



# UKRAINE CONSORTIUM NEWSLETTER



Crois Dhearg na hÉireann  
Irish Red Cross



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lámhártoíochta agus Oige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth

*Welcome to the Ukraine Consortium\* Newsletter. This quarterly update is intended for anyone who has pledged accommodation or is hosting Ukrainians in Ireland. This edition includes:*

- Hosting updates*
- Host Survey highlights and other ways to engage*
- Roadshow dates*
- Support and resources for hosts and guests*

*\*The Consortium is managed by the Irish Red Cross with implementing partners International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Helping Irish Hosts and Peter McVerry Trust, and is funded by the Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). You are receiving this email because you were matched by one of the implementing partners or because you are registered to receive ARP.*

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## Hosting Updates

There are now over **7,500 hosts** in Ireland, accommodating more than **17,000 displaced Ukrainians** in pledged properties. That's **over 20%** of all Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) currently here - living in Irish family homes and other pledged accommodation. It's a pretty amazing demonstration of ongoing solidarity with people fleeing the war in Ukraine. Thank you.

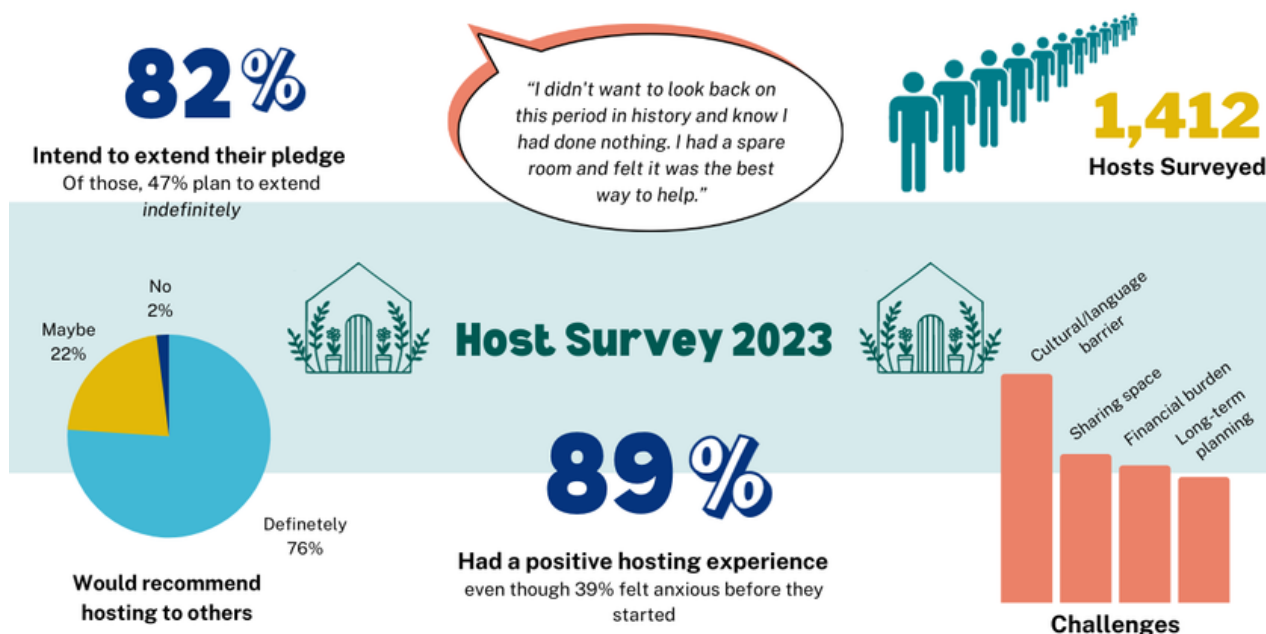
The Consortium is here to support you on your hosting journey. Please get in touch if you need us; your first point of contact is the organisation who matched you and if you're one of the 47% of hosts who made your own arrangements, you can reach out to the Consortium partners below.

- Irish Red Cross [migrationcrisis@redcross.ie](mailto:migrationcrisis@redcross.ie)
- Helping Irish Hosts [hostsupport@helpingirishhosts.com](mailto:hostsupport@helpingirishhosts.com)
- Peter McVerry Trust [UKRPledgeSite@pmvtrust.ie](mailto:UKRPledgeSite@pmvtrust.ie)
- IOM [iomdublintransfers@iom.int](mailto:iomdublintransfers@iom.int)
- DCEDIY [ukrainetempaccomm@equality.gov.ie](mailto:ukrainetempaccomm@equality.gov.ie)
- Local Authorities <https://www.gov.ie/en/>

## Host Survey Highlights

Over **1,400** people completed the recent Host Survey, providing invaluable feedback, insights and anecdotes to help us better understand the current context of pledged accommodation.

A massive THANK YOU to those who filled it out and congratulations to the four winners of the prize giveaway. We're compiling the results into a report that will be published in November, but here are some of the key takeaways so far.



# Safe Homes Project Host Focus Groups

The Safe Homes Programme is an EU-IFRC research programme which aims to understand the processes of implementation, the successes, and the challenges associated with the accommodation offered by private households to Ukrainians across Europe in order to contribute to a series of lessons learned and best practice tools.

The two researchers on the programme are running online focus groups for hosts to learn more about their experiences. The next focus groups are taking place at **10am on November 1st and 7.30pm on November 2nd**. Sign up by clicking below and choosing which date you would like to attend. All hosts welcome! Please note that your participation will not affect your existing hosting arrangement.

[Participate in a focus group](#)

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## Host Stories

Each and every hosting arrangement is unique and we learn something from every conversation we have with hosts and guests. We love hearing about your experiences and each time we share one there's a positive ripple effect. Thanks to Maura and Yuliia for sharing their story this month.

### **Maura & Yuliia**

Maura has been hosting Yuliia and Dmytro since June. Maura is retired and lives alone, having raised 5 children. She had experience hosting mature students and decided to offer up her granny flat to Ukrainians in need of accommodation. Maura says:

*"To be honest I was quite apprehensive. I didn't know what to expect because I didn't know anything about Ukraine, I didn't even know where the country was. But everything has been fine, thank God. It's good for me to have somebody next door, just company I suppose. They love my dogs and my cats which is good - they love the dogs more than I love them myself! It's great that I'm able to give people from a war zone a house or home, temporarily or for however long they want to stay. Also it's a chance to learn a lot about their beautiful country and I hope to one day visit it all going well."*



Yuliia was living in state-provided accommodation in Athlone for a year, sharing a small room with her mother and husband before she decided to move into pledged accommodation. Of her experience being hosted, Yuliia says:

*"I'm happy to feel like I have a place that I can call home and to come to from my studies. It was a big relief for me moving out of the hotel and into a normal environment. I just needed peace and quiet and silence sometimes. My relationship with Maura is very good and we spend time together, we talk, we have tea together and sometimes we invite her into our space to try Ukrainian food for dinner. We love learning about each other's culture."*

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## On The Road

The nationwide Host Information Roadshow exists to offer support to hosts and to provide information to those who are interested in pledging. The team recently visited **Stradbally, Sligo** and **Galway** with the Roadshow and headed down to the National Ploughing Championships with a shipping container we turned into a home. Thanks to the Robinsons in Kildare who donated the container and to all the hosts who lent kitchen furniture and items to make it special.

There was mud, craic, tonnes of tea and a whole load of chats with hosts. It was great to meet so many of you, to offer support, a listening ear or a few words of encouragement, while also signing up some brand new hosts! Politicians and decision makers dropped in for cuppas too, and all had extremely positive and appreciative words to say about those who have opened up their homes and contributed hugely to **Ireland's ongoing Ukraine response**.



Some upcoming dates for the diary:

- **Wexford Roadshow** - 14th November - Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, 7-9pm: [Register Here](#)
- **Meath Roadshow** - 15th November - Solstice Centre, Navan, 7-9pm: [Register Here](#)
- **Kerry Roadshow** - 30th November - *Details coming soon*

More to come in 2024...

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## Support and Information

## Host Resources

The following websites provide information and resources to support those hosting:

- [Irish Red Cross](#)
- [Helping Irish Hosts](#)

The [handy\\_guide](#) to **Utility Bills and Energy Saving** is available in both English and Ukrainian and is worth exploring with your guest(s) as we head into the winter months.

All Hosts are welcome to join the private [Host Support Facebook Group](#) to connect with other hosts and get **peer support**.

The Irish Refugee Council have created an **interactive map of support services** in Ireland which you can [view here](#).

The Helping Irish Hosts team delivers **biweekly online drop-in sessions** and **monthly masterclasses** on a range of topics to support the host community. You can view the schedule and sign up [here](#). All hosts are welcome!

Last month, the masterclass topic was '**Understanding Trauma**'. It was delivered in collaboration with ACCORD, an organisation that specialises in family counselling and the session focused on helping host families recognise and respond well to any stresses that might be created by hosting.

[\*\*Join a host support session\*\*](#)

## Beneficiary Resources

The Irish Red Cross offers **free mental health support** to Ukrainians in Ireland, consisting of up to 10 free therapy sessions by female Ukrainian psychologists (in English or Ukrainian). Email [mhsupport@redcross.ie](mailto:mhsupport@redcross.ie) to learn more or avail of this service.

This [website for Ukrainian Guests](#), provides lots of information for beneficiaries moving into hosted accommodation, including **toolkits, practical guides** and other helpful links and resources in Ukrainian.

The **SayHi app** is a helpful translation tool where you simply press a button, speak into your phone and it will translate your words out loud into English or Ukrainian.

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## Until next time...

This Consortium exists to maintain pledged accommodation as a viable and sustainable pathway for displaced Ukrainians arriving and continuing to reside in this country. Hosting leads to savings to the State of €58 per adult per night and provides safety, stability and a stepping stone for those being hosted in Irish homes.

It's an incredible thing to do and we are so grateful to those of you that have pledged – you are making a difference.

**Thank you. Míle buíochas. Дякую. Дукакуу**

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**Peter  
McVerry  
Trust**



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