

# Fundamental rights of children displaced in the EU following the Russian war of aggression

Cyprus

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# 1. Children fleeing Ukraine

## 1.1. Data on children fleeing Ukraine

**Table 1 Children fleeing Ukraine**

Category of child	Registration system Y/N	Number of children (as disaggregated as possible) (as of 30 April 2023 unless otherwise specified)
Overall number of children	Y	Boys aged 0-3 years: 390 Boys aged 3-6 years: 430 Boys aged 6-12 years: 851 Boys aged 12-18 years: 648 Girls aged 0-3 years: 373 Girls aged 3-6 years: 451 Girls aged 6-12 years: 888 Girls aged 12-18 years: 666 TOTAL: 4,761
Arrived accompanied by mother, father or another legal guardian	Y	4624
Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends	Y	142
Arrived unaccompanied		0
Arrived within a group of children, as an organised evacuation from Ukrainian institutions or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)		0
Arrived within a group of children, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	Y	There is a small number of children from Ukraine who are under the care of Cypriot schools (boarding schools) or football teams. The statistical record does not include particulars of the numbers in this situation.

Source: Asylum Service of the Ministry of the Interior, Cyprus and UNHCR.<sup>1</sup>

In **Cyprus**, according to the Asylum Service of the Ministry of Interior, the competent authority for registration, examination and issuing of temporary protection decisions in Cyprus is the Asylum Service. There is no system exclusively registering children fleeing from Ukraine; the statistical record maintained by the Asylum Service covers all third country children seeking international protection, including children fleeing Ukraine. All applications for Temporary Protection are registered in the Asylum Service's central registration system (CASS). The total number of children who applied for Temporary Protection in Cyprus between 14 March 2022 and 30 April 2023 amounts to 4761. The majority of the children fleeing Ukraine registered in the system are of Ukrainian nationality, but there are also a few cases of children who fled Ukraine and were not of Ukrainian nationality. The statistical record does not show how many of the children who fled Ukraine were of Ukrainian nationality and how many were of another nationality. The only characteristic recorded in the system is the age group, as shown in the table above; disability or other characteristics are not identified in the database. The database is compiled on the basis of applications for temporary protection irrespective of the outcome.<sup>2</sup>

According to UNHCR, on 30 April 2023 there were 142 separated children from Ukraine in Cyprus who arrived with a person other than their parents.<sup>3</sup>

In **Cyprus**, according to the Asylum Service of the Ministry of Interior, access to the Asylum Service's system is available to the Civil Registry and Immigration Department of the Interior Ministry, the Social Welfare Services of the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare, the Labour Department, the Ministry of Health and the Aliens and Immigration Service of the Police, which falls under the Ministry of Justice and Public Order.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from the Asylum Service to the FRANET contractor, 8 June 2023, letter from UNHCR to the FRANET contractor, 4 July 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Letters from the Asylum Service to the FRANET contractor, 8 June 2023 and 3 July 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Letter from UNHCR to the FRANET contractor, 4 July 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Letter from the Asylum Service to the FRANET contractor, 8 June 2023.

## 2. Child protection – legal, policy framework and procedures in place

### 2.1. Responsibilities of child protection authorities

In **Cyprus**, there are no unaccompanied children fleeing the war in Ukraine. According to the Police Anti-trafficking Unit, this was the result of a policy decision of the Interior Ministry that unaccompanied children should not be permitted to board a plane to Cyprus for their own safety. According to the Interior Ministry, the policy was aimed at safeguarding the safety of the unaccompanied minors and protect them from trafficking and abductions. Given that there are no means of transport of children from Ukraine to Cyprus other than air carriers, no unaccompanied children arrived. Permission is granted to children fleeing Ukraine to enter Cyprus where there is written consent from the child's legal guardian that the person escorting them is duly authorised and the Embassy of Ukraine in Cyprus agrees to take responsibility for the minor. The Social Welfare Services have only limited competency over children who arrived with relatives or with persons to whom their legal guardians have assigned their care, consisting mainly of ensuring that the persons escorting the children are indeed authorised to do so by the legal guardian and the place of residence is suitable.

In **Cyprus**, UNHCR reported that, once the authorisation of the legal guardians towards the persons escorting the children to Cyprus is verified, no follow up checks take place to ensure that the children are indeed safe with the person escorting them. According to UNHCR, the authorities lack contingency planning and react to developments as they emerge without a comprehensive plan, leading to delays and inadequate responses. Although there are no reports of unaccompanied children from Ukraine, the capacity to receive unaccompanied children has been exhausted with hundreds of asylum-seeking children from other third countries accommodated in substandard conditions.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Telephone consultation of FRANET contractor with UNHCR, 14 June 2023.

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### **2.1.1. Individual children, including unaccompanied and separated children**

In **Cyprus**, according to the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare, children who may need services from Social Welfare Services are managed on the basis of national legislation for all children; there is no special scheme governing the treatment of children fleeing the war in Ukraine. In order to be permitted to enter Cyprus, children fleeing Ukraine must be accompanied by a person to whom the parents have assigned the care of their children; upon entry into Cyprus, the immigration authorities notify the Social Welfare Services who in turn notify the Embassy of Ukraine in Cyprus.<sup>6</sup> UNHCR reported that there is lack of sufficient data collection for children who reportedly arrive separated from their parents but accompanied by other family members.<sup>7</sup>

### **2.1.2. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions**

In **Cyprus**, according to the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare, no children arrived who had been evacuated from Ukrainian institutions.<sup>8</sup> There are no special reception centres for children and no dedicated centres for children fleeing Ukraine.

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<sup>6</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 9 June 2023.

<sup>7</sup> Telephone consultation of FRANET contractor with UNHCR, 14 June 2023.

<sup>8</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 9 June 2023.

### 3. Guardianship/legal representation arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children fleeing Ukraine

#### 3.1. Arrived unaccompanied

In **Cyprus**, according to the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare, no unaccompanied children from Ukraine have entered Cyprus.<sup>9</sup> The Social Welfare Services act as guardians only for unaccompanied children, not for children arriving with an escort approved by the legal guardian, as is the case with all children who arrived to Cyprus from Ukraine.

#### 3.2. Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends

In **Cyprus**, according to the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare, when children fleeing Ukraine arrive with a relative or other family friend, the immigration authorities inspect the documents presented by the adults escorting the children, notify the Social Welfare Services to perform a check on the place of accommodation of the child and at the same time notify the Embassy of Ukraine in Cyprus.<sup>10</sup> The Social Welfare Services will then prepare a list with the details of the child and relatives/friends and send it to the Ukrainian Embassy for information and further action if deemed necessary by them.<sup>11</sup> In **Cyprus**, according to the Asylum Service of the Ministry of the Interior, most persons arriving in Cyprus from Ukraine with children who are not their own, carry certificates who appear

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<sup>9</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 9 June 2023.

<sup>10</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 9 June 2023.

<sup>11</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 5 July 2023.

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to have been translated officially, in which case the authorities do not require any additional processing of the documentation. If the documentation they carry is the original and is not translated, an oral translation is performed in situ, usually by an interpreter of the Asylum Service for the purposes of verifying that the names and details on the document match those of the passports. No authenticity check is performed.

The national authorities do not involve themselves in selecting or appointing a guardian as the child is considered to have a guardian already in Cyprus, nominated by the parents and approved by the Ukrainian Embassy in Cyprus. Only the accommodation is inspected; no check is performed on the person escorting the child.

### 3.3. Arrived within a group, from Ukrainian institution or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)

In **Cyprus**, the Deputy Ministry for Welfare reported that the decision of the parents to assign the care of their children to a third person, who is or is not a relative, is accepted by the Cypriot authorities.<sup>12</sup> Although there were no cases of children arriving in Cyprus following an evacuation of an institution in Ukraine, the policy would remain the same, i.e. no additional or alternative guardian is appointed by the authorities in Cyprus, who will not interfere with the decision of the parents to entrust the care of their children to the person who escorts their children.

### 3.4. Arrived within a group, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with

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<sup>12</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 9 June 2023.

## or without an appointed legal guardian)

In **Cyprus**, the Deputy Ministry for Welfare reported that no children fleeing Ukraine entered Cyprus in the context of private initiatives.<sup>13</sup>

There have been private initiatives for visits to Cyprus of children from Ukraine, as a result of a collaboration between Cypriot and Ukrainian charitable foundations but these are short term intended to provide children from Ukraine the chance to continue their training in sports or to participate in other recreational activities and rarely last more than a couple of weeks.<sup>14</sup> A further initiative was undertaken by one of the church's bishoprics, in collaboration with the authorities, for hosting for two weeks children who had fled Ukraine and thereafter resided in an institution in Poland. After the visit to Cyprus, the children returned to Poland.<sup>15</sup> These initiatives are short-term and do not give rise to issues of legal guardianship, nor is there a standard state policy that applies to all as regards the procedure for assessing each initiative, the granting of permits to enter the country and the supervision of the children whilst in Cyprus.

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<sup>13</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 9 June 2023.

<sup>14</sup> Omada Reporter (2023), [‘Αλληλεγγύη της Κύπρου σε νέες αθλήτριες και νέους αθλητές της Ουκρανίας’](#), 10 May 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Romfea (2023), [‘55 παιδιά από την Ουκρανία στην Κύπρο με ευθύνη της Ι.Μ. Ταμασού’](#), 12 May 2023.

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## 4. Information and practical challenges in access to basic services for children fleeing Ukraine

### 4.1. General information and challenges

#### (i) Child protection

In **Cyprus**, the Deputy Ministry for Welfare reported that it provides services to all children irrespective of their residence status and does not differentiate depending on nationality.<sup>16</sup> No special framework of protection applies in the case of children fleeing Ukraine. It is noted that Cyprus had highest ratio of temporary protection given to Ukrainians, with 1.1 Ukrainian citizens granted temporary protection per thousand people in February 2023, followed by Czech Republic with 0.9 Ukrainian citizens per thousand people.<sup>17</sup>

In **Cyprus**, UNHCR expressed concern and raised with the authorities the matter of insufficient welfare assistance to persons fleeing Ukraine, highlighting the corresponding risks for exploitation and abuse. UNHCR also repeatedly requested from the authorities disaggregated data on children to enable advocacy interventions for sufficient response and raised the matter with the Commissioner for the Rights of the Child. According to UNHCR, the support provided to persons fleeing Ukraine is limited, as the benefits are very low and provided on a one-off basis. Welfare benefits are provided in cash through either one lump sum payment or in two instalments. The amount for the primary applicant is € 340; € 170 are paid for each dependent family member above the age of 14 years; and € 100 for children under 14.<sup>18</sup> UNHCR raised with the authorities the issue of insufficient support that led to increased secondary movements to other EU member states and increased the risk of abuse and

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<sup>16</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 9 June 2023.

<sup>17</sup> Kathimerini (2023), '[Cyprus tops EU in granting temporary protection to Ukrainian refugees](#)', 17 April 2023.

<sup>18</sup> AIDA (2022), '[Temporary protection Cyprus](#)'.

exploitation.<sup>19</sup> In August 2022 the Council of Ministers decided<sup>20</sup> to extend financial assistance to persons fleeing Ukraine in the sum of € 102 monthly for early childhood care in approved kindergartens or nurseries for each child aged up to four years and eight months whose parents or guardians are working.<sup>21</sup> Although the scheme is stated to run only until end of February 2023,<sup>22</sup> UNHCR reported that the application form along with an information leaflet was only posted on the website of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare on 20 March 2023, whilst the authorities made no effort to disseminate information about it. UNHCR anticipates that the validity period will be extended.<sup>23</sup>

In **Cyprus**, according to UNHCR, accommodation for persons fleeing Ukraine is offered in 12 hotels/apartments in the area of Famagusta while a hotel with 30 room capacity was subsequently added in the area of Paphos. In total, 800 hotel rooms, hosting from one to three persons, were made available for the needs of persons fleeing Ukraine, initially provided until September 2022, but extended until March 2023. In February 2023 the Council of Ministers approved full board state- paid accommodation in hotels for persons fleeing Ukraine for a period of six months since they were granted temporary protection or until 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 whichever is earlier. For those already residing in hotels on 28 February 2023, their stay was extended until 31 May 2023 or until six months are completed from the date they were granted temporary protection, whichever is later.<sup>24</sup>

On 23 May 2023 the Deputy Ministry for Welfare announced that as of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023, the policy of providing hotel accommodation would be terminated, to be replaced by a rent subsidy scheme approved by the Council of Ministers in August 2022;<sup>25</sup> as of 1<sup>st</sup> June onwards, accommodation is provided only to vulnerable refugees from Ukraine, namely single persons or couples over 65 years old, persons with disabilities and single

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<sup>19</sup> Telephone consultation of FRANET contractor with UNHCR, 14 June 2023.

<sup>20</sup> Cyprus, Council of Ministers (2022), '[Extract from the minutes of the Ministerial Council dated 22/8/2022](#)', Proposal No. 1056/2022, Decision Number 93.493, 22 August 2022.

<sup>21</sup> Cyprus, Deputy Ministry for Welfare (2023), '[Application for Financial Support for the Care of Children Displaced from Ukraine up to the Age of 4 Years and 8 Months](#)'.

<sup>22</sup> Cyprus, Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare (2023), '[Οικονομική βοήθεια για φροντίδα ανήλικων τέκνων ηλικίας μέχρι 4 ετών και 8 μηνών σε οικογένειες Ουκρανών προσφύγων](#)' 20 March 2023.

<sup>23</sup> Telephone consultation of FRANET contractor with UNHCR, 14 June 2023.

<sup>24</sup> Cyprus, Council of Ministers (2023), '[Extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Council of Ministers dated 8/2/2023](#)', Decision No. 94.379, 8 February 2023.

<sup>25</sup> Cyprus, Council of Ministers (2022), '[Extract from the minutes of the Ministerial Council dated 22/8/2022](#)', Proposal No. 1056/2022, Decision Number 93.493, 22 August 2022.

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parents or guardians with children up to 12 years old.<sup>26</sup> The national confederation of organisations of persons with disabilities KYSOA reported that a group of 120 persons with disabilities from Ukraine including children residing in the same state-paid hotel accommodation applied for an extension of their stay in the hotel on account of their disability, but only an approximate 100 of them were assessed to be sufficiently restricted by their disability in order to remain in the hotel.<sup>27</sup>

In **Cyprus**, according to UNHCR, the majority of persons fleeing Ukraine did not reside in the government-provided accommodation; they are hosted by friends or relatives while others are renting temporary accommodation, although they are quickly running out of funds. A rent subsidy scheme ranging between € 161.70 - € 406 was announced by the government for displaced persons from Ukraine who are holders of temporary protection permits and who leave from hotels with which the Ministry of Tourism had concluded contracts. For rent subsidy purposes, applicants must secure the rented accommodation themselves and the amount of the subsidy is proportional to the number of household members, the size and the province of residence.<sup>28</sup> UNHCR highlighted the fact that the rent subsidy scheme is only covering persons who were up until now staying in state-paid accommodation and does not extend to the Ukrainians staying in private rented accommodation, who are in fact the majority. UNHCR reported that the lack of adequate accommodation offered by the authorities raises risk of exploitation and abuse, including GBV and trafficking, adding that the lack of specific data on separated and unaccompanied children does not allow sufficient monitoring and response by the authorities.<sup>29</sup>

## (ii) Health care

In **Cyprus**, the Ministry of Health reported that health care to children fleeing Ukraine is provided in public hospitals. Like other third country nationals seeking asylum, persons fleeing are not granted access to the General Healthcare System in place for the host population and do not have the right to be assigned a personal doctor of their choice; they are only given access to state hospitals and the right to be treated by the hospital

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<sup>26</sup> Cyprus, Press and Information Office (2023), [‘Δηλώσεις της Υφυπουργού Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας και του Πρέσβη της Ουκρανίας στην Κύπρο μετά το πέρας της συνάντησης για την πολιτική φιλοξενίας των Ουκρανών προσφύγων’](#), 23 May 2023;

<sup>27</sup> Telephone consultation between the FRANET contractor and KYSOA, 19 June 2023.

<sup>28</sup> Cyprus, Deputy Ministry for Welfare (2023), [‘Σχέδιο Επιδότησης Ενοικίου σε εκτοπισθέντες από την Ουκρανία’](#), 24 May 2023.

<sup>29</sup> Telephone consultation of FRANET contractor with UNHCR, 14 June 2023.

doctors available at the time.<sup>30</sup> This can mean long queues and waiting lists and the medication prescribed may not be available in the pharmacies of the state hospitals, which means they will have to buy it from private pharmacies. Mental health services are not available in all public hospital which means that for these services they may have to travel to another city. The Ministry of Health, however, provides displaced persons from Ukraine who are beneficiaries of temporary protection with a document enabling them to have free access to the publically funded private Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics<sup>31</sup> and the Bank of Cyprus Oncology Center.<sup>32</sup> No health screening of children fleeing Ukraine is carried as a matter of routine. All persons fleeing Ukraine are entitled to free vaccination against COVID-19 and against other conditions.<sup>33</sup>

There is no special action plan and no separate budget line for the expenditure relating to the medical or pharmaceutical care towards children or adults fleeing Ukraine.<sup>34</sup>

In **Cyprus** UNHCR reported that persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses ineligible for temporary protection were unofficially given a type of extended protection that included only access to health care. Psycho-social and mental health support is available for the beneficiaries of temporary protection in the context of the general access to public hospitals; no special arrangements were put in place for persons who fled Ukraine.<sup>35</sup>

### (iii) Education

In **Cyprus**, according to the Ministry of Education, as of 27 January 2023, there were 590 children who had fled Ukraine attending public schools; 340 had registered for the online tuition program of the Ukrainian educational program; 494 were attending private schools approved by the Ministry of Education; and 2,946 applied for temporary protection whilst at the age range of compulsory education. Based on this data, the enrolment rate is 48%. Although national legislation provides for compulsory education

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<sup>30</sup> Telephone consultation of FRANET contractor with the Ministry of Health, 16 June 2023.

<sup>31</sup> For more details about this medical centre please see their webpage [here](#).

<sup>32</sup> For more details about this medical centre please see their webpage [here](#).

<sup>33</sup> Cyprus, Council of Ministers (2022), '[Απόσπασμα από τα Πρακτικά της Συνεδρίας του Υπουργικού Συμβουλίου Ημερομηνίας 3/3/2022](#)', Decision no. 92.677, 3 March 2022.

<sup>34</sup> Letter to the FRANET contractor from the Ministry of Health, 27 June 2023.

<sup>35</sup> Telephone consultation of FRANET contractor with UNHCR, 14 June 2023.

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from the age of four years and eight months until the age of 15,<sup>36</sup> following requests from the Ukrainian Embassy in Cyprus, the Council of Ministers approved the exemption from this rule for children fleeing Ukraine with a temporary protection status, enabling them to stay at home, if their guardians so request, to follow the Ukrainian remote education program provided they formally enroll in a public school in Cyprus. The proposal was effective for the 2022-2023 school year.<sup>37</sup>

In **Cyprus**, according to the Ministry of Education, the accommodation of students from Ukraine near schools remained a challenge as schools near the hotel units assigned to them were overcrowded and, as a result some children from Ukraine had to enroll in schools far from their residence. In order to address this issue, the Ministry of Education used laboratory rooms as classrooms, organised mobile classes and started procedures for creating additional prefabricated units to be used as classrooms. For children accommodated in hotels attending schools from their place of residence, the Ministry of Education is in the process of securing free transport.<sup>38</sup>

The Ministry of Education offered to children from Ukraine free intensive Greek language classes during the summer months of 2022 as well as throughout the school year;<sup>39</sup> children with a protection status were offered priority in enrolling for the state summer schools for the summers of 2022 and 2023.<sup>40</sup> The classes were offered to both adults and children aged six years and above; separate classes were set up for children aged 6-12, for the age group 13-18 and for adults. In one particular secondary school a special Greek class was offered to children aged 12-15 to correspond to the needs of the particular region. To facilitate integration to the school environment, a special webpage

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<sup>36</sup> Cyprus, The primary and secondary education (Compulsory enrolment and provision of free education) act 1993 [[Ο περί Δημοτικής και Μέσης Εκπαίδευσης \(Υποχρεωτική Φοίτηση και Παροχή Δωρεάν Παιδείας\) Νόμος του 1993](#)].

<sup>37</sup> Letter from the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth to the FRANET contractor, 14 June 2023.

<sup>38</sup> Letter from the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth to the FRANET contractor, 14 June 2023.

<sup>39</sup> Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth (2022), '[Παράρτημα III - Ενημέρωση για δωρεάν εντατικά μαθήματα ελληνικής γλώσσας σε Ουκρανούς υπηκόους που διαμένουν στην Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία λόγω πολέμου στην Ουκρανία](#)', 7 September 2022.

<sup>40</sup> Letter from the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth to the FRANET contractor, 14 June 2023.

of the Ministry of Education offers information of interest to parents and guardians of students in Ukrainian.<sup>41</sup>

## 4.2. Challenges for children at multiple risk/disadvantage

No measures were put in place to assess the needs of children with special vulnerabilities. No particular arrangements were made for Roma, disabled or LGBTIQ children fleeing Ukraine. There is no recorded data as regards the entry into Cyprus of Roma children fleeing Ukraine. There is also no data recorded as regards the needs of LGBTIQ children and no special provision for them to commence or continue gender reassignment therapies or other necessary treatments, which are not covered by the health services provided to displaced persons.<sup>42</sup> Families in need of extra protection are expected to contact the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare and explain their situation, following which their request will be examined without any particular procedure in place. Disabled persons including children fleeing the war in Ukraine are eligible for the same disability benefits as Cypriot persons with disabilities.<sup>43</sup> Nevertheless, many families with children with disabilities choose to be relocated to other EU countries because the benefits, slow bureaucracy and infrastructure in Cyprus and particularly the accommodation solutions available are inadequate for their needs.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> See the webpage of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth on information for Ukrainian refugees, [here](#).

<sup>42</sup> Telephone consultation between the FRANET contractor and the NGO Accept LGBT+, Cyprus 13 June 2023.

<sup>43</sup> Cyprus, Press and Information Office (2023), '[Δηλώσεις της Υφυπουργού Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας και του Πρέσβη της Ουκρανίας στην Κύπρο μετά το πέρας της συνάντησης για την πολιτική φιλοξενίας των Ουκρανών προσφύγων](#)', 23 May 2023.

<sup>44</sup> Telephone consultation between the FRANET contractor and KYSOA, 13 June 2023.

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## 5. Policies in place

### 5.1. Dedicated action plan and/or integrated measures

In **Cyprus**, the Deputy Ministry for Welfare reported that there is no dedicated action plan or integrated measures for children fleeing Ukraine. The measures in place are horizontal and affect all children.<sup>45</sup>

### 5.2. European Child Guarantee

In **Cyprus**, the action plan for the implementation of the European Child Guarantee was not amended to provide more targeted actions concerning children fleeing Ukraine. The action plan was reportedly subjected to a public consultation in October 2022 in which children in secondary education also participated, however no provisions were added to it in order to target children fleeing from Ukraine. The action plan covers identifies children of a migrant background as one of the categories of vulnerable children and covers situations such as those potentially facing children fleeing the war in Ukraine, such as material deprivation, disability and others but no explicit reference to war in Ukraine nor to the special situation of children from Ukraine.<sup>46</sup>

In spite of the above, in **Cyprus**, the Deputy Ministry for Welfare reported that, it provides financial, personal and care assistance to individuals and/or families in extremely urgent and/or emergency circumstances, irrespective of nationality or origin.<sup>47</sup> In **Cyprus**, the Deputy Ministry for Welfare reported that from 28/3/2022 to

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<sup>45</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 9 June 2023.

<sup>46</sup> Cyprus, Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare, 'National Action Plan for the Establishment of a European Child Guarantee 2022-2030' ([Εθνικό Σχέδιο Δράσης για τη Θέσπιση Ευρωπαϊκής Εγγύησης για τα Παιδιά 2022-2030](#))

<sup>47</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 9 June 2023.

31/5/2023 a total amount of €2,815,115 was paid by way of emergency assistance, in response to 6,837 applications.<sup>48</sup>

### 5.3. Budget

There is no specific budget allocated for displaced children from Ukraine in the current or future annual budgets of any government ministry. All government services compile budgets based on their expenditure in providing services to all groups and individuals, without a specific allocation of funds to children or to children fleeing Ukraine in particular. A budget line for the accommodation of persons fleeing Ukraine is foreseen in the budget, in the region of €6 million for the accommodation of persons fleeing Ukraine between November 2022 and February 2023; and €8,5 million for the accommodation for the period March – December 2023.<sup>49</sup> These budget lines however cover the accommodation of both adults and children. The Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare does not have a special budget line concerning persons fleeing Ukraine.<sup>50</sup>

In Cyprus, the Ministry of Education reported that there is no provision for a budget from national resources and that EU funds from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund are being utilised to implement the project of intensive language training of both adults and children fleeing Ukraine,<sup>51</sup> with a budget of €182,787.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 5 July 2023.

<sup>49</sup> InBusinessNews (2023), [‘Εξετάζουν κονδύλια €75 εκατ. για ρεύμα, γεωργοκτηνοτροφία και Ουκρανικό’](#), 3 April 2023.

<sup>50</sup> Cyprus, Letter from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the FRANET contractor, 9 June 2023.

<sup>51</sup> Cyprus, Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth (2022), [‘Δωρεάν εντατικά μαθήματα ελληνικής γλώσσας σε Ουκρανούς υπηκόους που διαμένουν στην Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία λόγω πολέμου στην Ουκρανία’](#), 8 September 2022.

<sup>52</sup> Letter from the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth to the FRANET contractor, 14 June 2023.

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