and other services responsible for providing it. A Police release on the provision of security at the Old Railway Station on 20 March reads, among other things:

"SECURITY AT THE STATION

If you see people behaving aggressively, report it to the police immediately. There are always several patrols at the station itself, or you can call the duty officer at the police station on Lubicz Street, 478357053. The policemen also have a breathalyser with them, so if you want to ask someone out on the grounds of sobriety, you can always ask them for help, and this will be a compelling argument.

VERIFICATION OF VOLUNTEERS AND PERSONS WHO HELP

For some time now, at the train station, all volunteers, SIM card distributors, and transport people have to be registered at a centre run by the city council. This is located at the station, near platform 4. Before you allow someone to set up SIM cards or transport someone somewhere, you must ask if they have reported it to anyone.

SIM CARD

People handing out cards must have identification from the City Council. Four operators - Play, Plus, Orange, and T-Mobile - have permission to do so at the station. No one else is allowed.

TRANSPORT, COACHES

All persons who assist in transporting people or offering transport to another country must report in advance to the City Hall desk at the station hall, where the identity and credibility of this person are verified.

PHOTOGRAPHING AND FILMING

Although there is already a notice hanging in the old station, we also have confirmation of the station management's position. Filming is only allowed in communal areas (e.g. the station hall), so filming is not allowed in our outlets at all. We only allow people with press accreditation to take photos. Please - let us keep an eye on this, don't be ashamed to approach and ask if the person who enters our point has permission to film/photograph.

MASKS

This is another renewed appeal - let us wear masks on duty. This is very important! I know that when you are on duty for a couple of hours, it is not the most comfortable thing to do, but it is a safeguard for our health, not only because of cardiovascular disease, but also for other various diseases. Just think of how many people pass through our points every day. [...]" [PHiH 20 III 2022].

Due to the unclear situation regarding refugees who did not have their passports with them, there was a problem of how to treat them and how to deal with such cases. The head of PHiH reported that the scouts were not authorised to check passports or any other documents. A special train to Germany had also been launched to carry people without stamps on their passports. A procedure update point was soon set up where refugees received certificates of

their status, which made it easier for them to deal with various official matters in Poland or to go abroad, and they left by train to Germany, the Czech Republic, France and the UK, and less frequently flew by plane, here mainly to the USA and Canada [PHiH 10 IV 2022].

From the beginning of the service, its security was an important issue, as various provocations could not be ruled out, which could be inspired by pro-Russian groups, such as the 'Change' Party (despite its weakening by the ABW), the Communist Party of Poland, or supporters of the extreme right, who often consider Ukraine to be a nationalist state. In addition, strange behaviour has also occurred among refugees. This was reported by the head of PHiH:

"I am getting [...] signals from you [...] that you are increasingly noticing such a problem that the same people come back several times to our points. I know that it is very difficult to verify this and, therefore, enforce appropriate behaviour, but please, let us try to be assertive/assertive and ask people to look for another place if they have nowhere else to stay. Our place is only for people who need to wait for transport elsewhere, it is not temporary accommodation.

Also, take care to communicate with each other about the people who are staying at the points, updates on procedures, etc. It is important that everyone is informed, and the flow of information is not always easy to organise. If you have any doubts, you can always contact me and ask the question "Are we still doing this?".

[...] we don't have to be specialists/experts in everything. We don't always have to have a complete set of information on the latest government procedures, ministerial procedures, how the trains work. It is always a good idea to direct people who need detailed knowledge to the information points in Platform 4. The City Hall has its point there, and they should be the ones to help such people. We can point them in the right direction, help them get to sources of information" [PHiH 10 IV 2022].

This was done during almost four months of service. Due to the deployment of a significant number of refugees in homes and centres all over Poland, as well as the successive return of more than 5 million people to Ukraine, at the end of May and the beginning of June, the Magistrate of the City of Krakow took over, and PHiH's activities were limited to service at the point on Retoryka Street, where there is a warehouse of items for mothers with young children. The number of people on duty at the Girl Scouts' Emergency Service has been reduced to the bare minimum, as it is no longer necessary to fatigue a huge number of Girl Scouts, Scouts, and civilian volunteers.

Summary

As mentioned in the introduction, the aim of this study was to attempt to show the activities of the Scouts' Emergency Service, which, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, joined in the service of Ukrainian refugees arriving in Poland, who were fleeing a country engulfed in war. They are obliged to do so by the idea of scouting service to God, Poland and neighbours, enshrined in the Scout Law and Pledge. In May-June 2022, PHiH's activities came to an end as several million refugees returned to Ukraine between April and June, wanting to be with their loved ones, in their homes and families, although

some had nothing to return to as many homes and flats needed to be rebuilt. Activities undertaken by Girl Scouts participating in services at the Old Railway Station, Galeria Krakowska, Retoryka Street and other points in Krakow included:

- registering people arriving from Ukraine - mainly from the direction of Przemyśl at the Old Railway Station and in Galeria Krakowska, handing over identification wristbands, designating a resting place after the journey or overnight stay;
- taking care of security at accommodation points (especially during the arrival of refugees from trains coming from Przemyśl at night);
- scouts / scout leaders with knowledge of Ukrainian or Russian worked as translators, and, e.g., English during contacts with medical services, among which there were many English-speaking doctors working on a voluntary basis;
- providing temporary shelter and accommodation and helping them move on at the station,
- providing food (sandwiches), drinks, including for young children and babies (milk, Bebiko, etc.);
- assisting and caring for children at the Old Railway Station and Galeria Krakowska, at the point for mothers with small children and babies, e.g. by organising games with the children;
- providing information on train/bus connections from Krakow to other places in Poland and abroad;
- escorting individuals or groups of refugees with children and helping them board trains or buses;
- preparing food packages, sweets and drinks as souvenirs for people on a journey in Poland or abroad;
- assisting cleaning crews during clean-up operations;
- collection of necessary materials and equipment for refugees, e.g. hygiene items, prams at the train station and in Rhetoric Street;
- where possible, support for people with disabilities or illnesses by calling medical services;
- psychological support from Girl Scouts and Scouts / instructors who are psychologists.

In addition to this, female and male scouts and instructors performed a similar service at the Polish-Ukrainian border, especially those who spoke Ukrainian or Russian. They worked there as volunteers, e.g. to register refugees, as translators, to supply them with food and drink, and to escort them to trains to Kraków, Wrocław or Warsaw, or to the Polish border. In many cases, the scouts supported the police in their policing activities or informed their officers about potential threats to refugees, e.g. toward attractive-looking young women, often with children, solicited by men who were "interested" in them. In conclusion, it should be noted that the PHiH scouts of the Małopolska District of the ZHR, along with other scout

organisations, once again in the history of Poland and the scout movement stood up for duty, performing it with dignity and responsibility..

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