



Funded by
the European Union

6 anti-radiation and dual-use underground shelters to bring back Ukrainian children to schools



Russia's war of aggression is robbing thousands of Ukrainian children of a normal life and education. Our most recent initiative underlines the EU's unwavering commitment to ensure an educational environment that is as safe as possible for all children in Ukraine.

Katarína Mathernová

Ambassador of the European Union to Ukraine



One in seven Ukrainian schools has been damaged or destroyed. Over 517,000 schoolchildren and kindergarteners are out of school or preschool and have to study remotely. The learning losses since February 2022 accumulate to US\$5.5 billion according to World Bank's RDNA (3). It is estimated that these numbers will continue to grow leading to additional billions in losses. Bomb shelters are a necessity to bring children back to schools, assure safety, and reduce learning losses.

The Aim of the Programme

The main objective is to **bring children back to school in offline learning** and to set up shelters in higher-risk areas where children are unable to study due to the lack of shelters and the high risk of shelling.

Priority regions: Sumy, Zaporizhzhia, Chernihiv, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv.

The underground shelters will have **anti-radiation protection and are designed to be dual-use**, meaning that they can also be used for extra-curricular activities during peacetime.



The Impact

- 6 new anti-radiation dual-use bomb shelters allow up to 5 000 children to return to offline learning
- Returning to in-person education will **reduce learning losses** for Ukraine
- Bomb shelters to **ensure a safe education process**

Programme implementer

Budget

Time frame



EUR 18,500,000

15,000,000 – EU allocation
3,000,000 – Ireland's allocation
500,000 – Lithuania's allocation



29 months,

until 2026 September



Know How

Central Project Management Agency has extensive hands-on experience in delivering various projects for Ukraine since 2014, including building bomb shelters from scratch and enhancing existing ones:

- **Construction of the first stand-alone school bomb shelter** in Borodyanka within the comprehensive renovation of the school (700 persons, EUR 7,944,784)
- **New bomb shelter** within the restoration of “Rūta” kindergarten in Irpin (450 persons, EUR 4,631,869)
- **Installation of anti-radiation shelter** in Kozyntsi kindergarten (90 children, EUR 500,000)

Programme Expansion Thanks to Support from International Partners

In September 2024, **Ireland** announced a new package of support for Ukraine and contributed **€3 million** to the EU-Lithuanian shelter programme. The allocated funds will be used to scale the programme.

Scalability is key to our approach, with each solution built for growth. A successful pilot, supported by donors, helps projects grow into larger initiatives or programs.



Help Us Scale Even Further

There is an urgent need for building shelters for schools across Ukraine. This EU program is an efficient and already well-developed solution.



An algorithm for determining locations is established in cooperation with the local authorities and ministries



Construction works according to Ukrainian laws and EU requirements for the construction of public objects



A network of Ukrainian partners and advanced supervision of construction works

Contacts



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