‘I want to help refugees’ and UNHCR organised an event on admission of Ukrainian civilians to Latvia

On 4 November, the association “I want to help refugees” and UNHCR held an event in Riga bringing together around 60 representatives from state institutions, municipalities, and NGOs to discuss Latvia’s experience in supporting Ukrainian civilians.

The Ministry of the Interior outlined recent amendments to the Ukrainian Civilian Support Law (UCAL), including new rules on accommodation and benefits for vulnerable groups, and scenarios for Ukrainians after temporary protection ends in March 2027. He noted that over 31,000 Ukrainians currently have temporary protection in Latvia, with more than 3,000 accommodated in municipalities.

The Ministry of Culture emphasized the need for a long-term integration strategy, highlighting Latvian language learning as a key element. Proposals include mandatory deadlines for achieving A2 and professional-level language proficiency.

‘I want to help refugees” shared lessons and challenges, including gaps in coordination, funding, and communication, and stressed the importance of verified information for Ukrainians’ long-term integration.

Members of the Ministry of Education, Riga City Council, and the Ukrainian community agreed that support for learning Latvian and interdepartmental cooperation need strengthening.

The Ministry of Welfare reported that €76 million was invested in assistance between 2022–2024, offering Ukrainians the same social support as Latvian residents. Over 36,000 Ukrainians have registered with the State Employment Agency, and 18,000 have found jobs.

Ventspils municipality shared its proactive approach to refugee reception and coordination but noted challenges in cultural understanding and trauma sensitivity among staff.

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- I want to help refugees | Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem (7 November, 2025), Kopsavilkums par 2025. gada 4. novembra pasākumu “Ukrainas civiliedzīvotāju uzņemšana Latvijā: iesaistīto pušu tikšanās” [Summary of the event of 4 November 2025 "Admission of Ukrainian civilians to Latvia: meeting of stakeholders"], https://gribupalidzetbegliem.lv/2025/11/07/kopsavilkums-par-2025-gada-4-novembra-pasakumu-ukrainas-civiliedzivotaju-uznemsana-latvija-iesaistito-pusu-tiksanas/

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