

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

**Venue- Online (Zoom)**

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

**Terre des hommes** accentuated that schools still wait to get information from the County Inspectorate about the students enrolled. Now they are working in Ienachita school and support the students in Ukrainian educational hubs settled there. Ten auditors children are now in Ienachita School.

- Educational support in Tei center also- high level of dropout from the Romanian classes , the parents want their children to attend online classes in Ukrainian and also to attend Romanian classes as auditors.
- They are offering Romanian language courses and different activities (MHPSS), for students to get to know better the community, to reunite both Ukrainian and Romanian children.
- They are setting up operations in Constanta and Brasov.

**Plan International** highlighted that we need coordination at the school level to the 5w matrix, to share the schools we are supporting through the 5w matrix.

- They conducted needs assessment in Braila, Constanta, Galati, and Bucharest, to identify the basic needs and to see what activities are needed for our planning.
- Starting the distribution of recreational materials, next week the same in Constanta, Galati Braila
- Working closely with schools to see the needs, Ukrainian community didn't have after class classrooms, but Plan have found schools which giving them space for afternoon sessions
- Gaps in early childhood or kindergarten, those who are private schools are charging expensive fees – Ukrainians can't afford that. Their intervention is based on those needs and provide more support to local educational systems (psychological social support)
- Surveys about the summer camps- to see if those was successful
- Abdullah to share with the group the results of the needs assessment

**UNHCR** worries about dropouts, more kids will be in online courses and will result in lower quality of studying

- If the offer is not good, kids will drop out, they will realize they are losing their time and they will go back on the Ukrainian online system

- We are still using the online system but our approach is to make it part of the regular curriculum
- We want to move from 4000 enrolled to 6-7000 and to support small schools
- Collaboration with IOM

World Bank mentioned about a comparison with Poland and Czech Republic: constantly a language barrier between Ukrainians and Romanians, also between Ukrainians and Polish - like Romania

- They are trying to accelerate children integration- using different service optimization
- Teenagers are hunted to work for factories- those won't finish the school
- What made a difference in these countries- very clear message from the top, what will be expected
- These countries opted for individual courses- their year is recognized
- Ukrainian teaching systems in the classrooms, local language training
- Discuss with IOM to provide the cultural mediators in the schools- school 30 and Greco catholic school
- To look at their inputs, looking at the ICT, to take the lessons plan and see how these could be activated-using ICT to breach the language barrier- choreography of the lesson-what the Romanian teacher does- what the Ukrainian teacher does
- The actual figures are 3987 children out of 1243 are preschoolers, a little bit of the 10% of children that its currently in RO, we need to extract the age group from birth to two
- There is some reluctance from Ukrainian parents to enroll the children in Romanian educational system not because of the language barrier but also because the majority of them are here with the aim to return as soon as possible to Ukraine, they want their children to be connected with the Ukrainian system and their studies to be recognized there. The reason to propose that blended approach- in the Romanian educational system and follow also the Ukrainian system is quite heavy for them
- In Romania was applied more as a right it was not compulsory while in Czech Republic was
- We have information of Ukrainian families coming and staying for 3 months- they are returning back to Ukraine, and they are coming back in Romania and their 3 months are starting again (regarding the legal papers)
- We shall develop an advocacy plan with potential scenarios
- Romania is the only one to have this system of auditors
- We need to put pressure on authorities, ministries, municipalities, county inspectorates also
- Hiring Ukrainian mediators- is going to be very difficult to implement because the teachers think they will be supervised by another party
- Several children cannot read or write even they are 10 years old
- The issue with audience without enrolling- they are enrolling as audience because they do not have their papers with their studies done in Ukraine, this is the practice used also for the Romanian children
- Being auditors doesn't prevent them of anything- it is just about the papers
- The official communication on this situation mentions the necessity to register as auditors, not the need to have the Ukrainian records for full-fledged enrolling
- About certification- we still have the challenge of who is certifying in the end- it should be the minister of education from Ukraine
- With this private schools also- who is certifying them- Ukrainian minister of education?

- The other countries are facing the same problems

**Q:** Any info of what happened in these Bucharest forums (with Ms Turza)? Any exchange with other members states?

**A:** It was a superficial exchange- 28 delegations each of them spoke for 3 minutes

Challenges mentioned: accommodation, access to employment, education comes third, everyone mentioned temporary arrangement-difficulties in maintaining the link with the original system, encouraging children to register with potential penalties if they didn't

This forum will not lead to major changes, **the goal-** to establish a platform for exchanges

- The hybrid model- compared to other countries a bit more of hesitance in Romania
- For information on exchange on European good practices, see <https://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/latest/news/education-support-ua-refugees.htm> - a website of DG EAC of the European Commission
- We are ready to support some pilots at least in some schools, we will try to use all the opportunities being given by the current situation, try again to advocate – to look at progressive approach
- A timeline describing all possible scenarios for the ongoing school year could be a key element for an advocacy plan
- **UNICEF to share the updated data**
- The need to clarify the issue of books procurement and advocate with Ukrainian embassy to obtain a copy right from the publisher of Ukraine, a need to coordinate between the organization that are offering educational material support, to see what the most important needs are
- For the pilots WB developed a plan to have sample lesson plans, videos, tutorials ready in the first half of October and will be ready to share with other schools and partners, they can be recycled by other teachers/schools, and we will be ready to help train.

### Highlights of our meeting

- ✚ To authorize mediators
- ✚ To standardize the internet hub
- ✚ To advocate for progressive review of the current legal environment in a near future slightly stricter based on the experience shared from other EU countries with duties that Ukrainians refugee would have if they access the status of temporary protection

**Coming next:** Organize binational meeting and invite some people from Ukraine (Through Education International we could reach out to Ukrainian teacher trade unions if you like.

**Next meeting: 28 September 2022, 10:00-11:30 am, online (Zoom)**

