

**Topic: The role of Austrian NGOs in integrating Ukrainian refugee children into the Austrian education system in light of the Russia vs Ukraine conflict.**

**ABSTRACT:**

The Russian invasion in Ukraine on the 24th of February 2022 shattered the lives of the Ukrainians. With homes, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure being destroyed, millions of people have been displaced. The war has not only led to an economic, social, political, and environmental crisis that would take decades to resolve, but is a humanitarian crisis that refugees face due to separation from their families, destruction of their lives, and loss of loved ones and property along with the added challenge of navigating their lives in a new country.

Amidst the war crisis, education – a basic human right is disrupted. It is highly imperative for organizations providing refuge to minimize these effects by ensuring that the displaced children have access to education. Education not only empowers children by providing them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and tools to rebuild their lives and communities, but also ensures that these children and youth are not forcefully recruited into armed military groups. It also protects them from exploitation and child labor.

The objective of the research is to assess the role played by NGOs in Austria in integrating Ukrainian refugee children into their education system. It aims to understand the challenges faced by NGOs, social workers, teachers, volunteers, refugee parents and the children themselves. The research also explores how these children are connected to schools by the NGOs, how they tackle the psychological trauma induced by war, how they address the German language barrier in Austria, and what their foreseeable future in Austria looks like.

In conclusion, the study provides insights on the role played by various people and organizations involved in refugee education. The limitations of the study stem from the fact that the war between Ukraine and Russia is currently ongoing, and the hence, the data is dynamic. The findings from the study could vary in the next 6 months to 1 year depending on the situation between the two countries at war. This also implies that there are avenues and scope for future research in this area.