

IN SHORT

Inspired by a concept of the compensation of one sense by another, advisors from the academic community of Cracow advised an Ukrainian company to develop a program where visually impaired people teach Polish as a foreign language to the refugees.



Teaching Polish as a foreign language by disabled teachers speed up the learning process of participants.

STANISŁAW ALWASIAK

STORY



As a consequence of the Russian military aggression on Ukraine several millions refugees came to Poland. It boosted the interest and need for teaching Polish as a foreign language. Good teachers are in short supply which calls for innovative solutions where science and social innovation go hand in hand.

Based on the observed need, a concept of engaging visually impaired people as a teachers of Polish language was developed in partnership with the Polish chapter of the Ukrainian company interested to teach Polish to potential employees.

The concept and idea of the social innovation came into being and was proposed to the attention of the Malopolska Regional Centre for Social Care. Based on the financial support for this social innovation, a group of visually impaired people are providing the training of Polish language developed jointly by the specialists and trainers from schools, academia and migrants themselves.

Based on the promising results of the programme, future scaling up and replication of the initiative is planned to take place in 2023. The social innovation is based on enhancing the sense of commitment and engagement on both the tutors and the students. Based on their own unique resources, visually impaired language guides indicate the directions of linguistic and cultural development to people who have the right to feel lost in the new reality. Both parties gain competences of the future: the ability to adapt to new situations, functioning in a group based on empathy and deep understanding of other people's needs.

IN FOCUS



DISCO
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