

We Talked to Children Just Like You!

Voices of Ukrainian children in Romania

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What is this paper about?

This paper will show you some of the happy and unhappy things that Ukrainian children told a team of researchers about their lives in Romania.

The children also told the adults their ideas for solving the problems they are facing.



How do Ukrainian children spend their day in Romania?

"I like that there is a Ukrainian school here. It is boring to be online without friends." Girl, 8-11 years old.

The children we talked to spend most of their day learning online or in Ukrainian school in Romania.

Outside of school, most children like to go for walks, meet friends outside or play sports.



What makes Ukrainian children in Romania happy?

Children are most happy when they can be with friends, do sports and be outdoors.

Children feel safe in Romania, but especially in places that they know: at home, in school, or in parks.



What makes Ukrainian children in Romania unhappy?

Children miss their family, friends and pets who are still in Ukraine. They are also worried about them.

Some children also feel lonely in Romania, and sometimes some Romanian children and adults say upsetting or mean things to them or about Ukrainians.

Children also said that they feel lost sometimes because they can't understand the Romanian language.



Who helps the children?

Children said that they can talk to parents, brothers and sisters or friends when they have a problem. Many children go to their moms first.

Children also said that they can ask Romanian adults, such as neighbours and other people they know for help.

Most children were helped by doctors when they were sick, but they said that sometimes it's too expensive or takes too much time to get an appointment.



Save the Children

IMPACT

Shaping practices
Influencing policies
Impacting lives



What do children need most?

"I played football and practiced karate in Ukraine. I don't have such opportunities here." Boy, 15-17 years old.

Children said that they need more time and fun activities outside of school, like sports or dancing. Their parents often don't have enough money to pay for these fun activities.

Some older children also said that they would like to talk to psychologists about their worries.



Children said that adults could respect and listen more to children, spend more time with them, and show them love.



Adults could make it easier for Ukrainian children to go to school in Romania and learn in Ukrainian.



Adults could make it easier for them to play sports and do other activities in Ukrainian.



Adults could support Ukrainian parents and family in finding the jobs they have experience in.



Adults could spend more time with children and show them love.



Children said that they could be nicer to each other and cheer for each other, saying "You can do it!"



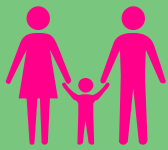
Children could be supportive to their parents - also when parents have difficulties achieving what they want.



Children could talk about the things they know with other children and adults.



Children could ask for help when they need it.



How can adults support children?



How can children support others?

Nadia is 9 years old, from Odesa and now lives in Bucharest, where she feels comfortable and happy. She really likes Romanian food. Nadia goes to a lot of places: she has Romanian classes, and also goes to drawing, singing and other clubs for games. She sometimes worries that it's difficult to learn Romanian, but she counts on the support of her friends and mom.

Nikolay is 12 and from Kyiv. He travelled a lot in the mountains and other places in Romania. He now lives in Suceava with his family. Nikolay follows classes online in Ukraine, but also goes to school in Romania, which takes all of his time. He would like to have more time for walks outside. Nikolay also misses doing sports, but cannot find any playgrounds for it.



Images of boy and girl: Flaticon.com

IMPACT Initiatives is an organisation that asks people living in difficult situations all around the world what they need so that other organisations and governments can help them to live better lives.

Save the Children is an organisation that helps children, teenagers and their parents to go to school or to the doctor, to feel safe and protected and to do the things that keep them healthy and happy.

