

Money from French local governments to help Ukrainian women in Rzeszów

Rzeszów will receive 60,000 EUR to support a program to help refugees from Ukraine. The money will help in learning the language and professional activation of women who found shelter in our country.

The grant is the result of the president's trip to the Eurocities Annual Conference in June 2022. Rzeszów is a member of "Eurocities", the largest organization associating cities in the world. The President of Rzeszów is a member of the General Assembly and is obliged to take part in voting. In June last year, Konrad Fijołek, together with the mayor of Vilnius and a representative of Kharkiv, talked about the organization of the aid process for Ukraine and the situation on the border. He also presented the circumstances in which Rzeszów was awarded the title of "City-Rescuer". During the meetings, contacts were made with the Association of French Cities.

- For obvious reasons, everything we presented during these meetings was related to the refugee crisis. Then, our contacts with representatives of French cities were continued, and the result is the grant we are talking about today - informs Kamil Czyż, director of the City Brand, Economic Cooperation and Tourism Department of the Rzeszów City Hall.

- The title of the "City-Rescuer" obliges us to continue our activities, although now our help takes different forms than at the beginning. Now it consists in helping to find oneself in a new place, in finding a job, in integrating with the local community. Thank you for supporting the Association of French Cities and donating 60,000 EUR for the joint aid program "Activation and integration of min. 25 women from Ukraine," says Konrad Fijołek, Mayor of Rzeszów.

The joint project of the City of Rzeszów and CITÉS UNIES FRANCE addresses the most pressing problems related to employment and knowledge of the Polish language among refugees from Ukraine. After the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine, a significant number of people fleeing hostilities ended up in Rzeszów. Some of them know Polish poorly and do not take up employment. - Several hundred thousand people fleeing from the war passed through Rzeszów. Tens of thousands stayed here. The way in which we helped them would not have been possible without the support of residents, companies and organizations, both local and international. We would like to thank everyone for their help so far, but also for the fact that we can now announce a competition to support women from Ukraine living in our city - says Krystyna Stachowska, Deputy Mayor of Rzeszów.

The project is complementary to other activities carried out for refugees in Rzeszów. Activation support will make it possible to take up employment and obtain funds to secure living needs in a difficult period.

- The funds provided by CITÉS UNIES FRANCE are intended for the implementation of psychological support, career counselling, vocational courses, Polish language course and accompanying support in the form of care for dependents during classes. We invite non-governmental organizations that provide this type of assistance to participate in the competition - says Andrzej Burnat, director of the Social Policy Department of the Rzeszów City Hall.

The project is aimed at 25 women from Ukraine who came to Rzeszów because of the war. These are women of working age (aged 18-60) caring for a dependent person, i.e. children or an elderly family member. Today, an open competition for offers in the field of activities for the integration of foreigners starts, and the implementation of the task will be commissioned to the non-governmental organization that will win this competition. At the same time, we invite you to an information meeting regarding the announced competition. It will take place on February 13, 2023 at the Urban Innovation Center - Urban Lab, 3 May 13 Street, (floor 1) at 10.00.

photo: Grzegorz Bukała, Rzeszów City Hall