



MARAMUREȘ RECOMMENDATIONS

**Formulated following the evaluation of the international camp
"Maramureș for Peace – A Week of Hope"
and the study visit of the PACE Parliamentary Network on the Situation of
Children of Ukraine**

August 13, 2026 | Moisei, Maramureș County, Romania

PREAMBLE

On August 13, 2026, a delegation of the PACE Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine, led by Chairperson Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, ECPA), alongside Senator Cristian-Augustin Niculescu-Țăgârlaș (Romania, EPP/CD), met with children and specialists during the concluding evaluation of the "Maramureș for Peace" international camp.

Recognising that the Maramureș experience provides valuable lessons for the recovery and reintegration of children affected by war, and that these lessons should inform sustainable child-centred policies and programmes across Council of Europe member states, the participants adopt the following recommendations.





RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Put the child at the centre of every response

Policies and programmes for children affected by war, displacement, deportation or forced transfer should be grounded in the rights, dignity, best interests and individual circumstances of each child, and be age-appropriate, developmentally responsive, culturally sensitive and trauma-informed.

2. Listen to children and ensure their meaningful participation

Children should have safe and meaningful opportunities to express their views and to contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes and policies that affect them. Direct and informal dialogue between children, professionals and policymakers should be encouraged so that decisions reflect children's real experiences and needs.

3. Protect childhood, not only children

Recovery programmes should go beyond protection from immediate harm. Children need opportunities for friendship, play, education, creativity, culture, nature, belonging and positive interaction with peers, including children from host communities. These experiences are essential to well-being, recovery and social inclusion.

4. Ensure continuity of care before, during and after short-term programmes

Temporary camps, recovery programmes and rehabilitation initiatives should be linked to clear pathways for needs assessment, referral, case management and follow-up. Psychosocial, educational, health and social support should continue after children return home and be connected with local services, schools, families and communities.





5. Build coordinated, multidisciplinary support around the child and family

Child protection, social services, education, health, psychosocial support and other relevant actors should work through coordinated referral and case-management mechanisms, in cooperation with Ukrainian authorities and specialised bodies. Families and caregivers should be treated as essential partners in children's recovery and reintegration.

6. Invest in the professionals and volunteers who support children

All professionals and volunteers working with war-affected children should receive appropriate trauma-informed and child-centred training, practical tools, supervision, multidisciplinary support and clear referral protocols. Particular attention should also be given to preventing professional burnout and supporting the well-being of frontline staff.

7. Strengthen professional monitoring, learning and evidence

Recovery and rehabilitation programmes should include appropriate professional assessment and monitoring of children's well-being, while fully respecting privacy, dignity and child-protection standards. Evidence and lessons learned should be used to improve programme quality, identify effective practices and inform future public policy.

8. Turn successful practice into sustainable systems and policy

Short-term and emergency initiatives should contribute to long-term, inclusive and child-centred national systems of protection, recovery and reintegration. Successful approaches should be connected with existing services and public systems rather than developed as parallel mechanisms.

9. Replicate principles and evidence, not identical templates

The value of the Maramureş experience should not be understood as a requirement to reproduce the same camp model in every country. Council of Europe member states should adapt its core principles — child-centred practice, meaningful participation, trauma-informed support, multidisciplinary cooperation, continuity of care and opportunities for children to experience normality — to their own national and local contexts.





10. Maintain European cooperation and political commitment

The PACE Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine should continue to use the lessons of Maramureș in its work, facilitate exchange of practices between member states, Ukrainian authorities, professionals and communities, and advocate for sustained investment in child recovery and reintegration. Where useful, the Network should support systematic exchange of evidence and practices to identify approaches that can be responsibly adapted and scaled across Europe.

Maramureș has reminded us of a simple responsibility: children affected by war must not be defined only by what has happened to them. They must be given the safety, support and space to remain children, to belong, to participate and to imagine their future again.

Olena Khomenko

Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Chair of the PACE Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children in Ukraine

Cristian-Augustin Niculescu-Țăgârlaș

Senator, Parliament of Romania

Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Member of the PACE Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children in Ukraine

Initiator of “Maramureș for Peace”

