

## HELPING UKRAINIAN WOMEN ARTISANS

### PARTNER

Nest

501 Fifth Avenue New York, New York, NY 10017, United States of America

<https://www.buildanest.org/>

NGO

This project is coordinated by PRESAGE, Sciences Po's Gender Studies Programme.

### PERSON IN CHARGE

Rebecca van Bergen, Founder & Executive Director at Nest

Violette Toye, Présage

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INSTITUTION AND CONTEXT

Nest is an American non-profit building a new handworker economy to increase global workforce inclusivity, improve women's wellbeing beyond factories, and preserve important cultural traditions around the world.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022 has forced more than one-third of Ukrainians from their homes. More than 6.5 million people fled the country, 90% of whom are women and children. Some 8 million people have been displaced internally within Ukraine (UNHCR, Flash Update #14). This is the largest human displacement crisis in the world today. Immediately after the assault, EU member states simplified the rules of entry for Ukrainian and Ukraine-residents refugees to facilitate the emergency mobility of people looking for shelter.

To this day, Poland remains the main country of arrival for refugees from Ukraine, with more than 3.5 million having entered the country since the start of the war (UNHCR). Research suggests that the pre-existence of dense Ukrainian migration networks in Poland could be a major contributing factor (Torunczyk-Ruiz, 2014), especially for migrant women whose economic integration relies predominantly on social capital due in part to the non-convertible character of their cultural capital and to familial obligations (Kindler and Szulecka, 2014). According to researchers, the ability to learn Polish is a precondition to establishing ties with Poles: thanks to a cultural proximity between Ukrainian and Polish (both Slavic languages), this precondition appears accessible for Ukrainian migrants. At the end of 2020, 601 200 Ukrainians held residence permits in the European Union, 81% of them issued by Poland (Eurostat).

### EDUCATIONAL CONTENT – OVERALL OBJECTIVE AND SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE PROJECT

This action-research project, led in partnership with Nest, a nonprofit supporting the responsible growth and creative engagement of the artisan and maker economy, will bring into focus the specific situation of displaced Ukrainian women artisans. Looking at their migration patterns, listening to their first-hand testimonies, the project will try and gain a better understanding of the following: what are their actual needs? How do they feel in the host society? What gaps are identified in terms of women's rights and emancipation? What are the levers to improve their well-being? What are their perspectives for the future?

## **PREREQUISITES (FACULTATIF)**

Background in gender studies and/or migration studies appreciated.  
Experience with migrants – refugee women recommended.  
People speaking Ukrainian, Russian or Polish are strongly encouraged to apply.

## **WHY IS THE PROPOSED CHALLENGE IN THE GENERAL INTEREST?**

This action-research project will both create knowledge and insight on the situation of Ukrainian refugee women artisans in wartime (research component) and suggest concrete strategies and action plans to be spread and implemented by/through Nest (action component).

## **RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES INTENDED**

In order to conduct this study, the students will perform desk research from September to December 2022 and will, if conditions allow, travel to Poland (and/or other countries in Europe) in January 2023.

Deliverables:

- a landscape mapping Poland-based women-focused migrant artisan businesses and organisations that support these groups
- a report on the situation of displaced Ukrainian Women Artisans in Poland based on a desk search, qualitative analysis of interviews conducted on the ground in Poland and survey analysis
- a set of recommendations for Nest and the European and international communities related to the specific barriers and challenges met by these women

Schedule:

October-November: Desk search (state of the art, actor mapping, remote landscape mapping)

December: Preparation for field research (interview guide, initial contacts, ...)

January [during the Winter Break]: field research in a European country (a priori Poland)

February-March: Report structuration and landscape mapping

April-May: Final report, recommendations, and landscape mapping delivery

## **HOW WILL YOU CAPITALISE ON THE DELIVERABLES?**

The report delivered by the students will be published on Women Forward International's website and by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

The recommendations made by the student team will nourish and orient Nest's action towards Ukrainian refugees.

## PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

Ukrainian and Ukraine-based artisan women.

Refugee women.

Organisations helping artisans and refugees.

## METHODOLOGY

Regular meetings with Nest and WFI's teams remotely.

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## LOGISTIC

In January 2023, the student team will (if circumstances allow) go to Poland thanks to the funding granted by Women Forward International.