The role of non-governmental organizations in assisting and integrating Ukrainian refugees in Poland

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Abstract: The proposed presentation focuses on the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in supporting the integration of Ukrainian immigrants in one of the neighbouring countries, namely Poland. In particular, the presentation concentrates on the case of Warsaw. As the capital of Poland and the city with the largest number of refugees, Warsaw took in a significant number of refugees from Ukraine, especially in the initial period after the outbreak of the full-scale war. The choice of the case study for empirical research was determined by the aforementioned number of refugees, as well as the assistance activities undertaken by both local authorities and other actors, particularly non-governmental organizations. The research is based on a review of existing literature, policy documents, and NGO reports, supported by qualitative interviews with organisations involved in migrant support. It seeks to identify the scope of NGO involvement and their cooperation with public institutions. Preliminary insights indicate that NGOs facilitate inclusion and complement public measures, while facing challenges related to unstable funding sources, limited long-term capacity, and staff problems. The study aims to enhance understanding of NGO-led integration efforts in one of the CEE cities experiencing increased migration.