

The Role of NGOs in Lithuania in Providing Assistance to War Refugees from Ukraine

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Russia's military invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 has become one of the world's biggest challenges. Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes and seek refuge. More than 80 000 war refugees have arrived in Lithuania. The NGO sector has made a significant contribution to helping the state to manage this crisis, as a powerful force for a quick and smooth response both to emergency situations and people's personal situations. NGOs have helped to set up registration centres and regulate the flow of people, coordinated humanitarian assistance to refugees, helped them find accommodation, and provided psychological, social and other necessary support.

In order to analyse the role of NGOs in providing assistance to war refugees from Ukraine, an NGO survey was carried out in June 2023, involving 120 NGOs from all municipalities in Lithuania that provided assistance to war refugees from Ukraine. The presentation will present the results of the questionnaire on what kind of assistance NGOs have provided to war refugees, the institutional and organisational challenges they have faced, the difficulties in finding housing for war refugees, the challenges of refugee integration, as well as the experience of cooperation with municipalities.