

Refugee Council of Lithuania

Annual Report 2023

Introduction

Refugee Council

Founded in 2021 with the support of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Refugee Council of Lithuania has emerged from a collective effort to address the under-representation of refugees in Lithuania's integration measures and policies.

Since then, the organization has been steadfast in its commitment of amplifying the voices of refugees, empowering them through innovative projects, representation, and dialogue, and advocating for their rights and wellbeing.



Values

At the heart of our organization lie our core values of **co-creation, equality, inclusion and diversity, and transparency.**



Mission

As a refugee-led organization, our mission is to **empower** refugees through **innovative projects, representation, and dialogue, fostering their integration**, contribution to the society and participation in **decision-making.**

We Believe...

That true integration can only be achieved through collaboration, respect, and understanding among refugees, other foreigners, and locals.

By celebrating diversity and fostering an inclusive environment, we are determined to create spaces where everyone feels valued and respected.



At the Refugee Council of Lithuania

2023 was a year of action and impact, resulting in empowering refugees and fostering inclusive communities through variety of impactful activities:



1. We collaborated

with refugees to co-design initiatives, enhancing their capacities and additionally, fostering networking opportunities.



2. The organization

facilitated capacity-building events and networking sessions, resulting in equipping refugees with essential skills and forging valuable partnerships.



3. The RCL

amplified refugee voices through storytelling initiatives, raising awareness and advocating for social and economic inclusion.



4. We established

partnerships with governmental institutions and NGOs, fostering a more inclusive environment for refugees through joint efforts.



5. We conducted

evaluations and participated in trainings to gain valuable insights for improvement, ensuring effective support for refugee empowerment and integration.



During the reporting period, the Refugee Council of Lithuania implemented several **impactful projects to empower and support refugees**, as well as **to help them integrate into the local society**. With the **generous support of our dear donors**, we have made significant strides in fostering entrepreneurship, building digital skills, and strengthening integration efforts within refugee communities.

Talent Together

Funded by the Programme of The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Refugee-led Innovation Fund, this project was initiated to **empower refugees** through entrepreneurship and digital skills development. Divided into two phases, Talent Together focused on outreach and research in its initial phase, followed by the design and activation of entrepreneurship programs.

Through personalized services and dedicated spaces, refugees were provided with the necessary tools and networks to nurture their business ideas and skills. Additionally, the project aimed **to change societal perceptions of refugees by highlighting their potential as entrepreneurs and contributors to the community.**





Capacity Building and Partnerships between **Baltic and Nordic Countries**



This initiative aimed to **enhance the organizational capacity** of refugee-led organizations in Lithuania and Latvia through **strategic partnerships and knowledge exchange** with Nordic counterparts. By learning from established partners, the project aimed to improve program management, integration strategies, and overall organizational effectiveness. Special attention was given to the inclusion of Ukrainian refugees, with a focus on capacity-building activities and onsite visits in Finland and Sweden. The project was implemented thanks to the funding by **Nordic Council of Ministers' Grant** Programme for Nordic-Baltic Non-Governmental Organizations'.

Addressing Ukraine Situation Response in Lithuania by Building Entrepreneurial Competencies and Digital Skills for Refugees

Funded by the **U.S Embassy in Vilnius**, this project targeted the **sustainable integration of Ukrainian refugees** into Lithuanian society by equipping them with **entrepreneurial competencies, cybersecurity and digital skills**. Through workshops, language courses, and networking events, refugees were provided with the necessary **tools to establish businesses or become self-employed**. With a significant focus on Ukrainian participants, the project aimed to enhance their digital knowledge, cybersecurity awareness, and entrepreneurship skills, eventually facilitating their long-term integration into the socio-economic fabric of Lithuania.





Continuing the dialogue with refugee communities in Lithuania

Funded through support from the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, the project's main goal was to establish a **self-sustainable refugee representation platform** in Lithuania, **fostering dialogue** among refugees from diverse communities.

By organizing a series of meetings, refugees collaborated on solutions for socio economic inclusion, expanded their networks, and shared experiences in an all inclusive and supporting environment.

The project facilitated **direct participation in decision-making** processes, promoted effective integration, and empowered refugees to contribute to their own well-being.

Main achievements



45 refugees

The number of refugee participants at dialogue events discussing topics related to refugee integration.



40 refugees

The number of participants at entrepreneurship training events who increased their knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship.



15 refugees

The number of participants selected for the entrepreneurship program connected with business mentors.



20 people

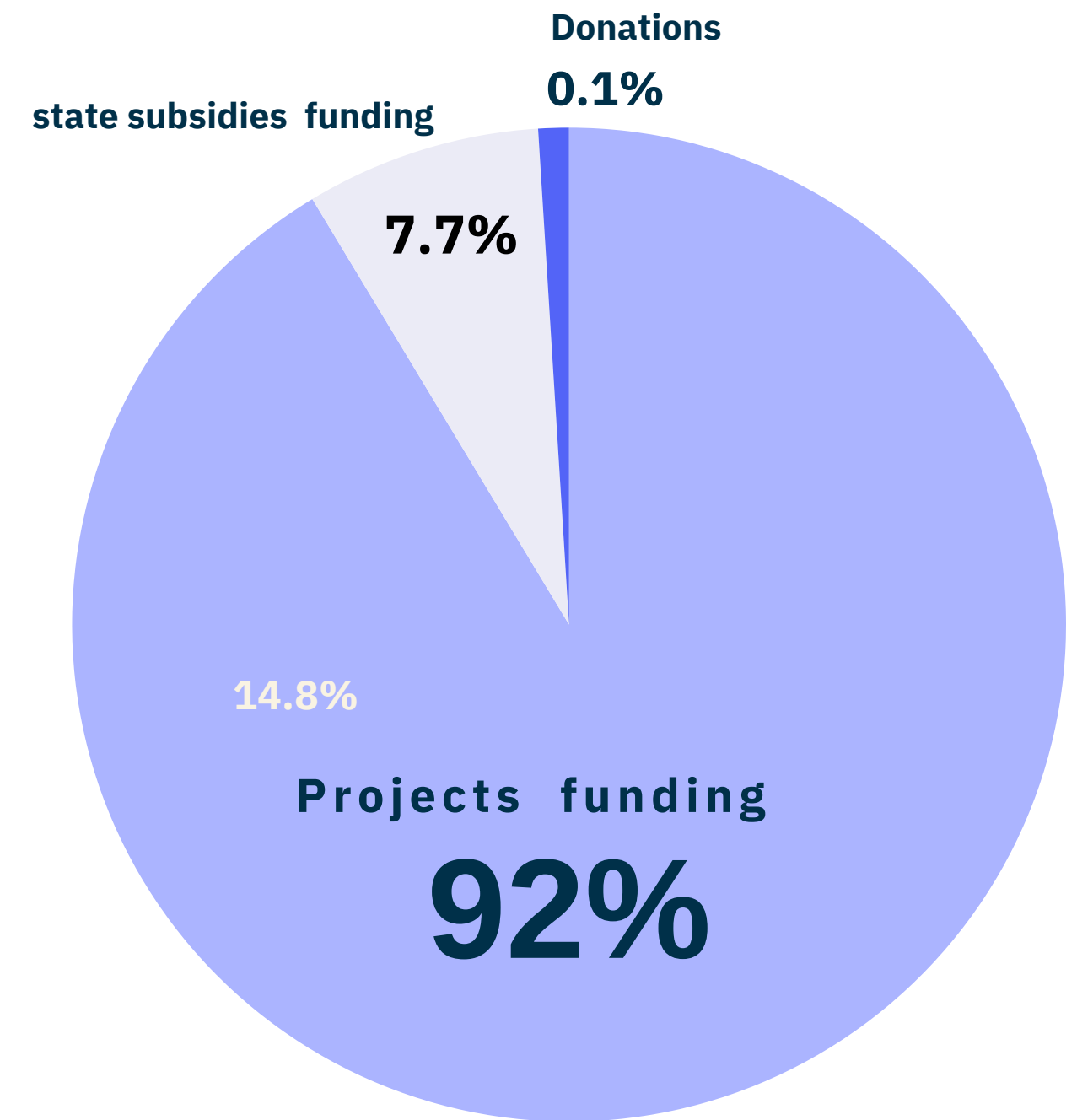
The number of participants from Nordic NGOs in Nordic-Baltic cooperation and capacity-building meetings.



As we reflect on the achievements and impact of the Refugee Council of Lithuania in 2023, we are deeply and sincerely **grateful to the individuals, organizations, stakeholders, interns, and volunteers**, who have generously supported our mission of empowering refugees and fostering their integration into Lithuanian society. Your dedication, support, commitment, and partnership have been instrumental in helping to achieve positive and tangible change together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of refugees.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| DESCRIPTION | ACCOMUNT (€) |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| PROJECTS FUNDING | 131,573 |
| STATE SUBSIDIES FUNDING | 10,961 |
| DONATIONS | 73 |
| TOTAL RECEIVED | 142,607 |



Yuliia's empowerment story

Yuliia Mudryk from Ukraine faced challenges after escaping but was desire to open a business in Lithuania.

Through her huge efforts, she successfully started her own business.

Yuliia emphasizes,

"I continue to explore new horizons and share my experiences, grateful for the unexpected opportunities that unfolded. this support was priceless"

"When I first arrived in Lithuania, the prospect of navigating a new country seemed daunting. The laws, the nuances—I felt overwhelmed. But then, I encountered incredible support from the Refugee Council of Lithuania. It wasn't just information; it was a lifeline."





Call for Action for 2024



Be a Catalyst for Change

Whether it's through volunteering your time and expertise, serving as a mentor or trainer, or providing valuable consultancy, your involvement can help us amplify our impact and reach.



Share Resources

Consider contributing by providing access to venues or essential equipment like computers and projectors. Your generosity in sharing resources enables us to expand our reach and effectiveness.



Invest in Impact

Your financial support is the lifeline of our organization. By donating, you directly fuel our programs, initiatives, and outreach efforts, ensuring that we can continue to address pressing issues and create lasting change.

Goals of 2024

Strengthen the quality of entrepreneurship programs

Increase the number of beneficiaries accessing services

1

Increase meetings between refugees and other institutions and the number of refugee leaders involved in NGO activities and meetings

2



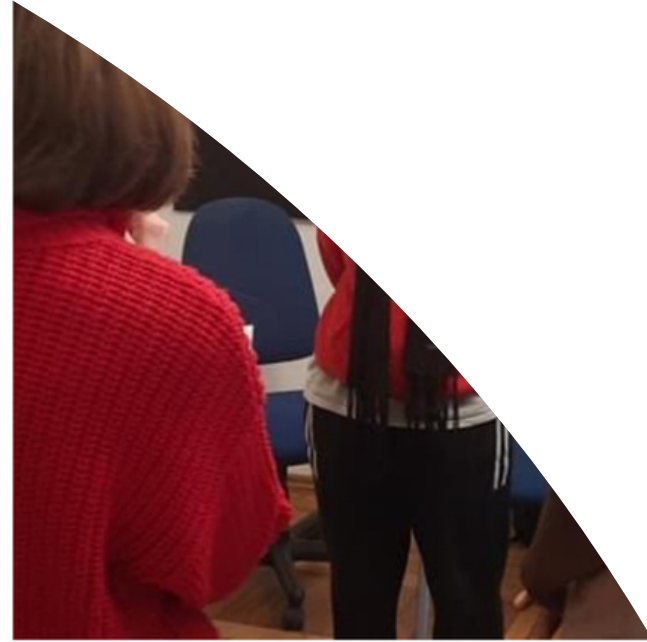
4

Improve organizational communication, strategic planning, advocacy, and entrepreneurship capacities of staff

3

5

Measure and communicate the impact of programs to attract sustainable and diversified funding



Thank You



If you have any further inquiries or wish to explore potential collaboration opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact us.

<https://www.refugeeslt.com/about>



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