

# Information Sheet – Measures in response to the arrival of displaced people fleeing the war in Ukraine

**31 March 2023**

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## I. Introduction

In response to requests for information, ECRE compiled and published a series of documents between March 2022 and January 2023 collating information on the measures taken by European countries to address the arrival of people fleeing the war in Ukraine (UA) in the form of an Information Sheet. The Information Sheet provides non-exhaustive country-by-country information on the policy and legal developments in response to arrivals from UA, including measures adopted on entry and stay requirements, reception, asylum procedures, and information on national measures implementing the Council Decision on the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD), and/or establishing other special statuses for persons fleeing Ukraine.

After a year of implementation, different interpretations of the TPD and the Council Decision have led to the emergence of divergent policies and practices. Uncertainty about the legal situation persists, and some concerns about the incorrect implementation of the TPD have emerged. The present update has been prepared in response to the need for greater clarity on the practical legal implications of the activation of the TPD. It focuses on specific areas that have recently generated questions of interpretation and legal compliance, including entry and re-entry into Member States of persons fleeing Ukraine or returning after visits to Ukraine; immediate reception arrangements for newly arrived people; access to protection statuses and remedies in case of denial; freedom of movement within the EU+; and access to rights provided by the TPD. This update of the Information Sheet includes a review of assistance to certain categories of vulnerable persons, namely unaccompanied children, persons with disabilities and victims of human trafficking.

The Information Sheet was created using open-source information and unofficial translation tools. Some of the information is based on official statements announcing Ukraine-specific policy changes or announcing the implementation of the TPD and/or other special statuses.

ECRE has contacted lawyers in the ELENA network, experts working on the AIDA database it manages, and ECRE members to understand the implementation in practice of the measures that have been introduced. In case of questions, ECRE encourages contact with the [ELENA network](#) and [ECRE members](#), as well as ECRE's Legal Support and Litigation Team (contact person: [ihnasevych@ecre.org](mailto:ihnasevych@ecre.org)).

All efforts have been made to ensure that the information is up-to-date as of 31 March 2023 and accurate, however the situation remains volatile as different practices and policies emerge, solidify or change. Consequently, the Information Sheet is not intended to be an exhaustive or definitive compilation of all developments.

## Summary on state practice regarding consequences of pendular movements to/from Ukraine

Differing state practice has emerged concerning “pendular” movements, that is the temporary return for short visits to Ukraine of people with temporary protection status – temporary protection beneficiaries (TPB) – and their subsequent re-entry to the state providing protection.

The varying approaches of states are described in the country-specific chapters and summarised in the tables below.

### ***States with no restrictions on movements to Ukraine***

**Czech Republic:** Temporary protection does not expire when leaving the Czech Republic. Long-stay visa holders with the code D/VS/U "00" can travel only within Schengen area and Ukraine. To travel outside, visa exchange is only allowed in emergency situations with proof of necessity and a purchased airline or travel ticket.

**France:** Beneficiaries of temporary protection are allowed to make temporary trips to Ukraine with their temporary residence permit and travel document without any effect on their status. Their status as a beneficiary of temporary protection is determined by the Council's decision for as long as the temporary protection mechanism is in place.

**Greece:** Persons who received temporary protection in Greece can return to Ukraine and travel back to Greece so long as their temporary protection document is valid.

**Hungary:** In accordance with the Hungarian laws, temporary protection status cannot be withdrawn based on the fact that a TPB travelled to Ukraine.

**Ireland:** Return to Ukraine is not listed among the reasons for revocation of protection status. However, leaving temporary accommodation for seven non-cumulative days will result in reallocation of places.

**Italy:** It is possible to return to Ukraine at any time with a valid travel and identity document. On return to Italy, the person will maintain the status of temporary protection.

**Netherlands:** UA nationals can travel within the EU and to and from Ukraine with a valid biometric passport and proof of residency in the Netherlands.

**Portugal:** The law does not provide for any restriction with regards to travel to and back from Ukraine.

**Romania:** TPBs in Romania can request to be returned to their country of origin and receive support during the procedure. If the temporary protection status has not expired and the situation in their home country has not changed, they can ask for re-admittance into Romania. If the request is accepted, they will continue to have temporary protection until the original expiration date.

**Spain:** The temporary residence authorisation constitutes a residence permit in Spain for all legal purposes, which means that it will allow TPBs to return to Spain at any time during its period of validity.

**Slovakia:** Leaving Slovakia does not result in the loss or termination of temporary protection status. This includes travel and return to Ukraine.

***States requiring TPBs to inform authorities before leaving. Absence may affect social benefits.***

**Finland:** Ukrainians resident in Finland with temporary protection status can travel back to Ukraine without any restrictions on the duration of their visit. However, they must inform the reception centre where they reside about their trip beforehand. If the trip lasts for more than two weeks, continued accommodation is not guaranteed. If the person stays abroad for more than seven days within a month, they are entitled to receive an allowance only for the days spent in Finland. If they stay abroad for the entire month, they will not receive any reception allowance for that month.

**Denmark:** Ukrainian citizens with residence rights in Denmark under the Special Act have the right to travel back to Ukraine and return to Denmark. However, the duration of the stay in Ukraine will depend on whether the Danish authorities recognise the aim of the travel as justifiable.

**Croatia:** TPBs can return to Ukraine at any time if they believe that the conditions exist for a safe return to the country. However, if TPBs have a Certificate (Identification Card) of a foreigner granted temporary protection, they must notify the relevant police station where they are registered of their return to Ukraine. There is limited information available on short-term movements to/from Ukraine.

**Sweden:** The Swedish Migration Agency will not revoke residence permits under the Temporary Protection Directive in case of return to Ukraine for a short time. However, rights to housing and financial support may be affected.

**United Kingdom:** Under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, individuals can continue to receive benefits even if they temporarily return to Ukraine. People receiving Universal Credit, Pension Credit and Child Benefit have different rules about leaving the country for a specific amount of time without losing benefits (4 to 8 weeks), and must inform the relevant agency when leaving and returning. Additionally, sponsors in the "Homes for Ukraine" scheme can continue to receive their payment if the individual is absent for up to 4 weeks. If they are absent for more than 4 weeks, they must arrange with their sponsor and local council to organise help in finding a new sponsor if needed.

***States allowing TPBs to travel to Ukraine within defined timeframes***

**Germany:** German policy on returns allows TPBs to travel to Ukraine according to three categories based on duration: 1) a short-term trip for up to 3 weeks (21 calendar days) per year; 2) a long-term trip for up to 6 months; and 3) a permanent return to Ukraine. In order to maintain their basic income payment and registration in Germany, TPBs can travel to Ukraine for a maximum of 3 weeks (21 calendar days) per year, including weekends and public holidays, if approved by the job centre. The purpose of the trip must be temporarily valid; otherwise, the residence permit may be cancelled. If the journey lasts longer than six weeks, the basic income payment will usually be stopped, and TPBs must reapply upon return to Germany.

**Belgium:** TPBs can make short-term returns to Ukraine for up to three months. TPBs must inform their municipality about their absence and if it lasts longer than three months, they are obliged to report it. They must also inform their social worker from the Public Centre for Social Welfare (OCMW/CPAS) if they decide to return to Ukraine or stay abroad. If TPBs are absent for more than 28 days, most OCMW/CPAS suspend the income for integration. However, this is subject to listed exceptions and the OCMW/CPAS may consider additional

exceptional circumstances. TPBs must contact the municipality within fifteen days of returning to Belgium if they have been absent for more than three months.

**Moldova:** After receiving Temporary Protected Status, a person can leave Moldova for any other country, including Ukraine, but not for more than 45 days in the period 1 March 2023 to 1 March 2024. It is not necessary to inform the authorities when leaving the territory of the Moldova for less than 45 days. According to the decision of the Government of Moldova to implement temporary protection from 26 January 2023, if a person does not stay in Moldova for more than 45 days and does not use temporary protection, it is no longer valid.

**Poland:** If a citizen of Ukraine holds a temporary protection confirmation in the form of diia.pl e-document and a valid passport, it will be possible to cross the border without restriction until 24 August 2023. Persons who left Poland for more than 1 month and lost their temporary protection in Poland may re-enter on the basis of visa or visa-free regime. In case there is no visa and 90 days of visa-free regime are over, this person may be given a permit to enter for up to 15 days.

### ***States allowing only short-term trips to Ukraine without defining the timeframe***

**Austria:** The right of residence may prematurely cease to be valid if the person leaves Austria for longer than a “short term” stay, i.e. if the person moves to another country. However, short trips followed by re-entry are possible without the right of residence expiring. No definition of short trips is provided.

**Norway:** Beneficiaries of protection are able to travel within and outside of Norway, including to Ukraine. TPBs must reside in Norway for at least half the time they have a residence permit. If TPBs stay outside Norway for longer than that they will lose their residence permit.

### ***States where travelling to Ukraine may result in the loss of temporary protection status***

**Malta:** return to Ukraine, irrespective of its duration and the reason behind it, will lead to the withdrawal of TP status in Malta. This is without prejudice to the possibility for the person concerned to travel back to Malta, subject to meeting the necessary travel requirements, and once again request TP.

**Serbia:** Persons with temporary protection status in Serbia may return to Ukraine but their temporary protection will be annulled. It is also possible to travel to other countries. To avoid losing temporary protection status in Serbia, it is advised to inform the Serbian authorities of travel intentions and duration.

**Switzerland:** The State Secretariat for Migration has set a time limit of 15 days per quarter (three months) for protection beneficiaries to return to their home country without revoking the "Protection Status S" which is provided to those fleeing Ukraine. Exceptions are allowed in cases of coercion or preparation for a definitive return. If TPBs shift their living arrangements abroad, their Protection Status S will also be revoked, with a presumption of the shift occurring after two months spent in a third country.

***States where rules on short-term returns to Ukraine are not specified or insufficient information is available***

**Cyprus:** It is possible to leave Cyprus after obtaining temporary protection status, including return to Ukraine, however, there is limited information available on the time limits and consequences of leaving Cyprus.

**Latvia:** In cases where the person renounces the temporary protection status in the Republic of Latvia and either leaves for another country or returns to Ukraine, a new temporary residence permit will not be issued.

**Lithuania:** no information available.

**Luxembourg:** It is possible to return to Ukraine for a short time (not defined) while maintaining temporary protection status. The authorities emphasize that the temporary protection certificate issued is not a travel document and TPBs must therefore possess all the necessary travel documents. It is also indicated that Luxembourg cannot assist persons with temporary protection status to re-enter Luxembourg if difficulties arise.

**Slovenia:** no information available.

## Summary on state practice on the prolongation of the temporary protection regime

An important issue for many TPB concerns the extension of the temporary protection regime; varying practice is currently in place.

### ***States that have prolonged temporary protection regime to 4 March 2024***

**Austria:** All persons registered in Austria as displaced persons from Ukraine with a valid residence permit will automatically be sent a new ID card with an extended validity date.

**Belgium:** The A Card valid until 4 March 2023 must be renewed at the commune.

**Bulgaria:** The re-registration process ran until 31 March 2023.

**Croatia:** TPBs must appear in person at the police department/police station at their place of residence to verify the extension of the validity period of the identity card of a foreigner under temporary protection.

**Cyprus:** Those who already have temporary protection do not need to apply again or obtain a new residence permit – permits have been automatically extended. New applicants must submit an application either online or in person at the central premises in Nicosia.

**Hungary:** The validity of the card has been extended automatically, residence permit cards are now valid until 4 March 2024, contrary to the validity date physically displayed on the card (4 March 2023).

**Latvia:** Ukrainian resident in Latvia with temporary protection status in 2022 will have their long-term visas and residence permits extended until 4 March 2024, regardless of the expiration date on their documents. From 1 January 2023, those who apply for temporary protection status in Latvia will be issued a two-year temporary residence permit.

**Lithuania:** As of 1 January 2023, temporary protection beneficiaries can apply for digital temporary residence permits. Refugees who previously received plastic card permits can now replace them using a simplified procedure by creating an account on a website, filling out a questionnaire and providing necessary information. The digital permit will be valid from 5 March 2023 until 4 March 2024.

**Luxembourg:** Beneficiaries of temporary protection in Luxembourg with a certificate valid until 3 March 2023 have been granted an extension of their protection status until 4 March 2024. However, they must renew their certificate to continue benefiting from the rights attached to temporary protection. A circular was sent out in December 2022 to inform them of the renewal procedure.

**Netherlands:** Authorities sent letters between 27 January and 25 February 2023 to individuals registered at the IND explaining how to extend the validity of temporary protection stickers or cards, which serves as proof of the extension and validity of their documents.

**Slovakia:** Slovak residence permits expiring on 4 March 2023 will remain valid until 4 March 2024, without any additional administrative procedures required.

**Sweden:** TPBs could apply for an extension of their residence permit from 1 February to 4 March 2023, using an e-service application form. After the application is registered, the applicants must provide fingerprints and be photographed for the new permit during an appointment with the Migration Agency.



<p><b><i>States which have prolonged the temporary protection regime beyond 4 March 2024</i></b></p>
<p><b>Czech Republic (extended until 31 March 2024):</b> Eligible individuals had to register online on or before 31 March 2023 to receive the document confirming extension of temporary protection.</p> <p><b>Denmark (17 March 2024):</b> Decisions on the extension are taken by the Danish Minister of Immigration and Integration.</p> <p><b>Romania (3 April 2024):</b> Documents issued to TPBs will be automatically prolonged until 3 April 2024.</p> <p><b>Serbia (18 March 2024):</b> Persons who already have temporary protection card can extend it by emailing to: <a href="mailto:ugp.kancelarijazaazil@mup.gov.rs">ugp.kancelarijazaazil@mup.gov.rs</a>.</p>
<p><b><i>States which have prolonged the temporary protection regime for a shorter period than 4 March 2024 (for all or some categories of people fleeing Ukraine)</i></b></p>
<p><b>The Netherlands (extended until 4 September 2023):</b> For non-UA nationals with a temporary Ukrainian residence permit valid on 23 February 2022, the validity of Temporary Protection Residence Permits expiring on 4 March 2023 is automatically extended for six months until 4 September 2023.</p> <p><b>Italy (31 December 2023):</b> Residence permits will be automatically extended but only until 31 December 2023.</p> <p><b>Moldova (1 March 2024):</b> The government may extend temporary protection for at least another six months and for a maximum of two years in total.</p> <p><b>Portugal (September 2023):</b> The Portuguese government approved a decision to extend the temporary protection status granted to those displaced by the war in Ukraine by six months on 9 March 2023.</p>
<p><b><i>Other cases</i></b></p>
<p><b>Norway (One year from the date of issuance of residence permits):</b> The Norwegian government will continue to offer temporary collective protection to refugees from Ukraine. Those who have already been granted a permit will receive an automatic one-year extension and a new permit will be sent by post, which will be valid for one year from the expiration date of the previous permit.</p>



## II. Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive by country

### 1. Austria

#### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

For Ukrainian (UA) nationals, entry with a biometric passport and no visa requirement remains possible as of January 2023. More information can be found [here](#).

As of 1 November, UA nationals fleeing the war may enter Austria on OBB trains coming from Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary. They may travel within Austria free of charge for 24 hours with the 'Ukraine first arrival ticket'. More information can be found [here](#).

The right of residence may prematurely cease to be valid if the person leaves Austria for longer than the short term, i.e. if the person moves to another country. However, short trips are possible without the right of residence expiring.

#### 2. Immediate reception situation

From 15 November 2022, Ukrainians arriving in Vienna for the first time and looking for temporary residence will be accommodated at the new Arrival Centre in Vienna (Althanstraße 14, 1090 Vienna). The following services are provided at the Centre: Covid-19 testing; initial medical examinations; support for search for temporary sleeping arrangements in accommodation centres; assistance with further relocation in Austria; clarification of prospects for staying in Austria; information about the possibility of finding private and organised housing within the framework of support for basic living needs.

Caritas are present at Vienna Central Station to provide information and assistance. Other organisations providing support at the Arrival Centre include: the Vienna Red Cross; the Vienna Social Foundation; Caritas; the Federal Care and Support Agency; and the Vienna police. More information can be found [here](#).

More information about the services available, and about registration and employment can be found in Ukrainian and German [here](#).

The Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services set up a hotline for Ukrainian nationals (hotline: +43 1 2676 870 9460). The Federal Agency for Reception coordinates and provides basic care for foreigners in need of assistance and protection. This includes accommodation, food, social, medical, and psychological care as well as provisions of goods for daily needs such as clothing. If accommodation with relatives is not possible or where financial resources are not available, temporary accommodation will be provided with assistance of the federal government or a federal state.

A hotline has been set up by the Federal Chancellery for questions of displaced persons from Ukraine with consultations available in Ukrainian, Russian and German. The hotline can be reached at [+43 17151051-120](#). A hotline has been created for people in need of psychological support (+43 1 343 0101 4). Specific services to support women displaced from Ukraine have been created by the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) (+43 17151051-120 and by email at [ukrainehilfe@integrationsfonds.at](mailto:ukrainehilfe@integrationsfonds.at)).

### 3. Protection status

Austria has implemented the TPD; the implementing law can be found [here](#). The scope covers:

- Ukrainian nationals
  - a) who fled Ukraine after February 24, 2022;
  - b) who were legally resident in Austria on February 24, 2022 (after the end of the visa-free or visa-required period);
  - c) who on February 24 2022 had a valid title according to the Settlement and Residence Act or according to §§ 55-57 AsylG (after the title expired);
- Third-country nationals and stateless persons with a protection status (e.g. recognised refugee) who fled Ukraine after February 24, 2022;
- spouses, registered partners, minor unmarried children of persons listed above and other close relatives (if they lived together and were completely or largely dependent on them).

The Federal Government of Austria has announced that it will extend the ordinance for the temporary protection of refugees from Ukraine until 4 March 2024. Persons from Ukraine that have a valid residence will automatically be sent a new ID card with an extended validity date. Persons arriving to Austria will be required to register at the registration offices of the police. The temporary right of residence in Austria means that it is not necessary to apply for asylum. See [here](#) for more information.

UA nationals who held (on 24 February 2022) a valid residence title in Austria which was not renewed or was withdrawn due to failure to meet the issuance conditions and who cannot return to Ukraine will be given temporary protection status after expiry of the current residence title. UA nationals who were lawfully resident in Austria on 24 February 2022 shall also be entitled to the protection status and related right of residence after the expiry of their visa-free or visa-required stay.

Third-country nationals who lived in Ukraine with a residence permit who do not have asylum or comparable protection status in Ukraine are not covered by the regulation. Third-country nationals may enter Austria for humanitarian reasons or travel through Austria. They are considered to be legally resident in Austria until they can travel on to the country of origin. More information and FAQs about individuals who do not fall under the TPD can be found on the Office for Migration and Asylum Office [here](#).

### 4. Freedom of movement in the EU

Persons issued the displaced persons identity card are able to travel within the Schengen area visa-free for 90 days within 180 days (with their passport). They may re-enter Austria at any time. The temporary right of residency may cease if a person leaves Austria for longer than the short term or move to another country.

### 5. Access to rights

#### a) Access to suitable accommodation

Temporary protection beneficiaries are entitled to receive long-term accommodation that includes basic care, such as food, clothing, and sanitary products, free of charge in Austria. The Austrian authorities can arrange for accommodation, which can vary in type. Long-term accommodation is available throughout Austria, though TPBs may not have the option to choose the specific region to stay in. If TPBs prefer to stay in private accommodation, they can receive basic care benefits like rent subsidies and food allowances. The reimbursement rates for these costs are specified in the Austrian basic care agreement.

#### b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence

Social welfare assistance in Austria is regulated by article 15a B-VG-Agreement (and includes: housing, food, pocket money in case of housing in an officially organised accommodation, medical treatment, payment of health care insurance contributions, long-term care, information and guidance by assistance of interpreters, cost for transport, cost for school transport, clothing, costs of the return to the home country).

#### **c) Access to medical care**

Persons from Ukraine seeking protection in Austria are legally included in health insurance (retrospectively from February 24, 2022). TPBs from Ukraine receive a residence card and a replacement e-card receipt so that the contractual partners can check their entitlement to benefits. Expectant mothers are entitled to medical assistance throughout the validity of insurance.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

Before starting a job, a work permit must be issued by the Public Employment Service (AMS), but the procedure has been facilitated since beneficiaries of temporary protection do not have to take the labour-market test. A specific portal and an email address ([ukraine@ams.at](mailto:ukraine@ams.at)) have been set up by the AMS to advise those displaced from Ukraine regarding the labour market in Austria. Advice and support can also be found at step2job-Ukraine in Vienna, which supports through advice and coaching when entering the Austrian job market.

Within the framework of the recognition of foreign professional qualifications, there is the possibility of a facilitated procedure for the assessment of qualifications.

#### **e) Access to education**

Austria has free and public compulsory education. Information on Austrian education system can be found here. Very young children can attend nurseries or kindergartens which are not the part of the school system.

In the summer semester of 2023, Ukrainian students will continue to be exempt from paying tuition fees. The Austrian National Union of Students offers for all students affected by the war in Ukraine counselling in Ukrainian and Russian: [ukraine@oeh.ac.at](mailto:ukraine@oeh.ac.at).

The special scholarship program Ernst Mach-Ukraine provides the educational opportunities for students who are already studying in Austria, as well as students, scientists and researchers from Ukraine who would like to continue their studies or projects in Austria. More information on education in Austria can be found here.

Information on organisations and crisis centres offering psychological support for students can be found here.

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

There is no special separate process for unaccompanied children from Ukraine. In the Austrian asylum procedure, there are specific regulations for unaccompanied and separated children and youth. They are entitled to a legal representative who accompanies them during interviews with the Austrian asylum authorities and courts. In addition, unaccompanied or separated children are housed in specialized facilities for children and youth. More information can be found here.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

According to the EU AA information on temporary protection in Austria, special needs of persons with disabilities are being taken into account while assigning accommodation. The Austrian Federation of the Deaf is providing information and assistance to deaf people from Ukraine.

**c) Victims of human trafficking**

Federal Ministry of Interior established a human trafficking hotline: +43 677 61 34 34 34 (24 hours/7 days a week) and created a leaflet informing on the risks of human trafficking in Austria.

## 2. Belgium

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Visa-free travel to Belgium remains possible for UA nationals. The 90-day period of visa-free stay can be extended to a maximum of 180 days if the person cannot safely return to Ukraine after 90 days. The extension also applies to UA nationals without a biometric passport, but who have obtained a visa for Belgium. A dedicated page has been created to assist those fleeing Ukraine in understanding procedures regarding entry and stay.

UA nationals can travel for free on the SNCB (rail) network upon their arrival or on their way to Belgium. More information can be found here.

A helpline has been launched to provide psychological support for people arriving in Belgium from Ukraine.

Short-term returns to Ukraine do not result in losing the temporary protection in Belgium. The period of absence may last up to three months. It is recommended that TPBs inform the municipality of their absence even if it lasts shorter than 3 months, however, they are obliged to inform if it lasts longer than 3 months. The residence card A must still be valid upon return. TPBs must also notify the municipality upon their return to Belgium. If TPBs decide to return to Ukraine or stay abroad they are obliged to inform their social worker from the Public Centre for Social Welfare (OCMW/CPAS). Most OCMWS/CPAS apply the rule that equivalent integration income can be suspended if a person is absent for more than 28 days. The OCMW/CPAS is not obliged to do so and may take exceptional circumstances into account. If a TPB was absent for more than three months, they must contact the municipality within fifteen days of returning to Belgium.

Ukrainians and TCNs can receive support for return to their country of origin. Support is organised by Fedasil, more information can be found here.

### 2. Immediate reception conditions

The registration for temporary protection is organised by the Immigration Office in Eurostation (40 Place Victor Horta, 1060 Brussels from Monday to Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The registration centre is not open on evenings, weekends or public holidays but when it is closed a member of Red Cross will be present.

Upon arrival at the registration centre, it is recommended that applicants have all their relevant documents and luggage with them, as this is the only opportunity to ask and be brought to accommodation/shelter. Fedasil (Federal agency for the reception of asylum seekers) will direct people to accommodation offered by the municipalities of the country (this may be group accommodation, a room in a private home or other options.) or provide emergency accommodation for 1 or 2 nights. It is noted however that there is a shortage of places to accommodate Ukrainian nationals and, as a result, individuals are staying in the emergency centres for longer.

### 3. Protection status

Temporary protection status in line with the Council decision is available to:

- a) UA nationals and their family members whose primary residence was in Ukraine before 24 February 2022;

- b) Stateless persons, and third-country nationals of countries other than Ukraine, and their family members who benefitted from international protection of equivalent national protection in Ukraine and whose primary residence was in Ukraine before 24 February 2022.

Family members in this situation include: the spouse or the unmarried partner in a stable relationship in accordance with Belgian legislation for aliens; the minor children, including those of a spouse, without distinction as to whether they were born in or out of wedlock or their adoption status; other relatives living with the family at the time of the events resulting in the mass influx of displaced persons.

The granting of this status results in the issuance of a limited stay permit (Card A), valid for one year. The temporary protection is automatically renewed for two times six months, until 4 March 2024. Nevertheless, the A Card valid until 4 March 2023 must be renewed. The renewal can be requested at the commune as of 4 January 2023. New A Card will be valid until 4 March 2024. If the new card cannot be issued before 4 March 2023, an Annexe 15 will be issued. If a certificate of temporary protection is issued after 4 January 2023, an A Card valid until 4 March 2024 will be issued. More information on protection can be found [here](#).

Each person wishing to benefit from temporary protection must present themselves in person at the registration centre. They must be in possession of the documents proving that they belong to the afore-mentioned categories of persons.

Those who had a valid right of residence in another MS, such as a valid visa in Poland for work, are not eligible for the TPD regime. However, those who have temporary protection in another MS can travel to Belgium and apply for protection under the TPD. The Belgium government informs the previous country of protection that the person will now access protection in Belgium.

Statbel (the Belgian statistics bureau) started publishing [extensive figures](#) on displaced persons from Ukraine in Belgium. Since 10 March 2022, temporary protection has been granted to 64,046 persons fleeing the war in Ukraine (as of 23 February 2023). A classification of the applications based on different categories, such as age and gender, can be found [here](#).

#### **4. Freedom of movement**

According to the TPD, it is possible for UA nationals to move to another EU country before the issuance of a residence permit and to move freely in EU countries for 90 days within a 180-day period after a residence permit in the host EU country is issued. If temporary protection is applied for and obtained in another country, the temporary protection previously granted in Belgium will come to an end and, where applicable, the residence permit issued (card A, or annex 15 issued pending the issue of the card A) will be withdrawn. For more information see [here](#).

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

In Belgium, the long-term reception of people with a residence permit falls within the competence of the regional authorities. Wallonia, Flanders and the Brussels-Capital Region in collaboration with Fedasil and with the local authorities work on distribution of reception and provision of long-term suitable accommodation. As of 5 February 2023, in Wallonia, agreements were signed with public and private owners to create accommodation places. 27 accommodations were under agreement, for a capacity of 1,225 places. Wallonia authorities [published](#) a guideline on access to accommodation as well as online [platform](#) for finding the accommodation. In Brussels-Capital Region, there are eight buildings, housing over 330 people. The creation of additional capacity continues, a number of modular dwellings, which will later be used for social housing are being



developed in Watermael-Boitsfort, in Molenbeek and in Schaerbeek. In Flanders, as of February 2023, 6,250 temporarily displaced people from Ukraine are still accommodated in shelters organised by local authorities and 1,450 in emergency villages. Temporary emergency villages have been created in Antwerp and Mechelen, together representing 1,730 reception places in 2022, entirely financed by the Flemish government. In the meantime, the construction of a third emergency village in Ghent, with a capacity of 600 places, has started. The first 200 residents should be able to move in by the end of April 2023.

Federal Public Service on Finance clarified the tax impact on Belgians who host refugees in their homes.

According to the OECD report, TPBs are allowed to conclude a modest rental agreement once they start working or when they receive integration income. Once they find personal accommodation, the Centres for Social Welfare provide the individual with an installation allowance.

#### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Temporary protection status allows UA nationals to obtain an A Card. Once the A Card has been obtained, individuals will have the right to work, register for compulsory health insurance, and claim social benefits from their local municipality.

Persons benefiting from temporary protection can receive aid equivalent to the social integration allowance. If all the conditions required to claim this right have been met, this right to assistance equivalent to social integration allowance can be claimed as soon as the person concerned has received a certificate of temporary protection and has presented himself or herself to the municipality of his/her place of residence. See more here.

#### **c) Access to medical care**

Temporary protection allows UA nationals to become members of a mutual health insurance fund (with proof of their residence status). During the initial waiting period, urgent medical assistance is provided to persons who have left Ukraine due to the war and who declare that they are claiming temporary protection status. See more here.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

TPBs can get an unlimited access to the labour market if they have the required residence permit (A card or Annex 15 issued pending the A card). The same access to the labour market is provided for certain family members of the TPBs who are not themselves beneficiaries of this status but whose stay is linked to that of the beneficiary concerned. Brochure on the access to the labour market can be found here.

On 22 December 2022, the Flemish Government has announced that Ukrainian refugees will now be required to register with the Flemish Employment Service (VDAB). In Flanders, 7,520 Ukrainians registered with the VDAB between March 2022 and February 2023. At the end of December 2022, Actiris had 2,420 job seekers of Ukrainian nationality who had registered since the start of the crisis, of which 317 had found a job and 475 were undergoing training.

#### **e) Access to education**

As of February 2023, more than 12,500 Ukrainian children have been enrolled in Belgium's compulsory education system. The OKAN system (reception level education for non-native children) exists to facilitate the school integration of these children in Flanders. The DASPA (Reception and Schooling Scheme for Newly Arrived Students) aims to meet the specific needs of migrant children who have recently arrived in Belgium within the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. The DASPA constitutes an intermediate stage of schooling, accompanied by a progressive integration preceding the insertion of the pupils in a year of traditional study. The passage of a student in a DASPA can last from one week to 12 months - extendable for a maximum of 6 months.



Information on the recognition of qualifications from Ukraine can be found [here](#).

Conditions for entering university for the students from Ukraine depend on the particular university. Information on the scholarship opportunities for students from Ukraine can be found [here](#).

## **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

### **a) Unaccompanied children**

Unaccompanied minors arriving to Belgium will be appointed with a guardian through the guardianship service. [Guardianship service](#) is a permanent service that is available 7 days a week and can be reached 24 hours a day via the emergency number 078 15 43 24. Guardianship Service is responsible for assisting minors and making sure they are accommodated in suitable conditions, they enjoy social protection, receive legal aid and psychological assistance. More information on reception and guardianship of unaccompanied minors can be found [here](#).

### **b) Persons with disabilities**

In Belgium, the policy for the disabled is the responsibility of several authorities: federal, regional and community. Ukrainians who have been granted temporary protection must, during the entire period of temporary protection, meet the applicable conditions for receiving an allowance for persons with disabilities, which concern have on medical recognition, age and income. A “task force” has been set up within the Directorate-General for Persons with Disabilities to examine as quickly and efficiently as possible applications for benefits for persons with disabilities from Ukrainians enjoying temporary protection in Belgium. More information can be found [here](#).

Information on the assistance to persons with disabilities in Brussels can be found [here](#).

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

Information on the risks of human trafficking is allocated on the [page](#) dedicated to persons arriving from Ukraine. The information includes a list of situations that can be regarded as human trafficking as well as the [contact information](#) of organisations providing assistance to victims of human trafficking and can provide with collective shelter (3 to 9 months), psychological and legal support.

### 3. Bulgaria

#### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

UA citizens can enter Bulgaria and stay for up to 90 days without a visa or claiming protection. As of 24 February 2022, UA nationals had the right to seek protection in Bulgaria without normal entry conditions being met, meaning it is possible to enter even if UA nationals do not have a valid passport to travel abroad. It is therefore possible to enter the territory with: an old passport format without biometric data; ID cards; national driving license; birth certificate for children up to 14 years old who travel with a parent or other adult relative who do not have a passport; other official documents that indicate identity; and (exceptionally) without any document evidence following an inspection by Border Police officers.

It is possible to [enter](#) Bulgaria by car without having international insurance. Information can be found [here](#) and government official information in English and UA can be found [here](#).

From March 2022, BDZ has provided free rail transportation to people fleeing Ukraine. Individuals must present the valid identity document they used to cross the border. For more information in Ukrainian, visit this [webpage](#).

If after leaving Bulgaria, displaced persons from Ukraine decide to return, they have the right to do so, and upon returning to the Bulgarian border, they must present both their Ukrainian passport and the registration card issued by the Bulgarian competent authorities. Upon returning to Bulgaria, they continue to enjoy their rights as persons under temporary protection until the expiration of their temporary protection. More information can be found [here](#).

On February 2023, the UNHCR representative [indicated](#) that Bulgarian authorities registered over 151,000 of these refugees for temporary protection, nearly 50,000 Ukrainian refugees reside in Bulgaria. The number of arrivals from Ukraine since February 2022 reached 1.1 million.

#### 2. Immediate reception situation

In February 2023, the Council of Ministers adopted a Decision to amend and supplement the Programme for humanitarian assistance to displaced persons from Ukraine granted temporary protection in the Republic of Bulgaria, adopted by [Government Decree](#) No. 317 of 2022. The decision extends the Program's validity period until 31 March 2023. Pursuant to this [program](#), all hotels that have filed an application have to provide accommodation worth BGN 40 (EUR 20) per person or accommodation and meals worth BGN 15 per person. The State funds the costs of these services.

In September 2022, the EUAA activated its operating plan with Bulgaria to support the implementation of their asylum, reception, and temporary protection activities. For more information see [here](#).

Individuals can use a hotline for health and medical issues (0800 20 101) and for psycho-social support (0800 11 466).

#### 3. Protection status

The TPD has been implemented and [is available](#) to:

- a) UA citizens residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022;
- b) third country nationals and stateless people who had international protection or another equivalent national protection prior to 24 February;

- c) members of the families of these categories of people;
- d) and people with foreign citizenship or in are stateless who entered Bulgaria from Ukraine and explicitly stated their desire for temporary protection status before 31 March 2022.

Temporary protection is conferred for a period of 1 year and which may be extended automatically by two six-month periods for a maximum of one year.

Applications for temporary protection can be presented orally before the Border Police, the State Agency for Refugees or other bodies of the Ministry of Interior. Registration offices for temporary protection can be viewed [here](#).

Once granted temporary protection status, UA nationals will receive residence documents called “registration card of a foreigner granted temporary protection” valid for one year. The permit may be terminated early if the situation in Ukraine changes.

The temporary protection regime was extended in Bulgaria until 4 March 2024, the re-registration process will begin at the beginning of February 2023 and will continue until March 31 2023. During this period, persons with temporary protection should appear and submit: application form for renewing the Registration Card of a foreigner granted temporary protection, containing an up-to-date address of residence; national identity document; registration card valid until 23.02.2023. List of places where prolongation of the TP ID can take place can be found [here](#).

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

According to the temporary protection Directive, it is possible for UA nationals to move to another EU country, before the issuance of a residence permit; and to move freely in EU countries for 90 days within a 180-day period after a residence permit in the host EU country is issued. For more information see [here](#).

UA nationals granted protection in one European country but who transfer to another European country must obtain a new permit and document. In practice this means UA nationals registered for temporary protection in Bulgaria may move to another European country and will have the opportunity to re-register and enjoy rights in that country. See [more](#).

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

Temporary free accommodation is provided by volunteers, hotels and state facilities and can be found through [an online platform](#). The government is responsible only for municipal and government-owned properties. Bulgarian authorities do not provide long-term accommodation solutions for TPBs who are [advised](#) to search for accommodation privately.

There is no sufficient information with regards to access to suitable accommodation of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities were able to stay in the temporary accommodation facilities [30 km from populated areas](#).

##### **b) Social welfare and means of subsistence**

Beneficiaries of temporary protection [have access to](#) social support and can receive a one-time benefit of EUR 192. For granting one-time social assistance to meet incidental needs, an application-declaration is submitted according to a [sample](#) in the Social Assistance Directorate (SSA) at the current address or residence of the person. Suitable social services within the meaning of the Bulgarian legislation are the following: are Crisis Centres, Day Care Centres, Centres for Social Rehabilitation and Integration, Centres for Public Support, Mother and Baby Unit and Homes

for the Elderly. In order to access social services an application must be submitted to the Directorate of Social Assistance at the place of residence. More information can be found [here](#).

On 13 February 2023, the Supreme Administrative Court of Bulgaria ruled in the case no 1516 concerning the an order of the Council of Ministers terminating the provision of food to temporary protection beneficiaries who fled Ukraine and are residing in reception centres. The Court held that the order causes irreparable damages to the displaced hence the execution of the order should be suspended. It further ruled that the Bulgarian Protection Act declares that the Council of Ministers' action plan should contain conditions and procedures regarding the provision of food, however, the order causes that these Ukrainians are deprived of a basic mechanism which ensures access to food.

### **c) Medical care**

Pursuant to the decree of the Council of Ministers of 5 May, the State will cover the health insurance of UA nationals who are over 18 and under 63 for women, and under 65 for men, for a period of three months since the conferral of temporary protection status. For UA nationals under 18, women over 63 and men over 65, the State will cover the health insurance for the period of temporary protection.

The list of doctors providing free medical care in Ukrainian and Russian can be found [here](#).

### **d) Access to the labour market**

Ukrainians and their family members who have received temporary protection, asylum or international protection in Bulgaria have the right to work in the country without a work permit under the simplified procedures.

Vocational trainings have been organised by Bulgaria for beneficiaries of temporary protection.

The control bodies of the General Labour Inspectorate provide advice to Ukrainian citizens on their labour rights. Questions related to the Bulgarian labour legislation, as well as signals if they are already employed and believe that their rights have been violated can be addressed to: [BGhelp.Ukrainians@gli.government.bg](mailto:BGhelp.Ukrainians@gli.government.bg).

### **e) Access to education**

The country's regional education departments accept applications from Ukrainians seeking or receiving international or temporary protection who want to enrol their children in kindergarten or school. Depending on the age, the class completed so far, the location and the desire of the parents, the refugee children and students are directed to a specific educational institution. The aim is to complete this preparatory work as soon as possible so that refugees can join the training as soon as they receive official legal status in Bulgaria. More information can be found [here](#).

Recognition of higher education acquired in foreign higher education institutions, including higher education institutions in Ukraine, is carried out by different competent authorities depending on the purposes of the requested recognition. The National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID) at the Ministry of Education and Science organises the procedure for academic recognition of the bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as the doctor's degree and educational degree in order to facilitate market access to work in unregulated professions. More information can be found [here](#).

The platform "е-просвета" has launched a classroom for UA students with educational resources that can be accessed for free. More information can be found [here](#). As well, the tuition fees of those studying in Bulgaria have been reduced.

## **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

### **a) Children**

Admission to the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is allowed to minors arriving from Ukraine, in the presence of an identity document – passport, domestic passport, identity card or birth certificate and any other available document proving the identity of the child.

The placement of a child in a family of relatives or friends, in a foster family and in a social or integrated health and social service for residential care is carried out by order of the director of the Social Assistance Directorate at the current address of the child.

The Social Assistance Directorate, as a child protection body at the local level, undertakes counselling services, takes care of the suitable accommodation for the child (with family, relatives or friends/in a foster family/ in a social service as a last resort).

In cases where the unaccompanied child is accompanied by persons close to the family who are “charged” with parental functions by the children’s biological parents, this commitment of the persons concerned should be documented by completing a declaration of responsibility and care for the child. More information can be found [here](#).

Available around the clock, free of charge and throughout the country for consultations on cases with children is the National Children's Hotline of the SACP with harmonized European number 116 111. The line is part of the Global Network of National Hotlines for Children - Child Helpline International and cooperates with lines in 140 countries.

Ukrainian citizens can turn to the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP), which has direct contact with all 147 social assistance directorates and child protection departments in Ukraine, for assistance in child support and caregivers in the country of the Social Assistance Agency, who work on site with children, families and their relatives. More information can be found [here](#).

### **a) Persons with disabilities**

People with disabilities who have temporary protection in Bulgaria have equal rights to those of Bulgarian citizens with disabilities, as long as their level of permanent work capacity reduction or type and level of disability are confirmed by the laws currently in effect in Bulgaria. More information on social services can be found [here](#).

### **b) Victims of human trafficking**

In Bulgaria, the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is responsible for prevention, protection and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking. The Commission created a list of contacts for persons at risk, including: National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: + 359 2 807 80 50; National hotline against trafficking in human beings (Foundation Campaign A21): 0800 20 100; Hotline for Victims of violence (Animus Association Foundation): 080018676; (+35929817686); National telephone line for children (State Agency for Child Protection): 116 111. More information can be found [here](#).

[Animus Association Foundation](#) acts as a centre for recovery, counselling, psychotherapy and psychoanalysis and provides assistance to victims of human trafficking, as well as to women and children from Ukraine who are victims of violence. The crisis centre offers: a temporary shelter for women in crisis and their children, emergency psychological help, assistance in training and qualifications as well as administrative assistance.

## 4. Croatia

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

All displaced UA nationals are able to enter Croatia even if they do not have the right to temporary protection. People displaced from Ukraine do not currently need a passport or visa to enter Croatia. On initial entry, the maximum duration of stay is 3 months. Displaced persons coming to Croatia for humanitarian reasons related to the war in Ukraine are allowed to enter Croatia without the need to present an EU Digital COVID Certificate or any other epidemiological certificate (test result, vaccination certificate, etc.) and without the need to quarantine. See more [here](#).

As of March 1, 2023, citizens of Ukraine can travel for free only with the help of a smart card with a profile, purchased at HŽPP cash registers at a price of 3 euros (22.60 kn) upon presentation of a Ukrainian passport/identity card. For more information, consult this [webpage](#).

In December 2022, Croatia joined the Schengen area. From 1 January 2023, checks on persons at internal land and sea borders between Croatia and the other countries in the Schengen are lifted.

UA nationals with temporary protection status can return to Ukraine at any time. On return/re—entry, individuals must report to the relevant police station/precinct where they initially registered their residence.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

On arrival, if UA nationals do not have accommodation in Croatia, they will be directed to reception centres for a temporary period. Civil Defence, Croatian police, and Croatian Red Cross are placed at reception centres. The Croatian Red Cross will also provide support to complete any forms so that assistance can be accessed. Individuals who have secured housing with friends or relatives are free to continue their journey to the appropriate location.

Accommodation on arrival can be given in one of the three temporary reception centres for a short period of time – up to 48 hours – and then transfers to permanent accommodation will be offered.

### 3. Protection status

A national decision implementing the TPD has been adopted by Croatia. The temporary protection status will be granted to:

- a) UA nationals and third-country nationals who were legally residing in Ukraine on 24 February 2022 who are unable to return to their country of origin in safe and durable conditions.
- b) those who fled Ukraine before 24 February 2022 due to the security situation and cannot return now.
- c) Other persons who may benefit from temporary protection include: stateless persons and third-country nationals who received international protection in Ukraine as of 24 February 2022 and their family members;
- d) other third-country nationals who had a valid permanent residence in Ukraine of 24 February 2022.

Family members include: married or unmarried partner, minor children, regardless of whether they were born in a marriage or an extramarital union, or adopted children and other close relatives who, at the time of the circumstances related to the displacement of persons from Ukraine, lived in a common household and at that time were fully or largely dependent on the care of these persons.



TP holders in Croatia will have their temporary protection extended until March 4, 2024. TPBs must appear in person at the police department/police station at their place of residence to verify the extension of the validity period of the identity card of a foreigner under temporary protection from February 15, 2023 to April 30 in 2023.

Applications for temporary protection can be submitted at the nearest police station or online through this [app](#). A dedicated [portal](#) has been launched with more information on temporary protection and services available. It is also possible to submit an application for temporary protection in temporary collective accommodation for displaced persons.

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

Croatia is a member of the EU and joined the Schengen Area in December 2022. The information on the changes in the travel rules for displaced persons from Ukraine have not been updated yet. The temporary protection ID card is not a valid travel document and can only be used in Croatia. If a person travels to another EU Member State and intends to live there they must inform the Croatian authorities and inform the new EU state that they were receiving temporary protection in Croatia. More information can be found on the [website](#) of the Croatian Ministry of Interior.

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

The Director of Civil Protection [announced](#) that they are able to host and accommodate all arrivals from Ukraine. On 23 March, the government [adopted a decision](#) on financing the costs of housing for displaced people from Ukraine in individual accommodation; owners of housing units who provide accommodation to displaced people from Ukraine will be reimbursed on the basis of lease agreements with the Ministry of Interior. More information can be found [here](#).

It is indicated on the [webpage](#) of the Ministry of the Interior that while choosing a place of stay attention is paid to the gender, age and situation of socially vulnerable population groups, as well as to applicants with special needs. In case it is identified that the person is in need of special housing conditions, i.e. cannot get adequate conditions in the premises for collective living, and is over 65 years old or is a person with a disability, then this person can be accommodated in an appropriate social institution. An application for residence can be submitted to the social worker on duty in the premises of the Collective Residence or at the Social Security Centre at the place of residence.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Social assistance includes access to psychological support; social service consultancy; housing (unaccompanied children, persons with developmental disabilities, the elderly, and persons with disabilities); and one-off financial compensation of up to 2.500 Kuna for persons living alone and 3.500 Kuna for a family. More information is available on the [website](#) of Croatian Ministry of Interior. From January 2023, displaced persons from Ukraine are entitled to one-time [financial assistance](#) in the amount of 330 to 460 euro per person or per family. Humanitarian assistance is also provided by [Red Cross](#) (food, clothes, medicine) and [Caritas](#).

Free legal assistance is provided by the Lawyers of the Croatian Bar Association within the framework of the free legal assistance program (email: [hok-cba@hok-cba.hr](mailto:hok-cba@hok-cba.hr)).

##### **c) Access to medical care**

UA nationals granted temporary protection status have the right to healthcare (with the temporary protection ID they will have rights guaranteed by mandatory medical insurance). These rights include: the right to treatment, both in the case of an acute course of the disease, and in case of



chronic diseases at family doctors, paediatricians, gynaecologists, the right to emergency dental care, the right to vaccination, testing and treatment for COVID-19, and the right to vaccination against other infectious diseases. Children of TPBs are fully equal in rights to Croatian children, and they have the right to access full medical care. A list of contacts for psychological help can be found [here](#).

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

TP holders are only required to present their identity card of a person granted temporary protection in Croatia in order to enter the labour market. They can [contact](#) the employment service in order to receive more information. It is also possible to enter the register as an unemployed person. In this case, persons are provided with a personal career advisor - an employment consultant who will help entering the Croatian labor market. It is also possible to participate in group classes on preparation for job search, which are held in Ukrainian and English.

Persons who want to work in a regulated profession (e.g. kindergarten teacher, primary school teacher, secondary school teacher, pharmacist, doctor of medicine etc.) in the Republic of Croatia, and have acquired their qualification outside of Croatia, cannot be employed on the basis of the Decision on Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualification issued by the Agency for Science and Higher Education, but on the basis of a Decision on the recognition of a foreign professional qualification issued by a competent authority. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **e) Access to education**

Children under temporary protection have the right to start or continue primary and secondary education in Croatia under the same conditions as Croatian citizens. In order to enrol the child in a primary school (in Croatia from 1st to 8th grade) it is necessary to [contact](#) the nearest primary school. The same principle applies to the [secondary schools](#) that also organise preparatory courses in the Croatian language for all students and [kindergartens](#). Ukrainian student TP-holders have the same rights in the field of education as Croatian students and have the right to continue obtaining higher education. Decisions on enrolment are made at the relevant faculties, taking into account the availability of free places and other criteria.

Recognition of a period of higher education is carried out by the higher educational institution according to the procedure established by law. Persons under temporary protection are exempt from paying the fee for the procedure of the recognition of foreign higher education qualifications and periods of study. More information can be found [here](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

According to the [information](#) shared by the Ministry of Interior, unaccompanied children should be immediately referred to the police in case seen at the border or to any official in case the child is in a reception centre or collective accommodation. The Centre for Social Protection of the Population will immediately appoint a special guardian for the unaccompanied child, in order to protect their rights. The guardian takes care of all the rights and interests of the child, represents the child in matters for which he is appointed, and takes the necessary measures for the purpose of family reunification. The rights of unaccompanied children include: accommodation, healthcare, one-off financial support, learning Croatian, education. UNHCR published two leaflet instructions for unaccompanied children in case they are taken to [a police station](#) or to an [accommodation](#) for children.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

Croatian associations of persons with disabilities do not require membership from Ukrainian citizens as a condition for providing support to persons with disabilities. They are ready to provide all

necessary help and support in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities. If the person is placed in a social security institution, transportation will be provided for him. For more information, contact the Croatian Association of Persons with Disabilities.

The provision of medical assistance depends on the diagnosis and the type of assistance. Persons with disabilities need to contact nearest clinic in order to receive basic information on the available assistance.

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

Information regarding assistance to victims of human trafficking is limited to the emergency numbers: 112. Psychological and legal support can be provided free of charge through the hotline 0800/77-99.

## 5. Cyprus

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Displaced persons from Ukraine are permitted to enter Cyprus if they have: a valid biometric or non-biometric passport (regardless of expiration); other ID cards issued by Ukraine; temporary travel documents issued by the Government of Ukraine; a permanent or temporary residence permit issued by the Government of Ukraine. Information can be found on the [Civil Registry and Migration Department](#).

It is possible to leave Cyprus after obtaining temporary protection status, including return to Ukraine. For more information see FAQs on the [Ukrainians in Cyprus website](#).

### 2. Immediate reception situation

Accommodation is being provided to UA nationals who register for temporary protection. Telegram channels with information on services, accommodation and other practical issues can be found [here](#).

UA nationals with temporary protection status can check in at hotels overseen by the Ministry of Tourism. The list of hotels available changes. Further information can be found on the [Ukrainians in Cyprus website](#).

### 3. Protection status

Cyprus has implemented the TPD and the scope covers

- a) Ukrainian nationals, refugees in Ukraine, and their family members living in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and
- b) Stateless persons and non-Ukrainians living in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 with a permanent residence permit, who are unable to return safely to their country of origin.

The application form to obtain this protection can be submitted online on [the webpage](#) of the Asylum Service or in person at the Asylum Service premises in Nicosia. The Civil Registry and Migration Department (CRMD) [announced](#) that the beneficiaries of temporary protection residing in Nicosia and willing to apply for a residence permit can directly go to the CRMD without having an appointment.

A FAQ document and leaflets with information for adults and children displaced from Ukraine is available on the [Asylum Service webpage](#).

Family members should submit individual applications (spouses and children under 18 can be included in joint applications).

Temporary protection [was extended](#) automatically to 4 March 2024 for those who are already beneficiaries of temporary protection, it is not necessary to submit a new application before the Asylum Service or to apply for the issuance of a new biometric residence permit before the Civil Registry and Migration Department.

All new applicants who wish to submit a first-time application for temporary protection, are still required to submit an application either online, or in person at the Asylum Service central premises in Nicosia.

More information on temporary protection can be found on the [website](#) of the Civil Registry and Migration Department.

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

It is possible to leave Cyprus after obtaining temporary protection status. Persons in receipt of temporary protection may also move to another country, but it will result in the loss of protection status and residence in Cyprus and must therefore be obtained in the other (EU) country. For more information see FAQs on the [Ukrainians in Cyprus website](#).

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

Persons with temporary protection status are eligible for free accommodation in the hotels overseen by the Ministry of Tourism. It is not indicated for how long TPBs are able to stay in the temporary accommodation. Persons who are able to rent their own accommodation are encouraged to do so. There is a lack of information on the long-term accommodation solutions.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Those living in private accommodation can receive an allowance of EUR 100. They are also entitled to financial support which varies according to age, spending, family and housing. For a single adult living in public accommodation, the monthly allowance is of EUR 361. More information on the social welfare can be found [here](#).

##### **c) Access to medical care**

The Ministry of Health [announced](#) that medical care would be provided in public hospitals to beneficiaries of temporary protection and that the costs of their medicines would also be covered.

##### **d) Access to the labour market**

In Cyprus, TPBs have access to labour market to engage in employed or self-employed activities. [According to the OECD report](#), beneficiaries of temporary protection are also entitled to vocational training.

##### **e) Access to education**

Public schools accept Ukrainian children. It is possible to apply through the education department of the region and there is a possibility to be enrolled in a school of place of residence (which must be confirmed by a rental agreement or utility bill). There are also cases of accepting applications directly at schools. Ministry of education published an [information list](#) on the educational opportunities for persons under temporary protection including the enrollment schedule, integration events and language courses. More information on the educational opportunities for displaced persons from Ukraine can be found [here](#).

#### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

##### **a) Unaccompanied children**

Cyprus Asylum Service published the EU AA [information leaflet](#) for unaccompanied children arriving from Ukraine including the contact information and instructions to follow in case of arrival to the EU. There is no sufficient information on the reception of unaccompanied minors who received temporary protection.

##### **b) Persons with disabilities**

Cyprus Asylum Service [indicates](#) that persons with disabilities need to inform the authorities on their disability. There is a lack of information dedicated to TPBs with disabilities in Cyprus. General information on the rights of persons with disabilities can be found [here](#).

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

The Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is responsible for prevention and combatting human trafficking which is considered to be one of the fastest growing crimes in Cyprus. There is no sufficient information on the steps to be followed by victims of human trafficking arriving from Ukraine.

## 6. Czechia

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

UA citizens with a biometric passport can stay in Czechia for 90 days without a visa but must register their presence with the police within 3 days of entry. Eligible persons may apply for temporary protection status. Those not eligible that wish to stay longer than 90 days may apply for a visa (however this must be done within 30 days of arrival). More information and FAQs can be found on the [website](#) of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic.

As of 22 March 2022, special long-term visas for stays of more than 90 days will no longer be issued in the simplified procedure that was reserved for UA citizens, as the national measures implementing the TPD have entered into force. It will still be possible to apply for a long-stay visa but in the standard procedure. Those who already obtained the special long-term visa will automatically be transferred to the temporary protection system.

Persons granted a special long-stay visa or special visa for UA citizens (in the form of a passport stamp) may travel from the Czech Republic only within the Schengen area and Ukraine.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

Upon arrival, people arriving from Ukraine [can stay](#) in a temporary shelter for a period of 30 days or in hotels for a maximum of 90 days.

It is the responsibility of accommodation providers (hotels or other types of accommodation) to report the arrival of the UA nationals to the police of Czechia.

### 3. Protection status

Czechia [enacted](#) Act No. 65/2022 Coll. (Lex Ukraine) implementing the TPD. It has extended the scope to cover the citizens of Ukraine who entered the territory of the Czechia legally without a visa or on the basis of a short-stay visa and on 24 February 2022 still resided in the territory of the Czechia on the basis of this short-stay visa or without a visa. This is in addition to:

- a) the citizens of Ukraine who resided in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and subsequently left Ukraine
- b) stateless persons and foreigners who were granted some form of international protection in Ukraine and who resided in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and subsequently left it.
- c) Family members of the persons falling under all three categories are also covered. Family members include: a spouse, registered partner, unmarried minor child of a person referred to in points 1-2 or unmarried minor child of a spouse of such person, and adult dependent relative living with the family of such person.
- d) Third-country nationals who held a permanent residence permit in the Ukraine on 24 February 2022 where return to their country of origin is not possible due to the threat of actual danger as defined in the Act on the Residence of Foreigners

Temporary protection may also be granted due to family reunification with the holder of temporary protection, or exceptionally in other cases. Temporary protection is conferred for a period of 1 year and it is renewable from 31 March. The applications for temporary protection must be presented in person before the Regional Centres for help and Assistance to Ukraine. A list of the centres is

provided [here](#). On 24 January 2023, a new online platform for registration to extend temporary protection was launched. There is time to register online until 31 March 2023, otherwise temporary protection will expire. By registration and appointment reservation temporary protection is extended until 30 September 2023 on order to give enough time to come to the Ministry of the Interior office for the appointment. After the appointment the visa will be issued which will extend temporary protection until 31 March 2024.

According to Act No. 65/2022 (Section 5 par. 1C, D) an application for temporary protection is considered to be inadmissible if it is filed by a foreigner who applied for temporary protection in another member state of the European Union, or it is filed by a foreigner who has been granted temporary protection in another member state of the European Union. Moreover, according to Czech law proceedings for international protection are suspended for the duration of temporary protection in case the TP holder filed an application for asylum.

The procedure on giving up temporary protection status in case of permanent return to Ukraine is described [here](#). Giving up temporary protection is also possible from the territory of Ukraine through the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kyiv or the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Lviv.

#### **4. Freedom of Movement in the EU**

Temporary protection status does not expire if people leave the territory of Czechia. The rights associated with this status are only valid in Czechia. Beneficiaries may travel to other EU countries for a maximum of 90 days with a passport. During this time, they do not enjoy other rights in that other EU country.

Persons granted a special long-stay visa or special visa for UA citizens (in the form of a passport stamp) may travel from Czechia only within the Schengen area and Ukraine.

Temporary protection holders have to notify in due time of any changes concerning their residence on the territory of the Czech Republic (change of reported place of residence, change of travel document, change of personal data).

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

The Czech authorities have decided to reduce the period of free residence. From April 2023, it will be 150 days, at the end of which displaced persons must either pay rent or move to other accommodation. It is emphasised that refugees who rent housing will receive a cash payment.

Czech government plans on changing social solidarity payments for those who hosted displaced persons from Ukraine. The payment will be reduced from 5000 CZK to 3000 CZK per person. According to the amendments the funds will be granted only to those who are hosting TPBs in their own homes. Changes on solidarity payments will come into force from July 2023.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

The amount of financial assistance for Ukrainians will correspond to the country's vital minimum, which includes a smaller amount for displaced persons instead of 5,000 CZK, they will receive 4,860 CZK for adults and 3,490 CZK for children.

On the other hand, the financial assistance for pensioners and persons with disabilities will increase by 1.5 times more than the vital minimum, which means that the payment will be 7290 CZK for adults and 5235 CZK for children. More information can be found [here](#).



An [online portal](#) is available to apply for humanitarian benefits for those displaced from Ukraine. The Ministry of Interior has launched a [website](#) with offers and requests of assistance. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has created the “[Smart Migration App](#)” which provides information regarding the services offered to displaced persons.

### **c) Access to medical care**

TPBs are provided with free medical insurance for 150 days since the temporary protection status was issued. After a 150-day period, TPBs between 18 and 65 will have to pay for their own insurance costs. There is a non-exhaustive list of categories that are exempt from this rule and can continue receiving free health insurance, among them are: children, people over 65 years old, persons with disabilities, unemployed persons who registered at the labour office, students, parents with a child under 7 years old or with two or more children under 15 years old. In order to continue receiving health insurance these categories have to provide necessary documentation confirming their status,

### **d) Access to the labour market**

TPBs have access to the labour market in Czech Republic. Employers who hired a person with temporary protection status have an obligation to inform the appropriate Labour office about this fact on the day of commencement of employment at the latest. Before starting work, the entrance medical examination shall be performed. More information can be found [here](#).

The Centre for the Support of Integration of Foreigners (CPIC) has organised more than 200 Czech language courses for foreigners, mainly UA nationals. There are plans to arrange more programs. Furthermore, [measures have been introduced](#) to employ Ukrainian teachers to promote the education of children displaced from Ukraine.

### **e) Access to education**

Children arriving from Ukraine have the right to free education in Czech Republic. Information on the educational system in Czech Republic can be found [here](#). Czech universities offer various forms of assistance activities to Ukrainian students, academics and scientists who are in difficult situation and need support. More information [here](#).

According to [a survey](#) conducted by PAQ Research in cooperation with the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, around 57% of Ukrainian refugee children were attending Czech primary schools in June, while only around 25% attended kindergartens and secondary schools. Around 1/8 of children at primary school age, and 1/5 of children at secondary school age children did not attend any classes.

According to [the data](#) of Ministry of Education, 5,457 students with Ukrainian citizenship, including those with the temporary protection status in the Czech Republic, studied at public Czech universities and colleges in 2022.

## **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

### **a) Unaccompanied children**

Eurochild together with Unicef and Czech authorities [published](#) a policy and legal review for children in alternative care and unaccompanied and separated children from Ukraine arriving to Czech Republic. The document includes the list of legal bases applied to unaccompanied children as well as describes proceedings followed by the authorities.

According to the document, to the children who come to the Czech Republic accompanied by persons other than parents, protection and help is provided as needed. Social and legal protection

authorities keep records of these children if they are informed about their arrival by Refugee Centre (KACPU) or police.

The guardian is appointed at the beginning of the procedure and it is typically from the Department for Social and Legal Child Protection (OSPOD). The decision on the appointment of the guardian for the international protection procedure is made by the Ministry of the Interior, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy.

The child shall be provided with social and legal protection, education, with the care of third parties, surrogate families, facilities for children requiring immediate assistance or in an institutional setting for children and young people. Counselling, psychological care and support should also be provided along with any help in looking for relatives or close people.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

TPBs with disabilities are entitled to free health insurance. Information dedicated to persons with disabilities coming from Ukraine is scarce. General information on the assessment of disabilities in the EU indicates that: if an individual is outside the country where s/he is entitled to benefits, s/he would not normally be required to return to her/his home country for the purpose of an assessment. In such cases, the state in which person is resident, may make a medical report that will be submitted to the State where the person is entitled to receive benefits. The State where person is entitled to benefits may then reserve the right to have the person examined by a doctor of its choice. However, it is not confirmed whether this applies to persons coming from Ukraine.

Inclusion Czechia has a stand at the main reception centre in Prague, where they try to reach families of people with disabilities. They are there 7 days a week, from 8:00 to 20:00, with interpreters.

According to the organisation, there is very few families that were possible to reach. Inclusion Czechia organises Czech-language courses for refugees. Access to schooling and labour market were defined among the main problems that persons with disabilities might face in Czechia.

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

Information portal for persons fleeing Ukraine refers to a leaflet with information on how to avoid becoming a victim of human trafficking as well as hotlines of organisations providing assistance to the victims. Hotline of La Strada Czech Republic: +420 222 717 171.

La Strada Czech Republic provides assistance to persons who have become or may become victims of the crime of human trafficking and exploitation. Website of the organisation includes main information on the proceedings regarding assistance to the victims of human trafficking.

The main coordinator of policies to combat human trafficking is the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic.

If trafficked persons decide to cooperate with law enforcement authorities, they may be granted long-term residence for the purpose of protection in the territory of the Czech Republic.

## 7. Denmark

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

UA citizens with a biometric passport can enter Denmark and stay for 90 days without a visa. In the absence of a biometric passport, an application for a visa is required. Upon arrival at the Danish border, people fleeing Ukraine can also apply for a residence permit under the Special Act on displaced persons from Ukraine or for asylum.

Ukrainian citizens, who have been granted residence in Denmark under the Special Act, have the right to travel back to Ukraine and return to Denmark. However, the duration of the stay in Ukraine will depend on whether the Danish authorities recognise the aim of the travel as being justifiable.

More information about the entry and re-entry requirements for people fleeing Ukraine can be found [here](#):

- The Danish Immigration Service has made a [FAQ](#) describing the terms of entry, re-entry and eligibility for a residence permit in Denmark under the Special Act.
- [Information](#) on entry rules and counselling for persons fleeing Ukraine is offered by the DRC Danish Refugee Council. It is also possible to call DRC for counselling with a Ukrainian interpreter.
- The National Communication Centre under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also provides [information](#) for people from Ukraine (available in English, Danish and Ukrainian).

UA nationals arriving to Denmark by train can travel into and through Denmark for free on DSB rail lines. Passenger cars with Ukrainian licence plates crossing the Øresund Bridge for humanitarian purposes can cross free of charge. Transports with emergency aid or refugees must send an email to the Øresund Bridge's customer service ([kontakt@oresundsbron.com](mailto:kontakt@oresundsbron.com)) for pre-approval. These rules apply from 1 March until further notice. For more information, see the [webpage](#).

In order to be able to drive car with UA registration number legally in Denmark, it is necessary to have motor liability insurance.

More information can be found [here](#).

Civil society actors are organising [special bus transportation](#) from Poland to Denmark, paid for by private sponsors and coordinated in conjunction with local authorities. Empty buses are filled with food and other necessities and driven to Poland, and then used for the return journey to drive displaced people to Denmark to register for protection.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

People displaced from Ukraine who apply for a residence permit under the Special Act generally stay at asylum centres (which is also the usual reception centres for applicants who apply for either asylum) or in private accommodation. Each municipality decides whether they want to provide financial support to private households providing shelter to people, who have fled Ukraine.

### 3. Protection status

Due to Denmark's legal reservation or so-called "opt-out" from EU cooperation in the area of Justice and Home Affairs, the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) does not apply in Denmark. Instead, on 16 March 2022, the Danish Parliament passed a [Special Act on displaced persons from Ukraine](#) that resembles the TPD.

The Special Act applies to:

- Ukrainian citizens and refugees recognised in Ukraine who fled the country after 1 February 2022.
- It also applies to those in the above groups who resided or had a residence permit in Denmark on 1 February 2022.
- It is also possible for close family members of the two groups to be reunited with a person, who has been granted residence under the Special Act in Denmark. Family members are defined as nuclear family members, i.e. spouse, partner and minor unmarried children, as well as other close relatives who prior to the flight shared a household with and were financially dependent on the main person.

The Special Act does not apply to third-country national unless they have been recognised as refugees in Ukraine.

A residence permit under the Special Act is valid until 17 March 2024 with the possibility of extension for an additional year (until 17 March 2025). Decisions on the extension will be taken by the Danish Minister of Immigration and Integration. To apply for residence under the Special Act, a form should be completed [online](#) or in paper format. An appointment should be booked with the Danish Immigration Service.

The residence permit will not be granted to UA nationals with other citizenships (dual citizens) or to those who have a residence permit in country other than Ukraine.

People who are refused residence under the Special Act have the right to complain. It is possible to [contact](#) the DRC Danish Refugee Council which offers legal aid to people who have fled Ukraine for Denmark.

People fleeing from Ukraine also have the option of applying for asylum. However, the Danish Refugee Appeals Board (second instance body for all asylum cases) has suspended decisions in asylum cases of UA citizens. The [decision](#) was reviewed by the Refugees Appeals Board on 8 December 2022 and it was decided to continue the suspension.

#### **4. Access to rights**

People granted a residence permit under the Special Act have the same rights as those granted refugee status in Denmark, e.g. the right to housing, health care, access to the labour market, access to education for children, and social welfare assistance.

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

While the application for a residence permit under the Special Act is being processed, displaced person can be accommodated in a reception or accommodation centre. It is also possible to rent a private accommodation or stay with family or friends.

Once a residence permit under Special Act is granted, the Immigration Service will decide in which municipality a person will live. The municipality will be responsible for the integration including finding a suitable accommodation, making employment efforts and the payment of allowances.

The Immigration Service must ensure that in all municipalities in the country will be a fixed number of people covered by the Special Act and no more than that. In this way, all Danish municipalities want to solve the task of welcoming the displaced from Ukraine who are covered by the Special Act. It cannot be guaranteed that the person will be placed in the same municipality where a person has been accommodated before being granted a residence permit or in the same municipality as family members in Denmark.

On housing, there is a ceiling on the amount of rent that people in temporary housing can be asked to pay. The municipality pays the difference if the actual amount goes above the limit. More information [here](#).

#### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

In case of staying in one of the Danish Immigration Service's reception and accommodation centres, expenses for subsistence and necessary health services will be covered by the centres.

Financial assistance to displaced persons from Ukraine depends on the financial situation, the number of children, employment, etc. Municipalities are responsible for provision of social assistance. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

#### **c) Access to medical care**

All Ukrainians who have applied for residence in Denmark under the special law now have access to necessary healthcare services while their application is being processed. All Ukrainians who have applied for and are waiting for a temporary residence permit in Denmark under the special law will be treated equally and will be entitled to the same level of healthcare regardless of how they are accommodated. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

People who have applied for a residence permit under the Special Act have the right to work in Denmark while their case is pending. A dedicated [website](#) has been created for UA nationals in Denmark to help them enter the labour market. A [partnership](#) has been established between the Danish Government, local municipalities, and regional administrations, and the Unions of Danish employers to coordinate the integration of UA nationals in the labour market. More information on the access to the job market can be found [here](#).

#### **e) Access to education**

The municipalities are responsible for ensuring that all children of the mandatory school age in the municipality either attend a regular primary school (folkeskole) or receive education equivalent to it. The municipality is obligated to offer education in 10th grade to children under the age of 18, who live or reside in the municipality.

The right to education in a primary school does not apply when a minor is covered by rules for mandatory schooling in other legislation than the Primary School Act (folkeskoleloven). More information can be found [here](#).

Ukrainian students with temporary protection in Denmark can continue studying their higher education programme in Denmark or begin a new higher education in Denmark. There is a possibility to apply for a transfer from Ukrainian higher education programme to a Danish higher education programme or apply for admission to a new full-time higher education programme in Denmark. More information [here](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

There is a lack of sufficient information with regards to unaccompanied children under temporary protection in Denmark. [Website](#) dedicated to arrival to Denmark contains information only on unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

According to the EU AA information, the Danish Immigration Service can offer accommodation suitable for displaced persons from Ukraine without a residence permit who are seriously ill or in need of special care.

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

The Danish Centre against Human Trafficking made a flyer for the staff working with displaced persons from Ukraine informing on the steps to take in case there is a suspicion that the person could be a victim of trafficking. Another flyer was created for displaced persons that warns against human trafficking and guides on how to get help in case a person becomes victim of human trafficking.

If there is suspicion of human trafficking in the meeting with Ukrainian citizens, it is advised to contact the Center against Human Trafficking's hotline on 70 20 25 50, where it is possible to discuss the suspicion or pass on information about the case. The hotline is open on weekdays from 08.30-16 and on weekends and holidays between 9 am and 15 pm.

It is also possible to report a suspicion that a person may be a victim of human trafficking by using the Center against Human Trafficking's reporting form.

The Red Cross health clinic offers basic health care for victims of human trafficking. More information can be found here.

## 8. Estonia

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

From 24 February 2022, Estonia has allowed visa-free entry for UA nationals who hold biometric passports as well as those without passports but who hold, *inter alia*, a valid travel document, diplomatic passport, or refugee travel document.

Family members of UA nationals (such as children, spouses) who are citizens of other countries or whose visa or basis for travel has expired may also temporarily remain in Estonia. The Police and Border Guard may admit others on humanitarian grounds to maintain family unity. A minor must also have a valid travel document to cross the border. If a child is travelling with a person who is not his parent or legal guardian, it is recommended that a minor has a hand-written note with his/her parents contact information to take along. More information on coming to Estonia can be found [here](#).

Persons under temporary protection are advised not to travel to Russia without an urgent need.

It is possible to temporarily travel back to Ukraine. It is not necessary to inform the Estonian authorities about travel. For more information [see the Estonian Police and Border Guard website](#). Estonia remains among the countries who hosted one of the largest numbers of persons escaping war in Ukraine in comparison to population numbers (along with Poland and Czechia).

### 2. Immediate reception situation

Accommodation is provided for UA nationals and beneficiaries of international protection in Ukraine displaced as of 24 February 2022. Initial reception centres are currently located in Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu and Narva border checkpoint and healthcare, meals, work permits and education are provided. If necessary, accommodation will be provided for up to 24 hours. Additional information can be found [here](#).

A state helpline has been set up with the Estonian Refugee Council on +372 600 1247. Further information and counselling can be reached here at +372 5881 1311 or by email, [dopomoha@pagulasabi.ee](mailto:dopomoha@pagulasabi.ee).

If UA nationals intend to stay in Estonia, they are encouraged to apply for temporary protection as soon as possible.

### 3. Protection status

Estonia has implemented the TPD and UA nationals, beneficiaries of international protection in Ukraine, and families of both groups are eligible to apply. The protection is granted for a period of 1 year and it is renewable each 6 months for a maximum of 1 year.

Persons eligible for temporary protection status are:

- a) Ukrainian citizens and their family members who arrived in Estonia starting from February 24, 2022;
- b) Stateless persons and third country citizens who lived in Ukraine before February 24, 2022, and arrived in Estonia starting from February 24, 2022, who had international protection in Ukraine, as well as their family members.

In order to apply for TP, it is necessary to [book an appointment](#) with the Police and Border Guard Board. More information on how to apply for temporary protection is available [here](#).



Temporary protection does not apply to UA nationals who resided or stayed in Estonia prior to 24 February 2022, but they will be subject to decisions allowing for their temporary stay even if visas have expired. The procedures for UA nationals are simplified and a decision will be issued within a month.

UA nationals who are already present in the territory of Estonia are not required to apply for an extension of visa or residence permits upon expiration.

An application for an extension of a residence permit for temporary protection can be submitted via [the self-service portal](#) three months to one month before the expiry of the residence permit. Ukrainian citizens will also receive an e-mail once their extended residence permit card is ready and they can collect it from the PBGB's service office of their choice. More information on extension of the temporary protection can be found [here](#).

#### **4. Free movement in the EU**

UA nationals granted temporary protection are permitted to stay in another Schengen Member State for 90 days within 180 days. In order to stay longer, UA nationals must apply for a long stay visa or residence permit in that EU country. It is possible to temporarily travel back to Ukraine. It is not necessary to inform Estonian authorities about travel. For more information [see the Estonian Police and Border Guard website](#).

Since January 2023, Finland and Estonia offer [the opportunity](#) for interested Ukrainians to move to Finland by group transport. Finland is prepared to receive approximately 50–100 Ukrainians a week who initially fled the war to Estonia. The duration of the arrangement will also be considered from the perspective of the Finnish reception system.

#### **5. Access to rights**

UA nationals with temporary protection status will enjoy similar rights to Estonian residents. This includes the right to access education and the labour market and receive health insurance; access to other social benefits; and free movement in EU territory.

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

The Estonian state offers short-term accommodation to war refugees and supports them in finding a long-term place of residence. After TPBs move from temporary accommodation (hotel, ship or hosts) to a permanent residence (apartment or house), they are entitled to a lump-sum benefit to cover the costs of concluding a lease contract. Expenses will be reimbursed after TPBs found suitable accommodation.

From 1 June, the maximum amount of the lump-sum benefit is 1200 euros. The necessity for paying compensation is assessed by the local government. The compensation is not paid if the TPB settled with a family member legally residing in Estonia or if the TPB already has a sufficient income. The necessity for paying compensation is assessed by a local government social worker. The compensation of costs covers lease contracts signed after February 24. To get the compensation, it is necessary to present the local municipality the cost documentation and the lease contract, which prove the costs incurred.

It is necessary to register the place of residence in the Estonian Population Register which can be done in the local government. After registering, TPBs are entitled to services and benefits intended for Estonian residents. More information can be found [here](#).

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

If the income of a TPB is very low, he/she also have the right to apply for a subsistence benefit from the local government.

Financial assistance can be granted for priority expenses amounting to 200 EUR per month for the first family member and 160 EUR for each subsequent family member and 240 EUR for each child. Children holding temporary protection are eligible for the school support which is a one-time allowance for all school-age children (aged 7-19) and are entering schools in Estonia for the first time. It is the one-off financial support of 50 EUR per child paid by the Estonian Refugee Council and is intended for expenses related to starting school.

In addition to reimbursing lease expenses, the reimbursement of translation services over a period of two years can also be applied for: in the amount of 3,200 euros per a family of war refugees or in the amount of 1,600 euros for a single refugee. Circumstances requiring the translation of administrative matters in local governments, state authorities, education establishments, and elsewhere are considered translation expenses.

### **c) Access to medical care**

Urgent medical aid is ensured to all persons staying in Estonia if they have a severe or life-threatening health issue - even if the person who has arrived does not yet have a direct legal basis for being in Estonia. TPBs can have free general health examination, which is carried out at the hospitals of the hospital network.

TPBs who received a residence permit and an Estonian personal ID number are not automatically covered by medical insurance. After receiving the residence permit they can apply for the medical insurance on equal basis as Estonian people.

A person working based on an employment contract valid for more than one month or an unemployed person registered with an unemployment fund is entitled to health insurance. Persons equated with insured persons include children, pregnant women, dependent spouses, persons with partial or no ability to work, pensioners, members of a religious association, pupils, students. More information on medical insurance can be found here.

### **d) Access to the labour market**

Once the decision to grant temporary protection has been taken and the decision on the residence permit has been issued, TPBs can start working or register as unemployed at the nearest office of the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Unemployment allowance will be paid if TPBs have worked for at least 180 days in the 12 months before registering as unemployed (including working in Ukraine), raised a child under 8, studied full-time, or engaged in other similar activities. The unemployment allowance amounts to 327,05 euros per month and can be received for up to nine months.

TPBs have the same rights regarding the labour market as residents of Estonia. People fleeing war in Ukraine have the right to work in Estonia for a short time (including seasonal work), i.e. up to one year without applying for temporary protection (however, will not be entitled to benefits and allowances).

Persons from Ukraine are covered by health insurance during their employment if the employment contract is longer than one month and it has been registered by the employer in the employment register of the Tax and Customs Board. Health insurance is valid for two months after the termination of the employment contract. Health insurance also covers persons registered as unemployed and looking for work.

A dedicated website has been created for UA nationals in Estonia to help them enter the labour market. More information about working in Estonia can be found here at Kriis.EE.

### **e) Access to education**

A child with a foreign citizenship who is of-age for compulsory education has the obligation to attend compulsory schooling in Estonia.

Regarding the education of minor children, Estonia has announced a short-term plan considering that children will finish their education abroad and a long-term plan organising the integration of children displaced from Ukraine into the national education system.

Estonia offers opportunities to children from Ukraine to continue their education based on a short-term and long-term plan. In the case of the short-term plan, there is no clear expectation that the student will continue their studies in Estonia on a permanent basis, but the preconditions are set. The aim of the long-term plan is to integrate children into the local education system.

Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia developed a FAQ for parents from Ukraine regarding the enrolment in Estonian educational system.

Attending kindergarten is not compulsory in Estonia. The local government is responsible for the availability of pre-primary education.

If a person began their higher education in Ukraine, then they can look for a similar curriculum in an Estonian university, so that they are able to transfer their previously learned knowledge and continue their studies. More information on education for TPBs in Estonia can be found here.

## **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

### **a) Unaccompanied children**

The Estonian Social Insurance Board, Child Welfare Department and Eurochild prepared the legal and policy review on unaccompanied and separated children. When an unaccompanied minor arrives in the country, the Police and Border Guard Board (PPA) will pass the information on to the Social Insurance Board on 116111 and, when arriving with a trusted adult, to the contact person at the accommodation centre.

Unaccompanied children receive alternative care service from the state and the role of guardian is fulfilled by the local government. For separated children, the common practice is that the adult accompanying them (e.g. grandmother, close relative) is appointed as guardian. The guardianship appointment process is fast – about 5 days from sending the application to the court decision that appoints the guardian.

A parent, guardian or another adult responsible person who is staying in Estonia together with a minor alien is presumed to have the right of custody. At the request of the Police and Border Guard Board or the Estonian Internal Security Service a parent, guardian or another responsible adult person is required to certify the existence of the right of custody.

### **b) Persons with disabilities**

Based on the medical history, it is also possible to determine the degree of disability of a disabled war refugee or refer a person to a family doctor/medical specialist for an additional appointment to determine the degree of disability. To register for the health check, the person will need to contact the hospital in the respective region directly.

A person who has been declared as having a disability is entitled to health insurance cover.

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

Survivors of human trafficking who arrived to the territory of Estonia or persons who suspect that someone is a victim, needs to contact the Estonian police (112). UNHCR Estonia published video and information materials addressing the problem of human trafficking with regards to people arriving from Ukraine.

## 9. France

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Visa-free entry with a biometric passport remains possible. UA nationals without a biometric passport may submit a request for a visa at the consular posts of the countries bordering Ukraine (Poland, Hungary, Romania etc).

UA nationals who are already in France can address a request for extension of stay to the Prefecture in the *Département* of arrival. A list of Prefectures can be found [here](#).

Beneficiaries of temporary protection can make temporary trips to Ukraine with their temporary residence permit and travel document. In order to be able to return to the Schengen area, it is preferable that the temporary residence permit is valid.

These temporary trips to Ukraine have no impact on the status of beneficiary of temporary protection. The latter depends on the decision of the Council as long as the temporary protection mechanism is implemented.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

The Ministry of the Interior and Overseas published responses to FAQs on the reception of UA refugees. The initial reception of UA nationals is carried out by the prefect of the department.

According to the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas, reception is structured in three stages. Stage one covers emergency reception on arrival; stage two concerns accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection; and stage three is access to longer stay housing and the rental market.

An inter-ministerial decision explains that short-term accommodation has been organised near to borders and crossing points and medium-term accommodation is available in specialised reception facilities. Registration for both accommodation and protection can take place at Prefectures or in specific welcome points in Paris, Nice and Strasbourg. The welcome centre in Paris, exclusively for people fleeing Ukraine, is located in Porte de Versailles and open every day for accommodation or administrative queries. Furthermore, there are other reception and information centres in Paris, such as the Humanitarian Centre, the Henri IV site, CAFDA (for families) and “La Maison des réfugiés”.

In October 2022, a special reception centre named “Accueil Ukraine” opened for UA nationals in Paris. The Centre is managed by Terre d’Asile and offers support to families and helps assess their needs.

Prior to this, temporary accommodation was opened in two gymnasiums: the Bercy gymnasium near Gare de Lyon offers daytime shelter and the Marie Paradis gymnasium near Gare de l’Est is open 24 hours a day for arrivals. More information can be found [here](#).

Other welcome points are located in Cherbourg, Saint-Lô and Avranches; details on all four can be found [here](#). UA nationals have 1 free train trip throughout France and to neighbouring European countries. Finally, they can benefit from social housing. More information can be found [here](#).

Accommodation via support from other French residents is possible through solidarity movements. For example, individuals may offer a reception solution through the residence platform: <https://parrainage.refugies.info/>. For more information, see the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas FAQs.

### 3. Protection status

A ministerial order was issued specifying the people eligible for temporary protection. As of February 2023, this includes:

- UA citizens, refugees in Ukraine, as well as foreigners who have a legal and permanent residence in Ukraine and who cannot return safely to their country of origin.
- Family members are also eligible for temporary protection. Family members are spouse, unmarried minor children and dependent parents. More information can be found [here](#).
- France extends the scope of the directive to the family members of all eligible beneficiaries, including third country nationals with permanent residence permits (if they have proved they cannot return to their country of origin).
- The protection also applies to UA nationals who were temporarily in Europe on 24 February 2022 but can prove they were permanently residing in Ukraine.

The assessment of whether third country nationals are able to safely and permanently return to their country of origin is carried out by the prefecture after an individual interview.

If a person wishing to apply for temporary protection does not have a valid identity document, the person can establish his/her nationality if they present a passport or national identity card expired for a maximum of two years or Ukrainian consular certificate. To prove their civil status, the person can present any document justifying his/her civil status.

Persons granted temporary protection status will be issued a provisional residence permit and right to stay on French territory for 6 months. It is possible to renew temporary residence permits by contacting the prefecture in the area of residency. The following documents are required: valid temporary residence permit (or expired resident permit); documents showing civil status and nationality; proof of address; and documents proving current situation (employment etc).

Beneficiaries of temporary protection can renew their temporary residence permit. In order to do so TP-holders need to contact the prefecture of their place of residence to find out the renewal procedure. The application for renewal has to be submitted between 3 weeks and 3 days before the expiration of the current temporary residence permit. It is possible to renew the residence card online through [this link](#). Each family member must fill out a separate form.

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

Persons with temporary protection status have the right to free movement in EU territory. Within the Schengen area, Ukrainian nationals have a legal stay of 90 days. See [EUAA Information on temporary protection in France](#).

#### **5. Access to rights**

Temporary protection status guarantees persons the right to a temporary residence permit for 6 months; the payment of asylum seeker's allowance; the right to access the labour market; the right to access healthcare, schooling for children, and support in sourcing housing.

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

Immediate reception stage is followed by the transitional accommodation which can be provided for up to several months or the time required for referral to suitable accommodation. Transitional accommodation can consist of collective accommodation (holiday centre, for example). Social support in this case is provided by an association, within the framework of an agreement with the State.

Third stage of housing system established for the temporary protection beneficiaries is aimed to provide accommodation for a minimum of three months, allowing people to integrate into their new environment. Private accommodation, in a supervised form, may be used as a back-up. Approved associations can provide rental intermediation in both social and private housing and provide social support.

Each prefecture appoints a referral association whose mission is to put volunteer hosts and displaced persons in contact with each other (after assessing the motivations of the parties involved), to ensure the quality of the reception conditions, to monitor the cohabitation and to provide social support.

The choice of private accommodation requires the signature of a tripartite agreement between the host, the person(s) hosted and the referring association, specifying the commitments of each party.

Information meetings on the modalities of citizen hosting will be organised by the referent associations in order to raise awareness and train individuals on the commitments involved in hosting displaced persons who are in great vulnerability.

According to the authorities, priority should be given to neighborhoods with good public transport links to avoid isolation and ensure access to public services. If the accommodation used is available in an area with poor transport links, it will be necessary to ensure that arrangements are made, if necessary with the support of the local authority, to ensure mobility. More information can be found [here](#).

Offers of free housing are encouraged by the authorities. It is strongly recommended that the rent fee does not exceed the APL ceiling rent, given the limited resources available to the displaced.

The local authorities may cover all or part of the rent, in order to reduce the remaining expenses of Ukrainian households as much as possible. Local authorities can also help displaced Ukrainians settle into their homes by providing assistance with furnishings and equipment. It is recommended to contact the local branches of the [Action Logement](#) group, which provides funding for social support and basic housing equipment.

#### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

French Immigration and Integration Office in the prefecture can grant to the TPBs the APS "temporary protection" card that will allow them to receive cash assistance, which is calculated according to the family size.

#### **c) Access to medical care**

The Assurance Maladie covers the cost of all necessary healthcare, including consultations with doctors, dentists and midwives, as well as prescription drugs and medical examinations. People with temporary protection will not have to pay for these services. They will be affiliated to the universal health protection and will benefit from a one-year right to complementary health insurance.

If persons displaced from Ukraine do not yet have a temporary residence permit marked "beneficiary of temporary protection" and they need urgent or non-urgent hospital care, they must go to the nearest hospital with their passport or other identification.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

Beneficiaries of temporary protection in France are authorized to work as soon as they obtain their temporary residence permit. The common law is applied to them, particularly in terms of remuneration. The list of vacancies for persons displaced from Ukraine can be found [here](#).

The [ENIC-NARIC France centre](#) should be contacted in order to recognise the diploma issued in Ukraine (or in another country that is not a member of the European Union). The centre can issue a



free of charge certificate of comparability if the TPB has a final diploma or the certificate of achievement. This can be done through an [online process](#).

The free proof of qualifications can be obtained through the [European Qualification Passport for Refugees \(EQPR\)](#).

The validation of acquired experience (VAE) allows to obtain a diploma or a professional title by recognizing professional experience acquired abroad. [The "1,000 VAE" program](#) allows TPBs to obtain a professional title or part of professional title from the Ministry of Labour, even if the person no longer has documents to prove experience.

#### **e) Access to education**

In France, public school is free and education is compulsory for girls and boys between the ages of 3 and 16. All young people between the ages of 16 and 18 without school, training or employment are supported in finding solutions to return to school or access to qualifications or employment. Information regarding the registration of children in the school can be found [here](#).

Nearly [19,236](#) Ukrainian students were enrolled in French schools as of December 1, 2022. 55% of the students are enrolled in nursery and elementary schools.

Ukrainian students in France [can apply](#) to a French higher education institution. They must send a message to [ukraine@campusfrance.org](mailto:ukraine@campusfrance.org). A scheme [has been set up](#) allowing African students displaced from Ukraine to continue their studies in a French institution. A reception platform for the orientation of artists and cultural professionals from Ukraine has been set up ([soutienartistesukrainiens@AA-e.org](mailto:soutienartistesukrainiens@AA-e.org)).

Further information can also be found in the [Ministry of the Interior and Overseas FAQs](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

According to the [ministerial order](#) Departmental Council and in some cases the Prefecture carry out the assessment of unaccompanied children. The order indicated four different situations with regards to the unaccompanied children: a) UAC travelling alone, b) coming with a Ukrainian institution; c) separated from their family but travelling with a family person or a trusted person; d) coming to France but on their way to another EU member state.

The order indicates the process for establishing who is exercising parental responsibility or guardianship for the child, or whether the child should be taken into charge by the French child welfare system. Children are given access to child welfare protection, schooling, and healthcare services. Specific attention is also given to mental health. Situation of children from Ukraine was also addressed [here](#) and [here](#).

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

Persons with disabilities or persons who lost their autonomy due to age, can report their specific needs for accommodation adaptation or support to the prefect.

[APF France Handicap](#) is organizing collections of clothing, basic necessities (hygiene products, blankets and sleeping bags) and equipment (manual wheelchairs for example) throughout France.

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

UNHCR France published an information including [a list of organisations](#) offering social, medical and psychological assistance to the victims of human trafficking.

Accommodation and support with relocating to victims of trafficking who are in danger in the local area or are very vulnerable is offered by [Ac.Sé](#).



## 10. Finland

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Visa-free travel remains possible. [A dedicated page](#) on the website of the Finnish Immigration Service includes information on residence permits following the UA developments.

It is possible to travel back to Ukraine if a residence permit was granted on the basis of temporary protection. There are no limitations on the duration of the visit. However, it is necessary to inform the respective reception centre of the trip because travelling abroad can affect reception services. For more information, see the [instruction leaflet](#).

Finland is prepared to receive approximately 50–100 Ukrainians a week who initially fled the war to Estonia. The [arrangement](#) was launched in January and would remain in force until further notice. The duration of the arrangement will also be considered from the perspective of the Finnish reception system.

According to the Social Insurance Board only few newly arrived Ukrainian refugees choose to Finland, most of them choose to stay in Estonia due to having social or family ties there.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

After the application for temporary protection there is a possibility to live either in a [reception centre](#) or in [private accommodation](#). In both cases, there is the right to the same [services](#), such as reception allowance and health care services. It is not possible to access services before contacting the reception centre. The contact details of the reception centre are distributed upon registration of the application with the police or the border authorities.

Places in the reception centres are allocated depending on age, gender and other circumstances. Accommodation is organised in a way that family members can live together. Persons under the age of 18 who arrive in Finland without a guardian are accommodated at a group home or a supported housing unit.

The list of reception centres in operation can be found [here](#).

### 3. Protection status

Finland has [implemented](#) the Temporary Protection Directive and chosen to extend its scope to:

- UA citizens and their family members who fled Ukraine shortly before 24 February;
- other UA citizens and their family members who were already staying in Finland or who have arrived;
- to non-EU nationals legally residing (not just permanently residing) in Ukraine who cannot return to their country of origin safely and permanently.

For family members, the family ties must have been established in Ukraine before 24 February. Family members do not have to apply at the same time. Further information can be found on the [Finnish Immigration Service](#).

In order to apply for temporary protection, people have to declare their willingness to do so before the police or a border control authority. The Finnish Immigration Service recommends that people fleeing from Ukraine apply for temporary protection even if they have already introduced an application for asylum. In that case, the processing of the asylum application is suspended.

Decision-making on applications by UA nationals [is suspended](#) where that would entail removal from Finland (i.e. negative decisions are not being issued). However, the Finnish Immigration Service

continues to issue decisions on applications for international protection and residence permits to applicants meeting the relevant conditions.

The overall processing time for applications is usually around two-three weeks, as a decision must be reached by the Finnish Immigration Service and then the residence permit card can take over a week to arrive.

Starting from 19 January 2023, the Finnish Immigration Service extends all residence permits granted on the basis of temporary protection so that the permits are valid until 4 March 2024. This means that persons who have fled to Finland from Ukraine do not need to do anything to get their permit extended. All residence permits that the Finnish Immigration Service grants on the basis of temporary protection will be valid until 4 March 2024.

By 15 February 2023, those who have fled the war in Ukraine had lodged 50,361 applications for temporary protection in Finland. More information on statistics can be found on the [Finish Immigration Service website](#). A research on the situation of Ukrainians in Finland was published on the [page](#) of Ministry of the Interior of Finland in January 2023.

#### **4. Freedom of movement in the EU**

Persons with temporary protection status have the right to free movement in EU territory. Persons with temporary protection status who wish to leave Finland for a short time should inform the reception centre of their travel plans. If the trip lasts for more than two weeks, the reception centre does not need to keep accommodation reserved. If the person stays abroad for more than 7 days during a one-month period, they are only entitled to receive the allowance for the days that are spent in Finland. If the person stays abroad for the entire month, they are not entitled to receive the reception allowance for that month.

It may be possible to apply for temporary protection in another EU Member State. If the person does return to Finland it is possible to apply for temporary protection again if they have not applied elsewhere.

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

TPBs in need of accommodation can register at the reception centres. Costs of private accommodation, such as rent, electricity and water expenses, are not financially supported.

From 1 March 2023 onwards TPBs living in private accommodations are able to apply for a municipality of residence. After being issued a municipality of residence, TPBs will receive their services from the municipality and the wellbeing services county and will no longer be clients of the reception centre. Applying for a municipality of residence is voluntary. If TPBs do not apply for a municipality of residence, they will remain a client of the reception centre and continue receiving services in that way. TPBs with a municipality of residence will have the same rights, services and duties as permanent residents in Finland. More information on the municipality of residence can be found [here](#).

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Finland [provides](#) an allowance to beneficiaries of temporary protection which varies depending on the family situation. The reception allowance consists of the basic component and the supplementary reception allowance.

The basic component of the reception allowance is intended for clothing, minor health care costs, expenses on the use of local transport, and telephone costs, etc. In addition to the basic component,

TPBs can apply for supplementary reception allowance for their special needs or special needs of their family.

Reception allowance is not granted automatically. TPBs can apply for the allowance from the reception centre by filling in an application form. Information on the amount of reception allowance can be found [here](#).

### **c) Access to medical care**

TPBs are entitled to the same healthcare services as those permanently resident in Finland. Reception centre where the TPB is registered is responsible for providing TPBs with healthcare services. In case of obtaining the municipality of residence, TPBs are entitled to the same level of healthcare as any other residents of their municipality. The wellbeing services county is responsible for providing them with healthcare services. More information on the healthcare can be found [here](#).

### **d) Access to the labour market**

During registration, the police or border control authority provide TPBs with a printed certificate (pdf) proving their right to work. The certificate is called certificate of a pending application. The right to work is unrestricted, meaning that TPBs can find employment in any field.

Once issued, the decision on temporary protection indicates that there is an unrestricted right to work. TPBs will also receive a residence permit card stating that they have an unrestricted right to work.

According to the [Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment](#), TPBs can register as jobseekers at an Employment and Economic Development Office (TE Office) and access services that promote their employment.

### **e) Access to education**

Children of 6 to 17 years old, can go to school in Finland.

If TPBs choose to study outside the reception centre, they can apply for a supplementary reception allowance to help cover the cost of their studies. Supplementary reception allowance refers to additional financial support for a particular need, such as studies.

People who hold a study place in a higher education institution in Ukraine are eligible for a separate study right to Finnish higher education institutions on humanitarian grounds. The study right varies by university but is usually for a maximum of two years and 120 ECTS points, and it does not provide student status or lead to a degree. There is no tuition fee for the studies for students who fulfil the criteria.

[SIMHE-services](#) facilitate access of migrants and refugees to higher education studies, language studies and employment in the Finnish labour market.

## **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

### **a) Unaccompanied children**

The police or the border control official identify and register the application of an unaccompanied minor. ETU ry., the guardianship network for volunteer guardians in Finland, cooperates very close with Migri (Finnish Immigration Service) and the reception centres.

Unaccompanied children are typically provided accommodation in a group home. Children may also stay in private accommodation with relatives. [According to ETU](#), in Finland 90 % of the Ukrainian separated children live with their grandparent(s), aunt(s), cousin(s), adult sibling(s), somebody whom their parent trusts or with other adults or even in Finnish families.

Reception centres that are intended for children, so called units for minors, secure the living of unaccompanied minors by arranging full board and lodging for children who are in Finland without their guardian. Units for minors take care of the children's necessary expenses and additional costs related to their special needs such as hobbies and studies. Children who live in a unit for minors receive spending allowance instead of reception allowance. The spending allowance is intended for the child's personal expenses. It is not used to secure the child's living.

Unaccompanied minors who live in private accommodation or in a supported housing unit for persons over 16 years of age are paid reception allowance. The amount of this reception allowance is the same as it is for adults living alone.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

Hilma- the Support Centre for Immigrants with Disabilities promotes the rights and equal opportunities for disabled and chronically ill immigrants in Finnish society. The organisation provides: information about services and rights; guidance in applying for services & filling out forms; peer support.

The Embassy of Ukraine in Finland has asked Finland to receive children and disabled persons transferred from Ukraine. In May 2022, Finland has responded to the request of Ukraine indicating that it is initially prepared to receive 20 persons of reduced mobility and their immediate family members, and 30 unaccompanied minors.

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

A presumed victim of human trafficking and their underaged children can get help, if they are in Finland. Witnesses to a human trafficking crime may also be helped. Depending on the situation, this may include safe housing in a secret place.

The governmental authority The Assistance system for victims of human trafficking is responsible to make sure that the rights of trafficking victims are enforced and fulfilled. Assistance system can provide to the victims of human trafficking: safe housing, social services, reception allowance, legal assistance, victim support person, interpretation/ translation. In case of TCNs who became victims of human trafficking, Assistance system can provide them with voluntary assisted return or support for applying for residence permit.

It is possible to contact the Assistance system by phone at +358 (0) 2954 63 177, by e-mail [ihmiskauppa.auttamisjarjestelma@migri.fi](mailto:ihmiskauppa.auttamisjarjestelma@migri.fi).

The list of NGO's providing support for victims of human trafficking in Finland can be found here.

## 11. Germany

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees publishes [UA-specific guidance](#) in German, Russian and Ukrainian on entry and stay requirements. The last update was provided on 1 December 2022.

People fleeing Ukraine are temporarily exempted from the requirement for a residence permit in Germany. It is sufficient to submit an application within the 90-day period in which it is possible to legally reside in Germany without a residence permit. The application for a residence title – usually a residence permit according to Section 24 of the Residence Act – must therefore be submitted to the local foreigners' registration office within 90 days of entering Germany for the first time. This is the rule up to May 31, 2023, meaning submission no later than August 29, 2023.

Ukrainian citizens with a biometric passport can enter and move freely in the Schengen area without a visa. This also includes onward travel from Poland to Germany. UA nationals without a biometric passport may exceptionally apply for a visa for Germany at the diplomatic missions in Ukraine's neighbouring countries.

With the general decree of November 18, 2022, the Ukrainian ID card (2015 model) is – for a limited period of time until February 23, 2024 – still recognised as a substitute passport document for crossing the border and staying in Germany.

Travels to Ukraine according to the German policy on returns can be classified into [three broad groups](#), or categories, depending on their duration: 1) short-term trip for up to 3 weeks (21 calendar days) per year; 2) long-term trip for up to 6 months; and 3) return to Ukraine. TPBs can travel to their home country for a period of up to 3 weeks (21 calendar days) per year - including weekends and public holidays - and then return to Germany. In this case, if the job centre has agreed to their absence, the basic income continues to be paid and registration in Germany remains valid. It is important to note that the reason for the short trip should be temporarily valid, otherwise German authorities have a right to cancel a person's residence permit. If the journey lasts longer than six weeks, payment of the basic income will usually be discontinued. TPBs will then need to apply again when they are back in Germany. They also need to inform the job centre about your journey before they leave the country.

The immigration authorities can extend the six-month period of absence before it expires but not retrospectively if the person can prove that the longer absence is still only temporary. Anyone permanently returning to Ukraine (or moving to any other country) must inform the foreigners authority responsible for their case. More information can be found [here](#).

German authorities launched [return and relocation programs](#) for TCNs who fled Ukraine due to war.

Civil society organisations have released detailed [guidance](#) in English and Ukrainian, and the Federal Ministry of Interior (BMI) has launched a [web portal](#) with information in Ukrainian, German and English. Furthermore, the Federal Government has launched the "[Germany4Ukraine](#)" app with information in Ukrainian, Russian, English and German. Registration can take place in all cities in Germany.

The national railway services [have announced](#) that UA nationals can travel with a Ukrainian passport or identity card on all long-distance trains from Poland to Germany free of charge. The long-distance trains have their starting points in Warsaw, Gdansk, Przemysl (at the border with Ukraine)/Krakow, Vienna/Wroclaw. All public transport within Germany is free of charge. For travel on long-distance routes within Germany, a "helpukraine" ticket can be used free of charge.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

Persons seeking protection will be directed to the nearest initial reception centre run by the State. See the EUAA information on temporary protection in Germany [here](#).

The border authorities direct people to [government emergency shelters](#) as soon as they arrive in Germany. At the shelter, a place to sleep, food and other assistance is provided until the person has found somewhere else to stay. Reception centres are located all over Germany.

Persons entering Germany may also be able to stay in the homes of private individuals or families but where this is not possible, they may make requests for accommodation at [unterkunft-ukraine.de](#) or [Host4Ukraine](#). This may even be done before entering Germany.

### **3. Protection status**

Temporary protection is granted to:

- UA nationals and their family members who were residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022.
- Third-country nationals and stateless persons who can prove they had permanent legal residency in Ukraine and who cannot return to their country of origin.
- Third-country nationals who can prove they were lawfully present in Ukraine for a non-temporary purpose but had not yet obtained permanent residency or international protection. This includes students and individuals with stays in Ukraine for reasons other than visiting or short-term employment, provided they cannot return to their country of origin.
- Those fitting the above categories who were already in Germany shortly before the 24 February 2022 and to those who had fled Ukraine not long before 24 February.
- UA nationals who were residing in Germany with a residence title that will expire soon, regardless of when they entered the country.

Stateless persons are not included in the last category and will be informed of alternative options under residence laws and of their right to file an application for international protection. There have been reports that some UA nationals who received a registration certificate in Poland were refused access to the TPD in Germany. Germany confers temporary protection for a period of 2 years with possibility of renewal each 6 months for a maximum of 3 years. For more, see information on temporary protection in Germany [here](#).

Neither registration at a local registration office nor first registration after which a proof of arrival is issued are automatically an application for a residence title. Registration is only the first step. It is necessary to ensure that the application for a residence title is also made.

The BMI advises against UA nationals applying for asylum because temporary protection under the TPD is a quicker protection process. Nonetheless, the right to apply for asylum continues to apply at a later date.

### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

With a biometric passport, Ukrainian nationals can continue to travel within the Schengen area without a visa and stay there for a total of 90 days within 180 days. The same applies if for those with a residence title, e.g. for temporary protection, even if they do not have a biometric passport. They do not then need a separate visa.



If people want to travel on to apply for temporary protection in another EU Member State, this is currently usually possible without a visa.

People who are staying in Germany and have applied for a residence permit are issued with a so-called fictional certificate. This does not entitle the holder to travel within the Schengen area without a visa, as no residence title has yet been issued. The fictional certificate therefore does not replace a residence title and does not allow re-entry after a stay abroad. For more information please refer [here](#).

## **5. Access to rights**

### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Home Affairs (BMI) entered into a partnership with the Berlin-based company Wunderflats and the non-profit social enterprise ProjectTogether. Landlords will be able to provide private housing for refugees from Ukraine quickly and unbureaucratically on a digital platform. The new platform will enable refugees to find free housing independently and in line with their individual needs. [Wunderflats](#) provides security for both landlords and tenants.

Some of the federal states offer information on [their official websites](#) to help refugees from Ukraine find long-term housing.

TPBs who have a residence permit and are employed in Germany but cannot afford to pay their rent can get [housing benefit](#). They can apply for housing benefit at the responsible authority in their area, such as the social benefits office (Sozialamt). The amount of housing benefit is determined in each individual case and depends on the following factors: income, rent and the number of people living in the household and their income.

Persons who receive housing benefit will receive financial assistance for heating costs based on the size of their household. People who receive student grants (BAföG), a training allowance (Ausbildungsgeld) or a grant for advanced vocational training (Aufstiegsfortbildungsförderung) receive a one-time payment of 345 euros for heating costs.

### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

From 1 June, those displaced from Ukraine who have been issued a residence permit for temporary protection or a provisional residence document and who meet certain other conditions, will receive assistance and social support under the Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch) and not the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz). The jobcentre (Jobcenter) can support TPBs with citizen's income (Bürgergeld). This includes: Benefits to secure livelihood (including accommodation and heating) and benefits for integration into work. For more information refer [here](#).

### **c) Access to medical care**

TPBs that receive money from the jobcentre are insured in the statutory health insurance system. They are entitled, under Book V of the Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch), to a range of services, especially medical treatment, pregnancy and maternity services, and services for the prevention and early detection of diseases.

TPBs that receive social assistance (Sozialhilfe) are not compulsorily insured in the statutory health insurance system. However, they will receive a health insurance card from a statutory health insurance fund, and this allows them to access healthcare services, in line with the services provided by statutory health insurance. The costs will be covered by the welfare office (Sozialamt).

Persons that receive benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz) are only entitled to the medical and dental treatment required for the treatment of acute illness or pain during the first 18 months of their stay in Germany. This includes the provision of medicine and



dressings, as well as other benefits required for recovery, improvement or alleviation of illness or its consequences. More information on access to medical care in Germany can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Free psychological support from Ukrainian speaking doctors and psychologists is provided to displaced persons. For more, see information on temporary protection in Germany [here](#).

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

As soon as a provisional residence document is issued in accordance with Section 24 (1) of the Residence Act, TPBs are entitled to work. This document issued by the foreigners authority must contain the text “gainful employment permitted” (“Erwerbstätigkeit erlaubt”). TPBs can then undertake, in principle, any kind of employment (apart from the professions with access restrictions) in Germany or begin vocational training. TPBs can also work for a temporary agency and are able to start their own business or work as a freelancer.

Recognition of qualifications obtained outside of Germany is only required for regulated professions (doctors, teachers, architects, etc.).

TPBs can also apply for a residence permit for the purpose of employment or training at the local foreigners authority. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **e) Access to education**

Children are required to attend school from the age of 6 or 7. It is possible for all children to register for free education but registration procedures may vary in each federal state. Children also have access to German language courses. The government [has introduced](#) “fast track” measures to employ Ukrainian teachers to promote the education of children displaced from Ukraine. Additional local and national information can be found [here](#). Education at university level may be possible, but institutions should be approached directly.

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

[The Youth Welfare Office](#) is responsible for minor refugees who are in Germany without an adult relative. In case unaccompanied minors have no legal guardian, Youth Welfare Office takes them into care and needs to ensure legal representation by arranging for the appointment of a guardian, the subsequent appropriate accommodation in an educational context, as well as the clarification of whether further support measures may be necessary. The Youth Welfare Office must initiate all necessary steps to set up guardianship without delay. Until a guardianship is set up, the Youth Welfare Office takes over the emergency representation. Reception facilities and community accommodation are not suitable facilities within the meaning of SGB VIII. The youth welfare office is also entitled and obliged to carry out all legal acts that are necessary for the well-being of the minors.

[The DIJuF](#) is dealing with legal issues that arise in connection with the arrival of refugee children and young people and their families in Germany. The organisation also provides [extensive information](#) on social rights of unaccompanied children.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

In Germany, disability is certified by a doctor. For this purpose, it is recommended to visit a family doctor or specialized doctor. In many cases, the responsible service (rehabilitation provider) will verify the need for assistance through a further expert opinion. If a person already has medical documents that certify their disability, it is advised to bring them to doctor's office. There is no requirement for certified translation of these documents.

TPBs don't need a disability certificate to get the help they need. It is more important to have a doctor's certificate. However, it is recommended to apply for a disability certificate. Depending on

the severity of a disability, TPBs may be able to receive certain benefits with this certificate (e.g., public transportation, tax benefits, etc.). It also makes it easier to apply for other assistance. More information is available on the website of Handicap International that provides assistance to persons with disabilities in Germany.

The complementary independent participation counselling service (EUTB) advises TPBs from Ukraine with physical or psychological impairments, and their family members about accessible registration, residence, and accommodation and care in keeping with their needs.

There are special conditions regarding the housing assistance if a person has a serious disability and/or are in need of care. This means that their income may be higher than the income limits. TPBs with disabilities need to consult their local housing office about the special conditions with regards to housing benefits.

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

Rights of victims of human trafficking and exploitation affected in Germany include: the right to reflection and stabilization time, right to support, right to livelihood security, right of residence, rights in criminal proceedings, right to waive punishment for victims of human trafficking/non-punishment, right to compensation.

According to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the nationwide coordination group against human trafficking e.V. (KOK) offers a Germany-wide overview of the specialized counselling centres for victims of human trafficking. It also provides information materials in German, English, and Ukrainian that contain information about the dangers of human trafficking and provide support options for people of all nationalities. The KOK is also involved and raises awareness in the "Alliance4Ukraine", a coordinating alliance of over 150 organisations.

The coordination group trains authorities and aid organisations in identifying victims. The local cooperation between the police and the KOK, which is supported by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, has been intensified.

## 12. Greece

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Visa-free entry with biometric passports and transit visa-based entry without a biometric passport is possible at all entry points. UA nationals who are not in possession of travel documents may only enter Greece through the Promachonas border station on the Greek-Bulgarian border.

Where children do not have travel documents, the number of children accompanying the person will be marked under the entry stamp in the passport.

Beneficiaries of temporary protection can request the Athena card which will allow them to travel for free on public transport in Athens for a period of 90 days. After 90 days, the card has to be re-activated. Beneficiaries of temporary protection can also apply for a travel card in Thessaloniki (offices of OASTH) which will allow them to access public transport for free. More information can be found here.

Persons who received temporary protection in Greece can return to Ukraine and travel back to Greece while their temporary protection document is valid.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

Where necessary, short-term accommodation will be provided at the Sindiki/ Kleidi reception facility until all travel documents have been issued. For UA nationals in need of long-term accommodation, a request must be made via email to [ukraine@migration.gov.gr](mailto:ukraine@migration.gov.gr). Applications for accommodation can also be submitted online here.

Short-term accommodation is also offered by the organisation METAdrasi.

For more information on the immediate reception situation, see UNHCR, for Ukrainians.

### 3. Protection status

The Ministry of Migration and Asylum has announced that temporary protection up to one year (up to 4 March 2023), renewable twice each 6 months (i.e., up to 4 March 2024), will be offered to:

- a) UA nationals residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022;
- b) Stateless persons and nationals of third countries other than Ukraine who benefited from international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine before 24 February 2022;
- c) Family members of persons referred to above, even if they are not Ukrainian nationals providing the family resided in Ukraine before 24 February 2022. Family members includes: spouses or unmarried partners in stable relationships; minor unmarried children; other close relatives who lived with the beneficiary as a family unit.
- d) Persons in the above categories who left Ukraine after 26 November 2021 and who were unable to return to Ukraine due to the conflict.

For more information, see UNHCR, for Ukrainians.

From February 2023, the validity period of Temporary Protection Residence Permits which expire on March 4, 2023 is automatically extended for a period of six (6) months, i.e. until September 4, 2023. During the above extension periods, the Residence Permits already held by the beneficiaries of temporary protection will not be renewed, and they do not need to take any further action.

The Regional Asylum Offices (RAOs) in Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras and Crete are registering applications for temporary protection online. During the online application, the applicants declare the location where they want to be registered and retrieve their temporary protection card, as well as whether they need housing assistance. The temporary protection card contains the residence permit, a social security number and a tax number. After receiving the card, the applicants have automatic access to the national healthcare system and the labour market.

The online portal for the application can be accessed here (in Ukrainian). For information on the procedure for granting temporary protection, contact 0030-2131629600 or send an email to [ukraine@migration.gov.gr](mailto:ukraine@migration.gov.gr).

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

Temporary protection beneficiaries have the right to travel to other EU and associated countries and return to Greece. To travel in this way, individuals must hold a valid passport. See the [EUAA information on temporary protection in Greece](#).

Information on the departure of Ukrainians from Greece through Romania without biometric passports can be found at [Visit Ukraine](#).

#### **5. Access to rights**

Upon granting of the aforementioned temporary protection, beneficiaries will have access to residence and free movement in Greece; the right to access the labour market; access to medical care; education; family reunification.

##### **a) Access to suitable long-term accommodation**

The Ministry of Migration and Asylum can provide with accommodation and food in its accommodation facilities. A special [online platform](#) was set up in order to facilitate the process. To facilitate and expedite the housing process, it is recommended to include in the online request the number of family members, their names, gender and age, as well as any special needs (vulnerabilities) (serious illness, disability, pregnancy).

Time limits with regards to long-term accommodation are not specified.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

There is no cash assistance program available for the TPBs from Ukraine, however, they have the right to receive support in food and non-food items. TPBs are offered the Athena card which is a free unlimited travel card for all means of public transportation in Athens.

##### **c) Access to medical care**

Temporary protection provides access to medical care. Prior to the issuance of a temporary protection card, it may be possible to access medical care in public hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities for prescribing medicine and diagnostic examinations. A helpline providing psychological support offers free mental health support to refugees from Ukraine. The helpline can be reached on: 10306 (option 4).

##### **d) Access to the labour market**

Temporary Protection Residence Permits have the status of a work permit which gives access to the labour market for both dependent and independent economic activity.

##### **e) Access to education**

Every child is obliged to attend school between the ages of 4 and 15. If the family is staying in refugee reception centres, children may have a special programme: in reception centres for children aged 4-5 years; in district schools for children aged 6-15. These classes were created with the aim of including all children in the school system. For more information see [here](#).

For more information on access to rights with temporary protection status, see the [EUAA information on temporary protection in Greece](#).

## **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

### **a) Unaccompanied children**

The National Mechanism for the Identification and Protection of Unaccompanied Minors of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum is activated for the transfer of the children to special emergency accommodation facilities; the relevant identification (if necessary) and guardianship procedure is followed.

Adult relatives will be able to undertake the care/custody of their minor relative upon the assessment by the Greek authorities and the Implementing Partners of the National Emergency Response Mechanism for Unaccompanied Minors in precarious living conditions. More information can be found [here](#).

### **b) Persons with disabilities**

It is recommended that TPBs notify the authorities on disability or loss of autonomy due to age either when they arrive at the accommodation centre or when they have the appointment for registration. More information can be found [here](#).

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

A [helpline](#) was set to support the victims of human trafficking.

## 13. Hungary

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Generally, everyone is permitted to enter Hungary from the five border crossings operating at the Hungary-Ukraine border. There have been instances of third-country nationals being refused entry at the Romania-Hungary border.

Five registration points have been set up by the government's Humanitarian Council near the border crossings for registration to begin. Information and a mobile and email hotline can be accessed from the Hungarian Helsinki Committee [here](#). Further information on new arrivals from Ukraine can be found on UNHCR [here](#).

Those without a biometric passport and who enter Hungary will receive a temporary residence certificate ("ideiglenes tartózkodásra jogosító igazolás" in Hungarian). It is not the same as Temporary Protection as it only lets the person stay legally for 30 days in Hungary. It may give access to some assistance, but it does not give the same rights as Temporary Protection.

According to the Helsinki Committee Information Note, temporary protection shall not be revoked merely on the grounds that the person returns to Ukraine. In case a person waives the temporary protection in writing, and returns to Ukraine, that does not preclude the possibility of being recognised as a beneficiary of temporary protection again by resubmitting an application for temporary protection at a later stage.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

According to UNHCR's update on new arrivals from Ukraine [here](#), there are help points located at border crossing points.

In case accommodation is required, the National Directorate-General for Disaster Management is responsible and can be found at BOK Sportcsarnok transit centre in Budapest 1146 Budapest, Dózsa György út 1.) Alternative, the Charity Council organisations and Menedék Association provide help. The list of short-term shelters can be found [here](#).

It is reported that accommodation shelters vary in quality: some people are accommodated in private rooms, while other shelters are overcrowded. More information on procedures for finding accommodation and the quality of accommodation can be found on [Vsquare](#).

### 3. Protection status

Before the Council Decision activating the Temporary Protection Directive, Hungary had adopted the national temporary protection scheme on 24 February. This was repealed by Government Decree No. 86/2022 which introduced the implementing decision into Hungarian law with retroactive effect. As a result, those who had already applied for temporary protection under the national protection scheme do not receive temporary protection if they do not fall under the scope of the implementing decision.

Temporary protection is available to:

- UA citizens residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and displaced on or before that date;

- stateless persons and third-country nationals who benefited from international protection or equivalent protection in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and were displaced after that date;
- and family member of those groups.

Temporary protection was automatically prolonged for another year. This means that residence permit card is now valid until 4 March 2024, contrary to the validity date physically displayed on the card (4 March 2023).

Hungarian nationals with a permanent residence in Ukraine and arriving from Ukraine on 24 February 2022 or later are granted the benefits provided to beneficiaries of temporary protection unless they can show that they should enjoy more favourable treatment by virtue of their Hungarian nationality. Accordingly, they are entitled to housing. More information can be found [here](#).

Applications for temporary protection can be made at the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing offices around the country. More information on [temporary protection in Hungary](#) can be found on the [UNHCR website](#).

After application for Temporary Protection, a person will receive a humanitarian residence permit valid for 60 days (also referred to as “laminated card”). When the asylum authority grants Temporary Protection, the person receives a residence permit (also referred to as “plastic card”). The granting of Temporary Protection status (and receipt of the plastic card) may take up to two months.

TCNs and stateless people who do not fit into these groups are excluded from temporary protection status. It is possible to obtain a temporary residence permit valid for 1-3 months. More information can be found [here](#). While it is not possible for such groups to apply for temporary protection in Hungary it may be possible in other EU countries. Information on entry rules can be found in respective embassies of the country to which travel is planned. Persons who are otherwise unable to apply for a residence permit nor return to their country of origin may apply for asylum in Hungary. Further information can be found by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee [Information for non-Ukrainian citizens fleeing from Ukraine](#).

Citizens of Ukraine who arrived before 24 February, do not qualify for Temporary Protection in Hungary. However, since they cannot be returned to Ukraine, if they apply for Temporary Protection, they will receive so-called [tolerated status](#) (“befogadott” in Hungarian), which permits the person to stay in Hungary and grants some rights.

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

According to the Hungarian Helsinki Committee [FAQ](#), people can travel for 90 days within 180 days freely to other EU countries in possession of temporary protection card and a valid travel document. This card should be issued within 55 days after the application for temporary protection. It is different in EU states whether or not the application for temporary protection from those, who have already been granted this status in another EU state, is accepted.

It is also noted that the temporary residence permit for persons not eligible for temporary protection does not confer the right to travel to other EU countries. It is only possible to travel to other EU countries by complying with visa entry rules and passport requirements. See more [here](#).

#### **5. Access to rights**

Temporary protection status affords beneficiaries the right to residency, access employment, education, healthcare, education, and financial support.

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**



TPBs are entitled to state-provided accommodation for the entire duration of their stay in Hungary. The National Directorate-General for Disaster Management can help finding the suitable accommodation, they can be found at BOK Sportcsarnok transit centre in Budapest 1146 Budapest, Dózsa György út 1. TPBs may also receive means to obtain housing. For this, it is necessary to visit the district office (járási hivatal/kerületi hivatal) every month in person. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

According to [UNHCR Hungary](#), TPBs can receive financial assistance in the amount of HUF 22,800 per month per adult, and HUF 13,700 per month per child. It is possible to request the assistance at the Labour Authority of the locally competent Government Office. At the same time, TPBs will be requested to register for employment. TPBs will no longer be entitled to support once they start working.

#### **c) Access to medical care**

Temporary protection beneficiaries can access healthcare in Hungary in their local residence area. People with temporary protection have the right to use public health services and are entitled to have necessary and emergency medical treatment. The same applies to those who applied, but not yet received temporary protection. These people can get necessary and emergency services treatment. In addition, they are entitled to get oncological treatment as well as other specialised treatment in case of chronic diseases. More information can be found [here](#). Support may also be found through Menedék Association.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

Applicants and beneficiaries of temporary protection can now work without a special permit. Assistance with job seeking is available from the Menedék Association ([menedek@menedek.hu](mailto:menedek@menedek.hu)).

#### **e) Access to education**

Parents have an obligation to enrol children in kindergarten and school. Public institutions are free to attend. Support may also be found through Menedék Association.

Hungary [allows](#) students displaced from Ukraine to continue their university studies regardless of nationality. Pursuant to [Decree No. 1186/2022](#), funds are allocated for the “Students at Risk” programme which allows Ukrainian nationals and certain TCNs ([Stipendium Hungaricum partners](#)) to study in Hungary. [Decree No. 1179/2022](#) provides that EUR 347 per month will be allocated for the education and training of beneficiaries of temporary protection. The Ministry of Human Capacities issued a letter establishing that public schools have to admit beneficiaries of temporary protection. However, there were no instructions on the procedure to follow.

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

Based on the Hungarian regulation in the Child Protection Act and its practice, if an UAC (from Ukraine) is identified in Hungary then they are treated as children and are placed in immediate child protection care from the government, as per national law. The law provides for the appointment of a guardian (who is the legal representative) upon identification of an unaccompanied child. The legal guardians are employed by the Department of Child Protection Services (TEGYESZ).

According to [information provided by Eurochild](#), the role of the child protection guardian in Hungarian law consists of supervising the care for the child, following and monitoring his or her physical, mental and emotional development. In order to fulfil his or her duties the child protection guardian has a mandate to generally substitute the absent parents. The guardian reports on his or her activities every 6 months.

The guardianship authority may appoint a foreign adult (who looks after the child e.g. adult sibling, family friend etc.) for a foreign minor as a guardian as a temporary measure.

**b) Persons with disabilities**

There is no sufficient information on the persons with disabilities coming to Hungary from Ukraine. Blue Dot country information on Hungary indicates that persons with disabilities may seek help at National Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ).

**c) Victims of human trafficking**

The National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator facilitated anti-trafficking efforts domestically and internationally and chaired the National Coordination Mechanism, which monitored the implementation of the national anti-trafficking strategy.

The Hungarian Helsinki Committee, throughout 2022, observed some reports of unfair labour conditions by applicants or beneficiaries of temporary protection who started to work in Hungary. Most reports complain about an unfair salary (e.g. receiving a substantially lower salary than agreed beforehand) or the fact that persons are employed without a contract.

## 14. Iceland

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

UA nationals fleeing the situation in Ukraine are entitled to travel to Iceland visa-free and without a biometric passport. Persons travelling from countries not part of the Schengen area will be checked at the border crossing point where they enter the Schengen area. More information for Ukrainian citizens in Iceland can be found on [Island.is](https://island.is).

For those who intend to come to Iceland and apply for protection, it is possible to fill out the [pre-registration form](#). This will speed up the process of registration.

There is no available information regarding the consequences of travels to Ukraine.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

The reception centre for applicants of international protection is located in Egilsgata 3 in Reykjavik. More information for Ukrainian citizens in Iceland can be found on [Island.is](https://island.is).

### 3. Protection status

Iceland [triggered](#) Article 44 of the Foreign Nationals Act which provides collective protection to a group of foreign nationals fleeing a specific region of mass exodus. Collective protection is granted to:

- a) Ukrainian citizens residing in Ukraine before 24 February;
- b) TCNs who enjoyed international protection, subsidiary protection or residence permits on humanitarian grounds in Ukraine on 24 February;
- c) the family members of these groups;
- d) persons from the previous groups who were in Iceland on 24 February and where a decision had not been issued on their cases or who were in Iceland on the basis of residence permits that cannot be extended.

The residence permit for humanitarian reasons is issued for one year at a time, with the possibility to renew or extend it up to three years from the time of first issuance. After those three years it's possible to obtain a temporary residence permit that forms the basis for permanent residence permit.

Upon arrival, applications must be submitted in person. It is possible to complete the process at Keflavík Airport, at the reception centre for applicants for international protection in the capital or at the nearest police station in any other location.

### 4. Access to rights

Collective protection entails access to housing, maintenance, social services, health care, education for children and a conditional access to the labour market. [A Q&A section](#) and pre-registration has been created for persons fleeing Ukraine.

#### a) Access to suitable accommodation

Accommodation can be allocated at the reception center.

#### b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence

At the reception center it is also possible to get a payment card for food allowance. If the accommodation that the Directorate of Labour has allocated to the protection beneficiary has food included, they are not entitled to food allowance. It is only possible to receive food allowance if the protection seeker does not live in the Directorate's accommodation. Food allowance is paid out weekly. At the reception center, it is also possible to receive a payment card for allowance that is paid weekly after a four-week stay. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **c) Access to medical care**

Applicants for protection are entitled to necessary health services and medicines that are necessary for them while their applications are being processed by authorities. To request a doctor's appointment protection applicants should go to the reception center in Egilsgata 3 in Reykjavik.

Applicants must undergo a medical examination as soon as possible after arriving in Iceland. The examination is based on the Act on Health Security and Communicable Diseases. The Directorate of Immigration will make an appointment for a medical examination and will inform the applicant on the time and place of the examination.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

A humanitarian permit granted to the protection applicants from Ukraine entails the right to work in Iceland without a work permit. Protection beneficiaries can make an appointment for an interview with a consultant at the Directorate of Labor to get help with making a CV, applying for a job and other things related to the job search. Employers have registered jobs with the Directorate of Labor in which counselors mediate to refugees. An interview can be requested at: [flottamenn@vmst.is](mailto:flottamenn@vmst.is).

#### **e) Access to education**

Children may be enrolled in pre-school, lower secondary school, and upper secondary school. Information on access to higher education in Iceland can also be found [here](#).

The Ministry of Education and Children [will provide](#) funding to municipalities to support Ukrainian children's reception and school work. The financial aid can amount to ISK 200,000 per children under 18.

[Icelandic universities](#) provide Ukrainian refugees opportunities to complete their studies, e.g. as exchange students. ENIC/NARIC has enabled [a fast-track recognition](#) of Ukrainian higher education qualifications.

There is also the possibility to pursue Icelandic language courses in community education facilities. These courses can be accessed at [landneminn.is](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

There is no sufficient information regarding the situation of unaccompanied children arriving from Ukraine to Iceland.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

The Government of Iceland [agreed](#) to welcome a group of vulnerable refugees from Ukraine, including persons with disabilities (5-7 children and their families). An appeal has come from Polish authorities for other countries to receive disabled children from Ukraine currently situated in Poland.

The parents of children with disabilities or chronic illness are entitled to support benefits. Parental benefits are paid until the child is 16 or 18. Applications for parental benefits are available from the Social Insurance Administration. A medical certificate needs to be submitted alongside the

application, and if the child has a disability, a report from the regional office for the disabled should be included.

The Social Insurance Administration (TR) assesses the disability of those who apply for disability benefits in accordance with regulation. The administration may require the applicant to undergo a special evaluation to determine rehabilitation eligibility before the assessment is performed. More information can be found [here](#).

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

In response to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees, the government developed trafficking guidelines for border control and published informational brochures on common trafficking indicators and local anti-trafficking resources for law enforcement and airport authorities, among others. According to the [U.S. Department of State Report on Trafficking in Persons in Iceland](#), while the government did not operate a trafficking-specific hotline, the country's general emergency telephone number (112) provided information to victims on services and directed callers to appropriate responders. More information can be found [here](#).

## 15. Ireland

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

According to the Ministry of Justice, people who are considering leaving Ukraine and travelling to Ireland may do so without a visa and will be entitled to temporary protection under the TPD. Persons without a valid passport may also use other forms of ID to travel. Family members who are not UA citizens may require a visa for travel.

Irish Rail provides a free train journey to UA nationals from the point of arrival to the ultimate destination. A bus journey under the same conditions is provided by Expressway and Bus Éireann.

Pets brought from Ukraine must comply with requirements for pets entering Ireland from countries outside the EU/EEA.

Persons with refugee travel documents issued by another country must apply for a visa to enter Ireland.

There is no information regarding travelling to and back from Ukraine. Return to Ukraine is not listed among the reasons of revocation of protection status.

More information about entry requirements can be found on the website of Citizens Information in Ireland.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

Upon arrival at Dublin airport, a person identified as a potential beneficiary of temporary protection is directed to the Citywest Convention Centre where the application for temporary protection can be submitted. Social welfare support for holders of a temporary protection status and local centres have been announced here.

Ukraine support centres have been set up in Cork, Dublin and Limerick. If it is not possible to apply for temporary protection on arrival.

On 21 October 2022, the Irish Government stated that it could not guarantee that it would be able to provide temporary accommodation to all people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

If a person stays in a temporary accommodation where food is provided, it is necessary to pay a contribution of €10 per day for adults, and €5 per day for each child. TPBs do not have to pay for their first 2 weeks. If they refuse to pay, they could be asked to leave. If a TPB refuses one offer of accommodation, he/she will not get any more offers.

More information can be found on the website of Citizens Information in Ireland.

### 3. Protection status

Ireland provides temporary protection status in line with the TPD. The scope covers:

- a) UA nationals residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022;
- b) TCNs or stateless persons who benefited from international protection or an equivalent national protection status in Ukraine and were residing there before 24 February 2022;
- c) family members of the above groups, where the family already existed in Ukraine at the time of events leading to the mass influx prior to 24 February. Family members include a spouse or partner, unmarried minor children of either of them, and their other close dependent family relatives who have been living with them as part of the family unit before 24 February 2022.

Ireland also applies temporary protection to TCNs and stateless people who were legally residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 if they had a permanent residence permit and cannot safely return to their country of origin, while those with a “temporary or short-term residence permit issued by the Ukrainian authorities” are instead assisted to return home if it is safe to do so.

UA nationals in Ireland with a short stay “C” type visa can also benefit from temporary protection.

Any other UA national on another immigration permission in Ireland will remain on that basis until it expires. At that point, the person can decide to extend it or to avail to TP. Temporary protection is granted for a period of 1 year and it is subject to renewable.

Beneficiaries of TP who change their address must communicate this to their local Ukraine Support Centre in Dublin, Cork and Limerick or to their local Intreo Centre or branch office.

More information on temporary protection in Ireland can be found at [Gov.ie](https://gov.ie) and [here](#).

#### **4. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

Ireland offers temporary accommodation solutions to TPBs, however, there is not enough available places. Due to this, from 31 March 2023 onwards, TPBs are allowed to take one short-term absence in exceptional circumstances (a maximum of 7 non-cumulative days) over a 6-month calendar period. Absences are considered on a case by case basis by the Ukraine Crisis Temporary Accommodation Team (UCTAT). It should not, however, prevent TPBs from leaving the State. It provides for the reallocation of unoccupied beds in order to ensure that beds are not left empty for weeks or months. More information on short term accommodation can be found [here](#).

Persons providing private accommodation may apply for monthly Accommodation Recognition Payments of €800 per property. They must commit to providing accommodation for at least 6 months. The accommodation has to meet the [required standards](#).

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Persons arriving in Ireland may apply for [social welfare payments](#) with a Personal Public Service (PPS) number. The process has been facilitated for UA nationals; instead of having to apply for the number online, it is possible to do it at the Citywest Convention Centre. Income support includes child benefits which consists of a monthly payment to the parents or guardians of children under 16 years of age. Child Benefit is €140 a month for each child and it can also be granted for children aged 16 and 17 if they are in full-time education or full-time training or have a disability and cannot support themselves.

##### **c) Access to medical care**

Beneficiaries of temporary protection may apply for a medical card through a simplified application process. This allows persons to visit doctors free of charge and access other health services and receive medicines at reduced costs. The medical card application form can be found here: [medical card application form \(pdf\)](#).

##### **d) Access to the labour market**

Temporary protection allows persons to seek full time and part time employment. It is also possible to receive Jobseekers Allowance.

##### **e) Access to education**

Children can be enrolled in local primary and secondary schools. Temporary measures have been introduced to support persons in further education. It may be possible to apply for Tuition Fee Scheme; student assistance fund; and other bursaries. The Minister for Education has [announced](#)



that UA teachers will be prioritised in registration to account for the children needing education in Ukrainian language. Furthermore, the Minister announced that 41,000 places for children in education can be provided if needed. The Arts Council is facilitating the participation of Ukrainian children in their Cruinniú na nÓg programme. Regularly updated information in English and Ukrainian is available here and here.

Further information on access to rights through temporary protection can be found on the website of Citizens Information in Ireland.

## **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

### **a) Unaccompanied children**

Unaccompanied minors under age 18 years who arrive in Ireland seeking temporary protection are referred to the Child and Family Agency (also called TUSLA), who provides them with the relevant support.

If a child has been separated from an adult they were with when they arrived in Ireland and is now alone, they can go to the closest Garda Station (Police Station). The Garda Station will then contact the local Social Work Service to arrange a meeting with the child.

All unaccompanied minors referred to us will be seen by a Tusla Social Worker on the day of referral. A plan will be developed, and appropriate accommodation and supports will be considered in order to support a child and keep them safe. Social Workers will undertake an assessment to better understand child's needs. The assessment will include information about their journey, family, health, education, and interests. More information can be found here.

### **b) Persons with disabilities**

According to the EU AA information on temporary protection in Ireland, persons with disabilities arriving from Ukraine will be able to receive disability services in the same manner that Irish citizens. There are also services for psychological stress and mental health issues, including PTSD.

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

Victims of trafficking can only be officially identified as such by An Garda Síochána (the police) that has a dedicated hotline to report suspicions of human trafficking: 1800 666 111. Migrant Rights Center Ireland can support potential victims of labour trafficking before and after this identification. Ruhama NGO provides free and confidential support to victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

## 16. Italy

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Visa-free entry remains possible for UA nationals, and they are entitled to temporary protection in line with the TPD. Passport holders can stay for 90 days without applying for protection and those without a valid passport are asked to contact the UA embassy or consulate in Rome for a temporary identity document.

UA nationals entering Italy without visas must submit a declaration of presence after entering the country unless their passport is stamped on arrival. More information on entry can be found in the [EUAA information on temporary protection in Italy](#).

According to National Civil Protection Service [FAQ document](#), it is possible to return to Ukraine at any time having a valid travel and identity document. In the situation of return back to Italy the person will maintain the status of temporary protection.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

A [decree](#) addressed the potential exceptional reception needs for UA nationals by allocating resources for the management of detention and reception centres, increasing places for the System of Accommodation and Integration and places for Emergency Accommodation Centres. UA citizens fleeing from the war will have access to these reception centres regardless of whether they have applied for asylum. Those in need of accommodation can contact the prefecture on arrival. A special fund will be dedicated to finance support measures for UA students, researchers and lecturers so that they can carry out their activities at Italian universities, institutions for higher artistic, musical and dance training and research bodies.

The Civil Protection Department issued guidelines for the management of reception and assistance to persons fleeing the conflict. This includes a platform to allow citizens, businesses and other persons to offer goods, services, and housing.

UA citizens who stay with relatives or friends must register their presence as a guest alongside their host at their local *Commissariato*. Those in need of accommodation must declare this at the *Prefettura* of the city.

The National Council of the Notariat, in collaboration with the Italian Red Cross, [provides](#) support to people fleeing from Ukraine to obtain the necessary documents. It has also launched a fundraiser to cover housing needs.

### 3. Protection status

In Italy, the Temporary Protection Directive was implemented with Legislative Decree 85/2003. The Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers was adopted at the national level on 28 March 2022 to implement the Council Decision of 4 March 2022 after the events in Ukraine.

The decree confirms that temporary protection applies to:

- a) UA citizens and third-country nationals and stateless people who held international protection or an equivalent national protection in Ukraine, and fled before 24 February 2022.
- b) It also applies to third-country nationals and stateless people who held permanent residence permits in Ukraine and are unable to return to their country of origin.

According to the Court of Cassation's [report no. 36](#) of 12 April 2022 recalling the regulatory framework regarding temporary protection, limiting protection to these categories of people "will

leave a significant number of persons unprotected”. The protection/permit can be requested at every *Questura* and will allow the beneficiary to access the national health system, the labour market and education. Temporary protection is granted for a period of 1 year. The Council of Ministers has approved the extension of the state of emergency to 31 December 2023, to ensure reception and assistance on the national territory to the population coming from Ukraine.

Those who have already applied for international protection in Italy and have pending cases can still apply however those who have already been recognised as in need of international protection cannot access the temporary protection regime. Further information can be found in the [EUAA information on temporary protection in Italy](#).

Although applications for international protection can be submitted by a beneficiary of temporary protection, the 28 March Decree provides that the decisions will be postponed until the end of temporary protection. The Court of Cassation, in its report no. 36 of 12 April 2022, argues that this leads to a suspension of international protection which the TPD does not contemplate. The latter merely provides that the temporary protection status cannot be combined with refugee status. The Court of Cassation concludes that the more favourable provision of the TPD should apply instead of the national one.

Guidelines on temporary protection and stay in Italy are also available in Italian, English, Russian and Ukrainian [here](#).

A [dashboard](#) with an analysis of the figures has been created by “Civil Protection”.

Several courts in Italy have granted subsidiary protection to Ukrainian nationals who had applied for protection before the escalation of conflict in Ukraine in 2022 (the Tribunal of Florence, on 16 March 2022, the Tribunal of Milan, on 3 March 2022, and the Tribunal of Genova, on 22 April 2022).

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

Beneficiaries of temporary protection have the right of freedom of movement in EU and residence in Italy. Persons who do not have valid passports or travel documents but benefit from temporary protection will receive a special travel document allowing them to travel within the EU. See more here: [EUAA information on temporary protection in Italy](#).

#### **5. Access to rights**

Temporary protection beneficiaries are issued a residence permit valid for 1 year extendable for 1 year. This permit allows persons to enter the National Health System, access work, education (including university level), and social support.

It is also possible to apply for family reunification: temporary protection may be granted to family members separated as a result of the conflict.

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

The Department of Civil Protection has issued a national plan for the reception and assistance of the population from Ukraine. It has also issued operational indications for the management of the widespread availability of reception for the population coming from Ukraine.

The national network for the ordinary reception of asylum seekers and refugees is composed of the CAS - Centro di Accoglienza Straordinaria (Extraordinary Reception Centres) and the SAI - Sistema Accoglienza Integrazione (Integration Reception System). TPBs can stay for 1 year in the reception center. If beneficiaries of temporary protection decide not to live in private accommodation, municipalities are in charge of finding accommodation after the stay at the initial reception centres has ended.

On 29 December 2022, the operational guidelines regarding the management of reception assistance were updated. It is indicated in the guidelines that stable and continuous presence of the host person is a prerequisite essential for the full implementation of widespread reception activities aimed at accompanying the integration process. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to allow temporary absence from the reception facility for a maximum number of 5 days. The guest must promptly notify the manager of the accommodation facility or to the host family of the need to leave who, in turn, will promptly inform the relevant Autonomous Region/Province.

In the event of a guest's absence not previously communicated and authorised, or if the absence continues beyond the aforementioned period of 5 days, after 48 hours, the facility manager must inform the reference Region/Autonomous Province and may proceed to assign the accommodation to other applicants.

Any special cases, concerning the need to be absent for more than 5 days, will be subject to a specific joint examination between the host facility manager and the reference Autonomous Region/Province. In these specific cases, the guest, in addition to justifying the need to leave, should, as far as possible, accompany the communication with appropriate documentation (e.g. in case of hospitalisation, the need to be physically present in another place in order to obtain particular documents and so on).

#### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

TPD beneficiaries over 18 years of age who find their own accommodation will be granted a monthly allowance of EUR 300 each month for a maximum of 3 months starting from the date shown on the receipt of the application for residence permit, and for each minor in a family the family will receive an additional EUR 150. It is now possible to apply for the subsistence allowance online.

#### **c) Access to medical care**

Temporary protection beneficiaries can access medical care under the same rules as nationals of Italy. The immigration office will issue a tax number allowing access to the national health system. A health care will then be issued.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

In order to grant immediate access to beneficiaries of temporary protection to the labour market, Italy has decided to derogate from its immigration quotas. According to Decree DL 21/2022 doctors and nurses with a European Qualifications Passport for refugees will be able to find employment in public or private health facilities. Italy supports institutions to promote the employment of Ukrainian professors. The Prefecture of Siena has organised free Italian courses for people arriving from Ukraine. The prefecture of La Spezia has launched a project whereby adult individuals fleeing from Ukraine can have a contract in a restaurant or hotel business for a period of three months if they attend an Italian language course.

#### **e) Access to education**

All children have a right to education including children seeking international protection and unaccompanied children. Schools and regional educational offices must ensure that children can be enrolled in school.

It may also be possible to access university education for: Ukrainian students already enrolled in Italy, including under the Erasmus programme; Ukrainian doctoral students, researchers and professors who participate to the activities of the said institutions; applicants for international protection and people fleeing from Ukraine; and people benefiting from international or temporary protection because of the Ukrainian war.

For more information on the rights guaranteed under temporary protection status see here.

## **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

### **a) Unaccompanied children**

The Commissioner delegated for the coordination of assistance to unaccompanied minors from Ukraine has adopted a Plan that defines the activities carried out by the institutional bodies involved in various ways in the homogeneous management of the reception of unaccompanied foreign minors on the national territory. The Plan provides guidelines for the identification and census of unaccompanied foreign minors on the Italian territory, the reception system, the monitoring of host structures, and the modalities of temporary foster care. The second part of the Plan provides for measures related to health care and education to ensure mandatory vaccination requirements and the access to the school system for unaccompanied foreign minors

Minors accompanied by adults who do not exercise parental authority (e.g. other relatives, acquaintances, operators or private social organisations etc.) will be considered unaccompanied foreign minors and the procedures provided for by law will be activated, with reporting to the Juvenile Court for the appointment of the guardian.

According to the Eurochild: the carers that accompany children arriving in Italy from Ukraine from Ukrainian institutions or family homes are often the appointed guardian by the Ukrainian administrative authority. However, an important difference in their status with those appointed in Italy is that in Ukraine this appointment is made by an administrative authority, in Italy by a judicial authority. Border officials are issuing temporary custody documents to bus drivers for swift family reunification purposes.

For arriving children from Ukraine who have Ukrainian appointed guardians, juvenile courts are nominating 'protutore' (protutor) to provide support in the interaction of the Ukrainian guardian with Italian social protection authorities. Each guardian can be appointed for one child or for a maximum of three children. The Regional Children's Ombudsman is responsible for selecting and training guardians.

### **b) Persons with disabilities**

In case of a disability or loss of autonomy due to age, TPBs should contact the prefecture indicating the specific needs for adaptation of accommodation or support.

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

The protection of victims of human trafficking consists of two main parts: first sheltering and a period of reflection on the one hand, social protection and work inclusion of the person in the national territory or, if possible, in the country of origin on the other. Persons shall be ensured with transitional protection through adequate housing conditions, food, health care and psychological assistance.

There is a possibility to issue a special permit of stay, as provided by article 18 of law no. 286/1998. More information can be found here. Hotline of the organisation providing assistance Osservatorio Interventi Tratta: 800 290 290 (24/7, free calls from Italy).

## 17. Latvia

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Visa-free entry remains possible with a biometric passport. At border crossing points, checks will confirm the existence of biometric passports. Persons without valid biometric passports will be issued visas.

The lack of valid travel documents is not an obstacle to entering Latvia for UA nationals; similarly, the lack of medical COVID-related documents, such as tests or vaccination certificates, will not impede entry for UA nationals. Further information on entry into Latvia is available [here](#).

If a person arrives without travel documents the identity of the person will be confirmed in cooperation with the competent Ukrainian authorities.

In cases where the person renounces the temporary protection status in the Republic of Latvia and leaves for another country or returns to Ukraine, a new temporary residence permit will not be issued.

For more information see [EUAA information on temporary protection in Latvia](#).

### 2. Immediate reception situation

People fleeing Ukraine should inform the State Border Guard officials if they do not have accommodation. The government has created a [portal](#) where Latvian residents can offer a place of accommodation for people displaced from Ukraine. Social support, food and medical care will be offered to all UA nationals arriving in Latvia.

From September 5 2022, the [Rīga Support Center](#) for UA residents has operated from new premises at Amatu Street 4. Services remain as before: registration; visa applications; residence permit processing; accommodation assistance; and other social matters. Catering is not provided. Latvian language courses may also be considered.

In the event of urgent medical assistance upon arrival, UA nationals are urged to inform border officials or call 113. A hotline has been created to inform on services and support available in Riga (+371 27 380 380). Support centres have opened in [several cities](#) for those fleeing Ukraine.

A list of non-governmental organisations, their areas of activity and contact information can be found [here](#).

### 3. Protection status

In March 2022, Latvia adopted the Law on Assistance to UA civilians. The law initially granted visas for 1 year and the granting of residence permits for persons without travel documents. The law is now amended to provide temporary protection for UA civilians in Latvia in line with the EU Temporary Protection Directive.

In Latvia, the temporary protection status is available for:

- a) citizens of Ukraine who used to live in Ukraine and had to flee the country either before, on or after 24 February 2022;
- b) foreigner or stateless person in Ukraine who had refugee or other international protection status or a permanent residence permit in Ukraine;
- c) a family member of any of the above. Under Latvian rules, the following are considered “family members”: a spouse or partner, underage unmarried child, other close relatives who lived in the same household and were dependent on the Ukrainian citizen, a foreigner or stateless person who had refugee status or another international protection status in Ukraine.



Any other persons fleeing the conflict in Ukraine may otherwise apply for international protection in Latvia. Persons can apply at border crossing points by submitting an application for international protection to the State Border Guard.

From 1 January 2023, Ukrainian residents who apply for temporary protection status in the Republic of Latvia or for the documents certifying this status, will be issued a temporary residence permit for two years.

For those residents of Ukraine who received temporary protection status in the Republic of Latvia in 2022, long-term visas and temporary residence permits issued before 31 December 2022 will be valid until 4 March 2024, regardless of the document's specified validity period. The documents will continue to be valid in the territory of the Republic of Latvia. The Ukrainian resident will have the opportunity to request a new temporary residence permit if they need to travel outside Latvia; if the visa or residence permit were lost or damaged; if data needs to be changed; or in case there is a need to obtain a residence permit in order to use electronic signature options.

A request for a residence permit can be submitted to the Riga Support Centre for Ukrainian Residents at Amatu Street 4 (in person) or by sending it by mail to any territorial department of the Directorate of Citizenship and Migration Affairs.

In cases where the person renounces the temporary protection status in Latvia and leaves for another country or returns to Ukraine, a new temporary residence permit will not be issued.

Ukrainian refugees who have been issued a visa or a temporary residence permit in Latvia, or have been granted a personal identity number when they intend to return to Ukraine or travel to another country, should submit an application for cancellation of their temporary protection status and visa or temporary residence permit to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs.

More information on temporary protection in Latvia can be found here.

#### **4. Access to rights**

Temporary protection beneficiaries have free movement and residence in Latvia; access to the labour market; healthcare; social welfare; social assistance; education; family reunification for family members of UA nationals.

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

Latvia provides accommodation and meals for Ukrainian residents in Latvia free of charge for the first 120 days to those who first received services before 24 of May 2022 and 120 days of accommodation and 30 days of free meals for those who first received services after 25 May 2022. Certain groups of persons who, for objective reasons, may find it difficult to provide housing after the period of accommodation provided by the state, have the possibility to receive accommodation support also after a period of 60 or 120 days, but only until June 30 2023. Individuals who are eligible for accommodation after the 60- or 120-day period are listed here.

Private individuals who accommodate UA nationals at their homes can receive compensation upon request of EUR 100 per month for the first person and an extra EUR 50 for each subsequent person up to a ceiling of EUR 300. Latvia has also announced that, as an alternative, assistance with the rent of up to EUR 400 per month will be provided.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Residents of Ukraine registered in Riga may apply for a guaranteed minimum income, housing benefit, certificate for receiving food parcels, information on school registration, and Latvian SIM cards and vouchers for public transport. Different types of social support services are available for



those fleeing Ukraine, such as a one-off benefit in a crisis situation of EUR 272 for an adult and EUR 190 for a child. An additional monthly allowance of EUR 109 will be granted for the first person in a Ukrainian household and EUR 76 for each subsequent person. More information can be found [here](#). For more information see [EUAA information on temporary protection in Latvia](#).

#### **c) Access to medical care**

UA civilians are able to access state funded healthcare in the same way as Latvian nationals insured under compulsory health insurance cover. UA civilians are exempt from patient co-payments. For persons with additional support needs such as pregnant women, families with children under 2 years old, or persons with functional disability – mobility impairment, mental disorder, or care needs should inform their accommodation services. The State Agency for Social Integration may provide up to 30 days social rehabilitation and free psycho-emotional support for children, adolescents, and families.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

UA civilians with long terms visas or residence permits have the right to access employment for up to 1 year and an initial start-up allowance. More information on employment requirements in Latvia can be found [here](#).

Employment opportunities for UA citizens can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

#### **e) Access to education**

Children of UA civilians may access pre-school free of charge in their local education institution. Children have the right to primary and secondary education in a state or local government institution. Children and adults who were in vocational training in 2021/2022 have the right to continue in municipal education institutions.

UA civilians in higher education programmes in Ukrainian institutions may be admitted to institutions in Latvia. Admission for 2022/23 will be through a simplified procedure. More information on admission of Ukrainian students in Latvian educational institutions can be found [here](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

According to [Eurochild](#): the State and local government unified customer service centres and local government service centres are responsible for registration of UASC through the unified management system of services of customer service centre [www.pakalpojumucentri.lv](http://www.pakalpojumucentri.lv). The appointment of an extraordinary guardian is the responsibility of the Orphan's and Custody Court of the relevant municipality where the child is located. An extraordinary guardian has the obligations: to represent the unaccompanied child in ensuring his or her personal, legal, and property interests in the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

An extraordinary guardian has the right: to receive the assistance; to receive social services of the local government for the improvement of the social situation of the unaccompanied child; to turn to the Orphan's and Custody Court in case of disagreement with a child.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

Ukraine's disability status is not accepted in Latvia, so Ukrainian civilians have to undergo a disability assessment to determine their disability status in Latvia. With the disability status, people receive various state support, such as care allowance for a child with a disability, care allowance for a disabled person in need of care. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

Shelter “Safe House” is aiding persons who have been exploited in various situations of human trafficking. The organisation offers a social rehabilitation program for up to 180 days of individual counselling with a team of specialists including a lawyer, social worker, and psychologist. Transportation to and from the service location is provided at no cost, and safe shelter is available. Additionally, assistance with legal documents and court representation is available if needed. Basic necessities such as food, medicine, clothing, and shoes or money to purchase them are provided as required. Participants also have the opportunity to participate in educational and training programs, as well as any other services that may be required in their specific situation.

The organisation runs a hotline: +371 28612120 (24/7).

## 18. Lithuania

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Visa-free entry is possible for UA nationals with biometric passports. UA nationals may enter Lithuania on their own or may travel from arrival points in Poland where volunteers may offer transport support. UA citizens holding biometric passports may stay for up to 90 days without a visa. See more at [Invest Lithuania](#).

Lithuanian Railways (LTG), Lithuania's state-owned railway company, and the country's three largest cities will continue offering free public transport to refugees from Ukraine in 2023. In Vilnius, public transport for Ukrainians was available until the end of the year, and the city authorities extended the scheme until 2024. The local authorities in Kaunas consider a proposal to allow Ukrainians to use transport services with a 99-percent discount. According to the proposal, Ukrainians will be issued an annual ticket once they provide a registration card issued by the Migration Department or a valid residence permit issued in 2023 on humanitarian grounds. Authorities in Klaipėda also plan to extend the existing scheme next year and introduce a free ticket for Ukrainians.

There is no information regarding the consequences of travelling back to Ukraine and returning to Lithuania.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

UA nationals who have nowhere to stay in Lithuania must register with the Alytus Migration Department immediately upon arrival. UA nationals who have a place to stay in Lithuania must register too but they can do so in any Migration Department across the country (information on addresses in different cities can be found [here](#)). Those without travel documents will be given a foreigner's registration certificate until their status is resolved. Persons without a place of residence will be taken to temporary accommodation.

It is advised that individuals fill in an [electronic application](#) for a residence permit before arriving for registration.

More information can be found on the [EUAA information on temporary protection in Lithuania](#).

### 3. Protection status

Temporary protection is valid for 1 year and it is renewable for another year i.e. until 4 March 2024.

Temporary protection in Lithuania is granted to:

- a) citizens of Ukraine who used to live in Ukraine and had to flee the country on 24 February 2022 or after as well as to Ukrainians who used to live in Ukraine, and temporarily left Ukraine on 24 January 2022 or after, and during that time were legally and temporarily staying in another country, and then arrived in Lithuania before 1 May 2022;
- b) foreigners or stateless persons who had refugee or other international protection status in Ukraine before 24 February 2022, and had to flee the country on 24 February 2022 or after;
- c) family members of any of the above.

Family members include: a spouse or partner, underage unmarried child, other close relatives who lived in the same household and were dependent on the Ukrainian citizen, foreigner or stateless person who had refugee status or another international protection status in Ukraine.

Moreover, temporary protection may also be granted to foreigners or stateless persons who permanently and lawfully lived in Ukraine and had to flee the country on 24 February 2022 or after (or temporarily left Ukraine on 24 January 2022 or after, and during that time was legally and temporarily staying in another country, and then arrived in Lithuania before 1 May 2022), provided that they may not safely return to the country of origin or another country which agrees to receive them. More information can be found [here](#).

Since the beginning of 2023, temporary protection beneficiaries have been able to apply for digital temporary residence permits. Refugees who previously received permits in the form of plastic cards can now start a simplified procedure for replacing these documents. An account should be created on the [website](#) with the selected e-mail address, the questionnaire completed and necessary information provided. An electronic permit for temporary residence will be valid from 5 March 2023 until 4 March 2024.

Persons who have recently arrived in Lithuania but are not yet registered with the Department of Migration will also be able to submit an electronic application for a digital temporary residence permit in Lithuania, but such persons will need to make a one-time visit to the Visitor Services Department of the Department of Migration of their choice.

There is a suspension of returns to UA. Individuals arriving from Ukraine are advised not to apply for asylum but to obtain temporary protection instead.

#### **4. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

Longer term accommodation may be provided through a scheme called [StrongerTogether](#). This provides free accommodation up to 3 months. Registration for accommodation can also be done online [here](#).

Local municipality can provide assistance with regards to long-term accommodation solutions. The municipality may offer apartments, care homes, dormitories, school premises, and orphanages for Ukrainians in need. TPBs can receive compensation for the rent of accommodation. The size of the compensation depends on the municipality, the size of the accommodation as well as the number of persons living in the household. For more information please see [here](#).

The Government [offers](#) an incentive for Lithuanian residents offering their house to accommodate people fleeing Ukraine; EUR 150 for the first person and EUR 50 for each subsequent person. The compensation is paid for a maximum of three months.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

TPBs can receive a social benefit when the average income per person is less than 141.9 Eur/month. It is also possible to apply for the compensation for heating costs when heating costs exceed 10% of the difference between the income and 2 state-supported income amounts (258 EUR) for each family member or 3 SSI amounts (387 EUR) per resident.

Ukrainians granted temporary protection in Lithuania are entitled to child benefits. It is paid for each child under 18 or up to 23 if the child is studying under a general curriculum. Ukrainian families raising school-age children who start school in Lithuania are entitled to free school meals and, at the start of the new school year, to school supplies assistance.

Information on the social benefits concerning sickness, maternity, paternity, childcare, unemployment, accidents at work and occupational disease can be found [here](#).

##### **c) Access to medical care**

The following health care services shall be provided to TPBs from Ukraine: preventive screening and vaccination of minors; emergency medical care, pregnancy care, post-natal care and other necessary personal health care services are provided to persons who are not covered by compulsory health insurance; medical rehabilitation services for refugees injured during military operations in Ukraine; timely transportation to medical, physical medicine and rehabilitation institutions. These services are paid for by the State Health Insurance Fund under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania. Information on health care services is included [in the leaflet](#).

Lithuanian Red Cross provides humanitarian aid in the [list of city departments](#) across the country. Order of Malta provides a list of help services including humanitarian aid and medical equipment in [10 cities](#) of Lithuania. Free psychological assistance is provided by calling +37066465792.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

[According to the state news agency](#), UA nationals who benefit from the visa waiver or have a valid Schengen visa, as well as those who have been issued a national visa or a temporary residence permit on humanitarian grounds will have the right to work in Lithuania and will be relieved from the obligation to obtain a work permit. In addition, temporary protection holders [will be exempt](#) from language requirements in certain jobs (such as teaching) to facilitate access to the labour market for a period of two years.

Different measures for the organisation of the education process of UA children [have been adopted](#), such as an All-Ukrainian online school. A [webpage](#) was established to help refugees from Ukraine to integrate into the job market and promote their businesses. More information regarding the business activities in Lithuania can be found [here](#).

#### **e) Access to education**

Ministry of Education, Science and Sports is coordinating the educational opportunities for persons arriving from Ukraine. The educational process of children from Ukraine is handled by self-governments, and their schools are consulted by the "Vilnius Lithuanian House" - an institution, subordinate to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania that carries out the education of foreign children in Lithuania. More information on how to register children for school or kindergarten can be found [here](#).

On 25 January 2023, the government [decided](#) to allocate 38 million euro to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports to finance the educational needs of Ukrainians who came to Lithuania due to the war. This amount is allocated until the end of this school year. The funds will reach preschool and general education institutions as well as higher education institutions.

Information for Ukrainian war refugees arriving in Lithuania on study opportunities at Lithuanian higher education institutions can be found [here](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

[According to the Eurochild](#): the Migration Department, situated within the Ministry of the Interior, is responsible for identification and registration of children from Ukraine.

The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is responsible for organising temporally guardianship (temporary foster care) for those children.

Accommodation of children's groups falls under responsibility of municipalities, and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour plays the coordination role in this process. Provision of services to children is also under the responsibility of municipalities.

In order not to separate the child with the person, who accompanied him/her, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour informs the person about the procedures to be appointed as the guardian. When a group of children from Ukraine arrives in Lithuania, like e.g., children from children care institution, Lithuanian care institution is appointed as the temporary legal guardian. The staff that comes together with the child is not separated from children, they are often employed in the Lithuanian children's care institution to be able to stay together with children.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

For Ukrainians with temporary protection, the level of disability established in Ukraine is recognised in Lithuania and shall be equated to the level of disability, working capacity and special needs determined in Lithuania. Such person has to submit a certificate issued by Ukrainian consular institution about the determined disability group to the Disability and Working Capacity Assessment Office. More information on the recognition of the disability certificates can be found [here](#), FAQ regarding disability can be found [here](#).

Persons with confirmed disability are entitled to [social assistance pensions](#).

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

According to the U.S. Department of State [Report on Lithuania](#), care facilities provide short or long-term assistance, such as health care, psychological and social counselling, and shelter to trafficking victims. In 2021, the government adopted the Law on Assistance to Victims of Crime, which ensured all victims of all crimes, including trafficking, received assistance before, during, and, if necessary, after criminal proceedings. Lithuanian law also entitled all crime victims, including trafficking victims, access to assistance, including counselling, regardless of whether victims sought assistance from law enforcement.

Ministry of Interior of Lithuania published [recommendations](#) regarding the identification of victims of human trafficking, pre-trial investigation and approval of recommendations for inter-institutional cooperation.

The National Association against Human Trafficking established free 24/7 helpline 8 800 91119 (in Lithuania) and +370 616 91119 (outside the Republic of Lithuania).

[Center for Combating Human Trafficking and Exploitation](#) provides social, psychological, legal, and safe housing services to victims of human trafficking, prostitution, and sexual abuse, and carries out preventive and educational activities at the local and national level.

## 19. Luxembourg

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Displaced people arriving from Ukraine to Luxembourg are asked to contact the Directorate of Immigration (at [immigration.desk@mae.etat.lu](mailto:immigration.desk@mae.etat.lu)) and submit a [form](#) to make their presence known and begin a temporary protection or regularisation application. Once the form has been submitted, the Directorate of Immigration will contact the person to fix an appointment. This procedure is also applicable to individuals accommodated by private persons.

It is possible to return to Ukraine for a short time with temporary protection status. The temporary protection certificate that is issued is not a travel document and they must therefore possess all the necessary travel documents. Luxembourg cannot assist persons with temporary protection status to re-enter Luxembourg if difficulties arise.

More information can be found on the [FAQs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) website.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

An emergency reception centre is available 24/7 at 2454 Luxembourg-Kirchberg to provide accommodation and food to people on initial arrival. More information can be found [here](#). Then people will be moved to a collective housing structure owned by the State. Residents of Luxembourg offering accommodation to UA nationals are requested to contact +352 621 796 780 or [Ukraine@zesummeliewen.lu](mailto:Ukraine@zesummeliewen.lu).

If a person arrives from Ukraine with their car, they must proceed to its [registration](#) in Luxembourg within 6 months of arrival.

Luxembourg residents may offer housing to UA nationals. Such persons are asked to contact the Caritas and Red Cross Hotline: +352 621 796 780 or [Ukraine@zesummeliewen.lu](mailto:Ukraine@zesummeliewen.lu).

### 3. Protection status

Temporary protection applies to:

- a) UA nationals residing in Ukraine before 24 February;
- b) TCNs and stateless persons who had been granted international protection in Ukraine before 24 February;
- c) family members of the above groups, irrespective of their nationality. The following are considered family members insofar as the family was already present and residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022: a person's spouse; the unmarried minor children of the persons referred to in points 1. or 2., or their spouse, whether they are legitimate, born out of wedlock or adopted; other close relatives who were living in the family unit at the time of the circumstances surrounding the mass influx of displaced persons and who were wholly or mainly dependent on a person;
- d) TCNs and stateless persons who can prove they were legally residing in Ukraine before 24 February on the basis of a valid residence permit and are unable to return to their country of origin in safe and durable conditions.

It also applies to those who have left Ukraine since 24 February 2022 or shortly before due to the conflict (these are persons who fled when tensions were already arising in Ukraine or who found themselves in the EU just before 24 February and who cannot return to Ukraine). Temporary



protection is granted for a period of 1 years and it is renewable each 6 months for a maximum of 3 years.

Beneficiaries of temporary protection, residing in Luxembourg and holding a temporary protection certificate valid until 3 March 2023 are granted an extension of their protection status until 4 March 2024.

In order to continue to benefit from the rights attached to temporary protection, the persons concerned must proceed to the renewal of their temporary protection certificate.

In December 2022, a circular was sent to the persons concerned to inform them of the procedure to follow. Beneficiaries of temporary protection residing in Luxembourg whose temporary protection certificate expires on 3 March 2023 and who have not received such a circular are requested to contact the Directorate of Immigration at the following address: [immigration.desk@mae.etat.lu](mailto:immigration.desk@mae.etat.lu). More information on applying for protection can be found [here](#).

Beneficiaries of temporary protection can apply for family reunification with members of their family who have been conferred temporary protection in another Member State and with those who have not yet entered the EU. Assistance can be found through the Consular assistance of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs ([assistance.consulaire@mae.etat.lu](mailto:assistance.consulaire@mae.etat.lu)).

More information can be found on the [FAQs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) website.

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

Persons entitled to temporary protection status have the right to move freely in the Schengen zone for 90 days out of 180 days with a valid biometric passport. For travel to EU countries not members of Schengen, national rules apply (these may vary). More information can be found on the [FAQs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) website.

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

After their accommodation in the centre for an initial reception, persons enjoying temporary protection can benefit from accommodation in a collective housing structure owned by the State.

Those willing to host people fleeing the war in Ukraine are asked to commit themselves for a minimum duration of three months.

It is underlined by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs that private accommodation is an act of solidarity in the context of a humanitarian crisis. No rent or other compensation for the provision of accommodation, or part thereof, can be claimed.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Beneficiaries of temporary protection who do not have sufficient means of subsistence or support from a private person are entitled to material assistance from the National Reception Office ("Office national de l'accueil") and can stay in an ONA accommodation facility. The material support will be provided based on the composition of the household, the age of the members of the households and their financial resources. Beneficiaries of temporary protection who live in private accommodation are also entitled to material assistance consisting of a monthly allowance, monthly food assistance, bi-annual clothing assistance, annual support with school supplies and access to medical care and coverage of related expenses. More information can be found [here](#).

##### **c) Access to medical care**

Persons with temporary protection certificates will be registered for the National Health Fund and receive a medical card. Individuals will pay the bill of their appointment and be able to reimburse the costs through the medical card.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

Once individuals have been formally granted temporary protection status, they can freely access the national labour market without a specific permission. The persons concerned can also register as job seekers with the National Employment Agency (ADEM) which has created a specific unit for beneficiaries of temporary protection.

Beneficiaries of temporary protection can conclude contracts of indeterminate duration and have the right to be self-employed. Employers willing to hire beneficiaries of temporary protection can contact +352 247 88000 or [employeur@adem.etat.lu](mailto:employeur@adem.etat.lu).

#### **e) Access to education**

Luxembourg has also announced plans for the provision of education for all children fleeing Ukraine, with a focus on international public schools which have flexible language provisions. Measures have been introduced to employ Ukrainian teachers with the aim of facilitating the education of children displaced from Ukraine. A hotline (+352 247-76976) in Ukrainian has been created to provide information regarding the Luxembourg school system. Before being able to attend school, children displaced from Ukraine have to take a health and social check-up. An appointment can be scheduled by calling +352 247 65533 (then press 3).

On 26 September 2022, a new school for migrant children in an EIB building in Kirchberg was inaugurated. The new school is home to specialist classes for refugees, sponsored by the state. Some 80 pupils aged 3 to 12, children of Ukrainian refugees and children of asylum seekers from other nations are now being taught there.

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

There is no sufficient information on the assistance to unaccompanied minors arriving from Ukraine. Some issues regarding the reception of unaccompanied minors entering asylum procedures were raised by Caritas Luxembourg.

Caritas Luxembourg presented new home for unaccompanied minors in Liefrange as an emergency response to the large number of unaccompanied minors arriving in Luxembourg. The home will be able to accommodate in a second phase up to 24 minors and in a third phase 36 minors.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

There is no sufficient information on the assistance to persons with disabilities arriving from Ukraine. General information on support for persons with disabilities can be found [here](#).

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

According to the U.S. Department of State 2022 Report on Luxembourg: any person or organisation can report a suspected trafficking victim to the police, but the police has the sole authority to officially identify a victim and refer them to government assistance. Immigration officials use a specific victim identification protocol, based on the national referral mechanism, that includes instructions on identifying victims among unaccompanied children.

Victims of human trafficking are encouraged to call the Police immediately: 113.

## 20. Malta

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

UA nationals can travel without a visa to Malta and the pre-approval for travel requirement has been lifted for those wishing to seek asylum.

According to International Protection Agency in Malta, return to Ukraine, irrespective of its duration and the reason behind it, will lead to the withdrawal of TP status in Malta. This is without prejudice to the possibility for the person concerned to travel back to Malta, subject to meeting the necessary travel requirements, and once again request TP.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

A Community Crisis Centre was opened in February and coordinates the collection and distribution of supplies to persons affected by the conflict.

Governmental and Church organisations can also help find temporary free housing, such as AWAS Malta, KENN Project Malta and Jesuit Services Malta.

### 3. Protection Status

Temporary protection is granted for a period of 1 year and, if the situation continues, it can be renewed for another two periods of 6 months (until 4 March 2024).

In order to request the renewal of their protection certificate till 4 March 2024, current beneficiaries of TP need to book an appointment by sending an email on [frontoffice@ipa.gov.mt](mailto:frontoffice@ipa.gov.mt).

The TPD applies to:

- a) UA nationals;
- b) TCNs and stateless persons who benefited from international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine before 24 February 2022;
- c) temporary protection shall also be granted to stateless persons, and nationals of third countries other than Ukraine, who can prove that they were legally residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 on the basis of a valid permanent residence permit issued in accordance with Ukrainian law, and who are unable to return in safe and durable conditions to their country or region of origin.

The following persons shall be considered part of a family, insofar as the family was already present and residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022: 1. The spouse of a person referred to in point (a) or (b), or the unmarried partner in a stable relationship; 2. the minor unmarried children of a person referred to in point (a) or (b), or of his or her spouse, without distinction as to whether they were born in or out of wedlock or adopted; 3. other close relatives who lived together as part of the family unit at the time of the circumstances surrounding the mass influx of displaced persons, and who were wholly or mainly dependent on a person referred to in point (a) or (b) at the time.

As of yet, protection has not been extended to include those without permanent legal residency.

The onus to establish eligibility for this protection falls on the TCN or stateless person concerned.

More information on how the protection is implemented in Malta and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Requests for temporary protection have to be submitted before the International Protection Agency (IPA). To obtain a residence permit, TP beneficiaries need to book an appointment with the Identity

Malta office ([noneu.ima@gov.mt](mailto:noneu.ima@gov.mt)). General information on entering Malta, accommodation, psychological support and other practical advice can be found [here](#).

More information on temporary protection applications can be found [here](#).

#### **4. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

It is possible to request housing through the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers.

According to the [survey](#) published by SOS Malta, a majority of TP beneficiaries are renting private accommodation. However, finding and paying for accommodation is listed in the top of most frequent complaints along with the difficulties in communication with government services, long and complicated procedure of receiving medical assistance, as well as difficulties to enrol children in education facilities.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

TPBs can claim social assistance benefits from the Maltese Government. Upon receiving registration certificate, TPBs can receive aid equivalent to the core social assistance. The amount of social assistance depends on the number of persons living in the household. Information on temporary protection benefits can be found [here](#).

##### **c) Access to medical care**

An (IPA) certificate allows persons to be eligible for free healthcare including emergency care and essential treatment of illness, in public [hospitals and health centres](#).

##### **d) Access to the labour market**

If offered a job, individuals must register with the authorities and provide a copy of the IPA certificate to be registered as an employee. Those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine [are exempt](#) from the fees of the procedures for having qualifications recognised in Malta. Moreover, Malta organises vocational training for beneficiaries of temporary protection.

##### **e) Access to education**

An (IPA) certificate allows children and adolescents to enrol in school. The Maltese government provides free childcare services to children whose parents/guardians (both of them or a single father/mother) are employed and paying social security contributions, or are pursuing their education. Education in Malta is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 16 years. Kindergarten caters for the age group from 3 to 4 years, primary schooling from 5 to 11 years and secondary schooling spans from ages 12 to 16. Minors enjoying temporary protection will be granted access to the state education system under the same conditions as Maltese nationals.

#### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

##### **a) Unaccompanied children**

Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers is the assessor, the legal guardian and the entity responsible to accommodate and provide protection and care to the unaccompanied children. Upon registration of the minor and the issuing of appropriate identification documents, the request to the Court has to be filed to provide any provisional measure in regards to the care and custody of the minor according to the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the minor and shall appoint a representative to assist the minor in further procedures.

##### **b) Persons with disabilities**

There is no sufficient information with regards to assistance to persons with disabilities arriving from Ukraine. General information on assistance to persons with disabilities can be found [here](#).

**c) Victims of human trafficking**

Aġenzija Appoġġ is the national agency providing social welfare support services that are also offered to victims of Human Trafficking. In this regard, Aġenzija Appoġġ provides shelter facilities and professional support to respond to the needs of victims of human trafficking.

Aġenzija Appoġġ can be contacted by means of free phone 179, which is intended to provide information and initial assistance and support to victims.

Victims of human trafficking are urged to contact the Police authorities at the very earliest possible opportunity: 'Crime Stop' number 119 or, in a situation of emergency, 112.

## 21. Moldova

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

After 1 February 2023, Ukrainian citizens need to have a valid passport in order to cross the border with Moldova. According to the Decree of the Commission of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Moldova No. 20 of May 4, 2022, every citizen of Ukraine can enter once and leave once with any of the documents he/she has. But in order to cross the border multiple times, only a valid passport of a citizen of Ukraine is required. Foreign nationals arriving from Ukraine are exempt from the need for an entry visa, which under normal circumstances would be required. Entry on the basis of an internal passport of Ukraine or other documents to the territory of EU countries - is possible only once. For subsequent border crossings citizens of Ukraine need a valid travel document. The interactive map of border checkpoints in Moldova can be found [here](#).

A COVID certificate is not required and it is possible to drive into the country without a green card so long as the card is requested and received within 24 hours. A hotline has been set up (0800 015 27) and related calls to 112 will be transferred to the hotline. A [Facebook group](#) has been set up with useful information. More information is available [here](#) (state Telegram channel, info in UA).

After receiving Temporary Protected Status, a person can leave Moldova for any other country, including Ukraine, but not more than 45 days in the period 1 March 2023 – 1 March 2024. The temporary protection document itself is not a travel document – therefore, a person needs a valid passport to access a particular country. It is not required to inform anyone about leaving the territory of the Republic of Moldova for less than 45 days.

According to the decision of the Government of Moldova to implement temporary protection from 26 January 2023, if a person does not stay in Moldova for more than 45 days and does not use temporary protection, it is no longer valid.

There is a requirement to inform the General Inspectorate of Migration in advance in case a person wishes to return to Ukraine by voluntary repatriation. In this case temporary protection status will be automatically terminated on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

Information on free accommodation and other practical topics can be found [here](#) and [here](#). A list of reception centres and contact details can be found [here](#). All those in need can request free accommodation at accredited centers by calling 0 800 800 11.

### 3. Protection status

On 26 January 2023, Moldovan government published the decision on granting temporary protection to refugees from Ukraine for one year. People who will request temporary protection will be able to get an identity document free of charge for one year. The decision includes the conditions for granting temporary protection, the rights and obligations of the beneficiaries, the procedures for getting the identity document and the powers of the implementing institutions regarding access to the fundamental rights ensured in the normative framework. Before the government decision, the stay of persons from Ukraine in Moldova was regulated through decisions of the Commission for Emergency Situations. The process of registration for temporary protection starts on 1 March 2023.

This government decision concerns all persons who come from Ukraine:

- a) Ukrainian citizens;

- b) stateless persons and third-country nationals who have been granted international protection in Ukraine;
- c) Family members of the above categories.

A person can fill in an application form, request temporary protection from the Inspectorate General for Migration (the reformed Bureau of Migration and Asylum) and receive it for one year. Temporary protection will be granted not only to the applicant but also to family members if they apply in person. An exception is minors - their parents must apply for protection for them.

At the moment, the protection is valid until 1 March 2024. The decision stipulates that the government may extend temporary protection for at least another six months and for a maximum of two years in total.

The State of Emergency in Moldova is in effect until April 5, 2023. Starting from this date, Ukrainian citizens and other refugees can stay in Moldova for only 90 days, unless they apply for any legal status (temporary protection, international protection or residence permit). Without a status, even during this period, it will be impossible to enjoy free medical care, the right to work, and the right to education.

Stateless persons can apply for protection even without documentation. For more information see the ENS update here.

#### **4. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

The majority of UA nationals fleeing the conflict stay in private accommodation and are hosted by Moldovan families. Assistance in finding suitable short term and long-term accommodation is mostly offered by the NGOs which are helping to pair refugees with suitable families to make sure living conditions are appropriate and safe. For more information see UNHCR.

From November 2022 to March 2023, the Moldovan government partially offset the increase in electricity rates through the "Ajutor la contor" program.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Protection beneficiaries can access social assistance schemes in Moldova. They can also receive financial assistance from the NGOs.

##### **c) Access to medical care**

Temporary protection beneficiaries have the right to free medical care. The list of places where free medical care is offered can be found here.

##### **d) Access to the labour market**

Before implementation of temporary protection, the Moldovan Government has allowed UA citizens and non-UA spouses and third country nationals with refugee status in Ukraine to live and work in Moldova for the duration of the state of emergency. In practice, many UA nationals are unable to access employment due to language barriers and the lack of childcare provisions for single mothers travelling with their children. According to National Employment Agency, from the beginning of the period of the Exceptional Situation in the Republic of Moldova on 23.03.2023, 1018 citizens from Ukraine were employed. According to the new decision on the implementation of temporary protection, persons from Ukraine with temporary protection will retain the right to work on the territory of Moldova. The employer can conclude a contract with them for one year.

##### **e) Access to education**



Unlike the state of emergency, the temporary protection allows for the access of children from Ukraine to education in Moldova (schools and kindergartens). Previously, only children of Ukrainians who applied for asylum in Moldova could be enrolled in Moldovan schools. The rest participated in education informally (as listeners). Now it will be easier to enrol a child in the kindergarten and school (however, within the limits of available places in educational institutions).

For more information see the Refugees International report on Preparing for the unpredictable: ensuring the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine in Romania and Moldova.

## **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

### **a) Unaccompanied children**

When crossing the border in the direction of entry, the Border Police shall ensure that children at risk in need of immediate intervention by the guardianship authority are identified on the basis of the following criteria: a) unaccompanied child; b) accompanied by an unauthorized person; c) accompanied by a legal representative, but there is doubt about the identity of the child or legal representative; d) the child claims to be in danger or there is information or suspicion about the child.

Upon identification of children at risk in need of immediate intervention by the guardianship authority, they will be immediately transferred from the Border Police by the person in charge designated by the territorial guardianship authority at the place where the children are identified. More information can be found here.

The Government of Moldova supports temporary placement of vulnerable children in foster care or family-like group homes, which is supported by UNICEF and other partners.

### **d) Persons with disabilities**

The procedure for determining the degree of disability in the Republic of Moldova obliges people with health problems, even with severe forms of disability, to confirm their disability annually or every six months. The Center for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Moldova offers its assistance to citizens of Ukraine. Green line for people with disabilities and elderly people from Ukraine: 080008800 (free call). People with disabilities as well as elderly people coming from Ukraine can get free material and non-material assistance. More information can be found here.

### **e) Victims of human trafficking**

According to the U.S. Department of State 2022 Report on Moldova, in response to arrival of persons from Ukraine fleeing Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Ministry of Interior trained and instructed Moldovan-Ukrainian border checkpoint officials to screen refugees for trafficking indicators and set up a mobile task force to patrol the border checkpoints and monitor for signs of trafficking among the refugee population. The State Chancellery's anti-trafficking hotline operated 24-hours a day to assist, as necessary, Ukrainian refugees arriving in Moldova.

On arrival, the victim is offered the opportunity to go directly to the Centre for Assistance and Protection specialized in crisis assistance. Referral to the Centre can also come from within Moldova – from the police, from an NGO or, for example, through a social worker identifying a victim in their own community. beneficiaries are offered a wide range of services including medical, psychological, social, legal, educational and recreational services.

## 22. The Netherlands

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

The Dutch immigration service (IND) has released [guidance](#) on entry/stay requirements for UA nationals. UA nationals with biometric passports can travel to the Netherlands and can stay for 90 days visa-free. Visas are required for persons without biometric passports. It is not possible to apply for Schengen visas at the Dutch embassy in Kyiv. See more [FAQs about the situation in Ukraine](#).

Upon arrival to the Netherlands and, on certain conditions, it is possible to [travel for free](#) on NS trains. From 1 June, it is no longer possible to travel free of charge on any other public transportation.

For persons who wish to return to Ukraine or their country of origin, the Repatriation and Departure Service may provide help. See more [here](#). The State Secretary [indicated](#) that all TCNs coming from Ukraine, irrespective of their nationality, can be eligible to the basic departure and reintegration support.

UA nationals [can travel](#) to and from Ukraine with a valid biometric passport and proof of residency in the Netherlands. It should be noted that the sticker provided as a proof of residence in the Netherlands has not yet been included in the [list](#) of residence permits issued by member states.

Persons who do not have Ukrainian nationality can travel within and outside the EU at their own risk. The IND will not give them a return visa or entry visa for returning to the Netherlands. They cannot make an appointment for a return visa at an IND desk. This also applies when TCNs have the proof of residency. In case a TCN travelled back to the country of origin after 23 February 2022, no right to temporary protection applies to this person.

Voluntary repatriation is possible upon [filling in the application](#) for voluntary departure from the Netherlands.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

It is not necessary to report to the IND on arrival. Municipalities are organising special reception facilities for arrivals and there will be IND contacts at all reception locations. More information is available at the following links on reception facilities in [Maastricht](#), [Amsterdam](#), [The Hague](#) and [Groningen](#). Central reception places have been [set up](#) at Utrecht Centraal and Amsterdam Centraal stations.

Persons who arrive in the Netherlands and are unable to stay with friends or family will be housed by the Dutch Government. There are four main transit centres where persons will be supported with finding longer term shelter. The centres are located here:

- [Amsterdam, Central Station, Oostzijde](#) (opened from 8 am to 2 am, seven days a week)
- [Utrecht, Jaarbeurs, Hal 5](#) (open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm)
- [Rijswijk, Broodfabriek, Volmerlaan 12](#) (opened Monday to Friday from 9 am to 7 pm)
- [Rotterdam, Max Euwelaan 1](#) (opened 24 hours a day, seven days a week)

Other emergency shelters have been opened in empty office buildings and sometimes hotels, but there is generally a shortage of locations.

It may be possible to pair with a host family through RefugeeHomeNL.

More information about housing and shelter can be found on [RefugeeHelp by VluchtelingenWerk](#).

Third country nationals who received temporary protection on the basis of temporary residence permit in Ukraine and were registered in the BRP before 19 July 2022 are entitled to shelter until 4 September 2023.

### 3. Protection status

As of 28 February 2022, the IND will not deliver any decisions on asylum applications made by UA nationals; deportations to UA are also suspended. As of December 2022, the duration of both measures was extended from 6 months to 12 months. There are certain exceptions (Dublin cases, where the person has been granted protection in another EU Member State, exclusion ground such as commission of war crimes/threat to public order or national security). For more information, see [here](#).

The Temporary Protection Directive is extended until 4 March 2024. Those who are registered at the IND received letters from the authorities specifying how to extend the validity of the sticker or card. The letters were sent between 27 January and 25 February 2023. The letter serves as a proof of extension and validity of the temporary protection documents.

Non-Ukrainians who fall under the temporary protection regime in the Netherlands should've received the letter in February 2023 specifying the conditions for new card (O-document). The sticker or card is only valid in the Netherlands. More information can be found [here](#).

Non-Ukrainians with a temporary residence permit in Ukraine were initially excluded from the prolongation of temporary protection status and their status was supposed to end on 4 March 2023. However, on February 10, 2023, the government reversed this decision and extended the temporary protection status of persons with temporary residence in Ukraine until 4 September 2023. The IND sent these persons a letter stating that their temporary protection has been extended and stating what they need to do to obtain a new pass (O-document).

Therefore, the extension of temporary protection covers:

- a) UA nationals who left UA after 26 November 2021;
- b) UA nationals who left UA before 27 November 2021 and on that date had been in the Netherlands for a longer period of time on a residence permit or following an application for asylum *and* who can prove that they were in the Netherlands before 27 November 2021 and not in another EU country.
- c) Non-UA nationals provided that they left Ukraine after 26 November 2021 and that on 23 February 2022 they were recognised as refugees by Ukraine; or they left Ukraine after 26 November 2021 and on 23 February 2022 they had a valid permanent Ukrainian residence permit and they did not return to their country of origin after 23 February 2022.
- d) Family members of the above groups: spouses; unmarried partners in long term relationships; children under 18 and unmarried; dependent family member. Family members must prove that they lived together in Ukraine prior to the outbreak of war on 24 February 2022 and that they lived together in Ukraine for at least six months.
- e) Non-UA nationals with a temporary Ukrainian residence permit valid on 23 February 2022, for example to work or study provided that they registered at a Dutch town hall before 19 July 2022 are eligible for temporary protection until 4 September 2023.

UA citizens first need to register in the Personal Records Database (BRP) of their local townhall. Then, they will have to submit an asylum application to the IND, but this will not be examined individually, i.e. the normal asylum procedure does not apply. The registration process depends on the local council. Ukrainians on a short-stay visa or present during the time that a visa is not required, if they and their sponsors meet the conditions for the residence permit, they can apply directly for a residence permit without having first obtained a temporary residence permit (mvv). Beneficiaries will

receive evidence from the IND in the form of a sticker in passports or separate document. An appointment must be made to collect proof of residency. For more information see the [Ministerie Van Justitie en Veiligheid page](#) on temporary protection.

Temporary protection status is conferred for a period of 1 year and it is renewable for a maximum of 3 years. More information on how to receive the status is available [here](#).

From 4 March 2023, in order to prove residence in the Netherlands, the TP-beneficiary will have to present their ID document, sticker, as well as the letter confirming the extension of protection. In case of not receiving the letter by 25 February 2023 it is recommended to contact IND through [the call](#). The example of the letter can be found [here](#).

Until 4 March 2023, the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V) can offer additional support and a financial contribution for return to Ukraine, to the country of origin or a country outside the European Union. Please note: that this additional support is only for people who resided in Ukraine on the basis of a (temporary) residence permit at the time of the Russian invasion and who were registered in the BRP before July 19, 2022 and are covered by the Temporary Protection Directive. Learn more about this support [here](#).

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

UA nationals can travel in the EU and to and from Ukraine with a valid biometric passport and proof of residency in the Netherlands. The length of time one may stay in each country may vary. Proof of residency is not a valid travel document. It is also possible to travel in the EU during the visa-exempt period.

The IND does not provide return visas or entry visas for third country nationals travelling in the EU even with proof of residency.

For more information see the [Ministerie Van Justitie en Veiligheid page](#) on temporary protection.

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

A person who has been granted temporary protection has the right to accommodation provided by the municipality, as established in the [Regulation for the Reception of Displaced Persons](#) from Ukraine. Beneficiaries of temporary protection are housed in facilities created specifically for them or may be placed with a hosting family.

The housing shortage is indicated as a nationwide problem. Social housing is meant for people with an income of up to €40,765 per year when living alone and up to €45,014 per year when living together (with a partner and/or child, for example).

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Since 1 February 2023, the living allowance for food and clothing, as well as the extra allowance for those staying with a host family (housing component) changed. The amount for food (previously €205 per person) now depends on the size of the family. The larger the number of people in the family, the lower the amount per person: (e.g. if the family consists of one or two people the amount will be €215,06 per adult or unaccompanied minor and €178,36 per minor per month).

For persons who live in the municipal reception facility the municipality may choose to provide them with meals. In that case, these persons will not be given money for food. In case of staying in private accommodation such as with a host family it will be possible to receive an additional amount for accommodations of €93 per person per month (previously €215 per adult and €55 per minor).

From the 1st of February 2023, the rules about work and the living allowance changed as well. From that date onwards, when a person of 18 years or older is working, the living allowance for their entire family will be stopped. This will also happen if a person 18 years or older receives benefits from the Dutch government, such as an unemployment or occupational disability benefit. For more information, see [here](#).

Childcare support is available for children between 0 and 4 years old and it is possible to apply for childcare allowance. There is also a possible childcare benefit for parents working or studying. For more information see [RefugeeHelp by VluchtelingenWerk](#).

#### **c) Access to medical care**

Healthcare is [fully reimbursed](#) under a specific Medical Care Regulation for beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine ('Regeling Medische zorg Ontheemden uit Oekraïne', 'RMO'): Most reception facilities also have access to healthcare.

To fall under the RMO scheme the displaced person from Ukraine has to be registered by a municipality as a person who is entitled to temporary protection and receives a citizen's service number (BSN). When a displaced person from Ukraine fulfils these criteria, health care providers will be reimbursed for the costs specifically for this group. The TP-beneficiaries do not have to pay health care insurance fees. The health care covered by the RMO is not limited to emergency care, but general medical care is covered.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

Those employing people fleeing from Ukraine do not need to apply for a work permit but, from 1 April 2022, they must notify the Employee Insurance Agency. However, these rules are only applicable to people with Ukrainian nationality. Employers must report at least two days before the job starts.

#### **e) Access to education**

Children between the ages of 5 and 16 from Ukraine are subject to compulsory education and must attend school. Municipalities are responsible for the education programmes. Children who have just arrived in the Netherlands and who cannot speak Dutch can attend certain schools to learn the Dutch language. This way they can prepare themselves to receive education at a primary school or secondary school.

In addition to regular education, there is also special education, both primary and secondary. This is for children with physical and/or mental disabilities who need specialist support.

See the webpage on education on [RefugeeHelp by VluchtelingenWerk](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

[Nidos](#) is the national guardianship institution for unaccompanied minors and separated children in the Netherlands which provides (legal) assistance to unaccompanied minors from Ukraine in the Netherlands.

According to practices collected by the [European Guardianship Network](#), unaccompanied children who needed acute care and reception could be registered with Nidos, so that Nidos could take care of these children in their small-scale reception facilities and reception families. All other children who were taken care of by family members, host families or who stayed in a shelter offered by a municipality together with caring adults, could stay there for the time being.

For all Ukrainian children who are in the Netherlands without parents, it is necessary to investigate how parental authority is exercised over them. If this investigation shows that the parental authority

cannot be sufficiently exercised, a guardianship measure must be requested at the Court. The Court can provide Nidos with guardianship and the responsibility for guardianship, housing and guidance until the age of 18. For the municipality, this means that Nidos will be responsible for the child from now on (for example: education, living allowance, bank account, health care, etc.), but it will still be possible for the child to stay within the municipal shelter with their caretakers.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

Receiving help for TPBs with disabilities involves applying for social support through the Law Social Support (WMO). TPBs can submit an application for assistance at the WMO-counter of the municipality where they are residing. The process typically begins with reporting the request for help. Afterward, the municipality will schedule an interview and conduct research into the situation. Based on their findings, they will provide a recommendation detailing the help required. If the TPB agrees to the decision, further steps will be planned. Additionally, TPBs can seek support from their general practitioner or reach out to various organisations that provide assistance to individuals with disabilities.

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

The care coordinator in a particular region is the first point of contact for victims of human trafficking. The list of care coordinators can be found here. The care coordinators ensure that the correct procedures are initiated and that their progress is supervised. The care coordinator also ensures that the coordination of the victim's support and assistance runs smoothly, from the moment of registration until the conclusion of the process.

Municipalities play an important role in the fight against human trafficking. They have a responsibility in terms of prevention, identification, enforcement, assistance and also in terms of introducing barriers. The local shelters provide accommodation to trafficking victims. Victims without legal residency status are provided with a three-month reflection period in one of three NGO-managed specialized trafficking shelters, during which time they can choose to press charges against their trafficker. After the reflection period, victims who agreed to assist police could continue to stay in shelters.

National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children monitors the issue and publishes the results of investigations.



## 23. Norway

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Visa-free travel with biometric passports remains possible. It is also possible for displaced persons from Ukraine without biometric passports to enter without documentation if they are requesting protection. A dedicated page with further details for UA nationals has been created by the authorities on the [UDI Go to Norway](#) page. The Directorate for Integration and Diversity has launched a [portal](#) with further information for people displaced from Ukraine.

It may also be possible for persons to enter Norway if they are registered in the Schengen Information System. See the [UDI Go to Norway](#) page.

Persons helping UA refugees to arrive in Norway should report to the National Police Immigration Service. See the [UDI Go to Norway](#) page.

UDI has suspended the obligation to return for Ukrainian citizens in Norway until further notice. Due to the current security situation in the country, UDI cannot assist Ukrainians with support for their return to Ukraine for the time being.

Beneficiaries of protection are able to travel in and out of Norway, including to Ukraine.

As of January 2023, the Norwegian Public Roads Administration has established amendments to the driving licence regulations, extending the period of time Ukrainian driving licences are recognised in Norway from twelve months to the duration of Ukrainian refugees' collective protection in Norway, which is up to three years. In addition, all driving licence categories are now recognised, not only licences for passenger cars, as has been the case so far.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

Persons fleeing the conflict will be accommodated at the National Arrival Centre initially and later offered accommodation in reception facilities. UDI has an [application scheme](#) for Ukrainians who want to live in a temporary alternative to an asylum reception centre or emergency accommodation. More information on asylum reception centres can be found on the [UDI page](#).

See also the [EUAA Information on temporary protection in Norway](#).

### 3. Protection status

The form of protection available to persons displaced by the Ukraine conflict is temporary collective protection.

A temporary collective protection status will be available for UA citizens and others in Norway. It is granted to:

- a) UA citizens who resided in UA before 24 February 2022. This includes UA nationals who were on holiday or visits outside Ukraine for up to 90 days prior 24 February;
- b) persons who had been granted protection in UA before 24 February 2022;
- c) close family members of such persons regardless of nationality. Close family members may be a spouse, cohabitant, or children under the age of 18. The marriage or cohabitation must have been contracted before 24 February 2022 for the person to be considered a spouse or a cohabitant under this provision. It is not a requirement that a spouse, cohabitant or child under the age of 18 (or parents with a child under 18) was part of the same household as the person receiving collective protection before 24 February 2022. The requirement to be part of the same household is considered fulfilled, even if the applicant stayed somewhere else



than in the household before 24 February 2022, unless the applicant can be considered to have moved out of the household.

The status is also provided to UA citizens who had legal residence in Norway before 24 February 2022 or who have been granted the residence permit before that date but entered the country afterwards. The previous basis for being in Norway must have ended or will end in less than two months after the application for collective protection is introduced.

Family members otherwise not covered by temporary collective protection may apply for family immigration through national rules. It is also possible to request family reunification if separated as a result of the conflict. See the [EUAA Information on temporary protection in Norway](#).

Persons who are otherwise not eligible for this protection may apply through the normal international protection procedure.

Applications for temporary collective protection can be made at borders or police stations.

Those who receive the temporary collective protection status will be granted a Schengen uniform residence permit for up to a year and renewable for a maximum of 3 years.

The Government of Norway has decided to continue providing temporary collective protection for refugees from Ukraine. For those already granted a permit in connection with temporary collective protection then the permit will be extended by one year automatically. A new residence permit will be sent by post. The new permit will be valid for one year from the date the previous permit expires. To ensure that the residence permit is delivered, it is important that the address is up to date in the National Population Register and that the person's name is on the postbox. Children's names should also be on the postbox. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **4. Freedom of movement**

Beneficiaries are able to travel in and out of Norway, including to Ukraine. Individuals must carry valid travel documents and reside in Norway for at least 6 months of a year. See the [EUAA Information on temporary protection in Norway](#).

#### **5. Access to rights**

In order to access their rights, TPBs [have to register](#) with the police.

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

There are [two schemes](#) allowing people to live in private housing as alternative accommodation to reception centres: a) standard scheme for alternative accommodation to reception centres; b) scheme for temporary alternative accommodation to reception centres.

The temporary scheme is for people who were forced to leave Ukraine and who meet the criteria for temporary collective protection.

Norwegian authorities (IMDi) can provide TPBs with a residence by assisting them in finding a place to live in a municipality. TPBs cannot choose in which municipality to live. It is possible to only get one offer from a municipality, and it can be anywhere in Norway. It is voluntary to get help from the authorities to settle in a municipality. If TPBs choose not to accept the offer from IMDi, it will have the following consequences for their rights, i.e., they will lose: the right to an emergency accommodation (reception centre); the right to participate in the introduction programme; right to receive the introduction benefit (money); the opportunity for financial support from the municipality; the right to travel expenses when moving to a municipality.

If TPBs choose not to accept the offer of a municipality, they must manage housing and economy themselves. The right to a place in an emergency accommodation or asylum reception centre applies until the agreed date of settlement in the municipality. If TPBs do not move on that date, the police will forcibly move them. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

It is possible to obtain living allowance while in reception facilities.

TPBs between the age of 18 and 55, may participate in an introduction programme. The introduction programme is a training programme intended to prepare them for participation in Norwegian working life and the Norwegian language. The programme will correspond to an average working week. TPBs will receive money while participating in the introduction programme, referred to as “introduction benefits”. More information on the program can be found [here](#).

#### **c) Access to medical care**

Beneficiaries are entitled to healthcare, including psychological support. Persons must be registered as asylum seekers or beneficiaries of protection and use ID to access support. More information can be found on the [Helse Norge healthcare page](#). Persons arriving to Norway must be tested for tuberculosis. Three months after a person arrives in Norway as an asylum seeker or refugee they will be offered a medical examination.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

Beneficiaries of temporary collective protection have the right to work in Norway equal to beneficiaries of international protection. More information on the labour rights can be found [here](#).

#### **e) Access to education**

Every child of compulsory school age in Norway has the right to a compulsory education, regardless of their residential status and circumstances, provided that the children are expected to stay in Norway for three months or more. This right shall be fulfilled as soon as possible and no later than within one month.

Persons who have completed upper secondary education in another country, but do not have their education approved as study qualifications or vocational qualifications in Norway, have the right to receive upper secondary education. More information [here](#).

Information on higher education opportunities can be found [here](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

UDI encourages all unaccompanied minor asylum seekers to register with the police as soon as possible, so the child has access to the rights they are entitled to, such as schooling/education. UDI will offer them a place in a separate reception centre for unaccompanied minors. If you a child is under 15, they will be provided with the right to live in a care centre.

Unaccompanied children have the right to have a representative appointed for them. Representatives are not responsible for the daily care of the child or for providing for the child financially. The asylum reception centre or the care centre have this responsibility.

The representative must ensure that a) the child is heard; b) the child receives appropriate care, living arrangements, education, language support and health care; c) all decisions made are in the child's best interest, and if relevant appeal the decisions on behalf of the child. The representative is given remuneration.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir) is a government agency that works to improve living conditions and the living situation for persons with disabilities.

According to the EU AA Information on temporary protection, children and youths with disabilities who are refugees or asylum seekers have the same right to health and care services as other children in Norway

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

The Norwegian authorities can provide victims of human trafficking with a safe accommodation at a crisis centre or with child welfare services, and they can also offer guidance to and legal assistance if they wish to report the matter to the police.

Victims of human trafficking can apply for a limited residence permit for victims of human trafficking or for protection (asylum) in Norway. If it is necessary to stay in Norway during the police investigation, or during the court case, victims of human trafficking can be granted a limited residence permit for up to one year. This permit can be renewed if necessary for the investigation or the court case.

A period of reflection is a residence permit that is valid for six months. It is not renewable.

ROSA helpline on human trafficking available in Norwegian and English - (+47) 22 33 11 60. They can assist with an interpreter. More information can be found here.

## 24. Portugal

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

UA citizens and family members can travel to Portugal with biometric passports. Those without biometric passports may apply for single travel documents in embassies in countries neighbouring Ukraine. Further information on entry and transport arrangements can be found on the [Justiça.gov reception and integration page](#).

The law does not provide for any restriction with regards to travel to and back from Ukraine.

CP [offers](#) free train tickets within Portugal upon presentation of Ukrainian passport or identity card and the ticket used to enter the country.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

The temporary protection status provides accommodation and subsistence allowances to beneficiaries who do not have financial resources of their own and provides for the issuance of a social security number, a healthcare system number, and employment registration. Those in need of accommodation can request support through email ([sosucrania@acm.gov.pt](mailto:sosucrania@acm.gov.pt)), filling an online form available in Portuguese, English and Ukrainian or by visiting one of the National Migrant Support Centres (CNAIM). More information can be found [here](#).

The Portuguese government has launched an information platform to combine information on reception, protection and integration [in one place](#). Furthermore, it has created an [automated questionnaire](#) that will direct the persons to the competent public entity to answer their questions. Those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine in need of assistance can also contact the Government via email ([sosucrania@acm.gov.pt](mailto:sosucrania@acm.gov.pt)) or telephone (+351 218106191 | 808257257). There is a list of documents with information for those displaced from Ukraine [here](#) and other useful contacts can be found [here](#).

More information in this regard can also be found on the [Justiça.gov reception and integration page](#).

### 3. Freedom of movement

People of Ukrainian citizenship with a biometric passport, as visa-exempt travelers, have the right to move freely within the EU for a period of 90 days.

It should be underlined that registered persons are issued a Certificate of preliminary registration on the temporary protection application platform proving that their application for temporary protection has been recorded. Afterwards, TPBs are issued a certificate of temporary protection which is not included in the List of Residence Permits issued by Member States published by the European Commission, which may lead to issues regarding the recognition of the document across Member States and the crossing of external borders.

### 4. Protection status

An online platform for remote submissions of temporary protection requests is available [here](#). The requests for people under 18 have to be made in person at one of the Immigration and Border Service offices (SEF). There are specific SEF bureaus to [collect biometric data](#) from Ukrainian minors.

In December 2022, the personal scope of temporary protection in Portugal was redefined by [the Resolution of the Council of Ministers](#). The following persons are eligible for temporary protection:

- Ukrainian nationals and beneficiaries of international protection in Ukraine, coming from Ukraine, and that cannot return due to the war;
- Third country nationals and stateless persons that prove being family members of those referred to above;
- Third country nationals and stateless persons that prove being permanent residents in Ukraine, and whose safe and lasting return to the country of nationality is not possible. Third-country nationals who held temporary residence permit or long-term visa to Ukraine are no longer eligible for the temporary protection in Portugal.

The amended Resolution further defines family members as:

- Spouses or unmarried partners in a sustainable relationship, i.e., at least 2 years of living together in conditions analogous to marriage;
- Children under 18 years old (of the Ukrainian national/beneficiary of international protection in Ukraine or of their spouse or partner);
- Other close relatives sharing a household, that are fully or significantly dependent on the Ukrainian national or beneficiary of international protection in Ukraine entitled to temporary protection.

Temporary protection is granted for a period of 1 year and it can be renewed each 6 months for a maximum of 3 years. On 9 March 2023, the Portuguese government [approved a decision](#) to extend by six months (until September 2023) the temporary protection granted to those that have been displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Specialised locations have been provided for citizens fleeing Ukraine to apply for temporary protection in the three CNAIM in Lisbon, Faro and Porto. The requests can also be made at any of the Local Support Centres for the Integration of Migrants. The list of locations is available [here](#).

Temporary protection results in the issuance of a residence permit. Temporary protection also automatically registers persons for all services such as social security, tax, and national health.

More information can be found on the [Justiça.gov reception and integration page](#).

The Migration Department of the country said that until 6 March 2023, a total of 41,933 Ukrainian TPBs have valid permits on the basis of temporary protection.

## **5. Access to rights**

### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

The Government has created a [special regime for the Gateway programme](#), which applies to people who are in an urgent need of accommodation, for those displaced from Ukraine. All beneficiaries of temporary protection can access the benefits of the programme, including a financial contribution to support the costs of accommodation in tourist resorts or renting a house, regardless of the individual's financial situation. The support is provided for an initial period of 18 months, and it can be extended for up to 30 months.

### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

It is possible to obtain social support through the [Social Security Institute Offices](#).

Beneficiaries of temporary protection are treated as beneficiaries with refugee status for the purposes of accessing social benefits under the non-contributory scheme.

#### **c) Access to medical care**

Temporary protection grants access to free healthcare. The National Health Service monitors the health of young people arriving from Ukraine at Dona Estefânia Hospital. The services are available in Ukrainian.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

Persons with temporary protection have access to the labour market in Portugal. The Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP) has opened a new contact number in Ukrainian (+351 215 803 470) to help UA nationals find a job. As well, the process of recognition of professional qualifications has been simplified for UA nationals. Moreover, companies willing to recruit UA nationals are asked to fill out a form. The IEFP will then contact the UA nationals that meet the requirements of a company and will formalise the hiring process. It will also provide these UA nationals with Portuguese language courses. The Ministry of Education and RTP (broadcaster) have launched #EstudoEmCasa to facilitate the integration of UA nationals by providing Portuguese language classes online.

#### **e) Access to education**

Children under temporary protection have access to the public education system under the same conditions as nationals. According to FRA report, set of educational measures created by the Directorate-General for Education stipulates that all child beneficiaries of temporary protection must have access to Portuguese classes. All Ukrainian children who opt to continue online distance learning at Ukrainian schools must attend Portuguese language courses. For those who have already joined the Portuguese education system, such classes are part of the regular school curriculum.

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

The Government formed a special monitoring group for unaccompanied minors, with a multidisciplinary composition, with teams from the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, the Ministry of Justice, the SEF and the High Commission for Migration.

A platform was created to register cases of unaccompanied children and young people, which also allows the survey of availability of temporary shelter, as well as the identification of voluntary transport actions to national territory.

Specific measures regarding unaccompanied children from Ukraine include: necessary legal representation and accommodation with adult family members, in foster families, in specialised reception centres or other appropriate locations, or with the person who took care of them during flight for the duration of the temporary protection.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

There are no separate regulations for persons with disabilities from Ukraine.

According to the United for Ukraine Portal, Portuguese Social Security makes disability pension payments to people who cannot work due to a disability, or who need care and supervision. The disability, either physical or mental, must be of a permanent nature and prevent the person from working.

People with disabilities, permanent and temporary, may be entitled to technical aids including prostheses, wheelchairs, optical aids. There are special arrangements for sufferers from hereditary paramyloidosis, HIV (AIDS), cancer, and multiple sclerosis.

The claim form must be submitted at the Social Security office of the insured person's place of residence. Evidence may be required to substantiate the claim.

A local Social Security office can supply further details.

#### **f) Victims of human trafficking**

Upon encountering a potential victim, law enforcement personnel conducts an initial standardized risk assessment and refers an individual deemed vulnerable or at risk to one of five regional government- funded multidisciplinary NGO teams to receive specialized shelter and assistance. The multidisciplinary NGO teams included psychologists and social workers.

A guide on prevention of trafficking in human beings has been published.

Hotline for reporting situations of Human Trafficking of Immigration and Border Service (SEF) (24 h)

+351 964 244 281; +351 924 190 232.



## 25. Poland

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Entry to Poland appears to be based on visa free travel and through the use of any national identity cards. For third country nationals fleeing the conflict without ordinary rights to enter Poland/Schengen, Polish authorities may issue a temporary permit to stay for 15 days. However, according to Polish NGOs, it is not always issued in case of war evacuees from Ukraine, some of them are refused entry.

If a citizen of Ukraine holds a temporary protection confirmation in the form of [diia.pl e-document](#) and a valid passport, it will be possible to cross the border freely until 24 August 2023. There are reports that the Border Guard is refusing re-entry to UA citizens who were subject to temporary protection and left the territory.

Persons who left Poland for more than 1 month and lost their temporary protection in Poland may re-enter on the basis of visa or visa-free regime. In case there is no visa and 90 days of visa-free regime are over, this person may be given a permit to enter for up to 15 days. Polish NGO's observe, that persons who left Poland for less than one month also have problems with re-entry due to another unfavourable practice of the Border Guard. According to the PRAB initiative [report](#), in the period of March to December 2022, a total of 12,899 Ukrainian nationals were refused entry at the Polish border for diverse reasons. This problem was also [addressed by the Ombudsman](#).

On 28 January 2023, [new amendments](#) to the Act on assistance to citizens of Ukraine connection with armed conflict on the territory of this country (referred to as Special Act) entered into force. According to the novelization, periods for voluntary return of UA citizens should be extended until 24 August 2023.

More detailed information on entry requirements is available [here](#) (in English).

PKP intercity trains will [continue to be free of charge](#) from 1 June 2022 for UA minors, women, men over 60 and men with disabilities aged 18-60.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

Local authorities and volunteers [have set up](#) reception centres close to the borders. A list of reception facilities across Poland is available [here](#). [According to the FRA](#), although the provision of food is adequate, there is a lack of medical staff and psychological support at the reception centres. At the reception points in Chelm, there is a lack of volunteer at night or during working hours or additional Russian and Ukrainian speaking volunteers. Furthermore, there are poor sanitary conditions in larger facilities. There is also an amendment to the ordinance on guarded centres and arrests for foreigners. According to that amendment, a foreigner may be detained for up to 14 days in the premises of the Border Guard. Ukrainian nationals are not placed in detention centres.

### 3. Protection status

On 12 March 2022, Poland brought in the Special Act which legalises the stay for 18 months of UA citizens who crossed the border from Ukraine after 24 February.

Protection of TCN's is granted on the basis of Law on foreigners. According to this law, temporary protection can be granted to:

- stateless persons or nationals of third countries who had international protection or other protection before 24 February 2022;

- other family members of this group (and UA citizens) if the family resided in Ukraine before 24 February 2022;
- permanent stay holders in UA.

The confirmation of temporary protection in Poland is issued in two forms: for persons covered by the Special Act - in the form of electronic document diia.pl in the mobywatel mobile application; for TCN's – in the form of certificate of temporary protection issued by the Head of the Office for Foreigners.

The amendment harmonises the deadline for extending the validity of the grounds for legal residence and residence permits of citizens of Ukraine, which in all cases ends on 24 August 2023.

If people benefitting from the Special Law depart from Poland for more than 1 month, their protection under the law will be withdrawn. From January 2023, the temporary protection beneficiaries in other EU Member states are no longer eligible for temporary protection in Poland.

Due to the amendments adopted in January 2023, now there are only 30 days to register the stay and apply for the PESEL number of a Ukrainian citizen.

According to the January 2023 amendments, for citizens of Ukraine covered by the Special Act, the possibility of applying for a temporary residence and work permit, a temporary residence for the purpose of conducting business activity, and temporary residence in order to perform work in a highly qualified profession has been introduced. However, it is not possible to apply for a temporary residence permit in other cases. These applications will be possible from 1 April 2023.

More information on temporary protection can be found on the [Office for Foreigners](#) and the [legal portal for people fleeing Ukraine](#).

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

Since July 2022, an electronic document 'Diia.pl' has been issued, but not for children who still do not have access to any residence permit. 'Diia.pl' was included on the European Commission list of the residence permits, however, it entitles to travelling only with a valid passport. More information can be found [here](#).

Although the TPD provides for free movement of applicants to choose the Member State in which they wish to avail themselves of protection, there have been some initial reports of applicants in Germany being rejected on the basis of registration certificates issued in Poland.

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

According to the amendments from 28 January 2023, social assistance including accommodation and all-day meals, available to Ukrainian citizens covered by the Special Act, is granted for no longer than 120 days from the date of entry to Poland. From 1 March 2023, after 120 days, assistance can be provided in case of payment in advance by a citizen of Ukraine (having a PESEL number) 50 % of the cost of this assistance, no more than 40 PLN per person per day. From May 2023, after 180 days from the date of the first entry - 75 % of the costs of this assistance are covered, no more than 60 PLN per person per day.

These changes will not apply to: persons with disabilities and persons taking care of them, persons over 60 (women) or 65 (men) years of age, pregnant women, people raising a child up to 12 months of age, people who care for more than two children alone, minors and temporary guardians of minors

who came to Poland without a de facto guardian or who were placed in Ukrainian foster care, as well as other persons who are in harsh economic situation and are unable to contribute.

#### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Ukrainian nationals are entitled to one-time financial assistance of PLN 300 to cover urgent expenses. In addition, UA nationals arriving in Poland with children are entitled to the “500+ child benefit programme”. Information on financial allowances available for Ukrainian citizens can be found here.

#### **c) Access to medical care**

The PESEL number is used to verify whether a foreigner can access medical benefits. However, in the case of persons covered by the Act, having a PESEL number is not a prerequisite for having access to free health care services.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

Employers must notify the District Labour Office of UA employee status and work must be performed at a volume and wage not lower than indicated in the notification. In January 2023, the amendments clarified that in the case of granting a temporary residence and work permit to a Ukrainian citizen, the employer will have to notify the employment office within 14 days until the day of taking up work by a citizen of Ukraine or the date of delivery the decision to grant that authorization. A website has been created by the government to help people fleeing Ukraine find employment. See the legal portal for people fleeing Ukraine.

#### **e) Access to education**

Concerning the education of children fleeing from Ukraine, pursuant to the Act of 12 March, measures can be implemented to hire UA nationals who can speak Polish to provide support to Ukrainian students. Moreover, there is a possibility to transfer funds from the state budget to the local governments or to create other educational centres.

It is also possible to receive free Polish language tuition for children in compulsory education. See the legal portal for people fleeing Ukraine.

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

A special registry of unaccompanied minors was established in response to the increased arrival of unaccompanied minors from Ukraine.

In order to protect unaccompanied minors a special, new solution was introduced: a temporary guardian. Temporary guardians are appointed by courts. Proceedings on temporary guardianship are initiated ex officio or on motion and should last up to 3 days. A court hears a candidate for a guardian, and a child concerned, if his/her mental development, state of health and degree of maturity allows for it. A court should take into account the minor's opinion where possible. One person can be a temporary guardian for more than one unaccompanied minor.

A minor special temporary protection beneficiary can be taken care of by a foster family or be accommodated in a family children's home created or run by another special temporary protection beneficiary even though the latter does not fulfil all legal requirements in this regard (i.e. is lacking a proper training).

Special rules have been also established to enable Ukrainian nationals enjoying special temporary protection working in the Polish foster care system.

For more information refer to a brochure regarding unaccompanied children in Poland.

## **b) Persons with disabilities**

Poland does not automatically recognise certificates of disabilities issued by Ukraine. There are no internal regulations, adopted on an ad hoc basis, which, could allow mutual recognition of the disability documents.

However, a Ukrainian person with disability who: entered Poland legally in the period from February 24, 2022 in connection with the hostilities in Ukraine, and declares his intention to remain in Poland is entitled to medical care provided on the territory of Poland to the same extent as Polish citizens, with few exceptions. More information can be found [here](#).

These persons can also take part in the special programs launched for persons with disabilities from Ukraine.

PFRON launched a program "[Assistance to Ukrainian citizens with disabilities](#)". The program is addressed to the above-mentioned Ukrainian citizens who have:

- in the case of adults: a document confirming the 1st or 2nd degree of disability, issued under the Ukrainian system of disability adjudication,
- in the case of minors: a document confirming the I or II degree of disability, issued under the Ukrainian system of disability adjudication
- and in the absence of these documents: a statement or declaration by the guardian that he or she has one.

In addition, the local governor and other state authorities may provide assistance to Ukrainian citizens in financing specialized transportation intended for persons with disabilities in particular to places or between places of: accommodation, provision of medical care, and to centers for foreigners.

A full list of social benefits for foreigners with disabilities, including for persons from Ukraine along with the explanation on how to use them can be found [here](#).

## **c) Victims of human trafficking**

[The program](#) to support and protect the victim/witness of human trafficking is a public task carried out by order of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration. Participants of the program are provided with: accommodation in a secure facility under the care of a trained social worker, food, basic medical care, psychological support, legal consultation, assistance in dealing with law enforcement and the judiciary (e.g., the presence of an NGO worker during the victim's testimony), assistance of an interpreter, organisation of safe return to the country of origin, legalization of residence, (concerning foreigners staying in Poland irregularly).

The National Intervention and Consultation Center for Victims of Human Trafficking [provides response](#) to the needs of people who are or may be victims of human trafficking: tel. +48 22 628 01 20 (24/7)

## 26. Romania

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Visa-free entry with a biometric passport remains possible. If the person applies for asylum in Romania, they can also enter the country on the basis of another type of identity document (national identity document, birth certificate etc.) or on the basis of declaration of identity, without an identity document, for humanitarian reasons.

TCNs that resided in Ukraine and have a passport can cross into Romania through the common border points and obtain a visa upon arrival. They do not need to go to a consulate office first. TCN are only being accepted from Ukraine for transit purposes only. They must have a valid travel document and upon arrival at the border point they will get a Romanian transit visa for up to 90 days. If a TCN arrives via Moldova, they need to obtain a visa from one of the consulates of Romania in Moldova and will be provided a visa in a matter of hours (depending on the number of applications being processed).

TPBs can ask to be returned to their country of origin and receive support from the Romanian authorities during the procedure. As long as the temporary protection didn't expire, together with the continuity of the circumstances in the country of origin, TPBs may request the re-admittance into Romanian territory. In case of the acceptance of the claim, a person will benefit from the temporary protection status until the expiration of the period of time for which it has been granted.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

Information provision and legal counselling are available at the main border crossing points from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova (Halmeu, Sighetu Marmatiei, Siret, Stanca, and Isaccea). Information provision is also provided in reception centres, as well as through two hotlines (+40 730 073 170 / +40 721 206 926) and an online platform.

Free temporary accommodation can be provided in humanitarian assistance camps or in other accommodation locations established by the county / Bucharest committees for emergencies. Within these locations, TPBs can be provided the following basic utilities during temporary stay: a) food b) clothing; c) personal hygiene materials; d) primary health care and appropriate treatment, emergency medical care, as well as free medical care and treatment in cases of acute or chronic life-threatening diseases, through the national health care system; e) the right to be included in the national public health programs aimed at the prevention, surveillance and control of communicable diseases, in situations of epidemiological risk.

### 3. Protection status

Romania adopted decision No.367 on 18 March incorporating the TPD into national law. Temporary protection applies to:

- UA nationals living in Ukraine on 24 February 2022;
- TCNs and stateless people who received international protection or a similar national protection;
- Persons holding Ukraine-issued permanent residence permits who cannot return to their country of origin.

The family members of the first two groups can also benefit from temporary protection regardless of whether they can return under safe and stable conditions to their country or region of origin. Family

members include wives and husbands but exclude unmarried couples. Moreover, Romania extends temporary protection to. Temporary protection is granted for a period of 1 year and it is automatically extended for two periods of 6 months if the situation continues. Temporary protection in Romania was extended until 03 April 2024, the documents issued to the TPBs will be automatically prolonged.

In cases where members of the separated family enjoy temporary protection in different Member States, the family members will be reunited, taking into account their wishes. When one or more of the family members of the beneficiary of temporary protection are not yet in Romania, the family will be reunited if they need protection.

In order to enjoy temporary protection, it is necessary to contact the General Inspectorate for Immigration. A list can be found [here](#). The residence permit is issued on the same day that the person applies for it.

Asylum procedures are still accessible in Romania, with applicants accommodated in the six main regional centres in Timis, Maramures, Galati, Suceava, Giurgiu and Bucharest.

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

TPBs that have a biometric passport do not need a visa to travel to the EU.

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

According to the [FRA report](#), Romania combines public reception facilities and private accommodation. The Ministry of the Interior coordinates 15 transit centres, offering more than 3,800 beds where people can stay for up to 72 hours, and authorities and civil society organisations secured 700 other locations, providing over 31,000 beds in temporary camps, gyms, social centres, student halls, hotels and private houses. People tend to stay in state-run facilities for more than three months, which NGOs have criticised owing to reported instances of overcrowding and limited privacy.

In Romania, when granted temporary protection, most beneficiaries stay in individual apartments, according to NGOs. Private accommodation in Romania can be found [here](#).

Those hosting someone displaced from Ukraine must [declare](#) that they do so within the first 3 days of hosting the person. The declaration can be made [here](#). Pursuant to an [emergency ordinance](#), individuals and legal entities who host people displaced from Ukraine receive a reimbursement of EUR 14 per day for each person for the cost of food and EUR 10 per day for each person to cover the costs of accommodation.

The Emergency Situations Department checks the quality and legitimacy of private housing offered to displaced individuals before potentially reimbursing the costs. However, reports from JRS Romania and the media [suggest](#) some hosts take advantage of tax-free compensation by cramming in as many people as possible, withholding food allowances, and imposing certain living conditions.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

According to [50/20 program](#), individuals who hosted persons from Ukraine are eligible for compensation. The Department for Emergency Situations in Romania has acknowledged that the reimbursement system for displaced individuals needs improvement. According to JRS Romania and the Romanian Red Cross, the system lacks transparency, and some individuals paying rent were evicted or did not receive meals or food allowances. Additionally, the media [has reported](#) that delays or a lack of reimbursement have resulted in evictions from collective accommodation centers in Bucharest.



It was announced that support scheme in Romania will be changed to support integration of persons from Ukraine. Ukrainians who will find employment and will enrol children in schools can receive 400 euros per family by the end of 2023.

According to FRA report, some beneficiaries of temporary protection could not access social benefits because requirements were difficult to meet, such as the need for both parents to be in Romania to receive child allowances, according to the Ministry of Labour.

#### **c) Access to medical care**

As per the order of the President of the National House for Social Insurance, people displaced from Ukraine can benefit from medical services, medicines, sanitary materials, medical devices and services upon presentation of a valid border crossing document.

Medicover hospital provides a telephone number to offer support for Ukrainian women (+4021 796 7391). A hotline for psychological support has also been established (+40 745139747). According to a Government instruction, elderly people displaced from Ukraine with reduced mobility or in a situation of dependence will be recognised as “beneficiaries admitted as a matter of urgency” which entitles them to free social assistance.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

TPBs have access to the labour market under the same conditions as Romanian citizens.

Pursuant to a ministerial order, UA nationals can declare their professional experience and qualifications before the Romanian counselling services when they do not have documentary evidence. TPBs can give a statement that they have had training or experience in the field (one of the requirements is not to have active criminal acts). This declaration is valid for 12 months, but can be extended for 6 months or 1 year. This condition does not apply to certain profession in the field of: medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, architecture. Also, the Ukrainian citizens who arrived in Romania due to the armed conflict can benefit from measures to stimulate employment, as well as protection within the unemployment insurance system, under the conditions provided by law for Romanian citizens, provided they register with the agencies for the employment of the county (National Agency for Employment).

Temporary protection furthermore provides a national protection program under the “Direct Employment Scheme” for UA citizens to directly seek employment and receive a nine-month status which is renewable.

#### **e) Access to education**

An order of the Minister of Education established that Romanian higher education institutions will assess the competences of people displaced from Ukraine who cannot prove their previous studies and will decide on the granting of transferable study credits. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education issued an order regarding the obligations and procedure to enrol children displaced from Ukraine in school. Regarding higher education, the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education has recommended Romanian universities to increase their capacity by 20%.

According to FRA report, less than 10% of Ukrainian children in Romania were enrolled in schools or pre-schools by the end of the academic year, and most attended as 'observers' until their educational level was identified. None of the 55 schools in Romania that teach some subjects in Ukrainian are located in the five cities with the largest displaced communities.

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**



Pursuant to a ministerial order, a procedure was set up for the cooperation of public authorities to protect the rights of unaccompanied children during their arrival, registration and stay. For instance, regardless of whether the minors arrive with a carer, the border police have to refer them to child protection services. The Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education have established a task force on unaccompanied minors.

Upon arrival in Romania, unaccompanied children are assessed by a mobile team from the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection to determine the best course of action in accordance with Romanian law. They may be placed with a social care worker, foster care family (preferably Ukrainian or Russian speakers), or in emergency accommodation. If the child remains in Romania with an adult relative or caregiver, the Romanian Border Police request completion of a form containing contact and identity details for the adult and child. If the child has nowhere to live, the Border Police notify the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoptions through the DGASPC representative.

Ukrainian children are considered equal to Romanian children in terms of legal protection. However, unaccompanied children are treated as vulnerable and therefore their requests are considered with priority even if they have no legal representative. More information on unaccompanied children from Ukraine in Romania can be found here.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

There is no sufficient information on the treatment of persons with disabilities from Ukraine. It is indicated that people in special situations who come from Ukraine benefit from the rights granted by the social health insurance system, without paying the social health insurance contribution, the personal contribution for the medicines given in outpatient treatment and with exemption from the co-payment.

The National Council of Disability in Romania is carrying out the project "Crisis in Ukraine: Inclusive solutions and recovery for people with disabilities, part II", with financial assistance from the NGO Christian Blind Mission (CBM) and the European Disability Forum (EDF) (European Disability Forum).

Ceva de spus works with people with disabilities. Children with disabilities in Romania can be supported by UNICEF.

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

eLiberare, an NGO in Romania, has implemented the Kompass intervention model to combat exploitation and human trafficking among refugees fleeing Ukraine. The model involves establishing an "individual safety plan" for each refugee based on their vulnerabilities and following their journeys across borders to their chosen destinations. Over 500 people and their families have benefited from this model, reducing their vulnerability to trafficking.

Over 53,000 anti-trafficking awareness leaflets were disseminated by the International Organisation for Migration, ROConnect – ProTECT Platform and the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons, including at border crossing points.

Romanian National Anti-trafficking Helpline: 0 800 800 678 / +4021.313.31.00. There is also the free national anti-trafficking hotline and counselling for migrants 527 (calls from Ukraine)

More information can be found here.

## 27. Serbia

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

UA citizens with a passport can enter the territory through any border crossings and are eligible to stay for 90 days without a visa. According to the Asylum Protection Center, the border police will make exceptions for UA nationals to enter the country without identification documents. These persons will be issued a decision at the border which will indicate their address, reason and length of their stay.

Persons with temporary protection status in Serbia may return to Ukraine but their temporary protection will be annulled. It is also possible to travel to other countries. To avoid losing temporary protection status in Serbia, it is advised to inform the Serbia authorities of travel intentions and duration. For more information [UNHCR help page](#).

### 2. Immediate reception situation

The [Commissariat for refugees and migration](#) has now opened a telephone line (064/828 3171) and an email address ([kirsteam.ukraine@kirs.gov.rs](mailto:kirsteam.ukraine@kirs.gov.rs)) to provide information to Ukrainian nationals.

In the Commissariat's accommodation facilities, TPBs can be provided with food, healthcare, clothes, shoes, articles of personal hygiene, occupational and educational activities, the inclusion of children in the regular educational system, internet access, psychological and mental distress support, as well as all necessary legal rights and services.

The Asylum Protection Center has issued [leaflets](#) in English, Serbian and Ukrainian with information on registration, the rights of persons who have been conferred temporary protection and on the conditions of entry for people displaced from Ukraine.

### 3. Protection status

On 18 March 2022, Serbia adopted a [decision](#) implementing the TPD. The decision provides an extensive scope of protection that includes

- a) UA citizens and their families who have resided in Ukraine;
- b) asylum seekers, stateless persons and foreign citizens who have been granted asylum or equivalent national protection in Ukraine and members of their families who have been granted residence in Ukraine;
- c) foreign nationals who have been granted valid permanent residence or temporary residence in Ukraine and who cannot return to their country of origin under permanent and long-term circumstances;
- d) UA citizens and their families who legally resided in the Republic of Serbia at the time of the national decision but whose right to residence expired before the decision on temporary protection is revoked.

To obtain for temporary protection, persons can apply at local police stations in area of residence. Alternatively, a local police officer can register the intention to obtain temporary protection.

Temporary protection lasts for one year and [was extended](#) for an additional year until 18 March 2024.

For persons who otherwise do not qualify for temporary protection, it is possible to apply for asylum as a form of long-term protection.

For more information [UNHCR help page](#).

According to the [data of the Asylum Office](#), a total of 1,231 persons from Ukraine have received a decision on temporary protection so far.

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

It is possible to travel to other countries. To avoid losing temporary protection status in Serbia, it is advised to inform the Serbia authorities of travel intentions and duration.

#### **5. Access to rights**

Temporary protection status guarantees the following rights in Serbia: to reside for a period of one year and to have personal documents confirming status; to healthcare; access to the labour market; access to primary and secondary education; free legal aid; to stay in collective accommodation in reception facilities; and the right to submit asylum applications.

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

There are designated centers exclusive for Ukrainian nationals ran by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia. The homeowner is obliged to report within 24 hours about the stay of a protection seeker at the nearest police station. After a TPB needs to contact the Commissioner for Refugees and Migration in the district where they live to register the needs for assistance with food, hygiene, and clothing. Special needs of a person are recorded and a person is referred to other services (social or health care, education, employment, etc.).

If a person does not have accommodation, or can no longer continue the stay in temporary accommodation, the Commissioner for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia can provide with accommodation at the Asylum Centre in Vranje. The centre is a former hotel that has been adapted to the needs of people in need of protection. In addition to accommodation, the institution also provides meals (three meals a day), access to legal aid, a children's corner, assistance with school enrolment and transportation to school.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

There is no sufficient information available regarding social welfare and means of subsistence in Serbia.

##### **c) Access to medical care**

The Republic of Serbia has not concluded a Social Security Agreement in the field of health insurance, on the basis of which persons who have compulsory health insurance in Ukraine could exercise the right to health care in the Republic of Serbia.

Foreigners - displaced persons who arrived from Ukraine, to whom the Ministry of Internal Affairs has made a decision to grant temporary protection and the Asylum Office has issued an identity card, personally bear the costs of emergency medical care, as well as other types of medical services provided to foreigners at their request.

Medical services that are not urgent, according to medical indications (not provided at personal request) are paid for from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, provided that e.g.: foreigners granted asylum in the Republic of Serbia, if they are financially vulnerable; foreigners suffering from infectious diseases; foreigners who are victims of human trafficking. More information on access to medical care is provided [here](#).

##### **d) Access to the labour market**

In order to access the labour market TPBs need to apply for a work permit. One of the main conditions for obtaining a work permit is to either have a temporary residence permit or to have an identity card issued under the temporary protection regime. Information with instructions regarding the application for the work permit can be found [here](#). Instructions on how to register business in Serbia can be found [here](#).

#### **e) Access to education**

In Serbia, every child has the right to education. This means that every child, regardless of their country of origin, can enrol in a school in Serbia and have access to formal education, just like every Serbian citizen. Compulsory education consists of one year of preparatory pre-school and eight years of primary education. More information on educational system in Serbia can be found [here](#).

For more information [UNHCR help page](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

Special support for persons with specific needs is available. This includes children, unaccompanied and separated children; persons with disabilities; pregnant women; persons with serious medical conditions; and victims of torture, rape or other forms of serious psychological, physical and sexual violence.

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

On the governmental [website](#) it is indicated that in case an unaccompanied minor appears, the competent centre for social work should be notified thereof immediately.

Information on UNICEF guidelines with regards to unaccompanied minors can be found [here](#).

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

Information on the rights of persons with disabilities in Serbia can be found [here](#).

[National organisation of persons with disabilities](#) of Serbia is representing the rights of persons with disabilities.

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

The authorities created a team to assist those affected by criminal proceedings, established four specialized groups to tackle different aspects of preventing trafficking, and assigned the Ombudsman the role of being the National Rapporteur in matters related to trafficking.

According to the US Department of State 2022 [Report on Serbia](#), although the government maintained Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for identifying, referring and supporting trafficking victims, including updating indicators for identifying victims among schoolchildren, their implementation was not mandatory and lacked clear roles and proactive efforts.

Providing safe shelter to victims of human trafficking remains problematic as licensed service providers were difficult to find due to a lack of official standards and criteria.

Victims of human trafficking in Serbia can contact Police on +381 192 or Center for Protection of Victims of Trafficking [centar@centarzztlj.rs](mailto:centar@centarzztlj.rs) +38163610590.

## 28. Slovakia

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Entry is allowed to all persons fleeing the war in UA. Entry is also possible without valid travel documents by applying for temporary protection or asylum. It is advised that UA nationals without a valid passport apply for it at the embassy of Ukraine in Slovakia. Following entry into Slovakia, persons seeking protection should report their stay within 3 business days to the competent Foreigners' Police Department. More information can be found [IOM Information page for Slovakia](#).

Slovakia allows TCNs from Ukraine to enter the territory based on a humanitarian exception. More information on entry and stay issues, including border crossing points is available [here](#).

The Slovak railway company has introduced free travel in InterCity trains for the citizens of Ukraine carrying a valid passport. Free suburban bus travel has also been introduced in some regions, including Bratislava and Trnava. From 1 January 2023, free travel by public transport in Bratislava will be no longer available to Ukrainian refugees. Displaced persons will have the possibility to use free transport only on the day of the receipt of temporary protection and during the next 4 days. Free travel remains available to persons who have special SLOVAK HELP document with a red stamp.

Leaving Slovakia does not result in the loss or termination of temporary protection status. This includes travel and return to Ukraine. See the [IOM Information page for Slovakia](#).

### 2. Immediate reception situation

It is advised that, after crossing into Slovakia, people visit a large-capacity centre where they will be provided with emergency accommodation. It may also be possible to apply for protection in these capacity centres.

The Slovak government adopted Lex Ukraine on 22 March 2022 which provides for the reception and accommodation of people displaced from Ukraine in humanitarian and reception centres or other available accommodation services.

The Slovak government created a website where UA nationals can find information on accommodation.

The Ministry of the Interior has set up specific lines to provide information in Ukrainian (+421 513 816 111 and +421 259 765 111). Moreover, a telephone number has been created to provide information on health issues for people displaced from Ukraine (+421 221 025 075).

### 3. Protection status

Slovakia is offering temporary refugee (protection) for the following groups:

- a) UA citizens;
- b) persons who had international protection or the equivalent in Ukraine;
- c) family members of UA citizens and persons granted protection (if they resided in Ukraine before 24 February 2022);
- d) and third country nationals who have permanent residency in Ukraine and cannot return to their country of origin.

Temporary protection is granted for a period of 1 year and is renewable, Slovak government extended the temporary protection until 4 March 2024. Slovak residence permits that are valid until

March 4, 2023, will continue to be able to use the same until March 4, 2024, without the obligation to take further administrative steps. Refugees who want to update their residence permits it is possible through the electronic service of the Ministry of Interior. If a person provides the necessary identity documents, temporary protection will be provided automatically after registration. If the individual does not have any documents, the decision will be issued in a period of approximately 30 days.

Asylum applications are possible but people are encouraged to take the temporary protection route where possible as it will be quicker. Persons otherwise not eligible for temporary protection may also be granted subsidiary protection to protect against harm in their country of origin or asylum on humanitarian grounds. More information on protection status and how to apply can be found on the IOM Information page for Slovakia.

The Ministry of the Interior has created a free electronic service available in Ukrainian, Slovak and English to verify the authenticity of a temporary protection document. Moreover, it is now possible to print the document in the format issued by the Aliens Police. More information can be found here.

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

Leaving Slovakia does not result in the loss or termination of temporary protection status. This includes travel and return to Ukraine. Persons travelling should have the necessary valid identify and travel documents. See the IOM Information page for Slovakia.

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

Persons from Ukraine can apply for temporary and long-term accommodation here.

The Ministry of Interior provides financial aid, through the municipalities, individuals, legal entities, cities and municipalities hosting individuals displaced from Ukraine. As per the Lex Ukraine, and in order to prevent discriminatory treatment, private landlords must sign a declaration that Slovak nationals did not apply for the accommodation before it was rented to displaced persons from Ukraine. In order to obtain the financial allowance, a contract for the free provision of accommodation must be concluded, a statement has to be submitted to the municipality with the number of nights that the person received accommodation and the accommodated person has to notify the municipality once a month that they are still receiving free accommodation. Only accommodation providers in Slovakia are entitled to a contribution for the accommodation. More information can be found here.

IOM has partnered with Airbnb.org to provide free accommodation to families for up to 30 days. However, the provision of this short-term accommodation for people fleeing the war in Ukraine was discontinued on 28.02.2023.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Material need assistance includes a material need benefit and a dependent child allowance if the child is of compulsory school age. An application for an assessment of entitlement to material need assistance can be submitted at the large-capacity centres in Bratislava, Nitra, Žilina, Humenne and Michalovce or at all Labour, Social Affairs and Family Offices.

Citizens of Ukraine are entitled to material need benefits in the same amount and under the same conditions as citizens of the Slovak Republic. More information can be found here.



From 1 January 2023, the Law on the payment of the benefits was amended changing the allowances available for refugees from Ukraine. More information on the social assistance can be found [here](#).

### **c) Access to medical care**

Persons with pending protection status applications will be entitled to urgent health care. Persons granted temporary protection status are entitled to full healthcare. Two outpatient clinics run by Ukrainian medical staff opened in Bratislava to provide services to displaced persons.

According to [FRA report](#), in Slovakia, accessing psychiatric care is a great challenge for beneficiaries of temporary protection, Tenenet reported. Patients are not always accepted because of capacity issues or a lack of information on the rights of beneficiaries of temporary protection. Mental health care for women who have experienced sexual violence is practically unavailable owing to a lack of specialists.

### **d) Access to the labour market**

The government of Slovakia has also facilitated the recognition of foreign qualifications, particularly regarding the education and health sectors.

Inability to place a child in nursery is a significant barrier to integration into the labour market for parents, [according to NGOs](#).

### **e) Access to education**

The Ministry of Education [has explained](#) that compulsory schooling does not apply to children who are beneficiaries of temporary protection since they do not have a permanent residence status in Slovakia. As a result, they can be enrolled in schools but they are not officially admitted and schools. For children to be enrolled in education: they must request temporary protection and present evidence of this request or status to the schools they wish to join.

For more information on access to rights through temporary protection status see [here](#).

## **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

### **a) Unaccompanied children**

Identification of the child and the person accompanying the child, as well as their relationship takes place directly at the border by verifying of documents, interview with the child and the accompanying person. In the case of the expressed will of the parent and the child, such a person may continue to travel with the child.

Unaccompanied children are placed in the Centre for Children and Families and subsequent care, where they receive housing, meals, healthcare and compulsory schooling or vocational training, according to the representative of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. Children are not placed in a centre if they are in the care of relatives or people close to them or against the will of the legal representative.

The court appoints a guardian for the child, the relevant office of labour, social affairs and family, who represents the child in the acts, especially the legalization of the child's residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic through tolerated residence. More information in procedures regarding unaccompanied children in Slovakia can be found [here](#).

### **b) Persons with disabilities**

According to [the regulation](#) adopted by the Slovak government on 2 December 2022, a person with special protection can be provided with a repeated subsidy to support humanitarian aid in connection with his serious disability.



Individuals with severe disabilities who are expatriates from Ukraine may apply for financial assistance by submitting a written application to the Office of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family in their place of residence. The employees of the office will assess the degree of disability to determine eligibility for an allowance of either EUR 300 or EUR 508 per month, depending on the severity of the disability, with those who received the allowance last year from the IOM or UNICEF assessed in the same manner. More information can be found [here](#).

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

The Ministry of Interior [has issued a factsheet](#) in Slovak and in Ukrainian to raise awareness on the risks of trafficking of people displaced from Ukraine. Moreover, at the [border crossing point of Vyšné Nemecké](#) only certain NGOs are admitted and only companies that have been approved by the State are allowed to provide transportation from the border to another location. As well, the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities [provides assistance](#) to Roma communities displaced from Ukraine and informs them of the risk of trafficking and discrimination. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights [has issued leaflets](#) in English, Ukrainian, Slovak and Russian with general information on discrimination for persons fleeing from Ukraine.

## 29. Slovenia

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Visa-free entry with a biometric passport is possible for UA nationals. The validity of the travel document must be at least three months longer than the intended residence in the Republic of Slovenia. If citizens of Ukraine hold an ordinary (non-biometric) passport, they can legally enter Slovenia with a valid passport with a visa or with a valid passport and a residence permit.

Persons without valid passports may apply for asylum at the border.

If a person legally enters the country and settles with the relatives, this person must register the residence within three days of crossing the border. The police will make the entry in the relevant records. The police will also provide foreigners with any additional information. If a citizen of Ukraine enters the Republic of Slovenia without proper documents, he will commit an offense under the Aliens Act. However, in such cases, given the war situation, the police might issue a warning and will not fine a person.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

The first reception of persons is carried out at the accommodation center in Logatec. Afterwards, they are placed in the available accommodation capacities. People are placed in the centre in Debeli Rtič. According to the Government, there are plans to use the facilities in Jelšane, Gornja Radgona and Velenje in the future. Once these facilities are full, the Government plans to conclude agreements with state-owned facilities such as student dormitories. More information can be found [here](#).

A call centre has been created by the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants to provide assistance to people fleeing from Ukraine (call 080 41 42 from Slovenia and +386 1478 7530 from abroad). Information is also available by email ([info.ukrajina@gov.si](mailto:info.ukrajina@gov.si)).

### 3. Protection status

Temporary protection will be available for:

- a) citizens of Ukraine;
- b) stateless persons and third-country nationals who are not citizens of Ukraine and who were granted international protection or other equivalent national protection in Ukraine, provided that they left UA after 24 February 2022;
- c) Family members of the above groups;
- d) Stateless persons and third-country nationals who are not citizens of Ukraine and who resided in Ukraine on the basis of a valid permanent residence permit and who are unable to return to their country or region of origin in a safe and sustainable or lasting manner.

Temporary protection status is conferred for a period of 1 year and it can be renewed twice each 6 months. Slovenia has extended temporary protection to be valid until 4 March 2024.

In order to apply for temporary protection, a person must fill out an application for temporary protection and submit it to the police. If a person enters the Slovenia without the necessary documentation, the application for temporary protection must be lodged no later than three days after entering the country. Those residing in Slovenia must apply for temporary protection during the

period of their legal residence. A person who is granted temporary protection will receive a card which is also valid as a temporary residence permit.

Those who have already applied for international protection and wish to apply for temporary protection are advised to fill in this [form](#) and send it by email to this address ([spmz.mnz@gov.si](mailto:spmz.mnz@gov.si)) or arrange a withdrawal with the police. Information on the procedure and the rights involved can be accessed on the Republic of Slovenia Support for Ukrainians page [here](#).

After termination of temporary protection, persons who are unable to return to the country or region of origin due to health reasons, unaccompanied minors studying in the Republic of Slovenia and families whose children are minors and studying in the Republic of Slovenia, may be granted the extension to their right to residency in the Republic of Slovenia.

A [dedicated webpage](#) has been created to address the situation of UA nationals in Slovenia and gives details about the temporary protection implementation and application. From the information available, the protection is also applicable to third-country nationals and stateless people who resided in Ukraine on the basis of a valid permanent residence permit and are unable to return to their country of origin.

#### **4. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

TPBs from Ukraine have been finding places to stay with friends, relatives, or in the housing market. To receive temporary protection, they must register their residence at a police station or administrative unit. If they are staying in private accommodations and have no means of support, they may be eligible for financial assistance to cover accommodation costs.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Beneficiaries of temporary protection staying in an accommodation centre and with no earnings can be allocated pocket money by the Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants. Beneficiaries of temporary protection living at private addresses can apply for financial aid if they do not have savings, have no one that can provide support in Slovenia and have not applied for full asylum. They have to fill out this [form](#) and send it to Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov. They can also apply for financial aid to pay rent by filling out this form and submitting it in person or via email ([gp.uoim@gov.si](mailto:gp.uoim@gov.si)). Those eligible for allowance and financial support are exempt from paying kindergarten fees. Information on assistance to UA nationals fleeing the country will be provided by Slovenian authorities through a dedicated phone number; information in English and Ukrainian [here](#).

Parents may also be entitled to claim child benefit support and reduced kindergarten fees. See the Republic of Slovenia Support for Ukrainians page [here](#).

##### **c) Access to medical care**

Beneficiaries of protection are entitled to access emergency medical care and treatment; specialist treatment; women's healthcare including contraception and services relating to pregnancy and child birth. More information on healthcare can be found [here](#).

##### **d) Access to the labour market**

Persons seeking protection may not access work until their temporary protection requests have been processed. Persons will receive a personal ID number and card which functions as a residence and work permit.

Foreigners who are not familiar with the Slovenian language or labour market will be offered customized programs by the Employment Service. These programs will include Slovene language

classes as well as on-the-job training for those who have received international protection or are foreigners. Additionally, workshops on "Labour market integration" and "Supporting vulnerable groups in the labour market" will be provided. See the Help for Ukrainian citizens in Slovenia page [here](#).

#### **e) Access to education**

It is possible to enrol children in kindergarten and primary and secondary education. It appears that parents must contact schools directly to request places and to begin the registration process. Several universities made accommodations for Ukrainian students. For more information see the Help for Ukrainian citizens in Slovenia page [here](#). Further information on enrolment in education can be found on the gov.si Providing education to Ukrainian children living in Slovenia page [here](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

When an unaccompanied minor arrives in Slovenia, the first step is for the police to transfer them to the competent authority for child protection. The competent authority then appoints a legal guardian for the minor and determines their best interests, taking into account the minor's age, maturity, background, and family ties.

The minor is then placed in a reception center for minors, where they receive accommodation, education, and other necessary support. The minor's legal guardian is responsible for making decisions on their behalf and ensuring that their rights are protected throughout the asylum procedure.

The Ukrainian Embassy in Slovenia in cooperation with the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants, between other interveners, [organised](#) the transfer of children from the Ukrainian Luhansk orphanage to a student dormitory in Slovenia.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

There is no sufficient information with regards to persons with disabilities from Ukraine. General information on assistance to persons with disabilities can be found [here](#).

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities are responsible for the provision of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings, in cooperation with NGOs and humanitarian organisations that in fact provide such assistance.

Programs for crisis and safe accommodation and (re)integration are available for victims of human trafficking. Victims have the right to assistance and support as soon as authorities suspect that they are a victim. Victims are entitled to: respect for their integrity, an individual interview with a representative from a non-governmental/humanitarian organisation before police questioning, and information on institutions, assistance, reporting procedures, legal aid, compensation requirements, special arrangements, reimbursement of costs, and the presence of trusted representatives during interviews with police. Safe accommodation is also provided. More information on assistance can be found [here](#).

The Inter-ministerial Working Group on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings [has pointed out](#) that there have been cases of individuals trying to contact women fleeing from Ukraine who were in Logatec and Debeli Rtič, with suspicious offers of accommodation and work arrangements.

## 30. Spain

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

For immediate entry to Spain, UA citizens need a biometric passport. Such persons may enter and stay for 90 days without a visa. For persons without biometric passports, the Spanish Consular office in neighbouring countries of Ukraine will examine the request. This requires documents to prove identity and residence in Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022.

The temporary residence authorisation constitutes a residence permit in Spain for all legal purposes, which means that it will allow TPBs to return to Spain at any time during its validity.

The Spanish national railway network is providing [train journeys free of charge](#) to UA citizens in possession of a passport or identity card.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

The Reception, Care and Referral Centres for people displaced from Ukraine (CREADE) provide initial reception and assistance (including accommodation places in the center or locations nearby). During the stay in the center the identification and application procedures are carried out during which particular needs of persons are detected and usually within few days they are referred to the appropriate accommodation and services. The list of CREADE centres can be found [here](#).

In case of lack of economic resources, people displaced from Ukraine from 24 February 2022 and residents of Ukraine who found themselves in Spain on 24 February 2022 and were not able to return can access the reception system ("Sistema de acogida"). In both categories, the protection has only been extended to UA nationals and TCNs or stateless persons who were long term residents in Ukraine, and their families.

For more information see the [EUAA information on temporary protection in Spain](#).

### 3. Protection status

Spain enacted an order (Orden PCM/169/2022) developing the procedure for the recognition of temporary protection for people affected by the conflict.

The scope of temporary protection has been extended to:

- a) Ukrainian nationals and their family members\* who left Ukraine on or after 24.2.2022;
- b) Ukrainian nationals and their relatives\* who were staying in Spain before February 24, 2022 who, as a consequence of the armed conflict, cannot return to Ukraine;
- c) Nationals of Ukraine who were in an irregular situation in Spain before February 24 and who, as a result of the armed conflict, cannot return to Ukraine;
- d) Refugees and beneficiaries of international protection in Ukraine and their relatives who left Ukraine after 24.2.2022;
- e) Third-country nationals or stateless persons who were legally residing in Ukraine on the basis of a valid legal residence permit (either permanent or otherwise such as students) issued in accordance with Ukrainian law and cannot return to their country or region.

Spain confer temporary protection status for a period of 1 year with possibility of renewal every year for a maximum of 3 years. Spain issues residence and work permits for the duration of 2 years.

Temporary protection can be requested at the CREADE of the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration in Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante and Málaga. In the other provinces, temporary protection has to be requested at a Police Office. The orders confirm that applications will be processed and resolved within 24 hours, that residence and work permits will be provided, and that all legal residents in Ukraine and not solely UA nationals are included. Information about temporary and protection information will be regularly updated [here](#).

It is also possible to apply for international protection. See the [EUAA information on temporary protection in Spain](#).

The Spanish High Court [has granted subsidiary protection](#) to UA nationals who applied for protection before the escalation of conflicts in 2022. In the [judgment](#) of 21 December 2022, Spanish High Court stated that Ukrainians who requested international protection before 24 February 2022 and were denied it, should be granted temporary protection.

Persons who are otherwise not eligible for temporary protection may seek asylum.

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

Temporary protection residence does not serve as a travel document. It is still possible to travel using a valid passport. The temporary residence authorisation constitutes a residence permit in Spain for all legal purposes, which means that it allows the possibility to return to Spain at any time during its validity as well as travel to other EU countries for short stays.

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

The State Secretariat for Migration has issued [instructions](#) so that Ukrainian refugees in the reception system can quickly access rental and maintenance assistance, during a first phase, allowing them to live on independently without having to first spend at least six months in temporary accommodation, as is required for other groups. During a second phase, an allowance is granted to cover basic needs. See also the [UNHCR Spain Help](#) page.

For longer term accommodation, beneficiaries of temporary protection will be housed in collective accommodation centres or centres managed by NGOs. It was [reported](#), that there is a lack of sufficient accommodation places in the accommodation centers.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

In August 2022, the Spanish Government transferred 80 million euros to the Autonomous Communities to provide 400 euros per month for 6 months to beneficiaries of temporary protection who do not have sufficient resources and are not receiving assistance. In March 2023, the Office for Equal Opportunities and Inclusion Policies in Valencia allocated 12.73 million euros to provide direct support to Ukrainian refugees living in Valencia who also lack sufficient resources.

##### **c) Access to medical care**

In order to receive [health care](#) on a regular basis during the time of stay in Spain it is necessary to request a health card that is provided universally and free of charge. Each autonomous community independently manages the issuance of health cards to citizens registered in its territory, but it is valid within the entire territory of the Spanish State. It is usually processed in Health Centres (also called Primary Care Centres) closest to the address of registration. Exceptionally, it will be processed in one of the four Reception and Referral Centres (CREADE).

##### **d) Access to the labour market**



The Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration has created [information points](#) regarding employment and training opportunities at the Reception, Assistance and Referral Centres (CREADE) of Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante and Málaga. Although they are aimed at promoting the integration of people displaced from Ukraine, the services can also be accessed by persons with refugee or subsidiary protection status. People with Temporary Protection can carry out activities as self-employed or self-employed workers with equal treatment with Spanish workers. And they can also access [professional training](#).

It was underlined, that access to the labour market can be more difficult due to the validation process of professional qualifications that can take two to three years.

The CEOE Foundation has also launched an [employment platform](#) in Spanish and Ukrainian where more than 2,000 vacancies are offered throughout the country and for all types of profiles.

The Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration has created a telephone number to aid people displaced from Ukraine (+34910474444).

#### **e) Access to education**

The Ministry of Education has [approved](#) several measures to facilitate the integration of students displaced from Ukraine, such as the [recruitment](#) of 200 Ukrainian teachers and language assistants in 2022. Children from Ukraine can apply for school and extracurricular activities [here](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

The legal status of an unaccompanied child is that they are temporarily placed in the Protection System as soon as authorities are informed that they are under 18 and arrived alone. The autonomous government or a family assumes temporary guardianship. The legal status of a separated child depends on their request and who they are traveling with. If the child wants to stay with the accompanying adult, they can ask for temporary protection, which is recognised for children coming from Ukraine, after taking measures to ensure child safety.

There is a central registry managed by the Ministry of the Interior for unaccompanied children in Spain. However, there are often discrepancies between the data in the central registry and that of the autonomous communities (child care authorities in Spain). More information on unaccompanied children from Ukraine in Spain can be found [here](#).

The regional government in Catalonia approved [a general directive](#) to protect unaccompanied children coming from Ukraine, which also establishes criteria for the recognition of provisional guardianship by local foster families.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

According to the [EU AA information](#) on temporary protection in Spain, the reception system in Spain will evaluate the needs and situation of vulnerable applicants or beneficiaries of international protection. The determination of the degree of disability is the responsibility of the regional governments.

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

Protocols and guidelines have been adopted within the CREADE to prevent and identify cases of trafficking among those fleeing Ukraine, and staff in reception facilities have been trained on the issue. The Public Prosecutor's office holds periodic meetings among various stakeholders to coordinate actions and activities related to trafficking cases.



In November 2022, a legal amendment was passed to increase punishment for trafficking persons fleeing armed conflicts and humanitarian disasters, initially proposed to protect those fleeing the war in Ukraine but later extended to all such persons.

Specialized comprehensive support to women is provided by Proyecto Esperanza. Assistance is granted in various areas, including emergency number services, social care, accommodation, and coverage of basic needs. It also provides educational accompaniment, legal support, integral health services, socio-labour support, and voluntary return assistance.

National Police Anti-Trafficking Hotline: 900 10 50 90 (24/7), email: [trata@policia.es](mailto:trata@policia.es).

## 31. Sweden

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

UA nationals can enter Sweden without a visa and stay for up to 90 days and can apply to be covered by the TPD on arrival. Application locations, further details and practical information can be found [here](#). Statistics on arrivals from UA can be found [here](#).

The Swedish Migration Agency will not revoke residence permits under the Temporary Protection Directive in case of return to Ukraine for a short time. However, this may affect rights to housing and financial support. Further information can be found on in the FAQs of the [Migrationsverket website](#).

### 2. Immediate reception situation

From 1 July 2022, the Migration Agency will no longer be responsible for arranging temporary accommodation for people displaced from Ukraine. According to the new legislation, the Migration Agency will assign those in need of protection to the municipalities which will be in charge of arranging the accommodation.

### 3. Protection status

Sweden has implemented the TPD covering:

- a) UA citizens who left UA after 24 February 2022;
- b) non-UA citizens who had a residence permit in UA as refugees or subsidiary protection holders, provided they left UA on or after 24 February 2022 and can present a valid identity document;
- c) Family members of the above groups.
- d) Starting 26 April 2022, those who were already in Sweden on or after 30 October 2021 and do not have a residence permit may also be entitled to TP.

Temporary protection is conferred for a period of 1 year and was valid until 4 March 2023. From February 1 to March 4, 2023, temporary protection beneficiaries could apply for an extension of their residence permit using an e-service application form. Once the application is registered, applicants must provide fingerprints and be photographed for the new permit at an appointment with the Migration Agency. It is possible to also apply for two adult co-applicant family members and up to ten children under the age of 18 for whom the person is the guardian. More information can be found [here](#).

More information on the procedure can be found [here](#). An [online portal](#) has been created to apply for residence permits with TP. Applications can also be submitted in person before the Swedish Migration Agency in [certain cities](#). Further information can be found on in the FAQs of the [Migrationsverket website](#).

The processing of asylum cases of UA nationals [has been suspended](#). Deportations to UA have also been suspended until further notice. Contingency plans [have been made](#) to increase capacity of asylum services if needed. In April 2022, the SMA changed its legal position to allow for positive decisions to be made in cases where protection should clearly be granted and postponing the decision could result in legal loss for the applicant. This position remained in effect throughout 2022. For those who had applied for asylum before 24 February, the Migration Agency will assess whether they can get protection under the TPD.

#### **4. Freedom of movement in EU**

Temporary protection allows persons to travel for 90 days within 180 days in the EU without losing residency rights. However, this may affect rights to housing and financial support. Further information can be found on in the FAQs of the [Migrationsverket website](#).

#### **5. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

Those in need of accommodation can contact the Migration Agency for help at any time; even when the person is waiting for a decision on their residence permit or if they have previously chosen to find an accommodation on their own. It is advised that an application is submitted in the e-service before visiting the Migration Agency offices in person. Those who decide to arrange their accommodation on their own might not be entitled to financial support if they live in residential areas with social and economic challenges.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

In order to [be eligible for social security](#), beneficiaries of temporary protection have to be employed.

The Government decided on 24 May 2022 that those who apply for protection under the TPD and have no money of their own can apply for financial support from the Migration Agency while a decision is being issued on their residence permit. The aid will be granted at the earliest from the day the application is submitted. The person has to hand in the application in person or send a signed application by post.

##### **c) Access to medical care**

Beneficiaries of temporary protection only [have access to](#) emergency health care and necessary dental care. However, children are entitled to every type of health care.

##### **d) Access to the labour market**

Persons over 16 years old with temporary protection status have the right work once they receive their residence permit decision. It is necessary to register with the Swedish Tax agency if work is found. This can be done by individuals or employers. See [Migrationsverket info on work, school, and healthcare](#).

Sweden [supports](#) institutions to promote the employment of Ukrainian professors at Swedish universities. Beneficiaries of temporary protection [can receive advice](#) from the Public Employment Services.

##### **e) Access to education**

Children who have applied for or received a temporary residence permit under the Mass Refugee Directive have the right to attend preschool and school. Children can attend preschool from the age of 1 if their parents work or study, or if the child has a special need due to the family's situation. After finishing primary school, young people can attend upper secondary education if they start before they turn 18.

Additionally, if there are more than 5 pupils with the same language in the area, they also have the right to receive regular lessons in their mother tongue.

#### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

##### **a) Unaccompanied children**

The responsibility for housing unaccompanied minors in Sweden lies with a municipality designated by the SMA. The municipality is also responsible for appointing a guardian for the minor, there is no time limit for the appointment of a guardian.

The responsibility for finding suitable accommodation for an individual in Sweden lies with the municipality. Accommodation may vary, and options include living with relatives or friends, living with a family that receives children and young people in need of help in their home, or living with other young people in a residential home with staff available to provide assistance.

The municipality where the children live is responsible for making it possible for them to go to school like the other children and young adults in the municipality. This concerns preschool, compulsory school, and secondary school.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

If an individual in Sweden is in a particularly vulnerable situation, they may be entitled to accommodation that is adapted to their needs. This could include accommodations for disabilities or for physical and mental illnesses.

Individuals who are in need of support or care due to a disability should primarily contact a healthcare center (vårdcentral), which is a locally-funded healthcare facility. There, they can see a nurse, general practitioner, or counsellor who can assess if they need more specialized care or assistive devices and refer them to the appropriate place.

If an individual has a disability that makes it challenging to cope with everyday life, they should inform the Swedish Migration Agency and contact the healthcare center for assistance. If they have a disability that affects their communication with authorities, they can receive support from their Unit for Reception. Having a disability does not prevent individuals from obtaining a residence permit. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

The National Support Programme led by the Platform Civil Sweden against Trafficking in Human Beings provides support and assistance to individuals who have been victims of human trafficking. The program offers services such as arranging accommodation, legal advice, and counselling support to help victims recover from their experiences.

Regional coordinators work in social services and have specialist knowledge of prostitution and human trafficking. Social services have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that individuals receive the support and help they need. There are also support activities that specialize in issues of sexual exploitation of children, prostitution and human trafficking in some municipalities in the country. More information can be found [here](#).

The Swedish Gender Equality Agency has launched a [portal](#) dedicated to those fleeing Ukraine with information about human trafficking in English and in Ukrainian.

## 32. Switzerland

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

Since 24 February 2022 Switzerland allows refugees from Ukraine who do not have biometric travel document and visas to enter the territory.

The State Secretariat for Migration has decided that “protection status S” can be revoked if a person returns to their country of origin for more than 15 days in a quarterly period, unless the journey was undertaken due to coercion or to prepare a definitive return to the country of origin or home country. “Protection status S” will also be revoked when people shift abroad their focal point of their living arrangements. There is presumption that this shift has occurred when a person spends more than two months in a third country. Nonetheless, the presumption can be rebutted, for instance, in the case of temporary study or work-related assignments abroad.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

Regarding accommodation, people displaced from Ukraine are registered in a Federal Asylum Centre and can stay there for 1-3 nights until they are assigned to a canton. Cantons receive from the State Secretariat for Migration a sum of CHF 1,500 per person each month. If a hotel is booked by the federal government to host people displaced from Ukraine, the costs of overnight stays will be covered by the federal government until another accommodation is found.

### 3. Protection status

A temporary protection status has been activated (“Protection status S”) which will entitle UA nationals and their family members to protection for one year, which can be extended. After a period of five years, a B residence permit is issued which is valid until the end of temporary protection. “Protection status S” will be available for:

- a) UA nationals who resided in Ukraine before 24 February 2022.
- b) TCNs and stateless persons with national or international protection status in Ukraine before 24 February;
- c) TCNs and stateless persons who had a short-term residence permit or residence permit in Ukraine and cannot return to their country of origin in safety and on a permanent basis;
- d) The family members of the three categories: partners, minor children and other close relatives who were partially or fully supported at the time of the flight.

“Protection Status S” does not apply to those who hold a protection status in another Schengen State. Moreover, binational couples cannot access “protection status B” if one of them is a citizen of an EU/EFTA member State, the UK, Canada, the USA, Australia or New Zealand.

After registration, a person with “protection status S” is assigned to a canton. More information can be found [here](#) and information about the rights associated with the protection status S can be accessed [here](#).

In November 2022, the Swiss Federal Council decided that it will not lift the protection status S until 4 March 2024 as the situation in Ukraine has not changed. Residence permits with protection status S were limited to one year. Cantons have therefore been instructed to extend residence permit by one year on expiry. It is advised that applications are submitted through this [web portal](#).

Groups of thirty or more and groups with vulnerable people are requested to email the authorities

several days before arriving to Switzerland ([gruppen-ukraine@sem.admin.ch](mailto:gruppen-ukraine@sem.admin.ch)).

If a person fleeing the war in Ukraine submits an asylum application in Switzerland, the asylum procedure is suspended and a 'protection status S' is granted if they belong to the group of individuals in need of protection. An ordinary asylum procedure is only conducted if the person clearly meets the criteria for refugee status. Once the Federal Council removes the 'protection status S' for individuals from Ukraine, asylum procedures will resume when there are signs of persecution upon return.

Despite the current situation not being favourable for lifting the 'S' protection status for Ukrainian asylum seekers in Switzerland, the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP), as well as the cantons and communes, are making preparations for its eventual lifting. These preparations may include providing incentives for a quick return to Ukraine once stability is achieved.

#### **4. Freedom of movement**

Protection status S allows travel abroad and return to Switzerland without travel permits. However, persons must comply with entry requirements of other countries. Protection status S may be revoked in some circumstances due to international travel. For example, if beneficiaries of protection stay in their home country of origin for more than 15 days per quarter, protection will be revoked.

#### **5. Access to rights**

Protection status S gives persons to the right to residence in Switzerland; access accommodation; medical insurance; social welfare; access to the labour market; access to education; family reunification; and travel aboard and return without travel permits.

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

Each canton can decide whether and how much funding a private individual hosting a person from Ukraine can receive. From 2 June 2022, people displaced from Ukraine who arrive at a Federal Asylum Centre will remain there for longer than before while they are assigned to a cantonal accommodation. Moreover, people belonging to vulnerable groups can remain in these centres until an accommodation suitable for their needs has been found.

People fleeing Ukraine must register at a specific address. Any change must be notified. Moving to another canton will only be approved in exceptional cases. Those with private accommodation must bring a copy of a "confirmation of private accommodation" on the registration day.

The Swiss authorities have said that due to the high number of asylum applications and the ongoing movement of refugees from Ukraine, the country continues to face challenges when it comes to the accommodation.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Persons who cannot financially support themselves can receive social assistance from their canton.

This support covers the basic needs of daily life in Switzerland and can take the form of benefits in kind (accommodation, food, hygiene articles, etc.) and/or money. The canton is responsible for organising social welfare support. More information can be found here.

In March 2023, it was announced that Switzerland modifies the rules on the financial support. According to the information, anyone who resides in Switzerland must report on their property. According to Swiss Conference on Social Security, cars must be sold if their value exceeds the amount of benefits. More information can be found here.

##### **c) Access to medical care**

Protection status S provides the right to access medical care. If urgent assistance is needed for protection status is obtained, the costs of care will be covered by the canton where they are accommodated. A new [migesplus.ch/ukraine](https://migesplus.ch/ukraine) page has been compiled especially for people from Ukraine who are in need of protection. This sets out useful information (including in Ukrainian) on medical care in Switzerland.

SEM ensures that those seeking protection who have been traumatised by their experiences and who are accommodated at federal asylum centres have access to psychological care via Medic-Help, then to partner doctors and ultimately psychiatrists. Once assigned to a canton, the cantonal authorities are responsible for providing this service. The cost of psychological care is covered by compulsory health insurance.

#### **d) Access to the labour market**

Although beneficiaries of “protection status S” are entitled to work, their employer must first apply for a work permit from cantonal authorities after the person has been granted protection status. Beneficiaries of “protection status S” are allowed to work outside of their canton of residence. Employers may do this on their behalf. Self-employed persons must apply for themselves.

Diplomas are recognised in various professions, provided the person meets the relevant conditions for professional recognition. This may include language skills. Diploma recognition is only required for professions that are regulated in Switzerland. Where a profession is regulated, the situation must be examined in detail and on a case-by-case basis. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **e) Access to education**

Children with “protection status S” can attend schools in Switzerland. The decision as to when a child in need of protection can attend school after taking up residence in a commune rests with the allocated canton or the commune itself, in application of the canton’s school law. In principle, children are enrolled in school as soon as possible. Under certain circumstances, however, a short waiting period is to be expected.

People with “protection status S” can be enrolled at Swiss universities. The different measures taken by universities aimed at students and researchers displaced from Ukraine can be found [here](#).

### **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

#### **a) Unaccompanied children**

When an unaccompanied child arrives in Switzerland, they must first be registered with the cantonal migration authorities. The authorities will record their personal data conduct a health examination. An appointed guardian will represent the child and take care of their welfare. There is no sufficient information with regards to specific procedures for unaccompanied children from Ukraine, general information on unaccompanied children seeking asylum in Switzerland can be found [here](#).

In the Berne canton, there are five regional partners who are responsible for the integration, accommodation, and support of asylum seekers, temporarily admitted and recognised refugees in their respective regions. However, for unaccompanied minors, one partner is responsible for the entire canton.

#### **b) Persons with disabilities**

All persons residing or working in Switzerland are compulsorily insured under Disability Insurance (DI). DI schemes, together with their supplementary benefits (PC) make up the 1st compulsory pillar, destined to cover essential needs. Refugees and stateless persons are covered by the scheme; however, it is not indicated whether persons with disabilities from Ukraine fall under the scheme. More information can be found [here](#).



In Dialogue with Switzerland, Experts of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities underlined that Switzerland has provided support for these individuals to leave Ukraine and raised awareness with partners in the field. They emphasized the importance of providing help to Ukrainian refugees with disabilities and stated that the state is doing so with the support of NGOs and UN partners.

**c) Victims of human trafficking**

The Federal government, cantons, and partner agencies are aware of the risks of human trafficking and exploitation faced by Ukrainian refugees. The Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) has been raising awareness of this issue among its staff for years and distributing information material in federal asylum centers.

The Swiss Refugee Council helps arrange accommodation for Ukrainian refugees and raises awareness of these risks. SEM is also in close contact with other agencies to raise awareness among Ukrainian nationals of the risks of human trafficking and exploitation.

## 33. Turkey

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

UA nationals qualify for visa exemption and can stay for up to 90 days in the territory. The Ministry of the Interior has [announced](#) that after the 90-day period, UA nationals will be provided with short-term residence permits.

Ukrainian Embassy in Turkey recommends persons fleeing Ukraine to fill in the [form](#) prior to arrival to Turkey.

### 2. Protection status

Turkey does not grant Ukrainians temporary protection status. In case a UA national intends to stay for more than 90 days, they must apply to the Branch of State Migration Service of Turkey to obtain a short-term residence permit.

Persons from Ukraine can apply for secondary protection, which is essentially a refugee status. This permit is renewable annually, and applicants can work without the need for additional work permits six months after applying for the status. The registration for secondary protection is free, and applicants can go to the local branch of the migration service without prior registration. The government authorities will conduct an interview within thirty days of the application, and the application will be finalized within 6 months at the latest. More information can be found [here](#).

### 3. Freedom of movement

Ukrainian citizens can move around the country, but residence permit holders must inform the Immigration Authority of any changes to their residence address. However, under certain circumstances listed in the law, administrative detention and movement restrictions may be imposed on applicants for international protection, but the detention period cannot exceed 30 days. Those under international protection who want to move to a different city need to submit a request to the relevant immigration authority for approval.

### 4. Access to rights

ASAM international organisation launched a large-scale support project for Ukrainians who fled the war to Turkey. This project is the only centralized initiative to support Ukrainians in Turkey.

The project provides legal support, medical care, humanitarian aid, financial support, free temporary accommodation, and more. To seek support, Ukrainians can call ASAM's office in Ankara or contact UNHCR Türkiye through their Counselling Line, available in English, Russian, and Turkish, or the Counselling Line of the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) available 24/7 in seven languages including Russian.

More information can be found [here](#).

### 5. Assistance to vulnerable persons

#### a) Unaccompanied children

The Presidency of Migration Management is responsible for coordination of all necessary procedures related to foreigners in Turkey, including children. Unaccompanied children can seek the

aid of the Directorate General of Child Services, which will support and protect them and refer them to the relevant authorities as necessary. The Directorate General of Child Services is the principal government authority tasked with the protection of children. Law enforcement personnel can also be sought to protect and refer unaccompanied children to these institutions. More information can be accessed [here](#).

**b) Persons with disabilities**

No information available.

**c) Victims of human trafficking**

Turkey provides two services for victims of human trafficking: the Victim Support Program and the Voluntary and Safe Return Program. The Victim Support Program provides a six-month humanitarian visa and short-term residence permit for victims during their treatment, healthcare, and legal proceedings, which can be extended depending on the length of proceedings or treatment. The Voluntary and Safe Return Program ensures the safe voluntary return of victims in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and local non-profit organisations. Turkey has also opened women's shelters in Istanbul, Ankara, and Kirikkale and established the 157 helpline in cooperation with IOM to provide assistance in several languages for victims of human trafficking and all foreigners. More information can be found [here](#).

## 34. United Kingdom

### 1. Entry and re-entry requirements

The UK has introduced various Ukraine visa schemes for UA nationals to enter. These are the Ukraine Family Scheme; the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme; and the Ukrainian Extension Scheme.

Various companies are offering support and free travel to the UK for UA nationals. More information can be found on the [British Red Cross Help](#) page.

It is advised that individuals who want to return to Ukraine ensure they have their BRP first as it will make it easier to return to the UK. Those on Universal Credit can leave the country for up to 4 weeks without losing benefits but must inform the Job Centre when leaving and returning. Those on Pension Credit must also inform the Pension Credit helpline when leaving and returning. Child Benefit claimants can leave the country for up to 8 weeks without losing benefits. Sponsors in the "Homes for Ukraine" scheme can continue to receive their payment if the individual is gone for 4 weeks or less, but if they are absent for more than 4 weeks, they must confirm with their sponsor and local council for help in finding a new sponsor if needed. More information can be found [here](#).

Under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, if an individual returns to Ukraine, they can still live with their previous sponsor if the sponsor agrees, or they can find a new sponsor to live with. This scheme allows individuals to continue their participation in the program even if they temporarily leave the UK.

### 2. Immediate reception situation

The Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) is a pathway through which UA nationals or their family members can apply to join a UK-based sponsor. Applications can be made online [here](#). It is also possible to contact local authorities for accommodation support or reach out to organisations and NGOs for support. See the [British Red Cross Help](#) page for more information.

### 3. Protection status

The UK Home Office announced temporary visa concessions for family members of British citizens and residents under the Ukraine Family Scheme. Non-British nationals can act as sponsors under this scheme provided they have the following status: indefinite leave to remain, EU settled status, EU pre-settled status, refugee status or humanitarian protection. Ukrainians in the UK under Skilled Worker or Student visas are not able to sponsor relatives in the scheme. More detailed information is available [here](#) and applications can be made online [here](#).

The Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) is a pathway through which UA nationals or their family members can apply to join a UK-based sponsor. Applications can be made online [here](#). Furthermore, the Home Office has confirmed that UA surrogate mothers for British parents will be entitled to travel to the UK outside of the usual immigration rules. The First Minister of Wales has announced that UA nationals will be eligible for free rail travel for six months while settling in Wales.

UA nationals [can make use of](#) the temporary visa application centre (VAC) in Rzeszow, or other centres including in the capitals of Poland, Moldova, Romania, France and Hungary. In-person appointments for visas are no longer required for UA passport holders.

For UA nationals previously benefitting from permission to stay in the UK, the Ukrainian Extension Scheme will open on 3 May 2022 allowing for the extension of permits to those who held permission

to be in the UK on or between 18 March 2022 and 16 May 2023 and those whose permission expired since 1 January 2022.

Regarding UA asylum seekers in the UK, there is one known case of an applicant whose negative decision was withdrawn while awaiting appeal. Furthermore, the Home Office has withdrawn its Ukraine country policy and information notes although it has not announced a blanket policy for applications. It is possible for applicants to request permission to amend their grounds of appeal in light of the recent invasion. A group of volunteer legal professionals in the UK are providing free legal advice, which can be accessed here.

It may still be possible for UA nationals to claim asylum in the UK but specialist immigration legal advice should be sought. See the British Red Cross Help page.

#### **4. Access to rights**

##### **a) Access to suitable accommodation**

Ukrainian refugees who arrive in the UK are eligible to apply for social housing, as their visa types allow them access to public funds from the day they arrive, and they do not need to meet the 'habitual residence' rules. However, some councils may not be aware of this rule, so it may be necessary to inform them. If the council has additional local rules for eligibility, it may not be worth applying if the individual does not meet those criteria. More information is available here.

##### **b) Access to social welfare and means of subsistence**

Ukrainians on the Family Visa, Extension Visa and Homes for Ukraine Visa schemes are entitled to apply for Government benefits from day one of arrival in the UK. The benefits system has two main types of benefits: means-tested and non-means tested. Means-tested benefits are dependent on the amount of savings, income, and property that a person has. The Department for Work and Pensions manages the two main means-tested benefit systems: Universal Credit and Pension Credit. Universal Credit is for people under the state retirement age and takes into account various factors like rent and children. Pension Credit is for people at or above the state retirement age who are not expected to work.

Non-means-tested benefits are available to anyone regardless of their situation, even if they are working. These benefits include Child Benefit, which is £21 per week for the first child and £14 per week for other children. Disability benefits are also available, and the specific type of benefit depends on the individual's age. It is important to note that applying for non-means-tested benefits requires a separate process. More information to be found here.

##### **c) Access to medical care**

Ukrainian refugees can access the NHS. Detailed instruction on the health system for migrants can be found here.

##### **d) Access to the labour market**

The Homes for Ukraine, Family visa, or Extension visa scheme enables Ukrainian refugees to work immediately upon arrival in the UK without requiring a biometric residence permit or National Insurance number. More information can be accessed here.

##### **e) Access to education**

Children can access primary and secondary education. The 'in year admissions' process allows Ukrainian refugees arriving at different times of the year to enroll their children in school without waiting until September. They can contact their local council to find out which schools have available places and how to apply. They can also ask to be put on waiting lists for other schools and switch

schools if space becomes available. Children typically start school at the beginning of the following term after being offered a place.

Childcare and education availability vary depending on the region in the UK. In England, parents can receive help with the cost of childcare depending on their circumstances, including 15 free hours of childcare per week for all 3 to 4-year olds, an additional 15 hours for working parents of 3 to 4-year olds, and free childcare for 2-year olds from low-income families. The government also offers tax-free childcare, providing £2 for every £8 put in, with a maximum of £2,000 a year per child. In addition, there is a government-funded programme, Holiday Activities and Food (HAF), which provides free activities for children who receive free school meals, and paid activities for those who don't. More information on education can be found [here](#).

## **6. Assistance to vulnerable persons**

### **a) Unaccompanied children**

In June 2022, The UK government [has announced](#) that the Homes for Ukraine scheme will allow children and minors under 18 who have already applied through the scheme to come to the UK without a parent or guardian, provided they have proof of parental consent certified by an authority approved by the Ukrainian government. Local authorities will carry out sponsor checks and may veto any sponsor arrangements they deem unsuitable, with the sponsor typically someone known to the parents. The policy will initially apply to the 1,000 children who have already applied but are unable to travel as they are not travelling or reuniting with a parent or guardian.

### **b) Persons with disabilities**

The UK government provides disability benefits to support individuals with disabilities, and the type of benefit depends on the age. Children under 16 can receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA), while Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is for individuals aged 16 to State Pension age, and Attendance Allowance is for those who have reached State Pension age.

The assessment process involves a written assessment and a report from a UK doctor, and mental illnesses are also considered. Carer's Allowance is also available for individuals who provide significant care for someone who receives a qualifying disability benefit. Eligibility for these benefits may affect Universal Credit or Pension Credit entitlements. It is recommended to seek assistance from official helplines or trained advisers for more information. More information can be found [here](#).

### **c) Victims of human trafficking**

Loopholes in the state programs [were identified](#) in the context of risks of trafficking of persons from Ukraine.

[The Salvation Army](#) offers specialized assistance to protect and assist adult survivors of modern slavery in England and Wales. Survivors are provided access to tailored services to meet their unique needs, whether through safehouses or outreach support, including legal advice, health care, counselling, education, financial support, and help in obtaining employment and housing.

If a person suspects an instance of trafficking in their area, they can report it by contacting the police through 101 or 999 if someone is in immediate danger. The [National Modern Slavery Helpline](#) at 0800 0121 700 or [modernslaveryhelpline.org](https://modernslaveryhelpline.org) can also be contacted.