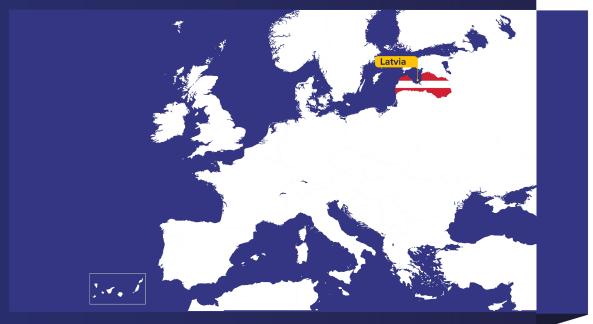




Latvia



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1 General information



Language

In Latvia, the common official language is Latvian. Russian and Ukrainian are also spoken in Latvia by a minority of persons.



Administrative settings

Latvia is a parliamentary democracy with two levels of government: central level and local level. The territory is administratively organised into 110 municipalities and 9 cities. The capital city is Riga. The state has full legislative powers and some shared responsibilities with the local governments, while the competences of the municipalities include registration services, public utilities, housing, public transport, education, healthcare and social welfare, among others.



Population

The resident population is about 2 million, with the majority living in urban areas. Riga, the capital, is the most populated city.



Emergency contacts

• Emergency number: 112

Police number: 110

Medical assistance: 113

Number dedicated to victims of gender-based violence: 016

'My safety' is an emergency application available in Latvia to contact the emergency services. It provides the location of the caller with a precision of 10 metres based on Global Navigation Satellite System coordinates.





Driving licence

In Latvia, driving licences issued in Ukraine are valid for driving all categories of vehicles that are provided for in the licence for a period of 1 year from the beginning of the temporary protection. For more information consult the CSDD homepage at this link: https://www.csdd.lv/en/



Ukraine diaspora

The largest Ukrainian populations in Latvia are settled in Riga (almost half of the total number of Ukrainians in Latvia), followed by Liepāja, Daugavpils and Ventspils. Certain proportions of Latvian Ukrainians live in the regions and villages of Latvia.



Ukrainian embassy in Latvia

The Ukrainian Embassy is located in Riga.

- Address: LV-1010, Latvia, Riga, Kalpaka bulvaris, 3. Consular section: LV-1010, Latvia, Riga, Elizabetes street, 2 B.
- ◆ Phone: +371 67243082. Consular section +371 67332956. In case of emergency, call the Embassy's Consular section hotline: +371 29239262
- ◆ Email: emb_lv@mfa.gov.ua. Consular section: consul_lv@mfa.gov.ua. Work schedule: Monday to Friday 9.00 to 18.00.



2. Entry to Latvia

When travelling to Latvia, keep valid travel documents with you if possible. However, the absence of travel documents or medical documents (vaccination certificate, COVID-19 test results) will not be an obstacle for Ukrainian residents to enter Latvia. On arrival in Latvia via the border crossing points, a border check will be carried out. More information is available here: https://www.ukraine-latvia.com/

- If you are a Ukrainian citizen holding a biometric passport, you are allowed to enter Latvia and stay for 90 days during a sixmonth period without a visa.
- If you hold other travel documents and do not have a visa to enter the EU, you will be issued a visa. If you hold an expired travel document issued in Ukraine, this document will be considered valid in Latvia until 28 February 2023.
- ◆ If you do not have a travel document, your identity will be



confirmed in cooperation with the competent Ukrainian authorities. You are invited to provide any documents that will help identification.

After crossing the border, if you do not need help with accommodation you can go to your chosen place of residence. If you need housing, contact the State Border Guard official at the border crossing point or the hotline: +371 27380380. (daily between 8.00 to 22.00). If you or your family members need urgent medical assistance on arrival, please inform the State Border Guard officials.

More information is available on entry into Latvia by calling the State Border Guard at the following numbers: +371 67913569, +371 67913568 (these numbers are available at any time), or by visiting the website of the State Border Guard at https://www.rs.gov.lv/en or of the Ministry of the Interior of Latvia at https://www.iem.gov.lv/lv

3. Temporary protection

In Latvia, temporary protection for Ukrainian civilians has been activated by the Law on the Support of Civilians of Ukraine. According to the law, temporary protection applies to Ukrainian civilians leaving Ukraine or who are unable to return to Ukraine due to the armed conflict caused by the Russian Federation. Temporary protection applies throughout the course of the armed conflict. Ukrainian civilians include:

- citizens of Ukraine and their family members
- persons who have been granted a permanent residence permit, stateless status or international protection status in Ukraine, and their family members.

Provided that the family already existed in the country of origin, family members includes:

- spouses
- unmarried minor children and children of spouses
- father, mother or other responsible adults of minor children.



Where can you register for temporary protection in Latvia?

You can apply for a long-term visa here: https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/ information-long-stay-visas-ukrainian-citizens

- ◆ In person in Riga, at the Central Support Centre for the Residents of Ukraine (one stop service point), Kalku Street 1, Riga. The centre is open on weekdays from 9.00 to 18.00. More information is available at <u>riga.lv</u> or by phone +371 80000800
- ◆ At all branches of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (OCMA), information available here: https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/branches. For more information, call: +371 67209400 (Monday to Thursday 8.30 to 16.00, and Friday 9.00 to 15.00)
- ◆ By post or courier, sending documents to: OCMA Migration Division in Riga, Čiekurkalna 1.līnija 1, k-3, LV-1026 or any territorial division outside Riga.

What documents do you need for registration?

The following documents are required to apply for a visa, as explained here: https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/information-long-stay-visas-ukrainian-citizens

- ◆ A copy of passport (data section and pages with visas and/or border crossing marks) or a valid travel document. An expired travel document issued in Ukraine will be considered valid in the Republic of Latvia until 28 February 2023.
- ◆ When sending documents by mail a 35mm x 45mm photo is required. No photo is required when submitting documents in person.
- ◆ Fill out a long-term visa application form, available here: https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/media/8008/download. The application form can be received in paper format at the place of application for a visa, or downloaded and printed from the website of the OCMA (Latvian-English (https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/media/8008/download) or Latvian-Russian (https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/media/8023/download) or completed using an electronic service, available here: https://epak.pmlp.gov.lv/NVIS.EService001. WebSite/
- Ukrainian civilians who do not hold travel documents are required to fill out an application form for residence permit, available here: https://epak2.pmlp.gov.lv/#/ResidencePermit/



What is the procedure to access temporary protection in Latvia?

 Ukrainian civilians leaving Ukraine or unable to return to Ukraine due to the armed conflict caused by the Russian Federation who hold a valid travel document can receive a long-term visa with the right to employment without restrictions. A visa is necessary also for children.

Long-term visas are issued upon submission of an application, free of charge, and with no requirement to fulfil certain conditions such as proving a place of residence in Latvia, a valid health insurance policy, or the availability of the necessary financial means. The timeframe for issuing a long-term visa is about 10 business days, but the exact timeframe will depend on the number of applications pending. The visa will be issued in the same place as it was requested.

 Ukrainian civilians who do not hold a valid travel document can receive a residence permit. The residence permit is issued by the OCMA, free of charge, for a duration of 1 year.

If a person who has been granted the status of temporary protection receives a personal identification document in Latvia for the first time, the identity of the relevant person will be certified by an interview questionnaire approved by an official of the State Border Guard or the OCMA.

The OCMA may determine a period of up to 1 year for the submission of the documents required for the application for a visa or residence permit when the applicant is not in the position to submit all the necessary documents.

All persons accessing temporary protection are included in the Register of Natural Persons.

What documents will you receive as a beneficiary of temporary protection?

A long-term visa or a residence permit will be issued for a 1-year term. The possibility of renewal will depend on the further development of the situation in Ukraine.



Your rights as a beneficiary of temporary protection in Latvia

Your rights as a beneficiary of temporary protection include the following:

- Freedom of movement and residence in Latvia.
- ◆ Access to the labour market.
- Access to healthcare.
- Social welfare assistance according to the individual situation.
- Access to education.
- ◆ Family reunification. For family members of Ukrainian civilians, visas or residence permits are issued accordingly.

More information about these rights

Accommodation



Accommodation and meals are provided by the municipality and offered free of charge to Ukrainian civilians for the first 90 days upon arrival. Accommodation is offered mainly in hotels and tourist accommodation facilities, as well as with local families.

If you need accommodation, please contact the hotline: +371 27380380 (8.00 to 22.00 daily). If you are in Riga, you can also contact the Riga city hotline: +371 80000800

Long-term accommodation is not offered free of charge in dedicated facilities in Latvia, yet social support may be obtained based on individual needs. Please consult the section on social welfare below.

Access to the labour market



Ukrainian civilians holding a travel document issued in Ukraine have the right to commence employment without the need to have a long-term visa with the right to employment. However, the employment contract should not last more than 30 days. Moreover, no later than 10 days from the date of commencement of employment, an application for a long-term visa with the right to employment must be made. The OCMA will issue a long-stay visa with the right to employment within 20 days from the date of receipt of the application or refuse to issue it.



Access to the labour market is granted without restrictions to Ukrainian civilians holding a long-term visa or residence permit with the right to employment for a period of up to 1 year.

Once you start an employment position, you are entitled to a one-time start-up allowance, not subject to personal income tax. To receive this allowance, apply at the State Employment Agency (SEA) within 1 month after starting employment. More information on applying for the employment allowance is available here: https://www.nva.gov.lv/lv/nodarbinatibas-uzsaksanas-pabalsts

The SEA will help Ukrainian civilians finding employment in Latvia at the following places:

- ◆ Riga Support Centre at Kalku Street 1
- any SEA customer service point in person or by phone (Monday to Thursday 9.00 to 16.30, and Fridays from 9.00 to 15.00)
- ◆ SEA toll -free number: +371 80200206
- the SEA website includes available vacancies and jobs, available here: https://www.nva.gov.lv/lv/ukrainas-civiliedzivotaju-nodarbinatiba

Information on job opportunities as well as practical information is available on the crowdsourced job opportunities platform: www.ukraine-latvia.com/jobs

You can also receive consultations on employment at the Riga Support Centre at Kalku Street 1.

Social welfare

Ukrainian civilians in Latvia receive the following benefits:

- one-off benefit in a crisis situation for an adult and for a child
- an additional monthly allowance for the first person and for each subsequent person in a Ukrainian household
- other material support or social services according to the individual needs.

Moreover, Ukrainian civilians have the same rights to social services and social assistance as citizens of Latvia. Social services, social assistance and other material support are provided by the municipality in whose administrative territory the person has a place of accommodation or residence, unless the support has already been granted by the municipality of previous accommodation or residence.







Ukrainian civilians have the right to receive social benefits including childbirth allowance if the child was born in Latvia after 24 February 2022, as well as childcare allowance and state family allowance, if residing in Latvia with children. Such benefits are received during the term of validity of a long-term visa or residence permit.

Analytical information is provided on the website of the Ministry of Welfare available here: https://www.lm.gov.lv/en and by phone: +371 80700011 (Mondays to Thursdays from 8.30 to 17.00, Fridays from 8.30 to 15.00).



Ukrainian civilians can use the regional public transport in Latvia - trains and buses - free of charge, upon presentation of an identity document. More information is available here: https://www.sam.gov.lv/lv/informacija-ukrainas-pilsoniem

In Riga there is a Central Support Centre for the Residents of Ukraine (one stop service point), address: Kalku Street 1, Riga. The centre is open on weekdays from 9.00 to 18.00. At this centre you can:

- apply for a crisis benefit, a guaranteed minimum income benefit and a housing benefit
- receive free e-tickets for the use of public transport
- receive free Latvian SIM cards.

Means of subsistence in the reception system

Ukrainian civilians are entitled to the following support packages upon receipt of a certificate from the municipal social service on the crisis situation:

- two food parcels, a hygiene and household goods parcel per person
- two additional child food parcels if the family has young children aged 7 to 24 months
- an additional package of hygiene products if the family has small children under 2 years of age
- families with school-aged children will be able to receive a package of necessary school materials.

The support packages can be collected at any of more than 400 distribution points throughout Latvia, upon presentation of the certificate. Information is available here: https://www.atbalstapakas.lv/atbalsta-vietas. The certificate can be obtained upon submission of an application:

- at the support centre in Riga, Kalku Street 1
- ◆ in other municipalities, information available at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gtyGVJjFdLgizBnLa9fAvERqYtzbTzUI/edit#qid=603407522





More information is available at: https://www.atbalstapakas.lv/zinas/155-ukrainas-kara-begli-vares-sanemt-bezmaksas-partikas-un-pamata-materiala-atbalsta-pakas

Public health

Medical care / medical prescription

Ukrainian civilians have the right to receive the same free of charge statecovered healthcare and medical services, including medicines, as are available to Latvian residents. In addition, they are exempted from the patient's co-payment, unless they are socially insured.

Medicines intended for the treatment of chronic diseases will be dispensed on the basis of a prescription issued in Ukraine if it is prescribed in clearly legible handwriting or using a computer or other technical means that provide clear prescriptions, even if the prescription has expired no earlier than 14 days before.

For urgent medical assistance call 113 or on arrival in Latvia inform the State Border Guard officials on duty at the border crossing point.



If you need medical advice outside of the working hours of General Practitioners (GP), please call the GP consultation number: +371 66016001 (Monday-Friday from 17.00 to 8.00, and at any time on weekends). To receive information in Russian, press 4.

The Children's Hospital Foundation helps Ukrainian civilians to coordinate health services, as well as financial support in cases of necessary medical services not covered by the state, transport to a medical institution, psychological assistance, medicines or medical supplies. More information is available at: https://www.bkus.lv/lv/content/informacija-ukrainas-pilsoniem

Ukrainian civilians in need of additional support (e.g. pregnant women, families with children under the age of 2 or due to a functional disability - obvious mobility impairment, mental disorder, care needs, specific healthcare and other needs) must inform their accommodation services to provide the immediate support and care needed.

For more information about the healthcare in Latvia:

- ◆ call +371 80001234 (Monday to Thursday 8.30 to 17.00, and Friday 8.30 to 15.00)
- ◆ consult the website of the Ministry of Health at http://www.vm.gov.lv/
- consult the website of the National Health Service at http://www.vmnvd.gov.lv/
- ◆ call +371 25680140 for medical assistance for children.



Psychosocial support

Up to 30 days of social rehabilitation services at the State Agency for Social Integration is provided if a person needs a 24-hour service due to a psycho-emotional condition according to the assessment of the local government social service.

Free psycho-emotional support is available for children, adolescents and their families. More information is available here: https://www.vm.gov.lv/lv/psihoemocionalais-atbalsts-ukrainas-pilsoniem-psikhoemociyna-pidtrimka

Disabilities

Municipalities provide immediate assistance to Ukrainian civilians with severe or very severe functional impairments that limit a person's ability to move and take care of themselves. Social care services at the place of residence and services to support the movement are also provided.

Information on non-governmental organisations providing support to Ukrainian citizens is available here: https://www.vm.gov.lv/lv/nevalstisko-organizaciju-atbalsts-pidtrimka-neuryadovikh-organizaciju. The list includes organisations that provide support for people with visual and hearing impairments, as well as people with disabilities, and can support with technical aids and applying for dedicated parking card.



COVID-19

The emergency situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic has been withdrawn and epidemiological safety measures have been reduced. Upon arrival in Latvia, COVID-19 test results, or an interoperable COVID-19 certificate (EU digital COVID-19 certificate) is not required. Receipt of services is not subject to presentation of a COVID-19 certificate.

Wear a face mask (medical face mask or at least class FFP2 respirator without a valve) when visiting any medical treatment institution.

If presenting with symptoms of COVID-19, the state will pay for a laboratory test. Please call 8303 (weekdays 8.00 to 18.00, weekends 9.00 to 14.00). While awaiting a test, stay at home and limit contacts with other persons, do not attend public places and events, and wear a face mask, if possible. If the result is positive, contact your GP and agree on further action.

For more information on isolation and quarantine relating to COVID-19, call +371 67387661 (weekdays 9.00 to 16.00).





Voluntary vaccination against COVID-19 is available free of charge. Vaccination against COVID-19 is provided by GPs, healthcare institutions and some pharmacies. Call either the GP or 8989 (weekdays 8.00 to 20.00, and weekends 9.00 to 18.00). Vaccination against COVID-19 is available for children from 5 years of age.

Vaccination or a recovery certificate is mandatory for employees who, in the course of their work, come into close contact with persons from high-risk groups and are exposed to the increased risk of the spread of COVID-19 infection i.e. medical practitioners, and employees (officials) of the Prison Administration.

Vaccinations of adults and children

Children are vaccinated against tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, rubella, epidemic parotitis, Haemophilus influenzae type b, Hepatitis B, varicella, pneumococcal infection, Rotavirus infection, human papillomavirus infection and seasonal influenza (according to special requirements).

Children are vaccinated against tickborne encephalitis if they live in the endemic territories of tickborne encephalitis or if children are orphans and left without parental care.

Children and adults are vaccinated against rabies after contact with animals or humans who have contracted or are suspected of having contracted rabies.

Pregnant women are vaccinated against seasonal influenza and pertussis.

Adults are vaccinated against diphtheria and tetanus.

Several high-risk groups are vaccinated against seasonal influenza.

Persons who have not been vaccinated against Hepatitis B and receive chronic haemodialysis or hemodiafiltration procedures are vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

Non-vaccinated exposed persons (children and adults) after epidemiological indications are vaccinated against diphtheria, poliomyelitis, measles, rubella, epidemic parotitis.









If you bring an animal with you, you have the obligation to present it to a practicing veterinarian immediately, and no later than 5 working days after the animal enters Latvia, to ensure compliance with the minimum animal health requirements and for the registration of the animal. Until then, you must ensure that the animal does not come into contact with other animals and humans. The veterinarian will examine, register, chip and vaccinate the animal free of charge.

For more information call +371 67095245 or consult the website of the Food and Veterinary Service here: http://www.pvd.gov.lv/

Access to education

Childcare/nursery

Children of Ukrainian civilians can access pre-school education free of charge in the educational institution of the municipality of the administrative territory where the child resides. If the municipality does not provide a place and the child has reached the age of 1 year and six months old and until beginning of primary education, the local government will cover the costs if the child follows a private pre-school education programme. A minor Ukrainian civilian is provided with the opportunity to receive education in the state language or in a minority language at the level of pre-school education and primary education.



You can receive consultations on registration for schools and kindergartens at the following places:

- In Riga, at the Central Support Centre for the Residents of Ukraine (one stop service point), address: Kalku Street 1, Riga. The centre is open on weekdays from 9.00 to 18.00. More information is available at riga.lv or by phone +371 80000800.
- ◆ In other municipalities, information available here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gtyGVJjFdLgizBnLa9fAvERqYtzbTzUI/edit#gid=603407522

Primary and secondary school

Minor Ukrainian civilians as well as adult Ukrainian civilians who were already attending secondary education in 2021/2022 have the right to primary and secondary education in a state or local government educational institution. A minor Ukrainian civilian is provided with the opportunity to receive education in the state language or in a minority



language at the level of pre-school education and primary education. It is not required for the underage Ukrainian civilians to pass national tests on the relevant education stage.

Minor Ukrainian civilians as well as adult Ukrainian civilians who were already in the process of acquiring vocational education in 2021/2022 have the right to continue their vocational education by acquiring vocational secondary education programmes in state or municipal educational institutions, after the acquisition of basic education in a state or local government educational institution. A civilian of Ukraine, upon obtaining vocational secondary education, shall take the professional qualification examinations specified in the relevant educational program, but shall not pass other state examinations specified in the educational program.

You can receive consultations on registration for schools and kindergartens at the following places:

- the support centre in Riga, Kalku Street 1
- other municipalities, information available here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gtyGVJjFdLgizBnLa9fAvERqYtzbTzUI/edit#gid=603407522

Higher education

Ukrainian civilians studying in an accredited higher education study programme at a Ukrainian higher education institution may be admitted to an accredited higher education institution or college of Latvia.

Admission for the 2022/23 academic year will take place as a standardised general admission with a simplified procedure for the recognition of documents and financial support.

For further details please see: https://www.studyinlatvia.lv/ua/ua-student-sup-port

 Education titles recognition / refer to the relevant source of information

For the recognition of education titles refer to the information on the homepage of the Latvian national competent authority, the Academic Information Centre: https://aic.lv/en/arvalstu-diplomu-atzisana







4. International protection

Any person fleeing the war in Ukraine can apply for international protection at any moment, including those already benefiting from temporary protection.

Persons can express their intention to apply for international protection at any border-crossing point before entering Latvia by submitting an application for international protection to the State Border Guard, or after their entry, at any of the State Border Guard territorial units. If a person has expressed their intention for international protection to the OCMA, the State Border Guard will be informed, so as to ensure that the asylum seeker can submit an application. The State Border Guard is responsible for registering applications for international protection.



Annex I – Repository of sources

General information		
Service	Website	QR
Ukraine embassy/consulate	https://latvia.mfa.gov.ua/en Available in Ukrainian and English	
Information for Ukrainians coming to Latvia	https://www.ukraine- latvia.com/ Available in Ukrainian, Russian, Latvian, English	
General information about Latvia	https://www.latvia.eu/ Available in Latvian and English	
	https://www.latvia.travel/ Available in Russian and English	



Driving licence	https://www.csdd.lv/en/# Available in Russian and English	
Office of citizenship and migration affairs (OCMA) – FAQ on entry requirements	https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/fr equently-asked-questions Available in Russian, Latvian and English	
State Border Guard	https://www.rs.gov.lv/en Available in Latvian and English	
Ministry of the Interior of Latvia	https://www.iem.gov.lv/en Available in Latvian and English	



	Temporary protection	
Information on long-term visa	https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/inf ormation-long-stay-visas- ukrainian-citizens Available in Russian, Latvian and English	
Central Support Centre for the Residents of Ukraine	https://www.riga.lv/lv/jaunums/no-21marta-rigas-atbalsta-centrs-ukrainas-iedzivotajiem-atradisies-kalku-iela-rigas-kongresu-nama-darbosies-informacijas-punkts Available in Russian, Latvian and English	
Office of citizenship and migration affairs (OCMA)	https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en Available in Russian, Latvian and English	
	https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/branches Available in Russian and English	



Long-term visa application form	https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/media/8008/download Available in Latvian and English	
	https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/media/8023/download Available in Latvian and English	
	https://epak.pmlp.gov.lv/NVIS. EService001.WebSite/ Available in Russian, Latvian and English	
Application form for residence permit	https://epak2.pmlp.gov.lv/#/R esidencePermit/ Available also in Russian, Latvian and English	
Access to labour market		
Employment allowance	https://www.nva.gov.lv/lv/nod arbinatibas-uzsaksanas- pabalsts Available in Latvian only	



SEA website with vacancies and jobs	https://www.nva.gov.lv/lv/ukra inas-civiliedzivotaju- nodarbinatiba Available in Ukrainian and Latvian	
crowdsourced job opportunities platform	https://ukrainetolatvia.teamtailor.com/ Available in Ukrainian and English	
	Social welfare	
Ministry of Welfare	https://www.lm.gov.lv/en Available in Russian and English	
Ministry of transport – information on free public transport	https://www.sam.gov.lv/en/inf ormation-citizens-ukraine Available in Ukrainian and Latvian	
Packages distribution points	https://www.atbalstapakas.lv/ atbalsta-vietas Available in Ukrainian and Latvian	



https://www.atbalstapakas.lv /zinas/155-ukrainas-kara- begli-vares-sanemt- bezmaksas-partikas-un- pamata-materiala-atbalsta- pakas	https://www.atbalstapakas.lv/z inas/155-ukrainas-kara-begli- vares-sanemt-bezmaksas- partikas-un-pamata-materiala- atbalsta-pakas Available in Ukrainian and Latvian	
List of municipalities where a certificate can be obtained	https://docs.google.com/spre adsheets/d/1gtyGVJjFdLgizBn La9fAvERqYtzbTzUI/edit#gid= 603407522 Available only in Latvian	
	Public health	
Ministry of Health	http://www.vm.gov.lv/ Available only in Latvian	
National Health Service	http://www.vmnvd.gov.lv/ Available only in Latvian	
Children hospital	https://www.bkus.lv/lv/content/informacija-ukrainas-pilsoniem Available in Ukrainian, Russian, English	



Psycho-social support	https://www.vm.gov.lv/lv/psih oemocionalais-atbalsts- ukrainas-pilsoniem- psikhoemociyna-pidtrimka Available in Ukrainian and Latvian	
Information for persons with disabilities	https://www.vm.gov.lv/lv/neva Istisko-organizaciju-atbalsts- pidtrimka-neuryadovikh- organizaciy Available in Ukrainian and Latvian	
Food and veterinary service	https://www.pvd.gov.lv/en Available in Latvian and English	





