

SI Union of Portugal

PROJECT: Ukraine - Close in our hearts

II - PROJECT MATCHING NARRATIVE

Portugal is one of the countries with higher number of Ukrainian migrants in Europe. This migration flow initiated in the late 1990s, and accelerated significantly in the early years of the twenty-first century.

Currently more than 60.000 Ukrainians live and work in Portugal and their families are well integrated in the labour market and schools.

Some are returning to Ukraine to bring support to family members who live there. Many are volunteering to fight against the invasion.

Several solidarity caravans consisting of buses, trucks and even airplanes have been transporting these volunteers and donations to Ukraine and its the borders. The caravans return with Ukrainian refugees. Since the current crisis began, Portugal has received more than 5.000 Ukrainian refugees.

The Soroptimist Union of Portugal with most of the Clubs have been deeply engaged in offering basic products such as food, medicines, personal hygienic products to these caravans and arriving refugees. (see foto)

1. Goals of the project

1.1. To support Ukrainians in their country and/or Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries with:

- Donations in kind to be delivered to other NGOs on the spot.
- Donations to the Disaster Relief Fund.

1.2. To support refugees coming to Portugal with:

- Legal procedures;
- Accommodation;
- Portuguese language skills;
- Access to schools for their children;
- Recognition of their educational qualifications;
- Temporary and permanent work placements;
- Mental health care.

SI Union of Portugal

2. Immediate Objectives of the project

- Identify refugees who need support in Portugal;
- Identify their real needs in the short and medium term, so that these needs can be addressed;
- Identify partners to cooperate with in order to avoid duplication of efforts;
- Identify donors to support the project;
- Coordinate initiatives from the Clubs involved.

3. Methods of implementing the project

. The Union of Portugal will involve all Clubs in Portugal, so that we are stronger and more coordinated in achieving our goals.

The Programme Directors and Directors of Advocacy will coordinate the various activities of the Clubs and report to the PD and DA of the Union of Portugal.

. The Union Board will be in permanent contact with the Ukrainian Embassy, the HACM – High Commission for Migration, The National Support Centre for the Integration of Migrants (CNAIM), to call for support and identify difficulties experienced by the refugees in the process of their integration in Portugal.

. The Union of Portugal will cooperate with the Portuguese NGDO Platform (CPR), a group of about 60 Non-Governmental Development Organisations (NGDOs).

. The Union of Portugal will work together with the Ukrainian Refugee Support Platform and with Ukrainian Community Associations.

. We'll make a screening of job offers, so that the skills of those who arrive are properly matched.

. We will use dedicated platforms to help with accommodation requirements

. We will re-launch the SI project "Open Heart Open Door" as well as identify other possibilities for temporary housing.

. We'll be a facilitator to solve legal issues by using the services provided by The Portuguese Bar Association and Lawyers who volunteered to provide *pro bono* legal support to Ukrainian citizens residing in Portugal and those fleeing war.

. We'll build a data bank with existing links to those devoted to support Ukrainian refugees.

3. Needs the project is addressing

There are two dimensions. The first is the dimension of refugees who are in transit within Ukraine and towards countries that border Ukraine. This dimension is being addressed by

SI Union of Portugal

Ukraine's neighbouring countries and organisations on the field who better know the reality. SI Union of Portugal is contributing with donations of basic goods and medicine, and coordinates with NGOs operating in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, such as the Association for the Defence of Human Rights and Amnesty International.

The second dimension, which is the dimension of integration in Portugal, consists of immediate provision of clothes and basic personal hygienic products, assistance with the legalisation process and facilitating the search for accommodation. Subsequently, SI Union of Portugal will assist with Portuguese language skills and search for employment.

4. Expected outcomes

The immediate expected results are to mitigate the suffering and provide basic needs to women, children and other refugees. We will update regularly on progress achieved and the number of people supported.

5. Partners

- The Ukrainian Association in Portugal (AUP);
- The Food Banks Against Hunger and the Donated Goods Bank in Portugal;
- Municipalities, local Council parishes and NGOs;
- Churches of different confessions;
- The Bartholomäus Brotherhood of Germans in Lisbon, which is linked to the German Embassy, the German Evangelical Churches -gemeinde Lisbon, the German-speaking Catholic community in Lisbon and other German institutions in Lisbon;
- Manuel Violante's Foundation, founding partner of the McKinsey Lisbon office, which provides management know-how to projects of relevant public interest, carried out by public or non-profit private institutions;
- The PWN, Professional Women Network and the Women Leaders Network.

7. Evaluation

The PDs and DAs of the Clubs will collect and report to the Union on donations of goods and funds raised.

The Union will keep records of all meetings, actions and activities it carries out with partners, to be shared with the PFRs.

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III – BUDGET

We estimate about €25.000, to be reviewed with the development of the project and the amount of *pro bono* support we obtain.

The SI Union of Portugal may contribute at least with €10.000, in partnership with another institution.

The Clubs will contribute by raising funds, continuing their actions on the ground, and establishing partnerships with local municipalities, local authorities and NGOs.