



PEACE WATCH TEMPORARY PROTECTION DIRECTIVE BRIEFING NOTE

6 MAY 2022

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEMPORARY PROTECTION DIRECTIVE

INTRODUCTION

Since 24 February 2022, the Russia's military invasion of Ukraine has created a situation of mass influx of displaced persons. By 27 April 2022¹, 5.1 million people had fled the war in Ukraine. On 27 February 2022, the [Commission proposed to activate](#) the [2001/55/EC Temporary Protection Directive \(TPD\)](#). Subsequently, the Council on 4 March 2022 adopted unanimously the [implementing decision](#) introducing temporary protection due to mass influx of persons fleeing Ukraine as a consequence of the war.

This Directive is based on solidarity between EU Member States and has been triggered for the first time since its adoption. Through minimum standards, it aims to offer quick and effective assistance to Ukraine people in need of protection.

Temporary protection is an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons from non-EU countries and those unable to return to their country of origin. In the case of Ukraine, this temporary protection will in the first instance last one year, until 4 March 2023. It can then be automatically renewed twice for six months each time. If the reasons for temporary protection persist, the Commission may propose to the Council to extend the temporary protection with another year.

This briefing note outlines the national developments regarding the implementation of the TPD, in particular on the provisions regarding the access to employment. It also outlines the challenges arising from its practical implementation.

This briefing note was originally produced on 29 April 2022 and updated on 6 May 2022 to take account of recent developments from Germany, Luxembourg and Spain.

One note of caution, this briefing note captures a dynamic situation which is subject to ongoing change. We therefore kindly ask affiliates to provide us with further information on any further related measures that have been introduced in your country so that we can update this briefing note.

¹ See UNCHR daily statistics
https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine#_ga=2.74276369.2010338048.1646909820-60758635.1646909820



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AUSTRIA (ÖGB)

The Austrian unemployment service AMS, which has a triparty administrative council, implemented the “mass influx directive”. This includes Ukrainian citizens, asylum seekers and stateless persons from the Ukraine, who were forced to flee; their family members (spouses, partners, underaged children and other close relatives); Ukrainian citizens, who had the allowance to live and work in Austria and are not able to go back. Up to this point the right to residence exists until 3rd of March 2023 but it is possible to prolong this right.

Furthermore, the Austrian Trade Union federation is working with the government and social partners to find good rules/ laws/ guidelines for a swift but high-quality recognition of qualifications, the access to German language courses and access to education and vocational training for Ukrainian youth.

CZECH REPUBLIC (ČMKOS)

The Czech executive has managed to fully implement the essential aspects of the TPD and additional supportive measures are being drafted and adopted. Refugees that receive the status of temporary protection are provided with full free access to the Czech labour market, public health insurance system, education system and additional assistance, regarding for example accommodation or financial aid.

The main challenge remains to be the full registration of all refugees from Ukraine residing in or moving to Czech Republic so they could be granted temporary protection status. There is a large Ukrainian diaspora in the country and a significant part of the refugees have simply moved in with their relatives or friends without notifying public authorities, remaining undocumented and potentially vulnerable to exploitation. Additional practical challenges are the shrinking of available suitable housing capacity and overburdening of workforce in healthcare, education and public administrative related to migration, employment and social security. Newly arising issue is the proving and recognition of qualifications of the Ukrainian refugees that would allow them to pick suitable jobs according to their skills.

BULGARIA (CITUB)

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 permit. Persons with refugee or humanitarian status can register as jobseekers with the Labour Office at their permanent or current address.

Ukrainian citizens under temporary protection have the right:



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- to remain on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria
- to work in Bulgaria without a permit for access to the labour market, as well as to take language training courses
- of appropriate accommodation or of means of accommodation if necessary
- of social assistance
- of medical aid in case of emergency
- to return freely to their country of origin.

Access to the labour market

The Asylum and Refugees Act introduces the requirement of Art. 12 of Council Directive 2001/55 / EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for the granting of temporary protection that aliens enjoying temporary protection have the right to work and vocational training. It follows that Ukrainian citizens enjoying temporary protection could work in Bulgaria without a work permit, register as jobseekers at an employment office at their permanent or current address and benefit from employment services and vocational training.

Ukrainian citizens who have the necessary documents proving Bulgarian origin can start working immediately (even before they have received a residence permit) only by registering with the Employment Agency. For this purpose, they must have an employment contract with a local employer for a period of at least 6 months.

Ukrainian citizens have the right to seasonal work of up to 90 days in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, hotels and restaurants in Bulgaria without interruption for 12 months. For this purpose, registration with the Employment Agency is required on the basis of a declaration submitted by the employer.

Ukrainian citizens who have applied for international protection and whose proceedings have not been completed within three months of submitting the application for reasons beyond their control have the right to work in Bulgaria without a work permit until the procedure is completed. Declaring the employment of Ukrainians in these cases is done by the local employer, who hired them under an employment contract.

Ukrainians and members of their families granted asylum or international protection in Bulgaria have the right to work in Bulgaria without a permit to access the labour market. People who have refugee or humanitarian status can register as jobseekers with the Labour Office at their permanent or current address.

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.



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There are trained experts in each regional education center who have experience in the admission and training of children seeking or receiving international or temporary protection. A mechanism for the reception of refugee children in the Bulgarian educational system has existed since 2015. It was established in connection with refugees from the war in Syria.

The platform “e-просвета” is launching a Ukrainian “classroom”, especially made for children from Ukraine. As of today, over 160 e-readable versions of textbooks up to 11th grade in Ukrainian are available on the platform and can be used free of charge.

Temporary protection extension

The Bulgarian Council of Ministers decided to extend until April 15th the possibility for people with foreign citizenship or statelessness who left Ukraine as a result of hostilities who entered and remained in Bulgaria to receive temporary protection without their express will and registration of temporary protection. Thus, both the people who have not yet received the status and the hoteliers who have accommodated them can rest assured that they will receive support from the state.

Meanwhile, the capacity of institutions to issue registration cards is progressively increasing. In the last 4 days alone, 40 new registration points have been opened in the country for temporary protection of those fleeing the war in Ukraine. 130 are already functioning jobs for submitting documents, located at 67 locations in 56 settlements. There are new registration points in the districts of Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Varna, Vratsa, Dobrich, Kardzhali, Kyustendil, Lovech, Pleven, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Ruse, Silistra, Sliven, Smolyan, Stara Zagora and Yambol.

As of 30 March, the total number of registered persons under temporary protection is 39% of all others in Bulgaria.

FRANCE (FO)

Regarding the issue of integration of people fleeing Ukraine covered by the implementation of the EU temporary protection directive in the French labour market, a French Inter-services Committee has been put in place by the French Labour ministry and the Home Affairs Ministry with the French public employment services. Another French follow-up Committee has been put in place between the French government and French local authorities to support the implementation of the directive. French trade unions have been heard by the French government on this issue. An instruction has been sent to the French decentralized authorities clearing the implementation of the directive in line with the EC practical guidelines.

A short leaflet welcoming for people fleeing Ukraine has been issued by the Home Affairs ministry, and published in French and Ukrainian, on the 29th of March 2022 with a clear



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orientation towards local authorities and French public employment services in terms of employment. However, FO has pointed out, during the consultation on this document, that French trade unions' contact details were missing and mentioned some issues regarding distance language training (technical means, need to hire more teachers, responsibility of public authorities etc...).

Furthermore, a dedicated website has been put in place by the French government to support the placement of people fleeing Ukraine in companies and has also contributed to the [EURAXESS website](#) of the European Commission with information on the services offered to people fleeing from Ukraine also in terms of housing, employment for researchers or the recognition of qualifications.

On the 1st of April, the decree n°2022-on the right to work for people under the temporary protection directive has been taken. This decree modifies the French Entry and Residence Code for Foreigners and the Right of Asylum (CESEDA) and more precisely add the last phrase at the end of article R581-4:

"Where the beneficiary of temporary protection fulfils the obligations laid down in Article R. 581-1, he shall be placed in possession of a provisional authorization of residence valid for six months bearing the words "beneficiary of temporary protection".

The provisional residence permit shall be renewed automatically for the duration of the temporary protection defined in the second paragraph of Article L. 581-3. However, the period of validity of the provisional residence permit may be limited to the period remaining until the end of the temporary protection. This provisional authorization of residence shall give rise to the right to pursue a professional activity."

This decree has also repealed the following article R581-6:

"The issue of a provisional work permit to a foreign national who has obtained a provisional residence permit under Article R. 581-4 is governed by the provisions of Articles L. 341-4, R. 341-1, R. 341-3, R. 341-4 and R. 341-7 of the Labour Code.

Where the period of validity of the employment contract submitted by the beneficiary of the temporary protection in support of his application is longer than the period of validity of the temporary protection, the provisional work permit shall be limited to the period remaining until the end of the temporary protection."



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On the 22th of April 2022, the French government has given an update on childcare and access to schools for people fleeing from Ukraine with 11.588 children coming from Ukraine welcomed in primary, middle and high schools on the 21th of April 2022 since the start of the invasion.

GERMANY (DGB)

Based on the decision Council of the European Union, March 4, 2022 to grant protection, to grant people fleeing from Ukraine a residence status (§ 24 Residence Act) which goes along with open access to employment health care and education.

Concerning the integration into training and work, employment agencies support refugees with their full range of services, e.g.: counselling, preparation of applicant profiles, placement activities and offering support instruments.

They can meet the specific needs of refugees in particular for young people (i.e. measures preparing for training, subsidized vocational training and financial support during training) and for adults (i.e. Measures for activation and vocational integration, training, grants for integration for employers and support with job applications).

An essential prerequisite for the integration of refugees from Ukraine into the labour market and the avoidance of precarious employment conditions is the recognition of qualifications. The costs for the recognition of foreign qualifications can be covered by the Federal Employment Agency. The German government has set up an [information portal](#) on this topic.

Access to integration courses, vocational language courses and initial orientation courses for refugees from Ukraine is possible

Refugees from Ukraine can apply for benefits for housing, food, clothing, hygiene needs, medical care (including benefits for pregnancy and childbirth) and benefits for their personal needs currently under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act, but it is intended to make social benefits accessible via the social benefits act.

Various landing pages have been established to provide information to refugees:

- [BA landing page](#)
- Linking with the BMI's Gernay4Ukraine platform is in preparation.
- BMAS [homepage](#)
- [EURES website](#)
- [Faire Integration](#)



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GREECE (EKA)

Over 19,000 refugees from Ukraine have crossed the Greek border since the start of the war in Ukraine (April, 2022). Part of them is Ukrainian citizens of Greek origin; in Ukraine there is a large Greek ethnic minority of about 200.000 people.

Ukrainians reached Greece through the Greek-Bulgarian land border (83%) and the international airports of Athens and Thessaloniki (17%). Many of them continued to other parts of the country where they have friends and relatives. As the majority of refugees are women and 1 in 3 are children, there is a need to address and prevent any potential danger of trafficking and sexual violence.

Greece has several hosting structures to welcome Ukrainians. A reception center in Promachonas, the main entry point from Bulgaria, was created together with a special entrance lane at the border. Sintiki (5km from Promachonas) is the facility used from the first days for those who arrive from Promachonas. The government had also set up two other facilities- at Elefsina (at the suburbs of Athens) and Serres (Nord Greece) to host Ukrainians, with 15,000 beds available. The number could be increased, if necessary, to 30,000.

The Government of Greece is coordinating the response to refugees from Ukraine. Local authorities, civil society organizations, citizens and the private sector also provide support on reception needs. In line with the European Union decision, Greece provides Temporary Protection to the refugees from Ukraine. To this end the Ministry of Migration and Asylum has created a number of dedicated platforms and websites:

1. [Registration for Temporary Protection in the country](#)
2. [Information on accommodation, temporary protection and other related issues](#)
3. [State Accommodation](#)
4. A [website](#) hosting humanitarian requests to the Ukrainian refugees: public and private bodies, civil society organizations and citizens may digitally submit the way they want to contribute for the Ukrainian refugees.

Within the 90-day period, refugees from Ukraine are granted a 1 year temporary protection by the Asylum Service of the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum; this gives them the right of access to the labour market and to medical care, in accordance with Directive 2001/55 of the Council of the European Union ([Ministry of Migration and Asylum](#)).

The Ministry has created an electronic pre-registration platform starting on March 28 to allow all potential beneficiaries to transfer their basic data and to receive a personalized appointment at the Asylum Service Offices. The process of receiving a temporary protection started on April 4th at the Regional Asylum Offices of Thessaloniki, Attica, Patras and Crete. There is a possibility of a fast-track process of identification and provision of a special biometric identity of 12 months stay to those Ukrainian citizens wishing to remain in Greece.



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Short-term accommodation is provided in the open structure of Sintiki for those who wish, until the process of issuing required documents is completed. The Ministry of Migration and Asylum is providing accommodation immediately in other accommodation structures already available. In the case of **unaccompanied minors**, the National Mechanism for the Identification and Protection of Unaccompanied Minors of the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum is activated for the transfer of the children to special emergency accommodation facilities; thereafter, the relevant identification (if necessary) and procedure is followed.

The challenges arising from its practical implementation

Currently most arrivals from Ukraine are expatriates or have their families in Greece. The rest will be transferred from the services of the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum to special reception structures.

Municipalities in cooperation with the Ukrainian embassy in Athens from the very first moment started gathering and sending first emergency essentials to Ukraine through the closer hub to Greece in Romania.

The Municipalities of Attica also have expressed solidarity with the victims of the war in Ukraine, there is a big mobilization in their support – food and medicine are collected, issues of accommodation of the refugees are being discussed.

The Coordination Center for Migrant and Refugee issues of the Municipality of Athens as a link between government, municipal services, civil society actors and international organizations has launched a registration of services (Protection for children, Education, Healthcare, Access for accommodation and housing, etc.) that can serve displaced Ukrainian citizens. It will be updated on a daily basis by its members and will be available to all.

For the time being Ukrainian refugees receive a warm welcome by Greek authorities, but this fact raises questions why the same procedures did not apply to all asylum seekers in Greece; the environment for people seeking shelter having crossed Turkish borders is quite different and should reignite the discourse about Europe's response to refugees in general, and particularly the discourse about the "real refugees" from Ukraine and rest TCNs being treated as "second-class refugees".

Greece, due to its geographical location, has been receiving refugees uninterruptedly all the previous years. This reduces its share of responsibility for refugees from Ukraine, however, since the expected number of refugees is huge, the country will be held liable if it becomes mandatory.

LUXEMBOURG (OGBL and LCGB)

Following the beginning of the Russian military invasion in Ukraine on February 24, an increasing number of people have been forced to flee their country. In response to this crisis, the European Union (EU) decided, on March 4, to activate directive 2001/55/EC on temporary



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protection. In this context, several procedures have been put in place in Luxembourg to receive and support refugees arriving from Ukraine.

Temporary protection is granted to people who lived in Ukraine before February 24, 2022, and who arrived in Luxembourg on February 24, 2022, or a few days earlier. This protection status concerns Ukrainian nationals and their family members. However, citizens of third countries other than Ukraine, who lived in Ukraine at the time of the Russian invasion, are also concerned by temporary protection measures until they can return to their country of origin under safe conditions. Temporary protection is granted for a period of one year, until March 4, 2023. However, after this date, it can be renewed for six-month periods for a maximum of one year.

Regarding the procedure for applying for temporary protection, displaced persons arriving from Ukraine are invited to fill out a form with their contact information and contact the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The application form is available in English, French, Ukrainian and Russian.

Access to the labour market

The Directive on temporary protection foresees that, Ukrainian refugees benefiting from temporary protection must be allowed to carry out an employed or self-employed activity for a period not exceeding the duration of the temporary protection. They should also be allowed to participate at adult education programs as well as vocational training. The directive also stipulates that the labour law provisions of the Member States must apply to beneficiaries of temporary protection, in particular with regard to remuneration and access to social security schemes.

People under temporary protection do not need a specific work permit and have free access to the Luxembourg labour market as long as their temporary protection certificate is valid. They can be hired under a regular employment contract and are eligible to all provision of the labour law applicable in Luxembourg. Ukrainian refugees can register to the Luxembourg employment agency (ADEM) and will then be guided in their job search and will be informed on professional training. Employers who are interested in hiring Ukrainian refugees are therefore asked to declare their job vacancy to the ADEM.

It is important to underline that people who have obtained temporary protection in Luxembourg cannot automatically access the labour market of another Member State, as this access is subject to the national rules of the country in question.



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In order to facilitate the integration of Ukrainian refugees into the labour market, the Ministry of labour and the Luxembourg employment agency (ADEM) published an information sheet containing the most relevant information on labour law, job search as well as the registration to the ADEM. This information sheet contains information, in particular on minimum wages, working hours and statutory holidays applicable in Luxembourg. It is available in different languages on the [website](#) of the ADEM.

Access to accommodation and medical care

Regarding accommodation and medical care, the directive stipulates that Member States must ensure that beneficiaries of temporary protection have access to appropriate accommodation and medical care.

The Luxembourg government has set up a first reception center to accommodate people fleeing the war in Ukraine. The SHUK ("Structure d'hébergement d'urgence au Kirchberg"), which is the first contact point for those arriving in Luxembourg, offers shelter for the first few days and meals as well as basic necessities. Pets are also allowed in the shelter where a special area has been set up for them.

In addition, the National Reception Office – *Office national de l'accueil* (ONA) currently has 57 accommodation facilities where they can receive Ukrainians.

Beneficiaries of temporary protection have access to the "material conditions" of the ONA, which allows them to receive financial support in the form of money or vouchers. The ONA also provides for food and clothing.

Concerning the access to medical assistance, medical centers in Luxembourg are available for Ukrainian refugees and offer medical advice even if they are not yet affiliated to the social security system.

Access to the education system

The directive highlights that people under 18 years benefiting from temporary protection must have access to the education system under the same conditions as nationals of the host Member State.

In Luxembourg, refugees from Ukraine have the right to access the education system under the same conditions as Luxembourg citizens. Information on the Luxembourg school system is provided by the *Service de scolarisation des enfants étrangers* of the *Ministère de l'Education nationale* (SECAM). Ukrainian refugees have the possibility to get in touch with intercultural mediators who will help them with any questions related to the schooling of their children. This service is provided in English and Ukrainian.

Regarding access to university studies, the Minister of National Education may recognize the degree and year (or more, if applicable) of study done in Ukraine. Students can apply to enroll in a study program at the University of Luxembourg starting at the beginning of the academic year 2022/23, using a simplified procedure already used for refugee students in Luxembourg.



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SPAIN (UGT)

In the case of mass movements of asylum seekers, such as the one taking place as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the need for help and refuge for millions of people, access to employment also needs to be taken into account and is addressed in the Temporary Protection Directive, among other issues.

All Member States have to take the necessary measures to ensure that people acquire the necessary residence permits and obtain the necessary visas to make it easier for them to access employment. Thus, Article 12 of the Directive mandates Member States to authorise persons enjoying temporary protection, for the duration of such protection, to engage in paid employment or self-employment, in accordance with the legal requirements of the State for the pursuit of the profession concerned, and in respect of both employment and vocational training.

They may also have access to training actions and measures, and may not be discriminated against in the employment relationship they may begin to develop, neither in terms of pay nor other working conditions or access to the Social Security system.

In this regard, in Spain, the Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations, José Luis Escrivá, explained to the Commission on Labour, Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, the "Reception Plan for displaced persons from Ukraine", within the framework of Directive 2001/55.

Spain has also regulated, through a joint Ministerial Order¹ of the Ministries of Social Inclusion and Interior, a "simplification of the procedures that allow displaced persons to obtain a work and residence permit in 24 hours".

The regulation allows the procedures to be carried out both in the Reception, Attention and Referral Centres of the Ministry of Inclusion and in the police stations set up by the Ministry of the Interior. According to the information available so far, Spain is receiving more than 12,000 people from Ukraine as a result of Russia's invasion.

Please find [here](#) the summary (in Spanish) of the most important legislative and non-legislative measures adopted in Spain.

SPAIN (CCOO)

The Spanish government has opted to develop the Council recommendation of 4 March from the perspective of the Commission's proposal of 3 March, that is, by recognising automatic protection for all people - Ukrainian or otherwise - who flee the country.

However, the Spanish government has dispensed with social dialogue in order to develop these initiatives, while it is tackling agreements with private companies (especially banks) for



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labour assistance and guidance programmes, despite the existence of permanent mechanisms for institutional social dialogue such as the Tripartite Labour Commission, which it ignores.

The problems of implementation arise from the Council's own agreement of 4 March to protect, in an automatic and generalised manner, only people with Ukrainian nationality, without taking into account that the reason for flight is the same - war - as for other people, regardless of their nationality and legal status in Ukraine. Leaving it to individual member states to act with respect to non-Ukrainians. Sectors of EU doctrine point to discrimination that is incompatible with Article 2 TFEU itself.

POLAND (OPZZ)

In connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine, a [special legal regulation has been created in Poland](#), providing a legal basis for legal stay to citizens of Ukraine who have been forced to leave their country of origin.

The subjective scope of the *Act of 12th March 2022 on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with armed conflict on the territory of that state*, the so-called "special act" differs from the scope of the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 establishing the existence of a mass arrivals of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection.

The Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with armed conflict on the territory of that state sets out, inter alia, specific rules for legalising the stay of Ukrainian citizens (and their spouses who do not hold Ukrainian citizenship) who have come to Poland from the territory of Ukraine in connection with military operations conducted on the territory of that state, and of Ukrainian citizens holding a Card of the Pole who, together with their immediate family, have come to the territory of Poland because of those military operations.

Foreigners who are not covered by the Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with armed conflict on the territory of that state and belong to the category of displaced persons mentioned in art. 2 (1) and (2) of the EU Council Implementing Decision establishing the existence of a mass arrivals of displaced persons from Ukraine **may benefit from temporary protection on the territory of Poland**. This applies to: stateless persons or citizens of third countries other than Ukraine who can prove that before 24 February 2022, they were legally residing in Ukraine on the basis of a valid permanent residence permit issued in accordance with Ukrainian law and are unable to return to their country or region of origin in safe conditions; stateless persons or citizens of third countries other than Ukraine (and their family members) who, before 24 February 2022, enjoyed international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine.

Access to the labour market



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Access to the Polish labour market for Ukrainian citizens is guaranteed. In order to use this solution, an employer will have to notify the competent labour office within 14 days of employing a foreigner. Ukrainian citizens can also benefit from labour market services in the form of, inter alia, job placement, vocational counselling, and training - on the same principles as Polish citizens.

Economic activity

Ukrainian citizens can undertake and carry out economic activity on the territory of Poland on the same principles as Polish citizens, provided that they obtain a Personal ID Number (PESEL) number.

Social assistance and maintenance support

Governors and local authorities have made provisions for assistance to Ukrainian citizens. It may consist of accommodation or/and providing a full board. In addition, any entity, in particular, a natural person running a household, which includes lodging and food for Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war, may receive a benefit on the basis of a contract concluded with the municipality. This benefit will be paid for a maximum period of 60 days, and its amount is determined by a regulation of the Council of Ministers. Citizens of Ukraine can apply for a one-off living allowance. In particular, this involves covering expenses for food, clothing, footwear, personal hygiene products and housing costs.

Social benefits

Ukrainian citizens have access to social assistance, parental benefit, family benefits, Good Start, family care capital or funding to reduce the fee paid by the parent for the stay of a child in a crèche, children's club or day-care centre.

Healthcare

Every citizen of Ukraine legally residing in Poland is guaranteed access to the public health care system on the same basis as Polish citizens. The National Health Fund will pay for any medical service for a Ukrainian citizen in public health care. Funding for these benefits will be guaranteed from the state budget.

The OPZZ presented its opinion during the legislative process to the draft of the Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with an armed conflict in the territory of that state. According to the OPZZ, the act differentiates the legal situation of citizens who were forced to flee outside the territory of Ukraine as a result of the hostilities in Ukraine. The dominant group of refugees in Poland are the citizens of Ukraine, but there are also citizens of Nigeria, India, Georgia and other countries. In the opinion of OPZZ, the Act should also include aid measures for persons who are not citizens of Ukraine - without differentiating the situation of people leaving Ukraine in terms of nationality.



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SWEDEN (TCO, SACO and LO)

On 21 March, Minister of Labor Eva Nordmark and Minister of Integration and Migration Anders Ygeman reported on what applies in the Swedish labor market for persons covered by temporary protection under the Mass Refugee Directive. Maria Mindhammar, Director General of the Swedish Public Employment Service, also attended the press conference.

The Mass Escape Directive gives Ukrainians the right to work in Sweden. Persons who have a residence permit with temporary protection who have the right to work in Sweden also have the opportunity to register as a jobseeker with the Swedish Public Employment Service. The authority can in various languages provide tips, advice and support about the labor market and applying for a job in Sweden.

Both the ministers and the Director General of the Swedish Public Employment Service repeated several times that the situation on the labor market continues to improve after the steep fall during the onset of the pandemic and that the demand for labor is very strong.

Areas where the Swedish Public Employment Service increases focus due to the refugee situation:

- Registration and the first meeting with the Swedish Public Employment Service
- Mapping of competencies
- Review of possible labor market policy initiatives
- Make it easier for Ukrainians and employers to find each other

Within the initiative Swedish from day one, "folkbildning" has since 2015 contributed to people who come to Sweden gaining increased knowledge of the Swedish language and information about Swedish society. The Government has now decided on an amendment to the ordinance (2015: 521) on state subsidies for special public education initiatives for asylum seekers and certain newly arrived immigrants. The amendment, which enters into force on 11 April 2022, clarifies that the state subsidy can also be used for activities for persons who have been granted a residence permit with temporary protection in accordance with the EU Refugee Directive.

During the year 2022, so far (24 March 2022), 5176 first-time applications have been received by the Swedish Migration Board for protection with reference to the Mass Refugee Directive.