

EMERGENCY SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR SMES IN MOLDOVA

Program overview

FEMELE

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FEM-EIE

Female Entrepreneurship in Moldova - Emergency Initiative for Economic Empowerment

The aim of the program is to provide direct support for Moldovan entrepreneurs and displaced Ukrainian entrepreneurs in Moldova, with a specific focus on supporting women. To create a comprehensive, sustainable and empowering network, the program will provide a support center in Moldova, financial support, access to global network and resources, and entrepreneurship education and training.



OVERVIEW, RATIONALE & OBJECTIVES

AT A GLANCE

**16
MONTHS**

DURATION

**CHIȘINĂU,
MOLDOVA**

BASED IN

**MOLDOVAN
& UKRANIAN**

ENTREPRENEURS

**500
PARTICIPANTS**

IN TOTAL*

*75 women entrepreneurs receive direct financial support, 425 participants receive training, resources, network development and EU market access through support center

BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, enpact established a crisis management program aimed at directly supporting entrepreneurs in emerging markets, in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). With two programs completed in 2021 and one completed in 2022, over 2,200 people from 745 companies in eight countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America have been supported in coping with the economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. The programs have ensured the continued existence of all participating companies, preserving and creating more than 6,600 jobs.

Within this context, enpact has developed a unique combination of support tools aimed at helping as many entrepreneurs as possible to adapt quickly and cost-efficiently and to build resilient businesses.

In view of the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine and its economic and social repercussions in the Republic of Moldova, the above support tools will be adapted to the needs of the Republic of Moldova to provide direct, emergency relief to Moldovan and Ukrainian entrepreneurs in Moldova whose businesses have been affected by the war.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The program will provide key 4 components:

EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

- Main activity of the support center in the first year.
- Financial assistance component.
- 75 Moldova-based women with pre-existing Moldovan and Ukrainian businesses that have been affected by the war.
- Provides financial support to be used for assisting living expenses and costs incurred by the war.
- Funding is linked to participation in the training and progress reports, however the overall psychological state and individual circumstances of each participant will be taken into account with personal wellbeing and safety as our priority.
- Women founders will also receive access to free workspace if needed and a one-time payment to be used for engaging technical expertise for business development.

SUPPORT CENTER

- Central, accessible, safe space for women.
- Not meant as a coworking space or business rental but a dedicated desk/meeting space for the participants.
- Training, education, entrepreneurship events.
- Access to international networks + events + connections.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Will be based on needs assessment of the participants, in consultation with local partners and ecosystem stakeholders.
- Conducted in hybrid, online and offline formats.
- A digital learning platform.
- Topics will include: Leadership, resilience, crisis resilience, digital transformation, funding landscape, sustainability management, impact measurement, internationalization and EU market access.
- Collaboration/cooperation with existing providers to build on and grow the local entrepreneurship ecosystem.

NETWORKING ACCESS + EVENTS

- Regular access to companies and experts in the EU market.
- Monthly physical networking events within the local ecosystem.
- Regular meetings with local, regional and EU partners.
- Building a network of local experts and mentors.
- Monthly guided community support and self-help formats.

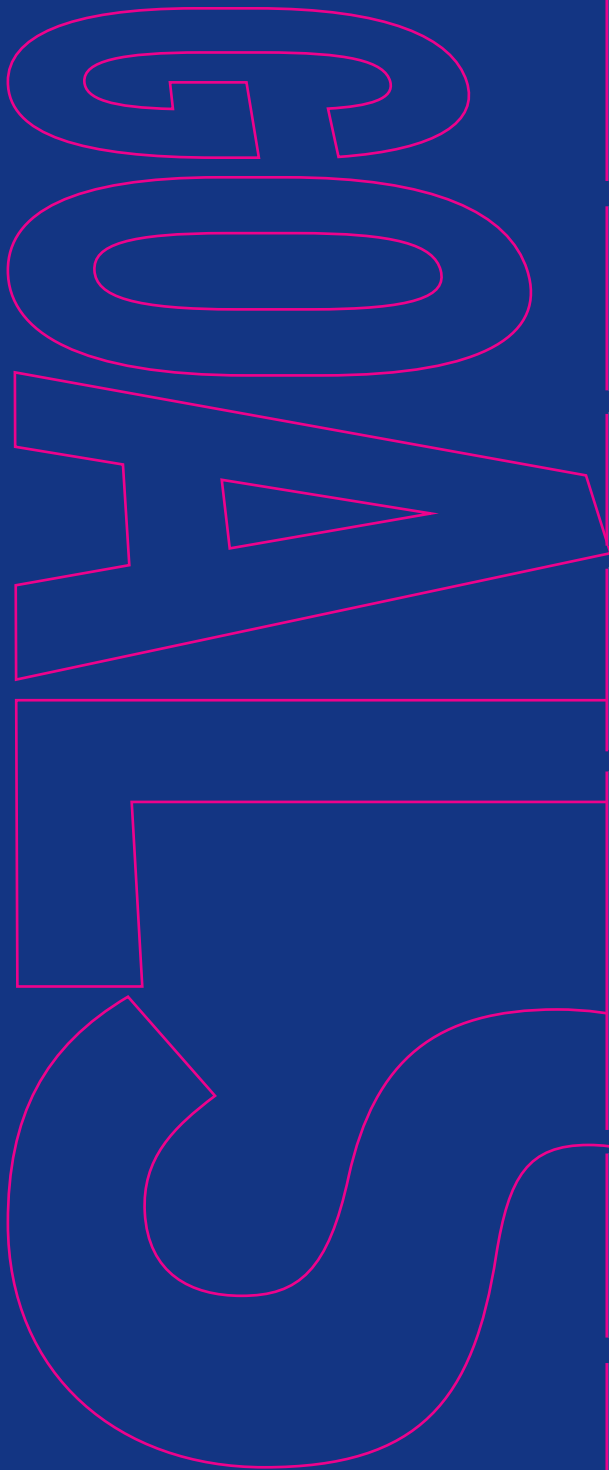
PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The main goal of the support center is to be an easily accessible space in which the participants of the program can find the facilities needed to continue their operations. Aside from providing a free base of operations, previous experience with crisis relief and recovery programs showed that the presence of a physical support center significantly accelerates community building, business development partnerships, and integration within international markets.

The support center's main activity will be an emergency relief program

that aims to provide financial support, free workspace, and training to 75 Moldovan and Ukrainian women entrepreneurs based in Moldova. In addition to the 75 participants, 425 entrepreneurs in Moldova will also have access to regional and international events, training sessions, market expansion opportunities and network development through the support center.

Overall, the program aims to accomplish the following goals:



Enable women entrepreneurs to preserve their income and jobs created by their businesses.

Support stabilization and revitalization of companies in Moldova to provide economic boost.

Reduce the need for reliance on financial assistance in the absence of customers and operational capacity.

Relieve the strain caused on the Moldovan labor market as a direct result of the war.

Ensure access to legal set-up and support for displaced Ukrainian entrepreneurs looking to operate in Moldova.

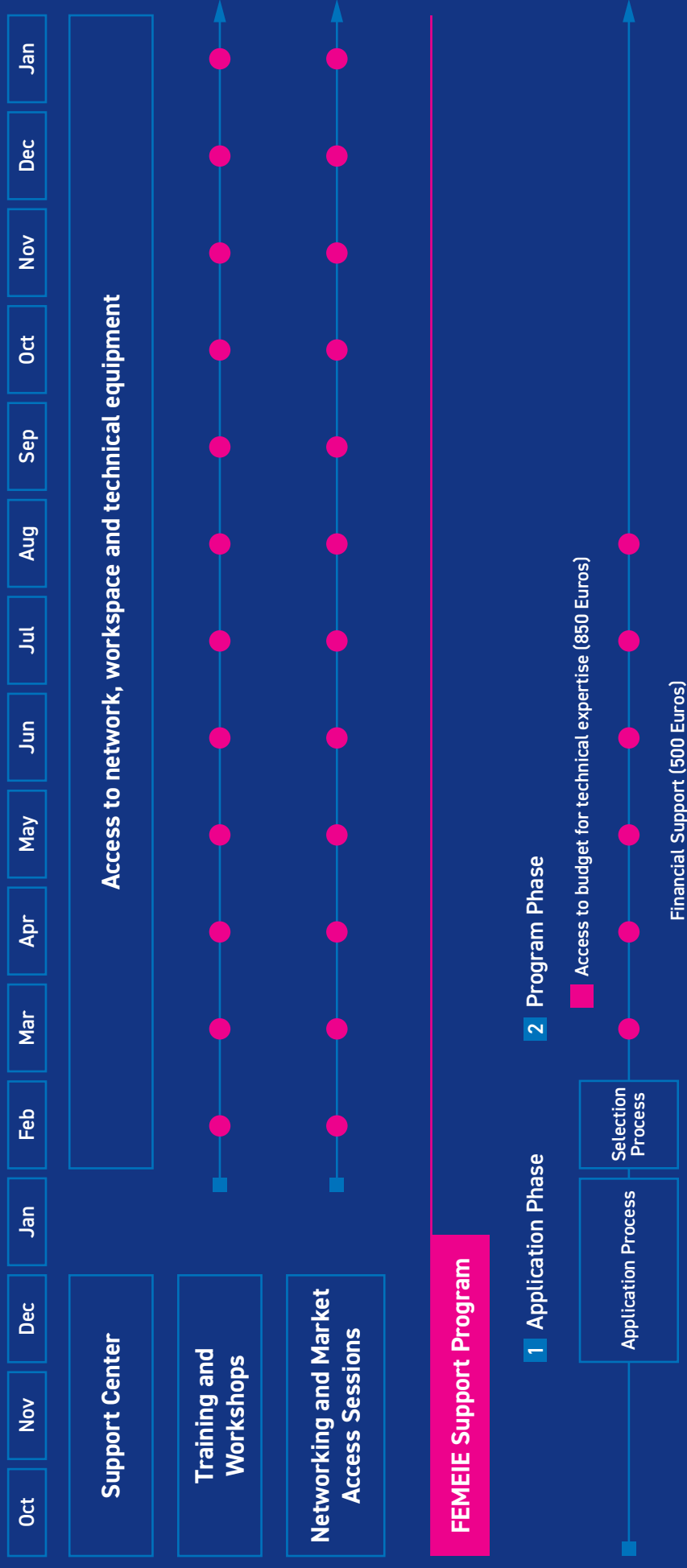
Sustain businesses led by displaced Ukrainian founders to ensure possibility of eventual return of operations to Ukraine to avoid permanent brain drain and pave the way for post-war reconstruction.

Support integration of Moldovan and Ukrainian companies into the European market value chain.

Strengthen business relations between Moldova and Ukraine to compensate for loss of key markets due to the war.



PROGRAM TIMELINE



PROGRAM PARTNERS

enpact

The non-profit organization enpact was founded with the goal of empowering entrepreneurship in the context of international economic cooperation.

enpact works with entrepreneurs and support organizations across all development stages. Their approach is designed to facilitate quick and efficient access to the crucial resources needed for the sustainable growth of any business: financial support, training, mentoring, and network development.

At present, enpact's network consists of more than 3,200 businesses supported, 1,100 mentors and experts, and 200 partner organizations in over 30 countries. Over 15,000 jobs have been created or preserved as a direct result of 40 projects implemented by enpact.

Since 2020, enpact has been running crisis and emergency relief programs for entrepreneurs with the focus of overcoming the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and growing resilient businesses amidst crisis situations. To date, the programs supported a total of 745 businesses along with the creation and preservation of 6,600 jobs.

GIZ

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a federal enterprise with worldwide operations. GIZ supports the German Government in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ is also engaged in international education activities around the globe. Through its work, GIZ assists people and societies in shaping their own future and improving living conditions.

GET INVOLVED



Applications are now open to Ukrainian and Moldovan entrepreneurs in Moldova until Sunday, 6 February 2023. Find more information here.

PROGRAM-RELATED INQUIRIES:

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FEMELE

Female Entrepreneurship
in Moldova - Emergency Initiative
for Economic Empowerment



Implemented by



The program is implemented by enpact e.V. with the support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The aim of the program is to counteract the economic and social repercussions caused by the Russian war of aggression.