



UKRAINE: SUMMER CAMP OPENS FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN AND MOTHERS HOSTED IN ITALIAN CAPITAL

- ✓ *“Atlantia4Ukraine” project to offer sporting and recreational activities and counselling services for around 2,000 people from 13 June to 2 September*
- ✓ *Camp to take place at Villa Fassini, a fully-equipped park of 24,000m² located in the Tiburtina area of Rome*
- ✓ *Camp to be run by Sport Senza Frontiere, a non-profit, together with volunteers from Atlantia*

Rome, 10 June 2022 – A fully-equipped Summer Camp is being launched in Rome for Ukrainian mothers and children who have sought refuge in the Italian capital. From next Monday, 13 June, until Friday, 2 September, Villa Fassini, located in the Tiburtina area of the city, will host families who have come to Rome to flee the war in Ukraine. The camp will organise games and sporting activities for children free of charge.

The Summer Camp is an initiative devised by Atlantia’s employees, who under a special agreement can take 10 days leave on full pay to carry out voluntary work, and is being run in partnership with a number of NGOs and charities, such as **Sport Senza Frontiere** – which is responsible for running the camp – **Caritas**, **the Community of Sant’ Egidio** and **Save The Children**. The project, called “Atlantia4Ukraine”, is being run thanks to active collaboration from a number of government institutions, above all **Rome City Council**, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, the **Civil Protection Department** and the **Ukrainian Embassy in Italy**.

The summer camp will open next Monday and will be open every working day from 9 in the morning to 5.30 in the evening, organising entertainment, sports and games for children aged from 4 to 14. The camp will provide recreational and sporting activities, yoga, Italian language courses and counselling services. It will also be open to mothers who will be able to play sports and have access to specific assistance and support. In addition to offering 24,000m² of green space, the Villa Fassini centre made available by Atlantia has a fully-equipped multimedia classroom and free access to broadband.

Approximately 160 people will be able to use the services offered by the Summer Camp each day: in this way, by rotating participants on a weekly basis, it will be able to host around 2,000 women and children. The activities have been planned on the basis of the main needs expressed by Ukrainian refugees in Rome, who were consulted during an open day held on 13 May this year. People from Atlantia and representatives from the NGOs and the government agencies involved met and talked to approximately 500 Ukrainian refugees with the aim of finding out which services were most needed.

The main characteristics of the Summer Camp were presented at a meeting with over 200 Ukrainian refugees held in the Protomoteca room in the Capitol in Rome. The event was attended by the Mayor of Rome, **Roberto Gualtieri**, the Chairman of Atlantia, **Giampiero Massolo**, the Head of the Civil Protection Department, **Fabrizio Curcio**, the Ukrainian Ambassador to Italy, **Yaroslav Melnik**,

Rome City Council's Director of Social and Health Services, **Barbara Funari**, the Chairman of Sport Senza Frontiere, **Alessandro Tappa**, and representatives from the other NGOs involved.

"I'd like to thank Atlantia, the Civil Protection and the other Associations for organising and supporting this great initiative, which we will fully support. The Summer Camp in Rome will host 2,000 Ukrainians, some of them very young. It is a great way to show our support and solidarity for the Ukrainian people, whom the city of Rome and its inhabitants have taken to the heart. I have spoken with the Ukrainian ambassador about this and other initiatives designed to continue our support. It is an extremely positive sign that businesses are ready to do their bit as part of a major public-private partnership to support and bring a little joy into the lives of these young people, who are naturally suffering the effects of the terrible situation created by the unacceptable military aggression of Putin's Russia," said the Mayor of Rome, **Roberto Gualtieri**.

"We are pleased to be able to work with the various agencies and NGOs to provide real support for the mothers and children who have come to Rome from Ukraine as a result of the war. This project shows how the public, private and voluntary sectors can collaborate efficiently to provide quality support and assistance, promoting social participation and inclusion. At Atlantia, we want to continue to play our part by giving tangible form to our strong sense of solidarity with the Ukrainian people," said Atlantia's Chairman, **Giampiero Massolo**.

"Over the years, in responding to the numerous emergencies that have affected our country," said the Head of the Civil Protection Department, **Fabrizio Curcio**, *"we have learnt that we need to work as a team to overcome a crisis. This means collaborating at various levels and between different organisations, pooling the potential that each of us has to offer and the expertise we have developed over time. What we are doing today is of great importance: the public and private sectors and NGOs working together to try to improve the lives of people who have fled a war that we never wanted and could never have imagined."*

"I am confident that the Rome summer camp will become a special place of true friendship, personal development and new cultural and creative experiences for the Ukrainian children who have been forced to leave our country as a result of Russian aggression on a large scale. The wealth of educational and recreational activities on offer within the park around Villa Fassini will prove to be the best way for our young Ukrainians to ease the pain they feel as a result of their experiences of war and to create vivid, unforgettable memories," said Ukraine's Ambassador to Italy, **Yaroslav Melnyk**.

"For years, we at Sport Senza Frontiere have focused on social inclusion and we believe that sport plays a formidable role in promoting integration and welfare. The Joy project allows children living with trauma or who are otherwise disadvantaged to have a holiday, to spend a peaceful, constructive summer, and to experience psycho-emotional rehabilitation thanks to the many

activities we organise. We are very pleased, therefore, to begin working with Atlantia and, thanks to this major project, to be able to make human resources and their experience available to so many Ukrainian kids and their mothers,” explained **Alessandro Tappa**, Chairman of Sport Senza Frontiere.

➤ Find out more and register for the initiative at

<https://atlantia4ukraine.atlantia.com/it>

