

**BLACK SEA AGORA MEETING**  
*to pray together, to reflect on the situation and share the experience of these months, in the light of Fratelli Tutti*

Let us continue, to advance along the paths of hope, for a real and lasting peace  
 Each one of us is called to **BE AN ARTISAN OF PEACE**, to sow seeds of reconciliation. (Fratelli Tutti)

**TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2022**

15.00H ARGENTINA  
 20.00H ITALY  
 21.00H UKRAINE, ROMANIA, MOLDOVA,  
 BULGARIA, TÜRKIYE, RUSSIA  
 22.00H GEORGIA

with participation of  
**His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk**  
 Head and Father of the  
 Catholic Church Ukrainian Greek

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Caritas

Languages: English | Ukrainian | Italian | Spanish

*Testimony from the countries*

## **Adriana Mardare**

vice-president Adults ACRO (Romania)

My name is Adriana. I am the vice-president of Catholic Action Romania for adults sector and I'm working for Caritas Diocesan Centre Association Iasi as social worker.

The tragic situation facing the Ukrainian people has triggered a general state of insecurity, fear, and anxiety. Unfortunately, innocent people with many tears and suffers the dramatic consequences: they leave behind everything, relatives, friends, and the whole life they have enjoyed so far, heading to other destinations.

Since the beginning of the war, approximately 6.5 million people have left Ukraine. Another 8 million have taken refuge inside the country in safer areas. Almost a million people from Ukraine crossed Romania's borders – many to move on, but about 90.000 people, primarily women and children, remained in Romania in search of a safe place away from the dangers of war. They need our protection and support.

Caritas organizations in Romania have received thousands of refugees in their centers and hundreds of people are still hosted in our centers. We offer them a decent place to live, food, material and moral support. Through the social service centers we offer counseling and support.

Since the beginning of the war representatives of our association were day and night at the Caritas Transit Center in Siret, body, and soul for helping refugees from Ukraine, in collaboration with the Roman Catholic Parish "Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary" Siret, Siret Social Assistance Directorate, local authorities, Inspectorate for Situations Emergency Department, Red Cross, as well as other civic organizations and more.

We experienced empathy, solidarity, support, emotions, tears, concrete gestures of help, at the Caritas Reception Center in Siret from the Roman Catholic Parish "Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary" Siret.

Caritas from Romania launches a series of educational programs for refugee children from Ukraine.

The purpose of these programs is to support children in Ukraine who are learning online, but also to give them the possibility to learn and spend time together in a community. Also, the children will

participate in Romanian language courses in order to be prepared to integrate into the local community and, if necessary, at school in Romania. The summer school for children from Ukraine has opened in Baia-Mare

On Thursday, June 30, 2022, the Caritas Iasi Diocesan Center Association opened the Social Services Center for refugees from Ukraine based in Iasi, Traian str., no. 8. The opening was officiated by His Holiness Iosif Păuleț, Bishop of Iasi. The center offers access to up-to-date information on the situation of refugees in Romania, support and advice for obtaining documents and accompaniment to the institutions empowered to manage these situations. It also offers educational and psychological services for both adults and children of different ages, mediation and socio-professional guidance for those who want to get a job.

Thus, in Iași, 20 children from the 1st grade and 20 children from the 2nd grade will be guided by Ukrainian specialists to understand and learn more easily and better the lessons from the school curriculum posted on the Ukrainian online education platform.

In Baia Mare, 15 preschool children and 24 school children will learn supported by teachers from Ukraine and the team of the social services center. Similar programs are in Bucharest, Satu Mare and Oradea.

Thank you for your attention.