



## Refugees from Ukraine:

# Support to school children and teachers

April 2022



Since the start of the Russian military invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, more than 4 million people have fled the country, with UN estimates suggesting that more than half of them are children. To respond to this unprecedented situation, the EU agreed in record time to activate the Temporary Protection Directive to help people fleeing war in Ukraine. The Directive became immediately applicable on 4 March and now offers amongst others the right to education for children and teenagers.

The European Commission is mobilising its instruments to support the education systems of the EU Member States receiving people that have fled Ukraine. All information on education and training intended for refugee parents, pupils, schools and teachers, as well as those wanting to contribute to solidarity efforts in EU Member States is available on the [School Education Gateway](#) and the [European Education Area Portal](#). This includes advice on integrating displaced children in national education systems, teaching and language support, fast track practises on the integration of teachers that have fled Ukraine into national education systems, and guidance on psychological support.

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## Support for pupils from Ukraine

(early childhood education and care, primary and secondary school, and initial vocational education and training)

- Project funds of Erasmus+ cooperation projects can be flexibly used to facilitate the integration of Ukrainian children. Erasmus+ can also support university student attendance.
- The EU Publications Office stands ready to print and distribute schoolbooks that Ukrainian pupils use normally, for use in the EU.



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## Support for teachers in EU Member States and in Ukraine

- A [dedicated section](#) on the School Education Gateway supports teachers with resources and professional development material, including articles, resources, tutorials and teacher online courses on topics such as integration of displaced children in European early childhood education and care and schools, inclusive and citizenship education, schools' reaction to the current crisis, history education, linguistic and cultural diversity in the classroom. The [learning and teaching material in Ukrainian language](#), which have been made available by Ukrainian national authorities or national authorities in EU countries who dispose of pedagogical material in Ukrainian language, can also be found on the School Education Gateway.



- In the [eTwinning online community](#) for educational staff from across Europe, teachers support their peers in Ukraine and/or neighbouring countries, provide guidance and psychological support. They also specifically address pedagogical questions and teaching materials related to the integration of displaced persons in education and on how to address the war situation in the classroom. Currently, more than 3000 teachers from Ukraine are participating in eTwinning. All those who left Ukraine and have a link with a school in their host country can get full access to the eTwinning community via the host country and launch their own projects.

- Teachers and trainers that have fled Ukraine and support staff in EU Member States can be offered grants through Erasmus+, as a way to facilitate their integration and help them gain necessary skills including language skills to work within the European education systems.



## Support for the education systems and schools in EU Member States

- Cohesion policy assists Member States to address migration challenges both under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). The new 'CARE' initiative introduces maximum flexibility for Member States to use money under the 2014-2020 Cohesion policy for actions supporting people who are fleeing from Russia's invasion. The CARE initiative can also be used, by dedicating unspent structural funds credits (ERDF and ESF), to support Erasmus+ mobility projects, including by transfer of resources between programmes. Moreover, the 2022 envelope of REACT-EU funds includes up to €9.5 billion that could be used immediately to address new demands.
- The Commission has issued a [Recommendation](#) to Member States on the recognition of qualifications for people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, including recognition of academic qualifications for Ukrainian-language teachers and educational staff.

- The EU Education Solidarity Group for Ukraine supports the countries who are hosting school-age children displaced from Ukraine by pooling available expertise and providing guidance through the existing tools and mechanisms under the European Education Area strategic framework. The Commission also supports national authorities with guidance regarding integration of displaced children in early childhood education and care facilities and schools.
- Educational staff with relevant expertise can temporarily work in regions with high numbers of displaced persons through Erasmus+ support. The Commission will support partner finding based on available expertise on the adult education platform [EPALE](#) and with the support of the Erasmus+ National Agencies.
- Beneficiary institutions of ongoing Erasmus+ projects in areas such as inclusion, diversity and citizenship can on a voluntary basis reallocate part of their project funds to support education challenges arising from the crisis.

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