



Rapid response by EU+ countries to address the needs of displaced people from Ukraine

The EUAA shares Situational Updates providing key information on immediate measures implemented to accommodate the arrival of displaced people from Ukraine because of the deteriorating security situation following the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

Based on official resources, Situational Update No 10 covers relevant developments as reported by national authorities, international organisations and civil society organisations for the period 3-10 March. Links to the official sources are provided. For developments covering the period 24 February to 3 March, please consult [Situational Update No 9](#).

The reporting of developments does not mean an endorsement of practices or opinions on the part of the EUAA. Due to the rapidly-changing situation, information may have been revised or updated. Please consult the original sources. Developments are reported by newer to older sequence.

Key Findings

EU activates Temporary Protection Directive

On 2 March 2022, the [European Commission](#) proposed the activation of the [Temporary Protection Directive](#) to offer rapid, effective assistance to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. The Commission also put forward [operational guidelines](#) to help national border guards in efficiently managing arrivals at the borders with Ukraine.

On 3 March 2022, [EU ministers](#) (Justice and Home Affairs Council) unanimously agreed on the establishment of a temporary protection mechanism in response to the influx of displaced persons from Ukraine. [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022](#) established the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine as a consequence of an armed conflict within the meaning of Article 5 of Temporary Protection Directive (TPD - [Directive 2001/55/EC](#)) and having the effect of introducing temporary protection.



The Temporary Protection Directive applies in all EU Member States except Denmark. It doesn't apply in non-EU Schengen states (Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland) – those countries may apply their own similar national provisions

The decision defines the persons to whom the temporary protection applies. It also foresees cooperation and monitoring under the European Commission with EU agencies (the EUAA, Frontex and Europol). In addition, it is envisaged that the EU will provide operational support. Member States have agreed in a statement that they will not apply Article 11 of the TPD on take back requests under the Dublin procedure.

In addition, the European Commission already published on 10 March [Information for people fleeing the war in Ukraine](#) to ensure consistency in the provision of information and the implementation of the TPD among Member States.

The [EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies](#), including the EUAA, reaffirmed their support to the work of the EU institutions and Member States as they help Ukraine and its people now that war once again touches Europe. In this context, EUAA has defined its areas of support and implementing activities as reflected below:



UNHCR also issued [Situation Flash Updates](#), covering operational needs, responses and information on access to territory.



EU Member States introduce legislation to implement measures for temporary protection

Hungary and Slovakia were among the first countries to adopt temporary protection for displaced persons from Ukraine, while other border or neighbouring countries, e.g. Poland, Latvia and Estonia, enabled unrestricted access based on short- or long-term visa schemes (see [Situational Update No 9](#)).

Following the Council decision of 4 March 2022, legislative measures are being enacted to enable the activation of temporary protection at the national level and ensure immediate support to Ukrainian citizens arriving in EU+ countries. Countries also regulate relevant procedural aspects, such as registration for temporary protection, rights, aid and other benefits.

- In Czechia, the [government](#) adopted a bill that regulates temporary protection to align with the activated European system of temporary protection.
- The [government of Romania](#) adopted an emergency ordinance with measures for the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive. Given the evolution of events in Ukraine, solutions have been established to ensure rights to education, health, work, child protection, and the protection of persons with disabilities. The approved Emergency Ordinance also includes measures to facilitate and encourage civil society organisations, the private sector and individuals to continue to make donations for the benefit of Ukrainian refugees, and for international organisations to have a simpler mechanism for cooperation.
- The [Polish government](#) adopted a bill on aid for refugees from Ukraine which was submitted to the [parliament \(Sejm\)](#) to regularise the stay of all Ukrainian citizens registered by the Border Guard for 18 months, with the possibility of extension. The registration procedure and issuance of a PESEL (national personal identification) number at the commune office were simplified. In addition, a new institution called "temporary guardian" was established in the special act to make it legally possible to transfer the care of children arriving to people with whom they came, such as educators from orphanages or extended families.
- The [Estonian government](#) issued an order on granting temporary protection which entered into force on 9 March 2022.
- [In Greece](#), the Ministry of Migration and Asylum issued a Ministerial Decision on the activation of temporary protection for Ukrainians. Within 90 days, displaced persons from Ukraine will be provided by the Asylum Service with temporary protection of 1 year with the right to access the labour market and medical care in accordance with the TPD.
- The [Swedish Migration](#) Agency shared information on the procedure to be followed for temporary protection, particularly for registration.



- The Danish [Ministry for Immigration and Integration and the Ministry of Employment](#) develop a plan for Ukrainians to access the labour market. The plan is expected to be announced after 4 March 2022.
- [Slovakia](#) shared updates on procedural arrangements for temporary protection.

New registration centres, service desks and online systems were established to address the specific needs of displaced people from Ukraine.

- [Slovakia](#) launched an electronic registration form to speed up administrative processes. After filling in the electronic form for [temporary protection registration](#), applicants need to present at the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force or to the large-capacity registration centres. For a minor, [the declaration](#) is submitted by the legal representative. [A certificate of temporary protection](#) will be issued.
- Similarly, Estonia [launched an online platform](#) to book appointments in order to apply for international protection. Times can be booked in six different [PBGB](#) services all over Estonia. The services are located in Tallinn on Tammsaare and Pinna Streets and in Tartu, Jõhvi, Rakvere and Pärnu police stations. The PBGB also plans to set up mobile processing points in accommodation facilities for war refugees arriving from Ukraine. Information on this can be found at the accommodation on site.
- As of 10 March 2022, a crisis measure of the [Ministry of the Interior](#) in Czechia came into force, which will help to better distribute the burden in the registration of newly-arrived Ukrainians. In this regard, new rules for the registration of persons fleeing Ukraine are introduced. The new rules foresees 30 days for registration or the possibility for state authorities to determine a specific place to register or apply for a special visa. The Ministry of the Interior, police and firefighters will also have the right to determine where new refugees should register or apply for a special visa, if necessary, for example at the Aliens Police, the Ministry of the Interior's Asylum and Migration Policy Counter or a specific regional assistance centre.
- The Finnish Immigration Service [published instructions](#) on how to apply for temporary protection.
- In [Lithuania](#), registration centers are already operating in Alytus, Marijampolė and Vilnius, while three additional centres will be created in Kaunas, Klaipėda and Šiauliai.
- [SEF \(Portugal\)](#) opened service desks for Ukrainian nationals
- [Fedasil](#) in Belgium adapted the registration and reception process for Ukrainian applicants [as of 7 March 2022](#). Registration is now organised by the Foreigners Office in the former Bordet Institute in Brussels.



Crisis management mechanisms

To address the increased and sudden arrival of displaced persons, several EU+ countries have activated crisis management mechanisms (see [Situational Update No 9](#)).

- [Slovakia](#) established a supra-ministerial working group for the coordination of activities related to the influx of people from Ukraine.
- [In Poland](#), the Ministry of the Interior and Administration informed on the role of subordinate authorities in assisting Ukrainians.
- [In Italy](#), Civil Protection is coordinating actors involved in the reception and assistance of Ukrainians



Coordination platforms for various stakeholders

The profound mobilisation of local communities is reflected in the generous offers for support by individuals and other private actors in kind and in cash. Various private and public partnerships are being created to address the urgent needs of displaced persons. From the very first days, dedicated platforms to coordinate offers and requests for support have been launched through national authorities in [Czechia](#), [Latvia](#), [Poland](#) and [Slovakia](#). This example has been followed by other countries too.



- [In Iceland](#), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Multicultural Centre has launched a website to offer housing to Ukrainians.
- [In Austria](#), people who could offer accommodation can register with the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services ([_](#) indicating where the accommodation is located and how many people can be accommodated).
- Similarly, [France](#) launched a new platform "*Je m'engage pour l'Ukraine*", where Ukrainians can contact and get support from citizens and civil society organisations who offer support (for example for accommodation, language courses, food, translation, interpretation, administrative help, etc.).
- The Ministry of Migration and Asylum in Greece launched the '[Help Ukraine](#)' initiative for voluntary contributions.
- The Estonian government's Communication Office launched the platform '[Help Ukraine!](#)' to coordinate voluntary contributions from individuals, companies, agencies and local governments.
- Belgium launched the [Info-Ukraine website](#) which contains a section on voluntary offers.

- [The Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior](#) compiled a list of organisations in Ukraine's neighbouring countries that provide assistance and accept emergency supplies.

Establishment of reception points and emergency structures, and increasing existing capacity



The establishment of reception points and emergency structures has been critical for border and neighbouring countries facing mass arrivals of displaced people from Ukraine. EU+ countries are enhancing capacity for long-term accommodation. [Croatia](#) [Czechia](#), [Finland](#), [Denmark](#), [Estonia](#), [Greece](#), [Latvia](#) [Lithuania](#), [Italy](#), [Poland](#), [Romania](#), [Slovakia](#) and [Sweden](#) have already announced such efforts (see [Situational Update No 9](#)). Additional initiatives were implemented in the period under review.

- [Fedasil](#) in Belgium opened an emergency facility in Molenbeek. Displaced people from Ukraine are received pending their transfer to one of the Belgian municipalities that have offered longer-term accommodation. The site can currently accommodate up to 250 people. Ukrainians registered for temporary protection [at the Bordet registration centre](#) may also receive emergency reception for one night – either at several hotels in Brussels or in the new reception centre located on rue Sebrecchts in Molenbeek (100 beds are already available).
- The Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services in [Austria](#) has been coordinating emergency accommodation, shelters and established a [phone hotline](#) to accommodate Ukrainians. To date, 4,500 citizens offered accommodation to Ukrainians, which means that a total of 20,000 places could be available.
- In the [Netherlands](#), the COA and the municipality of Ede organised reception in Harskamp for Ukrainians who do not apply for international protection. In the long-term, the management of the location is foreseen to be taken over by the municipality. The facility has overall 950 places. However, on 8 March 2022, the [COA announced](#) that the Harskamp facility is full. Municipalities in the Netherlands were requested to create 50,000 places for Ukrainians, and at the same time, the [COA](#) would need an additional 7,000 places within its traditional reception system, noting the importance of coordinated reception management.
- In [Italy](#), the Civil Protection published a circular addressed to prefects on the reception model for Ukrainian refugees. It contains information on the health checks needed to access CAS and SAI reception facilities and indications on the reception model for Ukrainian refugees outlined by the Civil Protection Crdinances Nos 872 and 873 adopted by the head of the department after the declaration - until 31 December 2022 - of the state of emergency in relation to the need to ensure relief and assistance to the Ukrainian population on the national territory.



- The [UDI in Norway](#) increased the capacity of the national arrival centre in order to respond to the refugee flow from Ukraine. The Scandic Helsfyr Hotel is also part of the emergency services provided for the Oslo municipality, offering 1,000 places in 420 rooms. Due to the increasing number of asylum seekers coming from Ukraine, the [UDI](#) made new agreements for around 8,000 emergency accommodation places.
- The [Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration](#) shared an update on current structures for Ukrainians. Nationwide, 30 reception points have been opened. There are also additional, smaller points organised by local governments.
- The [Estonian government's Communications Office](#) shared information on the initial reception of Ukrainians. In total, four reception centres will be set up. Reception facilities carry out the initial procedures to assist people, including COVID-19 testing, registration, assessment of basic needs and, if necessary, referral to an accommodation facility. With the help of local governments, recreation areas have been created at the reception points, where there is a play area for children, books and toys to take away, an Internet point, food, etc. If necessary, clothing is provided to those arriving, and COVID-19 rapid tests are also guaranteed. The Social Insurance Board provides psychosocial crisis care to people at the reception point.

If a person is unable to find a place to live independently, the Social Insurance Board will refer him/her to an accommodation organised by the state. The Social Insurance Board stated that agreements with private accommodation establishments have been established all over Estonia to provide shelter for refugees for a short time. The current estimation for contracts is for a total of 44 accommodation establishments. Accommodation services are provided to people for about 1 month, after which the local government takes over with assistance.

- In [Slovenia](#), the Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants published a public call for the provision of accommodation.
- In [Lithuania](#), once displaced persons are registered in one of the registration centres (see above), they may go to new temporary homes which are provided through the "Strong Together" platform or to premises offered by municipalities.
- The [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) and Airbnb.org have announced their partnership to connect people fleeing from Ukraine to free, short-term housing in Poland, Moldova, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia. Airbnb.org committed to offer free, temporary housing for up to 100,000 refugees fleeing Ukraine, and to date, more than 15,000 hosts have signed up through Airbnb.org to offer their homes for free or at a discount around the world.



Information provision

Information provision has been fundamental for displaced people to understand their rights, practicalities and procedures to be followed. Border and neighbouring countries provide information directly at border crossings or main points of arrival, such as train and airport stations, while the majority of EU+ countries have launched new phone lines and websites, including dedicated areas for questions and answers (see [Situational Update No 9](#)). From 3 March 2022 onwards, additional initiatives have been implemented.



- In [Portugal](#), a [new website](#) gathers all essential information and services for Ukrainian nationals with details on how to apply for temporary protection. Information leaflets about Portuguese protection to displaced Ukrainians are also available [here](#).
- The Civil Protection Department published a leaflet with information for Ukrainians coming to [Italy](#), particularly on health measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, accommodation and the regularisation of stay.
- Belgium launched the [Info-Ukraine website](#) which provides information to Ukrainians arriving in the country.
- Following a request by the [Finnish Immigration Service](#), the Finnish Red Cross has set up a nationwide information desk to answer questions and gather information on the assistance provided to those affected by the conflict in Ukraine. The info desk has a [dedicated online platform](#).
- The [IND in the Netherlands](#) launched a specific information site for Ukrainians.
- The [NDGAP in Hungary](#) made information available in English for persons fleeing from Ukraine.
- The [Bulgarian Ombudsperson](#) opened hotlines to provide free legal aid to Ukrainian nationals arriving in Bulgaria and information on other aspects, such as social services and access to health care.
- New hotlines to provide information to Ukrainians were launched in [Lithuania](#).
- The [Directorate of Immigration in Iceland](#) published an information page for Ukrainian citizens.
- [Lithuania](#) established a Ukrainian Information Centre at Vilnius Airport, which will provide information to Ukrainians who cannot return to Ukraine and have arrived from other countries.



The impact of the situation in Ukraine on the asylum procedure

The deterioration of the security situation in Ukraine and rapid developments in the country has had a direct impact on the asylum procedure in EU+ countries. Following the events of 24 February 2022, the processing of applications for Ukrainian nationals has been suspended in [Belgium](#), [Denmark](#), [Finland](#), [Italy](#) and [Spain](#).



The suspension of decisions on asylum applications was announced in [Sweden](#).

In addition, EU+ countries have been removing Ukraine from national lists of safe countries of origin, for example in [Iceland](#) and [Italy](#).



Children

EU+ countries have focussed their efforts on ensuring that children can access education by simplifying relevant procedures and providing them with a smooth integration into the school curriculum and language learning, for example in [Portugal](#).

In order to ensure a safe environment, care and necessary assistance for children, a special child reception mechanism was developed in [Lithuania](#). It sets out the actions of the institutions and the rules for cooperation. According to this system, municipalities, NGOs and private persons must notify the State Service for the Protection and Adoption of the Rights of the Child or its territorial division about children arriving in Lithuania. Notification is not required when children arrive with their parents or guardians.



The trends in numbers

The following incoming flows were reported by national authorities. With the evolving situation, the data are continuously being updated.

- Since the introduction of the Temporary Protection Status on 4 March 2022, [Belgium](#) has registered 699 Ukrainian refugees, out of which 247 requested and received accommodation through Fedasil.
- Registered asylum applications from Ukrainian citizens in the last 7 days are provided by the [UDI in Norway](#).
- On 9 March 2022, 1,462 requests for temporary protection have been registered in [Hungary](#). According to the [government's updates](#), as of 8 March 2022:
 - 178,894 people entered Hungary through one of the five border crossings with Ukraine.
 - The Hungarian disaster management authority has so far provided accommodation to 3,252 people, of which 1,780 are children.



- Charity organisations have helped 81,600 people in Hungarian localities near the border and at railway stations.
 - In addition to support of HUF 3 billion given to six charities, the government is providing HUF 1.35 billion in support of the Transcarpathian region as part of the Hungary Helps programme which supports local communities and people who are internally displaced.
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- As of 4 March 2022, the Danish Immigration Service [publishes daily data](#) related to applications for asylum from Ukrainian citizens as well as applications under the Aliens Act.
 - In [Romania](#), 2,849 persons arriving from Ukraine applied for asylum and there is a 66% occupation rate in GII accommodation centres, according to the Ministry of the Interior.
 - [Portugal](#) received 672 applications from Ukrainian nationals for temporary protection until 4 March 2022.
 - In [Bulgaria](#), the Ministry of the Interior stated that from 24 February to 3 March 2022, 60,000 Ukrainian nationals have crossed the border from Romania to Bulgaria and traffic is intense at all border points with Romania.
 - UNHCR shares [regular updates](#) on Refugees fleeing Ukraine (since 24 February 2022).