

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

Slovenia

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1. Children fleeing Ukraine

1.1. Data on children fleeing Ukraine

In **Slovenia**, registration of persons seeking temporary protection occurs when they submit the application to the competent authority. According to the Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), upon entry into the Republic of Slovenia, an applicant shall complete an application for temporary protection with the authority responsible for border crossing control, that is – with the police, and shall present all the documents at their disposal which can be relevant for decision-making in the temporary protection procedure. The police shall immediately submit the application and supporting documents to the administrative unit in the territory where the applicant is staying, which is a body responsible for processing the application and deciding on the matter. Applicants entering the country in an irregular manner and those already present in the country shall, without delay and within three days at the latest, complete an application for temporary protection and submit it to the police or the administrative unit in the territory where they are staying, together with the documents relevant for taking decision on granting temporary protection.¹ According to asylum legislation, a person may express the intention to lodge an international protection application (i.e. asylum application) before any state or self-governing local community body, which subsequently inform the police about this fact. The police then establish the identity of such a person and the route by which they arrived into the country, as well as any other circumstances that could affect the further procedure. To this end, the police shall fill in a registration form. Upon completion of this preliminary procedure, the police transfer or refer the person to Asylum home for further procedure.²

¹ Slovenia, [The Temporary protection of displaced persons act](#) (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), 22 June 2005 and subsequent modifications.

² Slovenia, [The International Protection Act](#) (*Zakon o mednarodni zaščiti*), 4 March 2016, and subsequent modifications; Slovenia, [The Rules on the procedure for a foreigner who expresses intention to apply for international protection in the Republic of Slovenia, and on the procedure for accepting an application for international protection](#) (*Pravilnik o postopku s tujcem, ki izrazi namen podati prošnjo za mednarodno zaščito v Republiki Sloveniji, ter postopku sprejema prošnje za mednarodno zaščito*), 27 October 2021, and subsequent modifications.

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		
Arrived accompanied by mother, father or another legal guardian		
Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends		
Arrived unaccompanied		
Arrived within a group of children, as an organised evacuation from Ukrainian institutions or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)		
Arrived within a group of children, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)		

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

In **Slovenia**, on 30 April 2023, according to data produced by the Ministry of the Interior, there were six asylum-seeking children in Slovenia (two males and four females) who were Ukrainian citizens. None of these children was unaccompanied. There were further 38 underage citizens of Ukraine to whom international (subsidiary) protection has been granted (18 males and 20 females), six of whom were unaccompanied. In addition, there were 38 children seeking temporary protection in Slovenia (17 males and 21 females), and none of them was unaccompanied. There were also 2,299 children who were beneficiaries of temporary protection (1,145 males

and 1,154 females). Data on the number of unaccompanied children among the beneficiaries of temporary protection were not provided.³

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	2 reported, 2 investigated
Sexual abuse	3 reported, 3 investigated
Trafficking for exploitation	/
Children reported as missing	/
Other crimes against children fleeing Ukraine	4 reported, 4 investigated

Source: General Police Directorate of the Republic of Slovenia (*Generalna policijska uprava Republike Slovenije*).

In **Slovenia**, the General Police Directorate (*Generalna policijska uprava*) reported that there have been altogether 9 cases of criminal offences against Ukrainian persons of up to 18 years of age in the period from March 2022 to 31 May 2023. The structure of the offences is as follows: 2 cases of rape (2023), 1 case of neglect and maltreatment of a child (2023), 1 case of sexual violence (2022), 1 case of illicit manufacture and trade in narcotic drugs, illicit substances in sport and illicit drug precursors (2022), 1 case of extortion and blackmail (2022), 1 case of violent conduct (2022), 1 case of causing a traffic accident through negligence (2022), and 1 case in which the acquisition of the specification of the offence was not possible.⁴

³ Information was provided by the Ministry of the Interior (*Ministrstvo za notranje zadeve*) upon request (email, 7 August 2023).

⁴ Information was provided by the General Police Directorate (*Generalna policijska uprava*) upon request (e-mail, 5 June 2023).

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

In **Slovenia**, the fundamental legal framework regarding the powers and responsibilities of authorities regarding displaced persons, including individual unaccompanied and separated children, is set forth in the Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act,⁵ and further concretised by the Decree on the Methods for Ensuring Rights of Persons Enjoying Temporary Protection (*Uredba o načinu zagotavljanja pravic osebam z začasno zaščito*).⁶ The primary authority overseeing the process of treatment, placement and integration of displaced persons is the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*), however, with respect to reception of unaccompanied and separated children, the main role is played by Social Work Centres. Upon entry, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants organises the transfer of applicants for temporary protection to the nearest reception centre where the identification, collection of information relevant to the granting of temporary protection and a medical examination take place (Article 17).⁷ If the child arrives unaccompanied, the Office notifies the Social Work Centre which, according to Article

⁵ Slovenia, [The Temporary protection of displaced persons act](#) (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), 22 June 2005 and subsequent modifications.

⁶ Slovenia, [The Decree on the method for ensuring rights of persons enjoying temporary protection](#) (*Uredba o načinu zagotavljanja pravic osebam z začasno zaščito*), 24 March 2022, and subsequent modifications.

⁷ Slovenia, [The Temporary protection of displaced persons act](#) (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), 22 June 2005 and subsequent modifications.

267 of the Family Code (*Družinski zakonik*)⁸ appoints a guardian for special case. Unaccompanied children are usually accommodated by the Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants in accommodation centres, suitable for the accommodation of children. If it is established in a particular case that the placement in an accommodation centre is not suitable, the children are placed in a crisis centre.⁹ The Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants reported that the latter is the current *modus* of accommodating the unaccompanied children, who are, therefore, accommodated in crisis centres across Slovenia.¹⁰ Crisis centres are institutions which provide assistance and temporary accommodation to children who are in acute distress necessitating their removal from the environment in which they live. Crisis centres are managed by Social Work Centres. The oversight/involvement of the Social Work Centres is, therefore, one of a great extent.

In cases of children staying with a foster family, the role of the Social Work Centres is wide-ranging and extensive as well, as the Court's decision to place the child in foster care is based on proposal and assessment of the situation (whether it serves the child's best interest) by the Social Work Centre. The same oversight applies for cases of the child being placed with a person who looks after them when fleeing. Regarding that, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*) reported that the authorities are closely monitoring the situation and, in case of any suspicion that the child is not being adequately cared for, appropriate measures are taken to protect the rights and best interests of the child.¹¹ With regard to Social Work Centre's supervision, the Provision of Foster Care Act (*Zakon o izvajanju rejniške dejavnosti*) (Articles 34-39) stipulates the territorially competent Social Work Centre has an obligation to form an individual project group that plans and proposes the appropriate management and professional treatment of the child and directly monitors the child staying with the foster family.¹²

⁸ Slovenia, [The Family Code](#) (*Družinski zakonik*), 21 March 2017, and subsequent modifications.

⁹ Information was provided by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*) upon request (email, 14 June 2023).

¹⁰ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) (email, 9 June 2023).

¹¹ Information was provided by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023).

¹² Slovenia, [The Provision of foster care act](#), 27 November 2002, and subsequent modifications.

To this end, an individual plan is drawn for each child according to the child's age, their stage of development and their needs, and is designed to ensure the holistic treatment of the child. The individual project group annually reports to the Social Work Centre. In addition to that, the Social Work Centre monitors the foster care through regular home visits, invitations to talks at the Centre's premises, school visits, and cooperation with other institutions taking part in the child's life.

2.1.2. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

In **Slovenia**, the Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants reported that in case a child entered the country unaccompanied, such child is accommodated in the crisis centre managed by the territorially competent Social Work Centre.¹³ However, in the only case of children evacuated from a Ukrainian institution (evacuation of the Regional Orphanage no. 2 from Lugansk), 20 evacuated children are accommodated in a specially dedicated and equipped facility. They arrived with an already appointed legal guardian (the director of the Orphanage whose guardianship status has been directly recognised by the Slovenian authorities) and are accompanied by their own professional staff and caregivers (children therefore have access to Ukrainian staff and care in their mother tongue non-stop). As reported by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants, the Ukrainian staff is supported by the staff provided by the Student residence of the Secondary forestry, woodworking and health school Postojna (*Dijaški dom – Srednja gozdarska, lesarska in zdravstvena šola Postojna*). To this end, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants and the Student residence concluded a special implementation and financing agreement.¹⁴ As reported by the Student residence of the Secondary forestry, woodworking and health school Postojna, the support staff's tasks comprise mainly of taking care of kitchen and food services, cleaning services, transport, accounting, security services and general maintenance of the residence.¹⁵ Initially, the Social Work Centre's workers took extensive steps to re-

¹³ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) (email, 9 June 2023).

¹⁴ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023, response dated 8 June 2023).

¹⁵ Information was provided by the Student residence of the Secondary forestry, woodworking and health school Postojna (*Dijaški dom – Srednja gozdarska, lesarska in zdravstvena šola Postojna*) upon request (telephone inquiry, 5 July 2023).

organise and re-coordinate their work in such a way that would enable them to be appointed the children's guardians. However, after the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities' recognition of the orphanage director's guardianship status, the Social Work Centre's workers only entered the orphanage after receiving an anonymous report of alleged violence against the children. The following investigation has not shown any risk of harm to the children that would result in further action. Nevertheless, for preventive reasons, the children and staff were followed up for several months with unannounced visits by the Social Work Centre's workers. In addition to that, the Social Work Centre conducted several days of courses on zero tolerance to violence for all orphanage staff (preventively teaching the staff about non-violent communication and criminal responsibility for violence against children). After that, the orphanage staff have been cooperating with the Social Work Centre both in terms of obtaining the necessary information on children and their needs, as well as on ways of responding to the difficulties they face in their work with children.¹⁶

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 **Slovenia**, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants reported that with respect to preventive measures, the Office cooperates constantly with Social Work Centres, health institutions and various NGOs providing different forms of support: Ključ Association, providing PATS informative programmes,¹⁷ aimed at informing applicants for international and temporary protection about the pitfalls of trafficking in human beings, gender-based and gender-related violence, and further on providing possible forms of support within the existing system of assistance to actual and potential victims of trafficking in human beings and victims of various forms of violence in Slovenia; 2) Emma Institute

¹⁶ Information was provided by the Social Work Centre Primorsko-Notranjska (*Center za socialno delo Primorsko-Notranjska*) upon request (email, 5 July 2023).

¹⁷ For more information, see the [PATS](#) web page.

(psychosocial assistance); 3) Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment - PIC (legal assistance and representation), UNICEF (workshops for children), the Red Cross (search for missing persons and psychosocial assistance) and Slovenian Philanthropy (workshops for children and help with volunteers).¹⁸ The cooperation with mentioned NGOs was confirmed in the Human Rights Ombudsman's (*Varuh človekovih pravic*) report on an unannounced visit to the Logatec Accommodation Centre of 9 November 2022, where Ukrainian children are also accommodated along with their families.¹⁹ The General Police Directorate (*Generalna policijska uprava*) reported that when dealing with children and minors, police officers take into account their age, physical and mental development, sensitivity and any other observable characteristics. They are particularly sensitive to victims and persons in need of extra attention, assistance and care, such as children, minors, the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and victims of domestic violence. To investigate and prosecute war crimes committed in Ukraine, the Slovenian Police (*Policija*) had prepared a questionnaire (in Slovene, English and Ukrainian) and sent it to all police units in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia. The questionnaires can be completed by citizens of Ukraine when they apply for temporary protection for displaced persons. The indicators that have been developed to support police procedures in identifying the vulnerability of potential victims of human trafficking are also being used in a useful way with refugee children.²⁰

2.2.2. Support for children victims of crimes

In **Slovenia**, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants reported that children as a vulnerable group or category of persons are treated as such regardless of their status (persons with temporary protection, persons with international protection, asylum seekers), meaning the support for children as victims of crimes is provided to all children, Slovenian and Ukrainian alike. Now, in terms of support services, the professional staff of the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of

¹⁸ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) (email, 9 June 2023).

¹⁹ Information was provided by the Human Rights Ombudsman (*Varuh človekovih pravic*) upon request (email, 7 June 2023; report dated 9 November 2022, visit to the centre carried out on 13 September 2022).

²⁰ Information was provided by the General Police Directorate (*Generalna policijska uprava*) upon request (email, 5 June 2023).

Migrants, Social Work Centres' professional staff, health institutions and various NGOs provide psychological, psychosocial, and legal support; in all forms.²¹ According to Articles 11 and 14a of the Social Assistance Act (*Zakon o socialnem varstvu*),²² support for victims of crime includes professional support and expert advice to those who have suffered any direct harm as a result of a crime. Professional support includes the identification of the beneficiary's distress, information and guidance. Professional support and professional counselling are provided with the aim of enabling the victim of the crime to make appropriate psychological, social and financial improvements to the situation resulting from the crime committed. However, it should be mentioned that despite the translator being constantly available, sometimes the support, especially medical specialist treatment of Ukrainian children, is difficult to provide as there can be problems with language and communication between both the child and the parent and the doctor.²³

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

2.3.1. Arrived unaccompanied

In **Slovenia**, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities reported that, in accordance with the Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act²⁴ any unaccompanied child, including Ukrainian children, who is present in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia who expresses their intention to be granted temporary protection shall be immediately appointed a special case guardian, whose task is to

²¹ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) (email, 9 June 2023).

²² Slovenia, [The Social assistance act](#) (*Zakon o socialnem varstvu*), 4 November 1992 with subsequent modifications.

²³ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) (email, 9 June 2023).

²⁴ Slovenia, [The Temporary protection of displaced persons act](#) (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), 22 June 2005 and subsequent modifications.

represent the child in the procedure of submission of application for temporary protection. According to the Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act, upon entry into the Republic of Slovenia, an applicant shall complete an application for temporary protection with the authority responsible for border crossing control, that is – with the police, and shall present all the documents at their disposal which can be relevant for decision-making in the temporary protection procedure. The police shall immediately submit the application and supporting documents to the administrative unit in the territory where the applicant is staying, which is a body responsible for processing the application and deciding on the matter. Applicants entering the country in an irregular manner and those already present in the country shall, without delay and within three days at the latest, complete an application for temporary protection and submit it to the police or the administrative unit in the territory where they are staying, together with the documents relevant for taking decision on granting temporary protection.²⁵ As the time frame for submission of the application for temporary protection is very limited, and since in three days it is usually not possible to verify the eligibility of another natural person for a guardian for special case, a territorially competent Social Work Centre is normally appointed as the special case guardian (*skrbnik za posebni primer*). According to Article 271 of Family Code, a guardian for special case remains appointed as long as it is needed for the purposes of protection of the child's best interests and their rights.²⁶ Decisions on the appointment of a guardian for special case are issued by the Social Work Centres. As the guardianship for special cases is not intended to provide lasting and comprehensive protection, after an unaccompanied child obtains temporary protection, the Social Work Centre submits a request to the competent court to place the child under full legal guardianship or in foster care, and to appoint a legal guardian or foster carer who takes further care of exercising the child's rights. According to Article 272 of the Family Code, the court must immediately (i.e. in the shortest possible time) take all necessary measures to protect the child's person, their rights and their best interests. To ensure the immediate protection of the unaccompanied child, the Social Work Centre simultaneously submits a request to the court to issue an interim injunction to place the unaccompanied child under guardianship, as the procedure of appointing a guardian via an interim injunction is faster. If possible, and if in the best interests of the child, the appointed guardian shall be a relative or another person in the child's social network, i.e. family friends, or a person with whom the

²⁵ Slovenia, [The Temporary protection of displaced persons act](#) (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), 22 June 2005 and subsequent modifications.

²⁶ Slovenia, *The Family code (Družinski zakonik)*, 21 March 2017, and subsequent modifications.

child arrived). In other cases, the guardian's tasks are performed by the Social Work Centre.²⁷

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

In **Slovenia**, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities reported that if the child entered the Republic of Slovenia accompanied by relatives or acquaintances, and these adults have certified and authenticated declaration from the child's parents, these declarations are reviewed and recognised by the Migration Directorate (*Direktorat za migracije*) of the Ministry of the Interior (*Ministrstvo za notranje zadeve*), and such person acts as the child's legal guardian. If there is any doubt about the authenticity of said declarations, documents are further reviewed and may be submitted for review to the National Forensic Laboratory (*Nacionalni forenzični laboratorij*).²⁸ In case of any suspicion that the child is not being adequately cared for, irrespective of the declaration of the parents, appropriate measures are taken to protect the rights and best interests of the child. If the mentioned declarations are not provided, the procedure to appoint the special case guardian is initiated by the territorially competent Social Work Centre, with which, in accordance with the national legislation, lies the power for assessing the children's situation.²⁹

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

In **Slovenia**, there is only one case of children that arrived within a group evacuated from a Ukrainian institution: children from Lugansk Regional Orphanage No. 2 and their accompanying staff with their own children. The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities reported that children from the orphanage in Lugansk

²⁷ Information was provided by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023).

²⁸ Information was provided the Ministry of the Interior (*Ministrstvo za notranje zadeve*) upon request (telephone inquiry, 6 July 2023).

²⁹ Information was provided by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023).

are not considered unaccompanied children and, therefore, do not have newly appointed guardian for special cases in Slovenia, as they are accommodated in the country with their legal representative, i.e. the director of the orphanage, who is responsible for ensuring that their rights are exercised.³⁰

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

In **Slovenia**, according to Article 41 of the Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act,³¹ the power to appoint an unaccompanied child a guardian lies with the territorially competent Social Work Centre. However, as mentioned above, if the child enters the country without appointed legal guardian, the Social Work Centre must appoint a guardian for special case who is responsible for submission of the application for temporary protection. With regard to the question of who should the Social Work Centre appoint as a special case guardian, in 2022, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities sent a circular letter to all national Social Work Centres. In the letter, the ministry urged the centres that as general rule, a social worker with a social work centre be appointed as a special case guardian instead of a person who has been accompanying the child upon the entry into Slovenia. According to the ministry, in the short time for appointing a special case guardian, it is often not possible to assess whether the person accompanying the child is in the conflict of interest (i.e. whether they protect the child's or their own interests). Furthermore, the ministry urged the centres to be cautious in view of the possibility of human trafficking or other types of abuse. Moreover, other conditions and requirements set forth for guardianship cannot be verified in such short time in which an unaccompanied child needs to be appointed a special case guardian. If the court late appoints a natural person as a legal guardian (*skrbnik*) is appointed as a guardian, they must be contacted by telephone and asked to collect the decision in person as soon as possible. If the child comes with an already appointed legal guardian, it is checked whether the person acting as a legal guardian has been issued an authenticated declarations from the child's parents. If they had, these declarations are automatically recognised in

³⁰ Information was provided by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*) upon request (email, 7 June 2023).

³¹ Slovenia, [The Temporary protection of displaced persons act](#) (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), 22 June 2005 and subsequent modifications.

accordance with the Hague Convention of 1996. If not, the above-mentioned procedure to appoint a guardian for special case is initiated.³²

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		
With a foster family		
With person who looked after the child when fleeing		
In reception centres for unaccompanied children (all nationalities)		
In reception centres for children fleeing Ukraine		
Other placement		

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

In **Slovenia**, on 30 April 2023, according to data produced by the Ministry of the Interior, there were six asylum-seeking children in Slovenia (two males and four females) who were Ukrainian citizens. None of these children was unaccompanied. There were further 38 underage citizens of Ukraine to whom international (subsidiary) protection has been granted (18 males and 20 females), six of whom were unaccompanied. In addition, there were 38 children seeking temporary protection in Slovenia (17 males and 21 females), and none of them was unaccompanied. There were also 2,299 children who were beneficiaries of temporary protection (1,145 males and 1,154 females). Data on the number of unaccompanied children among the

³² Information was provided by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*) upon request (email, 14 June 2023).

beneficiaries of temporary protection were not provided.³³ The Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants reports that unaccompanied children are placed in crisis centres, run by local social work centres.³⁴ In Slovenia, there are 11 crisis centres for children and youth, nine accommodating children aged between six and 18 years of age, and two crisis centres hosting children up to six years of age.³⁵

2.5. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

2.5.1. Institutional placements

In **Slovenia**, the government adopted the decision to prolong the accommodation project for children from Lugansk Regional Orphanage No. 2 from Ukraine and their accompanying staff with their own children in the Student Residence of the Secondary School of Forestry, Woodworking and Health Care Postojna and in an accommodation facility in Slavina for the period from 5 March 2023 to 4 March 2024.³⁶ The value of the project is estimated at € 1,155,242 and the appropriations are intended to cover the cost of the service charge, operating costs, the cost of additional staff not covered by the service charge, the renovation of the kitchenette, and material costs. These are the only two premises hosting Ukrainian children evacuated from institutions, namely the one from Lugansk Regional Orphanage No. 2. According to the decision, the 20 Ukrainian orphans continue to be placed in specially adapted facility in the village Slavina while the accompanying staff and their children (estimated 16 persons) are placed in the Student Residence of the Secondary School of Forestry, Woodworking

³³ Information was provided by the Ministry of the Interior (*Ministrstvo za notranje zadeve*) upon request (email, 7 August 2023).

³⁴ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) (email, 13 April 2023, response dated 12 April 2023).

³⁵ For more information, see web page of the Association of Social work centres of Slovenia relating to [crisis centres](#).

³⁶ Slovenia, Government of the Republic of Slovenia (*Vlada Republike Slovenije*), [Decision No. 21400-3/2023/3](#), 23 February 2023.

and Health Care Postojna.³⁷ The student residence is approximately 8,5km from the Slavina facility. During every night, there are usually 3 (never less than 2) Ukrainian caregivers present in Slavina.³⁸ As this is the only case of evacuation of children from a Ukrainian institution (i.e. the orphanage), they are all kept in the same facility and the government intends to keep the children in Slavina at least until March 2024.

2.5.2. Alternative care

In **Slovenia**, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants reported that there have been no initiatives by the state authorities aimed at the potential placement of Ukrainian children, including orphans placed in Slavina, with foster families, residential communities, or other forms of institutional care.³⁹ However, according to the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities' circular letter of 10 March 2022 to Social Work Centres, in accordance with Article 234 and Article 235 of the Family Code,⁴⁰ the court may, upon the proposal of the competent Social Work Centre, place the child in foster care; either to a registered foster carer, or, according to Article 14 of the Provision of Foster Care Act,⁴¹ to a relative of the child or to another person not previously authorised to carry out foster care, provided it is established that placement with that person would be in the child's best interests, and the relative or person agrees to it and fulfils the criteria and conditions for carrying out foster care activities as laid down in the Provision of Foster Care Act.⁴²

³⁷ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) (email, 9 June 2023).

³⁸ Information was provided by the Student residence of the Secondary forestry, woodworking and health school Postojna (*Dijaški dom – Srednja gozdarska, lesarska in zdravstvena šola Postojna*) upon request (telephone inquiry, 5 July 2023).

³⁹ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023).

⁴⁰ Slovenia, [The Family code](#) (*Družinski zakonik*), 21 March 2017, and subsequent modifications.

⁴¹ Slovenia, [The Provision of foster care act](#) (*Zakon o izvajanju rejniške dejavnosti*), 27 November 2002, and subsequent modifications.

⁴² Slovenia, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*), 'Izvajanje postopkov v primerih

2.5.3. Safeguards for children placed in institutional care settings

In **Slovenia**, the Office of the Government for the Support and Integration of Migrants reported that children as a vulnerable group are being treated equally with no regard to their status (be they national children, persons with temporary protection, persons with international protection, or asylum seekers),⁴³ meaning the national legislation regulating the treatment and safeguarding the children's rights in institutional care applies. This has been further confirmed by the Social Work Centre Ljubljana – Šiška (*Center za socialno delo Ljubljana – Šiška*).⁴⁴ In cases of any suspected violence or mistreatment, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (*Zakon o preprečevanju nasilja v družini*) and the Family Code stipulate an obligation of anyone having information that a child is at risk (e.g. is a victim of violence or lives in inadequate conditions) to inform either the Social Work Centre, the Police, the Court or the State Prosecutor's Office (Article 6 of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and Article 180 of the Family Code).⁴⁵ This applies in particular to schools, kindergartens, healthcare institutions, and other institutional care institutions which are legally obliged to report violence against a child. Procedures in cases of child endangerment are led by a professional worker at the Social Work Centre, who convenes a multidisciplinary team, where the Child's endangerment is assessed, and appropriate measures are taken depending on the level of endangerment. According to the Rules on the Organisation and Work of Multidisciplinary Teams and Regional Services and on the Activities of Social Work Centres in Dealing with Domestic Violence (*Pravilnik o sodelovanju organov ter o delovanju centrov za socialno delo, multidisciplinarnih timov in regijskih služb pri obravnavi nasilja v družini*),⁴⁶ a multidisciplinary team consists of a group of

mladoletnih oseb brez spremstva iz Ukrajine po 24. 2. 2022', circular No. 0075-1/2022/14, 10 March 2022.

⁴³ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023, response dated 8 June 2023).

⁴⁴ Information was provided by the Social Work Centre Ljubljana – Šiška (*Center za socialno delo Ljubljana – Šiška*) upon request (telephone inquiry, 7 July 2023).

⁴⁵ Slovenia, The [Domestic violence prevention act](#) (*Zakon o preprečevanju nasilja v družini*), 1 February 2008, and subsequent modifications; Slovenia, The [Family code](#) (*Družinski zakonik*), 21 March 2017, and subsequent modifications.

⁴⁶ Slovenia, [The Rules on the organisation and work of multidisciplinary teams and regional services and on the activities of social work centres in dealing with domestic violence](#) (*Pravilnik o sodelovanju organov ter o delovanju centrov za socialno delo, multidisciplinarnih*

professionals and is set up with the aim of providing comprehensive assistance and protection to an individual victim. It is formed if the Social Work Centre's case coordinator considers that the involvement of professionals from various fields is necessary for the assessment of the need to prepare a victim assistance plan or for its drawing up and implementation (Article 8, Paragraph 1). The Social Work Centre, therefore, leads the procedure and coordinates the other actors involved (e.g. school, NGOs). In case of violence, the Police also lead their own procedures.

With regard to the situation in practice, the case of the alleged violence in Slavina should be mentioned. After receiving an anonymous report of violence against the children in the Ukrainian orphanage facility in Slavina, Social Work Centre initiated an extensive investigation. However, the investigation has not shown any risk of harm to the children that would result in further action. Nevertheless, for preventive reasons, the Social Work Centre carried out unannounced visits of the orphanage several following months. In addition to that, the Social Work Centre conducted several days of courses on zero tolerance to violence for all orphanage staff (preventively teaching the staff about non-violent communication and criminal responsibility for violence against children). As reported, the orphanage staff have been furtherly cooperating with the Social Work Centre both in terms of obtaining the necessary information on children and their needs, as well as on ways of responding to the difficulties they face in their work with children.⁴⁷

2.5.4. Access to local services and support

In **Slovenia**, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants reported that under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, the Office has concluded a contract on the implementation of basic integration support for displaced persons from Ukraine with temporary protection in the Republic of Slovenia - Project AMBIENT,⁴⁸ in terms of which psychosocial support (both individual and in group, including possible psychological support) is offered. It is provided at all locations within the power of the Office where persons with temporary protection are accommodated. The activities are aimed at different target groups, one of them being children and adolescents. If necessary, the provider, with the consent of the parents or guardians, links with other relevant services, e.g. counselling services at school,

timov in regijskih služb pri obravnavi nasilja v družini), 14 April 2009, with subsequent modifications.

⁴⁷ Information was provided by the Social Work Centre Primorsko-Notranjska (*Center za socialno delo Primorsko-Notranjska*) upon request (email, 5 July 2023).

⁴⁸ For more information, see the [Projekt Ambient](#) web page.

kindergarten, etc.). One of the activities is also a conversation in the Slovenian language to help children integrate in local communities. Furthermore, for example, the Office has also concluded an agreement with the Social Work Centre Primorsko-Notranjska on the implementation of the programme "Rokavička" – assistance to families from Ukraine. The programme was devised by the Social Work Centre Primorsko-Notranjska and reflects concrete needs for support and assistance, as many Ukrainian families is accommodated in that region.⁴⁹ The project is aimed at families from Ukraine, including children, who have temporary protection status and are accommodated in the Postojna Accommodation Centre. It provides assistance and support to families and individuals to integrate into the local environment. The programme includes assistance in learning the Slovenian language, creative workshops and games, individual work after referral by the Social Work Centre and the Accommodation Centre's professional staff, and help and support to the accommodated children with information, filling in different applications/forms, guidance and counselling.⁵⁰

According to the reply to inquiry the Human Rights Ombudsman addressed to the Ministry of Education (*Ministrstvo za vzgojo in izobraževanje*) in November 2022, the Ministry of Education cooperates regularly, well and extensively with the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants both in the primary school enrolment procedures and in the search for kindergarten placements for children. For every school-age child residing in the accommodation centres across the country, the Ministry of Education discusses the enrolment with the head teachers of the surrounding schools.⁵¹ The Ministry of Education reported that in 2022, the National Education Institute Slovenia (*Zavod Republike Slovenije za šolstvo*) adopted Guidelines for the Integration of Children and Adolescents with Temporary Protection in Educational Institutions (*Smernice za vključevanje otrok in mladostnikov z začasno zaščito v vzgojno-izobraževalne zavode*).⁵² Accommodation Centres (e.g. the Logatec Accommodation Centre) organise school busses for children to get to the school; in accordance with Article 20 of the Decree on the Methods for Ensuring Rights

⁴⁹ Information was provided by the Social Work Centre Primorsko-Notranjska (*Center za socialno delo Primorsko-Notranjska*) upon request (email, 5 July 2023).

⁵⁰ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023).

⁵¹ Information was provided by the Human Rights Ombudsman (*Varuh človekovih pravic*) upon request (email, 7 June 2023).

⁵² Zavod Republike Slovenije za šolstvo (2022) [Smernice za vključevanje otrok in mladostnikov z začasno zaščito v vzgojno-izobraževalne zavode](#). Ljubljana, Zavod Republike Slovenije za šolstvo.

of Persons Enjoying Temporary Protection (*Uredba o načinu zagotavljanja pravic osebam z začasno zaščito*), children have the right to free transport to school.⁵³ In terms of integration and socialisation of children and their knowledge of the Slovenian language, parents are encouraged to include their children in both school and pre-school education in Slovenian.⁵⁴ Ministry of Education reported that pupils with temporary protection receive extra Slovene lessons. The focus is on language empowerment, and a condensed approach to initial Slovene lessons in the first year of school is recommended. Various forms of support (supplementary teaching, individual and group assistance, adaptations to teaching methods and forms of work) are offered to pupils during the remainder of the school year.⁵⁵

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

2.6.1. Child friendly information

In **Slovenia**, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants reported that at the Accommodation Centres, various activities aimed at providing support and information to Ukrainians, including children, are being carried out: in terms of rights, safety risks, complaint mechanisms and service we must highlight PATS⁵⁶ informative programme, carried out by Ključ Association, which aims to inform applicants for international and temporary protection about the pitfalls of trafficking in human beings, gender-based and gender-related violence, and to provide possible forms of support within the existing system of assistance to potential and actual victims of trafficking in human beings and victims of

⁵³ Slovenia, [The Decree on the method for ensuring rights of persons enjoying temporary protection](#) (*Uredba o načinu zagotavljanja pravic osebam z začasno zaščito*), 24 March 2022, and subsequent modifications.

⁵⁴ Information was provided by the Human Rights Ombudsman (*Varuh človekovih pravic*) upon request (email, 7 June 2023).

⁵⁵ Information was provided by the Ministry of Education (*Ministrstvo za vzgojo in izobraževanje*) upon request (email, 16 June 2023).

⁵⁶ For more information see the web page related to [PATS project](#).

various forms of violence in Slovenia.⁵⁷ Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth (*Zveza prijateljev mladine Slovenije*) reported that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Ministrstvo za zunanje zadeve*) provided them with a few teaching kits in Ukrainian language on children's rights, which they distributed through their association's branches so that the material reached Ukrainian children in each local area.⁵⁸ It has been confirmed by the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth that information was provided in a child-friendly form, manner and language.⁵⁹

2.6.2. Child participation

In **Slovenia**, the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth – the organisation extensively carrying out pivotal child participation programmes and activities (e.g. the Children Parliaments (*Otroški parlamenti*) – reported that to their best knowledge, there has been no initiatives or efforts to adopt any strategy aimed at facilitating inclusion of Ukrainian children in school councils, parliaments or fora. However, such efforts may be made by individual schools the Ukrainian children attend.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023).

⁵⁸ Information was provided by the Slovenian Association of Friend of Youth (*Zveza prijateljev mladine Slovenije*) upon request (email, 20 June 2023).

⁵⁹ Information was provided by the Slovenian Association of Friend of Youth (*Zveza prijateljev mladine Slovenije*) upon request (email, 20 June 2023).

⁶⁰ Information was provided by the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth (*Zveza prijateljev mladine Slovenije*) upon request (telephone inquiry, 19 June 2023; email, 20 June 2023).

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	Y/N	Reference / details
Only emergency care/essential treatment of illnesses (Article 13.2 TPD)	Y	Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act (<i>Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb</i>), ⁶¹ International Protection Act (<i>Zakon o mednarodni zaščiti</i>) ⁶²
Complete medical check -up / health screening	Y	As above.
Mental health screening (PTSD, depression, anxiety)	Y	As above.
Vaccinations for children	Y	As above.
Mental health / psychosocial support	Y	As above.
Children with disabilities and those with chronic illnesses have access to the medical care needed	Y	As above.

Source: Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*).⁶³

⁶¹ Slovenia, [The Temporary protection of displaced persons act](#) (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), 22 June 2005, and subsequent modifications.

⁶² Slovenia, [The International protection act](#) (*Zakon o mednarodni zaščiti*), 4 March 2016, and subsequent modifications.

⁶³ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023, response dated 8 June 2023).

In **Slovenia**, child asylum applicants and children to whom international protection has been granted have equal access to healthcare services as Slovenian children.⁶⁴ Persons to whom temporary protection has been granted are entitled to urgent medical care, unless otherwise decided by a health commission.⁶⁵ Upon the decision by this commission, a child with temporary protection can be granted the same access to healthcare services as Slovenian children.⁶⁶ In practice, the health commission granted to all children with temporary protection, as a group, this level of access to healthcare services.⁶⁷

3.1.2. Challenges in practical provision

In **Slovenia**, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants, which funds healthcare services for persons with temporary protection, reports the following practical challenges and obstacles: because of language barriers, a problem may arise with communication between the child and the parent and the doctor during the medical and specialist treatment of children; unlike children with international protection, children to whom temporary protection has been granted do not have a personally chosen paediatrician.⁶⁸ The Legal centre for the protection of human rights and environment - PIC (*Pravni center za varstvo človekovih pravic in okolja – PIC*) reports similar issues. According to this NGO, the children with temporary protection until 18, or until 26 years of age if studying, have formally equal rights as Slovenian children in access to health care. However, as they are not formally included in the national healthcare insurance scheme, they do not have assigned a single paediatrician to deal with them. As a result, the children constantly change doctors. Language barrier also represents a significant obstacle in

⁶⁴ Slovenia, [The International protection act](#) (*Zakon o mednarodni zaščiti*), 4 March 2016, and subsequent modifications.

⁶⁵ Slovenia, [The Temporary protection of displaced persons act](#) (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), 22 June 2005, and subsequent modifications.

⁶⁶ Slovenia, [The Decree on the methods for ensuring rights of persons enjoying temporary protection](#) (*Uredba o načinu zagotavljanja pravic osebam z začasno zaščito*), 24 March 2022, and subsequent modifications.

⁶⁷ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (e-mail, 7 July 2023).

⁶⁸ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023, response dated 8 June 2023).

access to health care services, as there are no Ukrainian speaking staff in healthcare institutions. While, for example, Red Cross provided interpreters in some cases, the issue of language barriers in healthcare has not been tackled in a systematic manner. Apart from this, some healthcare workers and healthcare institutions lack information that Ukrainian children with temporary protection have equal rights to healthcare services as Slovenian children. As regards persons with chronic illnesses, they must provide Ukrainian documentation in Slovenian language. The persons concerned bear all the costs of translating the documents, as no financial support is provided in this respect.⁶⁹ The Slovene Philanthropy (*Slovenska filantropija*) also reports the lack of knowledge and awareness on the part of healthcare workers, and even some parents, that Ukrainian children under temporary protection enjoy the same rights as Slovenian children as regards access to healthcare services. Examples include dentists who are not aware of this fact and might issue bills. Ukrainians, on the other hand, might avoid visiting the dentist and only frequent urgent dental healthcare. In some parts of the country, certain cards were issued but were later revoked because the insufficient legal basis. This organisation also reports a lack of interpreters and mediators in healthcare organisations.⁷⁰

3.1.3. Mental health and psychosocial support for children fleeing Ukraine

In **Slovenia**, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants contracts the Project AMBIENT (*Projekt AMBIENT*), a civil initiative, to implement the project of basic integration support for displaced persons from Ukraine with temporary protection in the Republic of Slovenia. The project is implemented in accommodation facilities under the responsibility of the government office in question. The contractor provides psychosocial assistance, both group and individual, including possible psychological assistance. The activities are aimed at different target groups, one of them being children and young people. If necessary, based on the consent of parents or guardians, the contractor approaches other competent services (e.g. counselling service at school and kindergarten). One of the activities involves Slovenian language conversation. According to available data produced by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support

⁶⁹ Information was provided by the Legal centre for the protection of human rights and environment (*Pravni center za varstvo človekovih pravic in okolja – PIC*) upon request (interview, 9 June 2023).

⁷⁰ Information was provided by the Slovene Philanthropy (*Slovenska filantropija*) upon request (interview, 9 June 2023).

and Integration of Migrants, in the period from 21 March to 5 July, direct individual psychosocial assistance was provided to 24 children for 199 hours. Further seven children received 33 hours of indirect individual assistance (e.g. seeking learning assistance, assistance related to enrolment in education and selection of universities and secondary schools), while 133 children participated in 104.5 hours of group activities (e.g. workshops, trips and games) from 20 April to 2 July 2023.⁷¹ There are also other NGOs involved in work with Ukrainian families, including e.g. organisations providing information about trafficking in human beings and the available support to victims, holding workshops for children, etc.⁷² The Legal centre for the protection of human rights and environment - PIC reports that psychosocial support is available in accommodation facilities administered by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants, and that psychiatrists also visit these facilities, while it remains questionable if this type of support is available to Ukrainians in private accommodation.⁷³ Slovene Philanthropy reports that access to psychological support tends to be a considerable issue, the most notable being access to psychological support for teenagers. This population left their domestic environment and peer groups in a vulnerable period of their lives. According to the NGO, there is a need of systematic support for these children, including assistance by specialists, psychologists, psychiatrists and psychotherapists. The lack of interpreters might also be an obstacle. A case, for example, involved a father who acted as interpreter in the conversation between a psychologist and his child subject to self-harm. In such a case, a child can hardly speak about their worries. The Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants indeed supports a project of psychosocial support, but this tends to be a short-term project, while constant support is needed to both children and parents. The latter also need support to be able to help their children, reports the NGO.⁷⁴

⁷¹ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (e-mail, 7 July 2023).

⁷² Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023, response dated 8 June 2023).

⁷³ Information was provided by the Legal centre for the protection of human rights and environment (*Pravni center za varstvo človekovih pravic in okolja – PIC*) upon request (interview, 9 June 2023).

⁷⁴ Information was provided by the Slovene Philanthropy (*Slovenska filantropija*) upon request (interview, 9 June 2023).

3.2. Access to education

3.2.1. Types of schooling

In **Slovenia**, children fleeing war in Ukraine access education on equal terms as Slovenian children.⁷⁵ The Ministry of Education reports that most Ukrainian children enrolled in education in Slovenia attend primary schooling (see the table below). Pupils enrolled in primary school education in the Republic of Slovenia are obliged by law to attend classes in all subjects according to the compulsory programme of primary school.⁷⁶ Those pupils who opt for parallel education according to the Ukrainian model are included in online education upon completing daily obligations in Slovenian schools. According to the ministry, schools and pupil's parents report that it is challenging for children to coordinate attending a Slovenian primary school and the Ukrainian distance education. However, since most Ukrainian families plan to return to Ukraine after the end of the Russian invasion, it is crucial for the children, despite their integration into education in Slovenia, that they have an opportunity to receive education in their mother tongue, reports the ministry. There are no reports of physical education settings led by Ukrainian staff, albeit examples exist of additional lessons of Ukrainian language and culture provided by volunteer Ukrainian teachers in Slovenian schools. This, for example, is the case of a primary school in Ljubljana.⁷⁷

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	244	Not available.	Ministry of Education (as of 8 May 2023).
	Children in primary education	930	Not available.	As above.

⁷⁵ Slovenia, [The Temporary protection of displaced persons act](#) (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), 22 June 2005, and subsequent modifications; Slovenia, [The International protection act](#) (*Zakon o mednarodni zaščiti*), 4 March 2016, and subsequent modifications.

⁷⁶ Slovenia, [The Elementary school act](#) (*Zakon o osnovni šoli*), 14 February 1996, and subsequent modifications.

⁷⁷ Information was provided by the Ministry of Education (*Ministrstvo za vzgojo in izobraževanje*) upon request (email, 16 June 2023).

	Children in secondary education	97	Not available.	As above.
Physical attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting		Ukrainian led settings not reported.	/	As above.
Online attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting		Not available.	Not available.	As above.

Source: Ministry of Education (*Ministrstvo za vzgojo in izobraževanje*).⁷⁸

3.2.2. Support to integration in the formal educational system

In **Slovenia**, the Ministry of Education reports that various support activities for Ukrainian children are in place. Amongst others, they receive textbooks from school textbook funds. They are also entitled to additional Slovenian lessons.⁷⁹ These extra lessons are offered free of charge. Depending on their number in a school, pupils whose mother tongue is not Slovenian receive from 120 (up to four pupils) to 180 (nine to 17 pupils) additional hours of Slovenian in the first year they enrol in the primary school, if they join the school in the first assessment period of a school year. If they enrol in the second assessment period, they receive additional 35 hours of Slovenian, and they may qualify for additional lessons in the next school year based on the mentioned criteria.⁸⁰ The emphasis is on language empowerment, thus a condensed method of implementing the initial Slovenian classes in the first year of schooling is recommended. In the remaining time of the school year, various forms of support are available to pupils like supplementary lessons, individual and group assistance, adjustments to teaching methods and forms of work. In addition, grading of pupils and their advancement to the next grade may be subject to adjustments. Generally, a pupil's knowledge can be assessed based on their progress in achieving the goals or standards of knowledge defined in the curricula. However, at the end of classes in the school year in which they are enrolled in primary school in Slovenia for the first time, immigrant students from other countries may be ungraded in individual

⁷⁸ Information was provided by the Ministry of Education (*Ministrstvo za vzgojo in izobraževanje*) upon request (email, 16 June 2023).

⁷⁹ Information was provided by the Ministry of Education (*Ministrstvo za vzgojo in izobraževanje*) upon request (email, 16 June 2023).

⁸⁰ Slovenia, [The Rules on norms and standards for the implementation of the elementary school programme](#) (*Pravilnik o normativih in standardih za izvajanje programa osnovne šole*), 28 May 2007, and subsequent modifications.

subjects and still advance to the next grade of primary school. Pupils with temporary protection are entitled to free meals and transportation. For students in secondary schools, the school organises an intensive Slovenian language course upon their enrolment, which is compulsory and free of charge. Additional Slovenian lessons (up to 70 hours) are also provided starting from March. Students with temporary protection are eligible for free meal.⁸¹

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

In **Slovenia**, the Ministry of Education reports that there are no data on dropout rates for children fleeing Ukraine.⁸² Similarly, no data on children and young adults who are not in education, employment, or training are available.⁸³

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

In **Slovenia**, persons to whom international protection has been granted shall have the same rights as regards access to social assistance as Slovenian citizens.⁸⁴

In **Slovenia**, the Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act stipulates the right of persons enjoying temporary protection to financial assistance if they stay outside of an accommodation centre and do not have financial resources of their own. It is

⁸¹ Information was provided by the Ministry of Education (*Ministrstvo za vzgojo in izobraževanje*) upon request (email, 16 June 2023). For more information, see the government webpage relating to [the education of Ukrainian children in Slovenia](#).

⁸² Information was provided by the Ministry of Education (*Ministrstvo za vzgojo in izobraževanje*) upon request (email, 16 June 2023).

⁸³ Information was provided, upon request, by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) (email, 15 June 2023), the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*) (email, 7 June 2023), and Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia (*Zavod Republike Slovenije za zaposlovanje*) (email, 20 June 2023).

⁸⁴ Slovenia, [The International protection act](#) (*Zakon o mednarodni zaščiti*), 4 March 2016, and subsequent modifications

determined relative to the minimum income (at the time of writing, it is € 465.34): the first adult person or the claimant is entitled to full amount of the minimum income; each additional adult family member receives 70 % of this amount, a child 30 %, while an unaccompanied child also receives full amount of the minimum income. A child staying in the country with only one parent receives financial assistance increased by 30 %. Persons who stay in accommodation centres and have no financial resources of their own are entitled to pocket money, namely a monthly sum in the amount of 30 % of the minimum income. Temporary protection beneficiaries staying at accommodation centres that partially or completely close, or who otherwise opt for private accommodation shall be entitled to financial assistance for private accommodation.⁸⁵ According to the Decree on the methods for ensuring rights of persons enjoying temporary protection, the assistance allocated is calculated based on the number of family members: a family of one receives 100 % of the minimum income, up to 250 % of the minimum income for families with seven or more members.⁸⁶

In **Slovenia**, persons under temporary protection may be entitled, under the conditions set out in the Exercise of Rights from Public Funds Act (*Zakon o uveljavljanju pravic iz javnih sredstev*), to child allowance and reduced kindergarten fees.⁸⁷ If a person is entitled to financial assistance or pocket money under the Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act, based on the Decree on the methods for ensuring rights of persons enjoying temporary protection, it is exempted from kindergarten fees.⁸⁸ Under the Parental Protection and Family Benefits Act (*Zakon o starševskem varstvu in družinskih prejemkih*), they are also entitled to parental allowance (i.e. financial assistance to parents who do not qualify for parental benefits under the insurance scheme set out in the act in question), childbirth grant (i.e. one-off cash benefit intended for the purchase of a child's necessities), large family allowance (i.e.

⁸⁵ Slovenia, [The Temporary protection of displaced persons act](#) (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), 22 June 2005, and subsequent modifications.

⁸⁶ Slovenia, [The Decree on the methods for ensuring rights of persons enjoying temporary protection](#) (*Uredba o načinu zagotavljanja pravic osebam z začasno zaščito*), 24 March 2022, and subsequent modifications.

⁸⁷ Slovenia, [The Exercise of rights from public funds act](#) (*Zakon o uveljavljanju pravic iz javnih sredstev*), 15 July 2010, and subsequent modifications.

⁸⁸ Slovenia, [The Temporary protection of displaced persons act](#) (*Zakon o začasni zaščiti razseljenih oseb*), 22 June 2005, and subsequent modifications; Slovenia, [The Decree on the methods for ensuring rights of persons enjoying temporary protection](#) (*Uredba o načinu zagotavljanja pravic osebam z začasno zaščito*), 24 March 2022, and subsequent modifications.

an annual benefit intended for a family having, for at least one day in a calendar year, three or more children aged up to 18 years of age, or children above 18 years of age who are primary or secondary school pupils, apprentices or students, until they reach the 26 years of age), and partial payment for lost income (i.e. personal benefit granted to one of the parents or another person when leaving the labour market or starting to work part-time in order to care for a child with profound intellectual or physical disability, or with a particular disease from the severe diseases list, or to care for two or more children with moderate or severe intellectual or physical disabilities).⁸⁹

In **Slovenia**, anyone who is in social hardship or difficulty, regardless of nationality, is entitled to the following social protection services under the Social Assistance Act: the first social assistance and the personal assistance. The former includes assistance in identifying and defining social distress and problems, and assessment of possible solutions. It also includes the provision of information to the beneficiary about all possible forms of social protection services and benefits that they can apply for, and about the obligations associated with the forms of services and benefits, as well as informing the beneficiary about the network and programmes of providers offering social protection services and benefits. The latter involves counselling, personal organisation and guidance aimed at enabling the individual to develop, supplement, maintain and improve social abilities.⁹⁰

In **Slovenia**, in terms of active efforts being made to facilitate Ukrainian child participation in Slovenia, the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth reported that in the last year and a half, they have included Ukrainian children in various activities. These include summer holidays, summer workshops, humanitarian aid to families, school supplies (Full School Bag (*Polna šolska torba*) programme) and end-of-the-year festive gift-giving at the facility in Slavina near Postojna which has been adapted to accommodate children from Regional Orphanage No. 2 from Lugansk. All of this has been provided by donor funds, and no charges applied to participating children.⁹¹

⁸⁹ Slovenia, [The Parental Protection and Family Benefits Act](#) (*Zakon o starševskem varstvu in družinskih prejemkih*), 3 April 2014, and subsequent modifications.

⁹⁰ Slovenia, [The Social assistance act](#) (*Zakon o socialnem varstvu*), 4 November 1992, and subsequent modifications.

⁹¹ Information was provided by the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth (*Zveza prijateljev mladine Slovenije*) upon request (email, 20 June 2023).

4. Additional legal and practical barriers and challenges

4.1. General challenges

In **Slovenia**, the Legal centre for the protection of human rights and environment – PIC points to the differences between Slovenian and Ukrainian school systems leading to certain discrepancies when enrolling certain children in specific grades. According to some accounts, there were children repeating the grades because of this. In addition, although schools provide additional tuition and extra hours of Slovenian language, the budgeted extra hours do not suffice for the children's effective inclusion in Slovenian education programmes, this combined with the impossibility that teachers in classes with large number of pupils sufficiently address particular needs of Ukrainian children. According to the organisation, there is a need for accompanying staff that would specifically deal with Ukrainian children. In Slovenia, there were also reports of negative attitudes of other children towards Ukrainian children at school, including of instances of verbal violence and physical violence. In such cases, schools do intervene, and school counsellors deal with the children, and in some cases school principals also intervened. The issue, however, is only tackled on case-by-case basis and not on a systemic level (e.g. in the form of awareness raising in schools about the situation in Ukraine and the reasons those children are fleeing their country and are coming to Slovenia). Systematic support to parents in the communication with teachers and schools is also missing, and the parents individually have to seek assistance by e.g. acquaintances who speak Slovenian, and with humanitarian organisations also playing the role of interpreters.⁹² Slovene Philanthropy reports about Ukrainian children and parents facing a dilemma as to what educational system to choose due to the differences between the two systems and the nature of their situation. Choosing both imposes additional burden on children. For example, unlike in Slovenia, 16-years-olds can enter university in Ukraine, so it is beneficial for them to complete their education within the Ukrainian system with good grades. It thus might be more likely that senior students exclusively opt for distant schooling, compared to younger children. Due to unclear nature of their situation, however, senior students also insist on both

⁹² Information was provided by the Legal centre for the protection of human rights and environment (*Pravni center za varstvo človekovih pravic in okolja – PIC*) upon request (interview, 9 June 2023).

education systems, and are consequently subject to additional pressure. The organisation also reports that, according to some accounts, there were also instances of bullying of Ukrainian children in schools and neighbourhoods on political grounds. They were influenced by other children's and sometimes their parents' different views on the nature of the war in Ukraine, leading to conflicts between Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians. According to Slovene Philanthropy, teachers need more support to effectively deal with such cases.⁹³

In **Slovenia**, Slovene Philanthropy reports that getting a place in a kindergarten tends to be hard in practice, so many children might not be enrolled. This is a problem for Ukrainian women, as they cannot get a job. They are single mothers, as their partners remain in Ukraine.⁹⁴

In **Slovenia**, the Legal centre for the protection of human rights and environment - PIC reports improvement as regards access to financial assistance by temporary protection beneficiaries. While certain delays were recorded in early March 2003, when administrative units started issuing to beneficiaries new decisions on the extension of temporary protection, the financial assistance is generally paid in a timely manner, unlike in 2022, when reports of delays and slow procedures for granting financial assistance to temporary protection beneficiaries were common. Amongst others, the NGO reports that the reason for improvement is more staff being employed by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants, which provides financial assistance.⁹⁵ The Slovene Philanthropy, another NGO, also reports improvements as regards access to financial assistance, compared to the past.⁹⁶

In **Slovenia**, the Human Rights Ombudsman reported that in case of Logatec Accommodation Centre, the head of the centre reported a lack of available social workers. Staff shortages meant that there was not enough time for longer psychosocial

⁹³ Information was provided by the Slovene Philanthropy (*Slovenska filantropija*) upon request (interview, 9 June 2023).

⁹⁴ Information was provided by the Slovene Philanthropy (*Slovenska filantropija*) upon request (interview, 9 June 2023).

⁹⁵ Information was provided by the Legal centre for the protection of human rights and environment (*Pravni center za varstvo človekovih pravic in okolja – PIC*) upon request (interview, 9 June 2023).

⁹⁶ Information was provided by the Slovene Philanthropy (*Slovenska filantropija*) upon request (interview, 9 June 2023).

interviews with individuals and for individual cases in general. The problem was compounded by staff sickness and other absences.⁹⁷

4.2. Challenges for children at multiple risk/disadvantage

In **Slovenia**, the Legal centre for the protection of human rights and environment – PIC reports that the needs of children with disabilities are generally well served. For example, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Education (*Zavod Republike Slovenije za šolstvo*) promptly evaluates medical documentation, examines the children, and issues a placement decision directing children to adequate public institutions and education programmes. The only challenge seems to be the translation costs of all the documentation brought from Ukraine. As no financial assistance is provided in this respect, this may sometimes delay placement procedures.⁹⁸ Slovene Philanthropy reports that children with disabilities have sufficient access to healthcare services. Children with chronic illness also receive necessary equipment. Children with special needs receive speedy assistance and are swiftly placed in the adequate educational settings.⁹⁹

In **Slovenia**, the Slovene Philanthropy reports that its staff and volunteers started visiting the orphanage in Slavina in August 2022, the purpose of which was to carry out additional activities for the children and to relieve the orphanage staff, who were initially faced with a severe staff shortage. During the visits, they tried to identify how they could be most helpful to children and employees, but quickly faced the fact that children in such an institutional setting could hardly find their emotional, cognitive and similar needs, as well as their need for a family-like environment, which quickly responds to such needs, adequately met. According to the organisation, even a short period of childhood institutionalisation can have serious consequences on children's development, which are manifested in many ways both in childhood and later in

⁹⁷ Information was provided by the Human Rights Ombudsman (*Varuh človekovih pravic*) upon request (email, 7 June 2023, report dated 9 November 2022, visit to the centre carried out on 13 September 2022).

⁹⁸ Information was provided by the Legal centre for the protection of human rights and environment (*Pravni center za varstvo človekovih pravic in okolja – PIC*) upon request (interview, 9 June 2023).

⁹⁹ Information was provided by the Slovene Philanthropy (*Slovenska filantropija*) upon request (interview, 9 June 2023).

adulthood (e.g. deficits in various areas of development). This has even more profound impact on children with special needs, and some of them are also accommodated in Slavina. Employees with the Slovene Philanthropy also encountered the shortcomings and consequences of early institutionalisation of children in Slavina (e.g. deficits in cognitive, learning and emotional development of children, as well as delays in the development of speech and in motor development of children). To this end, they warned and urged the competent institutions to look for the possibility of placing children in foster care or smaller residential units, where their treatment would be more individualised, supportive of the comprehensive development of children and adapted to their needs. In practice, however, these efforts have unfortunately not led to changes.¹⁰⁰ According to the 2023 government decision prolonging the accommodation of Ukrainian children in Slavina, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants funds the Slavina project. The value of the project is estimated at € 1,155,242. The appropriations are intended to cover the cost of the service charge (e.g. five meals per day, employment of seven persons, costs of security service, premises lease, cleaning, costs of administration and technical staff), operating costs, the cost of additional staff not covered by the service charge (i.e. additional Slovenian staff, including project coordinator, childcare workers and their assistants), the renovation of the kitchenette, and material costs, (e.g. office supplies, minor repairs, costs of telecommunications, postal and banking services, fuel for transport and trips). The head of the orphanage in Ukraine acts as children's guardian in Slovenia. Representatives of the Ukrainian Embassy to Slovenia visit the facility.¹⁰¹

In **Slovenia**, there were no reports on the presence of Roma children and stateless children from Ukraine.¹⁰²

¹⁰⁰ Information was provided by the Slovene Philanthropy (*Slovenska filantropija*) upon request (email, 21 June 2023).

¹⁰¹ Slovenia, Government of the Republic of Slovenia (Vlada Republike Slovenije), [Decision No. 21400-3/2023/3](#), 23 February 2023; further information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (e-mail, 7 July 2023).

¹⁰² Information was provided, upon request, by the Legal centre for the protection of human rights and environment (*Pravni center za varstvo človekovih pravic in okolja – PIC*) (interview, 9 June 2023) and the Slovene Philanthropy (*Slovenska filantropija*) (interview, 9 June 2023).

5. Policies in place

5.1. Dedicated action plan and/or integrated measures

In **Slovenia**, the authorities do not report adoption of an overarching strategy or an action plan related to children fleeing the aggression in Ukraine.¹⁰³ In the field of education, the National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (*Zavod Republike Slovenije za šolstvo*) produced the Guidelines for the integration of children and adolescents with temporary protection to educational institutions (*Smernice za vključevanje otrok in mladostnikov z začasno zaščito v vzgojno-izobraževalne zavode*). The guidelines target professionals in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools. The document is intended to support the integration of and work with children and adolescents who arrive from war zones and need support with the integration in educational institutions. According to the guidelines, the work with children and adolescents and their families in education institutions should be based on: flexible inclusion of children and adolescents with an emphasis on the best interest of the child; team work of all professionals involved in the education process; an inclusive, stimulating and diverse learning environment, which takes into account their different prior knowledge and abilities; integration as a two-way process; assistance in involving children and young people in leisure activities at school and in the local environment; constant and continuous professional support to all professional workers in education; provision of information to parents about the possibilities and manners of integration into the local environment.¹⁰⁴

In **Slovenia**, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities issued two circulars to social work centres in, respectively, March and April 2022 concerning the treatment of unaccompanied children applying for temporary protection. The April circular lays down that during admission of an unaccompanied child to the reception centre, the locally competent social work centre is contacted,

¹⁰³ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (email, 9 June 2023, response dated 8 June 2023).

¹⁰⁴ Cotič Pajntar, J., Klobasa, H. et al. (2022), *Smernice za vključevanje otrok in mladostnikov z začasno zaščito v vzgojno-izobraževalne zavode*, Ljubljana, Zavod Republike Slovenije za šolstvo.

whereby it immediately appoints a special case guardian (*skrbnik za posebne primere*) to the child. The special case guardian shall represent the child in the procedure for obtaining the temporary protection. If it is necessary in specific cases, a special case guardian is also appointed for other tasks. As the relevant legislation, namely the Family Code,¹⁰⁵ stipulates that the guardian cannot be a person whose interests are in conflict with the interests of the ward, the ministry instructed that social work centres rather than the natural person with whom the child travelled to Slovenia be appointed as special case guardians. If such a natural person is appointed as the special case guardian, this may prompt the question of the possible conflict of interest, since it is not possible to establish in a short time whether the adult is protecting their own rather than the child's interest. Caution should be further exercised over possible instances of trafficking in human beings or other types of abuse. In addition, during the short timeframe for appointing the guardian, it is often not possible to verify if the potential guardian meets other conditions provided by the law. Nevertheless, if a natural person is appointed as a special case guardian, the centre immediately telephones them to hand them over the decision as soon as possible. As the time period for lodging an application for temporary protection is short, the centres are instructed to issue administrative decisions which are immediately enforceable, as per the General Administrative Procedure Act (*Zakon o splošnem upravnem postopku*). According to the law, a decision against which the time limit for appeal (i.e. 15 days) has not yet expired and a decision against which an appeal has been filed may exceptionally be enforced if so provided by an act, if the case involves emergency measures taken in the public interest which cannot be postponed, or if some party may suffer irreparable damage due to the postponement of enforcement.¹⁰⁶ Upon recognition of temporary protection, the competent social work centre submits a motion to the competent court to place a child under guardianship (*skrbništvo*), since special case guardianship is not intended for permanent and comprehensive protection of the rights and benefits of unaccompanied children. The competent social work centre also addresses to the competent court an initiative for placement of a child in foster care, if it considers that such placement is necessary. In general, however, the circular stipulates that the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants provides for the accommodation of unaccompanied children in its accommodation centres which are adequate for their stay. If it is established in individual cases that the placement in accommodation

¹⁰⁵ Slovenia, [The Family code](#) (*Družinski zakonik*), 21 March 2017, and subsequent modifications.

¹⁰⁶ Slovenia, [The General administrative procedure act](#) (*Zakon o splošnem upravnem postopku*), 16 September 1999, and subsequent modifications.

centres is inadequate, the children are placed in crisis centres, run by social work centres.¹⁰⁷

5.2. European Child Guarantee

The **Slovenian** government adopted the National action plan of the Republic of Slovenia for the Child Guarantee 2022-2030 (*Nacionalni akcijski načrt Republike Slovenije za jamstvo za otroke 2022–2030*) in April 2023. The document includes no specific reference to children fleeing Ukraine.¹⁰⁸

5.3. Budget

In **Slovenia**, there is no single budget line dedicated to children fleeing war in Ukraine. For example, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants does not disaggregate funds available for supporting those affected by the crisis in Ukraine by the age of beneficiaries. Its dedicated budget for this purpose stands at € 38,722,502 in 2023 and € 29,203,080 in 2024. The project of accommodation of children from a Ukrainian orphanage and accompanying staff and their children in Slovenia, namely in a student dormitory and at premises in the village of Slavina, in accordance with the order of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia No. 21400-3/2023/3 of 23 February 2023, is funded from this budget line. The total value of the project is estimated at € 1,155,242.¹⁰⁹ The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities reports that it does not keep specific statistics on funds paid to beneficiaries. It reports the number of children who are citizens of Ukraine and receive child benefits, but the available statistics do not separate children who fled the war from other Ukrainian recipients of child benefits. It is, however, safe to conclude that a significant majority of recipients of child benefits are children fleeing their country because of the aggression. For example, on 1 February and on 1

¹⁰⁷ Slovenia, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*), 'Informacije glede obravnave mladoletnih oseb brez spremstva in pravic oseb iz Ukrajine', circular No. 0075-1/2022/23, 6 April 2022.

¹⁰⁸ Vlada Republike Slovenije (2023), [Nacionalni akcijski načrt Republike Slovenije za jamstvo za otroke 2022–2030](#), Ljubljana, Vlada Republike Slovenije.

¹⁰⁹ Information was provided by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) upon request (e-mail, 7 June 2023).

March 2022, there were 253 and 254 child beneficiaries, while on 1 May 2023, there were 1,495 children receiving child benefits.¹¹⁰ The Ministry of Education reported data for 2022 and 2023. Based on the average expenses for a child and some additional costs (e.g. meals and transportation), the planned funds stand at € 2,948,395 and € 4,800,000, respectively.¹¹¹

¹¹⁰ Information was provided by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*) upon request (emails, 9 June 2023, and 14 June 2023, response dated 13 June 2023).

¹¹¹ Information was provided by the Ministry of Education (*Ministrstvo za vzgojo in izobraževanje*) upon request (email, 16 June 2023).

Annex 1 – Research and data

Slovenian authorities reported no research reports and studies about children fleeing Ukraine, including from January 2023.¹¹² Similarly, an overview of COBISS.si, the national library information system with shared cataloguing, including works by Slovenian academic community also yielded no relevant results.

Table 6 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine

Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine	
Name/title	Data on complaints
Main findings (max. 1000 chars)	In the period from 24 February 2022 until 7 June 2023, the Human Rights Ombudsman received no complaints related to children fleeing from Ukraine.
Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics	/
Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method)	administrative records
Source	Human Rights Ombudsman (<i>Varuh človekovih pravic</i>) ¹¹³

Table 7 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine

Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine	
Name/title	Data on complaints

¹¹² Information was provided, upon request, by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (*Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov*) (email, 9 June 2023, response dated 8 June 2023), the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti*) (email, 7 June 2023), and the Ministry of Education (*Ministrstvo za vzgojo in izobraževanje*) (email, 16 June 2023).

¹¹³ Information was provided by the Human Rights Ombudsman (*Varuh človekovih pravic*) upon request (email, 7 June 2023).

Main findings (max. 1000 chars)	In the period from 24 February 2022 until 5 June 2023, the national equality body, the Advocate of the Principle of Equality dealt with no cases and issues related to children fleeing from Ukraine.
Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics.	/
Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method)	administrative records
Source	Advocate of the Principle of Equality (<i>Zagovornik načela enakosti</i>) ¹¹⁴

¹¹⁴ Information was provided by the Advocate of the Principle of Equality (*Zagovornik načela enakosti*) upon request (5 June 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	Programme of assistance to families from Ukraine “Small glove”/ Program za pomoč družinam iz Ukrajine “Rokavička”
Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)	Social work centre Primorsko-Notranjska
Funding body	Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants
Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)	/
Start / end date or ongoing	Ongoing.
Main target group	Families, children, individuals.
Scope (local/regional/national)	Local.
Objectives and outputs	Integration, learning Slovenian language.
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	The programme is intended for families from Ukraine, both children and adults, who have the status of temporary protection and are accommodated in the Postojna accommodation centre. The programme offers help and support to families, including children and individuals in integrating into the local environment. It includes assistance in learning the Slovenian language, creative workshops and games, individual work upon the referral of the expert staff with the social work centre or accommodation centre, provision of information to users, as well as guidance, counselling, and support with filling in various application forms.
Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact etc) (max. 500 chars)	The programme provides practical support in various life situations.

Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved	/
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Table 9 – Promising practice # 2

Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine	
Name/title	Supplementary lessons of Ukrainian language and culture/ Dopolnilni pouk ukrajinskega jezika in kulture
Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)	Ukrainian teachers
Funding body	Project implemented on voluntary basis.
Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)	/
Start / end date or ongoing	Ongoing.
Main target group	Preschool and primary school children.
Scope (local/regional/national)	Local.
Objectives and outputs	Lessons of Ukrainian language and culture, teaching assistance.
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	The project is implemented at the Martin Krpan Primary School (<i>Osnovna šola Martin Krpan</i>) in Ljubljana. Displaced Ukrainian female teachers volunteer in providing displaced children supplementary lessons of the Ukrainian language and culture, as well as assistance with distance education provided within the Ukrainian school system. Lessons and work take place for three hours per week in four age groups (5-7, 8-10, 11-12 and 13-14 years of age), and are attended by some 40 children. In agreement with the Ukrainian Embassy, other cultural events are also organised.
Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability,	The project allows Ukrainian children in Slovenia to stay in contact with their culture, domestic educational system and their peers in Ukraine, while simultaneously keeping displaced Ukrainian teachers busy.

measurable impact ect) (max. 500 chars)	
Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved	/
