



# Crowdfunding Campaign «Housing for resettled Ukrainian students»

#### **Project overview**

Many Ukrainian students have to leave their homes and flee because of the war. In Ukraine and the surrounding area, however, the halls of residence are already overcrowded and housing prices have risen massively. In order to provide the students with a roof over their heads and an appropriate learning environment, the Swiss Student Union (<u>VSS-UNES-USU</u>) and the Ukrainian Association of Students (<u>UAS</u>) launched the crowdfunding campaign "Housing for resettled Ukrainian students" to provide flats. Be a part of it and participate - because every franc counts!

# **Funding Goals**

Since every franc helps, we do not have a specific funding goal. Nevertheless, we are going full throttle from 6 April 2022 to 6 May 2022 to help as many students as possible in their housing need!

# Goodies

VSS-UNES-USU and UAS provide donors with various goodies that have a non-material value. We do not provide any other (material) goodies, as all our financial resources are intended to benefit Ukrainian students.

# Background to the creation of the project

The war in Ukraine has been going on for more than a month now and the number of dead, injured and displaced people - including students - is increasing daily. Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the VSS-UNES-USU board has been in close contact with the Ukrainian Student Association (UAS). Through <u>statements</u>, <u>crisis discussions</u> and coordination projects within the framework of the European Students' Union, VSS-UNES-USU has always shown solidarity with the Ukrainian students and campaigns for refugee students at home in close cooperation with Perspectives - Studies.

At the same time, there is a strong desire within the student body to make a concrete difference and thus help the students directly. In the search for an appropriate project, the crowdfunding campaign "Housing for resettled Ukrainian students" was created in cooperation with UAS. But why this kind of support of all things?

While the hryvnia (Ukraine's currency) has been steadily losing value since the outbreak of the war, the value of the franc has risen sharply in recent weeks. As a result, a relatively large amount of aid can be provided with a relatively small amount of Swiss francs. Against this background (and due to the geographical distance), it is concluded that monetary support for

the students of Ukraine by the students of Switzerland makes the most sense and is the most effective.

According to information from the UAS, there is currently a great shortage of accommodation for students in particular. The main arguments for this are the capacity limits of the halls of residence for students and the massive increase in rents in the areas where there is no fighting. The same applies to the border regions in neighbouring countries. The problem is particularly great for students, as they often have no financial means of their own.

#### How the donations reach their goal

The crowdfunding campaign "Housing for resettled Ukrainian students" was launched to help financially weak students in Ukraine with their housing needs. To achieve this, VSS-UNES-USU, with your support in Switzerland, is collecting donations in our strong currency and then distributing the amounts via UAS to the local Ukrainian student bodies. These then rent flats and make them available to the students. VSS-UNES-USU will continue to transfer funds to UAS during the fundraising period so that they too can start implementing the project as soon as possible.

# What our project achieves

Our project aims to provide housing for students who have been displaced because of the war. We provide the students not only with a roof over their heads, but also with a perspective to continue their studies.

We will keep you informed about the campaign and the impact of the project on the Instagram pages of <u>VSS-UNES-USU</u> and <u>UAS</u>. So it's worth following the accounts (@vss\_unes\_usu and @uas\_official) to stay up to date.

#### Who are we

**Swiss Student Union (VSS-UNES-USU):** Founded in 1920, we represent the interests of students at universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education, cantonal universities and federal institutes of technology on the national level. As the voice of the students, we represent the interests and needs of students vis-à-vis the public and in the political arena . To this end, we are in close contact with federal offices, maintain our network with civil society organisations and have a seat on all national committees relevant to higher education! Internationally, as part of the international student movement, we are committed to student rights and organise fundraising campaigns, for example.

**Ukrainian Association of Students (UAS)**: Founded in 1999, UAS represents the interests of students from public and private universities in Ukraine. We unite the different student organisations of the universities and can thus represent the rights of students. We work for the networking and representation of students, higher education of good quality and students' rights. At the moment, we are primarily working for the interests of students affected by the war.

#### Visuals

