

# The French response to the reception of refugees from Ukraine

# Temporary protection and its application in France

- ▶ A matter of vocabulary : « displaced persons from Ukraine » rather than « refugees » in the official terminology
- ▶ A third type of status, with a lot more rights than asylum seekers, but less so than refugees, although without going through asylum application process
- ▶ In France, main differences with refugees :
  - ▶ No RSA (« active solidarity income »)
  - ▶ No access to several other types of social benefits, e.g. solidarity income for the elderly, or the « back to school » allocation
- ▶ Issue with third country nationals

# How were the reception conditions organised ?

- ❑ Theoretically a three phases system, with one main principle - no competition between Ukrainian and other beneficiaries in need of housing / additional capacity :
  - ❑ Short-term emergency shelters (hotels, school gyms, etc.)
  - ❑ Longer term emergency shelters (hotels, vacation centers, shelters, etc.) / Accomodation with local families
  - ❑ Access to housing (social housing / supported housing)
- ❑ Where are the families from Ukraine ?
  - ❑ Around 100 000 people in France
  - ❑ About 22 000 shelter places but occupation rate of 75%
  - ❑ About 14 000 people staying with families with social support from specialised organisation
  - ❑ About 18 000 people in housing (amounts to 7 700 accomodations, provided freely by private actors or rented)
  - ❑ Amounts to more than 50% which are housed in unknown conditions

# What are the main differences between reception conditions for Ukrainians and for asylum seekers ?

## *Good practices and takeaways*

- ▶ A « reception first » principle :
  - ▶ Acces to extended rights : immediate access to social security (healthcare), rapid access to monthly income, right to work, right to housing, possibility to follow French language classes
  - ▶ Effectiveness of these rights : often times, a « single desk » with all relevant official actors was set up, and at least availability of public services to process the cases
  - ▶ Action to prevent homelessness : acces to emergency shelters right away
  - ▶ Evolution of working relations between different types of actores. Solid mobilisation of all relevant actors (public, associations, private sector, general public, etc.) to provide solutions for the needs that were observed), although difficulties remained

# What are the main challenges ?

- ▶ Incertainty : length of the conflict, how long will people from Ukraine want to stay in France
- ▶ Access to work : language barrier, risk of downgrading of professional status
- ▶ Access to housing : housing crisis in France
- ▶ Reception conditions that are influenced by a restrictive approach to migration : many administrative barriers still remain