



D2.3 Online focus group discussions

A summary report

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Disclaimer

This document provides a short summary of the key findings from online focus groups conducted in May 2024. The Focus group was carried out by Dignita, Foundation with the support of all partners in Eradicating II project. This short version highlights the primary conclusions and insights gathered during the focus groups, offering an overview of the key findings and main areas of discussion. For detailed findings and comprehensive analysis, please refer to the full report.



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Key Findings from Online Focus Group Discussions on Ukrainian Refugees

As part of the ERADICATING II project, the **Dignita Foundation** successfully hosted online focus group discussions from May 14 to May 16, 2024, involving participants from six EU countries: Germany, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Greece, Romania, and Poland. These sessions provided a vital platform to explore vulnerabilities and risks of trafficking among Ukrainian refugees, offering insights to shape future training and policies.

These sessions focused on:

- ✧ Assessing migration patterns, identifying vulnerable groups,
- ✧ Analyzing trafficking risks, and
- ✧ Evaluating effective policies and practices to reduce exploitation.

The insights gathered will inform the development of tailored training modules for law enforcement, social service providers, and other stakeholders.

The Methodology

The focus group discussions, conducted online via Google Meet, involved service providers and humanitarian organizations from Germany, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Greece, Romania, and Poland. A structured scenario guided the discussions across four thematic areas, with participants engaging in open-ended, moderated dialogue. Sessions were recorded, transcribed, and analyzed to identify key findings, offering a comprehensive understanding of shared and country-specific challenges faced by Ukrainian refugees.

Key Findings:

Session 1 – Migration Patterns of Ukrainian Refugees in the Country





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Refugees showed significant movement within the EU with popular destination countries to include Germany, Austria and Italy while in cases Canada and Australia were also preferred. In Romania, challenges such as circular migration to Ukraine and risk of irregular border crossing were noted.

Session 2- Vulnerable Groups

Participants highlighted risks faced such as unaccompanied minors, elderly people, single mothers, and LGBTQI+ individuals. Participants mentioned the vulnerabilities of those with disabilities and minorities facing particular difficulties and barriers to access to essential services.

Session 3- Potential Risks to Trafficking

Common risks included fraudulent job offers, exploitation in the grey economy and cases of sexual violence. Refugees mentioned the lack of information related to labor law and the rise of disinformation.

Session 4 – Preventive Policies

This session focused on identifying situation and contextual vulnerabilities to THB and promising practices for resilience of Ukrainian refugees. Such policies are the Germany's employment programs and language trainings, Romanian's education initiatives for Ukrainian students, Bulgaria's safe zone for accommodation and Slovenian's awareness campaigns against trafficking were identified as effective in mitigating risks.

Conclusions

The findings of the focus groups conducted in the framework of Eradicating II, provide a critical foundation for the development of training modules targeting law enforcement and social service providers across the six participating EU member states. These findings highlighted the urgent need for coordinated efforts to address the challenges faced by Ukrainian refugees through effective training modules and actionable learning objectives.

