

EMPOWERING FEMALE REFUGEES

IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

an ideation workshop by
Garage48 and Estonian
Refugee Council

Garage48 and Estonian Refugee Council will be sharing examples and lessons learned from their own practice and collaboration of 5 years in empowering refugees in Estonia and IDP-s in Ukraine, followed by an ideation session on female refugees entrepreneurial empowerment, happening in an open innovation idea hackathon format - introducing the same methodology, that is implemented in the [Empowering Women Entrepreneurship Programme](#).

The ideation session runs in the open innovation ideation format developed and implemented by Garage48 over the course of 14 years in various fields and audiences, with the goal to drive problem solutions through co-creation.

Discussion and co-creation topics

1. Financing opportunities for female refugee entrepreneurship
2. Cultural and language barriers in introducing female refugee entrepreneurs into the local entrepreneurship ecosystem
3. Challenges of family and caregiving responsibilities for female refugee entrepreneurs
4. Mental health and social challenges of coping in a new environment
5. What activities and mechanisms are needed for refugees entrepreneurial empowerment



Garage48 is an impact-driven organization that specializes in developing startup ecosystems and organizing open-innovation programs and hackathons to develop entrepreneurial mindsets, promote technology entrepreneurship and startup culture, and empower youth and women globally.

Based in Estonia, our more than 300 events have reached 50 countries during 14 years, most of them in Europe, the CEE region, the Middle East, and Africa. Garage48 has been one of the key organizations fuelling the early launch and development of the Estonian startup and technology ecosystem by fostering an entrepreneurial mindset and lowering the barriers for individuals, teams, and organizations to enter the digital technology sector. Garage48 has a global network of mentors, participants, and partners that contribute to the success of its programmes.

Estonian Refugee Council is a value-driven non-governmental EU-certified humanitarian organisation founded in 2000 providing humanitarian assistance to displaced people and other vulnerable people in 5 crisis-affected countries (Ukraine, Georgia, Jordan, Armenia, and Türkiye) and different support services to beneficiaries of international protection in Estonia. Estonian Refugee Council's work is structured around seven programmes: Advocacy, Counseling, Community, Education & Awareness, Mental Health & Psychosocial Services (MHPSS), Livelihoods & Economic Recovery, and Emergency (humanitarian) Response. ERC is the largest humanitarian and refugee support organisations and one of the main competence centres on forced migration and integration in Estonia.