



# WISE - Supporting Ukrainian (UA) Refugee Women's Socio-Economic Integration and Wellbeing

Project ESF-SI-2024-UA-01-0032 – WISE

Donor: European Social Fund Agency (ESF-A), Social Innovation Initiative

10 April 2025 – 10 January 2027 (in process of extension)

**Consortium of 6 partners:** European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning (BE), Fondazione International Rescue Committee Italia ETS (IT), Animus Association Foundation (BG), CENTRO PENC ANTROPOLOGIA E PSICOLOGIA GEOCLINICA (IT), Laboratorio di Gruppoanalisi – Società Cooperativa Sociale (IT), SkillLab B.V (NL)

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ANIMUS  
ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDATION



**SkillLab AI**



## Goal and Objectives



Improve the socio-economic inclusion of employable refugee women from Ukraine, in Italy and Bulgaria



Support access to host labour markets and potential reintegration into Ukraine's job market.



Improve access to social and public services.



Enhance mental health, well-being, and empowerment.



Raise awareness at EU level and promote the adoption of the Holistic Support Centre model.



## Who and Where

### Target Population:

Employable women from Ukraine  
& their dependants



4 locations



## Holistic Support Center

**WGSS methodology:** safe and supportive environments for women that foster peer support and social connections; gender lens and trauma-informed approach

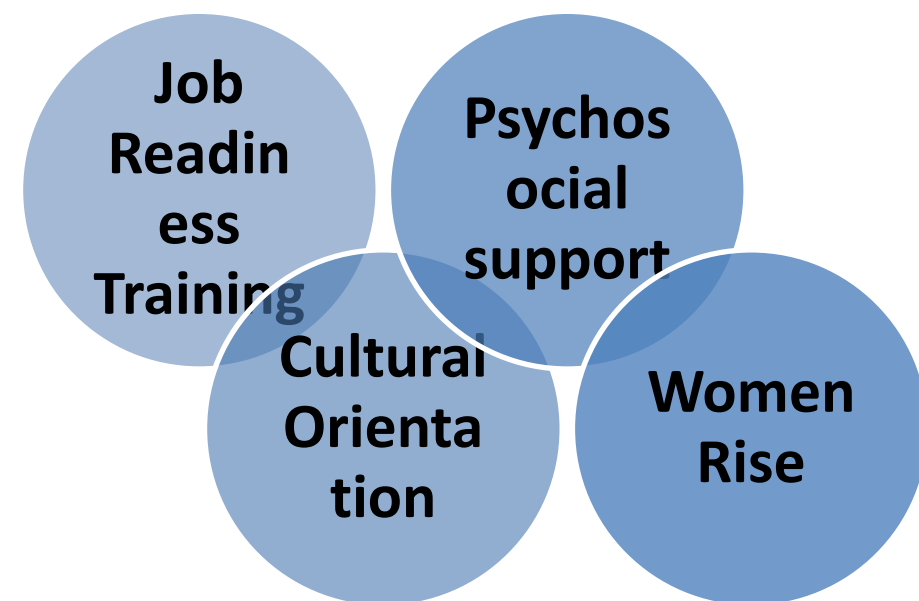
**One-Stop-Shop model:** comprehensive service delivery providing access, information and referrals for various services



**Comprehensive Integration Plan:** 1:1 case-management and employment support

Structured/semi-structured/unstructured **group activities** for skills development and empowerment





Child Space



Group activities



Individual psychological support

Individual case management and employment support



Linguistic and cultural mediation



## Main results



over **600**

participants supported (women and dependants)



**51%**

received individual case management



**26%** received 1:1 employment support



→ 55% of whom completed career goals\*



→ 42% of whom used AI skills assessment tool



**60%**

through  
Group Activities



## Stakeholder engagement

| **8** co-design meetings

| **268** services mapped - public & civil society

| **4** local dissemination workshops

| **46** Key Informant Interview meetings

| **44** organizations engaged

| **5** dissemination webinars reaching 74 stakeholders



## How was the Municipality of Rome involved?

### AGREEMENT & PREMISES

Agreement signed in September 2023 between Laboratorio di Gruppoanalisi, the organisation running the initiative, and the II Municipality of Rome, the public authority supporting it.

01

#### Public legitimacy

for women unsure whether they are entitled to access services, the institutional seal of the City of Rome reduces the fear of being out of place.

02

#### Anchoring in the public infrastructure

the initiative is connected to the city's social services infrastructure rather than operating in isolation.

03

#### Bidirectional referrals

The Municipality's Social Services can refer beneficiaries to the initiative, while cases requiring their intervention can be referred back.

## The city network

**The Center does not work in isolation — it works because it sits inside a network of city actors.**

### **Il Municipality of Rome**

landlord, institutional partner, source of referrals.

### **Department of Social Policies, City of Rome**

strategic interlocutor.

### **TSMREE**

public child and adolescent mental health service.

## **THE CENTER**

Safe Space + Clinical Center

### **IRC – International Rescue Committee**

international partner, methodology,  
Communities of Practice.

### **Reception structures (CAS and SAI)**

where many beneficiaries live; we work  
with their staff to support continuity of  
care.

### **Local GBV-specialised services**

for cases that require dedicated  
intervention.



WISE Final Conference was a part of 

## ABOUT WISE PROJECT

WISE combines mental health and psychosocial support with employment services to improve the socio-economic inclusion of Ukrainian refugee women in Italy and Bulgaria.

By scaling up Holistic Support Centres, WISE helps enhance employability, access to services, and overall wellbeing through a trauma-informed, gender-sensitive approach.

## CONNECT WITH WISE

Join our stakeholders database and access all webinar recordings and project updates.



SCAN HERE



### LEARN MORE

about the WISE project

#WISEproject

#SocialInnovationEU