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IKEA Portugal supports the integration of refugees into the labour market



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IKEA Portugal is preparing to launch the second edition of the Employability Programme for Refugees. After starting this initiative in April 2021, IKEA once again reinforces its commitment to actively contribute to the integration of refugees arriving in Portugal, promoting their employability and inclusion in the labour market.





In Portugal, the project carried out in partnership with the CPR (Portuguese Council for Refugees) and the ACM (High Commission for Migration), with whom IKEA has collaborated for several years, had the participation of 18 refugees from different countries in the first edition, who learned Portuguese, had contact with different areas of the IKEA business and the opportunity to socialize in a new work dynamic. Seven of the participants were integrated into the organization after the program ended.

In 2022, up to 20 participants can be integrated into the project, in which everyone has a *buddy* and a mentor who accompanies them throughout their journey. In addition to the development of professional skills, the Program makes Portuguese culture known and provides access to Portuguese classes to facilitate linguistic integration.

"At IKEA we are truly committed to making a positive contribution to deconstructing prejudice related to refugee status. We want to support their integration into the community and the labour market, whether at IKEA or other organisations. For us, their skills and perspectives are fundamental and the first edition of the Refugee Employability Program proved this: the participants brought us more diversity, new points of view and helped us to better understand the needs of more customers. We will continue to do our part, in partnership with CPR and ACM, to contribute to a positive evolution of society and promote a positive change in the lives of these people" says Cláudio Valente, Head of People & Culture at IKEA Portugal.

"The Employability Program for Refugees is an example of how companies can support the integration of the refugee population in Portugal, not only from an experience in the labor market but also from the possibility of acquiring the Portuguese language, which is so important for anyone who arrives in a new country. Supporting refugees also involves integration into the labour market and that is what IKEA Portugal has provided", says Vitor Sartoris, CPR project technician.

"The partnership with the IKEA Refugee Employability Programme, in collaboration with the Portuguese Refugee Council (CPR), is fully part of this logic of action and has proven to be fundamental for the promotion of the professional integration of citizens Seeking Asylum and International Protection. We welcome this initiative that provides an opportunity to join a leading company, which promotes an excellent working environment and is able to build good growth opportunities for people who face many challenges in the process of reintegration into the workforce." reveals Sónia Pereira, High Commissioner for Migration.

PODCAST 'EQUALLY' - "REFUGEES: MYTHS AND PREJUDICES IN HOST COUNTRIES"

The podcast 'Equally', dedicated to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion, already has its second season on the air. Today the second episode is released, which brings to the table a conversation about the deconstruction of prejudices related to refugees.

In line with this great objective of changing the narrative and contributing to a fairer and more egalitarian society, this episode has as guests Sara Pimenta, responsible for the Employability Program for Refugees at IKEA Portugal, Marta Gonçalves, Journalist at Expresso, Tânia Marques from the High Commission for Migration and Abdourahamane Diaby from the Refugee Association of Portugal.

It is possible to listen to this and other episodes on streaming platforms [here](#) or watch on Youtube [here](#).

