

Ukrainian Dutch Language-Sign-Bags

Dear members of HOPE,

In the Netherlands, the slavist and historian Wim Coster, together with the graphic designer Frans van de Vrande devised a so-called "Ukrainian Dutch Language-Sign-Bag" in 1992. At the end of 1991, the Soviet Union was dissolved and turned into Russia and other countries. Among other things, Ukraine became an autonomous country. The "Ukrainian Dutch Language-Sign-Bag" was intended for Dutch tourists who wanted to go on holiday to Ukraine, which had just become independent.



The original Ukrainian Dutch Language-Sign-Bag from the year 1992

After 500 copies of the Ukrainian Dutch Language-Sign-Bag were sold, the market was prepared and there was no second print run. Russia's horrific war against Ukraine that has been raging since late February 2022 has left a huge stream of refugees across Europe. It was impressive to see how Europe was hospitable to these desperate war refugees by cooperation, fraternization, internationalization and offering help.



The Netherlands has also taken up its fair share of Ukrainian refugees. No less than 45 Ukrainian children with cancer have now been admitted to the Prinses Máxima Centrum, the Dutch national center for children's cancer in the city of Utrecht. In addition, of course, thousands of Ukrainian citizens who had to flee, a part of them came to the Netherlands.

Suddenly the Ukrainian Dutch Language-Sign-Bag was unfortunately completely up to date again. In no time, this bag was reprinted and used in many places where the Ukrainian guests met with Dutch people. These strangers had to find their way in foreign countries. And then what is a stranger? I like this definition: "A stranger is a friend you haven't met yet."



The first Ukrainian Dutch Language-Sign-Bag is handed over to a family of Ukrainian refugees in the Netherlands.

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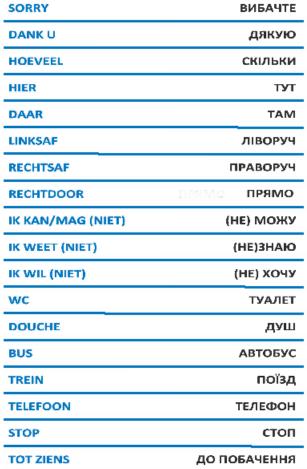
NEDERLANDS — ГОЛЛАНДСЬКОЮ - OEKRAIËNS УКРАЇНСЬКОЮ



GOEDENDAG	ДОБРИЙ ДЕНЬ
GOEDE NACHT	НАДОБРАНІЧ
IK HEET	МЕНЕ ЗВАТИ
HOE GAAT HET	ЯК СПРАВИ
GOED	ДОБРЕ
REDELIJK	так собі
SLECHT	ПОГАНО
JA	TAK
NEE	н
WIE	хто
WAT	що
WANNEER	коли
WAAR	ДЕ

A.U.B./S.V.P	БУДЬ ЛАСКА
SORRY	ВИБАЧТЕ
DANK U	дякую
HOEVEEL	скільки
HIER	тут

GOEDENDAG	добрий день
GOEDE NACHT	НАДОБРАНІЧ
IK HEET	МЕНЕ ЗВАТИ
HOE GAAT HET	ЯК СПРАВИ
GOED	добре
REDELIJK	так собі
SLECHT	ПОГАНО
JA	TAK
NEE	н
WIE	хто
WAT	що
WANNEER	коли
WAAR	ДЕ



















The Language-Sign-Bags are excellent icebreakers. After pointing out a word or sign on the bag for the first time, you may need your hands and feet for the continuation of the conversation quickly, but who cares?

In the meantime, after four months of war in Ukraine, more than 2000 Ukrainian Dutch Language-Sign-Bags have been sold. The proceeds (a Ukrainian Dutch Language-Sign-Bag costs € 5.00 each) will go entirely to humanitarian emergency aid for Ukraine. Wim Coster and Frans van de Vrande have released their rights completely, not only for the Netherlands, but for the whole of Europe. Please find attached the digital graphic files that were used for the printing of the Ukrainian Dutch Language-Sign-Bags.

HOPE can have these digital graphic files for free and can adapt them for any language that is desired. An experienced graphic designer can create a new version for a different language quite quickly with these digital graphic files. Google translate will help you translate the Dutch words on the Language-Sign-Bag, to prevent double Dutch. Of course you need to change the map too. I am very happy with the generosity of the two Dutch creators of the Language-Sign-Bags. It takes a bit of Dutch courage to take on this challenge.

The possibilities with these digital graphic files are endless. You can print them on a T-shirt, on paper (A-3 size) and make a placemat out of it, on a poster on the wall and of course on a Language-Sign-Bag. You can also download all the files for the Language-Sign-Bags on the public section of the HOPE website (the page with "news"). Of course it is not the intention to sell the Language-Sign-Bags for personal gain.

If a country has succeeded in making the Language-Sign-Bag, it would be nice to share it with each other within HOPE. There is always a place on the HOPE website for such great news.

I sincerely hope that in a short time the Language-Sign-Bags will no longer be needed for the Ukrainian refugees in our countries. But we as foreign tourists in Ukraine can use these bags to get in touch with the Ukrainians in their own beautiful country.



Kind regards,
Jan Haverkate
(President of HOPE)
The Netherlands, 4th of July 2022.