

10 May 2005

Against All Odds

Against All Odds is a web based knowledge- and experience game for youth which allows the users to get an insight into the experience of being forced to leave one's country – that is, to become a refugee. Against All Odds is now on-line in Swedish www.motallaodds.org.

Under time pressure the user is forced to leave his or her home, escaping from persecution in the home country and taking off towards an uncertain future in another country, facing a different culture and a new language. The user, as a genuine refugee, has to do his or her best not to give up but to rebuild life in a foreign country.

The game consists of three components: the experience based part; (the virtual game), one facts library with articles and interviews; and one teachers' guide with exercises founded on knowledge, empathy and understanding. The facts library describes situations of repression, the work to promote respect for human rights and protection of and assistance to refugees. In interviews real refugees tell their life stories.

UNHCR's Regional Office for the Baltic and Nordic Countries had the possibility to develop "Against All Odds" thanks to support from the Norwegian company Statoil. UNHCR's partners in developing the game have been Paregos and Tictac.

Statoil and UNHCR have co-operated in a series of field activities to build peace, advance human rights and secure durable solutions for the world's persecuted and most vulnerable people: from education of internally displaced persons in Azerbaijan and rehabilitating schools and health infrastructure in post-conflict Angola to the production of this e-learning tool promoting integration among young students all over the Baltic/Nordic region.

Other companies, like Microsoft, Ericsson and Datareal AB have also contributed to the development of UNHCR's e-learning tool, Against All Odds.

UNHCR welcomes the increasing social commitment of the corporate sector and their support which has made it possible to develop and produce this web based knowledge- and experience game.

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Next language version of Against All Odds, in Norwegian, is expected to be ready early autumn 2005.

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