

Migrant Integration Center Brasov

Empowering Inclusion



Our Work

Over the past four years, Migrant Integration Center Braşov has been dedicated to fostering inclusion, empowering migrants, and building a stronger, more united community.

This report highlights the key achievements, challenges, and milestones in our mission to support and promote the inclusion of migrants into the social, cultural, and economic fabric of Braşov, Romania.

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Who We Are

The Brasov Migrant Integration Center (MIC) was established in 2012 as part of our association's commitment to supporting migrants and refugees.

The inspiration behind **Migrant Integration Center (MIC)** comes from the personal experiences of our founder, whose grandmother was a refugee in Denmark. This deeply personal connection led her to pursue extensive academic studies in international migration, including a BA and MA from the University of Copenhagen and the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. She completed her PhD in 2011, focusing on refugee integration in Romania, at the University of Bucharest. Additionally, she has participated in distinguished training programs, including those organized by the U.S. State Department

(Professional Fellow on Working with Refugee Communities), Oxford University (Refugee Studies Winter School), and the European University Institute (Migration Policy Centre).

Under her leadership, a professional team was assembled to provide expert assistance to migrants and refugees in Braşov. In the early stages, MIC received support through national efforts to create services for migrants, funded by the International Organization for Migration and the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Our Work

Before February 2022, Braşov was already **a destination for many third-country nationals** who settled here for marriage, family reunification, work, or studies. The number of refugees was relatively small, as most beneficiaries of international protection resided in cities with established reception centers.

Traditionally, our target group included third-country nationals, refugees, asylum seekers, and European citizens. With the arrival of Ukrainian refugees, they have become a central focus of our support efforts.



Key Services and Activities

Since its establishment, the Migrant Integration Center (MIC) has successfully supported more than 3,500 third-country nationals in Braşov by offering a range of essential services, including:

- Romanian language courses
- Legal assistance on residency, education, diploma recognition, citizenship, and work-related issues
- Individual support including mediation and referrals to local institutions
- Cultural adaptation activities such as trips, cultural events, and museum visits
- Community building activities focused on socialization, stress relief, theater, and sports
- Academic research on migration issues
- Braşov Multicultural Day Festival, our signature event promoting social cohesion, consistently supported by Braşov Municipality
- Advocacy and partnerships with local NGOs and public institutions

Our work has been supported by EEA Grants, the European Commission (Erasmus+, AMIF), the Civil Society Development Foundation and the Romanian American Foundation, IOM Romania through AMIF funds.

Situated 400 km from the Ukrainian border, Braşov quickly mobilized to support Ukrainian refugees after the outbreak of war in 2022.

Ukraine Response

The local community, Braşov Municipality, and private donors came together to provide essential support, transforming the Cattia Business Center in Braşov into a safe space equipped with dormitories, showers, a kitchen, a store, playgrounds for children, and relaxation areas for adults where they could rest after their journey to Braşov.

The Migrant Integration Center (MIC) played a key role in delivering initial response services at this center and continues to support Ukrainian refugees from its headquarters.

As part of the Romanian Refugee Response Plan, coordinated initially by the Romanian Government and later on by UNHCR Romania, MIC has provided the following services:

- Information and counselling
- Cash assistance for refugees in partnership with Transilvania Bank

In collaboration with organizations such as Swiss Solidarity, Solidar Suisse, AWO Arbeiterwohlfahrt Bundesverband e.v, Aktion Deutschland HilftAction Aid, Brasov Community Foundation, Danish Refugee Council, People in Need, UKAid, Fabory, O-Video MIC has assisted over 5,000 Ukrainian refugees in Braşov.

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Direct assistance in areas such as education, healthcare, temporary protection, and other issues requested by refugees
- Romanian language courses
- Recreational and socio-cultural activities
- Advocacy and partnerships with local NGOs and public institutions

MIC references

The MIC is part of:

- **The Romanian Regional Refugee Response Plan coordinated by UNHCR Romania** (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/dataviz/288?sv=54&geo=10782>)
- **The Consultative Forum of European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)** and has contributed since 2016 to the Annual report about asylum in the EU (<https://euaa.europa.eu/partners/civil-society-and-consultative-forum>, <https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-knowledge/asylum-report>)
- **The Coalition for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees (CDMiR)**
- **The former Interministerial Committee of the National Coalition for Refugee Integration** (under Victor Ponta Government)

Reviews, evaluations and references of MIC:

- **Website:** migrantbrasov.ro
- **Facebook:** Migrant Integration Center Brasov
- **Instagram:** [@migrantintegrationcenterbrasov](https://www.instagram.com/migrantintegrationcenterbrasov)

The European Comission:

- https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/integration-practice/migrant-integration-centre-brasov_en
- https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/news/romania-migrant-integration-brasov-county-progressing-despite-covid-19-restrictions_en
- https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/index.php/event/brasov-multicultural-day-2022_en

UNICEF:

- A study of local response to Ukraine refugee crisis in Romania, UNICEF, November 2023 (PDF)
- www.unicef.org/romania/documents/good-management-practices-brasov-blue-dot

UNHCR:

- www.reliefweb.int/report/romania/spotlights-romania-promising-practices-ground
- UNHCR Spotlights of Romania: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/102607>
- Protection Profiling and Monitoring of Ukrainian refugees
- Area-Based Assessment (ABA) for Braşov (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/105635>)
- Included in the Services Advisor in Romania: <https://romania.servicesadvisor.net/en>

FDSC:

- www.fdsc.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/STUDIU-INTEGRAL_Romania-2024.Sectorul-negubernamental.pdf

Other sources:

- Assembly of European Regions: <https://aer.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Handbook-on-Culture-for-Inclusion-.pdf>

Projects

Language Buddy

What We Do In The Project

Objective:

To enhance language learning for students aged 12 to 17 with a refugee or migrant background through non-formal and informal educational methods.

Key Components:

- **Mentoring Practices:** The program focuses on upscaling mentoring approaches to support language acquisition.
- **Buddy System:** Students will be matched with peers from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), including those in pedagogy, education, language, and literature departments.

Coordination:

The initiative will be implemented in collaboration with HEIs, schools, educational authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and migrant-led organizations.

Support for Mentors:

HEI students will receive training and support to act as language mentors through voluntary programs and placements that align with their academic studies.

Technical things about the project

Duration

1st of March 2024 – 31st of August 2026.

Title

Language Buddy. Supporting language learning of migrant children and young adults through language buddies

Funding line

AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-03-EDUCATION

Budget

€ 1,367,247.91

Countries

Greece, Portugal, Austria, Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, Malta, Spain





Youth as cultural ambassadors

What We Did In The Project

Project Goal:
To promote intercultural dialogue among migrant, refugee, and Romanian youth and strengthening the NGO's capacity.

- Results:**
- Foster intercultural skills among youth from Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Haiti, India, China, Turkey, and Venezuela.
 - Enhanced intercultural dialogue through school presentations.
 - Support the psychosocial well-being youth and families through MHPSS and art therapy.
 - Developed a new visual identity for the Migrant Integration Center

Technical things about the project

Duration	5th of March – 30th of September 2024
Title	Youth as cultural ambassadors: Promoting intercultural understanding in the city of Braşov
Funding line	The Effective Civic Program developed by Civil Society Development Foundation in partnership with the Romanian-American Foundation
Budget	111,244.00 RON



Revitalization of the integration process of foreigners from Braşov county

What We Did In The Project

Comprehensive Support for Third-Country Nationals and Ukrainian Refugees.

Through our project, we assisted **1,564 individuals**—including both third-country nationals and Ukrainian refugees—by offering a range of vital services, including:

- Information and counselling
- Romanian language courses
- Self-help initiatives
- Socio-cultural activities

Additionally, we undertook advocacy efforts targeting local authorities, public institutions, and the private sector, while strengthening the organizational capacity of our NGO. As part of our commitment to improving services for migrants, we also modernized the Information Point for Foreigners, originally opened in 2014 at the Immigration Service in Braşov County.

Beneficiaries:

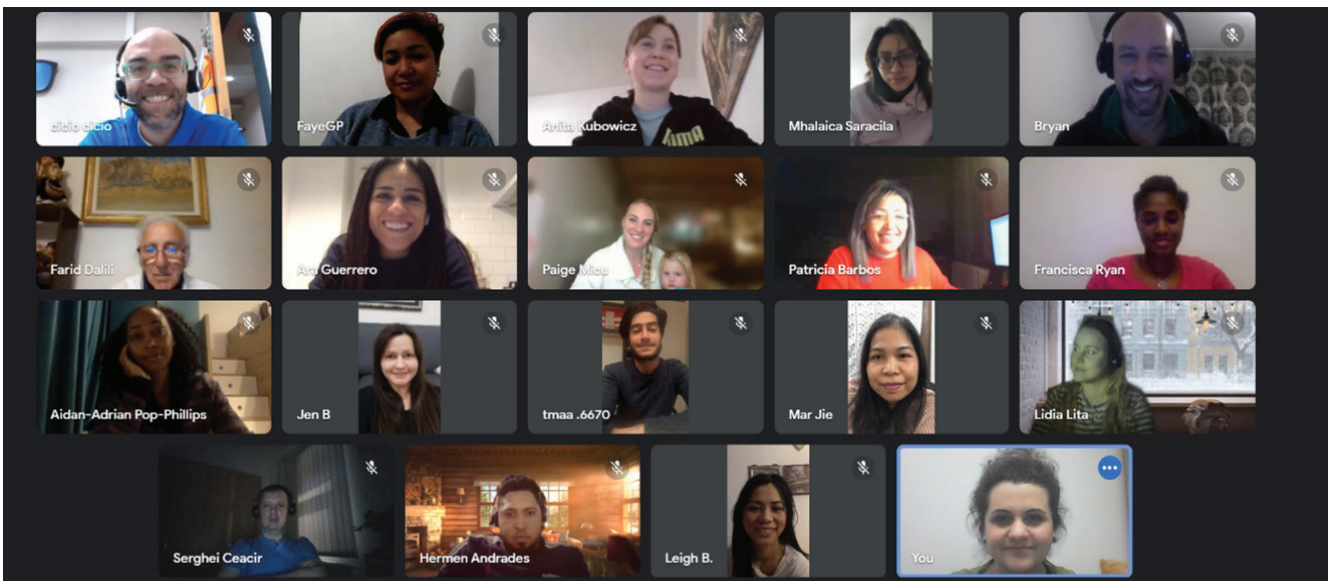
- **Females:** 958
- **Males:** 603
- **Total:** 1,564

Technical things about the project

Duration	27 months (March 2021–May 2023)
Title	Revitalization of the integration process of foreigners from Braşov county
Funding line	EEA and Norwegian Grants 2014–2021 through the ACTIVE CITIZENS FUND Romania program Call # 7 – Advocacy actions for the social inclusion of vulnerable groups

Budget	€ 146,131.04
Partners	Romanian National Council for Refugees





EMPATHY

What We Did In The Project

The EMPATHY project aimed to combat racism, xenophobia, and intolerance by fostering a culture of empathy across Europe. Through a comprehensive package of orientation, integration, and inclusion measures, the project utilized non-formal education methods to promote understanding and acceptance of diversity.

The “Empathy Revolution” was spread through a series of innovative offline and online activities that encouraged creative, cultural, and social approaches to addressing

discrimination. Guided by the European identity motto, “equal in diversity,” EMPATHY sought to inspire EU citizens to adopt more empathic attitudes towards people from all backgrounds.

Key achievements:

20 individuals of different nationalities actively participated in awareness-raising activities aimed at combating intolerance, promoting empathy, and fostering a more inclusive society. These activities played a crucial role in encouraging open dialogue and building stronger, more empathetic communities.

Technical things about the project

Duration	24 Months (January 2021–January 2023)
Title	EMPATHY – Empowering Migrants Promoting Inclusion via Capacity Building and Communities Engagement www.empathy-project.net/
Funding line	Erasmus+ KA3, Social inclusion, and common values: the contribution in the field of education and training

Budget	€ 495,951.00
Countries	Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain





Integration Program For Refugees

What We Did In The Project

Funded by the Romanian Federation of Community Foundations through support from OXFAM GB and UK AID, and coordinated by the Braşov Community Foundation, this project provided essential services for refugees fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The program offered beginner-level Romanian language courses, delivered in person, to 90 adult refugees. These courses played a key role in helping participants adapt to life in Romania by overcoming language barriers and facilitating smoother integration into the local community.

The project was coordinated by the Federation of Community Foundations in Romania and financially supported by UK AID.

Technical things about the project

Duration	1st of June – 31st of August 2022
Title	Integration Program For Refugees
Donor	UK AID
Budget	98.068 RON





Support and capacity-building program for organizations that assist refugees

What We Did In The Project

The BINE 360 project was designed to provide essential support to 100 Ukrainian refugees, helping them integrate into Romanian society by addressing key challenges such as language barriers and mental health.

The initiative included:

- Romanian language courses
- Organizational development activities
- Psychological counselling to improve well-being

Titled “Bine360 – We are good, we do good,” the project was coordinated by the Federation of Community Foundations in Romania and financially supported by People In Need. Locally implemented by the Braşov Community Foundation, it ensured that refugees in the Braşov area received the tools and assistance they needed to rebuild their lives.

Technical things about the project

Duration	10 months (1st of November – 31st of August 2023)
Title	Support and capacity-building program for organizations that assist refugees
Donor	People in Need
Budget	€ 24,000





BINE 360⁰

**SUNTEM BINE
FACEM BINE**

Program de sprijin și dezvoltare
a capacității pentru organizațiile
care susțin refugiați









Brasov Multicultural Day

10 years of bridging communities and embracing differences.

For the last ten years, Braşov Multicultural Day has transformed the iconic Piaţa Sfatului into a colorful hub of cultural exchange and celebration. This annual festival is a key event that promotes intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect for diversity. The event showcases the rich tapestry of cultures present in Braşov, encouraging tolerance, cooperation, and the integration of immigrants into the local community.

The festival features two main activities:

1. **Artistic Performances on Stage:** Migrants residing in Braşov, along with other international communities, share their cultural heritage

through traditional dances, country presentations, and live music performances. From vibrant costumes to the sounds of unique musical instruments, the stage becomes a lively platform for artistic expression.

2. **Cultural Exhibitions:** The cultural exhibitions at Braşov Multicultural Day are a captivating journey through the diverse traditions of countries across the globe. The annual festival is bringing together representatives from more than 20 countries outside the European Union alongside their embassy representatives in Romania.



Braşov Multicultural Day is a powerful reminder of the strength in diversity, fostering a sense of belonging for migrants and promoting greater understanding within the local community.

Each year, this vibrant event showcases unity and diversity through music, traditional dances and songs, country presentations, and cultural exhibitions.

Migrants come to share their rich heritage through displays of traditional clothing, art, and unique artifacts. Visitors and Brasov community marvel at the vibrant displays of African masks, colourful Indian henna designs, and the intricate embroidery of traditional costumes of each country. At each stand, participants admire these cultural treasures and engage in meaningful conversations with the exhibitors, deepening their understanding of the various cultures represented.

A special highlight of each year event is the “world tour” experience, where visitors receive personalized “passports” to collect stamps from each country’s booth. This interactive feature adds a sense of adventure as visitors of the festival move from one stand to another, collecting “visas” and learning about each country’s history, culture, and traditions. The festival not only highlights the importance of embracing differences, but also fosters connections among diverse communities, celebrating the strength and beauty that comes from unity in diversity. Each year, it serves as a powerful reminder of the rich cultural heritage that enhances the fabric of Braşov.



Since 2019, the festival has been financially supported by Braşov Municipality through the Cultural Funds funding line, Active Citizens Fund, and the European Commission via the Empathy project.

Since 2019, the festival has been financially supported by Braşov Municipality through the Cultural Funds funding line, Active Citizens Fund, and the European Commission via the Empathy project. The editions from 2014 to 2018 received support from IOM Romania through the Integration Fund and AMIF.





Support for Ukrainian Refugees

Continuation of support for Ukrainian refugees in Brasov

What We Did In The Project

At the Migrant Integration Center in Braşov, we have provided vital assistance to Ukrainian refugees, focusing on key areas such as information and counselling, Romanian language courses, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and strengthening the center's institutional capacity.

Key Objectives:

- **192 individuals** participated in MHPSS sessions (both individual and group).
- **788 individuals** received comprehensive information and counselling, with 1,377 pieces of information provided.
- **218 individuals** received targeted protection assistance, resulting in 590 services provided (131 women and 87 men).

Gender Breakdown:

- 503 females
- 285 males

Technical things about the project

Duration	1st of October 2023 – 30th of June 2024
Title	Continuation of support for Ukrainian refugees in Brasov
Donor	Swiss Solidarity
Budget	€ 49.995





What We Did In The Project

Supported by Swiss Solidarity, MIC has significantly contributed to supporting and empowering the Ukrainian refugee community during these challenging times.

1. Support for Ukrainian Refugees: 550 food vouchers were distributed to provide essential assistance to Ukrainian refugees, ensuring access to basic needs during a critical time.
2. Strengthening the Capacity of the Migrant Integration Center: The project focused on enhancing the center's ability to effectively support migrants and refugees, improving its organizational framework and capacity to deliver essential services.

Technical things about the project

Duration	1st of June 2022 – 30 of August 2022
Title	Response to the needs of refugees from Ukraine
Donor	Swiss Solidarity
Budget	€ 19.916



Protection Monitoring, Information sharing and Individual Protection Assistance to Ukrainian Refugees in Brasov

What We Did In The Project

In partnership with the Danish Refugee Council, the Migrant Integration Center in Braşov launched a project to support Ukrainian communities living outside the city. This initiative established a mobile team to provide essential services such as information and counselling, protection monitoring, and individualized protection assistance. The project ensured that refugees in remote areas received the support they needed to navigate the challenges of displacement.

Additionally, profiling and protection monitoring of the Ukrainian refugee situation were conducted in collaboration with UNHCR Romania from April 2023 to May 2023.

Total Beneficiaries:

- 691 persons
- 256 male
- 435 female

- 1. Information Sharing:**
A total of 472 pieces of information were provided to 264 households, benefiting 619 individuals.
- 2. Individual Protection Assistance:**
532 direct assistance and individual protection services were delivered.
- 3. Protection Monitoring:**
298 individuals were interviewed as part of the protection monitoring efforts.

This project provided critical support to vulnerable populations, ensuring their access to essential services and protection.

Technical things about the project

Duration	9 months (15 of October 2022 – 31st of July 2023)
Title	Protection Monitoring, Information sharing and Individual Protection Assistance to Ukrainian Refugees in Brasov

Donor	Danish Refugee Council
Budget	€ 78,003





Humanitarian Assistance for Refugees from Ukraine

What We Did In The Project

Through this project, the Migrant Integration Center in Braşov, Romania provided essential assistance to individuals fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Our services included information and counselling, cash assistance program in partnership with Banca Transilvania, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

Phase 1 (March – June 2022)

- **Total Cash Assistance Beneficiaries:** 2053
- **Adults (Household Representatives):** 776

Phase 2 (July 2022 – July 2023)

- **Total Beneficiaries of the project:** 3008 persons (1179 male, 1829 female)
- **Cash assistance beneficiaries:** 2,541 persons (950 male, 1591 female)

Technical things about the project

Duration	1st of July 2022 – 31st of July 2023
Title	Humanitarian Assistance for Refugees from Ukraine
Donor	Swiss Solidarity, Solidar Suisse, AWO Arbeiterwohlfahrt Bundesverband e.v, Aktion Deutschland Hilft
Budget	€ 500,000 for PHASE 2 € 306,000 for PHASE 1



#WeStandWithUkraine



ERRU

EARLY RESPONSE FOR
REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE
IN ROMANIA

WE OFFER COUNSELING, ACCOMMODATION
AND EMERGENCY MATERIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR REFUGEES IN BRAȘOV AND TIMIȘOARA.



Humanitarian Assistance for Refugees from Ukraine

What We Did In The Project

The Oameni pentru Oameni program, led by Fundația Comunitară Brașov, provided essential support to Ukrainian refugees in Brașov. Through this initiative, refugees received immediate assistance, including meal tickets and medical care, helping them address urgent needs during a critical period.

Technical things about the project

Duration	1st of July 2022 – 31st of July 2023
Title	Humanitarian Assistance for Refugees from Ukraine
Donor	Brasov Community Foundation
Budget	400.000 RON

The logo features a large blue circle with a network of white lines and dots at the bottom. The text 'fundația comunitară' is in white, 'Brașov' is in large orange script, and 'orașul nostru. comunitatea noastră.' is in white below it. A dark blue trapezoidal shape on the right contains the text 'ONGOING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN BRAȘOV' in white.

fundația
comunitară
Brașov
orașul nostru. comunitatea noastră.

**ONGOING FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FOR
UKRAINIAN REFUGEES
IN BRAȘOV**

Provided

- ✓ Meal tickets
- ✓ Medical assistance
- ✓ Total of 50 000 lei donation



Medium Term Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Braşov

What We Did In The Project

The Action Aid – Medium Term Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Braşov Project
Financed through Alianza por la Solidaridad,
launched in May 2022.

Through this initiative, the Migrant Integration Center Braşov provided crucial support to Ukrainian refugees, ensuring they had access to a safe and decent living standard as they settled in Braşov.

The project addressed essential needs by offering:

- Food vouchers
- Hygiene packages for families
- Assistance with pregnancy-related expenses
- Reimbursement of medical costs
- Newborn trousseau
- Cash assistance for 50 young Ukrainians
- Educational packages, including school supplies for children

This support was instrumental in helping refugees adapt and rebuild their lives after fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Technical things about the project

Duration	3 months (16th of May – 31st of August 2022)
Title	Medium Term Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Braşov
Donor	ActionAid
Budget	€ 139,532



act!onaid

**RAPID RESPONSE FOR
UKRAINE**

**SUPPORT
FOR
REFUGEES**

NEWBORN CARE PACKAGES

HYGENE CARE PACKAGES

YOUNG ADULT SUPPORT

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

MEDICAL BILLS REINBURSMENT

MEAL TICKETS

Other Projects

- **Creation of the „Romanian Center for Migration Research and Social Inclusion“ (2020–2022), AMIF, Partner**
- **INTERACT and INTERACT PLUS – Servicii integrate pentru migranți, dialog social și intercultural (July 2017–June 2019), AMIF, Partner**
- **INTERACT– Integrated services for migrants, social and multicultural dialogue (2016–2017), AMIF, Partner**
- **STARRT – Transfer and Assistance Services for Refugees Resettled from Turkey, 2017, subcontracted**
- **National coordination for the integration of third-country nationals in Romania (2012–2014), Integration Fund, subcontracted**
- **„Romanian language courses and socio-cultural orientation for migrants“ (2010–2011), Integration Fund, subcontracted**

