



Inter-Agency Refugee Education Working Group (IREWG)

Meeting Details		
Date	22 nd of January 2026	
Time	1:00-2:30pm	
Chair	Chair: Alisia Parfentieva, Senior Consultatnt, Policy Service for Interethnic Relations, Ministry of Education and Research (MER); Co-chairs: Christos Martinis, Education Specialist, UNICEF & Sorina Pinzaru, Protection Associate, UNHCR.	
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Agenda		
Agenda point	Time	Focal Point
1. MER updates regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The enrollment numbers of Ukrainian children for the school year 2025/2026 in preschools and general education.• MER & Ukrainian MoES roundtable meeting in Chisinau, 18 & 19 December 2025.• MER End of Year Roundtable	13:00 – 13:30	MER
2. Presentation: Supporting refugees' participation in higher education and the labour market: the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) as an international instrument to address national challenges	13:45 – 14:00	MER
3. REWG 2026 ToR & Action Plan	14:00 – 14:10	UNHCR & UNICEF
4. AoB (Updates on the Temporary Protection Directive, Mapping Romanian language course for adults, RRP end of year report)	14:10 - 14:30	UNHCR & UNICEF



Information collection and relevant links		
Activity Info Platform: https://www.activityinfo.org		
Participants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alisia Parfentieva – MER - Isac Rodica – MER - Nadejda Sava – MER - Christos Martinis – UNICEF Education Officer deployed at MER - Galina Bulat – UNICEF - Mihai Platinda – UNICEF - Sorina Pinzaru – UNHCR - Alexei Buzulan – UNHCR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carolina Scifos – UNHCR - Dmitri Surovtov – People in Need - Yuliia Zenchenko – FSF - Alesya Kovalchuk – FSF - Ion Branzila – Moldova pentru Pace - Esanu Andrei, Federația Familiilor pentru Unificare și Pace în Lume din Moldova - Procupa Nazar – Moldova pentru Pace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sabina Nadejdin – Federația Familiilor pentru Unificare și Pace în Lume din Moldova - Diana Cojocari Alexei – Chisinau Municipality - Cristina Savin NRC - Nina Cușnir – Tarna Rom - Djavid Paknehad – CCR

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Welcome and presentation of the agenda.	The Ministry of Education and Research chair opened the meeting and thanked the members who attended, both in person and online.	
1. MER Updates	<p>Enrollment numbers of Ukrainian children for the school year 2025/2026 in preschools and general education.</p> <p>For the 2025/2026 school year, a total of 2,876 Ukrainian children are enrolled in preschools and general education. Among them, 302 in Grade 1 and high numbers in early primary and lower secondary classes indicate strong participation in the compulsory education cycle, with enrolment gradually decreasing at higher grade levels. Overall, the data show higher participation in Russian-language schooling compared to Romanian-language schooling. Gender distribution among school-aged children is relatively balanced, with 1,345 girls and 1,363 boys enrolled in Grades 1–9 and fewer students (168) enrolled in Grades 10–12, reflecting a drop in upper secondary enrolment. In</p>	



early childhood education (IET), 835 children are enrolled, with slightly more boys (447) than girls (388), and the majority attending at ages 3–6, indicating increasing participation with age.

MER announced an upcoming capacity-strengthening event at Taras Shevchenko Lyceum (12 February) in preparation for opening two additional first-grade classes in Ukrainian in 2026. MER informed participants that a draft Government Decision is being prepared to allow Ukrainian children to participate in summer camps in Moldova. The draft will be shared for feedback via particip.gov.md.

MER & Ukrainian MoES roundtable meeting in Chisinau, 18 & 19 December 2025.

A bilateral technical exchange with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine took place, involving representatives from general education, higher education, vocational education, and qualification recognition authorities.

Joint school visits were conducted in the Gymnasium “Taras Shevchenko” and Lyceum “Gloria”, allowing Ukrainian counterparts to observe the integration of Ukrainian refugee children into the Moldovan education system.

During the visits, gaps in Ukrainian-language learning materials were identified. MER coordinated with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine to receive updated Ukrainian textbooks and workbooks.

End of Year Roundtable

An end-of-year education event on 26 December 2025 was held jointly with UNICEF and UNHCR, presenting 2025 achievements related to refugee inclusion, accelerated education, preschool preparedness, and integration measures.

Children Learning Online – EDUTech Labs

- 270 Ukrainian children are currently studying online (143 girls, 127 boys).
- 544 Ukrainian children participate in online and non-formal education activities.
- A total of 1,159 children (Ukrainian refugees, Moldovan children, and others) attend EduTech labs nationwide.
- There are 34 operational EduTech labs, with two additional labs in the process of becoming operational.



<p>2. Presentation: Supporting refugees' participation in higher education and the labour market: the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) as an international instrument to address national challenges</p>	<p>Presentation: Supporting refugees' participation in higher education and the labour market: the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) as an international instrument to address national challenges</p> <p>MER presented the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) as an international instrument supporting refugees', asylum-seekers', displaced population' access to higher education and the labour market, particularly when formal documentation is not physically available following the displacement.</p> <p>Moldova adhered to EQPR in May 2022, in line with obligations under the Lisbon Recognition Convention. EQPR is a standardized, Council of Europe-issued document assessing a refugee's highest level of education, professional experience, and language competencies. It does not replace formal recognition or regulated profession requirements but acts as a pre-step facilitating faster access to education and employment. The assessment process includes an online application, document review by two independent evaluators from different countries, and a structured interview (online or in person). EQPR is available to refugees, asylum seekers, and persons under Temporary Protection, including Ukrainian nationals in Moldova. An EQPR awareness and evaluation event (28–30 April) will be jointly organized with the Council of Europe in Moldova.</p> <p>Informational brochures are available in Romanian, Ukrainian, Arabic and Dari. For additional information here are the contact details: e-mail: recognition@mec.gov.md, tel: 022 23 34 74 / 022 27 75 69</p> <p>Partners requested clarification on the legal value of EQPR. MER clarified that EQPR is not a legal recognition certificate, especially for regulated professions (e.g. medical), but is widely accepted by employers and education institutions as a credible assessment tool.</p> <p>(see presentation)</p>	<p>Action point 1: REWG partners to identify potential candidates who could benefit from EQPR and refer them to MER.</p>
<p>3. REWG 2026 ToR & Action Plan</p>	<p>UNICEF and UNHCR presented the draft REWG 2026 Terms of Reference and Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The draft largely builds on 2025 priorities, with additions reflecting:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Implementation of the Education Roadmap○ Alignment with TP provisions (Article 17(1))○ Development of basic education monitoring mechanisms	<p>Action point 2: Draft ToR and Action Plan to be circulated with the minutes by the co-leads. Partners to submit</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned activities include fact sheets, summer education activities, back-to-school campaigns, and Romanian language course mapping (children and adults). REWG meetings will shift from monthly to bi-monthly starting in 2026. 	<p>written comments by 11 February .</p>
<p>4. AoB (Updates on the Temporary Protection Directive, Mapping Romanian language course for adults, RRP end of year report)</p>	<p>Temporary Protection Directive</p> <p>UNHCR presented key updates on the Temporary Protection:</p> <p>Temporary Protection will be prolonged from 1 March 2026, following a Government Decision expected on 28 January. Application is not automatic – beneficiaries must apply online via protectietemporara.gov.md. From 1 February, both first-time applications and prolongations will be available online. The examination period may take up to 90 days, during which the existing TP status remains valid. TP IDs will not be reissued; validity will be updated electronically and verifiable via QR code. Children aged 14+ will be required to provide fingerprints.</p> <p>An education module will be included in the TP extension forms, capturing children’s educational status (<i>enrolled in an educational institution in the Republic of Moldovan; enrolled online in an educational institution in Ukraine, not enrolled</i>).</p> <p>REWG members raised concerns regarding the wording of the second option (<i>“enrolled online in an educational institution in Ukraine”</i>), noting that not all Ukrainian children residing in Moldova are studying online. Participants highlighted the existence of alternative education modalities, such as <i>externat</i> and <i>homeschooling</i>. It was emphasized that the current wording may mislead parents when completing the Temporary Protection extension form and could result in inaccurate data collection and it was requested to.</p> <p>Mapping Romanian language course for adults</p> <p>The Romanian language mapping tool for adults was finalized in mid-December. 11 Romanian language courses for adults have been mapped, based on inputs entered by three NGOs working with adults. The mapped courses primarily target Ukrainian refugees, but many are also open to host community members. Most courses are at beginner or mixed level, typically running 1–4 times per week, with around 15 participants per course (as a general indication).</p> <p>The group noted this mapping should be updated continuously throughout the year, and that REWG now has two tools (one for adults and one for children)</p>	<p>Action point 3: UNHCR to convene a meeting with REWG members and the UNHCR Legal Officer to propose revisions to the second education option in the TP extension form, in coordination with IGM and the IT developer, to better reflect different remote learning modalities (e.g. online, externat, homeschooling).</p>



	<p>RRP end of year report</p> <p>Partners were reminded to submit their inputs for the 2025 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) National Year-End Report for the education sector. Organizations were encouraged to share key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned from their 2025 activities, as well as a human-interest story illustrating the impact of education interventions. The submission deadline was reiterated to be on 23rd January 2026, and partners who had not yet submitted were informed that a further reminder would be circulated.</p>	
<p>5. Movie Presentation</p>	<p>Movie Presentation: Information was shared about “<i>Shadow</i>” (<i>TEŃ</i>), a debut feature-length social-psychological drama (14+) developed by the SELORIS team. The film was created by adolescents from the “Iurie Harmelin” Theatre Lyceum with professional support and addresses real psychological, social, and family challenges faced by adolescents, including aggression, depression, trauma, and social pressure. Developed through a documented research and consultation process with teachers and specialists, the film is intended as an educational tool that creates a safe space for dialogue among students, parents, and educators. The production brings together student actors and professional performers on a voluntary basis and has been recognized for its social relevance, being selected as one of five winning projects under the <i>Moldova for Peace</i> mini-grant programme. The film has already been screened in educational and cultural institutions and used in civic education and educational activities. Support was requested for translation and dubbing, as well as for organizing school screenings and broader national dissemination. MER agreed to offer its support in screening the movie in schools. See the trailer on the following link: TEHŃ (2026) ТРЕЙЛЕР RU.mp4 — Yandex Disk</p> <p>(see presentation)</p>	