

Nota informativa

Brussels, 27 October 2022

Galician Government's response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine

1. Humanitarian aid

Since last March, four agreements have been activated for emergency and humanitarian action:

- a) Agreement with the **NGO *Farmaceuticos Mundi*** to take care of women and minors in vulnerable situations in the Ukrainian region of Poltava.
- b) A Contingency Fund to support the humanitarian response to the crisis, specifically to finance the humanitarian effort being carried out by the **International Federation of the Red Cross**. This covers comprehensive health, water and sanitation needs, while ensuring shelter and livelihoods.
- c) Emergency agreement signed with **UNICEF** to provide protection services for children and their families during displacement, through Blue Points, child and family protection centres that offer a safe and welcoming space to rest, play and simply be a child.
- d) Agreement between the Galician public administration (Xunta de Galicia) and the Galician Aid to Ukraine Association with the aim of covering the need for basic supplies. This is part of the IV Master Plan for Galician Cooperation 2018-2021.

On the other hand, the call for grants in competitive concurrence for humanitarian action projects was published with an amount of 400,000 €, where NGOs could submit proposals in response to the Ukrainian emergency.

The Galician Health Service (SERGAS) also sent two shipments of medicines to the refugee camps in Poland.

2. Reception of the displaced Ukrainian population in the region of Galicia

a) Information

The recommendation for the arrivals was to avail themselves of the temporary protection system through the entities in charge of the first reception in Galicia. A mobile information unit was set up to provide guidance on how to access social benefits, economic aid and health, educational and bureaucratic procedures. For this

purpose, an informative guide was created in several languages containing useful information.

b) Shelter places

Galicia made available to national authorities a list of reception places to receive the Ukrainian population. In principle, 1 400 places were offered, but these vary according to needs.

c) Health

SERGAS set up a special vaccination and health card processing system. Immediate access to primary and hospital care and continuation of treatment is also guaranteed.

d) Education:

Immediate schooling of minors was guaranteed, thus facilitating their integration to continue their training and development with the least possible interruption. To this end, a Reception Plan was created for schools, a web space was set up with basic conversation resources in Galician, Spanish and Ukrainian and free services such as school transport, canteen or educational material were offered.

e) Protection of minors:

The Galician Government coordinated with the main specialized organisations to guarantee the identification and protection of minors and prioritized that they remain with their closest environment.

f) Employment:

Ukrainian refugees can receive training courses and can register as job seekers.

g) Social assistance:

In case of scarce economic resources, access to the necessary social benefits is guaranteed through the temporary protection system.

3. Challenges encountered in the response of the regional government of Galicia to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

- In the beginning, there were problems of coordination amongst the different public authorities (at national and subnational level) and NGOs to deliver unique responses in a quick and effect manner.
- Slowdown in channelling public funds through NGOs due to the rules imposed by the regulations on public subsidies.
- We appealed to Galician citizens not to make donations in kind but to send their donations to humanitarian NGOs and agencies working in the area.

- Difficulty in decision making, since the Galician Government did not have complete information on the registry of people arriving from Ukraine to Spain, nor the number of people that the Spanish central government (who had the competence in the matter) assigned to each region.
- Delay in the processing of the economic aid promised by the central government for Ukrainian families.