

# Greetings from Ukraine!

There was a pause in publications from MDEM and that is explainable by the war that stroke our native country. But Ukrainians are strong nation and cope with hardships. At MDEM we owe a big respect and gratitude for support to our Damen colleagues from the Netherlands, Romania and Poland.

War brings a lot of suffering and destruction but it can't kill independent spirit of Ukrainians and love for their Motherland. Ukrainians has become more and more united and ready to fight for their freedom. Everyday bombings and attacks result in numerous death and wounded not only among the soldiers but also peaceful population. Invaders are ruthless ... They plan to surrender our native Nikolaev and don't stop their effort in doing it. Constant battles and attacks are in the city. Air alarms come 4-5 times a day and people are forced to hide in the shelters to save their lives and dearest...

way abroad is not smooth enough because of numerous block posts near each locality and constant checks.

In order to coordinate evacuation issues and assist on the way Evacuation support group was created. It includes Tjarco Ekkelcamp, Tom Leijte from Proximities, Michel de Reus, Eduard Radu, Dumitru Lazar and MDEM colleagues (Olena Zhukova, Nataliia Mamarina, Inna Kononchuk, Mariia Lagun, Hanna Zalyvadna, Oksana Katashynska). They take the requests for evacuation, put it in the list, pack the cars and support their movement to the border.



In such situation every support and care is very much highly appreciated and we get it from our Damen colleagues who cooperate with Proximities on evacuation of MDEM colleagues and their families. The main bottleneck to get now from Nikolaev are the bridges. Due to the fact that Nikolayev is situated on the banks of two rivers there are two main bridges through which passes the route out of the city. When attack starts it gets closed and no movement over on it is possible. So people need to chase the time when it is open to get out of the city. Also

After crossing the border people are picked up to the hotel where they stay at least for a week. They receive nutrition and full support at Galati and of course can feel safe at last... Success of the team is tremendous! For today they evacuated to safe places about 300 people.

Majority of them are families and relatives of MDEM and DAMEN employees. And one more good news – we have already a child born in MDEM family after evacuation in Romania! Local support in Romania is arranged with the



From left to right: Oleksii Kudaktin, Irina Kudaktina, Halyna Horshkoliepova, Olena Arlamenko, Tetiana Druzhynina, Oleksandr Zmiievskyi



help of Richard de Gouw, Yuliia Belyanevich, Nikolay Latushkin, Veronika Filina and Olena Slobodanykova.

But that is not all of course. For those who stay at Nikolaev every day the humanitarian aid is sent by the cars that return back. It includes medicine, food, hygienic goods and all necessary appliances. In Nikolaev it is distributed among the employees by area principle and coordinated by Supplies Coordination team. This team is also international and includes Dumitru Lazar, Traian Iftenie, Oleksandr

Zmiievskyi, Nataliia Mamarina and Oleksandr Levit. There are also locations of MDEM employees at Poland (coordinated by Hanna Zalyvadna) and West Ukraine (Maksym Koba) now. We will write about it in our next article. Follow us!

We believe that together we can overcome the war and continue working as one family for the common goals! Thanks to Damen for all the support and care! ■