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Renovated Community Development Centre in Voznesensk invites to free courses

On 25 October, Voznesensk in Mykolaiv Oblast celebrated the grand opening of its newly renovated municipal Community Development Centre, which offers free educational courses for adults. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) supported the completion of the renovation of the 250 sq m facility.

The renovation has more than doubled the Centre's capacity, now able to accommodate up to 100 people seeking to improve their skills or gain new qualifications. The DRC carried out the renovations with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

"We originally envisioned the Centre as a place for adults to receive vocational education, but it has since evolved into a hub for community and local business development," said **Yevheniy Velychko**, Mayor of Voznesensk. *"This expansion will enable hundreds of people to gain marketable skills, which will enhance the city's business climate and support the integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs)."*

Earlier, in January, the city-funded partial renovations, which allowed the launch of courses in sewing, social media management, and photography.

"In the spaces newly renovated by DRC, we plan to introduce courses in digital printing, digital embroidery, as well as training for baristas, bakers, and confectioners. Most of these programmes are designed to meet the needs of local businesses," said **Viktoriiia Baltser**, Secretary of the Voznesensk City Council.

The courses are continually updated to reflect market demands and are offered free of charge to vulnerable groups, including IDPs, who make up about 10% of the city's

population. Priority is given to low-income and large families, women on maternity leave, and other vulnerable groups. Courses are available to individuals aged 18 to 55.

“DRC’s work in Voznesensk focuses on supporting communities and integrating IDPs through a multisectoral response. Contributing to the Centre’s development is part of our effort to expand job opportunities for those affected by the war or who have lost employment due to business closures. The Centre’s programmes equip participants with essential skills in a short time, enabling them to further develop while working or through additional training,” stated **Lea Noelline Paola Mome**, DRC Programme Manager.

Looking ahead, the city plans to expand the Centre further by adding a neighbouring building, where it hopes to launch pottery and weaving workshops. The administration is also collaborating with local artisans to organise exhibitions and sales of their work at the Centre.

Further information:

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The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is a leading, international humanitarian displacement organisation, supporting refugees and internally displaced persons during displacement, in exile, when settling and integrating in a new place, or upon return. We provide protection and life-saving humanitarian assistance. DRC has been operating in Ukraine since 2014. Since 24 February 2022, DRC has launched a multi-sectoral response to the large-scale humanitarian crisis aiding over 3 million people in sectors such as Protection, Economic Recovery, Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding, and Shelter & Settlement.