ПЛАСТ
Українська скаутська організація в Польщі

PŁAST
Ukraińska Organizacja Skautowa w Polsce

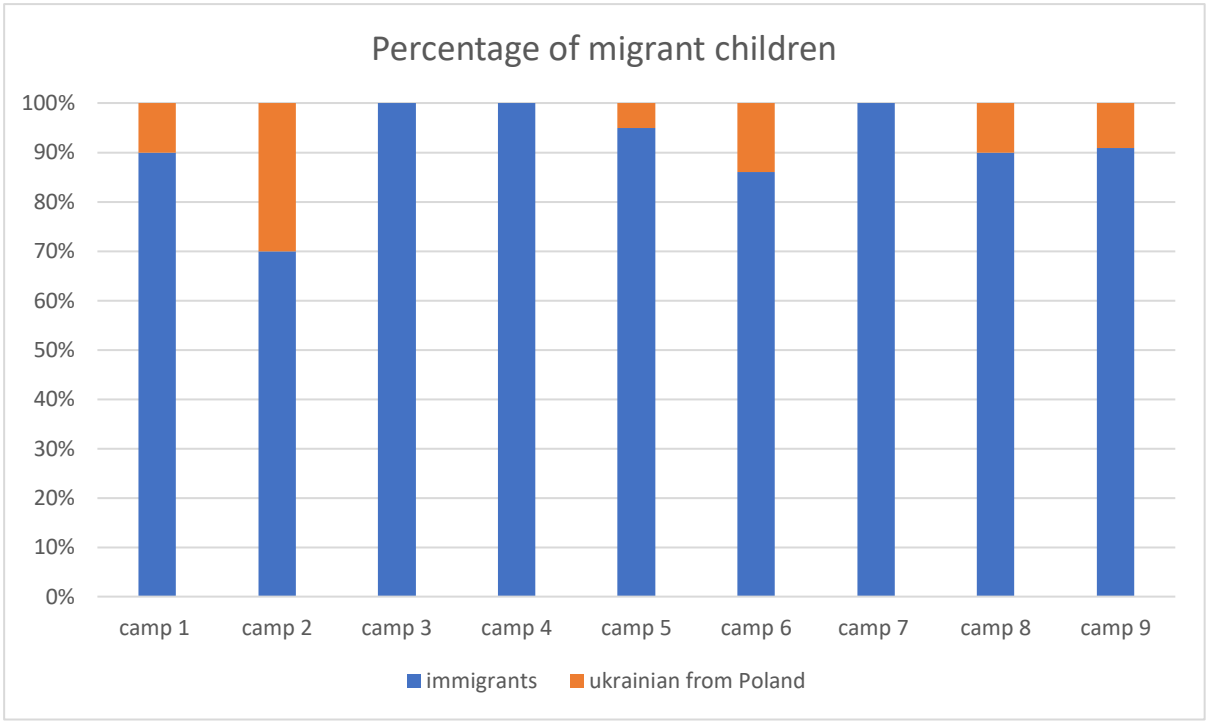
Ukraine Children's Action Project
Проєкт "Дій для дітей України"

This year, thanks to funding from the Ukrainie Children`s Action Project, we were able to fully fund 8 camps and partially fund 2 more. In total, we supported 226 children. The camps took place across 7 locations, with 4 camps held at the Plast campsite. We also prepared the campsite for the entire summer season — mowing the grounds twice and supplying the camp with firewood. 90% of our children are individuals affected by the refugee crisis after 2022, when Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The remaining 10% are indigenous Ukrainians and those who came to Poland before 2022.

No.	Camp Data	Name	Children Age	Full Funding / Subsidy	Number of children	Non-migrant children
1	25/07-01/08/2024	“Litopys”	7-12	Full	42	4
2	26/07-02/08/2024	“Dzhura”	7-12	Full	37	12
3	06-12/07/2025	Poznan/Wroclav	11-17	Full	23	0
4	05-13/07/2025	Warsaw	11-17	Full	25	0
5	13-20/07/2025	Lublin	11-17	Full	21	1
6	01-10/08/2025	Poland	11-17	Full	29	4
7	10-17/08/2025	Krakov	11-17	Full	12	0
8	09-10/08/2025	Lublin Ptashata	2-6	Full	7	1
9	22-27/07/2025	Rzeszov	11-17	Subsidy	15	0
10	30/06-05/07/2025	Warsav Ptashata	2-6	Subsidy	15	3
11	01-05/06/2025	preparing	+18	Full	15	
12	15-23/07/2025	Mandry	11-17			

The camps for Ukrainian children this year are a very important element of preserving traditions as well as maintaining a connection with Ukraine. Ninety percent of the participants are children who left Ukraine, and many of them left at the beginning of the war or even before starting school. As a result, they either never had lessons in Ukrainian schools or, after four years abroad, have forgotten much of what they learned.

For many of them, Plast is their only regular contact with the Ukrainian language and culture. Problems with reading and writing in Ukrainian are becoming more common. There are situations where parents speak Russian at home, children speak Polish at school, and the only time they are exposed to the Ukrainian language is during Plast activities.
Another important aspect is their contact with nature, which the camps help restore and strengthen.



Camp 1

The children formed close friendships with one another and felt that they were part of a large, warm, and supportive community. They also became more independent in taking care of themselves. In addition, the children deepened their knowledge of Ukrainian history and, through various sports activities, had the opportunity to develop new physical skills.

For a child, traveling away from their parents and spending time with peers is a great adventure, especially at the age of 7–11. These were important days, not only because they allowed the children to step outside their comfort zones and spend time away from their parents' care, but also because they were immersed in Ukrainian culture and language around the clock.

Camp2

The camp was conducted according to the historical game complex "Dzura," which is based on activities themed around the Cossack–Hetman era. The aim of the camp activities was to inspire in the children a respect for the glorious past of the Ukrainian state and an interest in historical figures. Throughout the camp, the children took part in many outdoor games to strengthen their physical health, as well as workshops and role-playing activities.

The culmination of the camp was the participants' ceremony of being received by the Hetman — an event held in the style of traditional Ukrainian evening gatherings, where the children became acquainted with folk singing and traditional Ukrainian dances.

Camp 3

During the camp, the children cherished Ukrainian traditions and learned about folk customs and rituals. On one of the days, we devoted our attention to Ukrainian wedding traditions — the children learned about ancient matchmaking customs, made wedding attributes, and even reenacted fragments of a traditional folk wedding.

Camp 4

The “Heart of Olympus” camp took place in Mryhlody Lubelskie — an area located very close to the Ukrainian border. This held special significance for the participants, as the village is home to people who speak Ukrainian, creating a sense of closeness to home and a natural linguistic environment. During the camp, the children — most of whom had moved to Poland after the start of the full-scale war — felt a strong strengthening of their connection to Ukraine.

They became more confident, more active in teamwork, and deepened their knowledge of Ukrainian traditions. Thanks to the camp's atmosphere, they also further strengthened their Ukrainian identity. The program, the Ukrainian language, songs, symbols, and the proximity to the native border helped the children feel part of a community that remembers its roots and maintains a living connection with Ukraine.

Camp5

The camp program was built around the history of Ukraine during the Cossack era, yet it also included many activities focused on processing emotions, developing healthy communication, and strengthening team spirit. The goal was to create strong, friendly bonds in order to provide children—who were forced to leave their homes, friends, families, and schools—with a sense of family and support.

At the camp, the children had an excellent opportunity to benefit from elements of ergotherapy and nature therapy, which undoubtedly contributes to improved mental health. The camp became a bright memory and an alternative reality, offering the chance to simply be present in the here and now — without their parents, but with the support of friends and counselors.

Camp 6

During the camp, the children learned camping skills, cooperation, and how to help one another. They also learned more about the history of Plast and Ukrainian traditions. Every day, they maintained a connection with Ukraine through songs, shared conversations, and symbols of our culture.

In addition, the children learned about the complex history of Ukraine, including the multiple struggles for independence and the preservation of their identity. At the same time, the camp focused on fostering a positive attitude and providing opportunities for relaxation. Over the course of five days, the children also participated in activities led by instructors from Denmark and the Netherlands, who were conducting a nearby training for leaders from Plast Ukraine.

Camp 7

During the camp, there were lessons on the history of Ukraine, with Ukrainian as the language of communication. The children learned Ukrainian songs and discussed the “Flame of Brotherhood” event on August 14. The girls became very integrated during workshops and other activities, growing more loyal and kind toward each other and offering mutual support.

The campers also interacted with local scouts, sharing more about our organization and Ukraine, and at the end, they exchanged scarves as a symbolic gesture.

Camp 8

We explored the world of fireflies, learning how they live in the forest and what “superpowers” they have. The children faced a real obstacle course challenge, simulating the difficulties fireflies encounter in the forest. They crafted lanterns, created shadow theater,

searched for fireflies in the dark forest, went on hikes to observe nature, looked for colors in the environment, and learned how potatoes grow and the different parts of the plant. Afterwards, they took on actual sports challenges and, in the end, acquired real “bird-like” athletic skills. The little campers also slept in tents — for most, it was their first night in a tent and sleeping bag.

All communication at the camp was exclusively in Ukrainian, giving the children an opportunity to improve their language skills. During the mini-camp, they learned new words related to nature (names of various plants and animals) as well as practical scouting terms (tent, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, etc.). The camping experience was accompanied by ceremonies (opening and closing) focused on love for Ukraine and fostering patriotism. An important element was the campfire, where parents and children together performed Ukrainian folk songs as well as Plast songs, thus passing on oral folk traditions.

Although the mini-camp lasted only one weekend, it brought our little group even closer together and helped the children become more integrated.

Camp 9

The camp aimed to give children the opportunity to learn practical scouting skills, complete Plast tests and proficiency badges, develop teamwork, and challenge themselves in living outdoors. During the camp, two boys completed their first test and were officially inducted.

Overall, staying in Mryhlody, on lands that were Ukrainian centuries ago, provided the children with a wealth of knowledge about the history of their region and the history of areas formerly inhabited by Ukrainians, where we stayed. We met local neighbors who spoke Ukrainian, explored the local history and geography, learned Lemko songs, and sang Ukrainian insurgent and historical songs. The children learned a lot, gained deeper

knowledge of their homeland, and improved their skills in practicing Plast activities in nature.

Camp 10

The children became a united team and helped one another. Patriotism was an important part of the camp experience. They went on a hike to Mount Monastyr, where Ukrainian partisans and fighters for Ukraine's freedom from World War II are buried. The children played and laughed a lot, as every child should. Each day included various workshops and physical activities, keeping the children engaged and active. The days were filled with good spirits, and in the evenings they gathered around the campfire, singing Ukrainian songs. These little children, following the example of their parents, enjoyed these moments together as a group around the fire.

Preparations

In Mrzyglody we prepared the house as a storage facility, built a wooden shed for storing dry food, set up showers, a field kitchen, and a field dining area, cleaned the well, set up and prepared tents and beds, arranged a space for child evacuation (just in case), ensured electricity supply with a generator, and took care of other necessary preparations.

Challenges during the camps

1. **Evacuation during weather hazards** – During the camps, there is a risk of storms. According to Polish law, camps are required to follow announcements from the Fire Service and Crisis Management Centers, and if necessary, evacuate participants to a safe location. This year, we evacuated children several times at three different camps to ensure their safety. After the storms, strong winds, and heavy rain had passed, the children returned to the campsite and continued their activities.
2. **Children come from different parts of Poland and from various regions of Ukraine —** they have different experiences and often do not know one another. At the beginning of the camp, they are often shy. Their level of Ukrainian proficiency also varies. However, all these difficulties disappear once a sense of community begins to form, and this happens very quickly.The camp program is always designed so that, at the start, the children have opportunities to get to know one another and bond. Shared activities such as cooking or building camp infrastructure become challenges they overcome together, helping them form strong connections.
3. Different wartime experiences — many children who came to Poland still carry memories of what they lived through. Some directly experienced the war, while for others, the very need to leave their hometowns was a major trauma. Understanding these circumstances by the counselors is essential. Many of the leaders have gone through similar experiences themselves, so they know what the children are feeling. Mutual understanding is the key to resolving challenges.
4. Different camping experience — at the beginning, children may be afraid that they won't measure up to older, more experienced participants. In Plast, the approach is that older, more experienced children teach the younger ones, which produces very positive results. Children are more willing to follow the example of older peers, who impress them with their knowledge, than that of adults.
5. Children with diagnoses — at our camps, there are also children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or ADHD. Parents provide this information when registering their

child for the camp. The camp counselors prepare in advance for such situations. Each child with a diagnosis is always accompanied by an additional instructor who can help them understand a question or task. With older children, the instructors also take a more individualized approach.

What the camps give to children

1. **Cultural aspect – connection with Ukrainian culture and language**
   The children are surrounded by Ukrainian-speaking people 24 hours a day. Throughout the camp, they primarily learn about Ukrainian traditions and history through play. For some of them, this is the only opportunity to engage with their culture, as they usually live in a Polish environment. Maintaining continuous contact with Ukrainian culture is very important. Many children hope to return to Ukraine after the war, and contact with people who share the same Ukrainian cultural code is crucial for them. For those who will not return, because they are starting to build their future in Poland or plan to settle in another country, staying connected with Ukrainian culture and traditions helps them preserve a part of their native Ukrainian identity.
2. **Social aspect – feeling comfortable among peers with similar experiences**
   Some children attend Polish schools, while others study online in Ukrainian schools. The latter group particularly needs contact with peers, as they spend most of their

time in front of screens. Learning interpersonal skills is a fundamental part of every child's development. The camp and Plast provide a safe space where children can learn, experiment with different roles, and practice group dynamics.
From time to time, in small groups, during camps for youth aged 11–17, evening discussions are held where children can share their observations and receive support from peers. These sessions are led by counselors, who moderate them in a way that ensures the children feel safe.

3. **Developmental aspect – a break from everyday life, stepping out of the comfort zone, trying different roles, experiencing adventure and freedom, and gaining new friends and connections.**
   For children, the camp is a time of fun and carefreeness, but also a time to test their abilities and gain experiences they could not have at home. It provides contact with peers who share similar interests, as well as opportunities to face personal challenges, such as lack of sleep, the discomfort of a tent, or showering outdoors. The camp is not only an adventure but also a chance to connect with nature and discover one's own capabilities.

Financial report

No.	Camp Data	Children Age	Full Funding / Subsidy	Planned costs in PLN	Planned costs in $	Used funds $	Total costs $
1	25/07-01/08/2024	7-12	Full	58000	16214,71	13742	
2	26/07-02/08/2024	7-12	Full	40000	11182,56	13419,07	
3	06-12/07/2025	11-17	Full	24000	6709,53	6709,53	
4	05-13/07/2025	11-17	Full	25000	6989,10	4813,22	
5	13-20/07/2025	11-17	Full	25000	6989,10	5129,58	
6	01-10/08/2025	11-17	Full	26000	7268,66	6116,69	
7	10-17/08/2025	11-17	Full	15000	4193,46	3736,09	
8	09-10/08/2025	2-6	Full	0	0,00	855,31	
9	22-27/07/2025	11-17	Subsidy	0	0,00	1397,82	2935,42
10	30/06-05/07/2025	2-6	Subsidy	0	0,00	1397,82	4193
11	01-05/06/2025	+18	Full	6000	1677,38	6813,26	
12	15-23/07/2025	11-17	Full	17000	0,00	0,00	
					TOTAL:	64130,39	

We used the entire amount of the grant. On July 21, 2025, we received 64,130 dollars in our bank account. According to the exchange rate on July 25, 2025, we converted it into Polish złoty, which, after deducting the bank fee, amounted to 229,393.01 PLN.

The differences in expenses are due to the fact that one of the camps received local funding, which had been applied for many months earlier, but it only became clear at the very start that the money had been granted. This was the “Mandry” camp, for which we had initially budgeted 15,000 PLN.

Additionally, the costs for preparing the camp site in Mrzygłody increased from $1,677 to $6,813. However, this allowed us to reduce the total expenses for the three planned camps (4, 5, 6) from $21,246 to $16,059. Furthermore, we were able to lower the overall cost of an additional camp held there for children from Rzeszów from July 22–27.

This also enabled us to fund a short camp for children aged 2–6 with their parents from Lubin (Camp 8), subsidize camps for children aged 2–6 and their parents from Warsaw (Camp 10), and support a camp for children aged 11–17 from Rzeszów.

On behalf of all the children, we sincerely thank you for the kindness we have received from Ukrainie Children`s Action Project!