

UN REFUGEE RESPONSE COORDINATION IN ROMANIA
Education Sub-Working Group meeting
13 July 2022, 10:00 – 11.30 am

Venue- Online (Zoom)

Agenda

1. Review of last agenda
2. Q&A
3. Tour de table
4. Aob

- Round of introduction (Terre des Hommes/ Ministry of Education/ NRC/ UNHCR/ World Vision/ Save the Children/ CNRR/ UNICEF)

1. Review of last agenda and latest developments from the Ministry of Education

The group went through the pending action points and agreed on further follow up.

The representative of the Ministry of Education summarized the current methodologies regarding the integration of children in the educational system. The legislation on migrants refers to ordinance no. 44 of 2004 which has undergone a series of amendments and completions over time. Considering the last amendments of that ordinance, the ministry has a series of attributions regarding the realization of some methodologies, these target the following categories of migrants: foreign children who have acquired a form of international protection in Romania, those who have a right of residence in Romania and the third category, children who are citizens of EU Member States and adults.

The methodologies in the process of approval refer to the schooling and organization of the Romanian language course for children and the Romanian language initiation course for adults and also a methodology that aims at the possibility of attesting the studies for persons who do not have equivalence documents. The first methodology presents the following novelty elements - the number of hours per week for the introductory course increases from 4 hours to 6 hours, the methodology allows a flexibility of enrolment of participants that can be achieved throughout the school year. There is the possibility that the school inspectorate which is responsible for conducting the introductory course may also approve the implementation of a smaller group, so that such activities can take place in the school units.

Regarding the introductory course for adults, a distinction will be made between the categories of migrants, namely: they are those with international protection and those for whom only a right of residence is ensured. It is possible for the people who have not attended the introductory course to participate in the assessment of language skills of adults too. The methodologies also include articles regarding the way in which schooling and enrolment are carried out in a year of study, the methodology for children and adults also includes a second annex, a procedure regarding the elaboration and distribution of textbooks for initiation in Romanian.

2. Q&A to the Representative of the Ministry of Education

Q: Have gaps been identified that show a need for support from organizations? If children can enrol at any time of the year, are there catch up classes that allow children to reintegrate? Has any curriculum been developed?

A: There is a certain staging, if we refer to the Ukrainian refugee children, the Minister of Education has developed a series of procedures aimed at a distribution commission and the acquisition of audience quality for these children. They developed a procedure for admitting Ukrainian refugee children to high school. Regardless of the category of foreign child, the first step is the registration within a school unit, this can be done at any time, through a request addressed by the parent or legal representative, the registration is quickly processed at the school inspectorate.

The first quality that the child acquires is that of unattached student (audient), he is not actually registered but can participate in all courses, if he does not know the Romanian language, he is assigned to follow the introductory course in Romanian, he can join a group that already exists or in a new one, the course is for one school year. At the end of the year an assessment follows, and the level is B1, he receives a certificate, and he can be educated. For those who do not have study documents, there are three options: to take a series of tests in all subjects that are in the school curriculum, to be tested in only one discipline, and the child will be reintegrated in a certain year of study, and the third option is the date of attestation of the studies, namely the possibility to take tests in Romanian, communication and society. The third option is valid for children and adults.

Catch up classes are not provided in these methodologies. In the situation of psycho-pedagogical counselling and school guidance there are also foreign children and Romanian children who return to the country. It is envisaged a possible collaboration with NGOs on migrant children, collaboration protocols can be developed at the level of some schools or at the school inspectorate level, for large projects protocols can be developed at the ministry level for a faster integration of quality. These elements must be recorded in MoUs or collaboration protocols. The collaboration between governmental / non-governmental organizations is highlighted by the General Inspectorate for Immigration. Art. 31 of ordinance 44, states that the general inspectorate for immigration coordinates the activities of the state and there are some special funds (FAMI) that the inspectorate considers and addresses non-governmental organizations.

Q: What happens if the refugee children don't master the language?

A: It is necessary to take this introductory course in Romanian, if they do not go to the course the possibility of being able to stay in this educational system is reduced for the student, thus not being able to pass certain exams, this decision being assumed by parents or legal representatives. They can give equivalence or reconstitution of the school situation, the right to education is ensured anyway.

Q: What is the number of Ukrainian refugee children that are registered in schools, we have enough capacity for this inclusion and preparatory classes, do we have sufficient teachers? what is the situation of enrolment currently?

A: All these children have the guarantee that they are registered as an unattached student and if they stay on, they will be educated. They will be enrolled regardless of their number, training

activities are needed, the number of children is not so large as to create a problem because Romania is a large country that has an educational system with many schools.

Q: Is it possible to take courses in Romania based on the Ukrainian curriculum?

A: The possibility to study according to the curriculum in Ukraine exists in several units in Bucharest, but there are also situations in which Ukrainian children are connected online with schools in Ukraine and have followed the Ukrainian system. Steps can be taken to find out this information. Colleagues from international relations can provide more information regarding this situation.

Q: What are we going to do in the next years, are children allowed to do online training? In other EU countries Ukrainian parents are in a waiting mode to enrol, in Moldova online education prevents them from integrating into physical school.

A: What was developed regarding Ukrainian children considered the immediate possibility to be enrolled and to participate in extracurricular activities, for those who will remain in Romania there is the problem of integrating into this system according to what we have regulated now. The possibility of effective schooling is given by the methodologies in force, they will be approved after publication in the official monitor. It is the option of each family to stay or not in Romania, to go further in the Romanian educational system, related to online education, the decision also belongs to the family. An online education system can be created to be dedicated to Ukrainian children.

Q: What is the Romanian language support capacity of schools?

A: If the refugee children remain in the country, the Romanian language courses are provided by Romanian language teachers, the capacity of the teachers to support this foreign language course could be a problem, here we must somehow act. We need training courses offered at the level of the teaching staff; support could also come from universities. It is not the number that is important here but the possibility that they can take these courses based on appropriate methodologies.

Q: How are you planning to inform Ukrainian parents about the enrolment in schools?

A: All these procedures are public, the ministry can send a series of materials through the school inspectorates, through communication systems, so that the information reaches where it is needed.

3. Tour de table

NRC updated the sub-group about the two local partnerships, finalizing plans for educational programming and about non-formal education centre.

UNHCR mentioned that they are in the process of finalizing the partnership agreements.

Save the children updated that they have been focused on summer school programmes in Bucharest, Tulcea, Baia Mare, Suceava, Iasi and Constanta. They identified schools that are included in Save the Children network and organized activities both for Ukrainian and Romanian children. They will organize summer camps for Ukrainian and Romanian children and since the first days of July they use a new education tool- a mobile school, previously implemented in Moldova for poor children and now they have a second mobile school to help Ukrainian children to non-formal education activities in order for them to be connected with the school.

[World Vision](#) provided details about their summer activities- they still continue the work on “happy bubbles” with non-formal education, child protection, mental health, social support activities, Romanian language studies. Happy bubbles are located in Bucharest and Iasi, they also have kids corners in various locations around the country (e.g in Romexpo and similar refugee centres), they work with Brasov on Romanian language, with Inspector of education. Also, an IT hub is present for informal education.

[Terre des hommes](#) provided updates about the continuity of working with different centres in Bucharest (animation and psychosocial activities), they have some partnerships for summer camp with DGASMB and ANAID in Pipera, activities in Bucharest in Vacarescu school

[CNRR](#) highlighted about counselling and advocacy by the authorities in different parts of the country regarding to Ukrainians rights and better integration. Planning different community events - updates in the future on that.

[UNICEF](#) accentuated on their work in Bucharest with local NGOs, day care centres for children and supporting activities for school aged children e.g- Uruguay school, Mihai Viteazu, Ienachita Vacarescu. Summer camp activities will be organized for about 500 children. The call of interest for play and parenting hubs launched, Step by Step partnership- in progress

4. AOB

Regarding Back-to-school campaign - to do a task force – follow up in the next meeting

UNHCR, too, has teacher training tools available - see unhcr.eurekos.com

World Bank has requested some projects – to invite them in the next meeting

Next meeting: 27 July 2022, 10:00-11:30 am, online (Zoom)

