



DEAR EPICUR FRIENDS,

From the first day of the war in Ukraine, the majority of Ukrainian students and employees at AMU asked the university authorities for help in bringing their families and relatives to Poland. At that time, refugees came to Poznań and stayed primarily in the homes of their relatives. To make it easier for the Ukrainian students and staff to care for them, the students were exempted from paying dormitory fees and were given financial support. Under current conditions, Ukrainian students at AMU and employees are often the only family members who have a steady financial income and must support their entire family or siblings. These families' assets and regular sources of income remained in the war-torn country.

For about 10 days, students and academics from universities with which AMU cooperated before the outbreak of war, and above all, refugees who have no direct support among the Ukrainian diaspora, have been coming to Poznań. That is why AMU made all available guest rooms in the dormitories in Poznań (over 230 people) as well as in all AMU centers outside Poznań. Over 20 refugee families found their way to the AMU accommodation center in Gniezno, twice as many in Kalisz, and 180 places were made available by the AMU for their needs in Collegium Polonicum in Ślubice. Since the need for accommodation is very great, many AMU employees have taken refugees into their homes. Until the system of financial support from state institutions and the European Union is activated all current expenses are covered from AMU funds.

Since the scale of migration from Ukraine is enormous (up to 14 March 1.75 million refugees crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border), for the needs of families with children coming to Poznań AMU has given to the Governor of our province a sports hall, where about 200 people find accommodation. In this center refugees stay for 2-3 days and then they are sent to other cities and centers, after receiving the necessary assistance (clothing, food, etc.). Two other sports halls have already been reserved by the governor and can be taken over any day.

The system of material aid offered by state services is not able to offer effective help to all refugees, moreover AMU as a state university cannot directly spend its budget on other purposes than education. That's why we have set up a special bank account to which employees, students and other people make voluntary payments. In this way AMU is able to cover current and constantly growing expenses connected with the material aid, especially purchase of basic food and living materials.

Thanks to the collection of material aid (medical supplies, long-term food, clothing) carried out by all faculties of AMU we were able to send a truckload of such aid to two friendly universities (in Kiev and Drohobycz). The cost of the transport was covered from this special account. Moreover, we purchased and transferred collected material aid to other Ukrainian organizations that sent aid shipments to Ukraine.

In addition to providing immediate assistance to those arriving in Poznan, the AMU is also conducting other activities.

We have opened a psychological assistance center which is available to all refugees. Many of them experienced traumatic moments connected with the brutal treatment of civilians by the Russian army and the separation of their families. Virtually all the staff of the Faculty of Psychology is involved in some form in this kind of activity.

We launched a center for legal aid, because a visible part of refugees from Ukraine does not have Ukrainian citizenship. The scale of the problem has resulted in about 50 volunteers working in this section.

Because the vast majority of refugees who came to Poland are women and children. Therefore the volunteers from AMU prepared special classes of "survival Polish" to offer refugees not only basic knowledge of Polish, which is closely related to Ukrainian, but also to address their psychological needs. The cost of conducting these classes is completely covered by AMU.

The staff of the Faculty of Educational Studies organized a day care center for children. In order to legalize their stay in Poland or look for a job, mothers need time to leave their children during the days under the professional care of volunteers. The cost of running this point is fully covered by AMU.

The Bilingualism Matters Center at AMU has prepared special workshops for teachers of primary and secondary schools that have received large numbers of Ukrainian children in recent days to help them solve problems related to the functioning of multilingual classes.

AMU is in contact with provincial and local authorities in our province and helps in this difficult situation related to the war in Ukraine. Offices, schools, hospitals need help from people who speak Ukrainian and/or Russian, and the only resource for the city of Poznan and the entire region is AMU. In a short period of time, all offices had to prepare translations of various documents and information materials into Ukrainian (the problem with communication between Poles and Ukrainians is that they use different alphabets to write similar languages).

Currently volunteers from AMU (students and academics) work at each reception center, which is open 24 hours. Trains and buses with refugees from the Polish-Ukrainian borderland arrive in Poznań several times a day.

For almost three weeks, many people of good will have been supporting Ukraine in its defensive war. None of us expected that the war in Ukraine would break out, and that it would be so brutal and bloody. Most of Polish people have friends in Ukraine or know someone from Ukraine who lives and works in Poland. We try to help Ukraine in any way we can, but the needs are enormous. As one of the Polish activists, Jurek Owsiak, said, we will help Ukraine and others in need "until the end of the world and one day longer."

If you would like to support Ukrainian refugees, they need it:

blankets, flashlights, powerbanks, carimates, sleeping bags, thermal blankets, blankets, energy bars – protein bars, bed linen, duvets, pillows, towels, thermos cups, personal cosmetics (toothbrush, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, soap, etc.), medical aids: bandages, etc., detergents and dishwashing liquids, long-term food and pasteurized food (meatballs, beans, rice, grouts, pasta, etc.).

These are items that are generally needed by Ukrainians who have remained in Ukraine, but also by refugees from Ukraine in Poland and other countries. Given the dynamics of the war effort, it seems safest to send these donations through experienced organizations that have direct contact with Ukraine and often employ Ukrainian drivers. AMU of course cooperates with such organizations and shipping companies. We are ready to provide any logistical assistance should you prepare a shipment of humanitarian aid. We also ask you to consider financially supporting refugees from Ukraine in Poznan through existing and developing humanitarian aid campaigns in which AMU is involved.







**All of UAM's major decisions on aid for refugees from Ukraine can be found at
www:**

<https://amu.edu.pl/solidarni>

Bank Account:

IBAN PL 46 1090 1362 0000 0001 4982 6136

SWIFT CODE: WBKPPLPP

Bank Address:

Plac Wolności 15

60-967 Poznań, Poland

Receiver:

Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu

ul. Wieniawskiego 1

61-712 Poznań

Transfer: **Pomoc dla rodzin z Ukrainy**

Any further questions, please contact us at: epicur@amu.edu.pl

Kind regards,



