

**Intercultural Adaptation of Ukrainian Refugee Children in a Polish Reception Centre
– Insights from Practice –**

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This presentation examines the intercultural adaptation of Ukrainian refugee children residing in a Polish reception centre between 2022 and 2023, highlighting both challenges encountered and effective strategies for supporting their integration into a new environment. Drawing on first-hand experience working with children aged 4–15 in educational, language, and integration activities organised by local volunteers and aid organisations, the presentation addresses: (1) the dual role of the mother tongue and the host country's language in adaptation; (2) the need to ensure safety and predictability in daily routines; (3) the value of intercultural cooperation between staff, volunteers, and families; and (4) preventing social isolation through joint activities with local children. Examples of good practice include integrating elements of Ukrainian culture into events, involving parents in activity preparation, and producing bilingual materials. Challenges such as language barriers, differing parenting styles, and the impact of war-related trauma on children's well-being are discussed, offering practical insights for inclusive, culturally responsive education in migration contexts.