

27 March

Shakhtar Social awarded international Symbol of Change grant for community impact



The charitable foundation of [Shakhtar Donetsk Football Club](#), Shakhtar Social, has been named a recipient of the Symbol of Change 2026 grant. This prestigious award was announced on 25 March in Lisbon by European Football Clubs (EFC) and EA SPORTS FC. Shakhtar Social is one of only three organisations in Europe to receive this funding, alongside the foundations of Club Brugge in Belgium and Samsunspor in Turkey.

The EUR 100,000 grant is dedicated to the implementation of the LingoBall project. This initiative represents a sophisticated blend of athletic training and digital education. Specifically, the programme uses motion-tracking technology to facilitate

English language learning for over 1,200 children aged between 7 and 12. By gamifying the educational process, LingoBall ensures that children in Ukraine can acquire valuable linguistic skills while engaging in grassroots football.

This recognition arrives at a time when the role of football in Ukrainian society extends far beyond the boundaries of the pitch. FC Shakhtar has maintained a consistent and long-term commitment to its local community. The club provides essential support to people across Ukraine with special needs, including individuals who have suffered life-changing injuries and lost legs during russia's war of aggression. Through various social sectors, the club continues to facilitate rehabilitation and inclusion for those most affected by the war.

The LingoBall project is a clear example of how technology and sport can be harnessed to provide tools for a confident future. As noted by the EFC, the grant programme identifies clubs that use their platform to improve lives genuinely. For SCM and FC Shakhtar, this award is a testament to the effectiveness of our social investments and our belief in the resilience of the Ukrainian people.

The project will scale its impact across the country, ensuring that the benefits of international partnerships reach the community level. By focusing on education, inclusion, and physical well-being, Shakhtar Social remains at the forefront of social development. We remain bullish about the future of these initiatives and will continue to support projects that drive progress and offer tangible benefits to the citizens of Ukraine during these challenging times.