

ERNOP Research Note

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NGO Resilience in Czech Republic during Ukrainian Refugee Crisis

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The central topic of this paper is the resilience and governance challenges faced by NGOs in the Czech Republic during the Ukrainian refugee crisis that began in February 2022. The practical relevance lies in understanding how NGOs can maintain their operations and provide essential services amidst such a large-scale humanitarian crisis.

The key research question is: How do NGO leaders perceive the resilience of their organizations in responding to the Ukrainian refugee crisis, and what challenges do they face?

The study finds that Czech NGOs demonstrated flexibility in the Ukrainian refugee crisis despite limited capacity and lack of public trust. They built short-term capacity by collaborating, mobilizing supporters, and directly supporting refugee response. However, systemic issues remain, limiting long-term resilience and requiring governance solutions for improved response capabilities.

[#NGOs](#) [#resilience](#) [#capacity](#) [#migration](#) [#Ukraine](#)

Background

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Context



- **Scale of the Crisis:** The Ukrainian refugee crisis is the largest in Europe since World War II, creating unprecedented demand for humanitarian aid and services.
- **Initial NGO Response:** NGOs were the frontline responders to the crisis, providing immediate aid and essential services to manage the influx of refugees.
- **Governance Ambiguity:** Institutional ambiguity and lack of coordination between governmental and non-governmental sectors posed significant challenges, impacting the long-term effectiveness of the response.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** NGOs relied heavily on collaboration and networking with other NGOs to overcome capacity constraints and enhance their operational effectiveness.
- **Lack of Trust from Syrian Refugee Crisis:** Mistrust between governments and NGOs, fueled by public perceptions during the Syrian Refugee Crisis, obstructed coordinated efforts and effective governance responses. This distrust hindered their ability to collaborate effectively with one another.

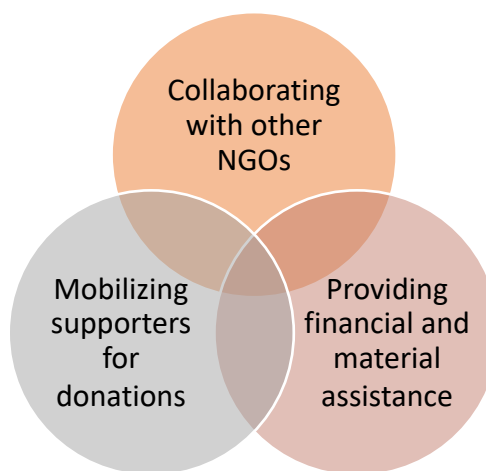
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Take aways & Learnings



- **Resilience Strategies:** NGOs showed resilience by collaborating with NGOs, mobilizing supporters for donations, and providing financial and material assistance. These strategies, along with diversifying funding sources, enhancing staff training, and developing flexible operational plans, enabled effective responses to the Ukrainian refugee crisis.
- **Lack of Trust and Consequences:** The crisis revealed significant mistrust between NGOs and government authorities, leading to fragmented efforts and reduced effectiveness. Distrust has financial consequences as government agencies may reject or minimize funding to NGOs deemed "political," limiting their capacities and resilience.
- **Opportunities for Coordination and Advocacy:** Advocacy and lobbying by NGOs on behalf of migrant communities continue to be crucial. Through hierarchical and bureaucratic relationships, NGOs can work with government entities to build capacity and improve response capabilities by advocating for integrated planning and better resource allocation.
- **Financing with Government:** NGOs can work with government entities to build capacity through public resource distribution, ensuring a steady flow of resources and enhancing their ability to respond to crises.
- **Raising Society Support and Donations:** NGOs increased societal support and donations through transparent communication, community engagement via media, and mobilizing volunteer networks. These efforts significantly boosted financial and material support from the public, essential for sustained crisis response.



NGO Resilience Strategies

ERNOP Research Notes provide easy-to-read, practice-oriented summaries of academic articles on philanthropy and are written by practitioner experts. This ERNOP Research Note 2024/18 is published in June 2024 and has been written by Daria Rybalchenko from National Network of Local Philanthropy Development. More information can be found at www.ernop.eu.