

TRANSITION

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic



A N A L Y T I C A L R E P O R T

**ASSESSMENT OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
STATE POLICY ON THE
REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT
TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN
FROM TEMPORARILY
OCCUPIED CRIMEA**



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The Center of Civic Education “Almenda” (CCE “Almenda”) is a non-governmental organization registered in Yalta in 2011. Until 2014, the organization’s priority was education in the field of human rights. In 2014, due to the occupation of Crimea, the organization was forced to relocate to Kyiv. Today, the organization’s priorities are to protect the educational rights of residents of the temporarily occupied territories, preserve the Ukrainian identity in Crimea and promote the integration of young people from the temporarily occupied territories into host communities.

While preparing monitoring reports, CCE “Almenda” is guided by the principles of objectivity, reliability and timeliness.

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INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of the occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine - the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol - by the Russian Federation in 2014, the State of Ukraine has been limited in its ability to guarantee the constitutional right to education of citizens living in this territory.

According to the Strategy of deoccupation and reintegration of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine of March 24, 2021, ensuring the realization by citizens of Ukraine living in the temporarily occupied territory of the right to education guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine is one of the preconditions for the reintegration of the temporarily occupied territory. In addition, in accordance with paragraph 52 of the Strategy, Ukraine promotes access to education institutions for citizens of Ukraine living in the temporarily occupied territory to ensure their realization of the right to education. In particular the State introduces a mechanism for simplified education for people living in the temporarily occupied territory and encourages persons who received education in the temporarily occupied territory to continue obtaining the educational level in the territory controlled by Ukraine.

International law, in turn, while imposing a wide range of responsibilities on the Occupying Power, at the same time does not relieve the sovereign state of its responsibilities. In particular, international law does not release it from the obligation to ensure access to education for all citizens. Especially given that the reintegration of youth is a necessary element of the reintegration of the territory.

However, during the 7 years of occupation of the peninsula, the state authorities have not developed a universal system of monitoring and control of the realization of the right to education and educational needs of the residents of occupied Crimea. NGOs on their own initiative undertake to ensure media coverage of educational campaigns

and opportunities for admission to Ukrainian institutions of applicants from the occupied territories, to create content to promote education in Ukraine, to clarify procedures, to consider requests from children wishing to enter institutions of higher education on the part of the territory controlled by the authorities of Ukraine and their parents, as well as to conduct various types of monitoring and provide recommendations.

In the period from April to September 2021, the Center of Civic Education "Almenda" monitored the status of the realization of the right to education and educational needs of the residents of occupied Crimea. These monitorings were aimed to track the qualitative and quantitative indicators of the activities of the State of Ukraine which characterize the availability, acceptability and adaptability of the right to education of the residents of occupied Crimea.

In particular, the monitor studied the quality of distance and external education systems for Crimeans, procedures for passing admission exams, their content and opportunities for Crimean residents to prepare for them, opportunities to learn Ukrainian language in Crimea, specific features of pre-entry courses introduced by the State for applicants from the occupied territories, and institutions of higher education, to which applicants from the occupied territories have the opportunity to enroll under a simplified system.

This analytical report is based on data obtained as a result of monitoring of various aspects of the state policy in the field of realization of the right to education of children from temporarily occupied Crimea. The information in this report is presented in a sequence that corresponds to the stages of preparation and enrollement to the Ukrainian institutions of higher education by residents of Crimea, i.e. from self-preparation for admission exams, use of opportunities provided by the State, individual education and training courses to the passing of admission exams and selection of higher education institution.

1

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CRIMEAN SCHOOL CHILDREN TO PREPARE FOR THE ADMISSION TO UKRAINIAN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Despite the introduction of a simplified system of the admission to the institutions of higher education for residents of occupied Crimea, children still need to master the school curriculum in those subjects that they do not have the opportunity to study on an equal footing with children living in Ukrainian-controlled territory, i.e. the Ukrainian language and the history of Ukraine.

School children in Crimea have the opportunity to study the Ukrainian language in the following ways:



in general education institutions of occupied Crimea (schools or gymnasiums) during school or extracurricular time (in optional courses or in circles)



with the help of tutors



through self-education in online training courses

The history of Ukraine is not taught at all in Crimean schools, since educational programs under the conditions of occupation are approved by the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation. Therefore, only two options are relevant for mastering the program on the history of Ukraine, with the help of tutors or in online courses.

It should also be noted that the school curriculum differs in some basic subjects, such as mathematics, geography and chemistry (subjects most frequently taken on admission exams under the simplified system). In general, the school curriculum mastered in Crimea may be sufficient to pass admission exams but there are exceptions. For example, the applicants will have to study the geography of Ukraine on their own (if the admission to the chosen specialty will require a geography examination)¹.

Study of the Ukrainian language in Crimean schools²



In the 2020–2021 academic year, **218,974** school children were accommodated in general education institutions of Crimea, of which **206** children (0.09%) received education in the Ukrainian language.

In Sevastopol, in the same period from the total number of **48748** students, only **70** children (0,1%) were educated in the Ukrainian language.

¹ For more details, see the monitoring conducted by the CCE “Almenda” in September 2021. Access mode: <https://almenda.org/monitoring-stanu-realizacii-prava-na-osvitu-ta-osvithnix-potreb-meshkanciv-okupovanogo-krimu-veresen-2021/>

² Data from open sources of the so-called Ministry of education of Crimea

The study of the Ukrainian language is carried out according to the Indicative programs on the Ukrainian language, approved in 2015. The programs are designed to study the Ukrainian language as a native and as a non-native language.

According to these programs, from the 1st to 9th grade 3 hours a week are allocated to study Ukrainian as a native language. In the 10th and 11th grades, only 1 hour per week is allocated for the study of Ukrainian literature. This is about 2 times less than the time allocated in Ukrainian schools to study the native language.

According to the Indicative programs, from the 1st to 9th grade 2 hours per week are allocated for the study of the Ukrainian language as a non-native language, and 1 hour per week in the 10th and 11th grades.

Education in the native language (including Ukrainian) is possible only from the 1st to 9th grade, in the 10th-11th grades education is carried out only in Russian.

Information on optional courses or circles of Ukrainian language and literature in Crimean schools is not publicly available.

Textbooks in Ukrainian, according to the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea, were published only for primary school students (from the 1st to 4th grade) in the amount of 8.6 thousand copies.

The actual monitoring shows the lack of teaching in the Ukrainian language in the schools of occupied Crimea and Sevastopol³.

3

For more details, see the monitoring conducted by the CCE "Almenda" in June 2021. Access mode: <https://almenda.org/monitoring-stanu-realizaci%d1%97-prava-na-osvitu-ta-osvitnix-potreb-meshkanciv-okupovanogokrimu-2/>

Preparation with the help of a tutor

During the monitoring, the services of Ukrainian language tutors were searched using a search engine. The results show that the vast majority of Ukrainian language tutors provide their services online and are not in Crimea. Such tutors can be found on Ukrainian, Russian and international (foreign) websites. There are only 25 tutors who provide offline services in Crimea. The cost of classes ranges from 160 to 2,500 rubles (60-934 hryvnia).

Monitoring of websites with the aim to find information about available tutoring services in the history of Ukraine shows that it is quite difficult for Crimean school students to use these tutoring services. There are Ukrainian websites that offer services with an average cost of 150 hryvnia per hour. The Crimean websites offer services of only 4 people, the average cost ranging from 400 to 1000 rubles per hour (150-376 hryvnia), the training venues being in Simferopol, Yalta and Sevastopol. Russian websites do not contain offers of tutoring services in the history of Ukraine.

Unfortunately, the number of tutors whose services can be used by Crimean school students to prepare for the admission to Ukrainian higher education institutions, especially offline, is insufficient. But there is an assumption that teachers of the Ukrainian language and history of Ukraine do not publish advertisements for the provision of tutoring services for security reasons⁴.

4

For more details, see the monitoring conducted by the CCE "Almenda" in June 2021. Access mode: <https://almenda.org/monitoring-stanu-realizaci%d1%97-prava-na-osvitu-ta-osvitnix-potreb-meshkanciv-okupovanogokrimu-2/>

Online training courses

The website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, in its section related to the admission of residents of Donbas and Crimea, contains a link to the page "Affordable Education", which contains free video lessons, presentations and

tests. The content of the video lessons contained in the section on the History of Ukraine does not correspond to the external independent testing (EIT) program on the history of Ukraine, does not cover all the necessary topics and is inconsistent. Some links are inactive, some of the material is missing. Video lessons on the Ukrainian language and literature are also not fully in line with the EIT program. Some information is missing, the content is disordered.

There are other free online services in order to prepare for the EIT in the Ukrainian language and history of Ukraine. For example, the Be Smart project from the EDUGET educational platform contains a fairly large and well-structured amount of information needed to prepare for the EIT, video lectures, tests, sample EIT. One can also use the services Prometheus, EdEra (containing lectures and tests) and the EIT online portal, i.e. a website for EIT tests⁵.

The information is available on the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine website	The information is unavailable on the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine website	
Do not comply with the EIT Programs	Comply with the EIT Programs	Comply with the EIT Programs and have the recommendations of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
«Affordable Education» of the Open Policy Foundation https://dostupnaosvita.com.ua/	Prometheus https://prometheus.org.ua/zno/ EIT online https://zno.osvita.ua/	Be smart https://besmart.study/ EdEra https://www.ed-era.com/zno/

In addition, an important point is how easy it is for Crimean residents to learn about ways to prepare for exams. Monitoring the search for training information shows that in order for the search engine to provide free and informative resources, including video lessons, the query must be made in Ukrainian (which is not convenient enough for Crimean school students). Upon request in Russian, mostly websites of private organizations that provide paid services are offered. In general, more search results appear in Russian, and some links in both languages do not open⁶.

Based on the results of monitoring and analysis, it can be concluded that it is impossible to prepare for admission to a Ukrainian institution of higher education if one only attends a school in Crimea. The history of Ukraine is not taught at all, and although the Ukrainian language is formally present in schools, it is in fact absent.

Thus, a child who wants to study in a Ukrainian institution of higher education should make an effort to prepare for admission and further study on their own. In addition to regular schooling and preparation for the Russian Unified State Exam (based on which the student will be able to obtain a certificate of secondary education, although not recognized in Ukraine - only information about grades is recognized), it is necessary to spend time and money on classes with tutors in the Ukrainian language and history of Ukraine. But if one can't find tutors or the

5

For more details, see the monitoring conducted by the CCE "Almenda" in June 2021. Access mode: <https://almenda.org/monitoring-stanu-realizaci%d1%97-prava-na-osvitu-ta-osvitnix-potreb-meshkanciv-okupovanogo-krimu-2/>

6

For more details, see the monitoring conducted by the CCE "Almenda" in July-August 2021. Access mode: <https://almenda.org/monitoring-stanu-realizaci%d1%97-prava-na-osvitu-ta-osvitnix-potreb-meshkanciv-okupovanogo-krimu-3/>

family can't afford to pay for their services, children have to master the programs themselves. One can use free online courses created by public organizations or commercial enterprises, they are much better than the materials offered by the State (which, however, are still not created by it).

Even with the possibility of using free online courses, residents of occupied Crimea will still not be able to receive education of the same quality as students of schools located in the territory controlled by the government of Ukraine. Therefore, in order to ensure equal opportunities for admission, the introduction of a simplified admission system for applicants from the occupied territories is absolutely appropriate. However, even a simplified system of admission requires knowledge that Crimean children cannot acquire without much extra effort.

2

LEARNING PROCESS OF CRIMEAN RESIDENTS ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN UKRAINIAN FULL SECONDARY EDUCATION

Children living in the occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol have the opportunity to obtain a certificate of basic or complete general education of the Ukrainian standard in several ways, including distance education and external form of education (externship).

Distance learning system

The distance learning system envisages the organization of the educational process at a distance from its participants, which, provided proper organization, is a really good opportunity for residents of occupied Crimea to master the school program and obtain an education in Ukrainian institutions.

The website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine contains information about 176 institutions that organize distance education for children from the occupied territories. The location of these schools is not logical enough (for example, the largest number of institutions is located in Khmelnytsky region, and only one public school is located in Kyiv). However, we can assume that in terms of distance learning the physical location of schools is not extremely important.

The authors of the report applied to 18 institutions, which, according to the Ministry, should provide distance learning, and found that their managers were unaware of the existence of such responsibilities. Monitoring of educational websites also did not reveal information on distance education.

Also on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in the section “Schools for distance learning” there is a separate link to the state education institution of I-III degrees “International Ukrainian School”, which is recommended for application to persons living in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. However, the website of this institution does not contain any information about distance education⁷.

Probably, all of the above is one of the reasons why it is very difficult for residents of the occupied Crimean peninsula to learn about distance education in Ukrainian schools. Monitoring shows that when trying to find information about distance education in Ukraine using a search engine, one can find only a general description of this form of education and websites of private institutions that provide paid services (on average from 400 to 5,000 hryvnias per month depending on the institution and tariff). Sending inquiries to secondary schools in the Kherson region also has not produced positive results⁸.

7

For more details, see the monitoring conducted by the CCE “Almenda” in April 2021. Access mode: <https://almenda.org/monitoring-stanu-realizaci%d1%97-prava-na-osvitu-ta-osvitnix-potreb-meshkanciv-okupovanogo-krimu/>

8

For more details, see the monitoring conducted by the CCE “Almenda” in July-August 2021. Access mode: <https://almenda.org/monitoring-stanu-realizaci%d1%97-prava-na-osvitu-ta-osvitnix-potreb-meshkanciv-okupovanogo-krimu-3/>

External learning system

The external form of education is one of the forms that Crimeans have been actively using since the beginning of the occupation of the peninsula. First of all, its relevance is related to the need to obtain a certificate of complete secondary education, which was previously a prerequisite for admission to most Ukrainian and all foreign higher education institutions. After the introduction and development of a simplified system of the admission of applicants from the occupied territories, which does not provide for the need to obtain a Ukrainian certificate, the externship has somewhat lost its popularity among the Crimean applicants. However, not all Crimeans are aware of the simplified system, and they, along with those wishing to enter foreign institutions, continue to use the possibilities of externship.

This system of education provides for independent mastering of the school program without attending lessons and confirmation of this mastery by passing exams (state final certification). In fact, the external student has to pass all the same exams that all students of Ukrainian schools in 9th and 11th grade, but in a shorter time, and prepare for them independently.

An analysis of the legal framework governing the external form of education shows that some features apply in particular to residents of the occupied and uncontrolled territories (for example, the possibility of transfer to external studies and assessment of academic achievements throughout the year, no requirement for annual assessment results, etc.). At the same time, residents of the occupied territories cannot pass exams remotely.

The website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine contains information on 1447 schools in which residents of the occupied territories can study following external form of education. It is difficult to assess the effectiveness of such a system, as most information about schools has not been updated since 2016 and may not be relevant at all.

A survey of the websites of the 25 schools on the list and telephone interviews with their representatives showed that most websites did not contain information about the externship, and the representatives were unaware of the need to organize this form of education.

It is impossible to determine the effectiveness of all attempts of the State of Ukraine to organize an externship for Crimeans because during the monitoring it was not possible to establish the number of students from occupied Crimea who studied and are studying externally as the state does not have such information⁹.

Thus, at first glance, the options of individual forms of education offered to residents of the occupied territories by the state of Ukraine are good opportunities for the mastering of the school program and gaining general secondary education for children living with their families in occupied Crimea who are unable or unwilling to become internally displaced persons for the sake of schooling and obtaining a Ukrainian certificate.

9

For more details, see the monitoring conducted by the CCE "Almenda" in May 2021. Access mode: <https://almenda.org/monitoring-stanu-realizaci%d1%97-prava-na-osvitu-ta-osvitnix-potreb-meshkanciv-okupovanogo-krimu-traven-2021-r/>

However, in reality, the creation of a legal framework and the formal designation of schools that should provide distance and external learning services is not effective for the inhabitants of the occupied territories, because:

- ▶ Children need to make a lot of effort to find a school that really accepts them for individual education;
- ▶ School representatives are not informed that they must provide such forms of education;
- ▶ Even in the case of individual education, the child will have to leave the occupied territory to pass exams;
- ▶ The State does not keep records of children from the occupied territories who use the opportunities of distance education and externship.

3

PRE-ENTRY COURSES FOR APPLICANTS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

In advance of the admission campaign of 2021, in order to adapt children from the temporarily occupied territories to the Ukrainian educational space, pre-entry courses were introduced, implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine.

Pre-entry courses of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

After three months of preparation, program development and public discussion, on February 9, 2021, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine issued Order “On the Introduction of a Pilot Project of Pre-entry Courses”

The order provided for the introduction in 2021-2022 of a pilot project on free education of persons from uncontrolled territories in pre-entry courses, followed by admission to institutions of higher education.

In order to assist in the organization of admission and training of persons who have completed education in general secondary education institutions in the temporarily occupied territories after April 2014, the order approved guidelines for the pre-entry courses of higher education institutions. Thus, Ukrainian language and literature, history of Ukraine and mathematics were defined as compulsory subjects. The duration of the pre-entry courses was set as follows: from February to May 2021 - 4 months in the amount of 120 hours, from October 2021 to May 2022 - 8 months in the amount of 240-480 hours.

The guidelines provided for enrollment of students in pre-entry courses without passing exams, full-time study (during quarantine - distance or mixed), issuance of a certificate after passing the exam based on the results of training and assistance in providing students with accommodation in dormitories.

The order also defined a list of 9 higher education institutions on the basis of which pre-entry courses were organized.

According to the results of the study of the state of implementation of the pilot project, the CCE “Almenda” found that 13 students attended the pre-entry courses conducted on the basis of 3 institutions instead of 9.

The order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine dated March 22, 2021, cancelled the above-mentioned order “ On the Introduction of a Pilot Project of Pre-entry Courses”. In light of this news, it seems very strange to provide information on the number of students by 3 education institutions, as well as infor-

mation on the ongoing pilot project, posted on the website of the Ministry a week after the cancellation of the order. Unfortunately, the Ministry neither commented on such a collision in any way nor responded to a request concerning funds spent on the pilot project.



Pre-entry courses of the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine

Shortly after the cancellation of the order introducing pre-entry courses at the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science, on March 26, 2021, a pilot project of pre-entry courses from the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories was presented.

Based on the results of the competition, at a meeting of the commission on May 24-26, 2021, the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine approved 23 institutions of higher education for hosting pre-entry courses.

On May 31, 2021, the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories published an instruction for applicants from the occupied territories who wish to participate in the program of pre-entry courses.

Those wishing to participate had to apply in person from June 1 to June 20 (later extended until June 29) to the higher education institution on the basis of which the courses will be conducted.

Pre-entry courses were conducted from June 29 to August 31, 2021. Students were provided with dormitories, a stipend of 4588 hryvnias per month and were involved in psychological, cultural, educational and sports activities. According to the results of exams after the completion of the courses they received the appropriate certificates.

According to the Ministry, 199 persons attended the pre-entry courses in 2021, of which 14 were residents of Crimea.

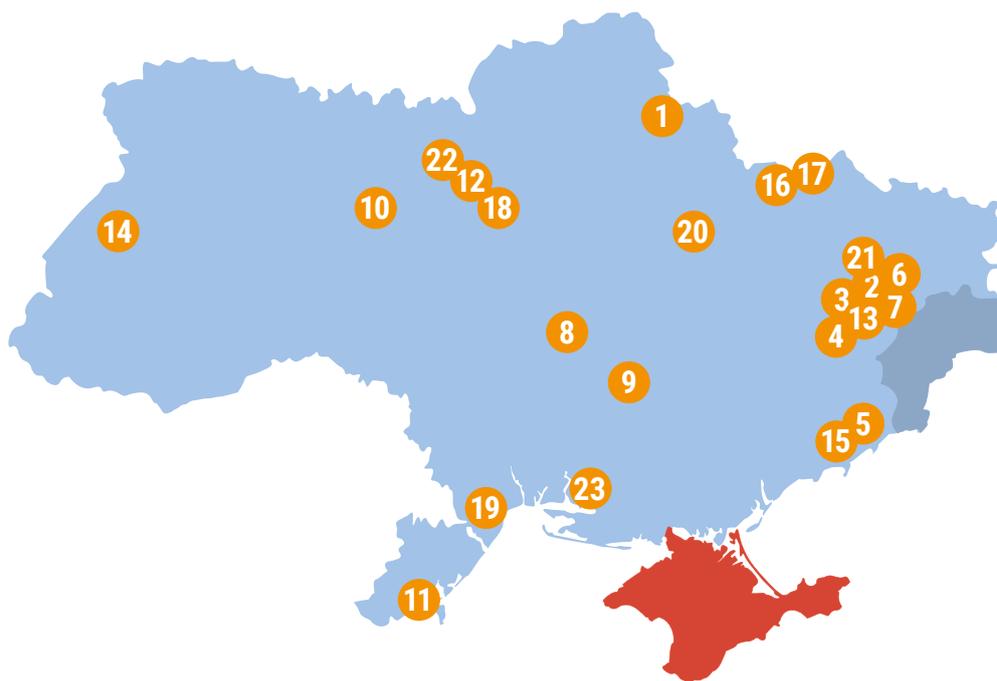
In general, the project of pre-entry courses from the Ministry for Reintegration was obviously more effective than the project of the Ministry of Education and Science (which was cancelled).

It is worth noting that the personal submission of applications proved to be a difficult test for children who graduated from Crimean schools this year. To obtain a “certificate” of education in the Crimean school, children had to pass the Russian Unified State Exams, the last of which was scheduled for June 24, and the presentation of “certificates” in schools took place on June 25 or 26. Extending the deadline for submitting applications until June 29 (instead of June 20) helped some Crimeans get their “certificates” and have time to apply for courses. However, the small number of Crimean students may be explained by the inability to submit applications online and by a very limited timeframe.

It should also be noted that training in pre-entry courses from the Ministry for Reintegration cannot be a preparation for applicants to take admission exams. This year the exams were held from July 1 to 13, and training in the pre-entry courses took place from June 29 to August 31.

This year’s project of pre-entry courses can really be considered a “pilot” one. The Ministry should analyze it with the participation of representatives of higher education institutions and public organizations, conduct a survey of students of pre-entry courses, and next year should take into account all mistakes, improve procedures, prepare and conduct an information campaign in order as many residents of the occupied territories as possible could learn about the opportunity to attend pre-entry courses and took advantage of it.

1. Hlukhiv
2. Bakhmut
3. Sloviansk
4. Pokrovsk, Donetsk region
5. Mariupol
6. Rubizhne
7. Kramatorsk
8. rOPYvnytskyi
9. Kryvyi Rih
10. Zhytomyr
11. Izmail
12. Kyiv
13. Starobilsk, Luhansk region
14. Lviv
15. Mariupol
16. Kharkiv
17. Kharkiv
18. Kyiv
19. Odesa
20. Poltava
21. Sievierodonetsk
22. Irpin
23. Kherson



4

ADMISSION EXAMS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

According to the system of simplified admission for residents of the occupied territories, an applicant who does not have a certificate of complete secondary education of the Ukrainian standard can get it at a school that has a contract with the educational center “Crimea-Ukraine” or “Donbass-Ukraine” at a higher education institution.

To do this, one has to pass exams in the subjects of the Ukrainian language and history of Ukraine, the results of which will be included in the certificate. As for other subjects studied at the school in occupied Crimea, they will be marked “certified” in the certificate.

Based on the results of the exams, the applicant will be issued a letter of confirmation, which must be exchanged for a certificate within 3 months. With the same letter of confirmation, one needs to apply to the educational center at the selected university and pass the admission exam in the major subject.

Institutions where one can pass exams and get a certificate

In 22 oblasts in the territory controlled by the Ukrainian authorities and in Kyiv, state administrations have designated authorized education institutions to conduct annual assessments and state final attestation, where one can order and get a state-standard document on secondary education.

An analysis of the location of authorized institutions and the number of applicants from the occupied territories who used their services and were admitted to higher education institutions under the simplified system in 2020, shows a certain irrationality in choosing these schools. For example, in Kyiv the number of applicants is the largest - 773 people, and there is only 1 authorized institution. In Khmelnytsky region, 3 institutions are authorized for the sake of admission of 6 persons in 2020¹⁰.

Programs on the basis of which the tasks for exams are prepared

First of all, it should be noted that the legal framework governing the state final attestation does not answer the question according to which programs the tasks for attestation are prepared in an education institution for children from the occupied territories.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, along with some authorized institutions, assures that the tasks are prepared on the basis of the curricula of general secondary education institutions. It is proposed to get acquainted with the programs on the website of the Ministry.

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For more details, see the monitoring conducted by the CCE “Almenda” in April 2021. Access mode: <https://almenda.org/monitoring-stanu-realizaci%1%97-prava-na-osvitu-ta-osvitnix-potreb-meshkanciv-okupovanogo-krimu/>

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For more details, see the monitoring conducted by the CCE "Almenda" in April 2021. Access mode: <https://almenda.org/monitoring-stanu-realizaci%d1%97-prava-na-osvitu-ta-osvitnix-potreb-meshkanciv-okupovanogokrиму/>

In turn, other authorized institutions claim that the tasks are prepared in accordance with the EIT programs posted on the website of the Ukrainian Center for Educational Quality Assessment¹¹.

Admission assessment in the major subjects

Applicants from occupied Crimea who wish to enter a Ukrainian higher education institution under the simplified system (using the quota-2) can do so by passing the admission exam or participating in a creative competition (depending on the chosen specialty).

On which of the major subjects one has to pass the exam also depends on the specialty. The list of competitive subjects is determined annually by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. Admission exams are held according to the programs of EIT.

For some specialties there is an assessment in the form of absence of Ukrainian certificate creative competition. Programs of creative competitions are developed by admission commissions of higher education institutions.

During the 2021 admission campaign, admission exams and creative competitions were held from July 1 to 13, although the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine set July 20 as the last day.

Children who plan to enter higher education institutions under a simplified system with an admission exam, need to prepare for it in advance. However, the analysis of the websites of 17 higher education institutions revealed that the information provided there regarding the admission examination programs does not always coincide with the information from the Ministry, the programs differ from the EIT programs.

In addition, poor navigation on the websites of higher education institutions was noted during the monitoring, which complicates the process of finding the necessary information¹².

12

For more details, see the monitoring conducted by the CCE "Almenda" in May 2021. Access mode: <https://almenda.org/monitoring-stanu-realizaci%d1%97-prava-na-osvitu-ta-osvitnix-potreb-meshkanciv-okupovanogokrиму-traven-2021-r/>

5

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO WHICH APPLICANTS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENROLL UNDER A SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM

Given the difficulties faced by residents of occupied Crimea who wish to become students of Ukrainian higher education institutions, and in order to create a level playing field, the State of Ukraine has introduced a simplified admission system for applicants from the temporarily occupied territories.

In general, the simplified system of admission implies that applicants from the occupied territories do not have to provide the results of EIT to the institution of higher education (due to the impossibility of passing the EIT in the absence of a Ukrainian certificate) and, accordingly, do not have to provide the certificate to apply to the places of state order, allocated under quota-2 (10% of the number of the places of state order in 2021).

In July 2020, the news about the legally secured opportunity for children living in the occupied territories to enter any higher education institution under the quota was one of the most popular in the media, among representatives of public organizations and parents of applicants (especially those applicants who live in the territory controlled by the authorities of Ukraine). For almost a year, applicants were confident that in 2021 on the basis of this rule they will be able to enter any of the 619 institutions of higher education under the simplified system.

However, in advance of the admission campaign of 2021, it turned out that the list of institutions is limited to those on the basis of which the educational centers “Crimea-Ukraine” and “Donbas-Ukraine” were created. And this is actually only 35% of the total number of higher education institutions (206 or 214 institutions according to various sources). There are also 31 colleges among these institutions, but only 2 of them are located in the southern regions, near occupied Crimea. This location of educational centers on the basis of colleges does not contribute to the involvement and education of children from occupied Crimea.

CONCLUSIONS

In 2021, children born in 2003-2004 entered higher education institutions. These children were 10 years old when the Russian Federation committed an act of armed aggression against Ukraine, occupied one part of its territory and started an international armed conflict in another.

For the last 7 years, children living in Crimea have been living in conditions of Russian propaganda and “patriotic education”. They cannot study the Ukrainian language and do not know how to communicate with it. They also do not study the history and geography of Ukraine in schools. The “easy way” for them is to take the Russian Unified State Exams in the subjects they study every day in schools and to enter any of numerous Russian higher education institutions.

The aim of Ukraine’s state policy in the field of providing access to higher education for children from the occupied territories should be to create an easier and more convenient way to enter Ukrainian institutions, taking into account all the obstacles and difficulties that these children face.

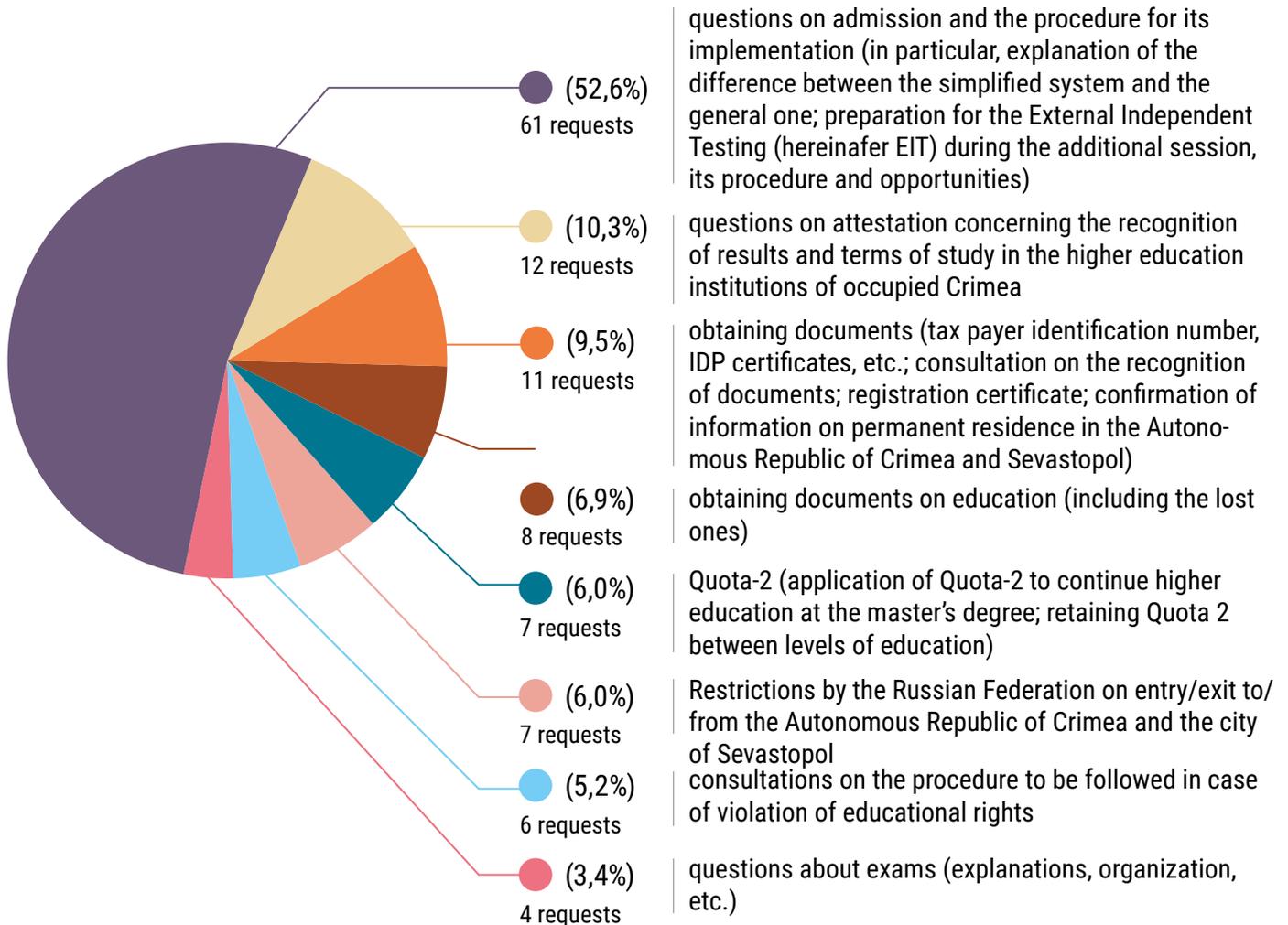
In the eighth year of the occupation of the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, positive trends can be observed in promoting access to higher education for children living in these territories. The introduction of a simplified system of admission, which does not require the passing of the EIT and a certificate of general secondary education, and its extension to a larger number of higher education institutions is a significant step in the reintegration of young people living in the occupied territories. However, even the simplified system provides for independent mastering of the school program at least in the Ukrainian language and history of Ukraine. It requires a lot of effort and money for persons living in the occupied territories. Such preparation should now be driven by a strong motivation to study in higher education institutions in Ukraine. Given the large-scale Russian propaganda, it can be assumed that over time under the control of the Russian Federation and without a proper information campaign on the part of Ukraine, the motivation of Crimean children to receive higher education in Ukraine may decrease.

During the monitoring, the biggest gap in Ukraine’s public policy in the area under study was the incoherence of actions performed by government and education institutions and the inconsistency of information provided by the State with the actual situation concerning children’s opportunities to use various educational services and effectively prepare for admission to the chosen higher education institution. NGOs still perform some of the work of government agencies and education institutions to inform the population of Crimea and provide clarification on the admission procedure.

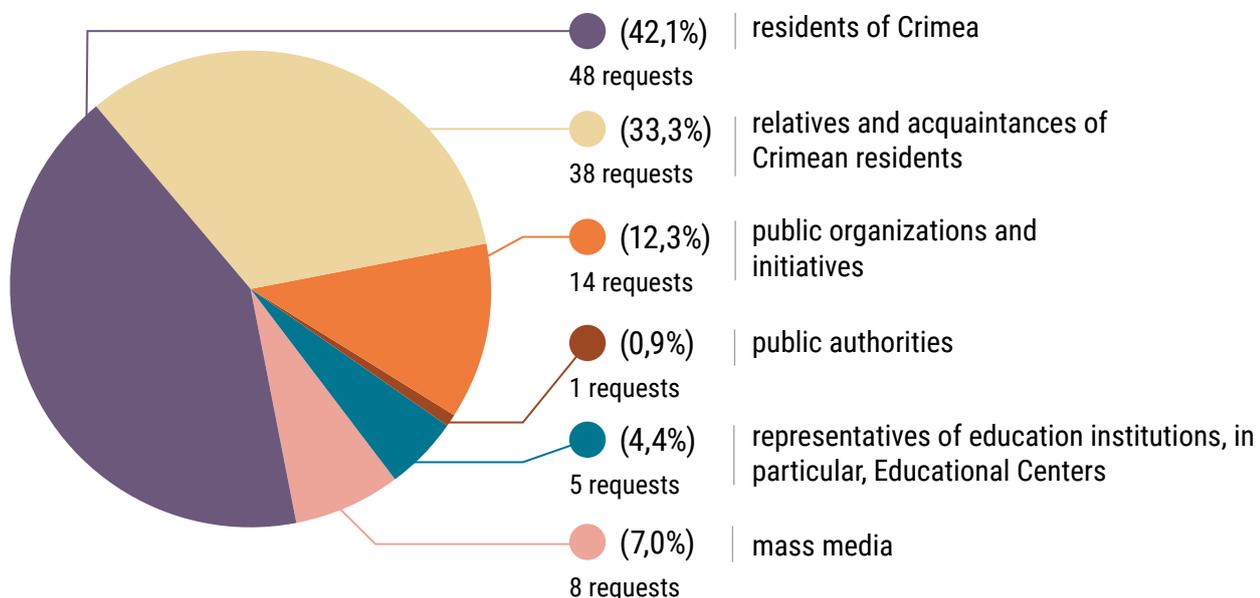
The 2021 admission campaign for applicants from the occupied territories was much better than the previous ones: training courses with stipends were introduced, new educational centers were established at various education institutions, where, in particular, relevant information on the admission procedure could be obtained. However, gaps and inconsistencies have been identified in each policy area that need to be addressed for an even more successful admission campaign next year.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON REQUESTS TO THE CCE "ALMENDA" FOR THE PERIOD APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2021

THE MAIN TOPICS OF REQUESTS:



PERSONS WHO SOUGHT ADVICE:



APPENDIX 2.

EXISTING BARRIERS TO THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION OF RESIDENTS OF THE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND WAYS TO OVERCOME THEM

PREPARATION IN CRIMEA FOR ADMISSION TO UKRAINIAN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Existing barriers

- impossibility to study the Ukrainian language in secondary schools of occupied Crimea (schools or gymnasiums) during school or extracurricular time (in optional courses or in circles) due to the actual lack of teaching in the Ukrainian language in schools of occupied Crimea and Sevastopol;
- limited opportunity to study the Ukrainian language with the help of a tutor in Crimea, as the vast majority of Ukrainian language tutors provide their services online and are not in Crimea, and the cost of classes ranges from 160 to 2,500 rubles (60-934 hryvnia), which is a significant financial burden for some families;
- impossibility to study the history of Ukraine in secondary schools of occupied Crimea, as this subject is not taught in Crimean schools at all;
- there is almost no possibility to study the history of Ukraine with the help of a tutor, as Russian websites do not contain offers of tutoring services in the history of Ukraine. Whereas with the help of Ukrainian websites only online format is possible, and Crimean websites offer services of only 4 people. The average cost of lessons is 400 to 1000 rubles per hour (150-376 hryvnias), the venue being in Simferopol, Yalta and Sevastopol;
- unsystematic information about available online courses to prepare for admission exams;
- complicated search for information on available online courses to prepare for the admission exams in Crimea (for the search engine to find free and informative resources, including video lessons, the query should be made in Ukrainian (which is not convenient for Crimean school students) and upon request in Russian, mostly websites of private organizations that provide paid services are offered).

Ways to overcome barriers

- development and maintenance of a single information platform (web portal) for young people from TOT, which, in particular, will contain information on admission, educational services, available pre-entry or subject courses, etc.;
- conducting of systematic information campaigns on existing educational services provided to Ukrainian citizens from temporarily occupied Crimea, taking into account the challenges of disseminating information to the occupied territories (timeliness of information campaigns, involvement of marketers in information

campaigns to find and use the most effective means of disseminating information);

- improvement of pre-entry courses through the expansion of information and communication technologies and the use of telecommunication systems of different levels, taking into account the need for educational services for the residents of Crimea.

EDUCATION OF CRIMEAN RESIDENTS IN DISTANCE AND INDIVIDUAL FORM IN ORDER TO OBTAIN UKRAINIAN FULL SECONDARY EDUCATION

Existing barriers

- the incomprehensibility of the difference between distance learning and externship, introduction into the information space of the definition of “distance-external learning”, which does not comply with the legislation of Ukraine;
- the need for “double” education in schools of occupied Crimea and Ukrainian schools with distance learning, which leads to a violation of sanitary and hygienic norms of workload for schoolchildren (up to 90 school hours per week);
- high level of corruption risks due to the need for students from the occupied territories to be certified for a large amount of educational information;
- inadequacy of distance education to the conditions in which schoolchildren study on the occupied peninsula, namely, distance learning takes place in the morning when students are at school in Crimea;
- low level of motivation of teachers to provide educational services due to lack of funding for additional workload;
- lack of opportunity to pass STA and EIT remotely;
- lack of an information campaign for children from occupied Crimea concerning the opportunities of receiving Ukrainian education at a distance or individual form of learning;
- low level of adaptation of general secondary education institutions to the peculiarities of education of the residents of the occupied peninsula (there is no analysis of the school educational component, the difference in the programs and content of education are unidentified, etc.)
- lack of Internet access among various segments of the population and in certain areas of occupied Crimea.

Ways to overcome barriers

- to create a separate education institution (mixed online/offline format) for Crimean children in Kherson, the activities of which will be aimed at providing distance education taking into account the special educational needs of children from occupied Crimea and promoting the integration of Crimean youth into Ukrainian society. This, in turn, will create a unique experience for the international community in exercising the right to education of the residents of the occupied territories;

- to provide an opportunity for all categories of citizens, regardless of the year of school graduation in Crimea, to obtain a Certificate of basic and/or complete general secondary education by expanding the mechanism specified in the Procedure on admission to higher, professional higher and professional (vocational) education of persons who live in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, the temporarily occupied territory of certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the territory of settlements on the contact line (hereinafter the Procedure).

ADMISSION ASSESSMENTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO WHICH APPLICANTS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENROLL UNDER A SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM (CENTERS «CRIMEA-UKRAINE»)

Existing barriers

- combination of admission assessment in the major subjects in higher education institutions and annual assessment with the State final attestation for the appropriate level of general secondary education in authorized general secondary education institutions, which disorients applicants and makes it impossible to obtain a document on general secondary education without entering higher education institution;
- the requirement in case of having the EIT results to pass repeated admission assessments on the History of Ukraine and the Ukrainian language in higher education institutions
- lack of uniform requirements to the programs of the admission assessment in the major subjects in higher education institutions, on the basis of which the centers “Crimea-Ukraine” are located;
- the existence of the risk of subjective evaluation of applicants during the admission assessment in the major subjects, depending on the political preferences of teachers;
- lack of short-term courses on preparation for the admission assessment in the major subjects;
- lack of explanation of the procedure for admission to education institutions for vocational (technical) education, on the basis of which, according to the Procedure, centers “Crimea-Ukraine” are not established;
- impossibility of passing the annual assessment and state final attestation in authorized institutions of general secondary education in one city, and passing the admission assessment in the major subjects in institutions of higher education in another city;
- the high financial burden on the families of some segments of the population of occupied Crimea due to the need to pay for travel and accommodation during the admission campaign.

Ways to overcome barriers

- split between the process of obtaining a Certificate of basic or complete general secondary education and the admission to higher education institutions through the creation of separate procedures or the EIT;
- simplification of access to the EIT for children from temporarily occupied Crimea and replacement of admission exams in institutions of higher and professional higher education with the independent testing, while maintaining Quota-2;
- providing residents of occupied Crimea with the opportunity to pass the EIT regardless of whether they studied in a Ukrainian school, and based on the results of the EIT to obtain a Certificate of complete general secondary education under a simplified procedure using an educational declaration;
- in cases when the residents of occupied Crimea could not participate in the EIT session, to provide them with the opportunity to enter under the simplified procedure under Quota-2. To do this, it is necessary to replace exams in higher education institutions with an analogue of the EIT – the independent testing;
- to place testing centers in settlements close to the checkpoints at the administrative border with temporarily occupied Crimea, which would significantly reduce the costs of Crimean applicants for travel and accommodation during the admission campaign, or to develop together with the Center for Educational Quality Assessment the opportunity of passing the EIT using telecommunications systems of different levels.

PREPARATION IN CRIMEA FOR ADMISSION TO UKRAINIAN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION EXISTING BARRIERS

- impossibility to study the Ukrainian language in secondary schools of occupied Crimea
- limited opportunity to study the Ukrainian language with the help of a tutor in Crimea
- impossibility to study the history of Ukraine in secondary schools of occupied Crimea (the subject is not taught at all)
- almost no possibility to study the history of Ukraine with the help of a tutor (only 4 people in Crimea publicly offer this service)
- unsystematic information about available online courses to prepare for admission exams;
- complicated search for information on available online courses to prepare for admission exams (only Ukrainian-language search is relevant)

EDUCATION OF CRIMEAN RESIDENTS IN DISTANCE AND INDIVIDUAL FORM IN ORDER TO OBTAIN UKRAINIAN FULL SECONDARY EDUCATION EXISTING BARRIERS

- the incomprehensibility of the difference between distance learning and externship
- the need for “double” education in schools of occupied Crimea and Ukrainian schools
- high level of corruption risks
- inadequacy of distance education to the conditions in which schoolchildren study on the occupied peninsula
- low level of motivation of teachers to provide educational services due to lack of funding for additional workload;
- lack of opportunity to pass STA and EIT remotely;
- lack of an information campaign concerning the opportunities of receiving Ukrainian education at a distance or individual form of learning
- low level of adaptation of general secondary education institutions to the peculiarities of education of the residents of the occupied peninsula
- lack of Internet access among various segments of the population and in certain areas of occupied Crimea.

ADMISSION EXAMS TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO WHICH APPLICANTS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENROLL UNDER A SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM (CENTERS «CRIMEA-UKRAINE») EXISTING BARRIERS

- disorientation of applicants due to the combination of admission assessment in the major subjects in higher education institutions and annual assessment with the State final attestation in authorized general secondary education institutions
- lack of possibility to obtain a document on general secondary education without entering higher education institution;
- the requirement to pass repeated admission assessments on the History of Ukraine and the Ukrainian language in higher education institutions under the simplified system even in case of having the EIT results
- lack of uniform requirements to the programs of the admission assessments in the major subjects under the simplified system;
- lack of short-term courses on preparation for the admission assessments in the major subjects;
- lack of explanation of the procedure for admission to education institutions on the basis of which centers “Crimea-Ukraine” are not established;
- impossibility of passing the annual assessment and state final attestation in authorized institutions of general secondary education in one city, and passing the admission assessment in the major subjects in institutions of higher education in another city;
- the high financial burden on the families of some segments of the population

PREPARATION IN CRIMEA FOR ADMISSION TO UKRAINIAN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION WAYS TO OVERCOME BARRIERS



development and maintenance of a single information platform (web portal) for young people from the occupied territories which will accumulate all the information on education in Ukraine



conducting of systematic information campaigns on existing educational services provided to residents of temporarily occupied Crimea



improvement of pre-entry courses through the expansion of information and communication technologies and the use of telecommunication systems of different levels, taking into account the need for educational services for the residents of Crimea.

EDUCATION OF CRIMEAN RESIDENTS IN DISTANCE AND INDIVIDUAL FORM IN ORDER TO OBTAIN UKRAINIAN FULL SECONDARY EDUCATION

ШЛЯХИ ПОДОЛАННЯ БАР'ЄРІВ



to create a separate education institution (mixed online/offline format) for Crimean children in Kherson, the activities of which will be aimed at providing distance education and promoting the integration of children from occupied Crimea



to provide an opportunity for all categories of citizens, regardless of the year of school graduation in Crimea, to obtain a Certificate of basic and/or complete general secondary education under the simplified system

ADMISSION EXAMS TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO WHICH APPLICANTS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENROLL UNDER A SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM (CENTERS «CRIMEA-UKRAINE»)

WAYS TO OVERCOME BARRIERS



split between the process of obtaining a Certificate of basic or complete general secondary education and the admission to higher education institutions



simplification of access to the EIT

QUOTA-2

replacement of admission exams in institutions of higher and while maintaining Quota-2;



providing an opportunity to obtain a Certificate of complete general secondary education based on the results of the EIT under a simplified procedure



in cases when it is impossible to participate in the EIT session, to grant the right to enter under the simplified procedure under Quota-2 while keeping exams in the form of independent testing



to place testing centers in settlements close to the checkpoints at the administrative border with temporarily occupied Crimea and/or develop the opportunity of passing the EIT using telecommunications systems of different levels.

