



## MDEM EMPLOYEES' CHILDREN VISIT TO THE NETHERLANDS

# An unforgettable gift from Damen

Damen made a great present for the children of MDEM employees - an unforgettable, entertaining and educational vacation to the Netherlands. It was a week of bright emotions and warm meetings with sincere and kind members of Damen family – employees from [Damen Helpt Foundation](#) and the [Association for helping Ukrainians](#), expats, all hearted people who worry over the children of war fate. The group from Ukraine included 15 children and 2 accompanying parents - MDEM colleagues.





It is very difficult to put into words all the excitement our young travelers shared with their parents, friends got from the visit to Damen Shipyards in Vlissingen, Rotterdam and Gorinchem, where they had impressive excursions kindly provided by Damen experts. They have got an opportunity to see on their own eyes and to realize the uniqueness and importance of professions their parents chose and the greatness of the company they work for. Moreover, a rich program included a guided tour to Zonnetrein boulevard, City Tour in Gorinchem, ferry walks, boat tour through Rotterdam, Zeeuws Maritime MuZEEum and a Slot Loevestein. The thing they mentioned with the special warmth is carrying attitude and soulfulness on socializing events special organized for them, where they had an opportunity to find new friends, to relax and really to have fun.

Anneliese Damen, Non-Ex Board Member of Damen Shipyards Group, [Damen Helpt](#) Foundation founder, met the children and spent time talking with them. She noted: "We are the one family. One Damen. We want to help colleagues in the times of crisis. So, if the safety of our family members is threatened,

we act decisively. We help because our MDEM colleagues are highly valued within the Damen Shipyards group and have been members of the Damen family since 2006... Proud of everybody who helped us to organize this Summerschool for 15 our Ukrainian teenagers. We have invited them in The Netherlands for a week to visit our shipyards in Vlissingen, Gorinchem and Rotterdam. But above all to give them an experience and be away from the war they are confronted with every day. I am happy you all had a great time. You can support us for our next Summerschool."

Natalia Mamarina, MDEM Communications Manager and accompanying during this trip, expressed her gratitude to the organizers for the impressions they received: "Given modern Ukrainian realities, it is important to create opportunities for physical and psychological rest of our children, contribute to new experiences obtaining. For some children, it was the first experience of flying on an airplane. They made new friends and felt tremendous support from the people they met. The Dutch are very open. I express my sincere gratitude to the organizers and sponsors

of the program for the incredible positive emotions of our children."

Olena Zhukova, MDEM Director, concluded: "We express our gratitude for the systematic support of the families and children of MDEM employees by Damen family and their wonderful summer vacation of young travelers!"

It is worth noting that some of children have changed their plans for future profession after the trip and dream of becoming a part of Damen family with its values and variety of opportunities. An unforgettable vocation ended with the touching symbolic ceremony of paper boats start along the Amstel river. On boards of tiny boats children wrote their deepest dreams and wishes. May these words passing by the waves of the river will come the way.

Least but not last, we would like to say to all involved colleagues: all kind emotions you gave, generous sponsorship and words of encouragement you told to our children – is the greatest support for us and we are immensely grateful for that and proud to belong to Damen family. <<