Since the start of the Russian military invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, more than 3 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 Ukrainian refugees. 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 European Education Area online portal. This includes advice on integrating refugee children in national education systems, teaching and language support, fast track practises on the integration of Ukrainian teachers into national education systems, and guidance on psychological support.

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.
- The EU Publications Office stands ready to print and distribute schoolbooks that Ukrainian pupils use normally, for use in the EU.
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 refugee 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. All learning and teaching materials in Ukrainian language made available by Ukrainian national authorities or national authorities in EU countries who dispose of pedagogical material in Ukrainian language are also being made available.

• 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 migrants and refugees 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.

• Ukrainian teachers, trainers 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 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. Moreover, the 2022 envelope of €10 billion of REACT-EU funds could be used immediately to address new demands.

• The Commission’s EU Education Solidarity Group for Ukraine supports the countries who are hosting Ukrainian school-age children 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 migrant and refugee children in early childhood education and care facilities and schools.

• Educational staff with relevant expertise can temporarily work in regions with high numbers of refugees 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 refugee crisis.

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