



WITH OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN HORIZONS

Thank You, Damen!

This summer something truly special happened. From June 30 to July 4 a group of 38 bright, curious, and adventurous Ukrainian children of MDEM Intl. employees from Ukrainian, Romanian (MDEG), and Poland locations came together in the Netherlands for a Summer Camp - and what a journey it was!

With the support of Damen Helpt Foundation, Damen Maaskant in Stellendam, the Help Ukrainians Association and MDEM Intl. teams created an unforgettable Summer Adventure, turning dreams into reality for Ukrainian children! This became possible thanks to the generous support of the partners: Van der Leun Romania, Alewijnse, Francu Group, Marine Engineering, DWR, DSGa, and a few Romanian partners (but it would not be correct to mention them, we will say thank them individually).

Due to the complex global situation related to NGO financing, there were serious doubts about whether the camp could take place this year. In that moment of uncertainty it was Annelies Damen who firmly supported moving forward and making it happen in the Netherlands to ensure that Ukrainian children

would still have access to opportunities for growth, learning, and inspiration. Her belief and commitment made the camp in the Netherlands a reality. To make it possible the organizing teams used every opportunity to reach out to sponsors, partner organizations, and Damen co-makers - anyone who could help bring this vision to life.

And what truly sets this camp apart is that it's not just a recreational project for children whose lives have been touched by war. It's much more than that. This is a professionally oriented, educational initiative designed to broaden horizons, spark curiosity, and help children imagine their future beyond today's challenges. Through hands-on learning, real-world exposure to industries like shipbuilding, aquaculture, and sustainable innovation, the camp empowers them to dream, explore, and grow



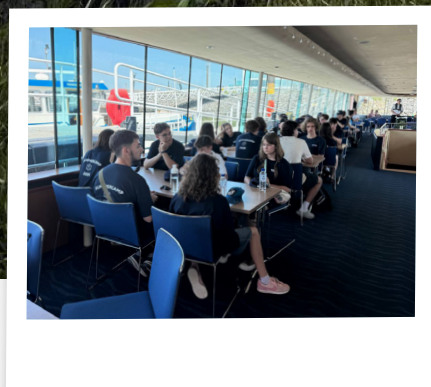
- not only as children, but as future professionals and changemakers.

This year's Summer Camp adventure began long before the first activity - with a complex and carefully coordinated travel plan that brought together children from across three countries. Four groups of campers, each led by a dedicated camp leader, made their way to the Netherlands from different corners of Europe: one group flew directly from Gdańsk to Eindhoven, another traveled from Uzhhorod to Budapest, where they boarded a flight to the Netherlands, a third group journeyed from Mykolaiv to Bucharest, where they met up with the fourth group from Galați – and together, they flew to Eindhoven. Despite the long hours and multiple transfers, the excitement was stronger than any fatigue. After arriving in Gorinchem the campers were warmly welcomed by Jasmijn van der Werf (Administrative Support, Chairman One Tier Board), who gave them a short rest and then led them on a tour of the city's most charming spots. The excitement was just beginning!



The first day at the Damen Maaskant shipyard was all about diving into the world of fishing vessels and sustainable seafood. During the official opening ceremony, the Ukrainian group was greeted by the organizers - Eric Moerkerk (Damen Maaskant Managing Director), Jos van Woerkum (Deputy Director), Jeroen van den Berg (Product Director Aquaculture and Fishing), Helma Hollaar (Executive Secretary), Stef Kapteijn (Manager Aquaculture & Fishing) and introduced to Damen Maaskant's mission: building future-proof, low-emission fishing vessels. A special guest, Vadim Akimov (Damen Sales Director, Sales Area East&South East Eur), joined the camp to share Damen's long-standing connection with Ukraine and accompanied the children during several activities. After the ceremony the campers explored real fishing vessels, walking through their decks and cabins, learning about their construction and operation, and even chatting with the shipyard team and crew. To top it off, the children received their first group project task - but more on that later!





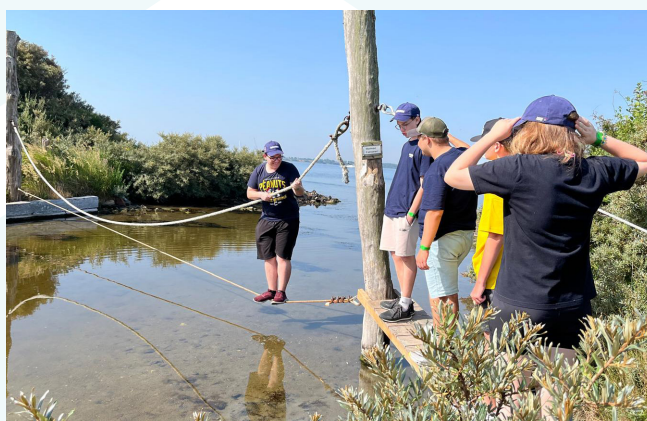
After a restful night at Port Zélande Holiday Village - a beautiful spot nestled between a lake and the North Sea - the campers enjoyed a relaxing morning at the beach. Swimming, playing games, and soaking up the sun set the perfect tone for the day.

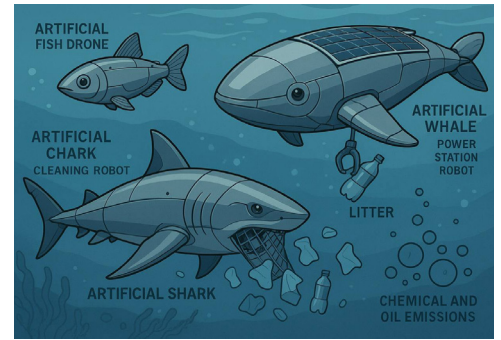
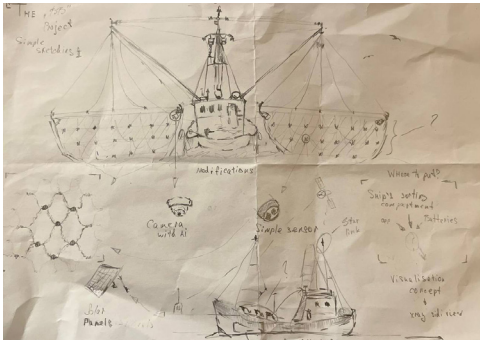
In the afternoon they headed to Rotterdam for the Portlantis Boat Tour together with Helma Hollaar, Leonie Schimmer (Document Controller, Maaskant Shipyards Stellendam) where they witnessed the scale and power of one of the world's busiest ports. Towering cranes, massive container ships, and even a glimpse of Damen Verolme shipyard left everyone amazed. A surprise moment? Spotting a sea lion basking in the sun on the port shore! The day ended with a cozy barbecue back at Damen Maaskant - a perfect mix of learning and leisure.

The third day kicked off with a team-building adventure at Zeeland Buitenland outdoor park in Ouddorp. Running, jumping, canoeing - the campers gave it their

all in a fun and muddy quest through creeks and islands. Tired but thrilled they enjoyed lunch at Zeil and Surfcentrum Brouwersdam, overlooking the Grevelingen lagoon joined by the organizers team and Anne-Carline van Lankeren (Corporate Legal Counsel, Damen Global Support).

In the afternoon it was time to get creative. Back at Port Zélande, the Innovation Lab began. Each team worked on a project to design a sustainable solution for the fishing or aquaculture industry. Inspired by what they'd seen at Damen Maaskant the kids tackled real-world challenges like overfishing, bycatch, pollution, and climate change. Stef Kapteijn joined our project teams, gave valuable feedback and then they refined their ideas and prepared final presentations and videos. The evening brought a delicious twist - a pasta carbonara cook-off! Each cottage team prepared their own dinner, turning the kitchen into a fun and tasty competition.





The final day was truly magical. The campers traveled to Yerseke, De Oestervisser - Zeeland's famous oyster and mussel village - for a hands-on experience in aquaculture. Aboard a real oyster fisher's boat together with Stef Kapteijn, Rebecca van den Berg (Management Assistant Chairman One Tier Board), Caroline

Melissant (Communications Advisor, Maaskant Shipyards Stellendam), they learned how oysters are cultivated and harvested. For many it was their first time tasting one and doing so straight from the sea made it even more special!





During the farewell barbecue on the final evening the children received a special surprise - a personal video message from Annelies Damen shared by Stephanie Kreukniet (Member of the Foundation Damen Support). Her warm words and heartfelt wishes deeply touched the campers, who were sincerely grateful and excited to hear from her. It was a moment of connection and care that made the entire experience even more

meaningful. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Damen Helpt Foundation and to Annelies Damen personally - for making yet another unforgettable camp possible. Your vision, generosity and dedication to supporting Ukrainian families through education and joy have left a lasting impact. Thank you for believing in the power of Damen community and for giving these children a summer they will never forget!

This camp was more than just a summer getaway. It was a week of learning, laughter, teamwork, and cultural exchange. Through every activity the children felt the warmth of the Damen and MDEM Intl. family and built memories that will last a lifetime.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Damen Maaskant Shipyard for their incredible hospitality, inspiring guidance, and unwavering support throughout the entire camp. Your dedication to innovation, sustainability, and community made this experience truly unforgettable for every child involved. Thank you for opening your doors and your hearts to the next generation!

From shipyards to sea shores, from innovation labs to oyster farms - Summer Camp 2025 was a journey of discovery, friendship and hope! Thank You, Damen family!

