



Press release

18-21 February 2023

“Teaching and learning in difficult times”

Education - a central pillar of social integration

The British Council, in partnership with UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is organising the third edition of the “Teaching and learning in difficult times” course from 18 to 21 February. This course is aimed both at Romanian teachers who teach refugee pupils, primarily Ukrainian pupils, and at Ukrainian teachers who are currently working in Romania. The 75 selected teachers will be supported to recognise the emotional challenges of refugee children, to support them as they may have challenges in class as a result of the trauma experienced, and to make the classes more welcoming for all pupils.

Context:

Recent analyses show that the Constanța area has become the second most popular destination, after Bucharest–Ilfov, where the Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war to Romania have settled.¹ Thus, this time the organisers of the course “Teaching and learning in difficult times” opted for a regional approach, with the emphasis on the migrant population from Constanța, Tulcea, Călărași, Ialomița, Galați, and Brăila. The aim of this approach is to provide the necessary training to teachers in this region, so that they in turn can facilitate the social inclusion of all pupils in their classroom, especially in areas where large populations of Ukrainian refugees are concentrated.

In the challenging context of the education of refugee children from Ukraine living in Romania, teachers play an essential role, being not only pupils' pedagogical guides, but also the catalysts of their educational journey, which combines the academic side, their social integration, as well as their emotional state.

About the participants:

From almost 150 registered participants, the organisers selected 75 teachers from Romania, Ukraine, and Bulgaria. They are representatives of various national educational entities, from school inspectorates to secondary schools and kindergartens, but also of national and international non-governmental organisations that support Ukrainian refugees, as well as from educational hubs established by Ukrainian teachers in Romania.

Apart from participants coming from the cities that were targeted directly, the organisers will welcome a large group of Ukrainian teachers who are coming from Băile Olănești. In this area, more than 80 teachers

¹ Alina Mitran (03 decembrie 2022). [„Unde stau ucraienii care au ales România. Constanța, prima opțiune după București-Ilfov”](#). *Adevărul.ro*.



work in the Ukrainian school in Olănești, which, as Alina states, “was made by them and for them”. Alina, along with her sister Diana and her 10-year-old daughter, Karina, is one of the Romanians involved in the voluntary aid given to the almost 1,200 Ukrainian refugees in this area. There are more than 360 Ukrainian refugee pupils who study here and who had to flee with their mothers from the war, leaving their fathers, relatives, friends and schools behind, in the country they dream of returning to.

About the course:

“Teaching and learning in difficult times” is a course designed for teachers of any subject who have refugee pupils in their classroom, who have been affected by the trauma of war. On the one hand, therefore, through specialised workshops and discussions on specific topics, teachers will gain knowledge that they can use to understand and manage the behaviours of all children who have gone through traumatic experiences. On the other hand, the course favours the integration of all Ukrainian pupils in Romania and highlights the way in which the provision of emotional support is essential for children who fled their homes due to war. Thus, the main objectives of the course are to better support all children in the learning process, as well as in facilitating their integration in Romania, both from an educational and social point of view. It is an initiative of the British Council and has been organised in different areas of the world affected by conflicts or in countries hosting refugees (most recently in Poland.)

The 75 teachers who will attend the course will learn:

- How to create a trauma-sensitive learning environment;
- How to manage challenging behaviours that might appear in response to experiencing trauma, both in the case of Ukrainian and Romanian children, and;
- How to make the lesson and classroom more welcoming for the refugee children.

For more information, please contact the project coordinator:

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Photos will be available upon request.

About the British Council:

The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries around the world. We do this through our work in arts and culture, education and the English language. We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in over 100 countries. In 2021-22 we reached 650 million people.

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About UNICEF:

UNICEF is present in Romania and in 190 other countries and territories to promote the survival and development of children from early childhood to adolescence. In Romania, UNICEF works together with key stakeholders such as the Government, the Parliament, local authorities, civil society, the private



sector, national and international partners and the media to ensure access for all children to quality early education and to school, to protect adolescents and monitor children's rights, to social protection and to the mobilisation of resources in the benefit of children.

For more information about UNICEF and its work, visit <https://www.unicef.org/romania/ro>

Follow UNICEF in Romania on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About the International Organization for Migration:

Founded 72 years ago in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration. With 175 member states and presence in over 100 countries, IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. The Organization works with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and to uphold the well-being and human rights of all migrants.

To learn more about IOM's work in Romania, please visit: <https://romania.iom.int>