



## Supporting the inclusion of displaced children from Ukraine in education:

### Considerations, key principles and practices for the school year 2022-2023

June 2022



- Millions of children and young people are fleeing the war in Ukraine and arriving in the European Union.
- The number of children and adolescents arriving from Ukraine is **unprecedented** in its scale in such a short time span.
- Children who have suffered the trauma of war and displacement are in need of support, including quick access to education and training.
- According to the **Temporary Protection Directive** activated in March 2022, displaced children under 18 have access to education in the EU under the same conditions as EU citizens.
- Successful and meaningful inclusion of displaced learners in education requires action to meet their **academic, social and emotional needs**.
- Member States have shown extraordinary solidarity in the face of this challenge and are now planning for the **school year 2022-2023**.



# The inclusion of displaced children from Ukraine in education entails...

## 1. making sure that all displaced children have a place at school

Children from Ukraine need a place in host-country schools and early childhood education and care from the new school year 2022-2023, regardless of the length of the intended stay. Inclusion in local schools can prevent early school leaving and help children receive appropriate support. At the same time, activities to allow children to keep in touch with their home language and culture help prepare children for all possible future developments.



## 2. preparing schools and teachers

To become safe, welcoming and inclusive spaces for displaced children, schools need appropriate funding, additional staff, including with Ukrainian language skills. They also need support from school leadership, local communities, civil society organisations and the authorities. Teachers and educators need appropriate training, support and time to be able to meet the psycho-social, educational and linguistic needs of displaced children.

## 3. running targeted activities for displaced children

Displaced children need effective support to cope with the trauma of war and displacement, to learn the language of schooling and develop a sense of belonging and agency in the host country. Diversified, blended learning approaches and individual learning support can help, as can play, outdoor, sports and cultural activities, non-formal learning and peer support.

## 4. engaging with displaced families and communities and helping children maintain the link with Ukraine

Reaching out to families and Ukrainian communities via many channels, informing them about the educational options will create mutual understanding and trust. Making it possible for learners to maintain a link with Ukraine and their home language can reinforce self-confidence and improve academic achievement.





## 5. taking long-term measures to promote inclusive education

The immediate actions can inspire lasting positive change for an inclusive education for all – if they are accompanied by a long-term vision and measures. This includes paying special attention to disadvantaged pupils, preventing discrimination and segregation, creating an inclusive linguistically-sensitive climate, and monitoring learning outcomes.

## 6. taking specific measures for early childhood education and care

Participation in early childhood education and care is important for children's development and well-being. Measures to provide quality learning opportunities for young displaced children include expanding early childhood and care capacities, offering funding or waiving fees, providing extra training to early childhood care and education staff, and liaising closely with families.



In order to assist Member States in their effort to include and support learners and teachers from Ukraine, the European Commission swiftly mobilised all suitable instruments, including **peer exchange, funding** from cohesion funds, Erasmus+ and the Technical Support Instrument, and online platforms. Notably, the **School Education Gateway** has a dedicated section that supports teachers with resources and professional development material, including articles, resources, tutorials and teacher online courses. It also links to learning and teaching materials in Ukrainian language made available by Ukrainian national authorities or national authorities in EU countries.



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