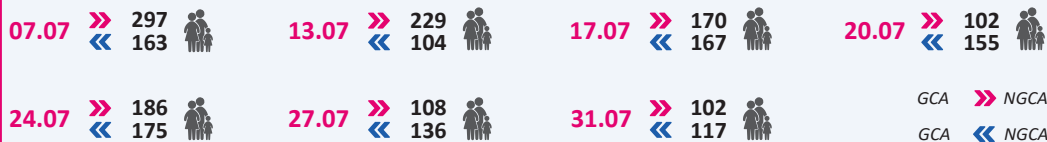


CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE:

July 2020 Snapshot

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AT EECPS

By the end of July, three out of four EECPs in Donetsk oblast remain closed. Novotroitske EECP resumes work in some exceptions. In July, **there were 7 so-called “corridors” at Novotroitske EECP according to pre-agreed lists:**



In total 1,194 people crossed the contact line to GCA and 1,017 people to NGCA in Donetsk oblast. In order to get the permission to cross from or to the NGCA side, one needs to get into a certain list with a complex procedure for submitting documents. In addition, people who managed to cross to GCA are required to sign a document at the NGCA checkpoint on non-return to the NGCA side until the end of the quarantine there (according to people who managed to cross through Novotroitske EECP to GCA).

Meanwhile, **in total 12,560 people crossed the contact line to GCA and 10,274 people to NGCA at Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk oblast in July**, since at this EECP, the rules for crossing are less complicated. By the end of July, at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP de-facto authorities allowed to enter only with NGCA residence registration in Luhansk oblast. Those people who have no confirmation of NGCA residence registration need either an approval for entry from de-facto authorities of NGCA, or any confirmation of their permanent residence in NGCA. Thus, since 23 July, every day up to 10 persons have stayed for one night under a shed in the neutral area: they were not allowed to return home to the NGCA by de-facto authorities, as people had no confirmation of their residence registration in NGCA. Later, some of them managed to provide certificates from a house maintenance company confirming their NGCA residence.

Participation in the EIT remains problematic for NGCA residents due to the complicated crossing procedure at EECPs. The law adopted on 3 July seeks to improve the situation: children from NGCA will be able to apply to all Ukrainian universities without passing EIT. Thus, since 17 July at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP **over 40 children crossed the contact line for entering to the university** by educational programs Donbass – Ukraine and Crimea – Ukraine. And, during July, about 200 – to take External Independent Testing.

In June, electric vehicle services was resumed. During July, **12,715 vulnerable elderly persons were provided with transport support at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP** by NGO Proliska e-vehicle.



A male of 62 years old died of pulmonary embolism on 14 July at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP. The paramedic of IDM, ambulance and SES representatives provided this man with medical aid, but were unable to save him.



On 7 July, NGCA de-facto authorities transferred to GCA the list of persons who were allowed to cross the contact line at Novotroitske EECP. GCA let persons cross the contact line but warned about the non-pass rule for people beyond the list. As a result, 83 non-listed people were stuck at “zero” checkpoint. The military and police forces of NGCA dispersed those people. 15 of them were ill-treated. Later, 37 persons moved back to GCA side, and other 46 were at “zero” checkpoint of NGCA.

People faced severe hardships towards the crossing procedure due to issues with the app “Act at Home”. Sometimes the app was already activated in NGCA, and self-isolation has been already initiated or terminated. Smartphones with an operating system older than Android 4.4 could not support the app. Users of Kyivstar sim-cards experienced frequent network disconnections and could not receive SMS with a password on Novotroitske EECP. Some people could not receive SMS with a password despite the good quality of the mobile signal. **At least 800 people were provided with help from R2P monitors in installing the app “Act at home”.**



People who crossed the contact line from NGCA to GCA side in Donetsk oblast, in case if they do not have the ability to install the app “Act at home”, have the opportunity to go to the Observatory in Hostre settlement in Donetsk oblast. While, in Luhansk oblast, the situation somewhat different: previously, people were sent for Observatory to the nearby settlements (Stanytsia, Petropavlovka and etc.), but now, there are no vacant places in observation facilities. Thus, in case if person did not manage to install the app, he is not allowed to cross the contact line to GCA, and may return to NGCA.

People who expected to get the permission to cross from GCA to NGCA side, temporarily living in the Nikolsky monastery in Donetsk oblast (Volnovakha raion) . On 29 July they were evicted from monastery. Eventually, totally about 20 people stayed overnight in SES tents and were provided with food by NGOs at Novotroitske EECP on 30-31 July. They did not express a desire to send request to Volnovakha Raion State Administration for provision of temporary accommodation.



*(N)GCA – (non-)government-controlled areas;

EECP – entry-exit checkpoint;

NGO– Non-government organization;

SES – State Emergency Service;