



# BUILDING HOPE:

## Europe's solidarity with Ukraine

15 inspiring Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps projects providing support to people affected by the war

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# Empowering people from Ukraine through education, cooperation, and solidarity

Education, training, youth, and sport have the power to transform lives.

In the face of the ongoing war and displacement in Ukraine, the European Commission has set up projects that facilitate support to Ukraine as a top priority. Through the Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps programmes, we strive to help those who have been affected by the war.

By encouraging incoming learning mobility, empowering people fleeing the country with new skills, fighting against disinformation, or promoting the integration of refugees, these two programmes play an essential role in supporting individuals and communities facing unprecedented challenges.

In this spirit, we are proud to present the publication that highlights 15 concrete examples of completed and ongoing cases where projects supported under Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps have had a tangible and positive influence on the lives of people in and from Ukraine.

Through stories and testimonies, we aim to raise awareness and inspire others to join this cause.

Together we can create a future where support and unity know no bounds.

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS**



## Table of contents

### Erasmus+ projects

Ukraine-Crisis-Support of PH Wien	4
Enabling medical students to complete their studies	5
Responsible Future Learners	6
AGILE - Higher education resilience in refugee crises	7
United in Culture - Welcoming Ukrainian refugees	8
Special education students overcome obstacles with art therapy	9
Expanding opportunities with a second Erasmus+ period	10
Sustainable Spatial Planning of Tourism Destinations	11
Youth Media Sharks	12
Slovak for Children of Foreigners	13
Empowering Ukrainian students through double degree	14

### European Solidarity Corps projects

Solidarity for Green Dalmatia 2021	15
European Messengers for Youth Empowerment and Communal Well being	16
I Show You My City	17
We Are Neighbours	18





Austria

**Bridging education and integration in Vienna**



## Ukraine-Crisis-Support of PH Wien

**The war in Ukraine triggered a mass exodus of families. Former Erasmus+ students returned to Vienna to support Ukrainian children in schools. These children, along with their mothers, were quickly given the necessary support.**

In response to the mass exodus of mothers and children from Ukraine due to the war, a project was initiated in Vienna. Former Erasmus+ students were invited back to provide Ukrainian children in Viennese schools with lessons in their mother tongue, as well as with German language lessons and assistance with translations. Students with a very good knowledge of German helped as interns for teaching, consulting, and translation. Since 2022, 10 former

students have been teaching and supporting children from Ukraine according to their specific needs. Students with degrees in teaching will come back to Vienna with an Erasmus+ grant and can be employed as teachers by using a special contract. The project is having a positive impact by offering timely support and educational opportunities to Ukrainian children and mothers.

***“We have created a win-win situation for the benefit of Ukrainian children, their mothers and the schools.”***

**Thomas Bauer**  
Project coordinator

**Programme:** Erasmus+

**Key Action:** Learning Mobility of Individuals

**Project coordinator/contact person:** Dr. Thomas Bauer, University College of Teacher Education, Vienna (Austria)

**Project partners:** Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine), Ddrohobych Ivan Franko State Pedagogical University (Ukraine), West Ukrainian National University (Ukraine), Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk

National Pedagogical University (Ukraine)

**Project reference:** 2020-1-AT01-KA107-077571

2021-1-AT01-KA131-HED-000004827

2022-1-AT01-KA171-HED-000072770

**Project website:** [link ↗](#)

**Project information:** [link ↗](#)





Estonia

## Learning Mobility of Individuals



# Enabling medical students to complete their studies

**The University of Tartu has supported Ukrainian medical students affected by the war, allowing them to study Estonian intensively for a year to pass their exams and to complete their medical studies.**

In response to the war in Ukraine, the University of Tartu (UT) took action to address the challenges faced by medical students whose education was disrupted. They contacted their partners and encouraged them to send their students for a semester or two. In this context, they launched a dedicated programme for Ukrainian medical students, who successfully passed UT's admissions tests, securing Erasmus+ grants and the opportunity to study Estonian

intensively for a year (2022/2023). After taking the B2 level Estonian exam, they will be able to complete their medical studies in Estonian at UT starting from the academic year 2023/2024. Initially welcoming 10 students from cities like Sumy, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv, and Vinnytsya, this initiative offers a pathway for these aspiring doctors to continue their education. All in all, in 2022, UT hosted 54 Ukrainian exchange students within the Erasmus+ programme.

***“I really like that Estonians are helping me, and I really enjoy living in Estonia at the moment.”***

**Anastasiia Fizer**  
Student

**Programme:** Erasmus+

**Key Action:** Learning Mobility of Individuals

**Project coordinator/contact person:**

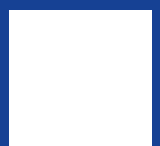
Piret Maiste, Jaanika Haljasmäe, University of Tartu (Estonia)

**Project partners:** N/A

**Project reference:** 2021-1-EE01-KA131-HED-000006764

**Project websites:** [link ↗](#) and [link ↗](#)

**Project information:** [link ↗](#)





Finland

## Fostering Ukrainian-Finnish connections

# Responsible Future Learners

**The project Responsible Future Learners aims at active participation of the pupils by teaching important skills and attitudes, such as critical thinking and digital behavior. The project offers pupils a possibility to improve these skills with their European peers and help them understand the importance of collaboration.**

In June 2022, the city of Seinäjoki in Finland organised a summer club specifically for Ukrainian children who had sought refuge from the war. In total 47 pupils enrolled in the programme. To lead the club, two teachers and one Ukrainian-speaking instructor were employed, and the costs were covered by Erasmus+ funding. The swift launch of the club showcased the agility and commitment of the municipal

organisation to provide assistance. The key achievement was the creation of a safe environment where Ukrainian children could interact with Finnish children of the same age. This facilitated cultural exchange, enabling the Ukrainian children to learn about Finnish language and culture while fostering a sense of community and understanding.

*“In my opinion, the creation of the summer club was a heart-warming success story.”*

**Marika Ojala**

Director of Basic Education at Seinäjoki

**Programme:** Erasmus+

**Key Action:** Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

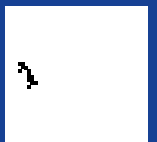
**Project coordinator/contact person:** Marttilan Koulu, Marika Ojala

**Project partners:** Bernadotteskolen (Denmark), Hraunvallaskóli (Iceland), Zespół Szkolno, Przedszkolny (Poland), Secondary School IES Algeciras Bay (Spain)

**Project reference:** 2020-1-FI01-KA229-066660

**Project website:** [link ↗](#)

**Project information:** [link ↗](#)







France

**Building inclusive  
higher education  
systems**



## AGILE - Higher education resilience in refugee crises

**The AGILE project is designed to foster inclusive higher education systems that can adapt to expanding their missions and responding during refugee crises. The war in Ukraine has resulted in a significant number of refugees coming to EU member countries. In this context, universities are the bridge to a better integration by allowing them to continue their studies and learn the country's language.**

In this challenging socio-political context, Higher Education Institutions are called to assist refugee students by developing inclusive and sustainable learning curricula. To this end, the project aims to implement activities to better understand and measure access, participation, and completion rates of incoming refugee students. Additionally, it seeks to monitor the recognition of civic engagement

activities in their curriculum, as well as promote the value of voluntary and community work in their university studies. AGILE will deliver several reports, publications, guidelines, and recommendations to reach its objectives. Multiple roundtables and public talks with refugee students have already taken place, fostering the integration of refugees in professional and study life.

***“Even if our national contexts are very different,  
we encounter the same issues.”***

**Sophie Wauquier**

Vice president for International Relations at the University Paris 8

**Programme:** Erasmus+

**Key Action:** Cooperation Partnerships in higher education

**Project coordinator/contact person:** Anhippi Potolia, Université Paris 8 Vincennes Saint-Denis

**Project partners:** Bordeaux Montaigne University (France), Web2Learn (Greece), University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), Polish Rectors Foundation (Poland), Lviv Polytechnic National University (Ukraine),

University of Hamburg (Germany), Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania)

**Project reference:**

2022-1-FR01-KA220-HED-000087334

**Project website:** [link ↗](#)

**Project information:** [link ↗](#)







Latvia

Promoting integration  
and breaking stereo-  
types



## United in Culture - Welcoming Ukrainian refugees

**The United in Culture project offers Ukrainian refugees language courses, cultural workshops, and outdoor activities, promoting integration and breaking stereotypes. The project has created a bridge between communities, creating understanding and collaboration.**

The United in Culture project provides Ukrainian refugees with Latvian/Polish language courses, cultural workshops, and outdoor activities to foster integration. With over 400 hours of activities and more than 200 participants, it promotes language skills and cultural understanding. Language courses help Ukrainians to integrate into the local society and local labour market. Additionally, joint cultural activities allow Ukrainians to get to know the local culture

and community. It also helps to make contacts, network, exchange experience on practical issues to settle and live in Latvia, and overcome stereotypes.

It has also sparked new initiatives involving various organisations and offers a fresh perspective for Latvians to explore their own culture and nature from an external viewpoint.

***“Thank you very much for the opportunity for Ukrainians to attend Latvian language courses and cultural events!”***

### Project participant

**Programme:** Erasmus+

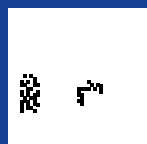
**Key Action:** Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices

**Project coordinator/contact person:** Sanita Putnina, RADOSAS IDEJAS (Latvia)

**Project partners:** Green Elephant Foundation - Fundacja “Zielony Słoń” (Poland)

**Project reference:** 2022-1-LV01-KA210-ADU-000082312

**Project information:** [link](#)





Lithuania

Enriching learning for students with special educational needs



# Special education students overcome obstacles with art therapy

**Art therapy fosters inclusion and well-being for children with special needs. An international collaboration of six countries has shared experiences and successful methods to integrate art therapy into education.**

This collaborative project empowered pupils with special needs through art therapy, reducing social exclusion and psychological difficulties. Six countries - Lithuania, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Romania, and Turkey - joined forces to integrate art therapy into the educational process, sharing successful methods and experiences. In March 2022, an international civic initiative led by researcher Charlie Moreno Romero organised remote seminars for Ukrainian children. A fairy-tale inspired lesson, integrating art therapies, aimed to provide emotional relief and a temporary escape

from the challenges faced by their country. This approach, tested in Romania, was adapted in Lithuania and Ukraine. Additionally, drama and dance therapy performances helped improving emotional well-being, self-esteem, and language acquisition, facilitating socialisation and integration into the Lithuanian community. Inspired by these results, a day camp was organised with 10 Ukrainian children, enhancing their sensory skills, providing emotional support, and bringing the children of two different nationalities closer together.

*“Allowing another person into his territory, even if only in a drawing, shows that the boy has recovered emotionally.”*

**Sigita Koroliovė**  
Project coordinator

**Programme:** Erasmus+

**Key Action:** Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

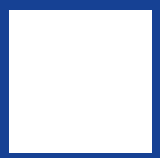
**Project coordinator/contact person:** Sigita Koroliovė, Klaipeda Litorina school (Lithuania)

**Project partners:** N/A

**Project reference:** 2020-1-LT01-KA229-077875

**Project website:** [link ↗](#)

**Project information:** [link ↗](#)





Netherlands

## Learning Mobility of Individuals



## Expanding opportunities with a second Erasmus+ period

**Erasmus+ collaboration between Inholland and West Ukrainian National University (WUNU) has provided essential support to Ukrainian students and staff affected by the war in Ukraine. With 43 grants awarded, Inholland offered assistance, and extended Erasmus+ periods.**

Since 2016, Inholland University and West Ukrainian National University have been working together under the Erasmus+ programme. Since the start of the war, this project has been of highly important added value for both Ukrainian students and staff by receiving 43 Erasmus+ grants. Exchange students who studied at Inholland Alkmaar immediately received a lot of support from Inholland staff,

both personally and academically. Together with Ukrainian students, Inholland faculty organised a charity event to show their support. It was painful for the Ukrainian students to realize that returning home is difficult. Fortunately, Inholland was able to offer the students a second Erasmus+ period so that in total 40 Erasmus+ grants have been provided to WUNU students from spring semester 2022 and onwards.

***“Teaching at Inholland was [...] to breathe in peaceful air, feel safer, and recover from war for at least some weeks.”***

**Laryssa Verhun**

WUNU exchange coordinator and teacher

**Programme:** Erasmus+

**Key Action:** Learning Mobility of Individuals

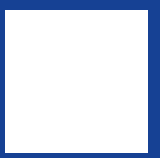
**Project coordinator/contact person:**

Petra Hogendoorn-Schweighofer, Marlies Springorum,  
Inholland University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands)

**Project partners:** West Ukrainian National University (Ukraine)

**Project reference:** 2020-1-NL01-KA107-064450  
2022-1-NL01-KA171-HED-000078966

**Project information:** [link](#) ↗





 Poland

Exploring territorial capacity for refugee accommodation



## Sustainable Spatial Planning of Tourism Destinations

**In response to the arrival of Ukrainian migrants, this project assessed Lodz's region capacity to host them. The analysis focused on tourism facilities and social care entities, considering the needs of the local population and communication accessibility.**

The Sustainable Spatial Planning of Tourism Destinations (SPOT) project aims to develop an innovative teaching method for sustainable tourism planning and implement it in five educational organisations. Amid the refugee arrival from Ukraine, MapoFaktura 2022 assessed Lodz's region capacity to temporarily host migrants using tourism facilities. The project equips future tourism professionals with spatial data analysis and crisis management skills. It

addresses the geopolitical and socio-economic challenges while considering local needs and infrastructure accessibility. The territorial capacity to host migrants in the region of Lodz was investigated from the perspective of needs of local populations and communication accessibility of discussed infrastructure. The achievements were presented during the GeoNight international initiative.

***“This was not only to support [...] allocating migrants, but also to make our students aware of the situation of people affected by war.”***

**Tomasz Napierała**  
Project coordinator

**Programme:** Erasmus+

**Key Action:** Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

**Project coordinator/contact person:** Tomasz Napierała, University of Lodz (Poland)

**Project partners:** Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (Norway), Institute of Geography and Spatial Organisation (Poland),

Polish Academy of Science (Poland), Mersin University (Turkey), Polytechnic of Leiria, Portugal Politecnico di Torino (Italy)

**Project reference:** 2019-1-PL01-KA203-064946

**Project website:** [link ↗](#)

**Project information:** [link ↗](#)





Portugal

Building critical thinkers through a media literacy project



## Youth Media Sharks

**The project Youth Media Sharks empowered young people in Portugal and Ukraine through media literacy. Workshops, research, and a youth exchange with young participants from both countries took place in Madeira.**

The Youth Media Sharks project aimed to increase media literacy and critical thinking skills among young people in Portugal and Ukraine. Over 100 participants engaged in local workshops, conducted media research, and provided recommendations for stakeholders on implementing media literacy training. A youth exchange involving 28 young people from both countries took place in Madeira in November 2022. This project empowered Portuguese

and Ukrainian young people to be responsible citizens by critically consuming information. Additional topics of infowars and the humanitarian crisis were included. The youth exchange in Madeira created a significant impact, offering Portuguese participants firsthand perspectives on European events from their Ukrainian peers living near the Russian border, while Ukrainian participants witnessed the support and solidarity of their Portuguese friends.

***“Receiving such support and solidarity we experienced in Madeira is priceless – both from the Portuguese team and just people in the street.”***

**Arina Stolbtsova**  
Participant from Sumy, Ukraine

**Programme:** Erasmus+

**Key Action:** Learning Mobility of Individuals

**Project coordinator/contact person:** Anastasia Mazur, Association My Madeira Island (Portugal)

**Project partners:** Center for Euroinitiatives (Ukraine)

**Project reference:** 2021-1-PT02-KA154-YOU-000031983

**Project website:** [link ↗](#)

**Project information:** [link ↗](#)





Slovakia

Boosting integration through Slovak language learning



## Slovak for Children of Foreigners

**The project developed Slovak teaching materials for children of foreigners and nationals. Today, textbooks are the main tool for teaching Slovak to Ukrainian children, aiming at quick and high-quality adaptation in a new environment.**

The project focused on the development of teaching materials ‘Slovak as a foreign language’ for children of foreigners and Slovak nationals abroad. The project created a prerequisite for the approval of the standards of Slovak as a second foreign language, and today the results of this project are the main tool for the education of Ukrainian children in Slovakia. Since the beginning of the war, through UNICEF, the National Institute of Education and Youth (NIVAM) and other organisations, textbooks have already

reached more than 19,000 children. All primary schools (more than 1,100), as well as many kindergartens and secondary schools, received the manual on the inclusion of children. In addition to schools, the textbooks are also used in extracurricular activities, in children’s camps and summer schools for Ukrainian children. The project received the award of the European Language Label within the framework of Erasmus+.

***“The goal of inclusion is not to absorb Ukrainian children into our school system, but to enrich and strengthen our school system thanks to them.”***

**Alona Kurotova**

Legal representative, iCan s.r.o.

**Programme: Erasmus+**

**Key Action:** Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

**Project coordinator/contact person:** Alona Kurotová, Iveta Tunegová, iCan s.r.o. (Slovakia)

**Project partners:** National Institute for Education and Youth (Slovakia), eMeLeS Limited (Ireland), Petit Slavik (France), Czech &

Slovak Club UK C.I.C. (United Kingdom), Institute of Geography and Spatial Organisation (Poland), Polish Academy of Science (Poland), Mersin University (Turkey), Polytechnic of Leiria, Portugal Politecnico di Torino (Italy)

**Project reference:** 2019-1-SK01-KA201-060698

**Project information:** [link](#)







Sweden

Learning Mobility of  
Individuals



## Empowering Ukrainian students through double degree

**Through the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility funds, Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) facilitated a double degree programme, providing degrees to war-affected students.**

Through Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility funds, a double degree programme was developed with Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics, ensuring students can attain a degree despite the impact of the war on education. Preparations of courses by the teachers were launched in April 2022, enabling students to start their studies at BTH in fall 2022 and graduate in June 2023.

The partnership provided them with a master's degree in Computer science from BTH, incorporating credits from their first year in Ukraine. Additionally, three Ukrainian teachers now employed at BTH, having participated in previous Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility projects, have been a great help in supporting students, staff, and teachers.

***“We are very happy that we could help these students to complete their education.”***

**Anders Carlsson**  
Project Manager

**Programme:** Erasmus+

**Key Action:** Learning Mobility of Individuals

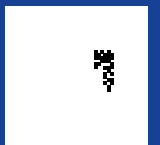
**Project coordinator/contact person:** Carmen Constantinescu,  
Blekinge Institute of Technology (Sweden)

**Project partners:** Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics,  
National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic  
Institute”

**Project reference:** 2020-1-SE01-KA107-077633

**Project website:** [link ↗](#)

**Project information:** [link ↗](#)





Croatia

Promoting sustainable awareness and environmental knowledge



## Solidarity for Green Dalmatia 2021

**By promoting environmental knowledge and awareness, this project engaged three volunteers, including Olena from Ukraine. In addition to assistance with packing humanitarian aid, they were also involved in educational activities, workshops, and green events.**

In the face of environmental challenges and the ongoing war in Ukraine, a project emerged with a powerful mission. Its goals were to promote knowledge among targets about sustainable development and to raise awareness about environmental issues. The project welcomed three volunteers, including Olena, a Ukrainian, who had a difficult time due to the war in Ukraine. Engaging in a range of activities, the volunteers organised educational sessions, conducted workshops in schools, and participated in public green events. Alongside these efforts, Olena joined

the 'Cvit Association of Croats and Ukrainians' in Split, assisting with receiving and packing donations of essential supplies for war-affected civilians. For Olena, this act of solidarity provided strength and purpose amidst challenging circumstances. This project not only raised environmental awareness but also became a source of empowerment for Olena and her fellow volunteers. Through their dedicated efforts, these volunteers exemplified the transformative power of compassion and solidarity.

***“Stories like this inspire us, so that we could accept everything that comes and be ready to help those in need.”***

**Lina Vuletić**

Mentor to the volunteer from Ukraine

**Programme: European Solidarity Corps**

**Key Action:** Volunteering Projects

**Project coordinator/contact person:** Lina Vuletić, Sunce (Croatia)

**Project partners:** Association for Volunteerism Skopje (Volonterski centar Skopje), Gromadska organizatsia Harkivska asotsiatsia dlya aktivnoy molodi Stella (Kharkiv Non-Governmental Association for Active Youth Stella)

**Project reference:** 2021-1-HR01-ESC51-VTJ-000037727

**Project website:** [link ↗](#)

**Project information:** [link ↗](#)







Finland

Bringing hope: young Ukrainian volunteers make a difference

## European Messengers for Youth Empowerment and Communal Well being

**Länsi-Saimaan 4H welcomes young volunteers from across Europe through the European Solidarity Corps programme, including Ukrainian volunteers. By providing relief and opportunities to Ukrainian youth, the project aims to make a positive impact on those affected by the ongoing war.**

Länsi-Saimaan 4H embraces European Solidarity Corps volunteers, including young Ukrainians, to provide opportunities for those in difficult circumstances. Executive director Merja Kuukka believes their participation brings relief to Ukrainian youth: "If you think about the idea of the European Solidarity Corps that participation is possible also for those in a weaker position than others, then the

war situation fulfils that criterion. If this could bring even some relief to the situation of individual Ukrainian youth, we are happy". Volunteers Olha Potapchuk, aged 21, and Sofiia Sydorenko, aged 18, arrived in Finland at the beginning of May 2022. They were involved in activities such as playing with children, guiding crafting and cooking activities, and participating in camps.

***"The job advertisement specifically sought Ukrainians. It felt good, I am grateful."***

**Olha Potapchuk**  
Ukrainian volunteer

**Programme:** European Solidarity Corps

**Key Action:** Volunteering Projects

**Project coordinator/contact person:** Tiina Hokkanen, ALLIANSSI YOUTH EXCHANGES

**Project partners:** Hosting organisation for volunteers: Länsi-Saimaan 4H (Finland), Merja Kuukka

**Project reference:** 2019-2-FI01-ESC13-061000

**Project website:** [link](#)







Germany

**Connecting Ukrainian and local youth in Bremen**



## I Show You My City

**The Bremen-based project connects young refugees from Ukraine and local youth, offering diverse leisure activities and fostering friendships. Through group outings, mentoring, and research, the project promotes integration, benefitting both Ukrainian and local participants.**

The I show you my city project brings together young refugees from Ukraine and local youth from Bremen by organising a range of recreational activities. It aims to foster connections and facilitate exchange among these young individuals. The project team researches and offers various leisure options, such as free events and sports activities, creating opportunities for the participating youth. Age-specific outings, like visits to indoor playgrounds and libraries for 7- to 14-year-olds, or trips to the fair, basketball

courts, and youth centres for 12- to 16-year-olds, are organised. The project also establishes contact with parents and implements a system where local teenagers act as contact persons for the Ukrainian children and adolescents. The project has a one-year duration, enabling Ukrainian youth to explore and form new connections and friendships. Additionally, it benefits local participants, particularly those with fewer opportunities who have yet to fully explore their own city.

***“I especially liked the Christmas market in Bremen. Experiencing this as a group, asking questions and trying things was a lot of fun.”***

**Svetlana**

Project participant from Ukraine

**Programme: European Solidarity Corps**

**Key Action: Solidarity Projects**

**Project coordinator/contact person:**

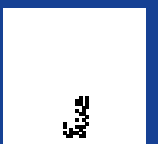
Integration durch Kunst e.V. (Germany)

**Project partners: N/A**

**Project reference:** 2022-2-DE04-ESC30-SOL-000090812

**Project website:** [link ↗](#)

**Project information:** [link ↗](#)





Portugal

Promoting inclusion of Ukrainian refugees in Braga



## We Are Neighbours

**This project promotes the integration of Ukrainian refugees in Braga, through cultural activities, led by volunteers and citizens. It aims to build relationships, foster togetherness, and offer opportunities for leisure and socialising.**

We Are Neighbours (WAN) facilitates socio-cultural activities in Braga involving Ukrainian refugees, volunteers, and citizens. The activities encompass cultural, gastronomic, and historical aspects. Currently, it involves five families, 13 volunteers, and has organised five events, providing participants with opportunities to explore and immerse themselves in Portuguese culture, while engaging in leisure activities. Most of these families consist of mothers and their children due to the ongoing war keeping their fathers

away. The impact of the project can be seen in the increased confidence and affection demonstrated by these families. Furthermore, some of the participants have asked to accept more families, as some of their friends, also Ukrainian refugees, find themselves alone in Portugal and wish to find a safe space. The project has successfully created intercultural friendships and has received positive feedback from the families involved.

***“It was very refreshing to have the feeling of normalcy again [...], not to run to the bomb shelter every two hours.”***

**Sofia Alves**  
Project coordinator

**Programme:** European Solidarity Corps

**Key Action:** Solidarity Projects

**Project coordinator/contact person:** Joana Neiva, Sofia Alves  
Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa, Delegação de Braga (Portugal)

**Project partners:** N/A

**Project reference:** 2022-2-PT02-ESC30-SOL-000091150

**Project website:** [link ↗](#)

**Project information:** [link ↗](#)





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