

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

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Contractor: Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of  
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Author(s): Tereza Stöckelová, Linda Sokačová, Edit Szénássy

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# 1. Children fleeing Ukraine

## 1.1 Data on children fleeing Ukraine

**Table 1 Children fleeing Ukraine**

Category of child	Registration system Y/N	Number of children (as disaggregated as possible) (as of 1 April 2023 unless otherwise specified)
Overall number of children	Y	Approx. 91,000 (28% of all temporary protection holders).
Arrived accompanied by mother, father or another legal guardian	Y	Approx. 86,000 (95% of all children who fled to the Czech Republic from Ukraine).
Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends	Y	Approx. 1,100 (separated children who arrived in the country with another adult who is not a family member).
Arrived unaccompanied	Y	Approx. 200
Arrived within a group of children, as an organised evacuation from Ukrainian institutions or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	N/A	This category of children is no longer in the Czech Republic (see below).
Arrived within a group of children, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	N/A	According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs this category is not registered.

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, based on data by the Ministry of the Interior.

The registration system is for all people, including children, who are fleeing from Ukraine who wish to apply for temporary protection. Persons fleeing from Ukraine are expected to register within three days of their arrival in the country at one of the regional centres operated by the Ministry of the Interior (not at border crossing points). Temporary protection is granted almost immediately, upon registration, and must take place in

person. Children over the age of 15 must register in person, younger children can be registered by their legal guardians.

In February and March 2023, the Ministry of the Interior launched an online re-registration platform, where it was possible to extend temporary protection status. The process was obligatory for all permit holders who arrived before 1 January 2023. Based on newly acquired data<sup>1</sup> from 1 April 2023, there were 325,742 temporary protection holders in the country, while since the beginning of the war the Ministry of the Interior had issued a total of 504,107 permits for temporary protection.

Table 1 includes the most up-to-date, disaggregated data based on the recent online registration, but it is incomplete.<sup>2</sup> Obligatory online registration did not concern persons who acquired temporary protection status in 2023, and on a daily basis about 2,500 people from Ukraine register in the Czech Republic for temporary protection. The data do not accurately reflect either whom a child arrived with but instead reflect whom the child resides with – the online registration was done by the child’s guardian. Thus, for instance, a child may have arrived with family members or unaccompanied in April 2022, but if the parents joined the child in December 2022 and performed the online registration to extend the temporary permit in February 2023, the child will feature in the statistics as a child who lives with their parents. The data show the child’s living arrangements at the time of the online registration to extend the permit (February-March 2023).

Arrived with a group of children as part of the organised evacuation of Ukrainian institutions or foster carers: The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs claimed that although in the initial phase after the war broke out children from institutions came in groups, most of these groups have already left the Czech Republic. The ministry does not have further data on them.

Arrived with a group of children through private initiatives, such as football clubs: No information was acquired on this category of children.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of the Interior (2023), In Czechia there are currently 325,000 refugees from Ukraine (V České republice je aktuálně 325 tisíc uprchlíků z Ukrajiny), undated press release.

<sup>2</sup> The table was completed based on information provided via email on 11 June 2023 by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, which processed the data provided by the Ministry of the Interior.

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## 1.2 Crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing

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

Issue / risk	Number of cases i) reported and ii) investigated
Violence, including domestic violence	N/A
Sexual abuse	N/A
Trafficking for exploitation	N/A
Children reported as missing	3 children with Ukrainian citizenship are reported as missing since 2021, but information on their legal status is not available
Other crimes against children fleeing Ukraine	N/A

Source: Police of the Czech Republic.<sup>3</sup>

The Czech Republic has a large Ukrainian diaspora: in 2022 about 94,000 Ukrainian citizens had permanent residence, which offers similar rights to citizenship.<sup>4</sup>

Statistical data recorded by the Police are not disaggregated based on residence status; Police data therefore apply to all Ukrainians. Nationality is not recorded, as in the case of crime victims, as they are the 'objects of crime', and only the perpetrators' nationality is included in police statistics. Nationality is only recorded in the case of hate crimes, but the data are not compiled.<sup>5</sup> No specific statistics pertaining to crimes against Ukrainian children who fled from the war were identified.

The NGO In Iustitia collects statistical data on hate crimes based on ethnic belonging or nationality, but their data are not disaggregated by age or legal status. (Several cases of hate speech and crime against Ukrainians were registered in the past year.)

NGOs have registered cases of domestic violence between children and adults who fled from Ukraine. As part of its activities, the LOCIKA Centre, an NGO which provides support, counselling, and guidance for children who are direct victims of domestic violence or are witnesses to it, implemented a series of training seminars on trauma

<sup>3</sup> Based on a telephone interview with the Police on 14 June 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of the Interior (2023) Annex – Statistics on the fourth quarterly report on migration 2022 ([Statistická příloha ke IV. čtvrtletní zprávě o migraci 2022](#)).

<sup>5</sup> Based on a telephone interview with the Police on 30 May 2023.

sensitivity. It also conducted trainings on the topic of domestic violence in Czech legislation, and these trainings were also attended by Ukrainian organisations. From June 2022 to June 2023, the LOCIKA Centre directly addressed around 30 cases of domestic violence in Ukrainian families and consulted with organisations that work with people from the Ukrainian community in around 15 additional cases.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Information from the NGO LOCIKA Centre from 14 June 2023, which provides services to children who are victims of domestic abuse. The information was acquired informally by one of the report's authors who cooperates with the NGO.

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## 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

The Czech guardianship system is extended to all children, irrespective of legal status. The applicable laws do not specifically mention unaccompanied children, and the rights and best interests of all children must be protected at all times. The extent and nature of support provided to children is contingent on their legal status. Full child protection, as defined in section 2 (2) of the Act on the Social-Legal Protection of Children,<sup>7</sup> is provided to non-citizens if (1) they permanently reside in the country; (2) have had a registered address in the country for at least 90 days; (3) were referred to institutional or foster care by Czech authorities; (3) applied for or have been granted asylum (the children or their parents).

Accompanied children are, as a rule, not tracked by child protection services, unless there is an indication to do so. Identified unaccompanied children (approx. 200 children) are tracked by the child protection authorities and placed at the Facility for the Children of Foreign Nationals or other institutions for children separated from their families. The facility serves all unaccompanied children, not only those fleeing from Ukraine, and it has a capacity of about 30 beds. According to the Office for the International Legal Protection of Children,<sup>8</sup> based on information from street work service providers, about 1,000-1,200 youth (over the age of 17) who fled from the war in Ukraine are wandering around Prague and the country. These youth are not registered for temporary protection. Street work initiatives specifically targeting this group of children were recently introduced with funding from UNICEF.

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<sup>7</sup> Czech Republic, Act No. 359/1999 Coll., on the Social and Legal Protection of Children (zákon č. 359/1999 Sb., o sociálně-právní ochraně dětí), 30 December 1999.

<sup>8</sup> Based on a telephone interview with the Office for the International Legal Protection of Children on 30 May 2023.



## 2.1.2 Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

Almost no information was acquired specifically on children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions, but from a legal perspective these children are in a similar position to unaccompanied children. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports claimed that although groups from Ukrainian institutions arrived at the initial phase of the conflict, they have already left the country and seem to have only transited through the Czech Republic.<sup>9</sup> One child protection expert is aware of four groups of children (of unknown number and precise geographical origin) who fled the war in Ukraine and were granted temporary protection status in Czechia. The groups were accommodated in different regions of the country, and at least one group has already left for Ukraine.<sup>10</sup> Two groups of children with disabilities were brought to the Czech Republic by the Prague-based NGO Dobrá rodina (Good Family), which focuses on foster care. In the first group there are 6 children and carers; this group is in the Ústí nad Labem Region. In the second group there were 42 children and carers, but a more permanent placement could not be found. Its stay was partly funded by UNICEF emergency in the Czech Republic. Currently this group is no longer in the Czech Republic.<sup>11</sup> No further information is known. Child protection competencies are coordinated on the regional level, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth only have policy and monitoring competencies and could not provide additional information. The Office for the International Legal Protection of Children claimed that although regional child protection authorities have an obligation to report on the issue of unaccompanied children to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, they do not regularly and reliably do so.<sup>12</sup>

## 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

Promoting the safety of children and young people is generally promoted in pre-school and primary education through primary prevention programmes that take place as part of mainstream education. These programmes are aimed at pupils in general, and thus

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<sup>9</sup> Email communication with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on 11 June 2023.

<sup>10</sup> Telephone interview with a child protection expert on 25 July 2023.

<sup>11</sup> Telephone interview with a representative of the NGO Dobrá Rodina from 27 July 2023.

<sup>12</sup> Based on a telephone interview with the Office for the International Legal Protection of Children on 30 May 2023.

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they also affect Ukrainians who fled from the war. Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, NGOs working specifically in the field of education or support for foreigners have been providing advice and other support to schools interested in such advice and support (e.g. the Society for All's programme on trauma sensitivity and prevention mechanisms in schools,<sup>13</sup> etc.).

The City of Prague (with the support of UNICEF and partner NGOs) and other Czech cities and municipalities have strengthened field social work with the aim of mapping the situation of children and young people in public spaces and providing safe services (counselling, accommodation, leisure time activities, etc.) and a safe environment.

The UNICEF Refugee Support Office in the Czech Republic<sup>14</sup> also supported the project of the NGO LOCIKA Centre, which focuses on supporting child victims of domestic violence, abuse, etc. Services are provided to all families, with a specific focus on the Ukrainian community.<sup>15</sup> The UNICEF Office also provides and requires its partners to receive training on gender-based violence and work with child and adult victims.

## 2.2.2 Support for child victims of crimes

Children (including children from Ukraine who fled from the war) are defined as a particularly vulnerable group, which endows them with a special set of rights.<sup>16</sup> For instance, such victims have the right to (1) receive free support services; (2) avoid contact with the perpetrator; (3) receive protection during hearings; (4) be provided with free legal representation. No specific support for children as victims of crimes by the Police was identified.<sup>17</sup>

NGOs have registered cases of domestic violence between children and adults who fled from Ukraine.<sup>18</sup> From June 2022 to June 2023 the organisation directly addressed around 30 cases of domestic violence in Ukrainian families and consulted with organisations that work with people from the Ukrainian community in around 15 additional cases.

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<sup>13</sup> Society for All, project [Signály](#) (Signals), accessible in Czech.

<sup>14</sup> More information on the activities of the [UNICEF office](#) is accessible in Czech.

<sup>15</sup> For more information on the project, see LOCIKA's website in Czech.

<sup>16</sup> See the website of the Police of the Czech Republic [here](#).

<sup>17</sup> Based on telephone interviews with the Police on 30 May and 14 June 2023.

<sup>18</sup> Information from the NGO LOCIKA, which provides services to children who are victims of domestic abuse. The information was acquired informally by one of the report authors who cooperates with the NGO.

of mainstream education. Although these programmes are aimed at all pupils, they also affect Ukrainian refugees. Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, NGOs working specifically in the field of education or support for foreigners have been providing advice and other support to schools interested in receiving this advice and support (e.g. the Society for All's programme on trauma sensitivity and prevention mechanisms in schools,<sup>19</sup> etc.).

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

### 2.3.1 Arrived unaccompanied

In general, children fleeing Ukraine fall under the same guardianship provisions as other third-country national children.

Shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports issued guidelines on the procedure for unaccompanied children from Ukraine. The guideline of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs details the legal status of unaccompanied children from Ukraine.<sup>22</sup> The

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<sup>19</sup> Society for All, project [Signály](#) (Signals). Accessible in Czech.

<sup>20</sup> More information on the [UNICEF office](#) is accessible in Czech.

<sup>21</sup> More information on the [project](#) 'Pomoc dětem a jejich blízkým zasaženým násilím a traumatem v důsledku války na Ukrajině' (Helping children and their relatives affected by the violence and trauma of the war in Ukraine) is accessible in Czech.

<sup>22</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2022) Guideline on measures concerning child protection in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine inflicted by the armed forces of the Russian Federation ([Metodická informace k opatřením na ochranu dětí v souvislosti s válečným konfliktem na území Ukrajiny, vyvolaným invazí vojsk Ruské federace](#)).

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Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports details the procedure that local authorities are to apply in the case of unaccompanied children arriving from Ukraine in a different guideline.<sup>23</sup> After the initial registration at assistant centres, unaccompanied children meet with a representative of the child protection authority, which is present on the municipal level. Children are then channelled to a school/institution/childcare facility – usually to the Prague-based Facility for the Children of Foreign Nationals (*Zařízení pro děti cizince*), which serves both as a diagnostic institution, where children are examined by psychologists and other professionals, and as a facility for a long-term stay equipped with a school and dormitory. The facility falls under the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The guideline explains that if there is a further need, children can be placed at other childcare facilities/institutions, where unaccompanied children are otherwise not placed. Once children are placed at a school facility, the director of the facility must contact a number of authorities (child protection, health insurance, Ministry of the Interior, local court, embassy, etc.).

If the child arrives in the Czech Republic without a legal guardian, the following situations may arise<sup>24</sup>:

- if there is a person who requests custody of the child (interim measure) – e.g. a relative who is already living in the Czech Republic – the person is appointed as the legal guardian;
- if no person requests custody, the child is represented by the child protection authority (OSPOD) as a public guardian until the court appoints another guardian or reconfirms the child protection authority as the guardian of the child.

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

According to the guidelines of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs,<sup>25</sup> if a child under 15 years of age arrived from Ukraine with grandparents, an adult sibling, adoptive

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<sup>23</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (2022) Information concerning unaccompanied children from Ukraine in the facilities of institutional, protective, or preventive care ([Informace týkající se nezletilých cizinců bez doprovodu přicházejících z Ukrajiny v zařízeních pro výkon ústavní nebo ochranné výchovy a preventivně výchovné péče](#)).

<sup>24</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2022) Guideline on measures concerning child protection in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine inflicted by the armed forces of the Russian Federation ([Metodická informace k opatřením na ochranu dětí v souvislosti s válečným konfliktem na území Ukrajiny, vyvolaným invazí vojsk Ruské federace](#)).

<sup>25</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2022) Guideline on measures concerning child protection in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine inflicted by the armed forces of the Russian Federation ([Metodická informace k opatřením na ochranu dětí v souvislosti s válečným konfliktem na území Ukrajiny, vyvolaným invazí vojsk Ruské federace](#)).

parents, foster parents, a custodian, or other family members or persons to whom the child was entrusted by one of the parents, then these persons are both eligible and obliged to provide the child with care.

These persons have the obligation to ensure that the child is registered for temporary protection and to report to child protection authorities at their place of residence. Child protection authorities (which are based at the municipal authorities) must initiate the court procedure in which official guardianship can be established. Municipal authorities must provide assistance to the adults accompanying these children (help with registration, court procedures, social services).

Official documents from Ukraine regarding guardianship are considered legally valid and recognised.

### **2.3.3 Arrived with a group from a Ukrainian institution or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)**

Children who arrive in the guardianship or custody of institutions are not considered unaccompanied children. Although FRANET CZ was unable to verify this information with the stakeholders, there is no reason to believe that guardians appointed in Ukraine were not automatically recognised.

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

This category of children was not identified during the desk research and interviews.

## **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)	Approx. 200	Children are placed at the Prague-based Facility for the Children of Foreign Nationals (which specialises in non-Czech children), as well as in other institutions (which are primarily for Czech children) throughout the country
In reception centres for children fleeing Ukraine		There are no reception centres specifically for children fleeing Ukraine
Other placement		

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, based on data by the Interior.

It is not possible to fill out Table 3, as the types of data requested are not available at the moment. The Ministry of the Interior promised to send statistics on the placement of children with the following categories of persons: parent, grandparent, adult sibling, other family member, custodian, foster parent, guardian, child protection authorities. However, these statistics will be based on the online registration to extend the temporary protection permit (see 1.1), which was compulsory for all persons arriving from Ukraine before 1 January 2023. It does not include persons who arrived from 1 January 2023 and no detailed data are available on the placement of this category of unaccompanied/separated children.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs,<sup>26</sup> 1,100 children arrived without their parents – the adults accompanying the children were either other family members, neighbours, or family friends.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports also does not record these statistics and has no information on the issue.<sup>27</sup>

Alternative care projects in the Czech Republic are generally focused on unaccompanied children. These projects focus on placing unaccompanied children and young people in alternative accommodation outside the Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals<sup>28</sup> or other institutional care facilities, and campaigns focusing on foster care are starting. The

<sup>26</sup> Communication with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs via email on 11 June 2023.

<sup>27</sup> Communication with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports via email on 14 June 2023.

<sup>28</sup> Information on the facility is available on their [website](#).

Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals is a diagnostic and educational institution based in Prague that is specifically for unaccompanied children.

Because the capacity of the specialised Facility for the Children of Foreign Nationals for unaccompanied Ukrainian children was insufficient, and because the courts also pointed out that children over the age of 16 were capable of taking care of themselves with the support of specialised services, a dialogue was established between the non-profit sector in Prague and Prague City Hall for the purpose of creating alternative accommodation projects for unaccompanied children (not only from Ukraine).<sup>29</sup> These initiatives concern mostly children over the age of 16, who would otherwise be sent to the Facility for the Children of Foreign Nationals.<sup>30</sup>

One such specialised project is the Hnízdo (Nest) facility,<sup>31</sup> an accommodation and integration facility operated by the NGO Armáda spásy (Salvation Army). The project aims to integrate at least 30 unaccompanied children into Czech society, while targeting persons aged 15-20 from Ukraine who arrived in connection with the armed conflict on their territory. It is a field service, not a residential service, and it is financed by the European Social Fund under the Operational Programme Employment Plus.

Specific accommodation and integration services for unaccompanied children aged 16 to 26 years are also provided by the Organisation for Aid to Refugees (OPU). OPU has a specialised residential social service, 'Halfway House', in Prague 5 that only targets unaccompanied Ukrainian girls (it has a capacity of about 16 places). The project is supported by UNICEF and since July 2023 it has been included in the state framework of social services support.

The NGO Dobrá rodina (Good Family) cooperates with Prague City Hall and UNICEF to develop a creative campaign aimed at recruiting new foster parents for unaccompanied Ukrainian refugee children among the Ukrainian community in the Czech Republic. The goal will be for children to be fostered, not adopted, and the campaign will focus mainly on Prague.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Interview with a representative of public administration – Prague City Hall (online interview, 6 June 2023) and an interview with a representative of a non-profit organisation providing assistance to refugees (online interview, 8 June 2023).

<sup>30</sup> The activities of the facility are regulated by Act No. 109/2002 Coll. on the performance of institutional or protective education, as amended, and Decree No. 438/2006 Coll. of 30 August 2006. The main focus of the facility is the integration of unaccompanied alien children in the Czech Republic, while preserving, understanding, and respecting their social, ethnic, cultural, historical, and religious customs.

<sup>31</sup> More information about the project is available on the websites of the [Salvation Army](#).

<sup>32</sup> Online interview with a representative of the NGO Dobrá rodina on 14 June 2023.

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According to information from the media<sup>33</sup> as well as information from public administration, the Ukrainian side does not want children 15+ placed in foster care.<sup>34</sup> The NGO Dobrá rodina reported that when they provided support to a group of children and educators who came from Ukrainian institutional care, the Ukrainian side was concerned that these children might be illegally adopted and lost within the Czech Republic. One of the reasons for this was the lack of contractual solutions for the protection of children in adoption or foster care.<sup>35</sup>

## 2.5 Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

### 2.5.1 Institutional placements

Little information was identified about children who were evacuated from Ukrainian institutions. It seems that children from Ukrainian institutions arrived as a group at an earlier stage of the war, transited to other countries, and currently there are no such groups in the Czech Republic.

Two groups were supposed to arrive in the Moravian-Silesian Region, one in the Ústí nad Labem Region, and one in Prague. Only a small number of people knew about this, and the group travelled a lot around the Czech Republic. They resided in a hostel in the Pilsen Region, then they returned to Prague, and the Prague 1 child protection authority dealt with them, housing the group at a residential service for disadvantaged children. They returned to Ukraine not long ago.

A child protection expert is aware of four groups of children (of unknown number and precise geographical origin) who fled from the war in Ukraine and who were granted temporary protection status in Czechia. The groups were accommodated in different regions of the country.<sup>36</sup> Two groups of children with disabilities were brought to the Czech Republic by the Prague-based NGO Dobrá rodina (Good Family), which focuses on foster care. In the first group there are 6 children and carers, this group is placed in the Ústí nad Labem Region. In the second group there were 42 children and carers and a more permanent placement could not be found - they stayed in a recreational facility of

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<sup>33</sup> Hesová, A. (2023), In Czechia there are 30,000 Ukrainian children without parents. Street workers will assist them in the Lower Moravia Region ([V Česku je 30 tisíc ukrajinských dětí bez rodičů. Na jižní Moravě jim budou pomáhat terénní pracovníci](#)), Irozhlas, 9 April 2023.

<sup>34</sup> Online interview with a representative of public administration - Prague City Hall on 6 June 2023.

<sup>35</sup> Telephone interview with a representative of the NGO Dobrá Rodina from 27 July 2023.

<sup>36</sup> Telephone interview with a child protection expert on 25 July 2023.



the Ministry of the Interior in the Pilsen Region, in a social services facility in Brno Kociánka, or in a hotel in Prague. The group was there from March to September 2022. The cost was approximately CZK 10 million. The costs were covered by foundations or international organisations (UNICEF, private foundations etc.). The group's stay was partly funded by UNICEF emergency in the Czech Republic. The group has now left for Ukraine.<sup>37</sup> No further information is known. Child protection implementation powers and coordination takes place on the regional level.

## 2.5.2 Alternative care

### 2.5.3 Safeguards for children placed in institutional care settings

The conditions in institutional care are governed by the Act on the Performance of Institutional Education or Protective Education in School Facilities and on Preventive and Educational Care in School Facilities.<sup>38</sup> Each institution must have its own internal regulations where the basic conditions are defined – for example, complaint mechanisms, etc. The internal rules are drawn up by the director of the establishment and it is his/her duty to make these rules known to all staff and to all children and young people in the facility. If internal mechanisms fail, other actors can be called upon. The key social worker can be contacted, and he/ she has an obligation to visit the child in care regularly (once every 3 months). The facility must also be regularly visited and inspected by a public prosecutor. Each facility has a founder, i.e. the authority responsible for its operation (usually the regional authorities, for others it is the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports). The Ombudsperson can also be contacted.

### 2.5.4 Access to local services and support

Children in institutional care have full access to education and health-care services. The Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals has its own primary school, as do some other

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<sup>37</sup> Telephone interview with a representative of the NGO Dobrá Rodina from 27 July 2023.

<sup>38</sup> Zákon č. 109/ 2002 Sb., o výkonu ústavní výchovy nebo ochranné výchovy ve školských zařízeních a o preventivně výchovné péči ve školských zařízeních a o změně dalších zákonů (Act No. 109/2002 Coll., on the Performance of Institutional Education or Protective Education in School Facilities and on Preventive and Educational Care in School Facilities and on Amendments to Other Acts).

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institutions (yet others integrate children into mainstream public schools). Since the specific institutions in which children from Ukraine are placed are not known to FRANET CZ, it is not possible to evaluate the extent of access the children living in them have to local services and support. In all cases, children from Ukraine have access to local health service providers.

## 2.6 Child-friendly information and the means for ensuring the participation of children from Ukraine

### 2.6.1 Child-friendly information

The Ombudsperson provided an information leaflet (including in the Ukrainian language) for children who fled from the war.<sup>39</sup> The leaflet details children's rights in the Czech Republic, including information on access to services and psychological support.

Most of the information concerning children and young people is in the form of information leaflets and materials for parents or their legal representatives, i.e. adults. A bilingual magazine called *Parták*<sup>40</sup> (Buddy) was published by the Scout organisation (together with practical guidelines for Scout leaders). *Parták* is intended for children aged 8 to 13. The magazine provides children who have fled from Ukraine with a child-friendly introduction to the Czech Republic.

### 2.6.2 Child participation

Very superficial data were acquired through desk research and information requests. NGOs such as OPU, the LOCIKA Centre and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth were contacted.

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<sup>39</sup> The leaflet is available on the websites of the Ombudsperson in [Ukrainian](#) and [Czech](#).

<sup>40</sup> The bilingual magazine [Parták](#) is accessible in Czech and Ukrainian.

## 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)	N	
Complete medical check -up / health screening	Y	Temporary protection holders have the same right to health care from public health insurance as citizens of the Czech Republic.
Mental health screening (PTSD, depression, anxiety)	Y	Temporary protection holders have the same right to health care from public health insurance as citizens of the Czech Republic.
Vaccinations for children	Y	Temporary protection holders have the same right to health care from public health insurance as citizens of the Czech Republic.
Mental health / psychosocial support	Y	Temporary protection holders have the same right to health care from public health insurance as citizens of the Czech Republic.
Children with disabilities and those with chronic illnesses have access to the medical care needed	Y	Temporary protection holders have the same right to health care from public health insurance as citizens of the Czech Republic.

Source: General Health Insurance Company of the Czech Republic.<sup>41</sup>

Both children and adults who are temporary protection holders have full access to the public health-care system.

The Czech Republic recognises disability documents issued in Ukraine. If holders of a card certifying a disability issued in Ukraine cannot prove their status, they have the right to request a medical examination, and if they qualify, they will be recognised as a person with a disability by the Czech Regional Social Security Administration.

### 3.1.2 Challenges in practical provision

Ukrainian temporary protection holders, including children, have access to the public health insurance system. Problems may arise with the coverage of the costs of specific medical procedures or with medical capacities (e.g. lack of paediatricians, etc.).<sup>42</sup> Short-term mental health counselling is available both through NGOs and the public health system, but according to information from the NGO sector, TP holders from Ukraine have issues accessing long-term psychological support that operates outside the disability system (such as long-term therapy sessions that are not covered by public health insurance).<sup>43</sup>

### 3.1.3 Mental health and psychosocial support for children fleeing Ukraine

Projects focused on mental health and psychosocial support are mainly provided by non-profit organisations in the fields of social services, the socio-legal protection of children, or support for migrants. There is currently a lack of capacity in the Czech Republic in the field of child psychiatric and psychological care. The services covered by the public health insurance system are very limited and there are long waiting times for these services. Some psychiatric and psychological services are offered outside the public health insurance system. Even these services for children are very busy and often

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<sup>41</sup> See the website of the public health insurance company [here](#). For the applicable legal provision, see § 7 of the Act No. 65/2022 Coll. on some measures in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of Russian armed forces (Zákon č. 65/2022 Sb. o některých opatřeních v souvislosti s ozbrojeným konfliktem na území Ukrajiny vyvolaným invazí vojsk Ruské federace).

<sup>42</sup> Online interview with a representative of the NGO LOCIKA providing assistance to refugees on 8 June 2023.

<sup>43</sup> Online interview with a representative of an NGO providing assistance to refugees (8 June 2023); the author's own professional experience at the NGO LOCIKA Centre, information valid on 30 June 2023.

unaffordable (prices are usually CZK 1,000 (approx. € 40) or more per hour<sup>44</sup>). Another problem is the language barrier on the part of psychologists/psychiatrists and Ukrainian refugees.

After the war broke out in Ukraine, NGOs and volunteer initiatives began to provide psychological support to Ukrainians arriving in the Czech Republic, with an emphasis on families and children. The services offered mainly include crisis intervention, which can also be provided with interpretation. Crisis intervention is provided for up to 12 sessions. Specialised group psychotherapy is also provided – for example, for women, children, etc. However, the problem is follow-up and long-term psychological or psychiatric care for adults and children. Organisations offering these services include, for example, the LOCIKA Centre,<sup>45</sup> a specialised non-profit organisation for children affected by domestic violence and trauma, offering crisis intervention and other psychotherapeutic care for children and families who fall within its area of activity. LOCIKA also provided psychological support directly in schools. In 2022 and 2023, over 400 Ukrainian clients, mainly children, were supported.<sup>46</sup> The activity is supported by the Ceska Sportelna Foundation, the RSJ Foundation, and UNICEF.

Extensive psychological support is provided by the non-profit organisation Agency for Adaptation and Migration – Amiga.<sup>47</sup> AMIGA helps migrants with a special focus on psychological assistance to Ukrainians who fled from the war and those who help them. It offers psychosocial care coordination, psychological support groups, crisis intervention and psychological help, relaxation groups for adults and children, art therapy and support for Ukrainian psychologists. Amiga implements the Dumka project,<sup>48</sup> which includes Ukrainian- and Russian-speaking specialists in mental health, health care, social work, and education. These specialists work with clients in their native language to improve their mental health and better adapt to life in the Czech Republic. In June 2023, Dumka was contacted by more than 200 clients and provided more than 1,500 hours of psychological support. On 3 July the Dumka reported more than 2,200 hours of psychological support and 440+ clients. The Dumka project is supported by the NGO People in Need, and Amiga's activities are also supported by UNHCR, the RSJ Foundation, Prague City Council, etc.

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<sup>44</sup> According to the online price lists of child psychotherapists outside the public health insurance system. Some health insurance companies offer mental health care benefits.

<sup>45</sup> More information about the project can be found on their [website](#) in Czech.

<sup>46</sup> Conversation with the NGO LOCIKA on 19 June.

<sup>47</sup> More information about AMIGA is available in English on the organisation's [website](#).

<sup>48</sup> More information about the project is available on the organisation's website in [Czech](#), [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#).

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The NGO Society for All is implementing the project Signály<sup>49</sup> (Signals), which is supported by UNICEF. It develops a system of interdisciplinary cooperation for the early identification of children at risk. The project creates a system of strengthened interdisciplinary cooperation between schools, health, and social services, police officers, and firefighters in supporting children at risk. In addition, Society for All in collaboration with UNICEF are raising awareness among social and school professionals and promoting a trauma-sensitive approach that focuses on the psychological well-being of children and young people.

## 3.2 Access to education

### 3.2.1 Types of schooling

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**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	6,904	No information	The data apply to 30 September 2022.
	Children in primary education	38,304	No information	The data apply to 31 March 2023.
	Children in secondary education	3,036	No information	The data apply to 31 March 2023.
Physical attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting		No information	No information	No information
Online attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting		No information	No information	No information

Source: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.<sup>50</sup>

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport does not collect data specifically on Ukrainian children with temporary protection. The number above includes also Ukrainian children who have asylum status (refugee status) and international protection status. However, the number of children with refugee status is presumably very small.

<sup>49</sup> More information on the project is available in Czech [here](#).

<sup>50</sup> Information provided via email on 14 June 2023.

No information was acquired on the number of children who physically attend school vs those who study online at a Ukrainian school.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports conducted a research study on the enrolment rate of Ukrainian children who fled from the war at Czech schools.<sup>51</sup> The survey (presumably an online survey – the methodology is unspecified) was completed by a total of 8,568 educational institutions, and the data were collected between 6 and 18 April 2023. The results indicate that since the beginning of the Russian aggression in Ukraine, about 51,281 children fleeing the war had entered the Czech education system, thereby doubling the number of non-Czech-speaking children in Czech schools. Ukrainian students currently make up 2.8 % of all children registered at Czech schools.<sup>52</sup> Ukrainian children are most prominently represented in preparatory classes (year 0 classes), where they make up 7% of the total number of students. In primary schools 3.9 % of all students are Ukrainian children who fled the war.<sup>53</sup>

### 3.2.2 Support for integration in the formal education system

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and its organisations have focused on the integration of Ukrainian refugees into the education system. A network of information channels has been created, ranging from a dedicated website for the education of children from Ukraine<sup>54</sup> (including a link to the social network Telegram in Ukrainian). For university students and researchers fleeing Ukraine, the House of International Cooperation created dedicated websites.<sup>55</sup> The Czech School Inspectorate<sup>56</sup> and the

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<sup>51</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (2023), Special research on the number of Ukrainian refugees in the regional educational system: April 2023 (Mimořádné šetření k počtům ukrajinských uprchlíků v regionálním školství: duben 2023). Prague, Department of Statistics and Analysis. The study can be accessed in Czech on the [websites of the Ministry of Education](#).

<sup>52</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (2023), Special research on the number of Ukrainian refugees in the regional education system: April 2023 (Mimořádné šetření k počtům ukrajinských uprchlíků v regionálním školství: duben 2023). Prague, Department of Statistics and Analysis, p. 1.

<sup>53</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (2023), Special research on the number of Ukrainian refugees in the regional education system: April 2023 (Mimořádné šetření k počtům ukrajinských uprchlíků v regionálním školství: duben 2023). Prague, Department of Statistics and Analysis, p. 1.

<sup>54</sup> See the website [here](#).

<sup>55</sup> See the website [here](#).

<sup>56</sup> See the Czech School Inspectorate's website in English [here](#).

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National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic<sup>57</sup> are also involved in methodological and other support activities.

The Ministry of Education prepared a system of so-called adaptation groups, which serve on a voluntary basis to allow Ukrainian children to take advantage of the first 90 days of their stay in the Czech Republic so that they can start school when they are ready for it.<sup>58</sup> In the first quarter of 2023, only one percent of children from the target group, mostly preschoolers (10% of them), participated in adaptation groups.<sup>59</sup> The adaptation groups are not implemented by employees of the Ministry of Education, but by schools, NGOs, and similar stakeholders.

The Ministry of Education also allocated funds for language education for Ukrainian children or Ukrainian teachers. This included funds from the state budget, the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education, the National Recovery Plan and the Norwegian funds. Funds from the Operational Fund Research, Development and Education were also allocated for the integration of Ukrainian children or for the financing of Ukrainian teaching assistants.

Non-profit organisations are important actors in supporting Ukrainian pupils in education. The NGO META, o.p.s.,<sup>60</sup> has been focusing on supporting children whose mother tongue is not Czech for a long time. The organisation provides support for migrant children – it offers, for example, tutoring, social services for families, Czech language courses (including e-learning), and leisure activities. It also offers methodological support for pedagogical staff and schools in the form of manuals, publications, and workshops. An important integration tool is the methodological website [www.inkluzivniskola.cz](http://www.inkluzivniskola.cz), which brings together methodological and other support materials for pedagogical staff and professionals for the inclusion of students whose first language is not Czech. The website also brings together information relating to Ukrainian pupils at different levels of the school system. Methodologies, seminars, and other support materials are generally aimed at students in Czech schools whose mother tongue is not Czech, with a special focus on Ukrainian pupils. Teachers (in most cases Czech-speaking) are the main target group. The 'Inkluzivní škola' (Inclusive School)

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<sup>57</sup> See the Institute's website in English [here](#).

<sup>58</sup> Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (2023), The Czech education system has been helping Ukrainian children for over a year ([Český vzdělávací systém už rok pomáhá ukrajinským dětem](#)), press release, 24 February 2023.

<sup>59</sup> PAQ Research (2023), The [Voice of Ukrainians in the Czech Republic: The Education of Refugee Children in the Czech Republic \(April 2023\)](#).

<sup>60</sup> For more information, visit the organisation's [website in English](#).



offers methodologies in Czech, but also, for example, glossaries or materials/books with basic phrases in Ukrainian.<sup>61</sup>

The initiative *Začni učit!*<sup>62</sup> (Start Teaching!) has prepared a project aimed at Ukrainian teachers called *Začni učit v Česku*<sup>63</sup> (Start Teaching in Czechia). It is a Czech-Ukrainian website that summarises the opportunities and obligations of Ukrainian teachers if they want to practise their profession in the Czech Republic. Applicants interested in this can find all kinds of information ranging from how to get a teaching degree officially recognised to Czech language courses and guidance on how to write a CV and apply for a position in a Czech school. The project also offers consultation in Ukrainian. According to its data, the organisation has so far supported more than 1,200 Ukrainian teachers. In 2023, the project received the Nadace České Spořitelny Award.

### 3.2.3 Data on dropouts and NEETs (not in education, employment, or training)

No official data were acquired from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Research data are available on the participation of Ukrainian refugees in the Czech education system from online surveys conducted by PAQ Research in cooperation with the Institute of Sociology of the of the Czech Academy of Science within the Voice of Ukrainians in the Czech Republic survey series.<sup>64</sup> In the frame of one of the surveys interviews were conducted with 864 refugee households from Ukraine, with a total of 1,200 children aged 3-17 years, of whom 269 are in kindergarten, 768 in primary school, and 163 in secondary school. Respondents reported on each child in the household separately. The study was supported by UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

The proportion of Ukrainian temporary protection holders currently attending Czech schools is similar to the figure recorded at the end of 2022. About 92% of Ukrainian children are attending primary schools, 43% of adolescents are attending secondary schools, and two-thirds of children between the ages of 3 and 5 are attending kindergartens. Only one-third of adolescents under the age of 17 are studying in Czech secondary schools. One-tenth of this age group are combining studies at both a Czech and a Ukrainian educational institution, while 53% are studying remotely at a Ukrainian

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<sup>61</sup> For a list of materials, please see the website of the organisation in [Czech](#).

<sup>62</sup> More information is available on the initiative's [website](#) in Czech.

<sup>63</sup> More information is available on the [project website](#) in Czech and Ukrainian.

<sup>64</sup> PAQ Research (2023), [The Voice of Ukrainians in the Czech Republic: The education of Refugee Children in the Czech Republic \(April 2023\)](#).

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school alone. A total of 14% of the children are not enrolled at any educational institution at all, some of them have already completed their secondary education.

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

The **Humanitarian Benefit** is one of the basic financial benefits for Ukrainians with temporary protection. It is designed to help foreign nationals who have been granted temporary protection on the territory of the Czech Republic and who do not have the means to pay for basic living needs. The first payment of this benefit of CZK 5,000 (about € 200) is automatically provided in the first month to all people who hold temporary protection. The benefit can be received repeatedly depending on income and social circumstances. Until 30 June 2023, it could be paid as CZK 5,000 per month, with a total of up to six payments, and from the 7th payment the amount was reduced to the subsistence minimum (CZK 3,130 or € 132). Income, assets, and social circumstances are monitored, and physical residence in the Czech Republic is a prerequisite. Entitlement to this benefit does not apply to foreign nationals who are provided with free accommodation including a full day's food and basic sanitary facilities.

As of 1 July 2023, the Humanitarian Benefit (subsistence allowance) will be paid from the 1st to the 5th month (for 150 days) as an amount equal to the subsistence minimum – 4,860 CZK (€ 200) for an adult and 3,490 CZK (€ 145) for a child. Other parameters of the benefit will also change. All income and any savings will be taken into account. From the 6th month onwards, the benefit will be reduced to a lower amount, in cases where the person is not trying to provide for his or her own financial means and at the same time has no objective obstacles to work (i.e. the individual is not a 'vulnerable person'). Vulnerable persons will benefit from a higher coefficient when receiving the allowance.<sup>65</sup> This is in an effort to target support to the most vulnerable - this includes children under the age of 18, carers of children under the age of 6, people over the age of 65, people with disabilities, carers of people with disabilities, pregnant women, and students aged 16-25. Persons with disabilities will receive 1.5 times the amount, i.e. CZK 7,290 (€ 300), after proving their disadvantage. Holders of a card certifying a disability issued in Ukraine or a person who has been recognised as a person with a disability by the Czech Regional Social Security Administration, and the person's carer (who is been identified as the carer in the application for the benefit), are eligible for the this

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<sup>65</sup> Information on the financial support system for Ukrainian temporary protection holders is available on the websites of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs [here](#) and [here](#). Changes to the humanitarian benefit from 1 July 2023 are described [here](#) in Czech.

amount.<sup>66</sup> Children aged 6 to 10 will receive 1.2 times the amount, i.e. CZK 4,188. The reason for this is to support those who care for the children and to increase the possibility of paying for extracurricular activities in the afternoon so that the child's parents can work.

Temporary protection holders can apply for **emergency assistance** to cover necessary one-off expenses (such as school supplies).<sup>67</sup> In connection with the above-mentioned changes to the Humanitarian Benefit and the currently applicable regulations for accommodation support, temporary protection holders can request emergency financial assistance for the purpose of acquiring or keeping their accommodation (e.g. request support for paying the deposit) or returning to Ukraine or in case of serious ill or harm.<sup>68</sup>

Ukrainian temporary protection holders are subject to different conditions for receiving **social benefits** than those that apply to asylum holders or foreign nationals with permanent residence. They have access to a smaller range of benefits and a new special benefit has been created for them - the Humanitarian Benefit (see above). UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs have launched a new benefit for children with disabilities, which exclusively targets Ukrainians with temporary protection. Foreign nationals with asylum or permanent residence have access (eligibility varies according to legal residence status) to the state social support system - e.g. disability benefits, housing allowance, etc.<sup>69</sup>

UNICEF in cooperation with the Czech Red Cross in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is starting a **financial assistance programme for Ukrainian children with disabilities** who were granted temporary protection in the Czech Republic. This financial assistance is intended to support families facing greater difficulties in accessing the labour market and additional costs related to the child's disability that are not covered by public health insurance. The applicant must have a valid Ukrainian Disabled Child's Card and a valid accompanying medical certificate which was obtained when the temporary protection visa was obtained (and was issued by the Czech authorities) for the child with a disability. If the child does not have a valid Ukrainian Disabled Child's Card and a valid accompanying certificate, the programme will provide a medical disability assessment by a doctor. The amount of the allowance is CZK 6,600 (€ 280) per month for children aged 0-17 (regardless of age or degree of disability). The

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<sup>66</sup> [Help for Ukrainian citizens and their employers](#) is found on the websites of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Czech and Ukrainian.

<sup>67</sup> Information is available on the websites of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs [here](#).

<sup>68</sup> Labour Office (2023), Standardised Directives for Regional Offices ([Standardizované pokyny pro krajské pobočky](#)), 1 July 2023.

<sup>69</sup> For more on social support for foreign nationals, see [here](#).

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programme is expected to last for the period of temporary protection under the Lex Ukraine V Law (i.e. until March 2024).<sup>70</sup>

The state also funds additional support, for example in the form of **social services or child protection services**. Other projects are provided by non-profit organisations with the support of the state, regions, municipalities, foundations, international organisations, or private entities (see, e.g., Annex 2).

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<sup>70</sup> For more information see [here](#).

## 4. Additional legal and practical barriers and challenges

### 4.1 General challenges

No specific issues were identified.

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

No specific issues were identified.

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## 5. Policies in place

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

On 13 April 2022, the Czech government approved the strategic document 'Establishing the Strategic Priorities of the Government of the Czech Republic to Manage the Impact of the Wave of Refugees Stemming from the Russian Federation's Invasion of Ukraine'.<sup>71</sup> According to this document, the government's main objective is for the Czech Republic to emerge out of the current situation caused by the aggression of the Russian Federation in Ukraine stronger in terms of values, social reciprocity, culture, and economy. In order to achieve this objective, it proposes implementing measures in thirteen priority areas. Children's needs are primarily addressed in the following sections: social needs, education, and health care.

The section on education specifically mentions adaptation classes for Ukrainian children, as well as the need to integrate these children into the Czech education system and society. In this connection, the plan requires the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to announce specific grant schemes targeting adaptation classes, screen the capacity of schools, and make modifications to the financing of primary and secondary schools (which fall under the responsibility of the regions) and public higher education institutions (which is the responsibility of the state). The section on social services specifically mentions the needs of unaccompanied children and requires that community centres are established/extended to reach out to Ukrainian children and families and promote their integration into Czech society. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs was tasked with announcing grant schemes for establishing community centres and grants for social and street work providers (both NGOs and regional/municipal providers). Within the section on health care the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs were to prepare a legislative measure requiring Ukrainian children who fled from the war to undergo compulsory health screening before entering the Czech education system. Vaccinations are only compulsory for all in pre-school (kindergarten) education in the

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<sup>71</sup> Ministry of Interior (2022). Establishing the strategic priorities of the Government of the Czech Republic to manage the impact of the wave of refugees related to the invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine ([Stanovení strategických priorit vlády ČR ke zvládnutí uprchlické vlny související s invazí Ruské federace na Ukrajinu](#)).

Czech Republic, and Ukrainian children, just like Czech children, were not obliged to present a vaccination certificate upon enrolment in a primary or secondary school.

## 5.2 European Child Guarantee

The Czech Republic has an Action Plan for the Implementation of the Child Guarantee (approved on 23 September 2022).<sup>72</sup> The plan includes a section on Ukrainian children and young people under 18 years of age with temporary protection status, which is based on the strategic document mentioned in section 4.1 of this report (see above).

## 5.3 Budget

Funding is fragmented across different institutions (especially the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs). FRANET CZ was unable to acquire specific information on the budget from these institutions.

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<sup>72</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2022), Action Plan to implement the Children's Guarantee 2022-2030 ([Akční plán k naplnění Záruky pro děti na období 2022 – 2030](#)).

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## Annex 1 – Research and data

**Table 6 – Research on the experiences of children fleeing Ukraine**

Surveys or research studies on the experiences of children fleeing Ukraine	
Name/title	The Voice of Ukrainians in the Czech Republic: The education of Refugee Children in the Czech Republic
Main findings (max. 1000 chars)	The research found that the proportion of Ukrainian children (TP holders) currently attending Czech schools is similar to what it was at the end of 2022. About 92% of Ukrainian children are attending primary schools, 43% of adolescents are attending secondary schools, and two-thirds of children aged between 3 and 5 are attending kindergartens. Only one-third of adolescents under the age of 17 are studying in Czech secondary schools. One-tenth combine Czech and Ukrainian education, 53% study only by distance learning in Ukrainian schools. 14% of children have no education at all, some of them have already completed their secondary education.
Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics	N/A
Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method)	The online survey was completed by 864 households with a total of 1,200 children aged 3-17 years, of whom 269 are in kindergarten, 768 in primary school, and 163 in secondary school. Respondents reported on each child in the household separately. The survey took place between 20 February and 2 March 2023. The research is in many respects representative of the Ukrainian TP population living in the country.
Source	PAQ Research (2023), Hlas Ukrajinců: Vzdělávání dětí uprchlíků v Česku ( <u>The Voice of Ukrainians in the Czech Republic: The Education of Refugee Children in the Czech Republic</u> ), 12 April 2023.

**Table 7 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine**

Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine	
Name/title	The Voice of Ukrainians: The Education of Children. Research conducted among Refugees



<p>Main findings (max. 1000 chars)</p>	<p>The results revealed that in December 2022, 90% of Ukrainian children who are beneficiaries of TP were attending Czech schools (in June 2022 only 55% were). Kindergarten/pre-school attendance (from age 3 and up) has increased and is around 70%, which is still lower than among the general population (90%). Less than half of secondary-school-aged children attend school in the Czech Republic, as most of these children prefer to attend online school in Ukraine. About 81% of parents claimed that they do not feel sufficiently informed about the Czech education system and 16% noted that they do not understand it at all.</p> <p>The study found that only 16% of children over the age of 6 years are currently enrolled in a Czech language support programme (at least 2 hours a week). Children who live in stable accommodation are more likely to attend school than children who live in hostels, hotels, or other temporary arrangements. School attendance is also higher in families where the parents are more educated, employed, and when the family lives outside of Prague. Most children studying on the primary level have no more than two other Ukrainian classmates, but 9% of children have more than five other Ukrainian classmates or a wholly Ukrainian class.</p>
<p>Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method)</p>	<p>The online survey was completed by 1,437 households, out of which 963 households have children aged 3-17 years old. The survey took place from 9 November to 12 December. Parents and caregivers answered individually for every child living in the household. The research is in many respects representative of the Ukrainian TP population living in the country.</p>
<p>Source</p>	<p>PAQ Research (2022), <i>The Voice of Ukrainians: The Education of Children. Research conducted among Refugees (Hlas Ukrajinců: vzdělávání dětí. Výzkum mezi uprchlíky)</i>, 18 January 2023.</p>

## Annex 2 - Promising practices

**Table 8 – Promising practice # 1**

<b>Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine</b>	
Name/title	Darujme kroužky dětem / Let's Give Children Leisure Activities
Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)	Česká rada dětí a mládeže (Czech Council of Children and Youth)
Funding body	Eduzměna - nadační fond (Eduzměna Foundation), Nadace České spořitelny (Česká spořitelna Foundation), Karel Komárek Family Foundation, Nadace Albatros (Albatros Foundation), Sazka
Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)	Original - Czech language: <a href="https://www.darujmekrouzky.cz/">https://www.darujmekrouzky.cz/</a> , in Ukrainian: <a href="https://www.darujmekrouzky.cz/%d0%bc%d0%b8-%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%bf%d0%be%d0%bc%d0%b0%d0%b3%d0%b0%d1%94%d0%bc%d0%be-%d1%81%d1%96%d0%bc%d1%8f%d0%bc-%d0%be%d0%bf%d0%bb%d0%b0%d1%87%d1%83%d0%b2%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b8-%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%b7/">https://www.darujmekrouzky.cz/%d0%bc%d0%b8-%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%bf%d0%be%d0%bc%d0%b0%d0%b3%d0%b0%d1%94%d0%bc%d0%be-%d1%81%d1%96%d0%bc%d1%8f%d0%bc-%d0%be%d0%bf%d0%bb%d0%b0%d1%87%d1%83%d0%b2%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b8-%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%b7/</a>
Start / end date or ongoing	Ongoing project, calls for different periods in the year
Main target group	Families - children and young people, including families of Ukrainian refugees
Scope (local/regional/national)	National
Objectives and outputs	The aim is to ensure extracurricular activities for children and youth, the project provides vouchers to families who have temporary protection status.
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	The project helps to address the difficult financial accessibility of extracurricular and non-formal education for children from families in a difficult financial situation living in the Czech Republic. The support is directed to leisure activities for children and young people aged 3-18 years and from families of Ukrainian TP holders. Every parent who meets the conditions receives 1 voucher worth 1,000 CZK (€ 40)

	<p>per child. No parent participation is required in this allowance.</p> <p>The money can be used to pay for various holiday events, outdoor schools (summer camps, suburban camps, camps, outdoor schools, etc.).</p>
Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact etc) (max. 500 chars)	<p>This is a nationwide project funded by foundations, with financial support from UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The project is open to providers of leisure activities across the country. The system of signing up for and redeeming the voucher is user-friendly. Because this is a nationwide project, it is not subject to local restrictions and families can participate even if they change their place of residence, etc.</p>
Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved	<p>As of the end of March 2024, the project had supported 1,707 children at a total amount of CZK 7.5 million.<sup>73</sup></p>

**Table 9 – Promising practice # 2**

<b>Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine</b>	
Name/title	Nest – The inclusion of adolescents from Ukraine
Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)	Armáda vlády (Salvation Army in the Czech Republic), z. s., Karel Larsson Social Services Centre
Funding body	Supported by Call No. 099 of the Operational Programme: Employment Plus - Services to Support the Social Inclusion of People from Ukraine
Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)	In Czech: <a href="https://armadaspasy.cz/hnizdo-zaclenovani-mladistvych-z-ukrajiny/">https://armadaspasy.cz/hnizdo-zaclenovani-mladistvych-z-ukrajiny/</a>
Start / end date or ongoing	1. 1. 2023 – 31. 12. 2024
Main target group	Unaccompanied children from Ukraine, 15 - 20 years old
Scope (local/regional/national)	local, Prague

<sup>73</sup> Information from the presentation of the Czech Council of Children and Youth at the Česká spořitelna Foundation round table on 18 April 2023.

Objectives and outputs	<p>The aim of the project is the gradual and safe integration of at least 30 unaccompanied children into Czech society and the provision of basic information and counselling to 100 children from the target group.</p> <p><b>Project indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 types of community activities supported</li> <li>• 135 supported people from target group</li> <li>• 1 safe space (Prague 9 hostel)</li> <li>• 4.0 FTEs - project staff in direct social work</li> </ul>
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	<p>The project activities are focused on the adaptation, inclusion, and socio-cultural orientation of the target group in the Czech Republic and the prevention of the development of socially pathological phenomena through online counselling. The target group is persons aged 15–20 years from Ukraine who fled from the war. The project consists of the provision of housing – a safe base for unaccompanied children aged 15–20 from Ukraine.</p>
Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact ect) (max. 500 chars)	<p>The project provides comprehensive support for unaccompanied children from Ukraine outside of institutional facilities with additional support, so that young people are not left to fend for themselves outside the support of social services.</p>
Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved	<p>No evaluation yet, Armáda spásy - NGO cooperation with other NGO and Prague City Hall.</p>