

E. Finding out about the language profiles of children arriving from Ukraine

Aim: To suggest how to gather information about the competence of children arriving from Ukraine in the languages which they know and about their interests and priorities

Teachers and volunteers offering language support to children from Ukraine should try to obtain any information already gathered about them (e.g., previous schooling, health and other special needs etc.) before meeting them to discuss their language needs.

On the next page you will find a short questionnaire for use with the children who have recently arrived from Ukraine. This will help you to gather information about each child's 'language profile'. A language profile is a description of a person's language and literacy competences. It includes their level of competence in the different languages which they know and their ability to use the languages in different communicative situations, etc.

- Ask each child simple questions like those in the form on page 2 and make notes on the same form. Add any other information you have about them.
- Before asking the questions, explain why you are doing this, e.g. *"This is not an exam. It is just an informal conversation. We need this information to be able to organise our language activities"*.
- If children arriving from Ukraine know a little of the host country language, speak clearly and slowly.
- If they do not speak the language of the host country or are not ready to do so, try to use another language related to Ukrainian such as Polish, Slovak, Czech etc, or a language they might have learned at school, such as English.
- Do not oblige them to answer all the questions: depending on the circumstances of the individual, certain questions may be too sensitive.
- Remember that what they say about their language competences is based on their own opinion, so it may be different from your own perceptions.
- If you can, share the information you gather with other people who are in contact with them.

Language profile

When talking to each child use the questions suggested in the form or similar questions, then write brief notes.

"What is your first name? And your family name?"	First name:	Family name:	"How old are you?"	Age
"Tell me about your interests"				
(Ask the child if s/he can read a short sentence in e.g. English or the host country language – to find out if s/he can read the Roman script)			Yes, s/he can read Roman script	No

(Try to estimate his/her competence in the language of the host country on the basis of the previous answers, and by asking other simple questions)			
Ability to speak and understand the host country language	Beginner	Elementary	Above elementary

First/preferred language "What language(s) do you speak at home?"	
Other languages: "Do you know any other languages -even just a few words?" How much can you say, understand, read etc. in language X, language Y etc?"	

WHICH OTHER LANGUAGES?	 Speaking	 Understanding the spoken language	 Understanding the written language	 Writing