

European Commission

In the end of June, EC published [Guidelines](#) ‘Supporting the inclusion of displaced children from Ukraine in education: Considerations, key principles and practices for the school year 2022-2023’.

This Staff Working Document aims at pooling the currently available collective experience and knowledge and provide information on good practice and practical insights to support EU Member States in the inclusion of displaced children from Ukraine in education. It was written by the Commission services in consultation with the UNHCR, UNICEF, representatives of ministries of education, stakeholder organisations that met in peer learning events between March and June 2022, and with experts from the Network working on the social dimension of education and training (NESET).

The document offers a set of considerations on six key areas, ranging from reception of displaced children to long-term measures:

- organising reception and admission processes;
- preparing education institutions and educational staff to include displaced children;
- running targeted activities to help include displaced children in education;
- engaging with displaced families and communities and helping displaced children maintain the link with Ukraine;
- taking long-term measures to promote inclusive education;
- taking specific measures for early childhood education and care.
- AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, it says ‘Education institutions and staff cannot realistically be expected to face the challenges of including displaced people alone. Action is needed both at national, regional and community policy level, along with coordination among schools and between schools and the local community (services, authorities, civil society organisations and so on), and a **strong social dialogue between education employers and education trade unions.**’

Furthermore, In the framework of the Creating New Learning initiative, the [European Training Foundation \(ETF\)](#) has launched an emergency support programme for Ukraine in response to the Russian military aggression which has severely damaged education infrastructure and critically affected education and training processes across the country (see ETF weekly update).

The purpose of the programme, called [UA Re-Emerge\(ncy\): e-learning and skills development to rebuild Ukraine](#), is to collect and adapt professional short modules and other e-learning resources from the EU and EU neighbouring countries, which will give Ukrainian learners the opportunity to enrol in high-quality vocational e-learning, reskilling and upskilling courses. Participation in this programme will ensure that Ukrainian learners will acquire the skills and knowledge required by their local labour markets and gain micro-credentials recognised by employers.

National updates

Slovakia:

- Each students willing to attend educational process in Slovakia was allocated a place in a school. Every educational institution have been receiving a **financial grant** 200 EUR/month for each Ukrainian student. Another financial support of 120 EUR per student was granted by UNICEF/UNHCR for the purpose of ensuring the basic studying tools. Each Ukrainian teacher willing to work was appointed to the educational institution through the **simplified process without being required to submit some of the documents necessary for Slovak teachers**.
- Ukrainian students are provided **Slovak language courses**. Pupils and students are then being integrated with Slovak students into mixed classes which helps to overcome the cultural and language barriers. Ukrainian students are being **assessed by the same system as Slovak students** with consideration to their language skills and level of integration.
- There is **no official monitoring system** of Ukrainian refugees students. Every child was accepted to a school upon the request of his/her parent. Some students who were allocated into the schools system have already left the country, some of them continue attending classes in Slovakia.
- There is **no financial support or advancement to Slovak teachers** dealing with Ukrainian students which is being criticised because teaching in integrated classes requires much more energy and time and should be taken into account. Ministry of education issued at least the **methodological documents** providing teoretical support to the teachers. **Integrational teams** composed of Ukrainian teachers, social workers and psychologists are being created.
- **Trade Union of Workers in Education and Science in Slovakia** supports Ukrainian colleagues by all possible means since the beginning of the occupation. They have provided the accommodation to families in our recreational facilities and we have helped them to find a place in the nearest schools and to integrate them into the community. The union has also provided financial aid to their partner TU of Workers in Education and Science in Ukraine from the union budget and also from the special contributions of OZŠ's members.

Romania:

- On a bilateral level, since the first days after the outbreak of this security and humanitarian crisis, the worst crisis in Europe in recent decades, the Romanian authorities have acted in a unified, coordinated manner, in full solidarity with the Ukrainian people, to provide emergency assistance. The Romanian government responded to Ukraine's requests and provided, among other things, fuel, medicine, food and ambulances. The international humanitarian hub operationalized in Suceava, on March 9, 2022, on the border with Ukraine, is further proof of the support offered to our neighbor in these extremely difficult moments. Thus, so far, Romania has facilitated 56 humanitarian transports, from countries such as Italy, France, Bulgaria, Austria, Slovenia, Cyprus, Greece, Germany or the Republic of North Macedonia.
- Romania provided shelter and assistance to refugees from Ukraine, whom we welcomed into our country with open arms and hearts. The humanitarian measures adopted for the more than

2.65 million refugees who have already entered Romania and the more than 86,500 Ukrainians who remained on our territory included, among others, the establishment of mobile camps in the counties of the border areas, the granting of access free medical services, education and the labor market, public transport. We are aware that in the medium and long term, Ukrainian refugees will need adequate resources to lead a decent life, and for this reason we are constantly adapting our support infrastructure to their concrete needs. In this sense, **on July 26, 2022, the Government of Romania launched the National Plan of Measures for the Integration of Ukrainian refugees in Romania.**

- At the initiative of the Government of Romania, the **establishment of a European dialogue platform in the field of integration of refugees from Ukraine** was the subject of the Forum in Bucharest from September 8-9, 2022. It was agreed to strengthen cooperation, at the level of state secretaries or ministers, in this group informal working dialogue; Austria, Malta and the OECD have offered to host the next meetings of the dialogue platform.
- In the legal framework mentioned above, the **Ukrainians students can participate as listeners** in Romanian-language schools, which means they can attend classes in Romanian schools without being graded and without the obligation to be present daily. For Ukrainian children with student status, which includes all the rights enjoyed by Romanian students, there are other conditions. Order 3961 of June 6, 2022 refers to secondary school graduates who can enroll on request in the 9th grade in Romanian state schools without taking tests and exams. Those who choose this form of education have already taken Romanian language courses, at least at beginner level. It is not a big demand, because learning the Romanian language requires time, and the refugees have been in Romania for several months. **Only 1% of children who take Romanian language courses can integrate into the Romanian educational system**, according to the reports published at the end of August 2022.
- According to the data centralized and communicated by the county school inspectorates, the situation regarding the **enrollment in educational units** in our country of refugee students and preschoolers from Ukraine is as follows (reference date: 03.09.2022):
 - 2,648 applications submitted for registration as listeners (of which 999 preschoolers and 1,649 students);
 - 2,577 children assigned/already enrolled as students in schools and kindergartens (including 991 preschoolers and 1,586 students);
 - Students enrolled in preschool activities: 390;
 - **73% of Ukrainian refugee children in Romania studied remotely according to their country's curriculum.** The language barrier means that only 1 out of 100 children who learn Romanian understand it enough to study in Romanian schools.
- The biggest concern is **recognition of studies**. With their country in mind, most parents choose a form of online education organized online by the Ministry of Education of Ukraine. For 64% of Ukrainian children in Romania, mothers would prefer that special classes be organized in Romanian schools in the 2022/2023 school year, to continue their education in the Ukrainian system, according to the report of a survey (MoE), conducted on a non-probabilistic sample of 344 of mothers who called almost 500 children of school age.
- The survey also shows that **7% of refugee children have dropped out of school completely**. Some of the parents claim that **they are waiting for the Romanian state to open schools where they can learn according to the Ukrainian curriculum, with Ukrainian teachers**. This fact is not

achievable in the short term, because the Romanian legislation requires that any educational institution (public or private) go through an assessment - authorization - accreditation process that takes several years, during which the school proves that it can provide quality education.

- In addition, **Ukrainian teachers cannot be employed in the Romanian education system** due to problems regarding the recognition of study diplomas, work pass, long-stay visa for employment, residence pass in Romania, employment salary (because according to the legislation, a foreigner citizen cannot be rewarded with a salary lower than the average gross salary for the economy, which this year is 4,162 lei – aprox. 842 Euro/month), **exceeding the quotas imposed by the EU to Romania for hiring non-EU workers in the EU space.**
- During the **meetings organized by FSLI with the representatives of Ukrainian parents**, they have they demanded that their children's studies in Romania to be recognized. This is already possible because there is **an agreement aired signed between the two Ministries of Education**, from Romania and from Ukraine. Including children with student status, or enrolled in Romanian schools, will be considered graduates with proper documents if they return to schools in Ukraine. Even though the Ukrainian students were offered all these facilities, only 9% of parents would prefer the Romanian education system, the differences being significant compared to the Ukrainian one. However, **some mothers would accept a gradual integration, with a preparatory year in the Ukrainian system, but with intensive teaching of the Romanian language.**
- **Tablets, smart boards and classrooms with a supervisor were made available for officially registered primary and secondary school students, but who chose to learn online following the classes in Ukraine.** For students already enrolled in fully Ukrainian classes (schools from Ukraine completely moved to Romania), the provision of classrooms in our schools, didactic material, textbooks printed with European funds, payment of electricity, water and other suppliers' expenses **continues.**

Poland:

- The situation is still very dynamic as many refugee families have returned to Ukraine but **with new strikes and winter coming, there might be more refugees** coming to Poland as they won't have heating, water or food in their home places.
- The **collection of data** on Ukrainian refugees in Poland is largely done through mobile phones registration (when they register Ukrainian numbers). All Ukrainian refugees can receive the **Polish national number** if they wish.
- However, **classes in Poland are over-crowded** and Polish parents are getting more and more unhappy about it;
- Furthermore, there is a **lack of Ukrainian teacher assistants** as Ukrainian teachers need to have at least a basic level of Polish to be employed as assistants;
- Most of Ukrainian students are in **preparatory classes** with around 10 hours of Polish language per week and other classes being taught in Ukrainian;
- However, the implementation of these policies of integrating Ukrainian refugee students in education is **left to schools which do not receive any additional funding or support for that;**
- **Polish teachers often have to prepare for integrating Ukrainian students by themselves** (e.g. adapting curricula, finding materials, etc.) and they are not paid for these additional hours. This

also creates **inequality among Ukrainian students** because their education depends only on individual teachers;

- **Regarding employment of Ukrainian teachers:**
 - those who received nostrification before 2006 can have their degree recognised automatically because of the special agreement between Polish and Ukrainian governments. So, the **biggest problem is for young teachers** who finished the university after 2006;
 - The **language is also a barrier** for employment: even if a Ukrainian teacher speaks Polish freely, he/she might not know the specific terminology of the subject they want to teach;
 - The other big issue is very low salaries: Ukrainian teachers receive **only the starting teacher salary** (around 500 euros) regardless of their experience;
- There is also a **lack of efficiency behind measures** that are supposed to help the Ukrainian refugee students with education. For example, Warsaw city prepared around 1000 electronic centers (with computers, fast internet etc.) to ensure the remote learning for Ukrainian refugee students (so that even if they study in Ukrainian online system, they can do it in groups and they can socialize). These centers have been used by 50 children only because parents prefer that their children study at home being supervised by parents or grandparents rather than alone with other children.
- **ZNP appeals to ETUCE to organize a Working Group on Ukrainian refugees together with Ukrainian unions.**

Moldova:

- The Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova has established the **procedure for enrolling children** from refugee families from Ukraine in educational institutions of the Republic of Moldova, which indicates what steps need to be taken, as well as some aspects for parents or legal representatives of children from refugee families from Ukraine.
- General educational institutions of the Republic of Moldova provide an opportunity for all children from refugee families from Ukraine to participate in the educational process. To do this, parents or legal representatives of children must submit an application (to a preschool institution, gymnasium or lyceum) to which copies are attached confirming the identity of the child, parent or legal representative, and other documents. The application **can be submitted to the local specialized body in the field of education, state administration or educational institution**, depending on the temporary status of staying on the territory of the Republic of Moldova of children from refugee families from Ukraine. The list of educational institutions of the Republic of Moldova, in which children from refugee families from Ukraine can be enrolled, is provided.
- **Monitoring of students' enrollment** is carried out by the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova, but **ESTU also tries to participate in this process**, through their local representatives. The Ministry of Education and Research monitors the integration of Ukrainian children and youth into the education system in the Republic of Moldova and encourages

parents of refugee children to apply for enrollment of their children in schools in the area where they live.

- The **data** centralized by the Ministry of Education and Research, transmitted by the local specialized bodies in the field of education (MSOPO), show that as of October 20, 2022, 1,782 refugee children from Ukraine were enrolled for the 2022-2023 academic year in schools and kindergartens of the Republic of Moldova, including 1156 schoolchildren and 626 preschool children. 625 children attend primary school, 505 students attend secondary school and 26 students attend high school in 226 educational institutions of the country.
- **Education is conducted in Romanian and Russian.** Unfortunately, at the moment we do not have data on statements by refugee parents from Ukraine about the desire to study in Ukrainian. All children who study in Moldovan schools are enrolled in classes taught in Russian and Romanian. Thus, out of the total number of students in general education institutions, 160 study in Romanian, and 996 in Russian. 626 children study in 212 pre-school institutions, and 114 children participate in extra-curricular activities organized in 18 extra-curricular institutions of the Republic of Moldova.
- A little about the status of refugee students - **there is the status of a student and the status of a listener.** Students with listener status are those students whose parents have not registered with the Migration Center and do not have refugee status. They come to classes at the educational institution where they are registered, but are listed in a special catalog, and at the end of the academic year they receive a certificate confirming attendance during the academic year. Students with student status are those students whose parents have applied and have been registered as refugees. These students have all the rights and obligations of students of the educational institutions in which they study.
- Unfortunately, **the issue of teaching Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools according to the program of Ukrainian schools and textbooks from Ukraine has not yet been resolved at the intergovernmental level.** Most likely, this is due to the fact that Moldova is considered by the citizens of Ukraine as a transit between Ukraine and European countries, and also due to the unstable economic situation in our country, which does not allow refugees to stay with us for permanent residence. If such a proposal comes from the parents of students studying in Moldova, our trade union is ready to raise the issue of creating opportunities for Ukrainian children to study in their native language before the government.
- **ESTU continues to provide comprehensive support to teachers who are involved in the process of teaching Ukrainian schoolchildren and students.** Also, they provide assistance to **Ukrainian teachers and specialists** (psychologists, speech therapists, leaders of circles) to find a job in Moldovan schools and kindergartens. Especially in need of help are children and parents who maintain remote communication with schools from Ukraine, continuing to study in them on-line.
- There was a **need to create specialized rooms in trade union's hosting centers** equipped with high-speed Internet and computers, as well as with the involvement of Moldovan and Ukrainian specialists. ESTU are currently looking for solutions to create such centers on the basis of the State University and the Technical University. From the funds of trade union Federation, they intend to buy appropriate equipment and software for these centers, as well as pay for the staff, to the best of our ability.

- From the **EI Solidarity Fund**, ESTU helped trade union committees from those institutions where the Centers for temporary accommodation of refugees from Ukraine were established (from the State University, the Technical University, the Institute of Pedagogical Sciences, trade union health resorts), which paid bills for heating, electricity, food products, etc. Since the beginning of the new academic year, **they continue to provide comprehensive assistance to refugees from Ukraine**, continue to assist Refugee Centers organized in educational institutions and trade union health resorts, they monitor the provision of Ukrainian children's rights to education in Moldovan kindergartens and schools. In the sanatorium "Codru", owned by the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova, the refugee center continues to operate, to which ESTU has been providing assistance since February 2022.

France:

- At the end of the school year, about 20 000 children and young people from Ukraine have been welcomed in a very short period of time for a total of almost 70,000 young migrants according to the latest estimate of the Ministry.
- In 2018-2019, French schools, primary and secondary schools combined, enrolled 67,909 allophone pupils, including 30,854 in primary schools, compared to 25,500 in 2014-2015, an increase of more than 20% in the primary schools.
- Many pupils **have to wait between one day and three months** before being taken into care. France has provided schooling for between 900 and 1,200 pupils every week since the beginning of the war, **with little or no resources and not always in places that usually receive pupils with a migrant background**.
- The framework ideally defined in the texts **does not correspond to the extremely diverse needs** according to the territories: 2-3 pupils per school but scattered in a majority of rural municipalities, families often displaced by the prefecture during the year etc. **Pupils under 6** are not concerned by the migrants device.
- Contrary to previous years, the arrival of pupils from Ukraine demonstrated that the institution could respond in an emergency at least partially to the needs (opening of integration classes, recruitment of interpreters and design of translated documents, tools and various supports). This deployment of resources to support the teams and pupils must continue and be put in place, whatever the country of origin of the families. It must be anticipated to enable the teams to welcome the pupils who often arrive in waves as crises unfold.
- **Trade unions:**
 - **SNUipp** demands the following from the Ministry:
 - The Ministry **must recruit specifically trained teachers** (initial and in-service training for the special device) and train (initial and in-service training) the teams in order to welcome in the best conditions these pupils with special educational needs (multilingualism, welcoming pupils coming from war zones, etc.).
 - **Institutional time must be recognised** for consultation (meeting time within the teaching team, with partners, families, etc.), to adapt learning time to the real needs of pupils, beyond the one year provided for in the texts, when necessary.

- The **number of pupils in ordinary classes must be reduced** in order to accommodate all pupils with special educational needs (including allophone pupils) in optimal conditions.
- **Sgen-CFDT** published a **series of articles on the integration of Ukrainian refugee students in French education system**:
 - <https://www.sgen-cfdt.fr/actu/refugies-ukrainiens-conception-mousseau-fernandez-de-france-horizon-temoigne/>
 - <https://www.sgen-cfdt.fr/actu/scolarisation-eleves-ukrainiens/>
 - <https://www.sgen-cfdt.fr/actu/guerre-ukraine-exil-elena-gordienko/>