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Wednesday, 27 January 2021 | 10:08

Refugees: Powercoders computer academy comes to Milan

Inclusion project in partnership with City of Milan and UNHCR

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(ANSAMED) - ROME, JANUARY 26 - Powercoders, the computer programming academy for refugees that since 2017 has been offering intensive courses and opportunities for placement in IT companies, has come to Milan.

The project, presented Monday morning in a virtual conference, aims to promote inclusion and job placement for the most talented refugees, contributing to digital innovation in the country in which it operates.

Powercoders is a "successful path that started in Switzerland and consolidated itself in Italy as well in Turin involving more than 200 students", said a statement by organisers.

Among the participants in Powercoders Italia, 60% found an internship after the course and 80% successfully entered the work world.

The project was cited by UN Refugee Agency UNHCR as a good example of social and work training and inclusion, awarding the "Welcome: Working for Refugee Integration" logo to Reale Mutua insurance company.

The second course will kick off in February in Milan with a class of 20 refugees.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this year's programme will take place remotely with the use of the Accenture Italian Foundation's digital platform "ideatre60".

Through the courses on the platform and the experience of teachers and professionals, participants will acquire technical skills through studying the main web programming languages, together with soft skills and social and communicative abilities.

Powercoders Italia has the support of the Reale Foundation in partnership with Accenture Italian Foundation and Lenovo, in collaboration with UNHCR, Le Wagon, and the City of Milan.

"The Powercoders project allows refugees to express their talent responding at the same time to the demands of a sector in strong growth," said Chiara Cardoletti, UNHCR representative for Italy, the Holy See, and San Marino.

"Opportunities such as this, created with the extraordinary support of Reale Foundation and Italian Accenture Foundation, are examples of integration strategies that promote refugees as resources for businesses and the common good," she said.

Milan Labour Policies Councillor Cristina Tajani said the city administration is "happy to support the Powercoders project".

"We are convinced that the integration of many young refugees comes not only through shared languages and common values, but above all through the sharing of knowledge and skills," Tajani said.(ANSAMed). (ANSA).

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