Riga Support Center for the Residents of Ukraine

Ilze Meilande



Head of Society Integration and Participation Division,

Neighbourhood Development, Society Integration and Customer Service Department,

Riga City Neighbourhood Residents Centre

27.05.2022

Initial activities

Helplines 24/7 – Riga Municipality/ state (March 2nd, March 3rd)

Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians

(March 3rd)

Decision of the Riga City Council on the **establishment of the Riga Support Center for the Residents of Ukraine**

(March 4th)

Riga Support Center for the Residents of Ukraine Has been operating since March 7th, weekdays 9.00-18.00

One stop agency for Ukrainians

Working algorithm (first time arrival):

- 1. Checking the documents and identifying the person by the **State Border Guard**
- 2. Registration of the **Riga Municipality**
- 3. Consultations and services

Establishing a new Unit to operate the Riga Support Center for the Residents of Ukraine Riga Support Center for the Residents of Ukraine The Residents of Ukraine can receive **advice and practical support**, including:

- resolving issues related to accommodation
- applying for a visa, residence permits and receiving completed documents
- applying for a crisis benefit, a guaranteed minimum income benefit and a housing benefit, a certificate for receiving food parcels,
- consultations on registration for schools and kindergartens,
- consultations on employment,
- consultations about **non-profit sector support**,
- psychological consultations and first aid
- free Latvian SIM cards and e-tickets for the use of public transport, etc.

Riga Support Center for the Residents of Ukraine Adding new services (March 21st):

- applying for **city public transportation** ticket registration
- consultations and registration for family and other state social security benefits
- consultations on higher education opportunities



For the convenience of visitors

Baby care room Children play room Prayer room – chapel Cafeteria/catering

NGOs, volunteers, entrepreneurs Since the first day of the war, **NGOs** have been actively involved in providing support

Volunteers - invaluable support in running of the Center – Latvians/ Ukrainians

Donations of **entrepreneurs and businesses** provide significant support in the day-to-day running of the Center

Challenges and success

Unpredictability Change and adaptation in action

Cooperation between state institutions, Riga Municipality and NGOs

Long term integration

Improving and adapting existing services upon necessity

New services: language courses, social inclusion activities, non-formal learning activities

Thank you for your attention!



Part of volunteers team with the Riga Mayor