Position paper

From temporary protection to sustainable solutions for displaced Ukrainians in the EU - the role of cities and regions

On behalf of the Maltese delegation in the CIVEX Commission

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Feedback from the Local Councils' Association (Malta)

The Local Councils' Association welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the preparation of the Committee of the Regions' opinion on "From Temporary Protection to Sustainable Solutions for Displaced Ukrainians in the EU - the Role of Cities and Regions ."

Since the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive, local and regional authorities have demonstrated that they are the first point of contact for displaced persons. They are responsible not only for delivering services but also for fostering inclusion, community participation, and social cohesion. While national governments establish the legal framework, it is municipalities and regions that translate policy into practical support for residents.



The experience of the Local Councils' Association and the TIPS4UA Project

The experience gained through the TIPS4UA project clearly demonstrated that successful integration goes beyond the provision of housing or legal protection. Integration succeeds when displaced persons are empowered to participate actively in community life and when local authorities are equipped with the necessary tools, resources and partnerships to facilitate this process.

The project highlighted several important lessons:

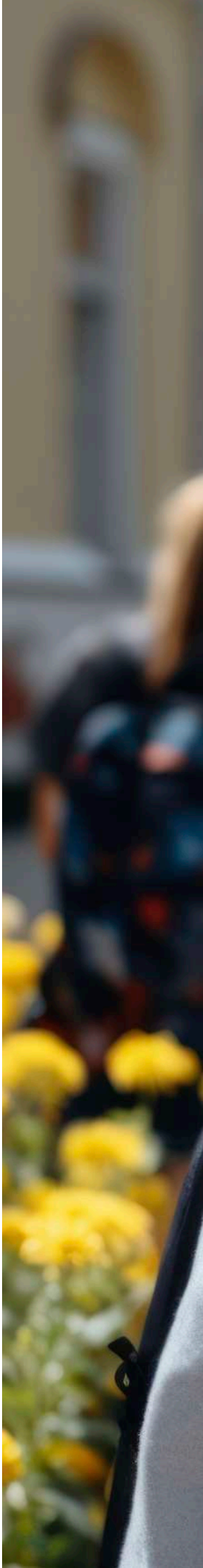
• Local Councils are uniquely positioned to identify the immediate needs of displaced persons because of their proximity to residents.

• Personalized information, local guidance and community-based support significantly improve integration outcomes.

• Strong partnerships between municipalities, NGOs, educational institutions and civil society create more sustainable support structures.

• Language support, digital inclusion and access to local services are fundamental enablers of long-term inclusion.

• Community participation and volunteering strengthen social cohesion while reducing isolation among displaced persons.









Strengthening the role of Local and Regional Authorities

The Association believes that the transition beyond temporary protection should recognize Local and Regional Authorities as strategic partners rather than solely service providers.

To achieve this, the European Union should:

- establish dedicated financial instruments directly accessible to municipalities and regional authorities;
- strengthen multilevel governance by involving local authorities in national transition planning;
- simplify administrative procedures for EU-funded integration projects;
- facilitate the exchange of good practices through networks such as the Committee of the Regions' European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine;
- support long-term municipal partnerships between European and Ukrainian local authorities.





Sustainable Integration

The Association believes that integration policies should move beyond emergency assistance toward long-term community development by prioritizing:

- language learning;
- recognition of professional qualifications;
- employment support;
- access to childcare;
- psychosocial support;
- civic participation;
- digital literacy;
- lifelong learning.

Local authorities should also receive dedicated funding to strengthen administrative capacity, ensuring they can respond effectively to growing community needs.

Preparing for Ukraine's Reconstruction

The Association strongly supports initiatives that allow displaced Ukrainians to contribute to the future reconstruction of Ukraine while continuing to integrate successfully within host communities.

Particular attention should be given to:

- maintaining professional skills and qualifications;
- vocational training aligned with Ukraine's future reconstruction needs;
- knowledge exchange between European and Ukrainian municipalities;
- city-to-city partnerships;
- exchange programs for municipal staff;
- sharing expertise in local governance, public administration and community resilience.






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