ThinkYoung and Boeing Launch First Coding School for Displaced Ukrainian Teenagers in Gdańsk

- 400 teenagers will participate in the ThinkYoung Coding School supported by Boeing, in Gdańsk, Poland.

- The ThinkYoung Coding School addresses young people who have been temporarily displaced from Ukraine, but is also open for teenagers of other nationalities.

- Since 2016, ThinkYoung and Boeing have introduced more than 900 teenagers to coding worldwide.

GDAŃSK, Poland, Nov. 22, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Today ThinkYoung and Boeing [NYSE: BA] kicked off the first coding school for Ukrainian teenagers. Boeing International President Sir Michael Arthur, Boeing Poland Managing Director Rafał Stepnowski, Boeing Engineering Technology Center leader Iryna Bielienko from the company's Ukraine team and ThinkYoung founder and CEO Andrea Gerosa hosted an opening ceremony at the Boeing office in Gdańsk today. Together with the vice-mayor of Gdańsk, Piotr Borawski, they welcomed the first class of participants to the coding school.

"Polish society has provided an incredible support for people from Ukraine. I am deeply impressed to witness the solidarity of our Boeing colleagues in Poland with their teammates from Ukraine. By hosting our ThinkYoung Coding School at the Boeing Gdańsk office, we are extending this support to the young generation to help ensure they have the skills they need to succeed and to encourage young people to be excited about the future of aerospace where Poland has such a long history," Arthur said.

"When we think about today's labor market, we see that there are many professions that did not exist 10 or 20 years ago. I am convinced that this change will proceed even faster, and today's students will be doing work that is difficult for us to imagine today. That is why it is so important to acquire the skills of the future and I am absolutely convinced that this program will help a lot," added vice-mayor Borawski.

During the next three weeks, classes of 20 to 40 teenagers aged 13-18 years will participate in two-day seminars. While the majority of program participants are Ukrainian, the program is also open for children with other nationalities.

In addition to coding skills, the seminars will also introduce participants to emotional intelligence, a competency that is equally important in a modern work environment. The training – 100% free of charge – is characterized by its innovative approach in a non-formal educational setting, addressing the real needs of both the youth of today and the skills required by the industry.

"The war in Ukraine is a tragedy of incalculable dimensions that is affecting all aspects of the lives of Ukrainians. Our ThinkYoung Coding School aims to alleviate the impact of the war on the proper educational development of young Ukrainians by supporting and enhancing their digital and technological skills and projecting them into their educational and professional future. We are proud to partner with Boeing for 7 years and reaffirm our joint commitment to improving the lives of young people around the world," commented Gerosa.

Since 2016, ThinkYoung and Boeing have introduced more than 900 teenagers to coding. Around the world, 15 editions of the Coding School have taken place so-far.

The ThinkYoung Coding School is one of many Boeing community engagement initiatives across the world. Since 2018, Boeing has invested more than €5.9 million for pan-European STEM projects.

The Boeing company committed €2 million in emergency assistance funding to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Boeing employees have contributed more than €1 million in donations to charitable organizations supporting those affected.

About Boeing

As a leading global aerospace company, Boeing develops, manufactures and services commercial airplanes, defense products and space systems for customers in more than 150 countries. As a top U.S. exporter, the company leverages the talents of a global supplier base to advance economic opportunity, sustainability and community impact. Boeing's diverse team is committed to innovating for the future, leading with sustainability, and cultivating a culture based on the company's core values of safety, quality and integrity. Join our team and find your purpose at boeing.com/careers.

About ThinkYoung

ThinkYoung is the first think tank that focuses on young people. It was founded in 2009 and has expanded to offices in Brussels, Geneva, Hong Kong, and Nairobi. It is a not-for-profit organization, aiming to make the world a better place for young people by involving them in decision-making processes and providing decision-makers with high-quality research on youth conditions. ThinkYoung conducts studies and surveys, makes advocacy campaigns, writes policy proposals, and develops education programmes: up to date, ThinkYoung projects have reached over 800,000 young people.

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