

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

Slovakia

June 2023

Contractor: Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture

Author(s): Elena Gallo Kriglerová, Alena Holka Chudžíková, Jana
Kadlečíková, Michaela Píšová

Disclaimer

This document was commissioned under contract by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) as background material for the project 'Fundamental rights of children displaced in the EU following the Russian war of aggression'. The information and views contained in the document do not necessarily reflect the views or the official position of the FRA. The document is made publicly available for transparency and information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or legal opinion.

Contents

1. Children fleeing Ukraine	4
1.1. Data on children fleeing Ukraine.....	4
1.2. Crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing.....	8
2. Child protection – legal, policy framework and procedures in place.....	9
2.1. Responsibilities of child protection authorities.....	9
2.1.1. Individual children, including unaccompanied and separated children.....	9
2.1.2. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions.....	12
2.2. Safeguards and measures addressing risk of violent crimes against children fleeing Ukraine	13
2.2.1. Safeguards to protect and defend children from crimes	13
2.2.2. Support for children victims of crimes.....	14
2.3. Guardianship/legal representation arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children fleeing Ukraine	15
2.3.1. Arrived unaccompanied.....	15
2.3.2. Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends	16
2.3.3. Arrived within a group, from Ukrainian institution or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	17
2.3.4. Arrived within a group, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	17
2.4. Placement of unaccompanied and separated children fleeing from Ukraine	18
2.5. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions	20
2.5.1. Institutional placements	20
2.5.2. Alternative care	20
2.5.3. Safeguards for children placed in institutional care settings	21
2.5.4. Access to local services and support	23
2.6. Child-friendly information and means to ensure participation of children from Ukraine	24
2.6.1. Child friendly information.....	24
2.6.2. Child participation.....	24
3. Access to social rights	25
3.1. Access to health care.....	25
3.1.1. Scope of medical care for children fleeing Ukraine.....	25
3.1.2. Challenges in practical provision	27
3.1.3. Mental health and psychosocial support for children fleeing Ukraine	28
3.2. Access to education.....	29

3.2.1. Types of schooling	29
3.2.2. Support to integration in the formal educational system	30
3.2.3. Data on drop outs and NEETs (not in education, employment, or training).....	32
3.3. Access to social welfare – forms of social assistance related to children.....	32
4. Additional legal and practical barriers and challenges	35
4.1. General challenges	35
4.2. Challenges for children at multiple risk/disadvantage.....	39
5. Policies in place.....	41
5.1. Dedicated action plan and/or integrated measures	41
5.2. European Child Guarantee	42
5.3. Budget	43

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	<p>Number of children who crossed the border from Ukraine to Slovakia since the beginning of the war as of 30 April 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total number: 302,240 - Gender: male – 151,095, female – 151,145 <p>Number of children who registered for temporary protection as of 30 April 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total number: 39,451 - Gender: male – 20,049, female – 19,402 - Nationality: Ukraine – 39,378, Russia – 38, U.S.A. – 16, others – 19 <p>Number of children who registered for temporary protection and had valid tolerated stay in Slovakia as of 30 April 2023 (those are children who might be still present in the territory of Slovakia):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total number: 34,352 - Gender: male – 17,469, female – 16,883 - Nationality: Ukraine – 34,287, Russia – 33, U.S.A. – 14, others – 18.

Arrived accompanied by mother, father or another legal guardian	N	
Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends	N	
Arrived unaccompanied	Y	<p>Unaccompanied children who fled Ukraine as of 30 April 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total number: 153 - Gender: male – 113, female – 30 - According to the year of birth: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2004 – 35 2. 2005 – 38 3. 2006 – 39 4. 2007 - 10 5. 2008 – 4 6. 2009 – 7 7. 2010 - 3 8. 2011 - 5 9. 2012 - 3 10. 2013 - 3 11. 2014 - 2 12. 2015 - 1 13. 2016 - 1 14. 2017 - 0 15. 2018 - 0 16. 2019 - 0 17. 2020 - 0 18. 2021 - 0 19. 2022 - 1 <p>Unaccompanied children who fled Ukraine and were still present in Slovakia as of 30 April 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total number: 32
Arrived within a group of children, as an organised evacuation from Ukrainian institutions or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	Y	47 children from Ukrainian institutions

Arrived within a group of children, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	Y	13 children (a football team)
---	---	-------------------------------

Source: Information provided by the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police via e-mail on 25 and 31 May 2023 and by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail on 5 June 2023.

According to the information provided by the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police there are following data available about the children fleeing the war in Ukraine:

The entry of a child from Ukraine to the territory of Slovakia is recorded at the moment the child crosses the border from Ukraine to Slovakia as well as if the child crosses the border back to Ukraine. The Bureau of Border and Foreign Police can provide detailed data about the daily numbers of entries and exists across the Slovak-Ukrainian border disaggregated by gender and nationality.

Another set of data about children from Ukraine is the database of persons who registered for temporary protection in Slovakia. The persons fleeing the war in Ukraine can register at the district Offices of Border Police and at the reception centres in Bratislava and Michalovce (east of Slovakia). The Bureau of Border and Foreign Police is able to provide data about all persons who registered for temporary protection so far, as well as about those ones who still have valid tolerated stay in Slovakia (all persons who registered for temporary protection automatically get so-called tolerated stay in Slovakia) and thus are probably still present in the territory of Slovakia. The provided data can be disaggregated by the date of registration, gender and nationality.

The Bureau of Border and Foreign Police also records information on all foreigners with legal residence in the Slovak Republic. From this database, it is possible to provide information about persons with Ukrainian citizenship who have been granted temporary or permanent residence, but in their case, it is not possible to clearly assess their motivation for arriving and staying in Slovakia. At the same time, this figure is much lower than the number of persons who registered for temporary protection.

As for the information with whom the child crosses the border or resides in Slovakia, according to the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police, the situation is examined at the border, however the information about who accompanies the child is not recorded in

the information system¹. There are several situations that can arise when the child crosses the border.

- A. The child crosses the border with at least one parent,
- B. The child crosses the border with a family relative who can prove that he/she is related to the child (e.g. birth certificate, marriage certificate) or has a notarized parental consent to travel.
- C. The child crosses the border accompanied by another person who is not a family relative. The accompanying person has a notarized consent from both parents, or from one parent with a verified consent from an institution authorized in Ukraine to grant consent for accompanying a child abroad.
- D. The child crosses the border alone, with one adult family member accompanying him to the Ukrainian side of the border and another adult family member taking him on the Slovak side. Both family members must prove the family relationship to the child with the necessary documents, for example, birth certificates, marriage certificates, or notarized consent of the parent(s) to travel.
- E. The child crosses the border alone and no one is waiting for him on the Slovak side of the border. In this case, the child will be taken over by social workers at the border crossing and placed in the care of one of the children's homes in Slovakia (Centres for Children and Families).

The situation of every child is controlled at the border, however, the state administration in the area of socio-legal protection of children is alerted only if the child is found alone or without any accompanying adult who can prove that he/she is related to the child.

In other cases, when the child comes without parents but is accompanied by another adult person who is related to the child or has the parents' consent to travel with the child, that person is advised to contact the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family to consult the situation and to get information about how to ask for guardianship of the child concerned.

From the information provided by public authorities, the situation in recording information about children who fled from Ukraine is that the various public authorities have only partial information about the children. The Bureau of Border and Foreign Police records the information about persons who crossed the border, registered for temporary protection or were granted temporary or permanent residence permits. They do not record the information about who accompanies the child. The Central Office of

¹ Information provided by the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police via e-mail and phone call on 31 May 2023-

Labour, Social Affairs and Family records detail information about unaccompanied children, children that came as a group from Ukrainian institutions or as a sports club, etc. Their subordinated Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family are also involved in proceedings about the appointment of guardians of separated children that are considered by the Courts however they do not operate a registration system about these children or persons who asked for being appointed as their guardians².

1.2. Crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing

Table 2 – Serious crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing

Issue / risk	Number of cases i) reported and ii) investigated
Violence, including domestic violence	N/A
Sexual abuse	N/A
Trafficking for exploitation	N/A
Children reported as missing	N/A
Other crimes against children fleeing Ukraine	N/A

Source: [Type your source here.](#)

The General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic does not collect statistical data containing information on crimes committed against children fleeing Ukraine since the beginning of the war.³ The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic was also not able to provide these data.⁴

² Information provided by the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police via e-mail and phone call on 31 May 2023 and by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail on 16 June 2023.

³ Information provided by the General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic on 1 June 2023 via e-mail.

⁴ Information provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic on 1 June 2023 via e-mail.

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

2.1. Responsibilities of child protection authorities

2.1.1. Individual children, including unaccompanied and separated children

As for the responsibilities of the public authorities in Slovakia in the area of child protection, the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and its subordinated regional Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family are responsible for carrying out so-called socio-legal protection of children. Their responsibilities and competencies as well as of other entities involved in the socio-legal protection of children are specified by Law no. 305/2005 Coll on the socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship⁵. The Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family is a central state administration in social affairs that provides methodical guidance to the regional Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. Within the structure of the regional Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, there are departments of socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship that act as a so-called authority of socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship (further as the ‘authority’) whose main responsibility is to carry out measures to prevent crisis situation in the family, to protect the rights and interests of children, to prevent of deepening and repetition of disorders of psychological development, physical development and social development of children⁶.

According to the mentioned legislation as well as information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the authority of socio-legal protection of children

⁵ Slovakia, [Law no. 305/2005 Coll on socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship as amended](#) (Zákon č. 305/2005 Z.z. o sociálnoprávnej ochrane detí a sociálnej kuratele v znení neskorších predpisov), 25 May 2005.

⁶ Slovakia, [Law no. 305/2005 Coll on socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship as amended](#) (Zákon č. 305/2005 Z.z. o sociálnoprávnej ochrane detí a sociálnej kuratele v znení neskorších predpisov), 25 May 2005, Section 1 paragraph 1.

and social guardianship is responsible to carry out its activities towards all children present in the territory of Slovak Republic involving also children fleeing Ukraine⁷.

In the case of an **individual child** who came from Ukraine, the authority of socio-legal protection does not come into contact with the child or his/her accompanying persons until it is necessary to appoint his/her guardian. Another situation when the authority could come into contact with a specific child and his/her parents, or other close persons is when the authority receives information that the situation of the child should be inspected. If the authority receives a complaint regarding the possible violation of the rights of a child from the UA, it proceeds in the same way as for a Slovak child and checks the facts stated in the complaint. In practice, this means that the authority is obliged to accept such a submission and check the condition of the child and the level of care in the family and take necessary measures if needed⁸.

In case of **separated children**, there is no requirement to ask for the appointment of the guardian of the child immediately after crossing the border, however, if the accompanying person wants to register the child for temporary protection and to arrange for him/her the school, health care and other practical issues, he/she must ask the respective court to appoint a guardian and entrust the child with his/her care⁹. The court issues a resolution on urgent measures appointing the guardian of the child and specifying the person who will take care of the child (mostly it is the same person).

As far as it concerns the **unaccompanied children** from Ukraine, a standard procedure is applied as in the case of other children from third countries who are without parents, other relatives or other close persons. If a child arrives alone or is found alone, the respective regional Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family is contacted usually by the police to take over the care of the child. The child is considered to be unaccompanied if he/she is without a parent, another adult relative or another adult close person.

After the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family which is the authority of socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship learns about the UAC from the Ukraine, it is obliged immediately to:

⁷ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023.

⁸ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023.

⁹ Slovakia, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR*) (2022), [Najčastejšie otázky a odpovede pre občanov Ukrajiny so štatútom dočasného útočiska](#).

- submit a proposal to the court for the issuance of an urgent measure regarding the placement of the child in the Centre for Children and Families (former children's home) and for appointment of a guardian for the child,
- ensure the satisfaction of the child's basic life needs and
- ensure the admission of the child to the Centre for Children and Family¹⁰.

In the proceeding before the Court, the authority of socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship acts as a collision guardian that submits a proposal to the respective court about the placement of the child into the Centre for Children and Family and about appointment of the guardian for the child¹¹. The usual practice is that the guardian appointed by the Court represents the child in particular actions and situations related to health care, visits to school or preschool, when managing property if he/she has brought any, and when dealing with all matters related to by public and state administration until the legal representative or guardian takes over the child. The difference between UAC from Ukraine and from other third countries can be seen in that the children from Ukraine have parents or other relatives and are in contact with them and thus the parents' rights of the children from Ukraine remain preserved which is usually not the case of UAC from other third countries¹².

Especially challenging is the situation of children aged 16-18 who travel alone or are alone in the territory of Slovakia. In their case, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provides them with necessary assistance to ensure their basic life needs, finds out their situation and their opinion. If there is a person who can immediately take over the child (relatives, including an authorized person of the Embassy), they will not be placed in the Centre for Children and Families by court decision. There is a mechanism set for checking these persons (if it is not one of the parents or a person from the Embassy - documents, written expression of the will of the parents, opinion of the child, photos, etc. must be presented for the purpose of protecting children from trafficking)¹³.

¹⁰ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR*) (2022), '[Pomoc deťom z Ukrajiny – základné informácie](#)'.

¹¹ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023.

¹² Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023.

¹³ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023.

The other activities of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and the regional Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in relation to children fleeing Ukraine involve¹⁴:

1. Provision of counselling and consultations to persons accompanying a separated child. The employees of regional Offices of Labour are able to consult the specific situation of every person/family and to provide advice on the possible solutions.
2. Persons from Ukraine mainly children are offered psychological counselling.
3. Regular communication with the Embassy of Ukraine in Slovakia. The Embassy is updated about the number of UAC and is also provided with detail information about UAC – name, date of birth, the Centre for Children and Families where the child is placed as well as who takes over the care of the child.
4. Cooperation and communication with international agencies, mainly with UNICEF. The collaboration concerns mainly the separated children who are present in the territory of Slovakia.

2.1.2. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

As for the children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions, they are provided with institutional care also in Slovakia, in the existing Centres for Children and Families (there are no separate reception centres for children from Ukraine or UAC from other third countries in Slovakia). According to the information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, children from Ukrainian institutions are not placed to professional/foster families mainly because of their age (children of higher age), when placing a child (any child not only a child from UA) to a foster/professional family priority is given to children younger than six years of age. Slovak public authorities dealt with the reception of children from one Ukrainian institution (children's home) without employees/carers and one sports team so far (a private initiative, not from an institution). In both cases, the procedure was the same as applied in the case of UAC, a proposal was submitted to the Court for the placement of children in the Centre for Children and Families and at the same time a proposal for the appointment of a guardian for children, the respective Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family . Children from Ukrainian institutions maintain contact with their carers, parents or other close persons

¹⁴ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023.

in Ukraine mainly through phone calls, e-mails and social networks¹⁵. The Centres for children and families where children from Ukraine are placed, increased their staff and changed their programme involving also the language courses for the children, psychological assistance which is provided by Ukrainian psychologists¹⁶.

2.2. Safeguards and measures addressing risk of violent crimes against children fleeing Ukraine

2.2.1. Safeguards to protect and defend children from crimes

In October 2022, a Contingency Plan¹⁷ for dealing with the emergency situation related to the mass arrival of people from Ukraine to the territory of Slovakia was adopted for the period from October 2022 to March 2023. The issue of human trafficking was incorporated into the plan. One of the strategic objectives of the Contingency Plan is to pay increased attention and protection to persons with specific needs, in particular unaccompanied minors, persons with disabilities and women who are victims of human trafficking and/or sexual and gender-based violence. An update of the Contingency Plan for period of July – December 2023 was adopted at the end of June 2023¹⁸.

¹⁵ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023.

¹⁶ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023 and on 7 July 2023.

¹⁷ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2023), [Contingency plan of the Slovak Republic for solving the emergency situation in connection with the mass arrival of Ukrainians to the territory of the Slovak Republic caused by the escalation of the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine for the period October 2022 - March 2023](#) (*Kontingenčný plán Slovenskej republiky pre riešenie mimoriadnej situácie v súvislosti s hromadným príchodom obyvateľov Ukrajiny na území Slovenskej republiky spôsobeným eskaláciou ozbrojeného konfliktu na území Ukrajiny pre obdobie október 2022 – marec 2023*).

¹⁸ Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2023), [Contingency Plan of the Slovak Republic for responding to the emergency situation in connection with the mass influx of people from Ukraine to the territory of the Slovak Republic caused by the escalation of the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine for the period July - December 2023](#) (*Kontingenčný plán*

Regional platforms for help to victims of crime at the level of individual regions have also addressed topics with a focus on the target group of children and youth from among Ukrainian refugees.¹⁹

2.2.2. Support for children victims of crimes

The Ministry of Justice has informed the accredited entities/intervention centres that they can provide assistance within the scope defined in the Victims of Crime and Amendments to Certain Acts²⁰, as amended (including legal aid) also in the case of victims of armed conflict. The grant provided by the Ministry for 2022 for the provision of assistance to victims also covers the provision of assistance to victims coming from Ukraine.²¹

From August 2022 to December 2023, the activities of the Information Offices for Victims of Crime²² (providing assistance to victims of crime, educational and preventive activities, cooperation with partners) are also specialised for victims (including children) from among citizens of other countries coming to Slovakia as a result of the war conflict in Ukraine. In order to overcome the language barrier in contact with the target group of Ukrainian refugees, contractual cooperation with informal interpreters from among Ukrainian university students is also being implemented during the extension of the national project.²³

Since the first days of the outbreak of the war, the Crime Prevention Department of the Office of the Minister of the Interior, in cooperation with other departments, has created and subsequently updated, as needed, a preventive information leaflet on the issue of human trafficking. The leaflets were distributed to all places where people fleeing the war were located.²⁴ Leaflets are available in Slovak, Ukrainian, Hungarian, English, Romani and Russian language.

Slovenskej republiky pre riešenie mimoriadnej situácie v súvislosti s hromadným prílevom obyvateľov Ukrajiny na územie Slovenskej republiky spôsobeným eskaláciou ozbrojeného konfliktu na území Ukrajiny pre obdobie júl – december 2023), UV-24267/2023, Government Resolution No. 346/2023.

¹⁹ Information provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic on 1 June 2023 via e-mail.

²⁰ Slovakia, [Law no. 274/2017 Coll. on victims of crime, as amended](#) (Zákon č. 274/2017 Z.z. o obetiach trestných činov v znení neskorších predpisov), 12 October 2017.

²¹ Information provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic on 14 June 2023 via e-mail.

²² For more information please see prevenciakriminality.sk

²³ Information provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic on 1 June 2023 via e-mail.

²⁴ Information provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic on 1 June 2023 via e-mail.

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

2.3.1. Arrived unaccompanied

As for the guardianship/legal representation of unaccompanied children from Ukraine, the procedure is following: the authority of socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship (the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family) submits to the respective Court a proposal for the placement of the child in the care of the Centre for Children and Families and at the same time a proposal for the appointment of a guardian for the child. The authority acts within the proceedings as a collision guardian of the child who represents the child in the proceedings and protects his/her interest and rights. The collision guardian is appointed by the Court in cases when there might be a collision of interests of the child's parents or the child has not got a legal representative or his/her legal representative cannot represent the child in the proceedings for serious reasons²⁵.

The Court issues an urgent measure about the placement of the child in the Centre for Children and Families and appoints a guardian for the child. The guardianship for an unaccompanied child is usually carried out by the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family based on the decision of the Court. The Court also specifies in detail in which matters the guardian represents the child. The usual practice is that the guardian appointed by the Court represents the child in daily life matters like in particular actions and situations related to health care, visits to school or preschool, when managing property if he/she has brought any, and when dealing with all matters related to public and state administration until the legal representative or guardian takes over the child. The difference between UAC from Ukraine and from other third countries can be seen in that the children from Ukraine have parents or other relatives and are in contact with them and thus the parents' rights of the children from Ukraine remain preserved which is usually not the case of UAC from other third countries²⁶.

²⁵ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR*) (2022), '[Pomoc deťom z Ukrajiny](#)'; Slovakia, [Law no. 36/2005 Coll on family as amended](#) (*Zákon č. 36/2005 Z.z. o rodine a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov v znení neskorších predpisov*), 19 January 2005, Section 31.

²⁶ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023.

For the purpose of standardizing the decision-making of the Courts, the Ministry of Justice issued guidance summarizing the related international legislation and agreements and guiding the Courts on how to proceed in cases of children who fled from Ukraine, be it separated, unaccompanied children or other cases that may be considered by the Courts.²⁷ It is also important to mention, that according to the mentioned guidance, Ukrainian authorities have the right to enter into the decision about who will be the guardian of the child (be it UAC or separated child or other). According to the bilateral agreement on legal assistance²⁸, the guardianship shall be established according to the legal order of the contracting state whose citizen is the person whose guardianship is being decided, which in this case means that the Embassy of Ukraine has the right to determine who this guardian will be. In the case of unaccompanied minors, the Embassy of Ukraine in the Slovak Republic notifies Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family whether it takes over the right of guardianship or takes over the care of the child as well, for this purpose a guideline has been developed by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family for Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and Centres for Children and Families on how to proceed in these cases²⁹.

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

As for the guardianship/legal representation of children who arrived with other family members or close persons, the person accompanying a child must submit a proposal to the respective Court to appoint the guardian of the child and to entrust the child into his/her care. Without taking this step, the accompanying person is not able to ask for registration of the child for temporary protection, arrange a school for him/her, health care and other practical matters.

The Court when dealing with the situation of an individual child from Ukraine considers all presented documents (e.g. documents proving that the accompanying person is related to the child, consent of the parents, etc.) as well as the report about the situation

²⁷ Slovakia, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*) (2022), Usmernenie Ministerstva spravodlivosti k opatrovníctvu vo vzťahu k maloletým utečencom z Ukrajiny (stav k 1.4.2023).

²⁸ Slovakia, [Agreement between the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal matters, published by decree no. 95/1983 Coll.](#) (*Zmluva medzi Československou socialistickou republikou a Zväzom sovietskych socialistických republík o právnej pomoci a právnych vzťahoch v občianskych rodinných a trestných veciach, zverejnená vyhláškou č. 95/1983 Zb.*), 16 May 1983.

²⁹ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023.

of the child elaborated by the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. The above-mentioned guidance issued by the Ministry of Justice guides the courts also when taking decisions about separated children, however, does not provide any instructions on how to assess the legal documents presented to the Court.

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

The procedure is the same as in the case of UAC from Ukraine. The respective Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family submits a proposal to the Court for the placement of the children in the care of the Centre for Children and Families and for the appointment of a guardian for the children concerned. The guardian represents the children in practical areas of life, for instance in securing the education, health care, dealing with local and state authorities.

The public authorities encountered a situation when a group of children from one children's home came from Ukraine. They came without the staff/carers and therefore standard procedure was applied, they were placed in the Centre for Children and Family and a guardian was appointed for them ³⁰.

For other cases when the children come with their guardians, the guidance for the courts issued by the Ministry of Justice mentions that Slovak public authorities shall accept the guardian who was appointed for the child by a competent Ukrainian authority under Ukrainian law³¹.

2.3.4. Arrived within a group, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, since February 2022 only one group of children arrived as a football team that

³⁰ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023.

³¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*) (2022), *Usmernenie Ministerstva spravodlivosti k opatrovničtvu vo vzťahu k maloletým utečencom z Ukrajiny* (stav k 1.4.2023).

was dealt with by the socio-legal protection authorities. They were placed in the Centre for Children and Families and the same procedure was applied as described in 2.3.1. The respective Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Families is appointed as the guardian for these children. In this specific case, the children wanted to stay together as a sport team therefore they were placed to the Centre for Children and Families and not to individual families³².

The Centres for Children and Families (former children's home) provide accommodation, assistance and services to children removed from their families based on a court decision. They also provide other social and other expert counselling to children and families. The centres are also established to carry out activities aimed at prevention and addressing the crisis situation in families. They also carry out programs for children at risk of human trafficking, abusing drugs, being neglected or sexually abused, etc.

2.4. Placement of unaccompanied and separated children fleeing from Ukraine

Table 3 – Placement of unaccompanied and separated children

Type of placement	Number of children	Details
With adult relatives	N/A	
With a foster family	N/A	
With person who looked after the child when fleeing	N/A	
In reception centres for unaccompanied children (all nationalities)	N/A	
In reception centres for children fleeing Ukraine	N/A	
Other placement	UAC from Ukraine for the time period February 2022 – April 2023 – 153 children.	UAC from Ukraine are placed in the existing Centres for Children and

³² Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023.

	UAC from Ukraine who were still present in Slovakia as of 30 April 2023 – 32 children.	Family based on the decision of the Court.
--	--	--

Source: Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic via e-mail communication on 5 June 2023 and by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail on 16 June 2023.

As already mentioned in the section 1.1 of this report, the data about who accompanies children coming from Ukraine is not recorded in any registration or information system. Thus, the public authorities contacted for information were not able to provide those data.

The reception centres for unaccompanied children are not established in Slovakia, the unaccompanied minors are placed in existing Centres for Children and Families by the decision of the Court.

According to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, altogether 153 unaccompanied children were provided with care in the Centres for Children and Families from March 2022 to April 2023, as of 30 April 2023, 32 children were still in the Centres for Children and Families. The rest of the children reached adulthood in the meantime or were reunified with their families³³. According to the Ministry of Justice, in the period of March 2022 – April 2023, the courts in Slovakia decided on a total of 902 Ukrainian children. After a significant increase in cases in March – April 2022, the number of cases has stabilized since May 2022. Since this period, Slovak courts have issued an average of 15 resolutions per month related to the regulation (851 children), cancellation (26 children) or change (25 children) of emergency measures for Ukrainian children³⁴.

³³ Information provided by a representative of the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 7 July 2023 via e-mail.

³⁴ Information provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic 23 June 2023 via e-mail.

2.5. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

2.5.1. Institutional placements

Currently, children from Ukraine who were in institutional care in Ukraine prior to the war conflict are placed in one Centre for children and families on the basis of a court order. This is the Centre for children and families Dominika in Rožňava. They are placed in separate groups.³⁵

In the Slovak Republic, details on the implementation of measures in Centres for Children and Families are regulated by Act No. 305/2005³⁶ and Decree No. 103/2018 Coll. Care in a separate group and group (except for a separate group for young adults) is provided by at least two educators and other employees of the Centre. The total number of staff shall be at least five and no more than six, and in the specialised self-contained group there shall be at least five and no more than eight staff. People from Ukraine can work (and do work) in the institution if they meet the conditions set by the law and the decree.³⁷

2.5.2. Alternative care

Currently, all children from Ukraine who were in institutional care in Ukraine before the war conflict are placed in the Centre for Children and Families, where they are being cared for. Due to the age of the children, it was not appropriate to place these children in professional families.³⁸

³⁵ Information provided by a representative of the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 5 June 2023 via e-mail.

³⁶ Slovakia, Law no. 305/2005 Coll. on socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship as amended ([Zákon č. 305/2005 Z.z. o sociálnoprávnej ochrane detí a sociálnej kuratele v znení neskorších predpisov](#)), 25 May 2005.

³⁷ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 4 July 2023 via e-mail.

³⁸ Information provided by a representative of the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 5 June 2023 via e-mail.

2.5.3. Safeguards for children placed in institutional care settings

The placement of a child in an institution is always decided by the court. The child's situation shall be assessed by the authority of socio-legal protection and social guardianship, the level of the child's risk shall be determined and the appropriate facility shall be proposed to the court in accordance with the best interests of the child upon his/her arrival in Slovakia.³⁹ The child's situation may also be ascertained at a case conference in the presence of the competent Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and the Centre for children and families, where information about the child is obtained and the child's needs are ascertained. If necessary, an interpreter is also present (interpretation in the child's native language). In separate groups, visualization (a bulletin board with group rules) was also used. Children are enrolled in Slovak language courses outside the school (they can have a combined form of full-time and distance learning). By combining these options, the requirements of the minor children in relation to the family, the Centre for children and families or the school are ascertained. Ukrainian psychologists and psychotherapists are approached to provide psychological services.⁴⁰

In addition to staff, the Centre for Children and Families also has access to experts if they are needed to provide professional activities, interpreters, NGOs if they provide legal advice, language training (they are funded by programmes such as AMIF), UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, the Public Defender of Rights, commissioners, and, of course, parents and persons close to the child (e.g. the child's friends, classmates).⁴¹

According to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, when providing care for children in residential forms of measures in Centres for Children and Families, the quality of the care provided is the top priority. This is determined by an environment that resembles and temporarily replaces the natural family environment, based not on material superiority, but on a transformative and de-institutionalised approach in spatial and economic terms.

Another equally important area is the Centre's team of staff, who are erudite and equipped with the skills to work with the specific target group of children. They use an

³⁹ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 4 July 2023 via e-mail.

⁴⁰ Information provided by a representative of the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 5 June 2023 via e-mail.

⁴¹ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 4 July 2023 via e-mail.

individual and integrative approach in their work, they are open to close cooperation with parents and close relatives of children, and they are set up to verify and complement these competences in the process of lifelong learning and also in the framework of the supervision programme. In addition to professional competence, the staff of the Centre must also have psychological competence when in direct contact with children.

Each establishment is obliged to draw up a programme for the centre and to publish it on the establishment's website. The centre's programme contains all the details (operational, space, staffing, etc.) as well as the purpose and type of measures carried out in the Centre for Children and Families, together with a description of all the activities related to the care provided. The centre's programme shall also include, in some parts, a description of the rights and obligations of the child or adult natural person for whom measures are carried out in the centre, and a description of the rights and obligations of the child's parent and other close persons, including the conditions for visits to the centre, so that they do not interfere with the centre's programme. This description shall be followed by an exhaustive definition of the educational measures which the Centre may impose in the event of non-compliance. The centre's programme, in particular the sections on rights and obligations, shall subsequently be demonstrably communicated to the child, to the adult natural person and to the parent or other person close to the child for whom the measures are being taken. The centres' programmes shall be updated regularly during the year.

In the centres, conditions are created in such a way that children feel comfortable, have regular hot meals, adequate health care, quality housing, pocket money, leisure activities, professional educational care, inclusion in school facilities as well as extracurricular activities. They live in independent family homes while respecting and observing sibling ties.

The basic principle in the care of children in the Centre for Children and Families is respect for children's rights and equal opportunity for all children in all comparable self-contained groups, group homes and professional foster families). Childcare in the institutions respects the European quality standards for the support of children living outside their own family.⁴²

⁴² Information provided by the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 4 July 2023 via e-mail.

2.5.4. Access to local services and support

Unaccompanied minors from Ukraine are involved in both primary and secondary schools. Their integration is supported by close contact between the Centre for children and families and school facilities. Children are also provided with interest groups (playing musical instruments, drawing, activity groups, etc.). Medical examinations are provided from the moment of arrival at the facility (initial examinations by a paediatrician, dental examinations, dental examinations by a jaw orthopaedic surgeon, hospitalisation of children in case of deterioration of their health condition - paediatric, paedo-psychiatric ward, clinical psychologist). In addition to these measures, the children were allowed contact with Ukrainian citizens living in the vicinity of the Centre for children and families. Children who have reached the age of majority (18 yrs) have the possibility to stay in the Centre for children and families as young adults. These are mainly young adults who are studying at universities. In separate groups, educators prepare days of Slovak and Ukrainian culture (cooking traditional dishes, customs and traditions of the countries). In addition to these activities, the children take part in social events and activities in the neighbourhood of the Centre for children and families.⁴³

In the Centres for Children and Families, only minors without parents or persons who could take over their care are placed. In the case of other relatives and close persons coming or being in the territory of the Slovak Republic with children for whom they are not the legal representatives, the authorities of socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship provide social counselling and assistance to these persons for the purpose of filing a petition with the competent court for appointment as guardian. The competent court shall appoint a guardian to take care of urgent actions in the interests of the minor child which cannot currently be carried out by the parents, in particular to represent the parents in practical matters such as health care for the minor child, visits to school, kindergarten, requesting temporary shelter for the minor child, etc. Guardianship is decided by the competent court on the basis of a petition filed and an examination of the child's situation with the person where the child is and who has applied for guardianship rights over the child.⁴⁴

⁴³ Information provided by a representative of the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 5 June 2023 via e-mail.

⁴⁴ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 4 July 2023 via e-mail.

2.6. Child-friendly information and means to ensure participation of children from Ukraine

2.6.1. Child friendly information

National Coordination Centre for Addressing Violence Against Children is currently preparing a translation of the website into Ukrainian. The Ministry of Education and other ministries have also taken similar steps.⁴⁵ However, the translations are not specifically for children.

2.6.2. Child participation

There is no such initiative at national level, but within the framework of the European Child Guarantee, child participation in this material is being prepared for its updating. All categories of children concerned by the European Child Guarantee will be addressed in this working group with children, including children from Ukraine.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Information provided by a representative of the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 16 June 2023 via e-mail.

⁴⁶ Information provided by a representative of the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on 16 June 2023 via e-mail.

3. Access to social rights

3.1. Access to health care

3.1.1. Scope of medical care for children fleeing Ukraine

Table 4 – Scope of medical care for children

Scope of medical care for children		Reference / details
Only emergency care/essential treatment of illnesses (Article 13.2 TPD)		As of 1 January 2023, children from Ukraine with temporary protection are entitled to the same scope of medical care as children who are citizens of the Slovak Republic. ⁴⁷
Complete medical check - up / health screening		As of 1 January 2023, the Ministry of Health has adjusted the scope of health care provision for children and adolescents up to the age of 18 who are beneficiaries of temporary protection. They are now entitled to the same extent of health care as citizens of Slovakia in the same age group. For instance, they are entitled to regular preventive check-ups, e.g. nine check-ups by their paediatrician up to one year of age, one preventive check-up at 18 months of age,

⁴⁷ Slovakia, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo zdravotníctva SR* (2022), '[Určenie rozsahu potrebnej zdravotnej starostlivosti](#)', press release, 28 december 2022; Slovakia, [Law No. 577/2004 Coll. on the scope of health care reimbursed under public health insurance and on reimbursement for services related to the provision of health care](#) (*Zákon č. 577/2004 Z.z. o o rozsahu zdravotnej starostlivosti uhrádzanej na základe verejného zdravotného poistenia a o úhradách za služby súvisiace s poskytovaním zdravotnej starostlivosti*), Para 2, 3 and 7, 1 November 2004.

		one preventive check-up every two years between the ages of 3 and 18 etc. ⁴⁸
Mental health screening (PTSD, depression, anxiety)		Psychological and psychiatric care, when indicated by a general practitioner, should be categorised as medically necessary care and should be covered by children's health insurance. ⁴⁹
Vaccinations for children		General Health Insurance Company covers compulsory vaccinations to children with temporary protection, children who are applicants for the temporary protection and children from Ukraine who are asylum seekers. ⁵⁰
Mental health / psychosocial support		For children temporary protection, the scope of health care provided from 1 January 2023 has been adjusted to be the same as for children of citizens of the Slovak Republic. They are therefore entitled to the same range of screening examinations as children of Slovak citizens, including screening for psychomotor development at 4 weeks, 5-7 weeks, 8-10 weeks, etc. up to the age of 18. ⁵¹ Psychological and psychiatric care, if indicated by a general practitioner, should be categorised as medically necessary care and should be covered by the children's health insurance. ⁵² The catalogue of medical interventions includes interventions in the field of child

⁴⁸ Slovakia, [Law No. 577/2004 Coll. on the scope of health care reimbursed under public health insurance and on reimbursement for services related to the provision of health care](#) (Zákon č. 577/2004 Z.z. o rozsahu zdravotnej starostlivosti uhrádzanej na základe verejného zdravotného poistenia a o úhradách za služby súvisiace s poskytovaním zdravotnej starostlivosti), Para 2, 3 and 7, 1 November 2004.

⁴⁹ Information provided by the Ministry of Health upon request via email on 31 January 2023.

⁵⁰ Slovakia, General Health Insurance Company (Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa) (2022), '[An information letter to health care providers](#)', 1 April 2022.

⁵¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (Ministerstvo zdravotníctva SR (2022), '[Určenie rozsahu potrebnej zdravotnej starostlivosti](#)', press release, 28 december 2022; Slovakia, [Law No. 577/2004 Coll. on the scope of health care reimbursed under public health insurance and on reimbursement for services related to the provision of health care](#) (Zákon č. 577/2004 Z.z. o o rozsahu zdravotnej starostlivosti uhrádzanej na základe verejného zdravotného poistenia a o úhradách za služby súvisiace s poskytovaním zdravotnej starostlivosti), Para 2, 3 and 7, 1 November 2004.

⁵² Information provided by the Ministry of Health upon request via email on 31 January 2023.

		psychiatry and also psychotherapy, clinical psychology. ⁵³
Children with disabilities and those with chronic illnesses have access to the medical care needed		Health care for chronic conditions is considered medically necessary care and, therefore, treatment for chronic conditions (if prescribed by a physician) such as dialysis, oxygen therapy, chemotherapy, specific treatment for asthma, echocardiography for chronic autoimmune diseases is not excluded for temporary protection holders. ⁵⁴ Furthermore, children with temporary protection are entitled to the same scope of medical care as children of citizens of Slovakia (see above). The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic in Annex 1 in the list of reimbursed interventions also mentions treatment of chronic children for children from Ukraine. ⁵⁵

Source: Information provided by the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic and Bratislava Self-Governing Region.

[Type your text here.](#)

3.1.2. Challenges in practical provision

Lack of paediatricians and tendency to refuse patients from Ukraine

Slovakia struggles with overall lack of paediatricians. Practicing paediatricians are then overburdened, according to a medical expert paediatricians have by up to 20% more patients than what they should have.⁵⁶ Paediatricians then tend to refuse new patients, especially if they are temporary protection beneficiaries.

Refusal tendencies are linked to **two challenges**. First, reporting of medical care for people from Ukraine to the General Health Insurance Company for reimbursement is extremely complicated and poses an additional administrative burden. Second,

⁵³ Slovakia, [Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 776/2004 Coll. issuing the Catalogue of Health Performances](#) (Nariadenie vlády Slovenskej republiky č. 776/2004 Z.z., ktorým sa vydáva Katalóg zdravotných výkonov), 1 September 2018.

⁵⁴ Slovakia, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo zdravotníctva SR* (2022), '[Určenie rozsahu potrebnej zdravotnej starostlivosti](#)', press release, 28 december 2022.

⁵⁵ Slovakia, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo zdravotníctva SR* (2022), '[Určenie rozsahu potrebnej zdravotnej starostlivosti](#)', Annex 1, press release, 28 december 2022.

⁵⁶ Information provided by the head of health care department at the Bratislava Self-Governing Region in an interview on 5 June 2023.

paediatric out-patient clinics are to serve a certain district, patients are assigned to clinics based on their permanent residence (patients also have freedom to choose their doctor but a doctor outside one's district is not obliged to accept them in case of full capacities). Beneficiaries of temporary protection do not have a permanent residence in Slovakia which gives clinics a leeway to refuse them.⁵⁷

Children with disabilities

There is lack of paediatric and specialized care for children with disabilities from Ukraine. The main difficulty concerns accessing long-term therapy options and complementary health procedures. These are often unavailable and if they are, they are expensive as public health insurance generally does not cover them.⁵⁸ Complementary health care and health aids coverage is also insufficient.⁵⁹ Health aids are rarely covered by basic health insurance. Various forms of financial aid provided by Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family are not available for temporary protection holders. Grants and private donations are used to cover procurement of health aids. Some Ukrainian families even travel back to Ukraine either to receive a treatment or examination (e.g. CT scan) for their children or they decided to return permanently due to lack of available care for their children.⁶⁰

3.1.3. Mental health and psychosocial support for children fleeing Ukraine

In Slovakia, mental health care and psychosocial support for children fleeing Ukraine is mostly provided by NGOs. The most prominent is Mental Health League (*Liga za duševné zdravie*) who has teams of Ukrainian speaking psychologists in each region of Slovakia. For instance, in Bratislava the Mental Health League runs two teams composed of 10 and 11 Ukrainian speaking psychologists.⁶¹ Psychosocial support to children and youth

⁵⁷ Information provided by the head of health care department at the Bratislava Self-Governing Region in an interview on 5 June 2023.

⁵⁸ Platform of Families of Children with Disabilities (2023), [Rapid situational analysis and needs assessment of UA children with disabilities and their families in SK](#), Bratislava.

⁵⁹ UNHCR – Protection and Inclusion Working Group (2023), 'Slovakia - Key recommendations on disability to the Government and RRP stakeholders', distributed to PIWG participants via email on 26 April 2023.

⁶⁰ Platform of Families of Children with Disabilities (2023), [Rapid situational analysis and needs assessment of UA children with disabilities and their families in SK](#), Bratislava.

⁶¹ Information provided by the representative of Mental Health League in a telephone interview on 5 June 2023.

fleeing Ukraine is also provided by NGOs IP-čko, Tenenet and Slovak Humanitarian Council (*Slovenská humanitná rada*).⁶²

Cooperation with paedopsychiatrists is difficult due to the language barrier and the overall acute shortage of paedopsychiatrists in Slovakia.⁶³ The Mental Health League, for example, overcomes the language barrier by referring its clients to a psychiatrist who comes from Ukraine and already has an agreed practice in Slovakia.⁶⁴

3.2. Access to education

3.2.1. Types of schooling

Table 5 – Enrolment and attendance of children fleeing Ukraine

Types of schooling		Number of children enrolled	Number of children attending	Source
National formal educational system	Children in nursery	1797	N/A ⁶⁵	Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic
	Children in primary education	7141	N/A	Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic
	Children in secondary education	1498	N/A	Ministry of Education of the Slovak republic
Physical attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting		10 441		Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic

⁶² Information provided by Tenenet in an interview on 27 January 2023.

⁶³ Bratislavskykraj.sk (2023), 'Detskí psychiatri upozornili na nárast duševných ochorení mládeže', 2 April 2023.

⁶⁴ Information provided by the representative of Mental Health League in a telephone interview on 5 June 2023.

⁶⁵ Ministry of Education publishes only official information of enrolled children (these data are as of 30 April 2023), no information about actual attendance is available.

Online attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting ⁶⁶	N/A		
---	-----	--	--

Source: Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo školstva SR*) (2023) '[Údaje o počtoch odídenčov z Ukrajiny \(April 2023\)](#)', 30 april 2023.

3.2.2. Support to integration in the formal educational system

Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, Slovakia has taken a number of measures to help Ukrainian children integrate into education. In Slovakia, according to the Ministry of Education, there is no compulsory schooling for Ukrainian children, but the instruction of the Ministry of Education after the outbreak of the war was that schools should accept all children with temporary protection. According to an analysis by the Centre for Educational Analysis, less than half of the children who received temporary shelter were educated in kindergartens and primary schools.⁶⁷

Financing

In Slovakia, The Ministry of Education provided funding through the specifics allowance to school founders for school supplies for pupils fleeing the war conflict in Ukraine who were enrolled in schools in the Slovak Republic between March and June in the amount of €200 per pupil. The funds were intended to cover the increased costs incurred by schools following the inclusion of pupils from Ukraine in schools in the Slovak Republic. The contribution was intended for school supplies (school bags, pencil cases, stationery, exercise books, etc.). The school could also use the contribution for other needs related to the educational process of these pupils. From September 2022, the state started to provide “per pupil monthly funding” to school founders to support the integration of children and pupils from Ukraine who are in the status of applicants for temporary protection or who have been granted temporary refuge in the territory of the Slovak Republic.⁶⁸

Language courses

⁶⁶ In Slovakia, there is no official mechanism of collecting data on this, no actual data is thus available.

⁶⁷ Ostertágová, Alexandra – Rehúš, Michal (2022) [Začleňovanie ukrajinských detí do vzdelávania: Hlavné problémy a odporúčania](#), Bratislava, Centrum vzdelávacích analýz.

⁶⁸ Slovakia, Ministry of Education (*Ministerstvo školstva*) (2023) '[Bilancia 2023 – od vypuknutia ozbrojeného konfliktu na Ukrajine uplynul rok](#)', 24 February 2023.

In Slovakia, the Ministry of Education reimburses schools for providing language courses for children who do not speak the language of instruction. From April 2022, the number of hours in a basic language course has increased from 4 to 6 hours per week. This means that schools can provide 48 lessons to pupils over an 8-week period. If a pupil is not mastering the subject or finds the pace difficult, the 48 lessons can be delivered over a longer period of time, but at a minimum of 4 lessons per week. In the period from March 2022 to January 2023, a total of €721,391 has been granted to school founders for language courses for children of foreigners - for pupils from Ukraine.⁶⁹

The State School Inspectorate in Slovakia has conducted a survey according to which more than half (54.3%) of the schools in the school year 2021/2022 have organised courses in the state language. However, in this school year from September 2022/2023, less than a third (31.4%) of schools did so. To a lesser extent, these courses were organised by schools that had the fewest (1-5) pupils from Ukraine⁷⁰.

Teaching materials

In Slovakia, the Ministry of Education provided textbooks and workbooks for teaching Slovak to foreigners. Primary schools can order them free of charge, as well as a translation dictionary. Thousands of these materials have already been delivered to schools, according to information from the Ministry⁷¹. According to the Centre for Education Analysis, for other subjects, the Ministry has not created any teaching materials that take into account the language barrier or the different level of knowledge and skills of children from Ukraine. If teachers want to individualise teaching, they have to create them themselves and without support. Schools have not even been provided with tests to check children's initial level of skills and knowledge⁷².

Methodological support

In Slovakia, according to the Ministry of Education, the state has also provided schools and teachers with methodological support for teachers who had no previous experience in educating children of foreigners. The Ministry of Education has established a "[Situation in Ukraine](#)" section on the Ministry's website. A range of materials and

⁶⁹ Slovakia, Ministry of Education (*Ministerstvo školstva*) (2023) [Bilancia 2023 – od vypuknutia ozbrojeného konfliktu na Ukrajine uplynul rok](#)”, 24 February 2023.

⁷⁰ Slovakia, State School Inspection (*Štátna školská inšpekcia*) (2023) [Stav vzdelávania žiakov/odídenčov z Ukrajiny](#)`, April 2023.

⁷¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Education (*Ministerstvo školstva*) (2023) [Bilancia 2023 – od vypuknutia ozbrojeného konfliktu na Ukrajine uplynul rok](#)”, 24 February 2023.

⁷² Rehúš Michal – Ostrertágová, Alexandra (2023) [Čo ministerstvo školstva urobilo pre žiakov z Ukrajiny](#)`, 6 March 2023.

methodological support, including recordings of webinars, are available on this site. These support documents focus on supporting the child's adaptation, advice for the education of these children, recommendations on language courses, etc⁷³.

In Slovakia, specific support for the education of children from Ukraine is also provided by the National Institute of Education and Youth. Within the framework of the project Support for the education of refugees from Ukraine, it provides targeted assistance directly in schools and regions. Direct support to schools is provided by regional coordinators who work in eight regional offices. Their role is to communicate with schools, assist with the enrolment of Ukrainian children in schools, help with providing psychological support, interpreting for schools or Ukrainian families when communicating with schools⁷⁴.

3.2.3. Data on drop outs and NEETs (not in education, employment, or training)

Data on drop out rates and NEETs are not available⁷⁵.

3.3. Access to social welfare – forms of social assistance related to children

Meal subsidies

Children fleeing Ukraine with temporary protection attend kindergartens or primary schools and meet the conditions for the subsidy (participate in the educational process in the kindergarten or primary school, receive meals and belong to one of the eligible groups of children) may also be provided with a meal subsidy. Eligible groups include children from households in receipt of material hardship benefit, children of parents who cannot claim the tax bonus for a dependent child and a child from a household

⁷³ Slovakia, Ministry of Education (*Ministerstvo školstva*) (2023) [`Bilancia 2023 – od vypuknutia ozbrojeného konfliktu na Ukrajine uplynul rok`](#), 24 February 2023.

⁷⁴ Slovakia, Ministry of Education (*Ministerstvo školstva*) (2023) [`Bilancia 2023 – od vypuknutia ozbrojeného konfliktu na Ukrajine uplynul rok`](#), 24 February 2023.

⁷⁵ Information provided by the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family upon request on 2 June 2023 via email and from Ministry of Education via telephone on 1 June 2023.

which in the month preceding the application for the meal subsidy had an income of no more than the minimum subsistence level.⁷⁶

Free lunches for all children introduced from May 2023

As of 1 May 2023, the subsidy law was changed to allow all children attending the last year of kindergarten and primary school to have free lunches. This change applies to all children (previously, only children in material need were eligible for free lunches).

Parents must apply to the school indicating their interest. The measure also applies to Ukrainian children in Slovak schools, which may help improve the social situation of these children.⁷⁷

Subsidies for school supplies

Subsidies for school supplies can also be provided to Ukrainian children integrated into schools in accordance with the Subsidies Act, provided the conditions of the Subsidies Act are met. The school supplies subsidy can only be applied for twice in a financial year.⁷⁸

Social welfare for children with disabilities

Children fleeing Ukraine may be provided with a recurrent subsidy to support humanitarian aid in connection with their serious disability.⁷⁹ The subsidy is EUR 300 per month if the severity of the applicant's disability is between 40 % and 59 % and EUR 508 per month if the severity of the applicant's disability is 60 % or more.

In order to qualify for this financial aid, if a child did not have a certificate of disability from Ukraine, an assessment is made by the local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. The extent of disability is measured by a standardized 12 question assessment tool. The Platform of Families of Children with Disabilities sees this form of assessment

⁷⁶ Slovakia, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR) (2023), '[Užitočné informácie pre občanov Ukrajiny/Корисна інформація для громадян України/Useful information for citizens of Ukraine](#)', press release, 12 April 2023.

⁷⁷ Školský portál (2023) '[Obedy zadarmo sú späť](#)', 31 March 2023.

⁷⁸ Slovakia, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR) (2023), '[Užitočné informácie pre občanov Ukrajiny/Корисна інформація для громадян України/Useful information for citizens of Ukraine](#)', press release, 12 April 2023.

⁷⁹ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (Vláda SR) (2022), [Nariadenie vlády č. 131/2022 Z.z. o niektorých opatreniach v oblasti dotácií v pôsobnosti Ministerstva práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny Slovenskej republiky v čase mimoriadnej situácie, núdzového stavu alebo výnimočného stavu vyhláseného v súvislosti s hromadným príchodom cudzincov na územie Slovenskej republiky spôsobeným ozbrojeným konfliktom na území Ukrajiny](#), 12 April 2022.

as an innovation in the government assessment of disability, which is currently lengthier and requires various doctor's assessments.⁸⁰

State social benefits

Ukrainians with temporary protection are not entitled to state social benefits such as child benefit, parental allowance, alimonies, funeral allowance, or childbirth allowance. These state social benefits are conditioned by temporary or permanent residence.

Temporary protection beneficiaries from Ukraine can claim:

- childcare allowance for a child up to three years of age or up to six years of age of a child with a long-term adverse health condition (both the claimant and the child must be persons with temporary protection) if the claimant is gainfully employed.⁸¹

Allowance for children's groups

In May 2022, on the proposal of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the possibility of establishing children's groups in order to increase the capacity of childcare facilities on weekdays during working hours. Childcare can be provided by a natural person in a children's group in a home environment (or other close to home environment). Care may be provided for up to 4 children from birth to the start of compulsory pre-primary education in kindergarten. The amount of the childcare allowance for the new form of childcare provision in the so-called children's groups is set at a maximum of EUR 160 per month.⁸²

⁸⁰ Platform of Families of Children with Disabilities (2023), [Rapid situational analysis and needs assessment of UA children with disabilities and their families in SK](#), Bratislava.

⁸¹ Slovakia, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR) (2023), ['Užitočné informácie pre občanov Ukrajiny/Корисна інформація для громадян України/Useful information for citizens of Ukraine'](#), press release, 12 April 2023.

⁸² Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (Vláda SR) (2022), ['Návrh zákona o niektorých opatreniach v sociálnej oblasti v súvislosti so situáciou na Ukrajine'](#), UV-17684/2022, 4 May 2022.

4. Additional legal and practical barriers and challenges

4.1. General challenges

Lack of data

In Slovakia a major challenge to sufficient access for children from Ukraine to protection of their rights and access to various services is the overall lack of good quality and reliable data. In Slovakia, there are existing data on the total number of people who have crossed the border and on those who have received temporary protection. However, public authorities do not know exactly how many people have remained in Slovakia and therefore how many children are actually in Slovakia. Moreover, existing data (e.g. on education, welfare recipients, health care recipients, etc.) are not aggregated in one place and comprehensively evaluated. In the case of education, there are data on the numbers of children enrolled in different types of education, but no data on how many children are in online education or not in education at all. Similarly with other types of data - for example on health or social care needs.

Accordingly, there is no central registration system in Slovakia where the information about children and their accompanying persons would be recorded therefore the information about the number of children who came with their parents, relatives and other close persons is missing. Only the information about the number of children who crossed the border and who registered for temporary protection is available, however, the information about who is the accompanying person is also missing in their case.

Education

In Slovakia, most of the challenges related to children are in the field of education. The first challenge is that Ukrainian children in Slovakia **do not fulfil compulsory education**. The Commissioner for Children⁸³ and the Public Defender of Rights⁸⁴ both perceive this issue as a major challenge. Although schools are obliged by Ministry of Education guidelines to enrol children in primary school if they have the capacity, this is not always done. Although there is no reliable data, it appears that a relatively large proportion of

⁸³ Information provided by the Commissioner for children upon request via email on 9 June 2023.

⁸⁴ Information provided by the Office of Public Defender of rights upon request via email on 6 June 2023.

Ukrainian children are not enrolled in education. As of the end of May, 34,549 children aged 0-17 had temporary protection⁸⁵ in Slovakia, with just over 10,000 children in various types of schools at the end of April 2023⁸⁶.

Another challenge is the insufficient **scope and quality of language courses**. The Centre for Educational Analysis has consistently pointed out that the provision of such education is ineffective. Official state courses only cover children aged 6 to 16. There is no support for younger pre-school children or young people in secondary school. There are no rules obliging schools to organise courses. If the head teacher or principal chooses not to organise courses, children receive no language support in school. Compared to abroad, the courses are relatively shorter. Courses can only be organised outside school hours in the afternoon. This can place an increased burden on the children, and at the same time does not make efficient use of their time and energy⁸⁷. **The State School Inspectorate** in Slovakia has conducted a research according to which more than half (54.3%) of the schools in the school year 2021/2022 have organised courses of the language of instruction. However, in this school year from September 2022/2023, less than a third (31.4%) of schools did so⁸⁸.

According to a representative of the Centre for Educational Analysis, the lack of **psychological, emotional and social support for Ukrainian children** in the school environment is also a major challenge in the field of education. Only about half of Slovak schools have a school psychologist, and even fewer schools have comprehensive support teams. Although such professionals are present in some schools, they lack the qualifications and language skills to work with refugees. The employment of Ukrainian psychologists and educators is still very complicated due to problems with the recognition of qualifications, so children do not receive adequate support in schools⁸⁹

Lack of support for teenagers

⁸⁵ Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2023) '[Štatistický prehľad tolerovaných pobytov na dočasné útočisko](#)', 7 June 2023.

⁸⁶ Slovakia, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo školstva SR*) (2023) '[Údaje o počtoch odídenčov z Ukrajiny \(April 2023\)](#)', 30 april 2023

⁸⁷ Ostertágová, Alexandra – Rehúš, Michal (2022) '[Začleňovanie ukrajinských detí do vzdelávania: Hlavné problémy a odporúčania](#)', Bratislava, Centrum vzdelávacích analýz.

⁸⁸ Slovakia, State school inspection (*Štátna školská inšpekcia*) (2023) '[Stav vzdelávania žiakov/odídenčov z Ukrajiny](#)', April 2023.

⁸⁹ Information provided by the representative of the Center of education Analysis via telephone on 13 June 2023.

In Slovakia, another very important challenge is providing support to young people, teenagers. According to the Commissioner for Children - one of the challenges identified is access to secondary education for Ukrainian children. These children are subject to the same conditions of admission to secondary schools as Slovak children, often disregarding the existing language barrier. It is therefore necessary to ensure that Ukrainian children have the opportunity to apply to secondary schools that match their abilities, aptitudes and interests in the same way as other children, and to adapt the conditions of admission to secondary schools accordingly⁹⁰. According to the representative of the Inclu-Centre, many projects and activities implemented in Slovakia are mainly devoted to children of lower school age, while there is insufficient support for teenagers. The Inclusion Centre also points out that only a small proportion of them study in secondary schools (exact data is not available) and due to the difficult admission process many study in secondary schools they did not choose themselves (for example, only vocational schools). Many of them are thus completely outside the education system and do not even have sufficient socio-psychological support.⁹¹

Challenges in health care

Slovakia struggles with overall **lack of paediatricians**. Practicing paediatricians are then overburdened, according to a medical expert paediatricians have by up to 20% more patients than what they should have.⁹² Paediatricians then tend to refuse new patients, especially if they are temporary protection beneficiaries.

Refusal tendencies are linked to **two challenges**. First, reporting of medical care for people from Ukraine to the General Health Insurance Company for reimbursement is extremely complicated and poses an additional administrative burden. Second, paediatric out-patient clinics are to serve a certain district, patients are assigned to clinics based on their permanent residence (patients also have freedom to choose their doctor but a doctor outside one's district is not obliged to accept them in case of full capacities). Beneficiaries of temporary protection do not have a permanent residence in Slovakia which gives clinics a leeway to refuse them.⁹³

Although Ukrainian children and young people up to and including 18 years of age who are temporary protection beneficiaries or were granted asylum in Slovakia are entitled

⁹⁰ Information provided by the office of Commissioner for children upon request via email on 6 June 2023.

⁹¹ Information provided by the representative of Inlucentrum via telephone on 5 June 2023.

⁹² Information provided by the head of health care department at the Bratislava Self-Governing Region in an interview on 5 June 2023.

⁹³ Information provided by the head of health care department at the Bratislava Self-Governing Region in an interview on 5 June 2023.

to full health care in the same way as Slovak children and young people up to and including 18 years of age, in the case of children with disabilities, problems arise in reimbursement of certain medical procedures (e.g. physiotherapy and various other types of necessary therapies) and in reimbursement of medical aid.⁹⁴

Social and legal protection

The public authorities in the area of socio-legal protection of children have encountered a rise in their agenda that concerns the children who fled the war in Ukraine. The courts have experienced an increase in the number of cases in which they decided about the appointment of the guardian and carer of children who came from Ukraine without parents or other legal guardians. Due to the complicated situation with the interpretation and application of related legislation and international agreements, the Ministry of Justice issued guidelines to the courts on the guardianship of minor refugees from Ukraine⁹⁵. The Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family that are involved in specific proceedings or provide consultations to people who accompany children separated from their parents/legal guardians have also experienced an increase in this area.⁹⁶

Challenges in social welfare

Children fleeing Ukraine may be provided with a recurrent subsidy to support humanitarian aid in connection with their serious disability (Article 3n of Government Regulation No. 131/2022 Coll.). The subsidy is EUR 300 per month if the severity of the applicant's disability is between 40 % and 59 % and EUR 508 per month if the severity of the applicant's disability is 60 % or more.

This subsidy cannot be granted to an applicant who receives social services in certain types of social service facilities (day-care centre, specialised facility, social services home, rehabilitation centre, nursing home, facility for the elderly, supported living facility).

The impossibility of receiving this subsidy and at the same time being able to use social services for at least a few hours in an outpatient form for a child with a disability,

⁹⁴ Information provided by the representative of the Platform for families of children with disabilities via email on 19 June 2023.

⁹⁵ Slovakia, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*) (2022), '[Vplyv vojny na Ukrajinu na slovenské súdy](#)', 8 July 2022; Information provided by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail on 16 June 2023.

⁹⁶ Slovakia, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*) (2022), '[Vplyv vojny na Ukrajinu na slovenské súdy](#)', 8 July 2022; Information provided by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family via e-mail on 16 June 2023.

especially in a social services home, a specialised facility or a day-care centre, is proving to be a problem that needs to be addressed in practice.⁹⁷

4.2. Challenges for children at multiple risk/disadvantage

Lack of data

In Slovakia, there is almost no data disaggregated by different disadvantages or other specific needs of children. There is virtually no information on the situation of Roma children (in education, in the provision of social services or in access to health). Similarly for children or young people from the LGBTI community. Thus, there is also no information or data on their needs and access to different types of services.

Health care for children with disabilities

In Slovakia, according to the Children's Commissioner, there is insufficient financial coverage of specialised health services for Ukrainian children with disabilities in Slovakia. These are not covered by public health care for children.⁹⁸ According to the representative of the Equita organisation, the financial resources to cover specialised services for children with disabilities are also a major problem. Another challenge is transport, as in Ukraine children with disabilities have free public transport, while in Slovakia this is not the case, which increases the costs for Ukrainian parents of children with disabilities⁹⁹.

Education of children with disabilities

In Slovakia, according to the Children's Commissioner, a large proportion of children with specific needs are still out of education in Slovakia. The main causes are the inability to find an available school/nursery, refusal of admission by the school/nursery, social

⁹⁷ Information provided by the representative of the Platform for families of children with disabilities via email on 19 June 2023.

⁹⁸ Information provided by the office of Commissioner for children upon request via email on 6 June 2023.

⁹⁹ Information provided by Equita NGO via personal interview on 9 June 2023.

and linguistic reasons. Insufficient awareness of the possibilities to include children with special needs in all types of education is also a challenge.¹⁰⁰

¹⁰⁰ Information provided by the Office of Commissioner for Children upon request via email on 6 June 2023.

5. Policies in place

5.1. Dedicated action plan and/or integrated measures

There is no dedicated action plan addressing the children fleeing Ukraine.¹⁰¹ The National action plan for the European Child Guarantee includes measures addressing directly also children fleeing Ukraine as described below in the 5.2. part.¹⁰² From October 2022 until March 2023 government adopted so-called Contingency plan which is concerned with the humanitarian response to the increased numbers of displaced people from Ukraine, but not with their further integration. The measures under the Contingency plan in relation to children focused on the provision of care to mothers with children at the border crossings and defines the procedures for the unaccompanied minors who are identified as children at high risk which are to be handed over to the care of a socio-legal protection authority.¹⁰³ Contingency plan for the upcoming time period (July – December 2023) was adopted by the Government on 28 June 2023¹⁰⁴. As

¹⁰¹ Information provided via email by a representative of National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children on 16 June 2023.

¹⁰² Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR*) (2022), National action plan of the European child guarantee in the Slovak Republic with a view to 2030 (Národný akčný plán Európskej záruky pre deti v Slovenskej republike s výhľadom do roku 2030).

¹⁰³ Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2022), Contingency Plan of the Slovak Republic for responding to the emergency situation in connection with the mass influx of people from Ukraine to the territory of the Slovak Republic caused by the escalation of the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine for the period October 2022 - March 2023 (Kontingenčný plán Slovenskej republiky pre riešenie mimoriadnej situácie v súvislosti s hromadným prílevom obyvateľov Ukrajiny na územie Slovenskej republiky spôsobeným eskaláciou ozbrojeného konfliktu na území Ukrajiny pre obdobie október 2022 – marec 2023), UV-41872/2022, Government Resolution No. 665/2022.

¹⁰⁴ Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2023), Contingency Plan of the Slovak Republic for responding to the emergency situation in connection with the mass influx of people from Ukraine to the territory of the Slovak Republic caused by the escalation of the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine for the period July - December 2023 (Kontingenčný plán Slovenskej republiky pre riešenie mimoriadnej situácie v súvislosti s hromadným prílevom obyvateľov Ukrajiny na územie Slovenskej republiky spôsobeným eskaláciou ozbrojeného konfliktu na území Ukrajiny pre obdobie júl – december 2023), UV-24267/2023, Government Resolution No. 346/2023.

for children, the planned measures did not change when compared to the previous Contingency plan.

5.2. European Child Guarantee

The National action plan for the European Child Guarantee reflects on the situation of children fleeing Ukraine and acknowledges them as part of the children in need. The particular risks are identified concerning access to health care and exclusion from education and training. The plan mentions barriers to accessing health care by children such as lack of systemic coverage of psychological care and financial coverage for the medical procedures that go beyond the provided health care required by children or persons with disabilities to address a health problem; the reluctance of health care providers to accept new patients; and the lack of information on options of healthcare performed in Ukrainian language. Furthermore, the action plan recognizes as a challenge the lack of guidance offered to teachers when teaching Ukrainian children who often face psychological discomfort, war trauma, isolation from the collective, problems learning the Slovak language and overload associated with parallel education in the Slovak and Ukrainian system. Moreover, non-formal education and activities outside of school are often not supported as part of the education system. Another concern relates to the unavailability of childcare facilities which has deepened with the war in Ukraine.¹⁰⁵

The action plan proposes the following measures addressing specifically children fleeing Ukraine. Firstly, to lower the pressure on the childcare facilities for children up to 3 years of age and support early childhood programmes, children's groups are established targeting mainly Ukrainian children. This form of childcare is provided in a small group of children, up to a maximum of four children with age lower than the age of the compulsory pre-primary education in kindergarten. It is provided in the home environment or similar and usual childcare activities are to be performed. However, the action plan acknowledges that the children's groups do not include and thus do not replace, the provision of professional activities provided in childcare facilities. Secondly, the plan proposes a measure supporting the leisure, volunteer and community activities as part of the development of the non-formal education. The barriers to access the

¹⁰⁵ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR*) (2022), [National action plan of the European child guarantee in the Slovak Republic with a view to 2030](#) (Národný akčný plán Európskej záruky pre deti v Slovenskej republike s výhľadom do roku 2030).

activities are to be removed for the children from Ukraine as well as other pupils with disabilities and pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.¹⁰⁶

5.3. Budget

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family there is no specific budget allocated for displaced children from Ukraine in the current budget for the year 2023 nor in the future annual budget in relation to 2024. In case of incurring expenses related to people displaced from Ukraine, based on the instruction of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, the realized expenses are separately tracked.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁶ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR*) (2022), National action plan of the European child guarantee in the Slovak Republic with a view to 2030 (Národný akčný plán Európskej záruky pre deti v Slovenskej republike s výhľadom do roku 2030).

¹⁰⁷ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family upon request via email on 1 June 2023.

Annex 1 – Research and data

Table 6 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine

Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine	
Name/title	The state of education of children displaced from Ukraine: Interim report
Main findings (max. 1000 chars)	<p>The main aim of the research study was to map the inclusion of children from Ukraine in primary schools and what are the current needs of the schools. The analysis shows that children from Ukraine were mostly dispersed across a large number of schools and not concentrated in a small number of schools. More than half (53.1%) of the schools educate no more than 5 Ukrainian pupils and more than a quarter (27.6%) of schools had more than 10 pupils from Ukraine. Although most of the schools (81%) have accepted all the children applying, in the Bratislava region less than half of the schools accepted all the children due to lack of the capacities. Only three schools created a separate class for children from Ukraine.</p> <p>While last school year more than half of schools (54%) provided Slovak language courses, this school year only a third of schools have done so. The majority of schools (60.9%) implemented tutoring of Ukrainian pupils and almost all of the schools (98,4 %) offer extracurricular activities. Nevertheless, less than half of schools reported that the majority or all of the pupils from Ukraine are attending the extracurricular activities. Although two-thirds of the schools assessed that the received support is sufficient, schools with a higher number of pupils from Ukraine have been more critical to the received support. Overall, support that is financially and organizationally more demanding has been lacking. The schools mainly struggled to secure new professional staff and teaching assistants. Only 6.7% of schools that needed new professional staff also secured them, in the case of teaching assistants it was 10,8% of schools. The majority of schools (79.6%) educating pupils from Ukraine do not have Ukrainian-speaking staff and around a third of schools would need to provide or strengthen pedagogical (35.4%) and psychological (32.6%) support in the Ukrainian language.</p>
Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and	Not addressed.

diverse characteristics	
Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method)	The collection of data was carried out through a nationwide electronic survey which was distributed to all primary schools in Slovakia. Data collection took place between 29 November and 12 December 2022. A total of 1,247 primary schools participated in the survey (60.3% of all primary schools in Slovakia), while 608 schools stated they educate students from Ukraine.
Source	Slovakia, State school inspection (<i>Štátna školská inšpekcia</i>) (2023) ` Stav vzdelávania žiakov/odídencov z Ukrajiny `, April 2023.

Table 7 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine

Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine	
Name/title	Surveys with Refugees from Ukraine: Needs, Intentions and Integration Challenges
Main findings (max. 1000 chars)	The main findings concerning the experiences of children fleeing are related to access to education. Of the respondents already settled in the country, 55% answered the question about having children enrolled into local or Ukrainian schools. Out of these, 30% answered that their children attend Ukrainian school in the online form, while 31% stated that their children are enrolled in the local school in Slovakia. The hybrid education form is applied by 14% of respondents who claimed to have children attending both online education and local school. Respondents with children of school age who are not enrolled at any school (13%) answered there were no places at school (5%), plan to enroll their children (2%) or do not know how to enroll them (2%). Overall, 8% of respondents mentioned challenges regarding finding a school or preschool for children.
Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics.	Not addressed.
Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method)	The data collection was carried out through face-to-face surveys between 15 February and 31 March 2023. Overall, 842 valid surveys were collected by a team of 17 enumerators deployed in 5 different provinces (Bratislava, Košice, Trnava, Prešov, and Banská Bystrica). The respondents were approached in the

	information centers, aid centers, collective centers, transit points, and border crossing points.
Source	International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (2023), ‘Slovakia — Surveys with Refugees from Ukraine: Needs, Intentions, and Integration Challenges’ , 15 May 2023.

Annex 2 - Promising practices

Table 8 – Promising practice # 1

Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine	
Name/title	General outpatient clinic for children from Ukraine in the health centre Rovniankova
Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)	Bratislava Self-Governing Region
Funding body	Bratislava Self-Governing Region, UNICEF, WHO
Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)	Slovakia, Bratislava Self-Governing Region (<i>Bratislavský samosprávny kraj</i>) (2022), ' Bratislavský kraj otvára ambulancie pre Ukrajincov. Odľahčia preťažené zdravotnícke zariadenia a pomôžu aj Slovákom ', press release, 8 April 2022.
Start / end date or ongoing	Ongoing
Main target group	Children displaced from Ukraine.
Scope (local/regional/national)	Local
Objectives and outputs	The objective of the project establishing a clinic for children fleeing war is to make primary health care more accessible, decrease the pressure on other clinics and perform the treatment in the Ukrainian language to lower the language barrier. Daily 20 – 40 children are treated in the clinic. ¹⁰⁸
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	The general outpatient clinic for children displaced from Ukraine is part of the health centre Rovniankova where also a clinic for adults from Ukraine was established. The clinic employs Ukrainian health staff and thus reduces the language barrier when performing treatments for children. There are currently three pediatricians employed. The clinic communicates with the patients also through the Facebook platform and based on the regularly

¹⁰⁸ Information provided in an interview with a representative of the Equita (NGO) on 9 June 2023.

	<p>promoted online surveys aim to find out what are the specific needs of the patients and what specialists are missing at the clinic such as pediatric speech therapist.¹⁰⁹ Reacting to the current needs the pediatric team further undergoes training as was the case of breastfeeding support training.¹¹⁰ Moreover, the clinic often helps with making appointments with specialists in other health centres.</p>
<p>Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact etc) (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The health centre which has a clinic for children as well as adults from Ukraine now covers over one-third of the total health care provided to the displaced people from Ukraine with temporary protection in Slovakia.¹¹¹ The clinic presents an alternative to other clinics which often reject patients due to filled capacities. It functions based on participatory practices that try to react to the current needs and further link patients with other specialists. The practice has a great impact on lowering the barriers to receiving treatment and makes the treatments more effective as they are conducted in the Ukrainian language. As it is part of the already established health centre it makes the practice more sustainable, nevertheless, the dependency on the donors for the upkeep is still present.</p>
<p>Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved</p>	<p>The project is being monitored by UNICEF and WHO through regular reports.¹¹²</p>

Table 9 – Promising practice # 2

<p>Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine</p>	
<p>Name/title</p>	<p>Website platform for disabled people and their families from the Ukraine</p>
<p>Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)</p>	<p>Civil society organization: Platform of families of children with disabilities</p>

¹⁰⁹ Zdravotné stredisko Rovnianskova (2023), ['Facebook post'](#), 23 May 2023.

¹¹⁰ Zdravotné stredisko Rovnianskova (2023), ['Facebook post'](#), 20 January 2023.

¹¹¹ Information provided in an interview with a representative of the Equita (NGO) on 9 June 2023.

¹¹² Information provided in an interview with a representative of the Equita (NGO) on 9 June 2023.

Funding body	Foundation Pontis, Foundation Socia, Telekom endowment fund, UNICEF
Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)	Platform of families of children with disabilities (<i>Platforma rodín detí so zdravotným znevýhodnením</i>) (2022), ' Pomoc pre deti so zdravotným znevýhodnením z Ukrajiny a ich rodiny ', website, 2022.
Start / end date or ongoing	Ongoing
Main target group	Families of children with disability
Scope (local/regional/national)	National
Objectives and outputs	The objective of the project is to summarize available services for Ukrainian refugees caring for children with disabilities in Slovakia.
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	The website provides general information concerning areas such as education, accommodation, health care, material support or entry into the country and at the same time informs on the possible support for child refugees with disabilities. The platform offers information about organizations and medical centres focusing on specific or multiple disabilities, the carer's benefits, early childhood intervention centres, and sport training provided by the organization of Special Olympics. The site also informs on the Child Safety Line functioning as a trust line for Ukrainian children, youth or adults contacting on behalf of children. Moreover, the platform also provides an opportunity for people with capacities to help to announce their type of possible support through an online form.
Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact ect) (max. 500 chars)	Digitalizing the information into a created website increases the accessibility of the information to be provided for all. Moreover, summarizing all available information about the services into one platform simplifies the search for various types of information reflecting different concerns of families of children with disability. It is a highly sustainable practice as the platform can continuously function and effectively provide information while requiring low maintenance.
Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved	Not applicable.